



Neigh & Bray

Quarterly newsletter of HHT—the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves



February 2010

HHT Mission Statement:

To advocate for, rescue, protect, and defend our God-given equine from abuse and neglect in Tennessee.

Equine Programs

- **Adoption** - Finding a home for a horse in need.
- **STERN** - State of TN Equine Rescue Network
- **Helping Hoof** - Help equine owners feed their horses during a financial crisis.
- **Ultimate Act of Compassion** - Helping equine owners with humane euthanasia

It is through your generous support for HHT that we can continue to give a voice to those that cannot speak for themselves.

Wish List

- 16' Cattle Panels
- Fuel cards
- Fencing supplies
- Salt Bricks
- Hay
- Breakaway Halters
- Lead Ropes
- Towels
- 20+ acre farm of our own to call home and use for a rescue and retirement facility

The Four M's *Mud! Manure! And More Mud!*

I've seen the first sign of spring. A single crocus was poking out of the ground and it was the first time in many weeks I felt there was a rainbow at the end of this terrible winter tunnel—a winter that started in November and hasn't let up much over the past three months. The rain, snow and freezing temperatures have made it hard on everyone caring for the horses. Along with our previously rescued horses, **an eighty-four-horse case at Thanksgiving kept our barn full all winter (see pages 2 and 4).** Feeding 25+ horses not only requires a large amount of food, but it also leaves us with an abundance of "out put." Since it is still too early for the gardeners to help us keep our "out put" at a manageable level, we have been blessed with two rather large piles of manure that we have lovingly named "Old Smokey." Finding ways to deal with "Old Smokey" has been a rather difficult challenge because of all the mud, which makes it hard to get the manure hauled off and disposed of. Hopefully in the next few weeks we can finally say "Old Smokey has been extinguished."

February marked the **first anniversary at our new facility!** We have made great strides at improving it to better accommodate our needs, but we still have lots to do as time and finances allow. Over the past three months we were able to **install four run-in sheds in our pastures; and with help from Mike Clabough Plumbing, we were able to get new frost-free spigots in the barn and a few of the paddocks.** No more floods from broken pipes, we hope! We also managed to purchase a 12' X 24' stand-alone cabin at a discounted price, which when finished on the inside will allow us to have our office and a small meeting room on the property. I am thrilled at the prospect of having an **efficient administrative area that is readily available to the public and our volunteer staff.**



New Office

While on the subject of "staff," I am **delighted to welcome Sonja Cowser as our Barn Manager.** She will handle the general day-to-day barn operations while working closely with our volunteers. Sonja will also pass on her horse training and handling skills to current and incoming volunteers through clinics, one-on-one sessions and mentoring. The extra special attention our horses will now receive should also be very helpful in finding new homes for them.

Currently, HHT is involved with three large cases in East Tennessee, each of which involves 40+ horses. We are working closely with county officials to try and get these situations rectified without overburdening our volunteer staff and foster homes. Foster parents help HHT through their willingness to care for and work with our rescues at their own facilities, thereby lightening the load at our barn. Because many of the animals that come into us lack any formal training, fosters are a very important asset in preparing our animals for adoption. **If you would be interested in becoming a foster parent please let us know. The rewards can be very gratifying.**

In 2009, HHT volunteers cared for 101 equine, more than any previous year and double our 2008 support level. With the increased rescues comes the need for increased funding. Being a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we have to rely on the generous support of our donors in order to continue our work. In these hard economic times finding ways to raise much needed funds is even more challenging. In 2010 we are implementing our **"Helping Horses in Need" giving program,** which will allow donors to choose among various designated funds to which they would like to contribute. For example, the **"Wee Willie Hitchcox Fund" supports equine restorative care. Donations to the "Brave Warrior Safe Shelter Fund" help provide safe, weather-protected shelter for ailing horses.** And there are several other options, all of which allow for donors to match their giving interests and amounts with HHT's needs. Whether the contribution is financial or an in-kind gift of goods or services, all donations are greatly needed and appreciated. **And please also remember HHT in your estate planning or if you are considering a Land Trust for your property—an option that can help both you and Horse Haven of Tennessee.**

All of us at HHT welcome your involvement and remind you to visit our website at www.horsehaven.net to keep updated on the animals in our care as well as future events and programs.

Nena L. Margston

Board of Directors:

President: Carol Juarez
Vice Pres.: Katy Bradford
Sec./Treas.: Kim Dickey
Samm Riggan
Candice Janko
Maria Danker
Carolyn Sue Whittaker

Youth Board:

Erin B.

Barn Manager:

Sonja Cowser

Executive Director:

Nina Margetson

Special Advisors:

UT Veterinary College
Riverview Vet Services
Countryside Vet Clinic
Pinnacle Equine Hospital
Farrier: Brad Hearn
Randy DeBord
Farrier Specialist:
Dudley Hurst
Equine Massage Therapist:
Sue Dempsey

Contact info:

HHT
P.O. Box 22841
Knoxville, TN 37933
(865) 609-4030
hht@horsehavenoftn.com
Website:
www.horsehaven.net

Directions to facility:

Visits by appointment only.

Take I-40 to exit #376 (162 north); go 2 1/2 miles to the Hardin Valley exit. Turn right off the exit. Half a mile down on the left is Reagan Rd. We are immediately on your left once you turn onto Reagan Rd.

To help insure the safety of our volunteers and horses we request you do not visit without an appointment. We do open to the public the second Sat. of every month from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hannah's Corner

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

What is a hero?

A hero is someone you can look up to. **Nina is my hero.** She is nice, very friendly towards the animals and to people. She makes people feel welcome during monthly Adoption Days and that's when me and my mom help her. You can trust her, she's always positive to the volunteers and horses. **She is my hero because she saves horses' lives.** She also works to tell people how to take care of horses the right way.

HHT has helped over 306 equines in 10 years. That's a very long time and lots of lives have been saved by HHT. But more about Nina as my hero; she can't do it alone. Lots of people help because every hero needs help. Horse Haven of Tennessee was founded in 1999 as a system of individuals that would help horses that the local Humane Societies and other animal groups have no place to put. Horse Haven has volunteers that clean stalls, repair fences, raise funds, care for horses, sell soap or

shirts, and many other things. There is a board with 12 volunteers to help make decisions. They meet each month and anyone can come.

Nina feels it takes more than just one or two people to keep an organization like HHT going and keep the focus of the mission. HHT has lots of volunteers who go get the horses with Nina and help to back up HHT when the animals go to court. Don't forget the people who report the horse abuse. **Horse Haven gets about 25 complaints a month.**

Help Horse Haven. Nina can't do it alone. Saving horses is important because could you just imagine a world without horses? Think how the sad the world would be. **Horses have made our country what it is.** Horses helped people do lots of different kinds of work in the past. Just think how stuck we'd be. We wouldn't have been able to farm. Think how the horse has brought us to where we are now. Today horses are important because some people still use them on farms, in police forces, search and rescue and for therapy

Say **"NEIGH"** to Horse Abuse/Neglect!

animals. Horses should be saved today because you can ride on them, they make good pets and they are smart. I like to volunteer at Horse Haven because I love horses. Some day I hope to be like Nina and save animals' lives. **Please talk to Nina if you want to volunteer.**

Hannah Rose



Thank you Hannah Rose, your kind words mean a lot. I would also like to give credit to all those who volunteer their time to help the horses. YOU are the heart of HHT. And I want to thank our supporters who keep our heart beating strongly!

Nina

In Memory Of

"Billie Waldrop"

Randall Crass
Mamie Odom & Family

"Ralph Panella"

Sharon & Michael Lesner

"Chet Charlough"

Sharon & Michael Lesner

"Dixie" White

Judith Sachs

"Mac & Victoria

Kathleen Clucas

"Linda Hudson"

Barbara & Larry Wiker

"Ruth Carter"

Deb Kermensky

"Rhythm"

Katherine Benson

In Honor Of

"Carolyn & Randy Capps"

Deb Kermensky
Lawrence Reid

"Maddie"

Merry & Martha Cochran

"LuAnn Keller"

Aunt Irma

"Kathy Teague/Connie Brown"

Jean Schmidt

"Chester" Herzel

Rozalind Smith

"Ayden on her Birthday"

Tom Gallaher

"Cheryl Kells"

Laura Cunningham

"Kathleen Brown Hayward"

M. Diane Brown

"Denise McFarland"

Robin & Bob Surber

"Lori & Michael Nunley & their fabulous Steeds"

Sharon Blake

"Melinda Doolittle"

Angela White

"Betsy & Jim Bailey"

Richard Moss

"Caitlin Krause" 13th. B-day

Grandma & Grandpa Krause

"Melba Cabbage & Theresa Stockman"

Janet Manuel

"Glenn Reynolds"

Christopher Brobeck

"The Gormans"

Nancy Williams

Stable Thoughts - from "Freckles"

The week of Thanksgiving had been full of expectations, excitement, planning, preparing, and fun. "Momma" had been sharing her celebration plans with us all. On one of her visits, however, we knew something was terribly wrong, and the atmosphere, thoughts, and feelings of heartbreak turned our morning into mourning.



Me & Momma

"Momma" told us about 84 horses being rescued in Cannon County, Tennessee, by the Humane Society of the United States just days before Thanksgiving. These horses were found to be in deplorable condition, many starving to the point of death.

With grief-stricken hearts, we and "Momma" said a prayer for these precious rescued horses and for those who had already passed from this physical world in such a painful, agonizing, and inhumane way. "Momma" also prayed for any help at all to be made available to this immense mission of taking care of these 84 distressed and seriously threatened horses. **On the coming day the saying by Jean Anouilh, "Love is above all the gift of oneself," would be demonstrated by more than 300 calls from people wanting to know how they could help.**

"Momma" said veterinarians, farriers, other rescue groups and volunteers aplenty with various skills, knowledge, expertise, and work abilities showed up to be of service in whatever ways they were needed, and they came with hearts of compassion, concern, caring, and kindness. The volunteers worked day and night taking special care of the horses.

"Momma" said **Horse Haven of Tennessee (HHT) took in 28 of these horses and would continue providing for their care and rehabilitation as long as needed.** I was happy about that because I remember the love and care I received when I was with HHT, and what a blessing they have been in the lives of so many other horses and people. "Momma" and "Daddy" went to see the horses at the HHT facility, and what they told us on return was heartening and uplifting. They saw volunteers busy feeding, providing water, cleaning, walking, and grooming, and through it all, offering encouragement, comfort, reassurance, and love. And the horses responded in a most positive way to all of it. **We again gave many thanks to HHT and to those who serve in any way to help our animal friends.**

It is now the month of February as I am sharing our "Stable Thoughts" with you. These horses' stories continue, and there are and will be many more stories yet to be heard. And yet through this painful and shameful heartbreaking case, we have an opportunity for change--a change that is constructive, productive, and EFFECTIVE--a change that will lift us up to a better place in our hearts, minds, conscience, and actions towards the well-being of our equine friends and all of our animal friends. **Another opportunity for positive change—and if not now, when-when-when?**

Freckles

☞ **Your support is vital because all HHT programs are funded solely through private contributions.**

Name: _____ Phone(s): _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check enclosed Please charge my VISA MC Discover American Ex

Card number _____

Expiration: _____ 3 digit CSC _____

Signature: _____ My employer has a matching gift program

Please send me more information: "Helping Horses in Need" giving program Bequests Volunteering

Please make your checks payable to HHT and mail to HHT - P.O. Box 22841 - Knoxville - TN - 37933
 And remember HHT doesn't get operating support from the government, United Way or any national humane organization.

Horse Haven of Tennessee
P.O. Box 22841
Knoxville, TN 37933

HHT Calendar

Neigh & Bray Adoption Day

Second Sat. of every month 10-2 pm
Volunteer Orientation 10-11:30 am
Horse Owner Clinics 2-3 pm

Monthly HHT Meeting

Second Thurs. of the month 7-9 pm

Trail Challenge

April 24 - True West Stables

Spring Fling at the Barn

Saturday May 8 11-3 pm
The HHT horses have a special treat for the kiddies. Day of fun and games.

Good Stuff Yard Sale

Saturday June 12 9-3pm
Now accepting clean donated items.
Call 865-609-4030

For more information about all our upcoming events log onto www.horsehaven.net

Can You Help?

HHT has some special needs that we hope the business community can help with. Please let us know if you can provide:

Concrete for manure pad

Gravel and stone

Equipment to solve drainage problems.

Disposal of our manure

Fencing supplies

And help your business, too... by advertising on our horse trailer! Ask us for details and rates!



Pictured to the left is "Titus," also known as #60. He was just one of 84 horses that were rescued by HSUS from a farm in Cannon County a few days before Thanksgiving. Twelve years old, and still a stud, he was in the first batch of horses HHT brought back to our facility. As we loaded him into the trailer in Nashville, I worried what his outcome would be. He was still so terribly weak. Volunteers in Nashville had shaved off all the hair from his tail and mane because they were so badly matted with burrs.

During his first week he seemed to enjoy all the attention he received from our volunteer staff. As each day went by he got stronger and his depressed attitude started to change. His ears would perk up when the volunteers entered the barn. His weak whinny got more robust over time. Then the day came when a very special lady, who had just gone through a family loss, came to visit him. His person was found! **Now as they grow closer together Titus' future looks brighter every day.**

In total, HHT has taken in or placed 28 of these Cannon County horses, and provided care for them. We still have one more six-month old awaiting pickup at the vet. He needs to remain in quarantine for three more months so we are looking for a special foster who can accommodate his needs. Because all these horses had been running together, most of the mares are pregnant—which means that the original 84-horse case will likely turn into a 120+ horse rescue.

HHT took three trips to Nashville to help with these horses. On our first one we delivered 80 brand new horse blankets that had been so graciously donated by Carolyn and Randy Capps from Greeneville, as well as 40 lead ropes purchased by HHT. Four days later we took four trailers and picked up the first 15 horses that were strong enough to travel. Three days before Christmas we returned to get the remaining six horses so HSUS personnel could be home in time to be with their families for Christmas.

Currently we have placed all but four of these rescues into new homes. Our Adoption Committee has been working overtime to match potential adopters with each animal. Finding the best homes for these animals has been their top priority and when you see the bond between the horse and its new family, you immediately know what a great job they've done.