

THE HORSE'S VOICE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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2006 HIGHLIGHTS

- We saved more than a dozen horses from cruelty or death.
- We hosted school groups to teach kindness and compassion for all living beings.
- We helped developmentally disabled adults build self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Our program was featured in three magazines: *Adirondack Life*, *NAFE*, and the Emma Willard Alumni magazine, on our local news station, and Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. was listed in Bill Heller's book, *After the Finish Line — The Race to End Horse Slaughter in America*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward Mrozik, Jr.—President
Nancy Van Wie—Vice President
Susan Kastan—Secretary
Kathy Hall—Trustee

Happy Holidays from the horses and the humans who care for them at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc.

Since incorporating in 2003 with approval by the ASPCA and being granted our 501(c)3 status as a charitable organization, we've made new lives possible for more than 50 horses thanks to the generous support of friends like you. We've helped hundreds more horses through education and outreach. What's more, we help people. Our mission is about saving horses, but our spiritual compass is about helping to make this world a better place.

We'd like to share a few of the notes we received this year with gifts to support our work:

"I always am touched when I read about the remarkable work you continue to do. The spark of love and generosity just leaves me weeping each time!" - Plattsburgh, NY

STATE-BY-STATE, WE ARE UNITED

We recently received a wonderful note from one of our loyal supporters asking us to list the states where our donors reside next to their names in our newsletter to inspire "group giving" across the country.



Naya, Two Socks and Poesy.

"Thanks for the newsletter and your continued good work. It's good to feel that there exist organizations whose concern is more about love, respect, stewardship and caring as our fellow humans blast the crap out of each other all over the world." - Salt Lake City, UT

"Thank you for your welcome and the quality time you gave to me and Sally. We speak of you frequently as your kindness and empathy for God's creatures could be beneficial

in so many situations everywhere. Much love and very best wishes".—
Slingerlands, NY

The power of kindness is immeasurable. If we were to focus on why the horses are here in the first place, we'd hang our heads and weep. Instead, we focus on the generous hearts and kind spirits of friends like you who make it possible for us to save them. Thank you.

Eddie Mrozik

Because it's such a great idea, we didn't want to wait until our Spring issue in which we recognize our loyal supporters, so here's a snapshot of where our donors live: Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisi-

ana, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont.

From our farm in upstate New York, we salute you!

HELPING MORE THAN HORSES

KIDS LEARN KINDNESS



Mrs. Bisselle's Class—Westport Central School

In June, we welcomed 10 kindergarteners from Westport School for a field trip to learn about kindness and compassion.

Mrs. Bisselle, who has participated in our program two years running told us; "your program was a perfect way to round out my Op Ed course and all I've been teaching this year; you summed it up in just about 30 minutes and had the kids' undivided attention the whole time".

This is how we use our vacation time from work since taking a vacation is out of the question with this many animals to care for. But for us, it's greater than any sandy beach or little umbrella in a tropical drink. Field trips are offered as a community service, at no charge.



Freckles the steer greets the bus.

CREDITS FOR COLLEGE



Enjoying a ride after a day's work.

In August 2004, we hosted Emily Cotran, a high-school senior, for a summer externship to earn course credits for college. Emily helped with everything: farm chores, horse care, medicine administration, folding and stuffing mailings, and more. The objective of her program was to learn what it takes to run a not-for-profit equine business. Emily blessed us every day with her grace and smile. This program is offered as a community service, at no charge.

SEMINAR SLATED FOR '07



Tim Felton captivates the crowd at our farm.

Journeyman Farrier, Tim Felton will be back by popular demand to offer a hoof care seminar at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. in 2007. Visit our events page on the web (www.cmvhr.org) for details.

Tim comes to our farm faithfully every six weeks to tend to our horses' hoof care needs.

THE SAD SIDE OF OUR WORK



LEFT—In August 2005, we were asked by the state police to assist with a cruelty investigation involving 20 horses. Each was locked in an 8x8 stall with occasional food and water, but not enough to fill their bellies, so they ate the walls and ceilings of the barn. They could reach the ceilings because most were standing in feet (that's feet) of excrement.

This is one of the 20 enjoying hay we gave him during the condition scoring and photo period of the investigation. A veterinarian was also called to assist. Eighteen of the horses were placed in homes, and sadly, we learned that several did not survive the journey to their new destination. The remaining 2 came to Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue for rehabilitation and a new life.

RIGHT—Meet Atticus. Atticus looks great. It wasn't physical rehabilitation that Atticus needed from Crane Mountain, but emotional rehabilitation. Atticus had been handled so roughly in his earlier life that he trembled at the sight of humans.

When he first arrived at our farm and we turned him out in the big field, Atticus "ran away" to the far end of the field where he stayed for 5 days. Every day we brought him food and water and every day we moved it a little closer to the barn. He cautiously watched the other horses interact with us and realized that they weren't afraid, so by the fifth day, he joined the others for meals. It took us about 3 weeks to be able to approach him with a halter, and another 2 weeks before he'd follow us into the barn.

Today, Atticus has a new home and is a happy boy who enjoys the trails, wearing only a rope halter and lead to guide him.



LEFT—The most common ailments horses are suffering from when they arrive at our farm are: untreated injuries (like this wire cut), poor hoof care, worms, and lack of dental care.

On dental care: Horses teeth develop sharp spurs on the sides that need to be checked and filed regularly (known as "floating") to prevent their teeth from growing into their cheeks. Without proper dental care, we can only imagine that it must feel like thorns or razors



RIGHT—Rewind to the top of the page and to the 20 horse, cruelty investigation.

This is another one of the 20 whose neglected hooves had grown so long that he suffered bowed tendons in both front legs. We hated to even ask him to walk to do the condition scoring, because just taking a simple step was crippling.



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Gail Guenther

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. is dedicated to giving abused, neglected, abandoned, and slaughter-bound horses a second-chance at life by providing shelter, care, emotional and physical rehabilitation, and adoption services to qualified and approved homes. To prevent abuse and neglect, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc., through educational programs and on-site visits, will teach responsibility, kindness, patience, and overall good animal husbandry.

HONORING A DYING WISH



Do you believe that horses are intuitive? We believe that horses have the ability to sense human emotion and connect with people in ways that embrace unconditional love. Here's a story and a "photo worth 1,000 words".

This is Buck. We bought Buck at a low-end auction known for selling horses for slaughter. He was just 6 months old. He was infested with lice so badly, his skin seemed to crawl. The parasites inside his little body were even worse.

When we paid for Buck, we were given a little slip of paper that had his breeder's name on it. We took a chance and contacted the breeder who brought Buck into this world to

ask about his background. This is what the woman shared.

They were new to breeding and Buck was the first born on their farm. The woman's mom ('grandma' - featured here) had one last wish — to come home from hospice and touch a newborn foal before she passed.

By the time Buck arrived, grandma was too sick to go outside. So they took Buck away from his mom when he was just a few hours old and brought him in the house. They washed his little feet in the bathtub and turned him loose among dozens of visitors.

Buck went right to grandma and climbed in bed to give grandma her dying wish. She left this world that night after having touched her newborn foal.

They said Buck was their "angel", but they didn't intend to keep any of the foals born on their farm, so they let him go. They worried every day about his fate. We decided not to tell them about the condition we found him in at the auction, and simply let them know that their 'angel' was here and he was safe.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

It is the hard work and dedication of a team of volunteers, and the financial support of friends like you, that make our work possible. We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize one of our volunteer heroes, Sandy Hayes. Sandy has selflessly coordinated our annual benefit trail ride two years running. She rallies a team of incredible friends, to whom we are also deeply grateful, who cook, bake, setup, greet, feed the crowd, give horse-drawn carriage rides, take photos, and more, in preparation for the event and throughout the day.

It's a family fun day for everyone, riders and non-riders alike. And thanks to Sandy's leadership and the hard work of all of the volunteers who pitch in to prepare and execute the event, it's always incredible and incredibly fun.

Words don't adequately express our appreciation to Sandy and the crew, but please know it's from deep in our hearts and from the tips of every horse's hooves.

Visit our events page on the web (www.cmvhr.org) for details on the 2007 annual benefit ride.



Thanks, Sandy! We love you!