

THE HORSE'S VOICE

WINTER 2019/2020 NEWSLETTER

In Others' Words

"My favorite place on earth."

Sarah, summer youth volunteer from Georgia

"They do things right for the animals and their human contacts. They educate the community about the horse and save horses way into the future, not just the horses in their care today. They touch the heart of the horse and the soul of the horse industry through continuing fun, heart-warming educational programs and simply giving of themselves. Every contribution of time or money or a visit is appreciated and CMVHR lets you know that you are helping. Everything an equine rescue should be."

*Dapheny Wright,
Legend Rider and CMVHR
Volunteer*

"Thank you for having us. The farm is amazing and the work you do is beyond words. Thank you for doing what you do and helping all the animals in need. You truly are an inspiration and we'd love to come back again to help."

Amanda Panetta, Team Depot (story page 8)

"WILLSBORO loves CMVHR!"

Francesca Nazario de Duso, Willsboro School

THANK YOU! Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue board and staff are grateful to our supporters, volunteers and partners for helping us save hundreds of horses and positively impact people — often beyond measure. Kindness and compassion cause ripples that are felt around the world. Together, we are enhancing lives and enriching community today, and for tomorrows to come.

Your support enables us to keep pace with the growing demand for our services while staying steady and focused on our mission-driven work to change the world for the better — one life at a time.

In this issue of *The Horse's Voice*, we bring you inspiring stories friends like you make possible — for instance, you will read about Apollo's transformation from tragedy to trust and love; a compassionate intervention that helped a man and his animals, and how Team Depot came to the rescue; how your support impacts people of all ages, enhances lives and enriches community; how partnerships amplify our collective impact; about "Angels" being found at CMVHR, and more.

Since 2003, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue has grown from a small non-profit dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating horses in need to an award-winning, nationally recognized organization creating a brighter future by saving horses, empowering people and serving communities. To our donors — thank you for making our work

possible. We hope you are as proud of our accomplishments as we are appreciative of your support. If you are not currently a donor, we hope you will consider a gift today.

*Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie
Co-founders, CMVHR, Inc.*



CMVHR has a new sign at our entrance!! This beautiful hand-crafted sign was made by Sophie, one of our youth volunteers, and her mom Mary, as a homeschool project.



KC and LBJ show their excitement for breakfast in slightly different ways. LBJ is a goofball who makes us giggle!

SAVING HORSES, HEALING HEARTS

"We don't look for quick homes, we look for the right home." is the answer to one of the most frequently asked questions we hear, which is; "How long are horses with you before they are adopted?" This story is about Apollo's journey from tragedy to trust and love — it is an example of why we wait.

Apollo was with us for five years learning to trust humans again, particularly men, before finding his forever home this summer. In 2014, NYS State Police and a judge in northern New York called to ask for our help in a horrific situation where a man shot his wife and then himself, leaving seven horses homeless. Two of the horses were in such bad shape, they had to be euthanized. Four of the horses found forever homes soon after intake. Apollo needed the most time to heal.



Barn Manager Marcaill wishes Apollo his best next life with warm reassurance and love.

2018 DEDICATION TO DEAN, APOLLO'S ADOPTIVE DAD, BY HIS DAUGHTER JULIET

Hi CMVHR, I just donated \$25.00 and would like to tell you that the donation is a birthday gift for my dad, Dean Cook. He's taken care of our little herd with unwavering dedication, love and kindness.

You may know that this May our pony, Misty, passed away at the (estimated) age of 40. She was my first pony and every little girl's dream. She was the quintessential bomb-proof, gray little pony. She took care of me and we took care of her.

In her old age, my dad dutifully fixed her mash of timothy pellets and grain every morning and evening. He drove to Rutland to pick up her Cushing's medication every 90 days and Middlebury to pick up her special grain. And, when she passed away, from across the country, he arranged for someone to come out to help me bury her. Thank you, CMVHR, for all you do for horses. My little herd and I send you lots of love and many thanks, always.
Best, Juliet Cook



Chosen by a horse: Apollo with his adoptive dad, Dean, and daughter, Juliet, heading to his forever home.

For nearly a decade, we have been teaming up with the NYS Humane Association to raise awareness for 'The Link' between domestic violence and animal abuse. Apollo is sadly a poster child for 'The Link'. He suffered beatings at the hands of a man as a way to control and punish his wife before the tragic murder-suicide that took both of the human lives. After being awarded to our custody by the judge, it took months for Apollo to allow a man to approach him, and even after five years he wouldn't let a male farrier or a male veterinarian care for him.

When our friend Dean first approached Apollo, all the guard came down and the love shined through. Apollo would not leave Dean's side. They had an instant connection. After meeting all of our horses and spending just ten minutes with Apollo, Dean immediately said; "This is the one. I'd like to adopt Apollo". When Dean and daughter, Juliet came to pick up Apollo, he walked right into the trailer and right into their hearts.

It's always bittersweet for us to let our horses go, but when we know they will never suffer again and will only know love for the rest of their lives, we shed tears of joy and heartache simultaneously when they do go. While Apollo was in our care, he healed many human hearts by his willingness to forgive, to try, to trust and to love. [#whoissavingwho](#) is a hashtag created by one human heart he opened and filled with joy -- a relationship that can continue, thanks to Dean's willingness to allow love to prevail. Our thanks goes out to Dean for giving Apollo the life he deserves — and a huge thanks to our donors for making this happy new beginning possible! The right home is worth the wait.

COMPASSIONATE INTERVENTION

Some of our rescues are compassionate interventions. They are about helping people as much as they are about helping animals. In June, we received a call from an 81 year old gentleman (Andy) who is handicapped, battling cancer and whose wife died unexpectedly while caring for their horses, cows, sheep and chickens. Andy and his 90 year old sister were doing their best to care for the herd, hauling water in buckets from a spring five miles from the farm, when they realized their situation was unsustainable. That was when Andy called and asked for our help. Putting ourselves in his shoes, the only answer was yes.



When we met Andy and his sister at the farm there were tears of sadness for their loss, for letting go, for all they were going through, coupled with tears of relief to have help. This

moved us to tears. The pain for Andy to let go was hard and it was one of the most heartbreaking and painful experiences we've witnessed. Asking for help did not come easy. He is a proud man. It took courage and strength for him to pick up the phone. We are grateful that he did and honored he entrusted us to help him through a most difficult and painful transition. With admiration and heartfelt empathy, we welcomed two cows (Mini and Moo), two horses (Belle and Pony Boy), two sheep (Tommy and Marley) and Whitey the chicken.



Belle (above right) with her new friend Mommy.

Mini and Moo (below) are miniature Herefords.

Tommy and Marley (right), raised for their wool.

Pony Boy (bottom right) is 35 years young.



"They are the most compassionate, hard-working people around. Saving horses and other animals often from abuse and a life of pain and suffering. Angels on earth protecting and rescuing beautiful animals." *Laura Talbot*



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENRICHMENT

“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.”

Anonymous donor

Since 2003, our commitment to horses has been the foundation of our work. Our commitment to community is equally as strong, and unwavering. Demand for our outreach and enrichment programs is strong, and growing.

The coming pages highlight some of the activities held at the farm since our *Spring 2019 Update*.



Upper right photo: In May, we welcomed 36 students from Willsboro Central School's College For Every Student (CFES) Peer Mentoring Program. The field trip included a farm tour, meeting equine residents, one-on-one time with Opal -- our miniature equine ambassador -- learning about our education and outreach programs, our partnerships with Essex County 4H, OneWorkSource, Youth Advocate Program, and more. What an honor and privilege to team up with Willsboro Central School to advance CFES Brilliant Pathways mission; *CFES Brilliant Pathways believes that every student deserves an opportunity to forge a pathway to a bright future. Since 1991, CFES has worked closely with schools, colleges, businesses and other organizations in urban and rural areas to help over 100,000 students establish pathways to college and career through mentoring and by equipping them with the Essential Skills, that include perseverance, agility, teamwork, networking, goal setting and leadership.*

Below photo: Through our work we get the opportunity to spend time with inspiring young people like Kaeli. In the photo below, LBJ is helping Kaeli with chores to earn community service hours for Honor Society at Westport High School. Kaeli spent six hours with us one Sunday this summer, bringing her total community service hours to 40 — twice the required amount of time. When we asked Kaeli why she worked more hours than needed, she humbly responded; "I enjoy helping others". Kaeli was a joy to spend the day with and inspired us with her commitment to community and selfless service to others.



Above photo: Summer intern Amanda Bruha with Two Socks. Amanda was our first paid summer intern. The mission alignment of helping a young person develop skills and experience working with horses and for a humanitarian and educational non-profit while making money for college was inspiring, and a win-win for all. And it was tons of fun to have Amanda with us.



What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENRICHMENT

Right photo: Buck (our 'Angel' — see page 7) with his buddy Wilder during our after-school program. The program runs every Friday from 3:30-5:30pm. Kids are dropped off by bus or their parents. They have social time, a snack, then dive into helping with chores (paddock cleaning and grooming), before gathering in the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation and Training Center for an organized activity, like pumpkin carving (below photo), or play time. [Eddie grew pumpkins in our garden for just this occasion.]



Above: Fresh Air Program for Ashmont Boys Choir from Dorchester, MA, organized by St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex, NY. The kids loved mini Opal.



Left: Burlington, VT Parks & Recreation Wags and Wiggles Day Camp kiddos help clean paddocks.

Right: In addition to activities at the farm, we volunteer in the community to expand our reach. In October, Nancy, Opal (mini-equine ambassador) and Sally, one of our amazing volunteers, represented CMVHR at an event sponsored by Belden Noble Memorial Library; "Honoring Horses", at Beggs Point Park in Essex, NY. Sally, who also volunteers at the library, organized the event. We sang songs, talked about what it takes to care for and rehabilitate horses, and Sally read a story to the kiddos about a horse named Silver.



INCREASING IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is a powerful tool for amplifying impact and addressing broader needs. We were honored this Fall to have been asked to co-sponsor and host a workshop for law enforcement, district attorneys, veterinarians and others at the farm. The workshop entitled "Investigating Equine Cruelty and Neglect" was co-sponsored by New York State Humane Association, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Essex County Sheriff's Office and Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. Participants included NYS police, sheriffs, district attorneys, New York Racing Association (NYRA), and SPCA peace officers from Cattaraugus County, Clinton County, Essex County, Fulton County, Saratoga County, St. Lawrence County, Warren County, and several participants came from as far away as Long Island.

Speakers were Sue McDonough, NYS Police BCI Investigator (retired), Pat Valusek, President New York State Humane Association, Essex County Deputy Sheriff and Animal Cruelty Investigator Bob Rice, Steve Naile, DVM from Equine Clinic at Oakencroft, and Eddie and Nancy, CMVHR Co-founders.

The day started at the Essex County Sheriff's Office for presentations. Sue McDonough started with an overview of New York State animal cruelty laws. For 18 years, she has been the leading expert on the laws governing and protecting animals. New York State animal cruelty laws fall under Agriculture and Markets, not under the penal code, which means law enforcement are not trained on them unless they attend one of these specialized workshops. Because law enforcement is required to uphold animal cruelty laws in NY, these workshops are critical for giving them the tools and knowledge they need.

Deputy Rice gave a presentation on the 2013 forty-one horse seizure for which we were lead humane agency. He talked about the legal process, including securing a search warrant, on scene animal evaluation by licensed veterinarians, and safe removal of the animals.

Dr. Naile talked about how to determine if a horse is being starved, neglected or abused. He reviewed the Henneke body condition scoring system, feed requirements, hoof care, dental care and the difference between a healthy horse and a non-healthy horse.

After the presentations, the group drove to CMVHR for lunch, followed by a discussion of seven equine cruelty cases CMVHR has participated in as lead humane agency with law enforcement. Primary topics included evidence collection on scene and legal documentation of



Participants learn how to "body condition score" a horse from Dr. Steve Naile and CMVHR co-founder, Eddie.

the horse's recovery for testimony at trial. The group then had the opportunity for hands-on body condition scoring and learning how to safely catch and lead horses.

We were honored to have been asked to co-sponsor this workshop. It was a great day of learning and making connections that will help us all in our collective efforts to save and protect equines, and all animals.

"The workshop was amazing. I've been talking it up to all my co-workers and Chief. I hope you continue to put these classes on!" Rachel



30-year-old Pelham gets a scratch from a NYRA officer after Pelham and Eddie gave a lesson on leading a horse.

‘ANGELS’ FOUND AT LOCAL HORSE RESCUE



Reprinted with permission: Written by Annoel Krider and published in Lake Placid News September 27, 2019: A number of years ago, I was searching for a dog through a variety of animal rescues on the internet. I took notice when one of the shelters had a horse up for adoption. Not sure why I was so surprised, but it expanded my horizons into the possibility of adopting a horse.

I've since discovered that there existed a farm in Westport that was, in fact, a horse rescue farm. For years on my way to the town of Westport I would drive by the farm taking note of all the horses in the pastures of this beautiful valley thinking that one day I would like to visit and learn more about it. Alas, it took a while, but I finally made arrangements and soon discovered the tenacity it takes to run a horse rescue farm.

The Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue Farm is owned and run by Ed Mrozik and Nancy Van Wie. Nancy's father got her a pony when she was 3 years old and for the next 24 years, she learned to love the exceptional character of these amazing animals. Eddie worked at Belmont and Aqueduct race tracks in his youth where he was enlightened to the majesty and intuitive qualities of horses. Nancy and Ed together create a dynamic team that is abundant in love, compassion and sacrifice.

My sisters were visiting, so I arranged a tour of the farm while they were here. We drove out one afternoon and were met by Nancy, who was gracious and welcoming. There were numerous fenced in areas each containing two horses. Nancy told us stories about some of them, including a large 41-horse seizure that took place in 2013. Because they already had a number of horses on the farm, they couldn't take all 41 so the horses were distributed to other safe locations. Crane Mountain Valley took the worst of them. Many of the horses were skin and bones and close to death as seen in the photo album she showed us. But through the loving care of Nancy and Ed and a grant from the ASPCA, they brought them all back to health.

When the horses arrive at the farm, they are not only nourished back to health and receive the appropriate medical treatment, they are loved. And this particular ingredient is the main reason why all of these animals are now happy and healthy. They also work with the horses on a regular basis, training them to feel safe with humans, to engage them in educational programs with community schools, 4-H groups and to help "facilitate the healing of humans" through outreach programs. They just don't take in horses and feed them and then adopt them out. They take these horses and turn tragedy into an educational and healing experience for people and horses alike.

One of those "angel" horses is Buck. He was the only horse Nancy allowed us to approach without a fence between us. Buck's kindness and gentle spirit has restored the lives of many who were fortunate enough to spend time with him. I've always thought horses were some of the most magnificent animals in existence, but I never was able to feel the required trust or connection with the aloof horse personality until I met Buck. He walked up to each one of us and snuggled his head next to each one of ours as if to assure us of his amiable intentions. He had personality that was evident to me unlike the reserved nature of some horses. It was clear to us why he was called the angel; he was so filled with the healing spirit.

I wanted to tell you stories about all the horses, but there are so many. I knew I wanted somehow to impart the essence of how important places like the Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue Farm is and the precious people who run them. Words too often don't express the quintessence. One has to visit the place and see all the horses and hear all the stories from Nancy and Ed to feel the presence of pain transformed into trust and love. When you drive in there, you'll see nothing but happy, healthy horses who were all fortunate enough to end up in the fields of that valley. It's difficult to imagine that there are many more, somewhere, who need to find their way here or into the hands of a loving human.

It was time to go, and in that hour-long tour we all ended up feeling like kindred spirits to the horses and to the farm which could be renamed Crane Mountain Valley Horse and People Rescue because it does both.

CRANE MOUNTAIN VALLEY HORSE RESCUE, INC.

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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

OLD-FASHIONED BARN RAISING

In September, a team of volunteers from Home Depot in Queensbury, NY -- *Team Depot* -- helped build a barn for Mini and Moo, two cows we took in as part of a compassionate intervention (see page 3). In support of this act of kindness by Home Depot associates, the Home Depot Foundation made a grant to CMVHR to cover the cost of materials needed for the job.



TEAM DEPOT in alphabetical order: Amanda, Caitlin, Jeff, Jordan, Karenann, Kyle, Matt and Mike. THANK YOU ALL!!!

A barn raising in the 18th and 19th century was known as "a collective

action of a community". This was all that and more. We are deeply grateful to the Home Depot Foundation for its generous grant and truly inspired by the team of volunteers who spent the day at our farm building a "cow condo" for our bovine friends.



It was a blast! I miss my cows already! *Jordan*

We had a great time. It was funny having Mini and Moo as our GC. They were great bosses. LoL *Karenann*

