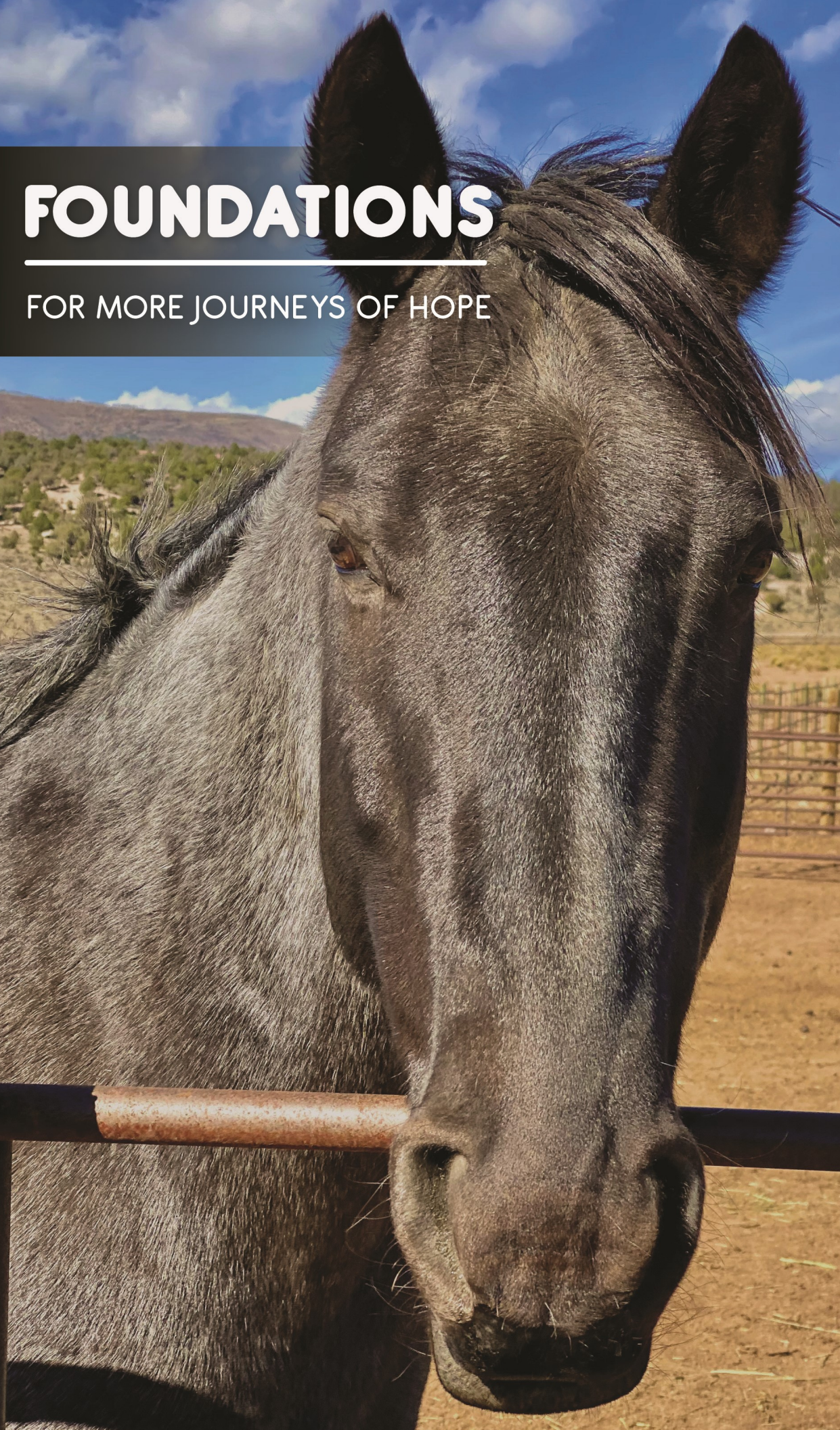


# FOUNDATIONS

FOR MORE JOURNEYS OF HOPE



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT







Dear Friends,

In 2021, MVHR's commitment to our mission continued to provide Journeys of Hope for 51 equines. Each arrived with their own experiences, stories, and troubles but, thanks to your support, MVHR was able to do everything possible to help them transition to their next chapter in life. Take a look at our year-end 2021 video to see some of their stories!

[www.mountainvalleyhorserescue.com/mvhr-videos](http://www.mountainvalleyhorserescue.com/mvhr-videos).

MVHR remains constant in our mission, even as the world presents new and different challenges every day. Your steady support – financial, in kind, and your time spent volunteering at the ranch – allows and inspires our efforts to meet our core mission: rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome an ever-growing number of equines. The need for MVHR's work has never waned and neither has your support – you were there to assure our ability to help equines in need.

#### Foundations... for more Journeys of Hope

No matter the horse's story, no matter the size, shape, or color, your support in 2021 allowed MVHR to say yes to help 51 horses. Some came to us unhandled and afraid, others with crippling injuries from the time they spent working for people. A few came from loving homes where they had been well cared for their entire lives, until their owners' lives changed, or "their" people passed away.

Saying yes to more horses meant more hay, more vet bills, more training time. You were there to provide the support MVHR needed to make all of that possible for each and every one of our charges in 2021. Thanks to you, we were able to give each new intake the care that they needed and deserved, starting the moment they set foot at the MVHR ranch.



*Tango & Cora B, born April 2021*

#### Adoptions

Eighteen adoptions in 2021 included beautiful stories like Bonita's, who after many years at MVHR finally found a loving adopter whom she could trust. And Cora B, who was born right here on the ranch, and has gone on to a loving home, living an adventurous life in the mountains! Or remember the magnificent Shire, Herman, who was only here a few weeks before heading off to Montana with a new family of his own? Each adoption story has its own foundation of trust, which begins with the horse's time here at MVHR and their eventual connection to a new person.



*Herman, Adopted April 2021*

#### In Memoriam

Heartbreakingly, 2021 also brought us stories in which our best efforts ended sadly. These are the hardest days of our work, and often stem from tough cases that MVHR opts to take on, in hopes of giving a horse a chance it has not been able to find elsewhere. Thanks to your support, MVHR can offer more extensive evaluation of physical and behavioral conditions, and more comprehensive care than some owners are able or willing to give. Severe founders, chronic lameness, even the simple process of aging can put a horse's care beyond an owner's reach, and that is often when they seek out MVHR for help.

We provide extensive evaluation and veterinary support for a wide range of conditions. As long as a horse can live a comfortable life with the support we can offer at MVHR, they have a place to live out their lives at the ranch if necessary. That support includes (but is not limited to): acupuncture and chiropractic treatments, medications, reconstructive hoof care and individually-oriented behavioral interactions and training.

When, in spite of our best efforts, a horse is no longer able to live a comfortable life, we gather to offer them what we hope is the ultimate gift of caring – being gently laid to rest here on the ranch. These wonderful animals are buried where they forever overlook MVHR and all of the ongoing work, as well as the beautiful Colorado River as it winds past the property.

Last year was a tough year, as we took on a number of intakes with especially difficult conditions, in hopes we could help. We lost 7 horses out of the 51 we cared for. Their stories, too, will forever be a part of all of us: dear Star, who fought so hard for so long and with the most valiant sweet spirit, even as she could barely stand; Maverick and Blizzo and Morena and Ariel, who tried to navigate life with their injuries, but eventually told us that it just hurt too much; and Little Man and Sparrow, who quite simply left us too quickly, too suddenly.

### Equine Education for our Community

As we were busy caring for horses, our community continued to tell us that opportunities to interact with and learn about the horses was something they wanted more of. MVHR developed a new curriculum for summer camp and introduced Little Friends lessons for our littlest riders. Our popular preschool program, Mini Horse Heroes, and Riding Lessons for older children and adults returned.

In addition to MVHR's equine programs, we welcomed a variety of community partners to introduce horses to their respective communities. A few of those partners include Mountain Recreation, YouthPower365, Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement, Vail Mountain School, and many grade levels from Eagle County Schools.



*Program participant leading a horse*

Our extensive programming is a staple at the ranch, bringing dozens of people out each and every week, even through the cold winter!

Not only do these programs provide outreach and education about horses, as our mission states, but they also create an extended community of horse advocates. Some have adopted, volunteered, donated, and in other ways become involved with MVHR and the mission directly. And all of them have gone back out into the world with a love of horses in their hearts to share with others for years to come.



*Volunteers helping unload hay, Summer 2021*

### Volunteers

As always, volunteers were the lifeblood of MVHR in 2021. Help with the never-ending tasks of poop-scooping, watering, feeding, and caring for the horses allows MVHR to put more resources towards helping as many horses as possible. Individuals and families, both local and visiting; kindergarten classes to high schoolers; SOS Outreach to corporate groups; Mountain Pride, for their kick off community-wide service day; AmeriCorps and Future Pathways, who made regular visits to pitch in; and 4-H who helped stack hay – each group and individual brought their differing interests and expertise to share with the horses.

A small but especially valiant group of individuals persevered to make the drive and feed the horses their evening meals, even through the winter when the nights were dark and cold. And, of course, the Board of MVHR, who volunteer their leadership each and every day.



### Board and Staff

MVHR continues to be guided by its all-volunteer Board of Directors:

Cookie Murphy/Petee, President

Leslie Robertson, Vice President

Kathryn Middleton, Treasurer

Nancy Lindbloom

Who were joined in 2021 by new board members:

Jen Werderitch, Secretary

Marnie Cullen

Katie Shay

Staff grew and moved around a bit, to help streamline and expand their scope of work, especially considering the extensive construction project we began (see next paragraph). Shana Devins' steadfast dedication and leadership continues to drive the mission at MVHR and its operations. Joel Aguilar moved from the RV to the Cabin apartment, a more sustainable living space, and staff and volunteers now share a temporary office space. Joel continues his caretaker duties and training of the horses at the ranch; a huge part of our adoption successes in 2021.

As we built upon the growth of 2020, and in an effort to manage the new barn project in-house, we added a full time staff person to the team. Former Treasurer Marleen Bosch Hopkins joined in April 2021 as Director of Resources. In this new position she manages everything from finances to program administration and oversees the construction project.

In August, we said goodbye to team members Kendra Scott and her daughter Kensie Redden, our program and lesson team, as Kensie welcomed a baby girl. The program team gained Emma Foster, who took over the riding lessons and teaches an array of horsemanship classes to young and old.

### Robin's Nest - Construction of new Training Facility

And last but certainly not least – construction of Robin's Nest! MVHR has been in an ongoing capital campaign since purchasing the ranch in McCoy in 2016, with the hope of someday building a barn and indoor training arena.

Thanks to the generosity of Rhea Bigelow Charitable Trust (RBCT), this project broke ground in spring of 2021. The building will be named Robin's Nest, in loving memory of Rhea Bigelow, who was an incredible friend of horses throughout her life.

Because of RBCT's desire to build a sustainable facility to last a lifetime here at MVHR, the project has evolved from more than just a barn. Robin's Nest will be a state-of-the-art training facility, allowing MVHR horses to benefit from training year round, moving more quickly towards adoption. Not only will the building offer state-of-the-art facilities for the horses, it will also provide comprehensive support for the daily operations of the entire ranch, allowing horse and ranch care to be more efficient, user friendly, and sustainable. Solar panels and a battery storage system will allow the building to generate power for the entire property, and even run off the grid, as needed, during the frequent power outages we experience. Our gratitude for the vision and generosity of the RBCT can hardly be expressed, as they have dedicated so much to making this building a reality.

In the meantime, our operational fundraising efforts continue. With the facilities in place to help more horses, operating funds will be even more critical to allow MVHR to keep up with the feed, veterinary care, and training that our charges need to help them find loving, adoptive homes!



## Plans for 2022

Looking forward, the MVHR Board and Staff will continue to stay true to MVHR's Mission and Values with an eye on always expanding our reach to help more horses. That effort will be greatly furthered by the addition of staff and resources, including the new training facility, Robin's Nest.

Other plans and improvements for 2022 include:

- The addition of a new waterline to the corrals, making drinking water for the horses accessible and efficient.
- Improvements and renovations to MVHR's Original Barn to become an Equine Intake and ICU facility. This project will be started thanks to the generous support of the Harold & Mary Louise Shaw Foundation.
- With the growth in facilities, the addition of a Maintenance Technician to ensure the upkeep of all facilities, irrigation, and machines and ensure smooth running of day to day operations.
- The addition of two corrals with shelters, and new hay feeders.
- Revisiting and updating MVHR's Strategic Plan, based upon recent years' growth and future goals for helping equines in need.
- Providing Summer Day Camps to ages 5 and up, with an increase in available scholarships.
- Efforts to more comprehensively reach our entire local community by offering MVHR information and programs in Spanish.
- And a celebration of Robin's Nest, and all of the exciting growth at MVHR at our Annual Hay Day Open House, scheduled for October 1, 2022. Mark your calendars!

## Thank You!

We can't say it enough! The equines who come to MVHR will continue to count on current and new support from donors and volunteers. With your help, we can improve the quality of their lives and guide them to the next chapter in their journeys. We express our gratitude to you for your continued support to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome, unwanted equines. Hopeful Hearts, Helping Horses...Home.

With Sincere Thanks,

*Mountain Valley Horse Rescue Board of Directors & Staff*



# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



# 51

Number of equines cared for in 2021



# 18

Adoptions



# 7

In Memoriam



# 3,017

Volunteer hours logged



# \$54,306

Value of committed volunteer time



# 641

Number of children in equine programs

## INCOME

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Fundraising           | \$280,092 |
| Equine Care/ Programs | \$146,679 |
| Facilities            | \$26,042  |
| Total Operating       | \$452,813 |

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Capital Campaign Contributions | \$600,124 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

## EXPENSES

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Fundraising Support        | \$66,922  |
| Equine Care/ Programs      | \$201,720 |
| Facilities/ Administration | \$130,161 |
| Total Operating            | \$398,803 |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Capital Campaign Expenses & Loan Payments | \$1,297,917 |
|---|-------------|

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](http://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](http://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, 2021 and December 31, 2021. 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

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation, Inc.  
Karen Berndt  
Rhea Bigelow Charitable Trust  
F. Ronald Mastriana  
Alexandra Mastriana - Solal  
Barbara Miller  
Mike & Pam Mycoskie  
Harold & Mary Louise Shaw Foundation  
Bob & Rosie Tutag

## Equine Advocates - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Animal Assistance Foundation  
Decorative Materials  
Kitchen Collage  
Kathryn Middleton  
NM Morris Family Foundation,  
Kenneth Lubin & Diane Larouche  
Lori & Warren Pierce  
Molly Precourt - The Precourt Foundation  
Ski Corp. Charitable Fund of the  
Yampa Valley Community Foundation  
Diana Vagneur  
Vail Valley Surgery Center  
Mary Wolf  
Richard & Marcy Woodrow  
Yampa Valley Community Foundation

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

AAEP/Merck, Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief  
Kristine Bensler  
Bettina Bosma  
Elaine Byers  
Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance  
Peter & Cathy Halstead  
Laura Hansen  
Judy LaSpada  
Trudo & Mary Letschert  
Chupa Nelson  
Phyllis M Ruder  
Kristie F Steiner Giving Fund  
Vail Valley Cares

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

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Tab Bonidy  
David Christian  
Sallie Clark  
Dick Cleveland & Kathleen Langenwalter  
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Kathy Weiss  
Wild Bill's Emporium Law Offices of Margaret Hanlon  
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### Stable Mates - \$500 to \$999

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Thomas & Sue Stubbs  
Melissa Waechter  
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Alan & Joanna Wallenstein  
Shannon Willis  
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Tiffany Zayatz  
Katie Zinn  
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Zupancic Family  
Peter Zwiebach

# 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 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.







33933 Colorado River Road, McCoy, CO 80463

[www.mountainvalleyhorserescue.com](http://www.mountainvalleyhorserescue.com) | 970-653-0185 | [info@mvhr.net](mailto:info@mvhr.net)