

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

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"Dear Mr. Mrozik and Ms. Van Wie,  
I am delighted to commend you as Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue celebrates its tenth anniversary. You have both worked diligently, not only to bring a dream of yours to life, but to also provide an essential service to the North Country. I am confident that your farm is on the path to enduring success, and will continue to prove an asset to Essex County for many more years to come.

I wish you all the best, and look forward to hearing of your future successes. If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

Sincerely,  
Bill Owens, Member of Congress."

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2013 marks a decade of mission-driven work and happy new beginnings for hundreds of horses, thanks to the generosity of friends like you. More than saving horses, your support enriches the lives of people of all ages through the pairings of amazing horses with adoptive families, quality education and outreach programs, veterinary internships, field trips, family days at the farm (right photo), and so much more.

Each year is chock full of activities and events and this year was no exception. In fact, this year was so active it's hard to know where to begin. Given the magnitude of current events, we'll start there.

On September 18 and 20, we participated in the largest horse seizure in Essex County history involving 41 horses. Since then, we've been coordinating the care for the horses, assisting with legal aspects of the case, and overseeing the adoption process. Our lives



Mother-daughter field trip for Mother's Day.

have been a whirlwind since mid-September, but the rewards have been great. (full story page 2)

Other noteworthy milestones this year include our induction into The Homes for Horses Coalition; our certification by the NYS Humane Association through their Animal Cruelty Training Workshop; our participation in the Community and Family night at Westport School and the Westport Kindergarten graduation; our contribution to a master's research project on the use of pro-biotics to prevent and treat laminitis and colic in horses; our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary open house; and our receipt of a letter from US Repre-

sentative Bill Owens commending us on our tenth anniversary (left sidebar). We are also super pleased to share that Bear and Sabrina found forever homes.

These are just a few highlights of achievements the generosity of friends like you made possible this year. The following pages tell the headline stories in more detail. We hope you enjoy reading how your gift is put to work, that our words convey the positive impact your giving has on horses and humans, and that you know the depth of our appreciation for your support.

Eddie Mrozik



## 41 HORSE SEIZURE

In mid-September, we participated in the largest horse seizure in Essex County history involving 41 horses. Because the criminal case is still in progress, we cannot provide details or publish any "before" photos. Those will come in a later issue of *The Horse's Voice*. What we can share in this issue is the action taken by the County, our role, and how a community has rallied around the horses in a truly inspiring way.

After receiving a complaint and a photograph from a concerned citizen, the Essex County Sheriff's office called us and asked us to pull together a team of horse handlers and trailers for a potential seizure involving an unknown

number of horses. Led by the Essex County Sheriff's Department as impounding agent, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, two licensed veterinarians, NYS Humane Association, and a team of friends and volunteers removed 41 horses over a two day period from one property. Because our farm cannot accommodate that many horses at one time, we brought only the most fragile cases here. Three horses went to another private farm and all the others were taken to the Essex County Fairgrounds. As the local accredited equine rescue organization, in addition to our own crew, the horses at the Fairgrounds were also suddenly in our care, bringing our total charge to 48 horses. When word got out about the situation, the community jumped in....volunteers selflessly offered to clean stalls and feed; people donated hay, shavings, wheelbarrows, hoses, and buckets; the local 4-H and others lent round pens for turnout; two local farms took horses in foster care to lighten the load; and our friend, retired veterinarian-



Mommy and George were the two most fragile horses from the seizure. This is just 3 weeks later at CMVHR.

Under the law, the court ordered them to post a bond to cover the estimated cost of caring for the animals for 30 days, a provision to help rescues and impounding agents with the financial burden of caring for seized animals during a criminal proceeding. When the owners failed to post the bond within the five days required under the law, the horses were forfeited to Essex County to be made available for adoption. The County immediately asked us to facilitate the adoption process under our Domestic Animal Health Permit, which is required by NYS Agriculture and Markets law to place horses. When we met with Ag and Markets to review the paperwork, process and our record-keeping system, they asked us to write a manual for them to provide to other rescues, towns and counties for how to handle large seizures, and how to do it right. That was a nice pat on the back.

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have found wonderful homes for thirty of the horses. The Essex County Sheriff's Department and all who have rallied behind these magnificent animals are aces in our book. It really does take a village. More to come in future issues of *The Horse's Voice*....we have to wait until after the criminal proceeding to provide any additional information.

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### SAVE THE I

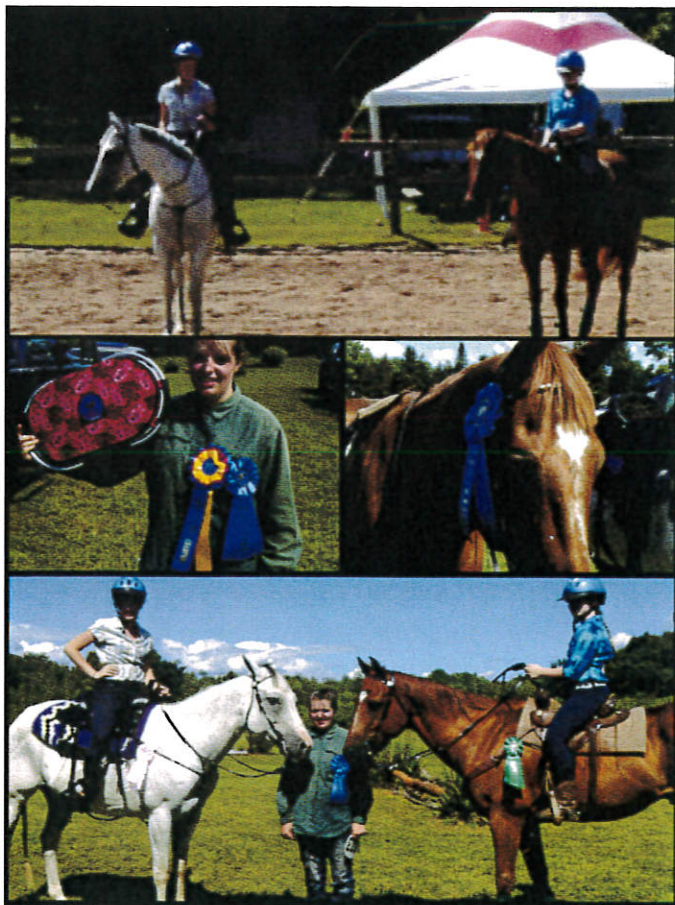
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## BRINA AND BEAR FIND NEW HOMES

They say a photo is worth 1,000 words. The photo to the right is of Sabrina and her new young mom. The smile and the comfortable "lap" horse says it all. Here are the words that go with the smile; "I got one of the most amazing horses I have ever met from Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue. Sabrina, or as I call her, Baby Brina, is fitting in marvelously with my other two horses. Sabrina runs straight up to me whenever she hears my truck pull up and she'll follow me around and do anything I ask of her. She's unbelievably smart as well, I'll tie her up to grab something really quick and all of the sudden she's right next to me! I'll sit in the pasture and she'll graze all around me and not leave my side. Yesterday we found out Sabrina absolutely loves the water. She likes to splash around and blow bubbles. I've never seen a horse stand on land and put their muzzle into the water and blow bubbles. It's really funny to watch. She's also great on trails! She's so docile and sweet. She'll let me get on her bare-back and ride her in a halter and lead rope and if I keep her in the arena, she'll even go tackless. She's amazing!! Thank you so much. We couldn't have asked for a better horse, and we all love her so much!"



The collage to the left is Bear (right) and Nova (left) competing in their first horse show with their new family. Bear was adopted from CMVHR and Nova was rescued by Bear's adoptive parents from a low-end auction known for selling horses for slaughter.

Bear was donated to CMVHR by a young woman who loved him very much. It wasn't an easy decision for her to let him go, but she realized that after graduating from college, her student loans and board for Bear were just too much for her to handle while seeking employment. Though she could easily have sold Bear, she asked us to take him and find just the right home for him. It was her love for Bear and our reputation for taking the time to find a forever home instead of a quick one that led her to choose us.

A wonderful family with amazing girls adopted Bear. He's been camping with his family and hitting the show ring. Here he is with his girls and Nova in their first show. Together, they won 5th place, 6th place, 1st place and Division Grand Champion!



**CRANE MOUNTAIN  
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*Gail Guenther*

*"Crane Mountain  
Valley Horse Rescue,  
Inc. is dedicated to  
equine rescue and  
rehabilitation and to  
restoring horsemanship,  
the heritage and humane  
treatment of the horse."*

**Contribute with Confidence**

94 cents of every dollar  
donated goes directly to the  
care of the animals. CMVHR is  
a 501c3 public charity and  
donations are tax-deductible.

*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  
Nancy Van Wie—Vice President  
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## HOMES FOR HORSES COALITION

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. is proud to have been inducted into The Homes for Horses Coalition. The Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC) was founded in 2007 by the Animal Welfare Institute and The Humane Society of the United States, along with support from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. HHC is "dedicated to advancing the highest operating standards for equine rescue and retirement facilities. Not only does this mean providing quality animal care, but it also covers sound financial and management practices." HHC doesn't provide funding, but networking and resources. For accreditation, members must comply with AWI and HSUS guidelines for operating a rescue facility. Guidelines include quality feed, routine veterinary, hoof and dental care, parasite control, adequate shelter and fencing, isolation and quarantine paddocks, emergency preparedness, transportation and sound fiscal management. HHC recognizes that properly operating an equine rescue is a 'time-consuming, long-term commitment that must not be entered into lightly'. It is an honor to be recognized for our exceptional operating standards and dedication. To our generous and loyal donors over the past decade — you made this possible.

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

On July 20 and 21, we held our 10th anniversary open house. We were thrilled to have a wonderful group of volunteers and adoptive parents help with the celebration, many of whom drove hours to spend the day with us. It was like a mini reunion.



Visitors enjoy birds of prey at our open house.

Champlain National Bank sponsored the event and our friend Wendy Hall from Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center brought birds of prey for children and adults to enjoy.

We had a steady flow of visitors including donors, new friends, and one group who came all the way from British Columbia. Teachers and students who have participated in our community education and outreach programs over the past decade also stopped by. It was fun to see middle school kids who remembered coming to the farm when they were in kindergarten. One fifth grader proudly showed his grandmother his signature on a thank you card that his class made for our hosting their kindergarten graduation. It was an all around great day. To be able to thank our donors in person, meet new friends, and have teachers, parents and students thank us for the positive impact our work has had on them was wonderful and fulfilling.