

THE HORSE'S VOICE

WINTER 2024/2025 UPDATE

"I love how your community embraces you. You are bringing hope through your humanity." *donor for 20 years*

If you are new to us, welcome! To our donors, your belief in our mission fuels action and delivers real results. ***Thank you!***

Since 2003, changing lives for the better, one life at a time, has been our compass. Your support empowers us to do this impactful work. *The Horse's Voice*, our twice annual newsletter, is one of the ways we share stories about the uplifting effect your generosity has on the lives of animals and people of all ages and abilities.

In this issue, photos convey the physical transformation of Rio and Bailey, whose lives have been turned around because you partner with us to make a difference. You will meet Dan, a disabled man who befriended one of our horses and found great joy in their non-verbal interaction. You will read the words written by a young girl with Down's Syndrome whose special education teacher empowered her and her classmates through a math project that raised funds for our program. And you will come behind the scenes with us for animal care in all conditions. These stories are only a snapshot of what you make possible.

Though our aim is to rehabilitate horses and place them in forever homes, some will live out their days with us in sanctuary due to their age or medical needs. While the horses are in our care they are teachers and ambassadors for change. Through education and outreach, we aim to raise awareness for the sentient nature of horses, and all animals, to foster a greater care and concern for their treatment and well being, with the hope that we can lessen the very reason we need to exist. Your support is the lifeblood of our work, and every life changed for the better is because you are on this journey with us.

We hope you enjoy reading the narratives, and seeing the photos, of the work friends like you bring to life through your generosity. For every account told, there are countless others. It is truly an honor to facilitate each life-changing opportunity for animals and for people. To our supporters, a heartfelt thank you for your backing. You inspire us. If you are not currently a donor, we hope you will join us.



Pelham Bay (age 36) is watching over his friend, Two Socks (age 19) while Two Socks sleeps. Two Socks was born with low IGG levels and a compromised immune system because he didn't get enough colostrum from his mother. Pelham donated 9 pints of plasma to save Two Socks' life when Two Socks was just 48 hours old. Pelham is truly his Godfather.

Two Socks and Pelham are best friends and inseparable. Two Socks panics without Pelham. We moved Rio (age 26) in with them this year so Two Socks can develop a healthy new relationship so when Pelham's time comes (and we hope that's not for another 30 years), Two Socks will have a friend and a shoulder to lean on.

Edward Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders

PICTURES ARE WORTH 1,000 WORDS

In 2022, we assisted law enforcement with a case involving two horses who had been locked in their stalls for years standing in feet of manure and urine. They were given hay and water on occasion, but were not handled and went without hoof, dental, or veterinary care. Their names are Bailey and Rio.

Bailey was significantly underweight and fearful of humans. Her hooves were in bad shape, but not as bad as Rio's. Bailey's physical recovery was easier than her emotional one, which was featured in our Spring 2024 newsletter. This girl has made great progress in two years. She's now an in-your-pocket kind of gal who enjoys being doted on and loved.

Rio's hooves were severely overgrown. That neglect and standing on an angle for years caused permanent damage to his tendons. Rio's recovery has been slow and steady. His hooves are now normal in shape and balance, but he has arthritis and chronic problems with sensitive soles. We clean and treat his hooves daily and he gets arthritis supplements and pain medication as needed to stay comfortable.

Rio and Bailey will remain in our care as sanctuary horses and educators on the proper care and treatment of horses to help prevent this from happening to others. They have a story to tell, and they lived through it, thanks to your generous support.



Above: Bailey in 2022 on intake and summer 2024. In this photo, she is having her hooves trimmed.

Below left: Rio's hooves on intake in 2022.

Below right: Rio's hooves summer 2024. The curve shaped piece in between his hooves on the ground is what was trimmed off this cycle.



FREEDOM LOOKS GOOD ON THIS BOY



Above: Rio seen here looking out the window of his years long prison, deep in his own manure and urine.

Below: Now Rio has grass to stand in. The mask on his face is to protect his white nose from sunburn, and from flies irritating the area where one eye is missing. He came to us without that eye and with a horrible infection where his eye should be. We have no idea what caused his eye loss. The infection is now eradicated.



EMPOWERING PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

While the horses are in our care they become activists for empowering people of all ages and abilities. Interacting with horses through non-verbal communication in a non-threatening and tranquil way can provide a calming effect that helps to reduce anxiety, and bring immense joy.

This spring, we welcomed Dan, a 60-year-old blind man with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dan is wheelchair bound and non-verbal. His methods of communication are grunting and wiggling his fingers. He is sensory oriented and loves the smell of farms, and he loves animals. Dan's Direct Support Professionals thought he would enjoy meeting the animals at the farm, and hoped he could touch a horse.

When we brought Dan to meet Will (horse), Will was nervous at first of the wheelchair, but quickly discovered there was a kind-hearted person in it who needed some comfort. So Will leaned down and breathed on Dan's hand. Dan reached up and pet Will's muzzle, then grunted and wiggled his fingers in delight. Will enjoyed Dan's gentle touch and soft grunts.

Will then did something called licking and chewing, where he licks his lips and makes a little noise. It's a horse's way of saying they understand and are happy. Dan couldn't see Will, but he could hear him, so we explained what Will was saying. More grunting and finger wiggling by Dan. Will and Dan were communicating in their own language.

It was a powerful moment that brought great joy to all.



Above: Nancy and Will greet Dan and his Direct Support Professionals from Mountain Lake Services.

Below: Dan wiggles his fingers in joy after petting Will's nose.



“POOP SOUP”

This summer, we welcomed back Nelson Staats for a second season of mentoring and coaching through summer employment. He enjoyed the learning opportunity and support so much last year, he returned, and we are glad he did!

Nelson headed to Plattsburgh State this fall and we couldn't be prouder to have helped him on his journey. He handed us the kindest note when we celebrated his next adventure with some home-made double chocolate cake.

“Dear Eddie & Nancy, Thank you both so much for being the best bosses I could ask for. I'm extremely grateful for your patience and insight. This is the best work and learning experience I've had.”

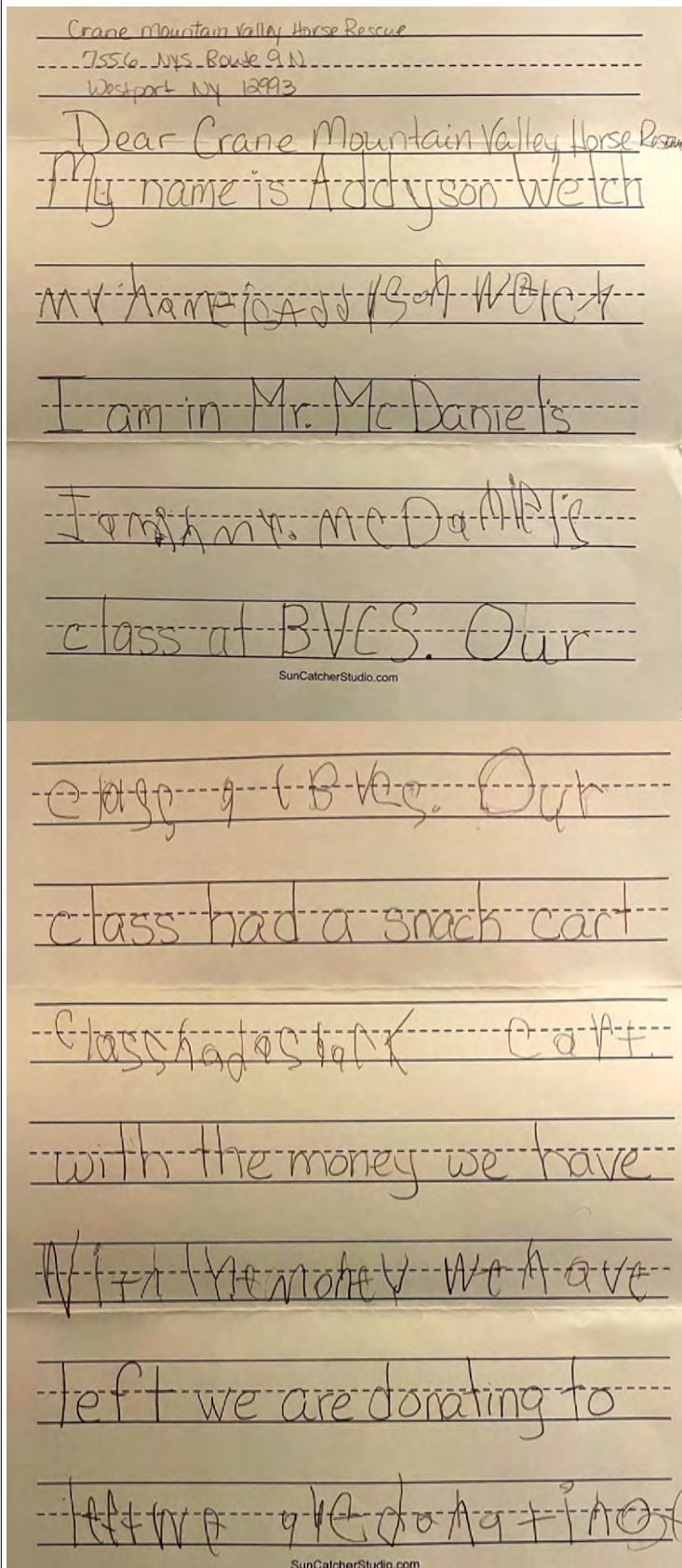
In August, Hurricane Debby brought over 6 inches of rain in a short period of time. Because we clean stalls and paddocks every day — rain, sleet, snow or shine — we powered on. Nelson said it was like cleaning “poop soup” (top right photo). With his great attitude, he made us all laugh!

In addition to animal care, Nelson helped Eddie with projects including putting a new roof on our chicken coop (middle photo). They got the last piece of ice and water shield on just before the hurricane hit. Mission accomplished!

Below: Dede celebrates 5 years this year as our lead staff person, but she started twenty years ago as a youth volunteer. Even in the pouring rain, as seen here with our farm dog, Baloo, she has a smile on her face, Happy anniversary Dede!
Bottom right: A flooded paddock from the hurricane.



INSPIRING KIDS AND....



This summer, we received a letter from a young girl named Addie Welch and her Special Education Teacher, Stites McDaniel.

Mr. McDaniel handwrote the letter first for Addie to practice penmanship. His written words appear above hers. This letter, and the accompanying note from Mr. McDaniel, melted our hearts. The accompanying note read;

"Hello from room 220 at BVCS Lakeview!

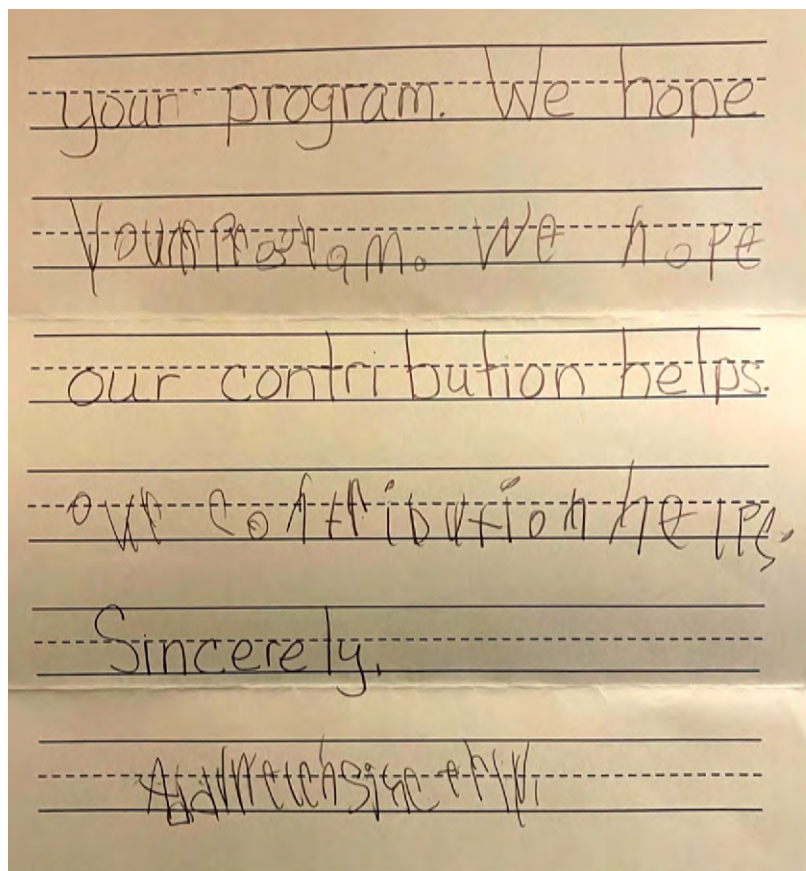
Just a few additional notes beyond the letter you are receiving from a student today.

- The students spent the spring using this food cart/ life skills project to expand their knowledge of math in a number of practical ways.
- When we realized we were going to be making far more money than we had anticipated, we quickly pivoted from having just an end of year party to include the idea of making donations to local non-profits.
- The kids immediately thought this was a great idea and your facility came up in the brainstorm including students and staff.
- The kids did the work to earn, count, categorize and distribute the money.
- We are glad to help. Have a great summer!"

In the small world category, when we read the letter from Addie out loud to our team, Nelson, who was here with us this summer said; "Addie was my flower girl at graduation this year!". How special is that!

Addie has been to our farm several times with her mom Amy, and her sister, Bristol. Amy is also a teacher. In 2019, they delivered funds raised by Boquet Valley Central School during its annual Caps for Crane Program. This program, led by the school, allows the kids to wear hats or caps during school for one day for a small donation to Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue. The kids love it, and we are always inspired by how many kids and teachers sport their hats and caps for the day to participate.

...THE TEACHERS WHO ENCOURAGE THEM...



THE BOTTOM PHOTO IS A
FLASHBACK TO DECEMBER 2019

We had a holiday celebration for the after-school kiddos. Each attendee got to take home a stocking filled with goodies, reindeer antler headbands, a horse cookie making kit (people can eat them too), and all got a chance to ride Rebel, one of our rescued horses who has since been adopted. It was so much fun!

During the event, we had a wonderful surprise visit from Boquet Valley Central School (BVCS) teacher Amy Welch and her daughters Bristol and Addie, who delivered funds raised by BVSC students during their annual Caps for Crane Program. That same year, Willsboro National Junior Honor Society also chose CMVHR for its annual holiday fundraiser. Our local community and schools honor and energize us.

"This is what it's all about! Inspiring children!"
Facebook follower



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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

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Dejanira Plumstead “Dede”
Rehabilitator and Trainer

BEHIND THE SCENES ANIMAL CARE

Animal care is multi-dimensional, but the one thing that never changes is the fact that it takes commitment and dedication because it is 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

In addition to daily feeding, watering, and cleaning stalls and paddocks, there is regular veterinary, dental and hoof care, supplements and medications to administer, training, wound care, and so much more...



This is a small snapshot of what you make possible through your generous support.

The top right is Dr. Amanda giving Pony Boy his annual dental exam and treatment. She cared for all of the horses during that visit, including dental work, vaccinations and sheath cleaning. The photo above is a wound on Mommy's leg. We're not sure how she did it, but we do know horses seemingly can get hurt in a rubber room! The right photos are Mommy's boo-boo wrap and care kit. Yes, that is a maxi-pad. We use those and diapers to wrap wounds.

Because of your support, we are able to provide our animals with the care they need when they need it. **Thank you!**

