

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS: 2003-2018

Fifteen years ago we started with a dream to make this world a better place – *horse by horse, soul by soul*. Determination, commitment, and the support from friends like you not only made that dream a reality, with your help, our impact and our reach continue to grow.

This fall, we launched an after-school program at the request of community members and parents. Kids are dropped off by school bus or family for volunteer work, camaraderie and fun! (page 7). Under Chauntel's leadership, the rescued horses facilitate an experiential learning opportunity that advances their own emotional healing and trust in humans, while helping the kids develop self-confidence, communication skills, and mutual cooperation. The motto of the program is "*team work makes the dream work*". It fits.

Our donors are an essential part of the team that made our dream to make this world a better place, a reality – *one life at a time*. And it is your generosity that has enabled us to respond to this local need. Your support gave us the wherewithal to hire a second staff person, Matt. As a farm hand, Matt works on horse care, and buildings and grounds with Eddie, enabling Chauntel and Nancy to focus on expanding programs and community outreach. Matt also helps with horse training and youth programs. Already, growing our team is having impact. With two full-time employees, we have a more organized volunteer program that is increasing the level of personal attention each horse gets daily (page 3), community service programs held at the farm are growing (page 6), we have more bandwidth to volunteer in our communities (pages 6 & 7), and membership in the Equi-Riders 4H Club, whose home base is at CMVHR, has more than doubled.

As we celebrate our 15th anniversary as an award-winning humanitarian and educational non-profit, we reflect back on all that has been made possible by people coming together for a greater good. A snapshot of milestones and accomplishments is highlighted on pages 4 and 5. Individually, we can and do make a difference. Together, we can change the world.

The stories and photos in these pages bring to life the positive, lasting impact your generosity has on horses, people and the community. We couldn't do what we do without the support of friends like you. If you are currently a donor – **thank you!!!** If you are not yet a team member, we hope you will join us by making a gift today.



*Equi-Riders 4H Club members wearing their CMVHR t-shirts and baseball caps standing ready for the opening day parade at Essex County Fair. The miniature horse in the middle is CMVHR graduate Spartacus with his adoptive mom, Lydia. CMVHR was proud to sponsor the local 4H Club in the parade.*

**For information about contributing, volunteering, or general questions, contact Nancy at 518-962-8512 or [horses@cmvhr.org](mailto:horses@cmvhr.org).**

**"The first thing you feel when you arrive 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. Because of their passion for horses, they couldn't ignore the reality that 50,000 to 100,000 horses are slaughtered yearly, not to mention the abuse and neglect we see in the news regularly. In the hard work and dedication of Nancy and Eddie at CMVHR, you can begin to learn the truth and value of what they believe, and how they live their beliefs: **'By saving the life of one horse, we may not be changing the world, but we are changing the world for that one horse.'**" Sally Morehouse (page 2)**

# OPEN HOUSE & BUILDING DEDICATION

On June 30, we celebrated our 15th anniversary with an open house and dedication of the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation and Training Center. It was a remarkable day! Some 200 people came to the farm for the occasion and we were humbled and honored to have Sally's family here for the commemoration. They traveled from as far away as California, Ohio and Massachusetts to be a part of the celebration of an inspirational woman. Sally's great-niece, Ava, cut the ribbon (bottom right).

We are grateful to everyone who made this milestone event possible -- our donors, volunteers, adoptive parents, Equi-Rider 4H Club members, Papa Duke's BBQ, Farmer's Cone Creamery, Herman Moose-Country radio who broadcast live from the event, LEGEND Riders, Erin DeBusk Photography, and of course, Sally and our dear friend, Irene who gave us the inspiration and courage to build a healing and teaching facility for all seasons.



Erin DeBusk Photography

"Part of the rescue work here provides rehabilitative care and shelter for abused or neglected horses. Some of the rescue work manages human pain and recovery. Put together, the blend is enchanting." Excerpt from a feature story in Sun Community News by reporter, Kim Dedam



Erin DeBusk Photography

(Above) Equi-Riders 4H Club member and CMVHR volunteer, Eben Dorr, leads a tour of the farm and introduces visitors to the equine residents.



(Below) Kids' activities included face painting, coloring, games, bubble sticks and more. CMVHR volunteer Kelly McCutchan is our artist.

"It was an honor, what you do is amazing."

Lindsay Stranahan, Sally's niece and Ava's mom (below).



Erin DeBusk Photography



Erin DeBusk Photography

# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



**Above:** Youth volunteers brush Opal, the mini horse.

**Right:** Lydia and Sophie, two home-schooled young ladies who spend Monday at the farm asked Eddie for a roll of paper towels so they could clean helmets. When he delivered, they picked him wildflowers and left this message. The smile this brought to his face was as priceless as their thoughtful kindness.



**Below:** Becky and Jason Hance lead a trailer safety and preparedness program for kids and parents as part of our monthly Equi-Riders 4H Club meetings at the farm.



**Above:** Laurie takes a break from cleaning to give Bugsy a scratch. Bugsy's tipped head and his tongue hanging out are signs she hit just the right spot!!!



**Above:** Mike rehabilitating Bugsy for a condition known as "upward fixation of the patella", a ligament issue from birth, while teaching him how to walk quietly on the lead.

**Below:** Lars (left) volunteered for the summer, doing everything from horse care and training, to construction projects and helping with programs. This photo is of Lars and two of the campers from Pok-O-MacCready during their visit.



A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear. When you take a step back, it's not just about horses — it's about love, life and learning.

*Anonymous*

# 2003-2018 TIMELINE—A SNAPSHOT

W O R K I N G

## Horse Heaven

CRANE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GIVES THE DOWN AND OUT A SECOND CHANCE

by Elisabeth Ward



**E**DDIE MROZIK and Nancy Van Wie were driving through Pennsylvania in winter 2004 after transporting a horse to Maryland when they noticed first the auction, then the downed horse in a kill pen with three hundred head of cattle. The animal was severely undernourished and covered with excrement; its poor condition included open sores and parasitic infestations.

Most who attend these auctions pack their purchases into overcrowded, filthy trucks to be slaughtered for animal feed and glue. Mrozik and Van Wie, though, were not in search of meat. They paid \$235, urged their lone horse to its feet and half-led, half-rolled him onto their trailer—five hundred pounds of animal in such crisis that he remained limp for the entire journey. Once home, Mrozik and Van Wie disassembled the trailer to get the horse (which they discovered to be a stallion) to his feet and into a stall. This is nothing new for the couple, who run Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, the only horse rescue farm in northern New York.

Horses grazing or romping in a field and the comforting sounds and smells of a barn are part of our heritage. But what about those fifty thousand to a hundred thousand equines commercially slaughtered each year for simply no longer being useful? Crane Mountain rescue's mission is to give abused, abandoned and slaughtered bound horses a second chance by providing shelter, care, emotional and physical rehabilitation, and adoption into approved homes. To prevent the neglect that led to the problem, the organization instructs potential adopters, stressing responsibility and patience, as well as overall good animal husbandry. "If we, in a small way, can help horses and help people through our education and outreach programs with horses to learn kindness and compassion for other beings, then we are fulfilling our philosophical and spiritual beliefs," says Van Wie.

NANCY VAN WIE grew up on a farm near Troy and has been riding since the age of three. Her lifelong interest is evident all over the Crane Mountain rescue barn. Her first pitchfork hangs on the wall near the old trunk that holds the brush she used from childhood through her days at the University of Vermont (UVM), where she established a riding program. Just outside is her first wheelchair. She still has the English saddle from her first pony, Gingie.

*Big Red, undernourished and sickly, when he arrived at the farm.*

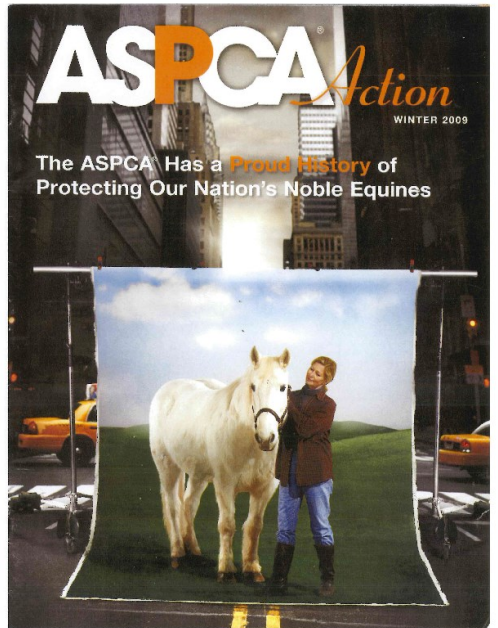
*Top: A healthy Big Red returned to his racehorse glory.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Nancy Van Wie

ADIRONDACK LIFE

- 2003:** Incorporated as Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue and approved by the ASPCA as an accredited humane organization.
- 2003:** Granted our 501c3 status as a public charity.
- 2003:** Feature story on CNN Channel 9 News.
- 2004:** Hosted our first veterinary intern who has since graduated from veterinary school at Colorado State University.
- 2004:** Presenters at the Cheshire Horse in Ballston Spa, NY on horse nutrition and safely rehabilitating starved horses.
- 2005:** Feature article *Adirondack Life*: "Horse Heaven" (left).
- 2005:** Relocated to our farm in Westport, New York.
- 2005:** Member profile in *NAFE Magazine*, a publication of National Association of Female Executives: "Horse Rescuer".
- 2005:** Assisted New York State Police with a cruelty investigation involving 20 horses.
- 2005:** Mention in Bill Heller's book After the Finish Line: The Race to End Horse Slaughter In America.
- 2006:** Feature story in EMMA Bulletin: "Second Chance".
- 2007:** Recipients of the Humanitarian and Distinguished Alumnae Award from Emma Willard School.

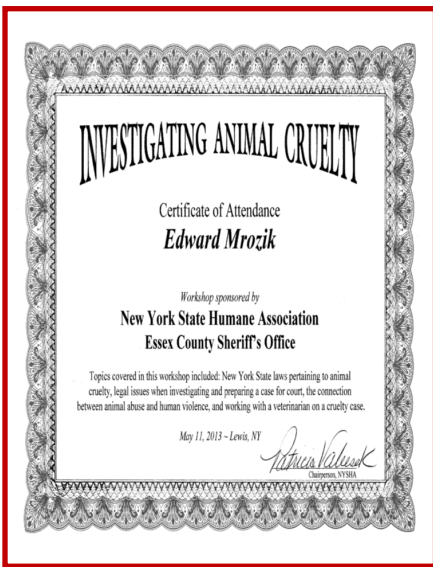
- 2008:** Nominated for the ASPCA Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 2008:** Presenters at the 17th Annual Horse Symposium in Saratoga on the realities of setting up and running a horse rescue operation.
- 2009:** Feature story in *ASPCA Action* magazine about Remington, one of our rescue horses (right and bottom photo).
- 2009:** Helped one of our adoptive parents with a high school Participation in Government project advocating for cruelty to horses to be a felony — visit [www.cmvhr.org](http://www.cmvhr.org) to watch the video.
- 2010:** Assisted law enforcement with an investigation involving a horse — Pops — suffering from a gunshot wound and starvation.
- 2010-2013:** Testified in court over a dozen times on behalf of Pops, including 2 1/2 hours of cross examination during one appearance. Pops' former owner was found guilty of cruelty to animals under NYS Agriculture and Markets law.



Remington found a forever home.

- 2011:** Recipient of the Lowe's Heroes Award.
- 2012:** Recipient of an ASPCA grant for quarantine fencing.
- 2012:** Huey, one of our rescued horses was featured in the March/April issue of *America's Horse* magazine for his participation in the 2011 New York State Special Olympics Equestrian Event with his adoptive mom, Mary.
- 2012:** Eddie and Nancy become charter members of a county-wide Animal Cruelty Task Group to combat animal cruelty and to raise awareness for the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

# 2003-2018 TIMELINE—A SNAPSHOT



**2013:** Eddie and Nancy complete Investigating Animal Cruelty Workshop by New York State Humane Association and Essex County Sheriff's Office (left).  
**2013:** Inducted into the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), a joint initiative of the Animal Welfare Institute, the ASPCA and The Humane Society of the United States dedicated to increasing collaboration, professionalism and growth in the equine rescue and protection community.  
**2013:** Congressional recognition by Bill Owens for 'providing an essential service to the North Country' and 'being an asset to Essex County'.  
**2013:** Lead humane agent for the largest horse seizure in Essex County, NY history involving 41 horses (bottom left).  
**2014:** Recognition by New York State Humane Association for our "tireless dedication in working with the Essex County Sheriff's Office to remove dozens of horses from an equine hoarder in 2013, for providing foster care and training to numerous horses, and for finding good homes for them all."

"As a police officer you see both sides of humanity. Being in the room with all of you is the good side of humanity — it's what restores your faith in the human animal." [to CMVHR and the volunteers who helped with the 41 horse seizure]  
 Sue McDonough, President, NYS Humane Association/retired police officer.

**2014:** Assisted law enforcement with removal of seven horses rendered homeless from a murder-suicide (the 'link' between domestic violence and animal abuse).  
**2015:** Vermont Large Animal Clinic & Equine Hospital Open House to benefit Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue.  
**2015:** North Country Barrel Racing Association benefit barrel race.  
**2016:** Guest presenters at Westport Central School's Community Meeting — *A Sense of Place* — 'to give students a sense of where they are and where they belong in the world'.  
**2016:** Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue becomes an employer. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who funded a full-time position for three years, we brought Chauntel S. Gilliland on board as Barn Manager & Trainer.  
**2016:** Recipients of 45 Acts of Kindness program.  
**2016:** Capital campaign launched to build the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation & Training Center.  
**2017:** Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue becomes home to the Essex County Equi-Riders 4H Club.



**2017:** Eddie and Nancy receive Adirondack Foundation's Local Philanthropic Heroes Award for "embodying generosity by making contributions to community and a way of life, through giving, volunteering and leading" (above).  
**2017:** *Saving Horses, Healing Hearts*, a documentary created by CMVHR summer intern Kat Pollan earns her an "A" toward her digital communications degree at Oregon State University.  
**2017:** Mountain Lakes PBS films documentary entitled; "Abandoned and Abused Horses in the Adirondacks".  
**2018:** CMVHR celebrates 15 years with an open house and dedication of the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation & Training Center!!! (page 2).

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENRICHMENT

## In Other's Words

"Thank you very much for allowing me to shadow you this past Thursday. It was very interesting to see exactly what is done on the job as a Horse Trainer/ Equine Vet. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to help me learn about this job.

My favorite part of the day was when I got to meet the different horses and learned about the hardships they went through and to see how they are bouncing back from those struggles. I had fun learning about the horses' medical conditions and watching Autumn and Chauntel with Apollo when he was getting his feet done. It was so nice to meet you and work with you, I learned a lot. Thanks again and good luck to all you do!

*Julia C., Crown Point Central School job shadowing program*

"My daughter volunteered last summer. What a wonderful experience she had. We're looking forward to next summer."

*Anna-Lisa Silliman Patterson*

"In short and simple sentences, the students learned they can make a difference by caring for pets and for all animals."

*Kim Dedam, Excerpt from Sun Community News article entitled Westport Kiddos Meet Neigh-bors about Westport School's kindergarten field trip*

Enriching lives, empowering people of all ages and abilities, and making a difference in our community are as critical to our mission as saving horses.

Activities at the farm this year included field trips (right), high school job shadowing, home schooled curriculums, youth volunteers, Youth Advocate Program for at-risk kids, Mountain Lake Services DayHab (bottom right) and three day camps: Burlington, Vermont Parks and Recreation Wags and Wiggles, (bottom left) Mountain Lakes Services Kids Camp (below), and Camp Pok-O-MacCready (middle right).



Photo credit: Kim Dedam



In addition to programs held at the farm we also volunteer in the community, expanding our reach. This year, Chauntel judged the 4H Horse Show, Nancy judged art projects at the County fair (page 7), and Nancy, Eddie and Chauntel spoke at Wadhams Library as part of the library summer lecture series. We are also proud to share that Chauntel was recently elected Northern Regional Director for the New York State Horse Council.



# YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES THE WORLD



Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch. For the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow."  
*Anonymous*



Over the past fifteen years, it has been a joy to watch many of “our kids” grow up. Former youth volunteers continue to donate time as adults, high school job shadow participants remember visiting the farm as kindergarteners on a field trip, our veterinary interns are practicing vet techs and keep in touch; and others, like Sarah (above photos) has been helping us fulfill our mission since 2012 through her creative, visionary leadership. The left photo is of Sarah (far right) and friends, Katie and Ella, who organized a lemonade stand fundraiser to benefit CMVHR six years ago in their hometown in Connecticut. The right photo was taken this past summer when Sarah, now a counselor at Camp Pok-O-MacCready, brought a group of campers for a volunteer work day. The generosity of our donors truly makes a difference — one horse, one child, one life at a time — with a ripple effect that reaches around the world.



**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Left:** Lydia leads Bijou over pumpkins as a confidence builder for horse and human

**Right:** kids take a break from chores to enjoy a game of kick ball in the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation and Training Center



Dear Ms. Van Wie,  
 Thank you for supporting our 4-H program. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to have our 4-H shows and complete our 4-H projects.  
 Thank you,  
 Maria Catão  
 4-H Junior Show Interder



Reprinted from Press Republican (PR): Essex County Fair judge Nancy Van Wie awards a blue ribbon to 10-year-old Emily Pinheiro of Crown Point for the artistic creation she made from an old cabinet door, string vase and flower arrangement. PHOTO CREDIT: Alvin Reiner/PR

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

**7556 NYS 9N  
Westport, NY 12993**

**Phone: 518-962-8512  
Email: horses@cmvhr.org  
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**

94 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  
Nancy Van Wie—Vice President  
Susan Kastan—Secretary

**STAFF**

Chauntel S. Gilliland  
Barn Manager & Trainer

Mathew McCarroll  
Farm Hand

**CHARLIE'S STORY**

Charlie was a feral stallion when he was rescued in 2013 from a hoarding situation with 40 other horses. Ten of the mares were pregnant and many with Charlie's babies. Eddie lassoed a white eyed and terrified Charlie while negotiating his own balance among a pile of horse carcasses -- the ones that hadn't survived.



*"I am a part of all that I have met"* is a quote by Lord Alfred Tennyson that Liz, Charlie's adoptive mom sent to us after Charlie arrived at his forever home in Utah the following year. The quote is fitting.

Charlie's happy new beginning started some 25 years ago in a restaurant with Huddle Bay and Fish Point sandwiches, iced tea and lemonade. Liz's father and step-mother, Andy and Stella Haigh were frequent patrons of a restaurant where Nancy waitressed. Chicken and fish sandwiches, iced tea and lemonade were their standard order. Fast forward 10 years to 2003. It had been 7 years since Nancy waited on Andy and Stella at the restaurant. A grand opening for Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue made front page news, drawing hundreds of people to the farm, including Andy, Stella and family. When Andy and Stella arrived at the farm with daughters Liz and Kris, sons-in-law John and Michael and granddaughter, Kim, a reunion and the start of lifelong friendships began with a chuckle when Nancy recognized their faces and blurted out; "Huddle Bay, Fish Point, Iced Tea and Lemonade coming right up".

When CMVHR relocated to Westport in 2005, Andy and Stella, Liz and John, and Kris, Michael and Kim had a family reunion at our new farm. Andy told us our farm was a place where he felt joy, peace and a restored faith in humanity. Later that year, Andy and Stella passed away, just months apart. Liz and John, and Kris, Michael and Kim have sustained Andy's and Stella's legacy of love for our work with annual gifts in their memory. What a humbling honor.

Fast forward again to 2013 when CMVHR was lead humane agency for law enforcement who seized 41 horses from a hoarding situation -- when Charlie was rescued. Liz called us and said she was ready to "achieve her dream of life with another horse" and CMVHR was the only place from which she could imagine adopting one -- in honor and memory of her dad, Andy. The geographical challenge of living in Utah was no obstacle. She flew to New York to meet Charlie, fell in love and arranged for his transport across the country to his forever home.

Happy new beginnings and life-long bonds are what we strive for through our work. It takes commitment and teamwork -- our donors, volunteers and adoptive parents make it possible. Together, we are changing the world.



Photo by Hunter Stables, Utah

Another huge honor for us was learning that Michael, author, poet and playwright published a book inspired by our work -- Never the Light of Day. "My inspiration for making Rachel such a horse-lover, and wanting to help them even further, came directly from the work you do every day. Yours is a truly noble cause, and I wanted the world to know, through Rachel, a little slice of what you do each and every day. You were the inspiration, pure and simple..." *Michael Kaye*

