

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

## SPRING 2020 UPDATE

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul  
—and sings the tunes without the words—and never  
stops at all." *Emily Dickinson*

Hope, compassion and kindness have been the foundation of our work since our founding in 2003. They are values and feelings we strive to instill in others, and they are needed now more than ever.

This spring brought sudden change to all of our lives. The news surrounding us daily about COVID-19 can cause anxiety and stress. We would like you to know that you are not alone. We're in this together.

***Saving Horses, Healing Hearts*** is our mantra. Our farm has always been a place of peace, hope and love. Love from the horses who give us their all and hope from the people who make CMVHR's work possible—our donors, volunteers and staff—from friends like you.

As an animal shelter, we are considered an 'essential service' in New York State (NYS), meaning our work continues at full strength and we stand ready to respond when the calls come in. It also means we are able to retain our staff team and status as a local employer.

By NYS executive order, we are temporarily closed to the public and have suspended our community outreach programs. For the kids who participate in our after-school program, we are offering on-line activities on our CMVHR After-School Facebook Page. Two of our amazing volunteers, Gail and Laurie, are helping to create activities to keep the kids energized, involved and connected. Our volunteers are doing this remotely—selflessly leading with kindness and compassion.



Two Socks and Eddie (left). Two Socks was born with a compromised immune system. Pelham (above right) donated nine pints of blood for a transfusion that saved Two Socks' life.



Pelham Bay taking an afternoon siesta with Crane Mountain in the backdrop. Photo taken in 2003.

As we move through these challenging times together, we share hopeful stories and images friends like you help make possible. We begin with a tribute to Pelham Bay, a permanent resident of our farm who came to us after his owner passed away. Pelham recently celebrated his 30th birthday. Since he has been with us, he has raised kids, healed hearts, helped people of all ages, donated platelets for a foal born with a compromised immune system (below left), weaned foals, taught law enforcement how to properly catch and lead horses, that old age is not an excuse for being underweight, and so much more. Pelham is the essence of hope, kindness and compassion.

Your support changes lives for the better. You bring peace, joy and hope to the hearts of the animals in our care and to the people who come to our farm to experience the healing power of the horse. In the words of our friend, Sally Morehouse, "The first thing you feel when you drive in is peace. Then, immediately, love. From people and horses. They are full of hope and joy, although they see such misery and despair. Because it started with LOVE. Giving it."

We are in this together—we always have been—we couldn't do what we do without friends like you. Thank you. Wishing you and yours good health and peace.

*Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders*

## TRIBUTE TO PELHAM BAY



2005: Pelham with youth volunteer (and his love), Frances, ready for their first horse show.



2007: Pelham weaning Poncho and teaching him the ropes. As a passive leader who provides clear direction, Pelham is a great mentor for young ones weaned from their moms.



2005: Frances and Pelham at Essex County Fair.



2007: After giving clear direction to Poncho and getting a positive response, Pelham welcomes Poncho for a drink.



2005: Frances and Pelham after their class. Champions in every sense of the word. Pelham is giving his friend Hannah a hug.



2010: Pelham and Eddie teaching Sierra during a high school job shadowing program for our local school.

## THIRTY YEARS OF GIVING TO OTHERS



2015: Nancy and Eddie were special guests at Frances's graduation from high school. We couldn't have been more honored or proud.



2019: Pelham and Eddie (right) teach law enforcement that 30 years of age is not an excuse for a horse being underweight. Pelham is 'pleasantly plump'.



2017: Two Socks. Pelham saved his life by donating blood when Two Socks was two days old and diagnosed with a compromised immune system (page one).



2020: Pelham with Josie, Binghamton University Equestrian student earning course credit through volunteer service.



2018: Two Socks thanking Pelham and our donors for making his life possible.



2020: Pelham napping before a hoof trim, with Eddie.

## WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR 2019 SUPPORTERS

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## WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR 2019 SUPPORTERS

Angel Marvin—NY  
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Mrs. Amy Welch and daughters, Brystal and Addy, deliver funds raised by Boquet Valley School during their annual Caps for Crane fundraiser.

**Our donors are the lifeblood of our work. We make every effort to ensure accurate recognition of your generosity in our publications. Please, if you see an error, contact Nancy at [horses@cmvhr.org](mailto:horses@cmvhr.org) or 518-962-8512.**

## SAVING ANIMALS



In addition to assisting law enforcement with cruelty cases, we also help people in need. In June 2019, as part of a compassionate intervention we took in two sheep (below), two cows, two horses and a chicken. Their owner had lost his wife unexpectedly, and he was battling cancer. Caring for his animals had become a challenge for him and his 90 year old sister. He called and asked for our help.

This was a difficult and courageous decision for him and we are honored he chose us. The photos below are of the sheep (Tommy and Marley) before and after they were sheared in April of this year. Mary, the shearer, is in the top photo setting up as Tommy and Marley eagerly wait in anticipation. After being liberated from all that wool, they add an extra scoop of gratitude to our donors and all who make it possible for us to help animals and people in need.

We are happy to share that their former owner is doing well in his fight against cancer and comes to visit on occasion. When he does, he fills with joy to see his friends thriving, and they perk up with excitement at the sound of his voice and his presence. Saving animals and helping people—it's what we do—with thanks to friends like you.

As an accredited humane agency, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue assists and trains law enforcement and other agencies on investigating suspect equine cruelty cases. In most situations that means accompanying law enforcement on the scene, taking the horses into our care and custody, and testifying in court during the legal process. Other times, we work behind the scenes advising and supporting law enforcement through the process.

September 2019, NYS Agriculture & Markets and Clinton County Sherriff asked for our assistance with a potential hoarding situation involving two horses (above) and some 40 dogs. Because we were at capacity for the number of animals in our care when the call came in, we reached out to a close circle of friends for help. One of our friends immediately stepped up to assist with the horses and a local small animal shelter took the lead on the dogs.

The owners of the animals agreed to surrender all of them. At the Sheriff's request, we prepared the legal documents for the owners to sign. Our friend, accompanied by the Sheriff, picked up the horses and brought them to her farm. The horse's conditions were evaluated, their wounds treated and their road to recovery for a new life began. We are grateful to our friend, Amy, who stepped up without hesitation to help and to our donors who make it possible for us to respond when the calls come in. We never know when the call will come, we just know it will.



# SERVING COMMUNITY

Before the PAUSE from COVID-19 caused us to temporarily suspend our community outreach programs, after-school volunteering was in full swing. For Halloween, we dressed the horses in costume, had a holiday party during which each kiddo had a chance to ride Gentle Rebel around a decorated arena, offered team building exercises with outside chores, built camaraderie with song and dance, and expanded young minds with hands-on experiential learning. One of our amazing volunteers, Sally, can be seen in these photos leading a song and dance (top left) and a horse anatomy lesson (middle left) on a pin-the-part-on-the-horse chart she created.

After suspending programs at the farm, to keep the kiddos involved, engaged and connected we started on-line activities through our CMVHR After-School Group Facebook Page. Two of our volunteers, Gail and Laurie, are helping us from their homes. Coloring and drawing horses were two of the activities—and we learned we have some amazing artists in the group!



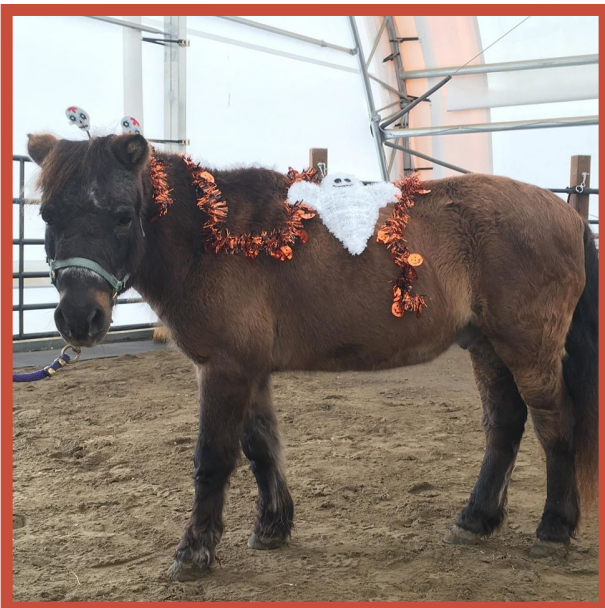
Distance learning isn't quite the same as horse muzzle snuggles (below), but we're grateful to continue our efforts remotely until we can all be together again.



Rebel by Edie



Paint horse by Bella



**CRANE MOUNTAIN  
VALLEY HORSE  
RESCUE, INC.**

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Westport, NY 12993

Phone: 518-962-8512  
Email: [horses@cmvhr.org](mailto:horses@cmvhr.org)  
[www.cmvhr.org](http://www.cmvhr.org)



Gail Guenther

*Since 2003: Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. has been dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse.*

**Contribute with Confidence**

90 cents of every tax-deductible dollar donated goes directly to the care of the animals

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at the above address and phone or by contacting the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

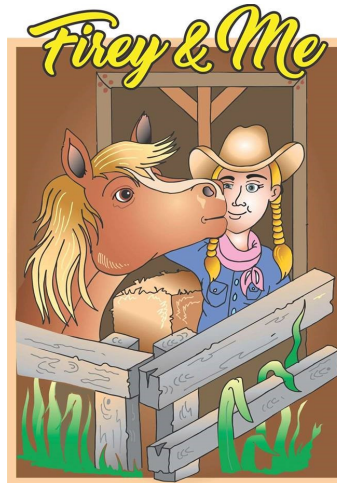
Edward Mrozik, Jr.—President  
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## PROFILES IN GENEROSITY

Two friends are donating proceeds to Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue from the sale of books they authored and published. Their kindness and generosity move us and the books are awesome. They also make great gifts!

*Firey & Me* is a children's book written by Karenann Backus. It is a true story about a girl who finds a horse that is misunderstood. Through patience, perseverance and love, they build a beautiful bond that lasts forever. As so many are, it is a rescue that works in both directions. #whoissavingwho

*Finding My Peach* was written by our friend Jean. It is a collection of heartwarming short stories that take us on a journey from childhood to now. Through self-



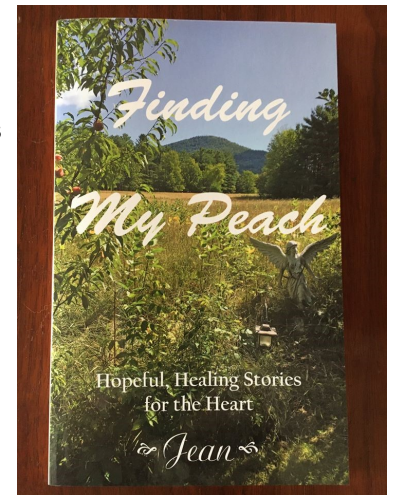
Written by Karenann Backus

Illustrated by Denis Proulx

reflection and an open mind and heart, Jean shows us how she worked through tragedies, trials, and triumphs to find hope, happiness and her peach. It is a joyful and moving read.

The books are \$10.00 each and available for sale at CMVHR.

Contact: Nancy  
518-962-8512 or  
[horses@cmvhr.org](mailto:horses@cmvhr.org)



## GOING THE DISTANCE

Last Fall, a friend who asks to remain anonymous donned his running shoes for the first time in 27 years and ran 26.2 miles to raise money for CMVHR. "I like what you two are doing up there for the community and needed an excuse not to back out and so..." he asked friends and colleagues at Goldman Sachs\* to sponsor him—and did they ever. After "too many hills for my liking" and 4 hours and 6 seconds of personal commitment and dedicated self-sacrifice, he raised some \$112,000!!

When we asked him what inspired him, he simply responded; "What we really appreciate about what you do is not just looking after the horses but also the positive impact you have on community. You provide a great example of service and such ground roots work has a significant positive impact. I am writing a check. You are living it. Thank you."

We are honored and humbled beyond words and have chosen to say thank you by sharing this sign given to us by one of our youth volunteers. Her expression of gratitude belongs to our donors—and friends like our anonymous marathoner.

\**Goldman Sachs Gives* is "committed to philanthropy, to fostering innovative ideas, solving economic and social issues, enabling progress in underserved communities globally" and to community enrichment.

