

THE HORSE'S VOICE

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

In Others' Words

Thank you once again for being a great host for our youth. And thank you for being such an educational worksite!

*Robin Allen-Mussen,
Youth Coordinator at
OneWorkSource*

Thank you for taking the time to show me the ins and outs of farming. I really enjoyed spending time with the horses. It was a great experience. Thanks for the cool Crane swag and the picture of Bucky boy. I really appreciate it.

*Mason P, summer
youth employee through
OneWorkSource*

There is very little faith in humanity left in me. I'm so thankful for the ones like you who continue to help me understand human nature.

Barbara Myers

There are angels on earth and you and your helpers are definitely among them.

Pat Baskoff

Thank you for caring about these wonderful animals. You make our world a better place.

Sally & Dolly Kipper

**Be the change you wish
to see in the world.**

Mahatma Gandhi

In our line of work, we too often see the dark side of humanity. Though it's real and we cannot avoid it, we choose to focus on the good side of humanity. To our donors and volunteers — **THANK YOU.** You lift us up when the going gets tough and you enable us to save lives, empower youth, and enrich our community. Together, we are making a positive difference in countless lives. And simply put, we couldn't do what we do without you.



Mason gives two thumbs up to learning how to lead Zephyr. Mason was employed with us this past summer through One-WorkSource youth program (story on page 2)

In this issue of *The Horse's Voice*, we will share stories of hope, compassion and joy, along with a story of cruelty that angered us to our core. You will read about the sad side of our work. Animal rescue can be an emotional roller-coaster. We have done seminars on the realities of running a rescue to help those who are thinking about getting started understand the commitment it takes. It's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no holidays or bad weather days, as animals need care every day. The financial obligations of feed, bedding, veterinary and farrier care, facility upkeep, medications, and emergency care are not insignificant.

On the flipside, the rewards can be lifechanging in a good way. Saving a life, helping a person in need, meeting people who share your passion, teaching youth, empowering a developmentally disabled person, learning something new, bringing joy to a heart that was heavy, teaming up with others who want to make the world a better place — these are unmatched — and friends like you help make them possible.



We can be the change we wish to see in the world. For us, it starts by choosing to focus on the good side of humanity, like those who join us in our mission. To our donors — you are our strength and our light. **Thank you!**

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

LBJ loves to play with his ball.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

This summer, we welcomed a 14-year-old young man through OneWorkSource, a federal program for low-income families whose mission is to engage youth "who qualify for the Youth Program, in a variety of educational enrichment activities that will enable them to make better educational and occupational decisions and help prepare them for the workforce." OneWorkSource works "to place as many youth as possible in appropriate, meaningful jobs in safe settings, while providing exceptional support, academic enrichment and opportunities to gain marketable skills; and to provide the community and businesses a view of our local emerging workforce at its best."

We are proud to be an approved worksite for this important program and have enjoyed working with our local youth over the years. Last year, the pandemic put the program on pause. It's wonderful to have had it back in action this summer and to team up with OneWorkSource to advance its mission, and ours.

Community enrichment is as critical to our mission as saving animals. Mason enjoyed his time with us, and we enjoyed having him here. He is a hard worker and committed to learning, and we've made a lifelong friend.



Dede teaches Mason how to approach Bugsy, put on a halter and to lead the horse around the arena.



Above: Mason staining fence rails.

Right: Making friends with Zephyr and Bugsy.



Partnerships are not hard work, but heart work. Not more work, but the work. Not harder work, but smarter work to mobilize all available resources that will contribute to student success. *Joyce Epstein and Associates, School, Family and Community Partnerships.*

A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role. *Unknown.*

WORTH THE WAIT

Rebel found his forever home -- and his little girl!! Rebel, decorated in hearts and ribbons with his hooves painted purple, was a surprise 7th birthday present for a little girl in Pennsylvania. What a wonderful happy new beginning for this boy.

Rebel came to us with a hairline fracture in his coffin bone from improper hoof care in his previous life. Custom shoes and time to rest and heal brought this boy back to his healthy self. While he was with us, Rebel was a favorite for kids and adults alike. He gave many people their first ride and was one of the stars of our afterschool program, 4H, summer day camps, Mountain Lake Services dayhab, and more.

Thank you to our donors for making happy new beginnings like this possible. And thank you to our staff, volunteers and program participants -- especially our afterschool kiddos -- for caring for and loving Rebel while he was with us. You helped him to know love and kindness so when he arrived in Jayden's arms, he embraced it with a full heart.



TO HELL AND BACK — TWICE

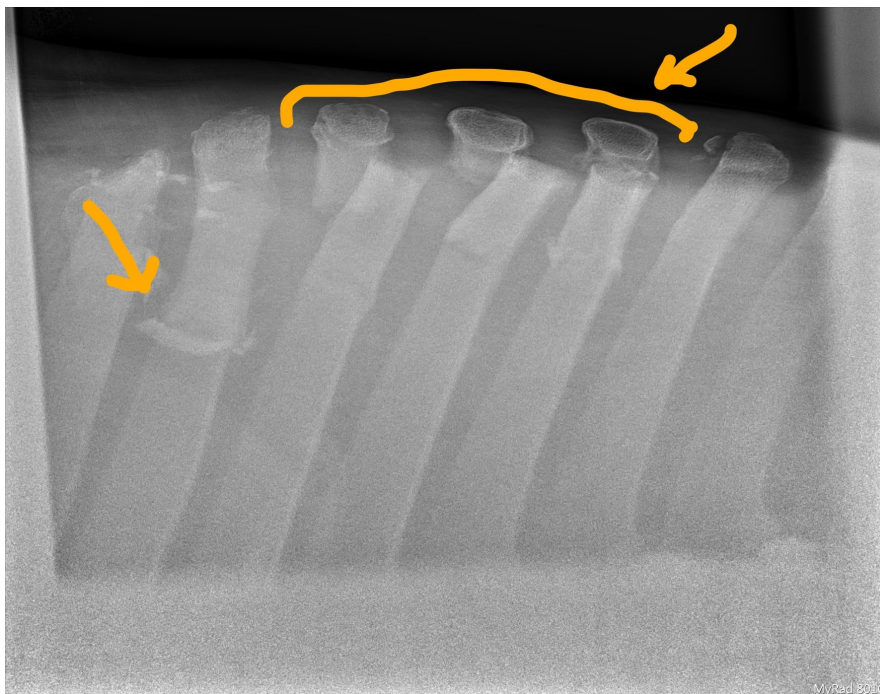
This is the story of cruelty that angered us to the core, in large part because it happened to one of our horses in the care and custody of her adoptive family — they broke her back.

We work very hard to find the right homes for our horses, and we wait as long as it takes. Adoption applications are required, along with personal interviews, on-site visits with the horses, and reference checks. Despite all of our efforts, Mommy's adopter was not what we believed her to be. Mommy sustained four fractured dorsal

spinous processes in the care of her adopter (left photo). These are broken back bones in her withers where her neck joins her back. She also sustained a severe eye injury (below left), and had lacerations on her rump consistent with being hit with something that cut into her flesh. Our adoption agreement is iron clad and Mommy is back here with us. She needs time to recover and will stay with us, forever.

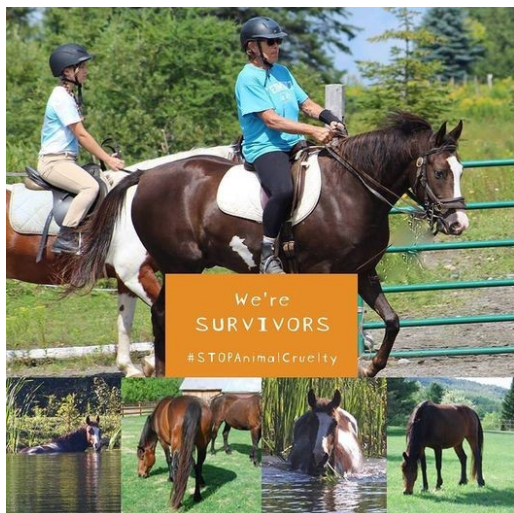
Mommy went through hell and back before she came to us. She was one of the 41 horses seized from a hoarder in 2013. She was a living skeleton with a baby by her side (George), hence her name — Mommy. She also had a baby inside that she aborted due to her emaciated condition. Below is a photo with Eddie during the seizure in 2013 and one from 2020 with CMVHR staff member, Dede.

....continued on the next page



NEVER AGAIN, MOMMY, NEVER AGAIN

Mommy saved all 41 of those horses by escaping her farm to go to where the food was for her and her son (and her baby inside). A neighbor saw her and took a photo to the vet and the police, who obtained a search warrant. That's where we came in. We were the humane agent that took all 41 horses into our care. That's the role we play with legal cases of suspected cruelty or neglect. Law enforcement needs a certified humane agent to act, and we respond.



All 41 horses made a full recovery from their starvation. Ten of the mares seized were pregnant and had babies, bringing the total saved to 51. George and Mommy are featured in the left photo, which is a poster to **#stopanimalcruelty**. George is doing amazing things with his family who run a kids' camp. Mommy recovered to be a healthy and happy horse with all the potential in the world. She is a kind and gentle soul with so much love to give. She was one of the stars of our youth programs and a favorite for kids and adults alike. She left here that way and because of the cruelty and ignorance of her adopter, the Mommy that came back is now forever broken. She will never leave here again.

After going to her adoptive home, the updates we received about Mommy were positive, and all lies. "She is doing great." "We love her so much." "I'll be sending her for professional training in August and will be riding her soon." And on August 1: "She's officially at boot camp! I'll keep you updated on her progress!" Photos we received showed

Mommy wearing a saddle, on a trailer, and standing in a round pen. We believed all was going well.

In early August, we received a Facebook message from her adopter that Mommy was having "issues" with rearing and that she was having a hard time at the trainer's. Because Mommy never had a problem with rearing while she was here and because her adopter never mentioned this until this message, it came as a surprise and made us sick to our stomachs. We picked up the phone and called her to find out what was going on. She told us Mommy was doing great when she first arrived, but when they **pushed her** to do things she didn't want to do, she would rear up and over backwards. She then told us that Mommy reared up and over **six times**. We were now horribly worried. First of all, we don't push horses to do things, we ask them. Secondly, horses do not go up and over backwards for no reason and rearing is not a behavior Mommy ever exhibited in our care or we would not have used her for youth programs. And finally, after the first time Mommy went up and over, we and a vet should have been called immediately. During one of those flips, Mommy broke her back — likely the first time.

We called the trainer who told us she believed Mommy was injured. We exercised our contractual right of return and brought Mommy home. We immediately called the vet who came to the farm that night for an emergency visit. They took x-rays of her neck and spine, confirming our worst fear. Mommy sustained a broken back in the care of her adopter. She also had an eye injury, so we had her head x-rayed to ensure she had no skull fractures. Fortunately, there were no fractures of her skull or eye socket, but severe trauma to her face.

Mommy has a long road ahead of her and we are in it for the long haul with her. We built a small paddock to restrict her movement. Her feed and water are elevated to keep her head up. She will be x-rayed every two months to check progress of her healing. She will never wear a saddle again and will stay with us forever as a program horse, bringing joy to all who meet her, just as she has always done.

The photo to the right is of Jeff from Mountain Lake Services, a program for developmentally disabled adults. He raised \$55 for her care by collecting and returning bottles. He calls weekly to check on her, with in person visits every few weeks. He loves "momma horse". We all do.

Never again, Mommy. Never again.



COMPASSIONATE INTERVENTION

Often, our work is about helping people as much as it is about helping animals, and sometimes it's both. In August, the daughter of two long-time friends of ours called to share a devastating cancer diagnosis. She asked if we would take her two beloved horses when she could no longer care for them, or was in palliative care. At age 88 and 92, her parents simply could not. The burden was heavy for all with this heartbreaking news and our answer was an immediate yes.

Just a few weeks later, we received a tearful call asking us to come pick up the horses. Caring for them was just too much. We picked up Dub and Will and brought them home to CMVHR. It was an emotional and difficult goodbye for their mom who loved them dearly. In early September, their mom, Barb, passed away.



Her obituary read that "Her number one passion was always horses, and she was a regular at area horse shows. Barb's favorite quote that she lived by was, 'If you're goin' through hell, keep on going.' Even after being diagnosed with cancer in 2020, she kept doing everything she loved. In the spring of 2021, she earned a Reserve Champion with her horse Dub in her last horse show. If a few words can sum up a person's life, then this describes Barb's life perfectly: "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming 'Wow! What a Ride!'" Barb's family asked that gifts be made to Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue in celebration of Barb's life.

We are grateful we were able to respond to ease Barb's heart and to provide a safe landing place for her beloved horses.



Above photo: Who Will Endure aka Will. His name reflects his strength — he was born a twin and his sibling did not survive — he did and he's thriving.

Below photo: Dunnit's Double King aka Dub, the horse with whom Barb earned Reserve Champion in her last horse show.

Left photo (left to right): Will, Dub, Ocho and Grey.

We did not have a space for Will and Dub and put them in with Grey and Ocho who have a very large pasture for grazing attached to their smaller paddock. Eddie and Nancy's brother, Doug, immediately went to work to build a new barn to ensure they all have a comfy place to get out of the weather (see page 8).

Thank you to our donors for enabling us to help Barb, her family, Will and Dub. Your generosity and compassion eased heavy hearts during a difficult time.



SAD SIDE OF OUR WORK

In this line of work, we have our share of heartache. This year was no exception with the loss of Tommy and Belle. Both were part of a 2019 compassionate intervention when an elderly man battling cancer asked for our help caring for his animals. They were very much loved during their lives, before their arrival at our farm and while they were here.

Tommy (right and below) was born with medical challenges and raised in the house. His compromised system continued to decline and we lost him to liver failure in the spring. Marley, his sister, was devastated by his loss. Our shearer connected us with Katherine Knox of Hands and Heart Farm in Vermont, who helped us heal Marley's heart by bringing us Bea (left in the framed photo). Marley and Bea became fast friends and are inseparable.



In October, Belle (bottom three photos), was humanely euthanized after lying down and not wanting to get



**"To live in
hearts we
leave behind,
is not to die."**

**Thomas
Campbell**



back up. The vet came immediately and determined that she was in 'end of life' colic due to an underlying illness, likely a tumor by their examination. La Belle du Cheval whose registered name means "the beauty of the horse" lived up to her name for 28 years - a true beauty.

Sally, one of our volunteers who sponsored Belle, came to say



goodbye. Belle wrapped her head around Sally and tears were streaming down both of their faces. Belle knew her time had come and she went over the rainbow bridge surrounded by love -- with Sally, Nancy, Eddie, Dede and her life-long friend, Pony Boy by her side -- plus our two very compassionate vets from Vermont Large Animal Clinic. It's never easy to say goodbye to our animals, but knowing they left this earth in love, helps heal our hearts. Run free sweet ones.

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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

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Nancy Van Wie—Vice President
Susan Kastan—Secretary

INCREASING CAPACITY

The unexpected addition of Dub and Will (see page 6) caused us to have to build another barn to ensure that all four horses in this paddock have shelter. There are two run-in sheds already in this paddock, but neither is big enough for all four horses.

Eddie and Nancy's brother, Doug, jumped on the project as soon as the horses arrived. Because they were building while the horses were in the paddock, they often had some extra help — sort of. Grey insisted on supervising the whole time, serving as foreman on the job to ensure all boards were cut straight and the project was moving swiftly and smoothly.

Sally, one of our volunteers, thought Grey needed a hard hat for the role, but absent having a real one available, she took off her own sun hat and put it on his head. With great balance and precision, he wore that hat with pride and took his job seriously. Of course, we had to refrain from laughing to avoid hurting his feelings, but it was quite comical and made the project that much more fun.



Above photo: Eddie and Doug putting the roof on the new barn they built for Dub and Will.

Below photo: Grey is such a big help, serving as foreman on the job, complete with his hat provided by Sally, one of our volunteers.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Gail is one of our amazing volunteers. She comes every weekend to help with animal care. Gail's innovation and kindness transcend farm chores. She also helps with our newsletter mailings, creates crafts for our kids programs, helps with outreach activities, and this year she commissioned an artist to paint an original oil painting of a scene from our farm for us to auction to raise money for our work. Gail also sponsors Pony Boy through a generous monthly gift. Those who give selflessly of their time and talent, like Gail, inspire us, and we are grateful to call her our friend.