

THE HORSE'S VOICE

WINTER 2020/2021 NEWSLETTER

In Others' Words

You are so great. Thank you for keeping in touch with the kids during this! It means so much to Edie (and me!) “

Candy Goff, mother of afterschool volunteer

It's a wonder how you guys create new ways to reach the children, keeping them in touch with a place they love. And I find it consoling just knowing that more adults, all of us now feeling traumatized and dumbstruck, are receiving the gifts of grace you and the horses and all the other non-humans on the farm provide.

Melissa Eisinger, donor

Thank you for helping to teach your community to love, to care and to come together. Sometimes those lessons come to us through animals.

Lyn DuMoulin, donor

What a great day on the farm on Monday. I realize it was a very busy day for you with the farrier but I so enjoyed watching Tim at his craft and appreciate the amount of attention you had to give to managing the horses. All those different personalities and your expert handling was dam impressive.

Sue Young, volunteer

Saving~Connecting~Caring

In an anxious world, our donors ~ friends like you ~ inspire hope. We can support animals and people in their time of need because you support us. **Thank you.**

Deemed an 'essential service' by New York State (NYS), our work continues at full strength. Caring for animals, adapting programs in response to COVID-19, and standing ready to serve as certified humane agents for law enforcement is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week obligation. To comply with NYS Executive Orders, we put COVID-19 guidelines and a safety plan in place for the protection of our staff, volunteers, animals and community.

Despite the programmatic adjustments we've had to make because of the pandemic, what hasn't changed is the daily care requirements of the rescue animals or our commitment to community enrichment. Your support helps ensure that these essential pieces of our work continue without pause, and keeps our staff going strong.

In the following pages, we share stories of what the support of friends like you helps make possible, demonstrating the collective power of giving. For each featured story here there are hundreds more ~ some too personal to share. The tangible side of our work can be measured in the number of animals saved, the number of kids who participate in our programs, the number of programs we run, people we reach, and so on. In our 17 years of operation, the cumulative count of animals and people we've helped is in the thousands.

What's harder to measure is the return on investment in the hearts we heal or the lives we touch in unseen ways. You may never know the positive impact you have on a life. But, when someone takes a moment to share it with you, you know that what you believe in and what you work so hard for every day, is worth it in spades, and then some. We hope you enjoy reading the stories in the coming pages, some written by those whose lives we touch. Your gift makes a real difference, fueling and amplifying hope and positive impact in so many lives. If you aren't currently a donor, we hope you'll join us. **To our current supporters, thank you! We are stronger together.**



Buck frolicking in the snow as seen through the hayloft window. Photo credit: Lloyd Staats (see page 4)

Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders

FROM HELL TO HAPPINESS



Forgive the graphic start to this story, but this is the situation from which Carob and his son Bugsy were rescued. Today, Carob is a grand champion endurance horse and Bugsy, who has oodles of potential like his dad, is here with us waiting for his forever home.

In 2013, we were the lead humane agent for law enforcement in a hoarding situation. Forty-one living horses were removed from one property and countless dead ones were left behind. Ten of the mares we removed were pregnant, most with babies already by their sides. Ten stallions were also placed in our care and custody. Carob was one of the stallions (now a gelding) and he is Bugsy's dad. You will see the undeniable resemblance in the photos on this page and the next.



Top left: Skeletons of dead horses on the property.
Middle left: During the seizure, horses were given round bales of hay as they were evaluated by veterinarians.
Bottom left: Carob one month after being placed in our care and custody and after gaining considerable weight.
Above: Carob in training after regaining his health.
Below: Carob and his adoptive mom, Deborah winning a 25-mile endurance race in October, 2020.



WAITING FOR HIS FOREVER HOME

Bugsy was born in 2014 on our farm to Ursula, one of the pregnant mares that was seized. Bugsy just turned six years old. He grew in spurts and is coming into his best years. We waited until his full development to move forward with his training under saddle. He is doing awesome and has so much potential, just like his dad.

Carob (now named Champ) was adopted a few months before Bugsy was born. On October 2, 2020 Champ and his adoptive mom Deborah, won the Skymont Tennessee 25 mile endurance ride in Florida where they live. He also won Best Condition and High Vet Score. Deborah recently sent us photos of their accomplishment. We couldn't be happier or more proud of them both ~ they make an amazing team. And our donors make happy new beginnings like Carob's and Deborah's possible. **Thank you!**



Above from top to bottom:

- * Bugsy napping in the hay with his mom at one day old.
- * Bugsy standing tall and proud with his mom, Ursula.
- * Bugsy at age two with Katia, a youth volunteer.

Bugsy is one of more than a dozen horses waiting for their forever home. We don't look for quick adoptions, we look for the right ones. And until then, we will continue to invest in their health, wellness and training to ensure their success.



Photo credit: Sam Church

Above: Bugsy learning to wear a saddle and have someone in his upper atmosphere with DeDe (see page 6).

Below: Carob winning a 25-mile endurance race with his adoptive mom, Deborah, in October, 2020.



COMMUNITY ~ CARING ~ CONNECTING

Our commitment to our mission and to the community is unwavering, despite the uncertainties – financial and otherwise – that the pandemic brings. Our donors, volunteers, staff and program participants give us hope and inspiration.

Our on-site group activities are still temporarily suspended and will likely remain so through the winter months. We are open by appointment for prospective adopters, safely distanced visits and tours, and have a growing contingent of adult volunteers seeking meaningful work, a peaceful atmosphere, the healing power of the horse, and connection to us and each other ~ with COVID-19 protocols in place. Each volunteer and staff member has his/her/their own equipment. Hand sanitizing and wash stations are provided and masks must be worn when six-foot distancing is not possible.



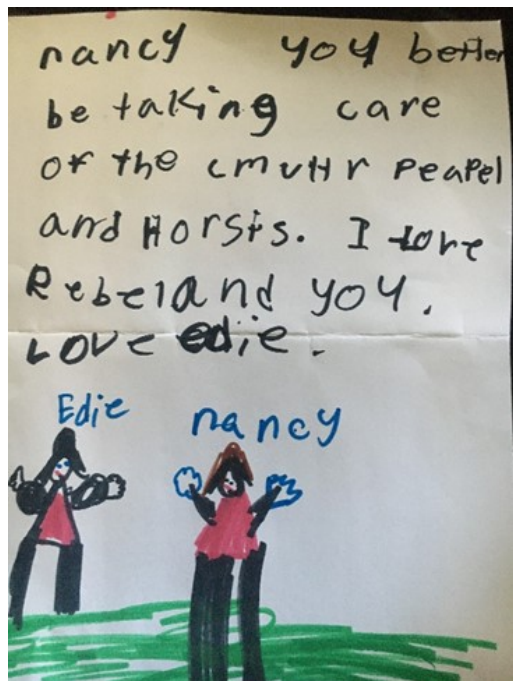
Gail brushing Mini

We've adapted our after-school program to an on-line Facebook Group. Every Friday, we have a learning activity for the kids. Each activity has a special clue that will be used to create a cross-word puzzle at the end of the year to recap the lessons. Additionally, each month we provide arts and crafts kits to the kids, siblings and parents to do together. For example, in October we gave the kids white CMVHR t-shirts and tie dye kits to create their own masterpiece for "Spirit Week/ Tie Dye Wednesday" at school.

With special thanks to one of our volunteers, Laurie (far right) and Bookstore Plus in Lake Placid who donated two children's books, this summer we delivered My Friend Flicka and The Trail Ride to each family.



Mike and Laurie safe distancing



For us, this is our work – and we continue to adapt. The kids and their parents express their appreciation in a variety of ways. Smiles are enough for us, but melt our hearts when notes like this one (left) appear in our mailbox. Your support touches lives when we all seem to need it the most. Kindness causes ripples that can be felt around the world. Thank you!

"Today was my last day working at CMVHR. I've been there since September, and though it isn't too long of a time I quickly came to love working there. Being given the opportunity to work for wonderfully kind people at such an amazing establishment with incredible animals will never be forgotten. I've learned so much over these last 8 months, and I cannot be more grateful to everyone there. Thank you to Eddie and Nancy, DeDe and to all the volunteers and donors I've had the privilege to work beside. I encourage anyone that can to donate to them. The money and love would be greatly appreciated. You will not find a place on Earth with the amount of heart that CMVHR has. I truly can't thank them enough." *Lloyd Staats, term hire Sept, 2019-June, 2020*

SALLY'S STORY

Sally is one of our volunteers.
This is her story, in her words.

One Volunteer's Story

When we moved to Essex about three years ago I felt I had come home again. Having grown up in a small Vermont "more cows than people" village, this bucolic New York hamlet, cradled by lake and mountains, had me singing songs of praise. I relished the neighborliness, including that of the town's little library – The Belden Noble Memorial Library. It was there that I first connected with Nancy of the horse rescue farm at one of the library's fine community programs. As Nancy shared some of the stories of the farm and its mission of "Saving Horses and Healing Hearts" I felt deeply touched. I signed up to volunteer.



Since I had been horse crazy when young, just being around them weekly at the rescue farm, as I cleaned some paddocks and shelters, held a sweet satisfaction. I also relished working alongside the fine farmhand, wheelbarrows in hand. Eddie's and Nancy's deep commitment to the farm's animals and mission always impress me beyond measure.

My retired life was feeling well rounded out at the farm. And then I got two bonuses of experience. The first was being able to help with the farm's after school program. I am a retired teacher so connecting with the kids in the farm setting with activities and stories and songs felt wonderful. Unfortunately, the program is on the pandemic back burner for now.



My other bonus is Belle. She was part of a compassionate rescue over a year ago and when I first saw her, the depth of soul in her eyes, I was smitten. She is a registered Morgan named La Belle Du Cheval [The Beauty of the Horse] and in her senior years at 28. I was facing a milestone golden birthday myself and decided to celebrate my passage by becoming her sponsor. The delicious part of my weekly routine now is to exercise her (with DeDe's great guidance), graze and groom her. She is stronger and more spirited and beautiful than ever. She is the horse of my dreams.

To quote from that song of sweet simplicity –
"Tis a gift to come round where you ought to be."
Sally Minich Prosk

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The photo on the right is from our Winter 2007 newsletter. It's of CMVHR Rehabilitator and Trainer, Dejanira, aka DeDe, as a youth volunteer with Rocky, who was rescued from slaughter in 2003 and adopted shortly after the photo was taken.

The piece below is the story that accompanied the photo in our 2007 newsletter about kids who give selflessly and the parents who encourage them.

2007: For the past three years, DeDe has asked that in lieu of birthday presents, friends and family make donations to the horses at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue. This year, with her brothers, mom and dad, DeDe proudly presented us with a basket brimming with dollar bills, checks and rolled coins. She had, once again, given up presents for herself to give of herself to the horses.



Photo credit:
Sam Church

As DeDe handed us the basket, we noticed her once flowing locks of hair were now short and crisp, peaking out from under her cow-girl hat, illuminating her beautiful smile. We commented on how pretty she looked with short hair, only to learn that she had recently donated 10 inches of her own hair to a cancer patient. Silence befell us. No words could express the awe of the selfless generosity of this young lady, magnified by her parents' pride and support of her remarkable deeds.

Twelve years after that first photo was taken, DeDe joined our staff team. Her gentle spirit is infectious and her selfless dedication and commitment to service above self endures. The above photo is DeDe with Grey during a training session. To the right is DeDe in full gear for volunteer service. She is a first responder and volunteer firefighter with her father and brother. DeDe is tireless, determined and committed to all that is good. We couldn't be more proud, or more grateful to have 'our girl' back home with us.

2019: Dear Team Members, Please accept this donation in celebration of Dejanira Plumstead. She was a former youth volunteer at your horse shelter and enjoyed working with you and the animals. Dejanira will receive her Associates degree in Anthropology from SUNY Adirondacks on Saturday, May 11, 2019. As her grandparents we are very proud of her accomplishments and look forward to what her future holds in store for her. Thank you for guiding her during her informative years and best wishes with your continued efforts with the shelter.
Sincerely, Stephen and Edna Bowers"



Photo credit: Tina Plumstead

HORSE-A-NALITIES

In our line of work, we never know what kind of 'horse-a-nality' we will be encountering when we save a life. We'd like to introduce you to a few of the equine charges in our care.....



Above: Pony Boy was rescued twice. June 2019, he came to us as part of a compassionate intervention. A retired Adirondack Forest Ranger, who is battling cancer, asked for our help. He found Pony Boy 30 years ago wandering the woods after being discarded by his owners. Pony Boy is some 35 or 40 years old. He has Cushings Disease and requires daily medication that costs about \$150 per month and specialty hoof care every six weeks to take the pressure off of his toes to keep him comfortable and happy.

Top right: Poncho was deprived of oxygen at birth and has brain damage. It causes him to lash out on occasion so he has to wear a muzzle and be sedated during his farrier visit to prevent him from injuring the farrier, his handler, or himself.

Right: Zephyr suffered trauma that caused him to fear humans and pretty much everything humans introduced to him. In this photo, he is being very brave wearing a tarp to learn that not everything humans do to him is to be feared.



Photo credit: DeDe Plumstead

Bottom: (left) Mommy on intake during a cruelty investigation for which we were lead humane agents. (right) Mommy today!



Photo credit: Sam Church

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 Gabrels —Secretary

BIG FIELD EQUALS BIG SAVINGS

In 2019, through a Facebook fundraiser, friends contributed to fence in our big field for grazing. The return on investment is huge!

With the project now complete, this year we were able to use the field for grazing. Not only were the horses happy to have ample space to romp and play, it reduced hay consumption during a critical time.

With this year's drought, hay yield was down 50% and consequently, the price went up.

We are grateful to our hay provider who is storing enough for us through winter. This may not have been possible without the ability to graze horses this summer and fall.



As we approach winter, funding needs for grain, bedding, hay and emergencies is amplified. We are grateful to our Facebook friends for the field, and to all of our donors for your backing. Season after season, your support has impact!



Top right: Bijou and Jillie enjoy grazing in the field.

Middle left: The big field!

Above: The team from Power Fence Systems. They created a wildlife friendly passage for deer to move through safely.

Left: A truckload of hay. We get 9.5 tons delivered every six weeks ~ \$15,000 per year.