



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Brian McCarty
PHOTOGRAPHY

Journeys OF Hope



ARE MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO

you!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, 2020 was a unique year of challenges, and of successes and growth. Even in such a difficult year, with the effects of the pandemic on everyone, MVHR achieved 30 adoptions and welcomed 28 new intakes, more than any other year since our founding in 2004. And we dealt successfully with mandated pandemic safety restrictions and received uniquely generous support.

Staff stepped up to cover all horse and property care during a temporary ranch closure in April. Volunteers signed up en masse once we reopened, following retooled safety protocols. And donors – large and small, individuals and foundations and businesses – provided more financial support than ever before. We believe these levels of dedication are evidence that MVHR’s mission is critical to our community, just as we all know it is critical to the rescued horses, mules, ponies and donkeys.

People believe in our work, that the issues of equine rescue are important and that the MVHR Ranch in McCoy is a very special place. One that is helping us all deal with our individual and collective experiences during the pandemic.

If you haven’t already, please watch our 2020 Year-End Video, “Journeys of Hope,” to see the stories of Hawk, Buffy, Nova, Blue Moon and Roman, who are pictured on the cover. We are happy to share that Hawk, Buffy and Blue Moon have since been adopted! The “Journeys of Hope” video is posted at www.mountainvalleyhorserescue.com/mvhr-videos.

Accomplishments

This achievement is so exceptional that it bears repeating: In 2020, MVHR adopted out a **record 30** equines and took in another record of 28 in need. We cared for a total of 53 equines throughout the year, with 21 Rescue equines in our care at year end. In addition, our foster home options increased by three generous households. MVHR is able to meet our mission thanks to this kind of care.

While we were not able to hold an in-person “Hay Day!”, our annual open house, the first ever online auction was a rousing success and will be repeated in the fall of 2021. Thank you, again, to everyone who donated goods and services, and who bid on items. We hope the winners enjoyed their treasures and meals out.

Eighty-four children, ages 8-14, in groups of 12, safely enjoyed one of seven Horse Heroes Summer Day Camps. Each camp ran for four days at the Rescue, where campers worked in teams playing fun, educational games; mucking; grooming; and learning how to interact with horses. Nine campers received scholarship aid. The underpinning theme of MVHR’s Day Camp experience continued as R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: Responsibility, Empowerment, Stewardship, Perseverance, Empathy, Cooperation and Trust.



Mini Horse Heroes, our half-day, horse-oriented, early childhood education program shifted from weekdays to Saturdays, but pandemic restrictions limited this popular offering to five sessions. The programming was reimagined into unique, one-time experiences, rather than a series of sessions. MVHR welcomed these active 3-5 year-olds back in the fall (an adult with each) after restrictions eased.

Our five enthusiastic High School Rescue Club members participated in this free, year-long program, increasing their horsemanship skills and equine knowledge, contributing to the care and upkeep of the ranch and herd, assisting with summer day camp counseling, and developing leadership skills. They also ran a successful fundraising project, designing, printing and selling beautifully handcrafted t-shirts.

MVHR’s 115 acres on the Colorado River again was managed well in 2020: there is water for irrigation and thirsty horses, training space (limited, but busy), additional fencing for herd management and safety, electricity and heat repairs to keep water treatment systems from freezing, and ATV’s were kept running.

Donors, In-kind Providers, the Volunteer Maintenance team, Volunteer craftspeople, and grants from the Salah Foundation, the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, the Shaw Family Foundation and the Rhea Bigelow Charitable Trust all helped to secure the following :

- A new truck, to be used for hauling
- A new flatbed trailer for the truck
- A new RTV
- Two additional corrals, including shelters and solar water troughs
- Critical operating funds

We can't say this enough: Your donations of time, machinery, equipment, tack, hay, silent auction items and funding have been key to 2020's successes. As we often say, MVHR's capacity may only make a small impact on the magnitude of equines in need, but for each equine we support and help together, his or her life is changed forever.

In Memoriam

MVHR holds a clear, heartfelt and practical policy to guide euthanasia decisions. Sometimes this decision must be made in an emergency situation and other times as it becomes clear the horse's comfort level and quality of life are deteriorating. The decision to help a horse go is always a difficult one. Along with the expert advice of our veterinarian, we said goodbye twice this year: to Baylor, who was only with us a short time, and to 47-year-old Sinclair, who was at MVHR for several years and taught us all a lot about senior horses.

Staff & Board

Our staff demonstrated their dedication, creativity and innovative ideas when the Rescue was forced to close briefly due to pandemic restriction challenges. MVHR was able to keep some onsite offerings and create new programs and training methods for volunteers.

Shana Devins remains our steadfast and capable Executive Director. Kensie Redden is our dedicated Program Coordinator. Kendra Scott provides ground-work training and Joel Aguilar continues as trainer and on-site caretaker.

MVHR continued to be guided by its all-volunteer Board: Cookie Murphy/Pettee, President; Leslie Robertson, Vice President; Nancy Lindbloom,

Secretary; Marleen Bosch, Treasurer; Kathryn Middleton, Sustainability Coordinator; and Greta Campanale, Development Advisor.

Plans for 2021 – Building on 2020

MVHR Board and Staff will stay true to MVHR's Mission and Values. In 2021, MVHR plans to achieve the 2020 number of equines helped, be they horses, donkeys, mules or ponies. In addition, ongoing 2021 program plans include:

- Provide 6-7 Summer Day Camps – meeting all scholarship needs
- Continue to develop the skills and confidence of current volunteers through special workshops
- Continue to train new on-site volunteers
- Continue small group service days – adults, kids and families
- Revamp youth programs to be even more in-line with our mission
- Pilot horsemanship lessons, including riding (individual and small group, youth and adult)



And to strengthen the support of MVHR, we plan to:

- Initiate Planned Giving and Legacy Giving options
- Hold an Online Auction in the fall
- Add staff (as we are growing!)
- Expand the Board (now 6, possibly up to 9-10)
- Review and revise our Strategic Planning for the next 3 years

Completing the Ranch – the MVHR Capital Campaign

Late in 2020, representatives of the Rhea Bigelow Charitable Trust (RBCT) visited the Ranch to consider providing support. After learning more about MVHR's mission, values, and seeing the operation firsthand, the RBCT offered funding for the new RTV and the flatbed trailer for the new truck.

They also offered a commitment to fund our dream project: an indoor arena, barn and multi-purpose building! At this writing, excavation is complete, financing is in progress and construction plans are underway!



Wow! To be informally called “Robin’s Nest,” in honor of Robin Rhea Bigelow, this building will be a game changer for 2021 and beyond. MVHR will be able to conduct rehabilitative training year-round on site, no longer needing to take a break during the cold, snowy winter months or haul horses to the Eagle River Center for indoor training. Five stalls will provide easy access to the equines in training. A new maintenance area – insulated! – will house our well-loved RTVs and other key ranch equipment. Staff, volunteers and visitors will enjoy brand new office and multi-purpose space. The previous office and volunteer space (the cabin) will be converted into a more suitable caretaker accommodation. The old barn will remain MVHR’s quarantine area.

With your continued help and success in growing new Capital funding sources, we also plan for progress to continue on smaller infrastructure and facilities critical to MVHR’s success – the Ranch. These smaller projects, totaling an estimated \$150,000, include:

- A true round pen for horse training and human education
- Completing the Pasture Management Plan and irrigation improvements
- Adding edging and improved footing to existing round pens and the outdoor arena

- Corrals: Installing running water (for no more hauling!) and electricity (for nighttime chores!)
- Adding new corrals to enhance capacity and herd management

Thanks to You

We can’t say it enough! The horses, donkeys, mules and ponies who come to MVHR will continue to count on current and new support from donors and volunteers to improve the quality of their lives and to help find new forever homes. This is true no matter the size of your gifts of money, tack, time and more. If we don’t express our gratitude enough to you in person, in emails, or in newsletters, we are saying it as emphatically and warmly as possible now.

With Sincere Thanks,

Mountain Valley Horse Rescue Board of Directors

2020 BY THE NUMBERS



53

Number of equines cared for in 2020



30

Number of adoptions



11

Number of boarders



1,268

Volunteer days logged



\$45,648

Value of committed volunteer time



84

Summer Camp Participants

INCOME

Fundraising	172,152
Equine Care/ Programs	150,363
Facilities/ Administration	36,026
Total Operating	\$358,541

Capital Campaign Contributions	\$471,519
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EXPENSES

Fundraising Support	10,195
Equine Care/ Programs	168,301
Facilities/ Administration	97,710
Total Operating	\$276,206

Capital Campaign Expenses & Loan Payments	\$112,479
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MVHR has received several grants which are reported within the Fundraising Income section. Detailed financial reports and IRS form 990 are available at www.guidestar.org. Guidestar has awarded MVHR with the Platinum Seal of Transparency for financial reporting. Financial reports are also available through www.coloradogives.org or by contacting our Executive Director, Shana Devins.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following list of donors is a compilation of those people and organizations who contributed to Mountain Valley Horse Rescue between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. We have carefully reviewed this list for accuracy and consideration of those who wish to remain anonymous. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact us at (970) 653-0185.

Rescue Heroes - \$10,000 and above

Alexandra Mastriana-Solal
Bob & Rosie Tutag
Harold & Mary Louise Shaw Foundation
Jim Aull
Karen Berndt
Kathryn Wheeler
Melissa A Winter
Mike & Pam Mycoskie
Raymond F. Bryan Estate
Rhea Bigelow Charitable Trust
The Salah Foundation

Equine Advocates - \$5,000 to \$9,000

Alex Ebert
Barbara Miller
Bruce & Tamara Moravec Family Donor Advised Fund
at Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance
Decorative Materials
Dick & Marcy Woodrow
Jenifer Valentine Charitable Foundation
Jim Schorsch
Kathryn Middleton
Kenneth Lubin, N M Morris Foundation
Kitchen Collage
Mary Wolf
Molly Precourt & The Precourt Foundation
Vail Valley Surgery Center
Willa Doolin
Yampa Valley Community Foundation

Wranglers - \$2,500 to \$4,999

Black Mountain Ranch
Vail Valley Cares

Ranch Hands - \$1,000 to \$2,499

Angela McMorris Bottger
Betsy Fink Charitable Fund
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Caroline Kelly O'Farrill
Cookie Murphy-Pettee
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Diane Cunningham
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Pony Pals - \$5 to \$499

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MVHR MISSION

Mountain Valley Horse Rescue (MVHR)'s Mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused, neglected, abandoned, and unwanted equines. MVHR also works to reduce cases of equine abuse and neglect through community education and outreach. MVHR rescued its first horses in 2004, and became a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in 2005.

MVHR VALUES

- Every equine is cared for, valued and respected as an individual.
- The welfare and needs of each equine are first and foremost.
- We offer lifetime consultation for adopters of our equines and we will always take back an equine who has been adopted from MVHR.
- Every person with whom MVHR interacts is respected and valued as an individual.
- We value our unique position to be able to teach to and connect people with equine welfare, care issues and skills.
- MVHR actively participates in and contributes to our broader communities.
- We support the Western ranching, farming, cultural and historical roots of our communities.
- The land in our care will be managed, with the intention of long term improvement and sustainability, by employing best practices to balance equine use with 1) wise use of resources, including water and soil; 2) respect and coexistence with wildlife; and 3) maintaining visual appeal.

