

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

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## 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- Crane Mountain (CMVHR) joins Red Road Farm in Morrisville, Vermont, owned by Hollywood Screenwriter, John Fusco and managed by trainer, Stephanie Lockhart to preserve the heritage of the horse — the Colonial Spanish — America's first horse (page 5 — photo cover page)
- CMVHR receives the **Humanitarian Award** for "unique devotion to humanitarian service, promoting human welfare and advancing social reform" (photo page 4)
- CMVHR receives the **Safety Award** from the North American Horseman's Association for the 4th year in a row in recognition of promoting horsemanship and the gentle handling of horses

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we ring in the new year — Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue's 5th year saving horses and helping people — we're breaking out the noisemakers and streamers in your honor.

This newsletter is chock full of success stories, selfless generosity, inspirational people, and recognition that belongs to you, because without your generous support, our work would not be possible.

In our last newsletter, we unveiled our new mission statement declaring our commitment to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse. This newsletter has two short features to illustrate the actions behind our words.

Hita's story (page 5 — photo above), talks about our commitment to the heritage of the horse. The horse is the foundation of all we have, and all that we are today. We owe it to them, and to ourselves, to preserve our history and our heritage.



Hita "Little Girl" — America's first horse — the Colonial Spanish

On page 4 is an excerpt from a letter written to us by an adoptive mom who understands and appreciates horsemanship, as evidenced by her telling words.

True horsemanship — a relationship between horse and human based on mutual trust and respect — is, for the most part, a by-gone of the days when horses were essential for our survival.

When we relied on horses for transportation, farm work, hunt, or battle, we treated them with deep respect. We worked together, in partnership. Like any relationship, the more you put into it, the better it is, and the stronger the bond.

Today, it seems like people don't want to work with their horse. Most of the inquiries we get about adoption are from people looking for the "bomb proof", perfect trail horse. Few are willing to consider a young horse with whom they can build an amazing partnership, like Deb and Tuffy (page 4).

Consequently, we have all young, healthy wonderful horses right now. Many have been here for a bit. That's ok. We'll wait. We're not looking for quick homes, we're looking for the right home. Our commitment is to the horses.

*Edward Mrozik*

## FINDING INNER PEACE AND HARMONY

For this bit, we can't include a photo for reasons of privacy and respect. What we can share, though, is the magical healing power of the horses and our farm, and what your support of Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue means to lives above and beyond the equines in our care.

On Saturday mornings, we are privileged to run a self-esteem building program for developmentally disabled adult men from a local ARC, Mountain Lakes Services. The men in the program are prone to anger and anxiety. They are here to work, to learn responsibility, and to be part of something special that makes them feel good about themselves.

The first few visits were rough and tumble as the guys learned their tasks and figured out their role on the farm. A few spits and sputters and displays of anger resulted in a good old fashioned "time out" at the picnic table. Their shouting and high, anxious energy heightened the awareness of the horses, who bolted to all corners of the fields on high alert. "Time out" was to sit and watch the horses, and wait. When the horses calmed, relaxed and returned to playing or eating, the guys could come back to work. Before doing so, we asked what they saw watching the horses. The guys' astute and sensitive nature helped them pick right up on the horses' response to their emotions. The horses' pure temperament directly reflects their emotions. The guys quickly realized that if they were calm, so too were the horses.

Calm behavior creates a relaxed environment for horse and human. Specific tasks with a visible outcome like filling waters, cleaning buckets, mucking stalls, or brushing horses, all important tasks for the horses' well-being, result in self-esteem, satisfaction, and a sense of pride for the guys.

In addition, they see harmony in life through the animals on the farm. They see the horses, cow, chickens, dogs and cats living together in kinship. The animals are all from different walks of life, yet they live in balance. The guys find peace of mind, and a sense of belonging here at the farm. Acceptance brings peace to all.

We recently learned from the leader of the group that since coming to the farm, the guys' lives have been transformed outside of their work at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue and they look forward to their Saturday morning "job" of coming to the farm and caring for the horses — the very souls who are covertly caring for them.

## GRANT AWARDED FOR NEW FENCE

This Spring, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. received a catalyst grant from the Honeybee Community Fund to replace old wooden and temporary electric fencing to create a more safe and secure environment for the horses and the humans who care for them.

The grant was to get us started with fence replacement along busy state route 9N. So excited were we by the peace of mind, and the more relaxed nature of the horses that a substantial 3-rail fence provides, we just couldn't stop there. For the next 6 months, Eddie was on a mission. Using our own personal financial resources, he single-handedly completed more than a dozen paddocks and pastures, erecting miles and miles of fence.



New fence with special thanks to the Honeybee Community Fund for their catalyst grant.

## SELFLESS KIDS AND TEACHERS WHO INSPIRE

Our future lies in the delicate balance of what we teach our kids today.

We'd like to share some inspiring and heartwarming stories about kids who give selflessly, the parents who encourage them, and a teacher who uses her personal family foundation as a vehicle to inspire a philanthropic spirit in her students.

This photo is DeeDee and Rocky (who was adopted!). For the past three years, DeeDee 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, DeeDee proudly presented us with a big 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.



As she handed us the basket, we noticed her once flowing locks of hair were now short and crisp, peaking out from under her cowgirl 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.

Earlier this year, we marveled in another act of total selflessness, when 5 year old Anya presented us with an envelope filled with change and dollar bills that she, too, had raised in lieu of birthday gifts on her own special day of celebration. Her mom told us that she wanted her daughter to know the blessed feeling of giving to those in need and to instill in her the generous spirit of helping others.

We are inspired by each and every gift we receive, and deeply moved by the accompanying words of support that come with these gifts in cards, notes and letters. The inspiration is magnified when we see parents and teachers fostering the spirit of giving in kids — our hope for the future — like DeeDee's and Anya's parents and this teacher in Atlanta, Georgia.

In May, we received a wonderful check from a family foundation created by a tenth grade teacher in Georgia. The gift was on behalf of one of her students who selected Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue to receive this grant. The accompanying letter from the teacher humbly read that, as part of her curriculum, she teaches her students about non-profit organizations, grant making and community service. To strengthen the learning experience and build applicable skills for future endeavors, in order to secure the funds, the student had to research our organization and apply for the grant, stating her case for support. The teacher asked that we acknowledge the student for the gift and her work to secure it, and share with her what her gift makes possible, rounding out the lesson from start to finish.

Once again, we were silenced and in awe at this teacher who is leading by example, how to give of oneself — selflessly — and the student who successfully embraced the opportunity and chose Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue as the recipient of this beautiful and selfless teaching and learning experience.

WHAT YOUR GIFT GIVES

Every gift counts, every gift matters. Here's a snapshot of what your gift gives to the horses:

\$2,500—sponsors one healthy\* horse's care for one year

\$1,500—one month's supply of hay (8.5 tons)

\$600—one month's supply of grain

\$250—stall bedding for one month

\$125—annual vaccinations for one horse

\$25—hoof trim for one horse (done every six weeks)—\$160 for shoes)

\*good, basic horse care with no special needs

# TRUE HORSEMANSHIP

We rescued Tuffy (right) from slaughter in 2003 when he was just 2 years old. Horribly thin and terrified when Eddie brought him home, Tuffy had a road to recovery ahead of him. At Crane Mountain, we gave him more than a few pounds and physical strength, we taught him to trust again, and gave him the foundation for his new life.



In 2005, Tuffy was adopted. This letter is from Tuffy's mom, Deb, whose words describe the magic of the relationship you can have with your horse when you believe in, and embrace, true horsemanship.

"Tuffy has given me a precious gift. A sense of peace and serenity. He is very in tune to how I'm feeling at any given moment. When I bury my face in his neck and cry, he wraps me up and nuzzles my ears. When my spirit is high, he will always rise to the occasion, giving me everything he's got, and then some. His willingness to please amazes me everyday. He's determined and playful, which makes him quite a handful at times. The one thing that has amazed me most about Tuff is watching his transformation from a little fraidy cat to a confident can-do horse. It makes my heart soar to know that I have a lot to do with that. The love, trust, and respect, we have for each other is a gift.

I know this will continue to deepen over time. I am slowly, but surely, learning how to address the horse that shows up. The more I do that, the quicker he comes back to me. I will never be forceful or demanding with him. I will always ask him for what I want. He has always obliged me. His training is built on respect not fear. I remember when I was working with Tuff in the round pen at your house and I asked him to go two directions at once. Eddie was outside the pen watching, going "huh"? Tuff just stopped and waited until I realized what I was doing wrong. The horse training the trainer. He still does it. Every once in a while I screw up and he let's me know it. It's a hoot. I always chuckle to myself and think back to that day at your house.

I have come a long way since then. I have a lot farther to go. I embrace every step of this journey because I have a partner who shares with me a great love and respect for one another. By the virtue of Tuff being very forgiving of my mistakes, this also makes him a wonderful teacher. I love him so much.

I am eternally grateful to both of you for allowing me to be Tuffy's mom. I am grateful that you had enough confidence in me and felt secure about letting him come home with me. I know how much he means to you both. I have the utmost respect for you guys. You inspire me with your passion, dedication, and love for what you do. I wish all abused, neglected, or unwanted horses, could pass through your doors. That way they would know love in their lives. I just hope that whatever I choose to do with my life, I take it on with the same passion as both of you have done. I love you guys. Thank you for having faith in me."



Nancy (far left) accepts the Humanitarian Award from Emma Willard School at their Distinguished Alumnae Awards Ceremony on behalf of the loyal supporters of Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc.

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

In June, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue was contacted by Stephanie Lockhart, manager of Red Road Farm in Morrisville, Vermont to join in her efforts to preserve America's First Horse—the Colonial Spanish. Red Road Farm is owned by Hollywood screenwriter, and Colonial Spanish horse preservationist John Fusco whose popular award winning movies *HIDALGO* and *SPIRIT: Stallion of the Cimmaron* have brought the Colonial Spanish horse into the public eye.

Crane Mountain is proud to welcome Hita, a 10-year old Colonial Spanish horse to our farm (photo on cover page). Hita, which means "little girl" in Spanish, was donated to the rescue by the award-winning Baca Chica Farm in New Mexico who works in partnership with Stephanie Lockhart at Red Road Farm, where New England's largest and most diverse group of Colonial Spanish horses resides.

Colonial Spanish Horses were originally brought to the United States by the Conquistadors from Spain in the 1500s during the conquest of the New World. They were small enough to travel across the ocean by boat and are hardy, sturdy horses that adapt well and thrive on their own in unknown territory. They are well-known for their endurance and the population grew throughout North America for buffalo running, packing and warfare by native tribes.

Despite their strengths, the breed was considered too small for cavalry work. That, coupled with their ties to Native American and Mexican cultures, contributed to the breed's decline as they were replaced by larger horses that belonged to the dominant Anglo culture. A massive decline of the Colonial Spanish population followed in the 1900s when many were shot and killed, to be replaced by modern day breeds. For centuries they were the only horses in the Americas and they remain to be the foundation stock for most North American breeds. Today, only a few thousand remain of this genetically unique breed that once numbered in the millions.

Efforts to save the Colonial Spanish Horse can be attributed to a select group of individuals throughout history including Frank Hopkins. John Fusco's 2004 film, *HIDALGO*, starring Viggo Mortensen tells the story of Frank Hopkins and his Colonial Spanish Horse "Hidalgo" as they endure a grueling 3,000-mile endurance race across the Arabian Desert. According to the US Remount service Journal of 1936, Frank Hopkins competed in and won over 400 long distance races, including this legendary ride in 1890 on "Hidalgo".

In the past 50 to 60 years there have been many dedicated people doing their part to preserve the Colonial Spanish with as pure blood as when the Conquistadors brought them to America from Spain. There are only a few with this pure blood, and the preservation efforts are critical. Without them, the history of our world would be vastly different. We owe it to them to preserve the breed, and to us, to preserve our heritage.

Hita will play a very important role by helping us to tell her story — the story of America's first horse — the Colonial Spanish, also known as the Spanish Mustang.

I am a drinker of the wind.  
I am the one who never tires.  
I love my freedom more than all these things.  
The conquistador, comanche and the cowboy,  
I carried them to glory.  
I am La Primera.  
Spanish Mustang.  
Hear my story.

Ian Tyson

**CRANE MOUNTAIN  
VALLEY HORSE  
RESCUE, INC.**

7556 NYS Route 9N  
Westport, New York 12993

Phone: 518-962-8512  
Email: horses@cmvhr.org  
www.cmvhr.org



Gail Guenther

*“Crane Mountain  
Valley Horse Rescue,  
Inc. is dedicated to  
equine rescue and  
rehabilitation and to  
restoring horsemanship,  
the heritage and humane  
treatment of the horse.”*

**Contribute with Confidence**

94 cents of your tax-deductible  
donation goes directly to the  
care of the animals

*A copy of the latest Financial  
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## LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME



JUST LET-IT-GO LOUIE

Hi, I'm Louie. Aren't I cute? My personality is even cuter. I'm a love muffin. I was bred to be a race horse and have fancy smancy bloodlines (whatever that means). I tried hard, but I wasn't finished growing when I put the saddle on and ran my heart out. The strain was too much, so my mom and dad sent me to Crane Mountain so I could finish growing up. The doctors said once I finished growing, I'd be fine. If I was pushed too hard for my growing bones, I'd need surgery to be really fast. I don't want to be fast. I just want to be loved. I'm all finished growing now, ready to ride, and hope someone will find it in their heart to take me home.



MAZY

Yo. I'm Mazy. I'm drop dead gorgeous. Bomb shell. Amazing. I must admit, Nancy can't take a good photo of me for beans. She tries hard though. This one's alright, I guess. Am I beautiful, or what? Eddie and Nancy call me the 'horse of a different color' because I was black with a little gray on my face when I came to Crane Mountain. Good food and good fun are bringing out the best in my coat. I'm a blue roan / dapple gray. Did you know that dapples are the sign of a healthy, happy horse? I wish I were unique in that respect, but at Crane Mountain, EVERYONE has dapples. It's the food, care, and 'um, 'er, the consistent worming schedule. That was embarrassing to say, but hey, we horses need that medicine to keep us healthy. I'm perfectly healthy, sound, smart, young (5), and willing. Rumor has it, I, yes I, have the most potential to do anything. I do. I AM the best.