



SUMMER 2026

newsletter

We rescue abused, abandoned, and neglected horses throughout New Mexico.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

To all who impacted our Annual Auction + Luncheon

On May 31st, our ranch pasture once again came alive with your energy, kindness, and support. Thanks to you, our 23rd Annual Auction + Luncheon raised an extraordinary \$167,595 for the horses we love and protect. That number tells us everything about the kind of people who show up, bid generously, and lend a hand to help these animals heal.

We couldn't have asked for a better day. The weather was perfect, spirits were high, and about 320 of us gathered under the big tent at the THS Ranch to celebrate over 25 years of saving horses together.

We caught up over a wonderful lunch by Restaurant Martín, listened to cowboy artist Roark Griffin, and watched Carl Ortman paint live during the bidding for our fine art and jewelry auction.

Every ticket bought, every item donated, and every paddle raised helps us care for the over 100 horses who call the shelter home. Your generosity funds their daily care, keeps our facility to the highest standards, and expands our adoption efforts across New Mexico.

To our sponsors, local businesses, and artists: whether you

gave your time, an auction item, or financial support, you made this day a success.

And to our volunteers—those green and blue t-shirts we saw everywhere before, during, and after—you are the heartbeat of our mission. This event doesn't happen without you. Thank you for the heavy lifting, the smiles, and for making it all run so beautifully.

This auction keeps our doors open, and because of you, our horses have exactly what they need for the year ahead.



Ignite Hope in the Year of the Fire Horse

With your support, the inner fire has a chance to burn freely in every horse that arrives at The Horse Shelter.

GIVE TODAY

THEHORSESHELTER.org
/sponsor



**YEAR OF THE
FIRE HORSE**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of The Horse Shelter,

We are proud to share an achievement that reflects our ongoing commitment to the horses you care so deeply about.

The Horse Shelter has been named a **2026 EQUUS Foundation Guardian, earning the Foundation's Guardian Seal of Transparency.** This national recognition is awarded annually to equine organizations that demonstrate exceptional transparency, accountability, and dedication to the highest standards of equine care.

This recognition joins several other distinctions that reflect our commitment to excellence. The Horse Shelter is also accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)—the world's leading accrediting body for animal sanctuaries—has earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (GuideStar), the highest level of nonprofit transparency, and has received Charity Navigator's prestigious Four-Star Rating, awarded to organizations that demonstrate strong financial health, accountability, and effective stewardship of donor support.

Together, these independent recognitions demonstrate our commitment to responsible management and to providing the highest standard of care for the horses entrusted to us.

The EQUUS Foundation Guardian designation recognizes organizations that voluntarily make comprehensive information about their horse care practices, programs, governance, and operations available for public review. While the designation is not an endorsement, it affirms our willingness to be transparent

and accountable and makes The Horse Shelter eligible to be considered for EQUUS Foundation grant funding.

These recognitions are only possible because of supporters like you.



Every donation, sponsorship, volunteer hour, and act of generosity

helps ensure that abused, neglected, abandoned, and at-risk horses receive compassionate care, professional rehabilitation, training, and the opportunity to find safe, permanent homes. Your trust inspires us to uphold the highest standards in everything we do.

As we continue to expand our capacity to serve New Mexico's horses, we remain committed to operating with integrity, openness, and excellence. These independent accreditations, ratings, and recognitions assure you that your investment is managed responsibly and that the welfare of every horse remains at the center of our mission.

Thank you for believing in The Horse Shelter and for making achievements like these possible. Together, we are creating brighter futures for horses in need and building a more humane future for equines across New Mexico.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Susan Hemmerle



2025 Impact Report

Our Impact Report highlights the milestones and stories that defined our work in 2025 as we strive to protect New Mexico's abused and neglected horses.

View the 2025 IMPACT REPORT on our website:
THEHORSESHELTER.org/statements

Board of Directors

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mjrios526@gmail.com

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dhurdle@zha-architects.com

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Julia Peters 2024
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CONTACT THE HORSE SHELTER
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info@thehorseshelter.org

The Horsepower Behind Our Mission

Discover a Deeper Purpose

Become a THS Volunteer:

Our volunteers are the horsepower that keeps our operation running. Here is what it means to join this extraordinary team:

A Rewarding Routine: It's hard work, but it provides the clean, safe foundation our horses deserve.

The Path to Horsemanship:

We teach you natural horsemanship safely, helping you build a consistent, gentle bond with the horses.

A Community with Heart:

You will forge unforgettable bonds with our resilient rescue horses and work alongside a passionate, supportive crew of like-minded horse lovers.

Ready to join us?

Orientations are held monthly.

To claim your spot or ask questions, email us at volunteer@thehorseshelter.org

LEARN MORE AT :
THEHORSESHELTER.ORG
/VOLUNTEER



Welcoming Our New Volunteer Coordinator, Kevan Saunders.

Photo courtesy of Evalyn Bemis

We are pleased to introduce THS Volunteer Coordinator, Kevan Saunders! Born and raised in the Santa Fe area, Kevan is a lifelong horsewoman whose passion for equine welfare, exemplary horsemanship, and attuned, engaging teaching style make her a perfect fit to lead our incredible Volunteers and Volunteer Program.

Kevan has truly hit the ground running. Coordinating THS's 70+ strong volunteer team; balancing scheduling, risk management, and keeping things both safe and fun, is no small undertaking. Since joining us this spring, she has done a phenomenal job learning the names and personalities of both our volunteers and our horses. Her thoughtful approach ensures everyone feels welcome, valued, and confidently matched with appropriate horses during groundwork class.

Thursday Volunteer Vicki A. shared her appreciation for what Kevan brings to THS: "Kevan is kind and informative. I feel that she has really raised our

I am so impressed with, and feel so lucky to have the opportunity to work with the Horse Shelter's new Volunteer Coordinator, Kevan Saunders. She takes the time to work with us, not just as a group, but also individually, listening to us, answering our questions, and advising us on how to maximize the help we can offer all the wonderful horses we are so lucky to spend time with. Thanks so much for finding the perfect instructor!"

— MARY FELL, MONDAY MUCKER

awareness of thinking about the horses' perspectives when we are working with them. During one of our earliest classes with her, she had us hold the halter and feel the sensation of the lead rope moving it. It was eye-opening!"

We are so fortunate to have Kevan as a vital part of our THS family and deeply appreciate all she contributes to our organization. Welcome, Kevan!

— SUSTAINING THE MISSION

The Next Step in Advanced Care



Help us raise \$40,000 for a State-of-the-Art Padded Squeeze Chute

To keep our dedicated staff, volunteers, and rescue horses safe during critical medical procedures, we are launching a targeted fundraising campaign to acquire a state-of-the-art squeeze chute.

This critical piece of equipment features padded sides designed to gently stabilize horses, drastically reducing stress and avoiding injury during veterinary examinations, dental work, and farrier care. For unhandled or feral horses who are unfamiliar with human contact, this gentle containment is a game-changer for their rehabilitation journey.

Investing in our infrastructure is the key to our long-term sustainability. By equipping our ranch with advanced safety tools, we ensure that our team can continue doing this demanding, life-saving work securely and efficiently for years to come.

DONATE TODAY:
visit [thehorshelter.org/](https://thehorshelter.org/donate)
donate

EVERY HORSE STARTS WITH TRUST



Volunteer Coordinator, Kevan Saunders, works patiently to build trust with Arya.

Today, 54 horses at The Horse Shelter are waiting to begin their training journey. Most arrived with little or no handling experience, making even the simplest aspects of care a challenge. Before these horses can be considered for adoption, they must first learn that people can be trusted.

The first priority is ensuring they can be safely handled for essential veterinary and farrier care. Every horse deserves vaccinations, dental care, hoof trimming, and medical treatment when needed, but these procedures are only possible when a horse can be approached, haltered, and handled safely. For horses that have lived with little human contact or have experienced neglect or trauma, reaching that point takes patience, consistency, and skilled training.

Their journey begins with socialization—learning to accept a person's presence, respond calmly to gentle interaction, and build confidence through positive experiences. From there, they progress to basic groundwork, including haltering, leading, standing tied, picking up their feet, loading into a trailer, and responding appropriately to handling. These foundational skills are essential not only for future adoption but also for the horses' lifelong health and welfare.

Every horse moves at a different pace. Some make rapid progress, while others require months of patient, thoughtful work before they are comfortable enough to receive routine care without fear or stress. There are no shortcuts when trust is the goal.

Helping these 54 horses gain the confidence to safely receive veterinary care and develop the basic skills they need is one of the most important investments we can make. With each horse that completes this journey, another horse in need can take its place, beginning a new path toward health, safety, and the opportunity for a forever home.

Your support makes every step of that transformation possible.



Left: Reba after months of training, adopted in March. Center + Right: Stitch and Pharoah found their forever home.

TRANSFORMING FUTURES:

Our Commitment to Horse Rehabilitation

Last year, an unprecedented influx of unhandled, feral horses pushed our resources to their limits. Many arrived frightened, traumatized, and in dire need of rehabilitation and months of patient, specialized training before they could even begin the journey toward becoming adoptable.

To give these horses the futures they deserved, we made a deliberate investment by expanding our training program through partnerships with experienced professional trainers. We committed \$90,000 to outside training—a significant investment, but one we knew was essential. Teaching these horses to safely accept human handling is critical not only for their future, but also for the safety of our staff, veterinarians, farriers, and adopters.

That investment is paying off. This year, our adoption rate has already surpassed our total number of adoptions for all of 2025—a remarkable milestone that demonstrates the transformative power of patience, professional training, and compassionate care.

Take Stitch and Pharoah. Both survived devastating, life-threatening leg injuries yet never lost their gentle spirits. After months of rehabilitation, dedicated training, and unwavering advocacy, this resilient pair recently found their forever home—together.

Then there is Reba, a 9-year-old bay mare who arrived at The Horse Shelter in December 2023 as one of more than 30 free-roaming horses rescued from Pajarito Mesa. Completely unhandled when she arrived, Reba

spent months learning to trust people through careful rehabilitation, socialization, and under-saddle training with our contract trainer, Allie Spagnolo. This past March, she was adopted by the Vigil family, where she is thriving in the loving home she always deserved.

Stories like these are only possible because of the time, expertise, and resources invested in every horse. Every adoption represents months—and often years—of healing, trust-building, and careful preparation. Although we have significantly expanded our in-house training program, many horses still require specialized professional training to overcome severe trauma or develop the skills needed for successful adoption.

Providing this level of individualized care is costly, and we cannot sustain this momentum alone. Your support helps fund professional training, rehabilitation, daily care, and every step of the journey from frightened, unhandled horse to cherished companion.

To our donors, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters: thank you. Because of your generosity, horses once overlooked and forgotten are finding safety, healing, and loving homes. You

are the reason these remarkable transformations and second chances continue to happen.

Learn more about our
adoption process at:
[www.TheHorseShelter.org/
adopt-a-horse/](http://www.TheHorseShelter.org/adopt-a-horse/)

A PROMISE OF FOREVER:

Shaping the Future for New Mexico's Horses



Every transformation at The Horse Shelter is a journey that requires time, patience, and resources. From the moment an unhandled, feral horse enters our gates to the day they walk into a loving forever home, our commitment to their healing is unwavering. But ensuring that this sanctuary remains a safe haven for decades to come requires a different kind of foresight. It requires a promise of forever.

Including The Horse Shelter in your estate planning is one of the most powerful ways to create a lasting legacy. It ensures that the values you hold dear today—compassion, second chances, and rigorous equine rehabilitation—will continue to protect New Mexico's horses long into the future.

Planned giving is highly customizable, allowing you to support our mission while balancing your personal financial goals. For many, a simple bequest in a Will or Testament or a Revocable Living Trust provides maximum flexibility. Others choose tax-efficient avenues, such as naming the shelter a beneficiary of Retirement

Assets (IRAs) or gifting appreciated Securities, which can eliminate capital gains taxes while maximizing your charitable impact. You can even consider establishing a permanent Endowment, ensuring your love for horses supports the ranch in perpetuity.

Please note: Tax laws change quickly, and this information is for educational purposes rather than formal legal advice. We always recommend consulting your financial planner or attorney to design the best strategy for your needs.

Let's Start a Conversation

If you have ever wondered how you can make a permanent impact on equine welfare, we would love to chat. There is no obligation—just a casual conversation about what a legacy gift could look like for you.

Reach Out: To learn more or request our formal beneficiary information (including our FEIN), please contact us at info@thehorseshelter.org or call us at (505) 471-6179.

SPONSOR OUR NEW ARRIVALS



GLADYS

Gladys came to us because her owner has had a life altering health issue. Gladys is around 15 years old and had her right eye surgically removed at some point in her past. Otherwise, she seems healthy. Welcome, Gladys!



FAWN

Fawn is a sweet natured, bay mare who is on the younger side. She will require much rehab time as she is emaciated and has some lameness issues.



FUEGO

Fuego is a sorrel stallion (that will be gelded, of course), no age yet, who is handleable (we always appreciate that) and is pretty docile, but that could be because he is thin.



Our Resale Store is constantly refreshed with a new selection of treasures! Whether you're gearing up for trail rides or seeking the perfect piece of art, we are fully stocked with a huge selection of saddles, art & jewelry, home goods, and Gift Certificates.

Our truck is ready to roll for large donation pick-ups. Call us at (505) 954-1375 to schedule a time.

Every purchase and donation directly supports our rescue efforts. Our horses thank you for your incredible support!

821 W. San Mateo Rd. #A, Santa Fe

STORE HOURS

MON-SAT | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm



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100 HORSES • TOURS • DEMOS

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

100AB Old Cash Ranch Road, Cerrillos, NM 87010

NO DOGS, PLEASE | Rain Date: October 17

