



# THE WINGS PROGRAMS

Quarterly Newsletter



December 2022

*Thank You to our Donors, Supporters & Volunteers!*



As the year winds down, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of those who have donated time, money and equine gear to help our rescue and sanctuary equines have the best life possible.



Without your help horses like Star, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, wouldn't survive to know that life with humans can be happy, calm and gentle. When an emaciated horse like this comes in, a lot of special feed is needed to put weight on them. Your donations of money and feed make all the difference! This sweet horse has gained a considerable amount of weight and has become more relaxed and friendly. With your help, she has gotten a second chance at life.

**We couldn't have done everything this year without our volunteers, one of our most valuable resources.** Volunteers handle daily ranch chores such as filling water troughs, picking weeds and painting fences. They staff our booths at public fundraising events. sew items to sell, organize barn sales, repair tools, fix fences and a thousand other tasks that keep Wings running. Some of our volunteers help with horse handling and donkey whispering, and we have a small crew that we can call on for extra help or in an emergency.



## *Rescues & Adoptions - Where the donations go*

We've taken in twelve equines this year, most of whom have some sort of physical or medical challenge. Each horse or donkey taken in gets evaluated by the vet and receives dental care, hoof care and de-worming as needed. All of these expenses are paid by your donations. This kind of care enables us to rehabilitate some of the horses and donkeys so they can be rehomed.

Some of the other expenses in caring for the equines include: blankets, fly masks, fly spray, tank heaters, shavings, sawdust, tubs, muck forks, medications, hay nets, herbs, supplements, water troughs...and the list goes on.

Every dollar we receive goes to these expenses and the paid labor to feed the equines and muck the pens. We also receive donations of some of these items, which helps with the expenses. Your donation doesn't get lost in administrative costs - it all goes to the animals.



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We've adopted out nineteen equines this year, including ten donkeys from the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue. Our latest adoption is sweet Baby Ellie, who was born on the ranch on May 2. Ellie was adopted by the group that rescued Dolly, her mother, and who have been partially sponsoring the pair. Dolly will remain at Wings for now. Ellie charmed us all with her happy, playful personality and her zoomies. We'll miss her a lot!

We also saw Wilson, Badger, Scooter, Stormy Stetson, Mama, Baby and Sissy off to new homes here in the valley.



## *A Year At Wings*

**It's been a busy year at Wings!** This year we worked really hard to broaden our exposure in the local community and raise awareness about our programs. We did a lot of community outreach, including visits to the Sapphire Lutheran Homes, a Veterans and First Responders program at Wings, and events such as the Celtic Festival and our Kids Fest day.

As always, we brought our horses and donkeys along to give people a chance to meet and treat our rescues and understand why we're here. We've lost a couple of wonderful horses, adopted out quite a few, and taken in a good number, always doing our best to support equine owners in the Bitterroot Valley.

**Your generous donations and support remain crucial to the success of our programs.**

A big challenge for a non-profit is fundraising. Not only do you have to have ideas, but you have to have people who can implement the ideas. Board Member Alicia Mara brought us into the world of art fundraisers with our "Faces of Rescue" online art auction. Half of the paintings sold in the auction and several more have sold since, as well as prints and cards. Visit Tracy Moyers' Esty store at Wilderness Spirit Art. A portion of all sales goes to Wings.

Wings friend Liliana Plinaa organized our Kids Fest event in August, which was a very successful day for us. She also spearheaded our beautiful Festival of Trees entry sponsored by the Bitterroot Newcomers Club.



**We look forward to more fun community service and fundraising opportunities in 2023.**

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