



horse bits

St. Francis Horse Rescue's Quarterly Newsletter

Volume One

Number One

Spring 2007

St. Francis Horse Rescue & Retirement Farm, Inc. is a non-profit organization which provides a quality home for any horse, pony, donkey or mule in need of a safe place to stay, medical care, or a retirement home to live out their days with respect and loving attention.

Adoptable animals will be placed in qualified excellent homes only.

It began in 1999 as a hobby farm owned by Bill and Mary Hetzel, purchased to house their four horses. After a short while, they recognized the need to take in horses that people were unable, or unwilling, to keep for a variety of reasons. It was clear to them that some of the horses would be staying here permanently due to advanced age, extensive medical problems or serious behavioral issues. There are 27 acres, mostly fenced for pasture, capable of housing 30 horses at any given time. As of June 9, 2004 the farm has been recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Francis of Assisi has a special meaning to the Hetzels, and his love of God's creatures guides them forward.

Visitors are welcome, by appointment only. Call us at (715) 592-6622 Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. On Sunday it's emergencies only.

Mitch Attoe is a volunteer and trainer who started working with Saint Francis Horse Rescue after meeting our President Mary Hetzel at the Midwest Horse Fair. Mitch assists us in evaluating and occasionally starting some of the horses that come into the rescue. With a

Trainer Mitch Attoe Receives Nutrena Sponsorship

by *Michelle Lippert*

gentle hand he helps us to learn what, if any training a horse has had, and helps us to figure out where to go from there with them.

Mitch and his wife Kathy have recently started a new venture with the advent of M bar K Foundation Quarter Horses located a few miles west of

*Kathy and Mitch
Attoe owners of
M bar K
Foundation
Quarter Horses*



*Mitch Attoe is shown during one of his recent clinics.
(Lynn Dumke photo)*

Rosholt Wisconsin. Mitch and Kathy both have a love and understanding of horses that is witnessed with every encounter they have with their own horses, and the ones they help for the rescue.

The Attoes, who have a combined 50 years of training

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Message From Our President



Hello Everyone! I am Mary Hetzel, founder and President of SFHR. It is my pleasure to be visiting with you through this newsletter.

First of all, let me say that things are going quite well here at the rescue. The retirees (5 geldings are 30 plus years old!) are doing much better than originally expected. We are constantly striving to make them more comfortable. Each day they receive a diet of senior feed, beet pulp, flax seed, Equishine and supplements for their joints. Of course, they also receive all the treats our volunteers and visitors can carry! Their care and maintenance is expensive but, not to sound like a hair coloring commercial, they are worth it! They have served people their entire lives and now have a chance to be together and just enjoy life. They all seem to be happy, playing, and at times getting into a little mischief.

The recovering horses are also doing well. At this time we have two thoroughbred mares (Shakira and Noel) who should be ready for a forever home some day. Both had serious injuries (on and off the track) upon their arrival here. They are stalled at night and receive the benefits of massage therapy and aromatherapy from our newest volunteer, Wendy Wolf. Wendy is also an animal communicator so her visits spark interest in our volunteers, to say the least!

We are actively pursuing sponsorship of our horses and you'll learn more about that in upcoming newsletters. If you can find it in your heart to help sponsor a specific horse, we will send you pictures and updates monthly on "your" horse! It is a great way to be involved in the rescue, even though you can't physically be here. We would

appreciate any help you can afford.

Everything being done here at the rescue is for the equines, whether it be the horses, or our two mules. No one, including me, receives a salary for work done here. Our compensation is being around the animals and knowing that we are making a difference in their lives. Which, in turn, makes a difference in ours. Mitch Attoe, our volunteer trainer, who is featured in this issue, donates his time working with the horses.

I hope you can visit us sometime and see for yourself how the donated dollars are spent to care for the horses. I look forward to sharing ideas and opinions, and invite you to contact me via e-mail at: horserescue@coredcs.com.

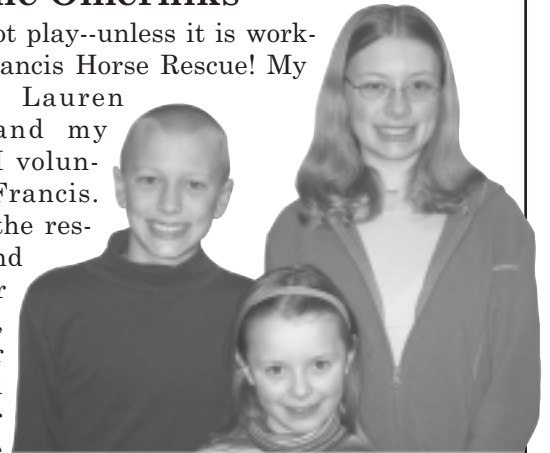
Blessings to you and yours!

Meet Our Volunteers

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to keep St. Francis Horse Rescue operating if it weren't for our volunteers. Not only do they perform "house-keeping" tasks around the grounds, they feed, water, groom, and care for the animals.

The Omerniks

Work is not play--unless it is working at St. Francis Horse Rescue! My name is Lauren Omernik, and my family and I volunteer at St. Francis. Working at the rescue is fun and rewarding for me, my mom, my brother Elliot, and my sister Andrea. The



necessary tasks like mucking stalls aren't very glamorous, but knowing that they help the horses definitely makes them worthwhile. There are tasks for everyone, no matter what their age. My sister likes to put sawdust and hay into the stalls after my mom, Elliot, and I muck them. We all fill the water buckets and take turns hauling them into the stalls. Elliot and I work as a team to take hay out to the pastured horses. The chores are finished quickly when Mary shares stories of what the horses have been doing recently. Work isn't the only thing we do at the rescue, though. It is really fun getting to know all of the horses, since they each have a unique personality. Grooming the horses and watching them romp and play together are some of my favorite things to do at the rescue. It is an amazing and beautiful sight when the horses canter joyfully around their pastures. Whether we are working in the barn or spending time with the horses, my family enjoys every minute we are at St. Francis.

SFHR Officers

Mary Hetzel: President
Bill Hetzel: Vice-President
Board of Directors

Mitch Attoe, Michelle Lippert, Julie Stiles, Doug Watson

Publication Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Mailing
Summer	May 15	June 1
Fall	August 15	Sept. 1
Winter	November 15	Dec. 1

Publication Office

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e-mail: dwatson@tds.net

MITCH ATTOE

Continued from page one

experience, will be taking in a few horses this year for training at their new facility. They also stand a Foundation Quarter Horse Stallion, One Poco Raymond.

Earlier this year Mitch secured a sponsorship from Nutrena Feeds. Not only were they impressed with his desire in assisting St. Francis Horse Rescue; but they also recognized the exposure the company would receive through his clinics. The first of three clinics to be offered this year, "Gaining Respect from the Ground and Saddle," is scheduled for March 17th. These clinics will be presented at their facilities located at 7619 Rustic Dr., Rosholt, WI 54473 and are scheduled to begin at 10 am.

Each clinic will cost \$15 to audit, and is payable the day of the clinic. If you are interested in having Mitch work with one of your horses at the clinic, or would like more information on his training and breeding operation please contact him at: attmen@hotmail.com.

For more information on the clinics you can contact me at MLippert@charter.net and I will answer any questions you may have to the best of my ability.

Hope to see you at one of the clinics.

Horses Available for Adoptions

If you would like to learn how to go about adopting one of the horses now staying at St. Francis Horse Rescue, visit us at: www.stfrancishorserscuse.org.

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Here's How Your Donations Help

Keeping equines healthy and happy not only requires many hours of labor, but it also costs a lot of money. Besides providing feed for the horses, there are regular visits from farriers and veterinarians (emergency and non-emergency).

Your \$15 donation will:

- Feed one St. Francis Rescue horse for about one week.
- Feed all St. Francis Rescue horses grain for one day.
- Feed two St. Francis Rescue horses supplements for one week.
- Purchase four mineral blocks.

Your \$25 donation will:

- Feed two St. Francis Rescue horses for about one week.
- Pay to have the farrier trim feet for one horse (every six weeks).
- Deworm two horses (they are dewormed every three months).

Your \$50 donation will:

- Feed one St. Francis Rescue horse for about one month.
- Deworm four St. Francis Rescue horses every three months.
- Pay to massage a horse with sore spots for one month.

Your \$75 donation will:

- Pay for complete veterinarian examination and shots for one horse.
- Pay for Pergolide medication for Dylan for one month.

Your \$100 donation will:

- Deworm nine St. Francis Rescue horses.
- Feed 10 St. Francis Rescue horses for 10 days.

Donations can now be made using PayPal and its easy.

Go to our website at: www.stfrancishorserscuse.org
Click on the "Donate" button and once you open "Expenses" page you'll see a PayPal button. Another click and you're there!

YES, I would like to help keep the horses healthy and happy, and receive a **FREE** copy of the book "Tails from the Horse Rescue: Stories of Hope and Survival" by Mary Hetzel

\$15 \$25 \$50
 \$75 \$100 More

A gift of any amount is appreciated

Name _____

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St. Francis Horse Rescue and Retirement Farm is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Send your donation to:
St. Francis Horse Rescue
7548 Boulder Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473

Where Are They Now?

Sam

Last October Rachel and Carlo Lantz of Scandinavia adopted Sam, a two year old appaloosa. The following story appeared on the SFHR website.

Sam (currently being called Sully) is doing great! He loves to roll, and now that we have some snow he is cleaning up. The girls like to give him the run around, but he does not mind in the least. He loves to know what you're doing and watch you. My dad says that he is always at the top of the pasture watching the goings on when he stops at the farm. Yesterday I had the small tractor with the loader out moving some of the manure pile. Well, Sully just had to check out the entire machine. I had to stop him a couple of times because he tried to eat the plastic parts. Took four or five times of going in and out before he got bored with it and let me get to work without his help. He's been looking kinda girlie the last week. His mane has been braided to try and get all of it on one side. I think it worked. We just love his personality, inquisitive, yet laid back. Last week when the frost was out of the ground we took the time to enlarge the pasture. It is now triple in size. We also got the hay rack out and filled it up with 300 bales of hay and moved them into the mow.



Carlo Lantz and his appaloosa, Sully (formerly known as Sam)

Remember, everyone who donates \$15 or more receives a FREE copy our book, "Tails From The Horse Rescue: Stories of Hope and Survival" by Mary Hetzel.

Please Help Defray the Costs of this Newsletter

Although the cost for producing a single copy of *Horse Bits* might not seem alot to the average person--a sheet of paper, one stamp (41¢), a mailing envelope, and printing--the costs do mount up when you take into consideration we mail over 200 copies four times a year.
Thank you for your contribution.

Upcoming Events

March 17

"Respect from the Ground and Saddle" clinic by Mitch Attoe beginning at 10 am. \$15. M bar K Foundation Quarter Horses, 7619 Rustic Drive, Rosholt, WI 5574. Info: MLippert@charter.net, or attmen@hotmail.com.

April 20, 21, 22

The 28th Annual Midwest Horse Fair, Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. Theme for the 2007 Midwest Horse Fair is "Rock, Roll, & Ride!"
<http://midwesthorsefair.com/>

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