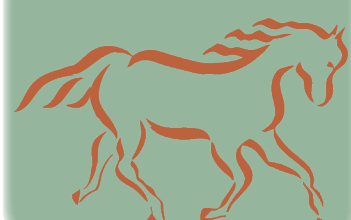


Why I Give: Buy-A-Bale 2021



Did you dream of owning a horse as a child? Have you always cared for an equine companion? Do you still cherish hopes of bringing home a special horse? Maybe you're simply an animal lover? There are many reasons to love equines, and the connection between horse and human is like no other relationship on earth. These special animals deserve the highest levels of care, kindness, and compassion. We want to hear why horses inspire you to give so generously to support the work of the MSSPA. Please share your stories with us via email or postal mail!



Photo / Helen Peppe

Daphne with MSSPA staff Kadie

JANE SHEEHAN, MSSPA BOARD PRESIDENT



Erkil and Jane

Nearly every little girl and lots of little boys dream of having a horse. I was not different, but like many families, mine did not live on a farm and it was never realistic for me to have a horse of my own. Instead, my parents encouraged me to be kind to all living things and love nature all around us in Maine. Those values have served as

the foundation for my life. They also inform my pleasure at serving as current President of the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals, New England's premier shelter for horses. Together with the Board of Directors, incredible volunteers, and skilled professional staff, I invite you to share in the dream of having a horse. The marvelous horses at River Road farm, many of whom have experienced abuse or neglect, are being rehabilitated, retrained, and ultimately re-homed with those who love them. It wouldn't be possible to operate the shelter without all of us working together to give our horses what they need to be whole again. Why do I give? Because it is one more way to honor my family, to thank all those who have helped me throughout my life, and to finally realize that almost universal childhood dream of having a horse. As we walk, trot, and canter through 2021, will you please be part of the MSSPA herd? Give, because the horses need us as much as we need our dreams of a better, safer world for everyone.

Why I Give

DR. DAVID JEFFERSON, MSSPA DIRECTOR

Growing up in the Pelham suburb of New York City, with no livestock in sight, Dr. David Jefferson dreamed of operating his own dairy farm. Summers spent on farms made him appreciate farm life and the cows. He loved everything about the dairy business and imagined himself enjoying a full life as a farmer. Happily for those whose horses were Dr. J.'s patients for 50+ years, the dairy farmer dream never came true! He clicked with horses during his time at Cornell's veterinary school, and they became his career. He did manage a dairy farm for a few months and soon realized that horses don't require twice daily milking. Now retired from his successful vet practice, Dr. Jefferson gives generously of his time and expertise as a member of the MSSPA's Board of Directors. He is a regular donor who also encourages others to help the MSSPA however they can.



Dr. Jefferson

"Horses changed my life. At MSSPA, I can continue to help change theirs for the better."

Dr. David Jefferson

When asked, "Why do you give to the Society and its horses?" he enthusiastically responds, "Because I really believe in the rehabilitation and rehoming of the animals. I appreciate the life-saving work being done at River Road Farm." When he began working as a vet with the Society in the late 1970s, there were few options for abused or neglected horses. Since retirement, he has helped the MSSPA to develop collaborations throughout the horse community that help the Society facilitate successful recoveries and satisfying adoption outcomes. Above all, Dr. J. respects the work of the staff and volunteers who, like himself, give time, money, and love to horses. "I value being a volunteer and supporter of this organization. Horses changed my life. At MSSPA, I can continue to help change theirs for the better."

IN MEMORIAM: TOTO



MSSPA would like to honor the life of Toto, who crossed the rainbow bridge in January. Toto was a longtime favorite with visitors, volunteers, and staff members alike. Along and lean chestnut Thoroughbred mare, Toto never forgot her early life on the racetrack. Occasionally, when she heard the clang of a paddock gate, Toto would still take off for the races! Toto always liked to be moving and cantered around her paddock every day when she was turned out. She was a very sweet mare who got along well with humans and other horses, especially her loyal companion and paddock mate, Blossom. Toto's presence on the River Road farm will be missed; however, we can all feel at peace knowing that she spent the end of her life being well cared for and loved by MSSPA staff, volunteers, and supporters alike.

Finding the right adoptive homes for the horses rehabilitated at the Society is MSSPA's ultimate goal. However, for those horses who don't find a forever home, the sanctuary services provided by the support of generous donors like you still ensure loving care is received by horses who so richly deserve it.

MARY ANN BENSON, MSSPA VOLUNTEER



Windy River and Mary Ann

MSSPA volunteer and supporter Mary Ann gives in many different ways. She gives quite a lot of her time as a volunteer by mucking stalls, helping Picnic with Ponies visitors, and making calls on behalf of the Society from home. On top of all of that, Mary Ann gives a monetary donation every single month! Why does she give monthly? According to Mary Ann, she gives monthly because “horses gotta eat!” No matter

what is going on in the world, the horses still need to be fed and cared for, and they can't do it by themselves. Mary Ann also makes a recurring monthly donation because it's just so easy! She set it up once and hasn't had to worry about it since. Because the donation is automatic, she never has to write another check, and she doesn't even miss the money.

“Buy-A-Bale isn't just once a year. Your monthly or quarterly gift ensures the horses have enough to eat all year long.”
Mary Ann Benson

Mary Ann first became aware of MSSPA when she brought a rocking chair for repair to the prison workshop across River Road many years ago. She was excited to see a horse farm so close to her home in Portland and searched online as soon as she got home. Right then and there, Mary Ann decided to volunteer for MSSPA as soon as she retired. Mary Ann has always been an animal person, even satisfying her college PE requirement by taking riding lessons. Really, though, she just loves to be around horses and smell the wonderful barn smells. Mary Ann appreciates the calming influence of horses, not to mention the quirky personalities of many MSSPA favorites like Pablo the mule.

Giving to MSSPA has even become a family affair! Several years ago, Mary Ann brought her daughter Meredith to see the farm. Meredith, an animal lover like her mom, was impressed by what she saw at the shelter and decided to become a supporter. Recently, Meredith donated the lovely cross stitch piece that MSSPA offered as a special prize for its online Valentine's quiz.

Mary Ann encourages everyone to consider making a recurring gift to the organizations they love. “That's the least we can do after the difficult lives many of the horses led before coming to the Society.”



Pablo the mule

Hay provided by generous givers like you is appreciated in a variety of ways!



Romeo and Dusty

MARILYN GOODREAU, CHAIRWOMAN EMERITUS



Tootsie and Marilyn

Longtime River Road Farm manager and former MSSPA president Marilyn Goodreau, now Chairwoman Emeritus, gives to the horses because she knows no other way. Faith and family shaped her early years. She has always made giving to those with less a feature of her daily life. Deeply religious, Marilyn's spiritual connection to animals who suffered abuse or neglect compelled her for more than 40 years to personally, along with her life partner Lawrence Keddy, ensure all the animals at the shelter were fed and cared for each day. She strives to live the values of faith, hope, and charity. Today, she humbly says, “I give to the horses because it is who I am, the person I was raised to be.”

Why I Give: Buy-A-Bale 2021

PICNIC WITH PONIES

MSSPA is looking ahead to warmer months and making plans for fun and safe in-person programs at the farm, including the popular Picnic with Ponies program. Sign up for our email list or follow us on Facebook to receive up-to-the-minute news!

**MAINE STATE SOCIETY
FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANIMALS**
P.O. Box 10
South Windham, ME
04082-0010

The horses
welcome
you to the
2021 herd!

FEED & CARE BANK

Did you know that generous gifts to MSSPA provide feed for Society horses AND horses in the community? Every year, a significant number of horse owners receive temporary financial assistance through MSSPA's Feed & Care Bank, which provides hay, grain, veterinary, and other services to horses in need right in your backyard. This program allows horses to remain in loving, healthy homes, and get what they need while avoiding other interventions. Applications are online at msspa.org/hay.



EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THE HORSES!

\$5 feeds a horse for 1 day
\$155 feeds a horse for 1 month

No matter what gift amount you kindly bestow on the horses, know that every generous gift makes a difference. **YOU** make a difference to these horses. Consider making an exponential impact by joining the Monthly Giving Program!

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