



horse bits

St. Francis Horse Rescue's Quarterly Newsletter

Volume One

Number Four

Winter 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.



Happier times abound for Camp HOPE members when they visit St. Francis Horse Rescue

Camp HOPE Meets St. Francis Horse Rescue



Shiloh

A few years ago, a young frail horse, soon to be named Shiloh, introduced me to St. Francis Horse Rescue.

At the time one of the local newspapers was covering a story about a woman who had dead and starving horses on her farm. I soon learned that Mary Hetzel of SFHR was involved, along with the humane society, in the rescue attempt. When I met Mary she seemed as incensed about this situation as my family and I were. Quickly, we were on our way with hay and blankets for the lone surviving horse.

When Mary took us to meet Shiloh, her eyes and voice combined anger and

sorrow. Shiloh's very stature looked defeated, and I felt the anger and sorrow from Mary welling up in me. Our friendship came together in that barn.

by Becky Loy

Always an animal person, I wouldn't have guessed that my life's work would involve working with horses in some way or another.

I also wouldn't have guessed that my work would involve working with the grieving. Yet, here I am, the director of a camp for grieving children, Camp HOPE.

My life with my husband and our oldest daughter felt completely right and when I became pregnant with our second child, nothing seemed better. As with all of our biological children, I sang to my

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Message From Our President

Mary Hetzel



Hello everyone! It is time to dig out your warm woolies! We had a beautiful fall season and now we all know what must follow!

We had 19 adoptions this year which we are very happy about. Wonderful people adopting beautiful equines – all part of our program. Thank you to the adopters for giving these horses a chance! The adoption fees help with day to day expenses like grain, supplements and vet bills. We also have several new permanent ‘guests’ here at the inn as part of our retirement program.

Looking back, we did accomplish many things at the farm over the summer and fall and the biggest of these is our fencing project which is about 1/3 completed. We received a generous donation from the Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op which we used to fence off two areas with horse guard fencing. Thank you CWEC!! We are replacing all the cable type fencing with horse guard as it keeps the horses safer (they can see it and it really holds an electric charge better) and our visitors can easily see it also. It is a huge undertaking but very worthwhile for the horses.

We received a large donation of a product called chaffhaye which is working out very well for our senior horses. You can read more about chaffhaye at chaffhaye.com. Thanks Ron for that donation.

We had a successful hay drive raising \$5,000 to pay for our square hay bales which we purchase from a local farmer every year. We are still collecting money to buy large squares and round bales so if you care to

help feed the horses, we would appreciate your generosity. We could not operate without the support of all you good folks out there and we appreciate each and every one of you. Whether you donated \$5 or \$100 – it is all very much needed.

Winter is a difficult time at the rescue but we get through it. We have plenty of shelters and stalls for all the horses and although we are struggling to find enough hay this year, we will find more to get us through. Because we have so many heated buckets and stock tank heaters, our utilities do go up significantly so help with that is always appreciated. Every dollar you donate goes directly to the horses.

We always need volunteers, so if the cold does not bother you, and you’d like to meet a few special equine friends, give me a call and come on out.

Here’s wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season and bless you all for everything you have done for the horses, donkeys and mules throughout this past year.



St. Francis Horse Rescue retiree Bonzo checks out the treats being offered by a Camp HOPE member.

CAMP HOPE

(Continued from page 1)

child inside, caressed my belly and fell deeply in love. On February 23, 1989, Sara Margaret passed away. She was 9 lbs., pretty as could be, but not breathing. I still was, but just barely.

To maintain my sanity, I became a stalker of any book on grief, especially those that pertained to a parent losing a child. I absolutely had to know that there were others out there that lived through this. A friend described it best when she said that after her son died, the pain and despair made her feel like she was leaving a trail of blood behind her everywhere she went. Then I discovered a camp for children in another state. The camp was for children who loved someone who died. It was a perfect fit. I felt it immediately.

Six months after Sara passed away, we opened the doors of the first Camp HOPE to 50 grieving children

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
Spring	February 15	March 1
Summer	May 15	June 1
Fall	August 15	Sept. 1
Winter	November 15	Dec. 1

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CAMP HOPE

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from Wisconsin. That was almost 19 years, and more than 50 camps ago. At Camp, children learn that they are not alone in their place of grief. We have fun with all of the usual camping activities, but we also come together in this atmosphere of love and acceptance to share what has happened to us, and to figure out how to go on.

A camp site in Rosholt is rented for these gatherings and we are located about 15 minutes away from the Rescue! I contacted Mary and asked her if she would be interested in Camp HOPE and SFHR having an outing together. She agreed that it would be a good idea as both of us served a similar purpose.

So every May and October, a group from Camp HOPE drives over to meet Mary's horses. Prior to our visit I relate the story of Shiloh to our campers and how I believe these horses can indeed empathize with them in their grief. The kids enter SFHR excited but cautious, knowing that these animals need the same quiet respect and kindness given to them as when they walked into Camp HOPE for the first time.

It is exciting for me to watch the children as they try to give a treat to a shy horse, or ride for their first time. Immediately you realize it is a time of shared sadness and building of confidence, of quiet calm and squeals of laughter from atop the backs of Mary's giants.

My campers, who the night before were lighting their candles in memory their loved ones, have realized that these horses are Camp HOPE campers too.

Thank goodness they have Mary as their director.

Learn more about Camp Hope by visiting their website at:
camphopeforkids.org

St. Francis Horse Rescue Does Make A Difference



When Cisco arrived at SFHR (shown on the left) he was a sorry sight. Today however he's a different horse, enjoying retirement with his pasture pals TZ and Rainbow.

Fall Trail Ride a Huge Success

On Saturday September 29th 2007 14 riders set out for the first annual St. Francis Horse Rescue Benefit Trail Ride held at 9 Mile Recreation area in Rib Mountain near Wausau. Each rider collected donations to benefit the horses of the rescue and as a result over \$800 was raised for the 2007-2008 hay bill.

Marathon Town and Country Store in Wausau was kind enough to donate a great tote with assorted grooming supplies for the person who raised the most money. That honor went to Carla Kurtzbach.

Rescue horses were out in full force, including the adopted horses Cody, Lucky, Poco, and Cheylynn, who is still available.

Everyone had a great time, even though the last group to go out got a "little" wet on the ride back. The thunder of hooves could be heard

as that group of four was coming back to the parking area soaked, but smiling ear to ear.

Thanks to Mary and Bill for the great sub sandwiches and soda.

As this year's ride was such a success, we plan on doing two next

by Michelle Lippert

year! The ride will work the same way with riders showing up any time between 9 am and 12 pm, and a great prize for whomever gets the most donations/pledges. Mark your calendars for May 17, 2008 and September 13, 2008.

A special thanks to everyone who helped make this such a great fund raiser for the rescue.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the trail system, and if anyone has any suggestions please contact me at MLippert07@hotmail.com

Happy riders and happy horses are the ingredients that make a successful trail ride.



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Where Are They Now?

Cody and Stefani



Howdy, folks! My name is Cody. I am the handsome guy on the left, and the gal next to me is my new mom, Stephani Harper.

There is a lot to say about me--other than my good looks, popularity with the ladies (both horses and humans), and being pretty much fearless. Mom says I have a lot of confidence and I am not afraid to be a leader. Sometimes it's a dirty job, but some horse has gotta do it. When in a herd of fellow equines, I'm number one.

They tell me I am 15 or 16 years old. Probably not

true as I don't feel a day older than five. As previously mentioned, I am a really lovable kind of guy and gals just cannot seem to get enough of me.

I used to be a man's horse for a long time, but that has since changed. My former owner kept me for 12 or so years and really took good care of me. We used to go on a lot of trail rides and had a great time together.

Then one day about two years ago, for some reason, I scared him so bad that he decided it was time to find me a new home. Up to that incident I had always been a good boy, and when I arrived at St. Francis Horse Rescue I was really scared, and didn't quite understand what was happening. But Mary treated me so good, that I soon felt right at home.

Oh yes, and did I mention I love to canter?

Mitch's Clinics

Mitch Attoe held his last clinic "De-Spooking Your Horse from The Ground and Saddle" at his M-K Foundation Quarter Horses in Rosholt, WI on September 15th. There was a great turnout of people interested in how to ready their horse for the trail, and to get tips on how to introduce them to new things with the least amount of stress. Lynn Dumke mentioned this clinic in the November issue of the Wisconsin Horseman's News. Donations were raised for the Rescue, and put towards the 2007 Hay drive.

Topics are being discussed at this point for his 2008 clinics. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the up coming clinics please contact Michelle Lippert at: MLippert07@hotmail.com.

Special thanks to Kris Lippert for preparing the fabulous lunch, to everyone who donated door prizes, and also to Mitch and Kathy for opening up there wonderful facilities for yet another great fund raiser and educational event benefiting the Rescue!

Can't wait to see everyone in the Spring. Happy Trails and safe riding this Holiday Season! **Michelle.**