



Beauty's Haven Newsletter

December 2017



Theresa Batchelor
2017 Eagle Rare Life
Award For Heroism



Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours!

At this blessed time of the year, we are once again, giving thanks for our many wonderful friends and supporters for their generosity, love, and support.

Many lost and abused souls that humans have failed, find their way to us - we do our very best to help them heal and come to know unconditional love.

Whether they are with us for an hour, a day, a month, or years – dignity is restored and they know that they are loved. While we've suffered many losses over the years, we have also rejoiced in many new beginnings.

It's only because of your help that we are able to help them and we thank you for that.

The Year in Review

Thanks to you, at any given time this past year, 34 +/- horses and donkeys (and other animals) that were once abused, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted, received proper food, vet, farrier, dental, and routine care. Many here have special needs and require extra care, treatments, and supplements.

Our most recent case is that of two elderly miniature horses, Jiminy, a 29 year old stud, and Cricket, a 32 year old mare. They've been together for over 25 years and belonged to an elderly couple that could no longer care for them. Our rescue was at maximum capacity but we went to meet the little ones anyway to assess them. We would try to network to find them safe places to land.

Upon meeting them, we knew we could not leave them because they had issues that needed to be promptly addressed. They appeared depressed with dull coats and they were quite underweight. We regrouped to find a way to squeeze them in!

We set up Cookie's portable coral under the tree on Frosty's Knoll a supporter generously stepped up to donate a portable shelter. Jiminy and Cricket settled in and have had complete physicals, dental treatments, and their feet have been trimmed and treated for infection. Their teeth were in such bad condition that it was painful for them to eat which could have attributed to them being so thin. Their blood work indicated they were anemic and lacking in proper nutrients.

It's very rewarding to see them now with shiny coats and bubbly personalities running around enjoying life. They love soaking up any and all human attention they can get. They may be "old ones" but they are now healthy and happy!

On behalf of our herd, thank you for helping to make their tomorrows possible!

Life
is about
determination.
Don't give up just
because of the obstacles.
Regardless of what obstacles
face you, just keep going! Go
through, go around, or go
over - but never
give
up!

Board of Directors

Theresa Batchelor	President
Barbara Massey	Vice President
Jeanne Bartsch	Secretary
Elizabeth Fried	Treasurer
Robert Batchelor	Facilities Director



Established May, 2006

Every day, your support makes stories like
that of Jiminy and Cricket, possible.



Emma, the filly that was shot Multiple Times

Emma is a quarter horse filly that came to the rescue in February, 2017 after being shot multiple times. She needed proper treatment.

We took Emma to Ocala Equine Hospital where she underwent surgery. A bullet that hit her left knee resulted in a fracture and compromised joint. Another bullet, close to the vertebrae (C1 spine), resulted in fracture of the dorsal spinous process of the axis (C2). A splint bone was shattered and had to be amputated. Emma has some facial nerve paralysis which has greatly improved.

There are multiple bullet fragments and debris throughout her body, some of which could not be removed as they are deeply embedded in soft tissue structures. An attempt to remove them could do more harm.

Emma has done a remarkable job recovering and is ready to find her forever home. If you are seriously interested in giving her a loving home please contact us at bhfer@earthlink.net.

Whoever did this to Emma needs to be punished for this cruel and inhumane act. Justice needs to be served. Deputy Wells of the Levy County Sheriff's Office is handling Emma's case.

The Humane Society of the United States and Beauty's Haven combined resources and are offering a \$7000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party(ies). Will they be found? Not likely. But we have to try.

Big Change is Needed - Looking Forward to 2018

We are located in a rural area which makes it very difficult to attract volunteers. The responsibility of caring for 35 horses thereby falls upon Theresa and her husband, Bob. They work tirelessly every day, from the break of dawn until midnight, tending to wounds, preparing meals, dispensing supplements and medications, cleaning and filling water buckets, attending to the special needs of many, and much more. Facilities and equipment must be maintained in a safe and responsible manner. Administrative work such as processing and following up on adoptions is an ongoing requirement. Managing vet, farrier, and dental needs is time consuming. There are also fundraising activities, tours, social media duties and website maintenance duties, and the list goes on! A few wonderful volunteers help out four days on most weeks for about 6 hours each day. This helps tremendously, but that leaves the great majority of days and nights without assistance.

After having tried, unsuccessfully, to draw in much needed volunteers over the past few years, we have determined the rescue needs to relocate closer to the University of Florida (UF) where there are many students and others that want to help. Volunteering opens the door for personal and professional development and is a perfect way to give back to the community and to make a difference in the lives of those around them. It's a win-win situation for horses and humans.

Relocating closer to Gainesville would put us closer to many health care professionals that are part of our care team and the UF Large Animal Hospital which is where we often take horses for diagnostics, treatments, and surgery.

Engaging the community and building a strong volunteer base would enable us to not only maintain and help more horses, but would also help bring to fruition our desire to establish a program where we take our miniature horses to humans that are not able to come to us. This may include people that are in retirement homes, hospitals, etc. We want to make a greater impact by sharing the horses with the community through social inclusion on-site and off-site. We want to be community strong!

We also want to assist more individuals with special needs. We have witnessed a 5-year-old child utter his first words while interacting with our horses. We witness humans with Down's Syndrome, PTSD, and other disorders and/or challenges find peace and solace with the horses. It's a blessing to be able to share our horses with others.

We can't continue on as we have been with so few volunteers - we need help. Relocating won't be easy, we know, but it's the right thing for us to do. And we are very blessed to have a very kind and caring supporter who believes in us, and our mission, that has offered \$100,000 to help bring this to fruition!

If anyone has property in the Gainesville area (Archer, Jonesville, etc.) that would fit our needs that they would like to consider donating please contact us - it could be a sizable taxable write off for you! If you are a Realtor that could help us find just the right property, at perhaps a discounted cost, please contact us. We need to get moving on this as soon as possible.



A Miracle Named 'Amazing Grace'



*While some do not believe in miracles, we, at Beauty's Haven have witnessed many.
Our beautiful Amazing Grace, is indeed, such a Miracle.*

At the end of August, we discovered, beneath the golf cart, two precious newborn kittens with their placenta still attached. They were just 2.2 and 2.3 ounces respectively. Since their momma was nowhere to be found, we tenderly gave them the very best of care. We named them Alana and Aiden. We searched and searched for Momma Cat the rest of the day and the next morning, but she was nowhere to be found. We prayed she would return.

The very next day, a miracle occurred! After pulling into the driveway from taking the babies to the vet, Momma Cat suddenly appeared! She was discovered hiding in a roll of fencing wire by the garage. Bob walked towards her and called out, but she wouldn't move. Theresa then walked to the far end of the roll of fencing, squatted down, and Momma Cat went right to her.

Momma Cat was exhausted and looked like she had been on an incredibly long and tiring journey. But the look on her face was one of relief - as though she'd finally arrived at her destination. Our prayers for Momma Cat to return were answered, but she was just a baby herself - not even a year old. This had to have been her first litter. We took her into the office and gave her water and a little food. She was so hungry. We named her Grace.

We cleaned Grace up and put her by her babies, but she had no interest in them nor did she have any milk to offer them. She was very thin, only 4.2 pounds. She slept so soundly in her very own bed, albeit she did get up to eat and drink a little bit more and use her litter box. We took her to the vet the next day for a complete examination, including blood work.

Sadly, God had other plans for Alana and Aiden and we are truly devastated by the loss of these precious babies just a day after we found Grace. Since our little amazing Grace was just a kitten herself, coupled with her health issues, it is understandable why her babies were born prematurely and simply had far too many hurdles to overcome.

Grace grew strong and received necessary shots and she was spayed. She was so thankful for the love and care she received. She always appeared to bow her head to give thanks at every meal. Grace loved humans and deserved her very own family where she would be constantly pampered. She has since been adopted by a family that loves her dearly.

It's only because of support from others that we were able to help Grace, Alana, and Aiden.

Our 2017 Year-End Campaign



Our 2017 Year-End Campaign is late getting underway but our goal is to raise the funds necessary to provide hay to the hordes through the end of March. The cold has arrived and the grass has been dormant. Providing good, quality hay will help the horses and donkeys stay warm, healthy, and happy.

The cost to provide hay for one week is about \$1000. Our goal is \$13,000. This amount doesn't include the cost of the leafy alfalfa that we buy for a few of the older members of the Beauty's Haven herd, as they have only a few teeth.

Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or any affordable amount to help us meet our goal in providing hay for our special herd throughout the cold season?

Thank you all for continued support and friendship. May your New Year be full of many blessings and opportunities to make wonderful memories.

With gratitude,

Theresa Batchelor

President

Beauty's Haven Farm and Equine Rescue, Inc.





Our Annual Tribute to the 'Old Ones'

The young couple had made their usual hurried, pre-Christmas visit to the little farm where dwelt the elderly parents with their small herd of horses. The farm had been named Lone Pine Farm because of the huge pine which topped the hill behind the farm, and through the years had become a talisman to the old man and his wife, and a landmark in the countryside. The old folks no longer showed their horses, for the years had taken their toll, but they sold a few foals each year, and the horses were their reason for joy in the morning and contentment at day's end.

As they prepared to leave, the young couple crossly, confronted the old folks. "Why do you not at least dispose of 'The Old One?'" She is no longer of use to you. It's been years since you've had foals from her. You should cut corners and save where you can. Why do you keep her anyway?" The old man looked down as his worn boot scuffed at the barn floor and his arm stole defensively about the Old One's neck as he drew her to him and rubbed her gently behind the ears. He replied softly, "We keep her because of love. Only because of love."

Baffled and irritated, the young folks wished the old man and his wife a Merry Christmas and headed back toward the city as darkness stole through the valley. So it was, that because of the leave-taking, no one noticed the insulation smoldering on the frayed wires in the old barn. None saw the first spark fall. None but the "Old One."

In a matter of minutes, the whole barn was ablaze and the hungry flames were licking at the loft full of hay. With a cry of horror and despair, the old man shouted to his wife to call for help as he raced to the barn to save their beloved horses. But the flames were roaring now, and the blazing heat drove him back. He sank sobbing to the ground, helpless before the fire's fury.

By the time the fire department arrived, only smoking, glowing ruins were left, and the old man and his wife. They thanked those who had come to their aid, and the old man turned to his wife, resting her white head upon his shoulders as he clumsily dried her tears with a frayed red bandana. Brokenly he whispered, "We have lost much, but God has spared our home on this eve of Christmas.

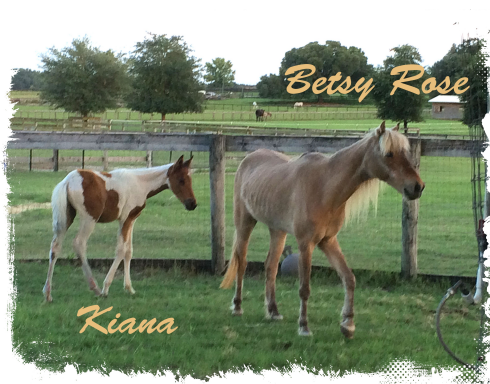
And so, he took her by the hand and helped her up the snowy hill as he brushed aside his own tears with the back of his hand. As they stepped over the little knoll at the crest of the hill, they looked up and gasped in amazement at the incredible beauty before them.

Seemingly, every glorious, brilliant star in the heavens was caught up in the glittering, snow-frosted branches of their beloved pine, and it was aglow with heavenly candles. And poised on its top most bough, a crystal crescent moon glistened like spun glass. Never had a mere mortal created a Christmas tree such as this.

Suddenly, the old man gave a cry of wonder and incredible joy as he pulled his wife forward. There, beneath the tree, was their Christmas gift. Bedded down about the "Old One" close to the trunk of the tree, was the entire herd, safe. At the first hint of smoke, she had pushed the door ajar with her muzzle and had led the horses through it. Slowly and with great dignity, never looking back, she had led them up the hill, stepping daintily through the snow. The foals were frightened and dashed about. The skittish yearlings looked back at the crackling, hungry flames, and tucked their tails under them as they licked their lips and hopped like rabbits. The mares pressed uneasily against the "Old One" as she moved calmly up the hill and to safety beneath the pine. And now, she lay among them and gazed at the faces of those she loved. Her body was brittle with years, but the golden eyes were filled with devotion as she offered her gift - because of love.

Only because of love.

Author - Reverend David Griffith



*Beauty's Haven Farm & Equine
Rescue, Inc.*

*Where Life Begins,
Again!*

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