

June
2021

The Society Pages

MSSPA

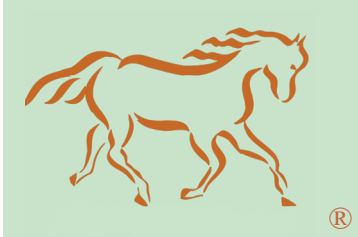
*A nonprofit organization
founded in 1872*



Jane Sheehan,
Board President



Meris J. Bickford, CEO



Just three short years ago, training the rescued horses at the River Road shelter was a very different endeavour. In those days, the ability to do much training depended on the weather. Little could happen on icy days in the winter or on stormy days throughout the rest of the year. Everything changed when the indoor training arena was completed and opened in October of 2018. That critical two-million-dollar facility upgrade has vastly improved the day-to-day work at the shelter. Most importantly, it has allowed staff and professional trainers to safely train the horses and prepare them for adoption without worrying too much about the ever-changing Maine weather. Perhaps at the time you were surprised that MSSPA could complete such a major construction project without a years-long capital campaign to fund it. The reason the Society was able to build the arena--and maintain its focus on rehabilitating and training horses to prepare them for adoption--is because of the transformational power of planned giving.

When generous donors decide to make a gift to the horses in advance, often as a bequest from their estate, the Society is able to plan ahead for life-saving projects like the new arena. In 2017 and 2018, several planned gifts came together from the Grace Butnam Foundation, the estate of Mary Reali, and the estate of Albert Howard. These planned gifts--and the generous contributions



Eva and Breezy explore
the arena together



Dexter in the arena the
day he arrived at MSSPA



Windy River training as a
strapping 2-year-old

from everyone who donated to the Help, Hope, Home arena project--have already had an outsized impact on the welfare of the MSSPA horses, perhaps even more than we expected. When Dexter arrived at MSSPA with hooves so badly neglected that he could barely walk, he was able to go right from the trailer to the arena stall where he could be monitored around the clock. Both Windy River and Breezy had their very first turn-outs in the arena, providing a safe place for the young colts to run, explore, and play. Having more time for training and a dedicated space for prospective adopters to interact with horses has resulted in more adoptions, especially for companion horses. So far in 2021, less than halfway through the year at the time of writing, eleven horses have already been adopted from the Society!

Making a planned gift to the horses provides a legacy of caring that grows and lasts for many years. Planned gifts come in many varieties and all sizes. If you would like to learn more about joining the Help, Hope, Home Legacy Circle, please call Meris Bickford at (207) 892-3040 or visit the Legacy Circle webpage at msspa.org/gift-planning.

Meris J. Bickford

Adopter, Donor, Planned Giver



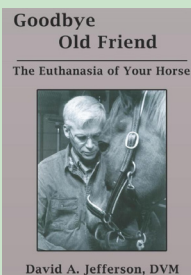
Sheila and her Anglo Arab, Rosie



Sheila's adopted
MSSPA horse, Rita

Maine native Sheila Alexander, a woman of a certain age, can't recall a time when she didn't want to look at, smell, handle, sit on or just be around horses. She got married in a pasture with her horse nearby. As soon as she could read, every Marguerite Henry book was her favorite. Sheila became a professional librarian who worked in horse barns throughout high school, college, and grad school. For more than 60 years, she has always had at least one Arabian horse - often more - at home. She rides, drives, and has judged driving competitions all over the country. Sheila knows horses! She also knows that the Society sets the standard for exemplary care of horses, particularly those in recovery from abuse or neglect. Sheila donates to the MSSPA now because she knows what it costs to properly care for horses. Because she knows she won't always be in this world to love and help horses, Sheila has also included the MSSPA in her will. She knows that the Society has been caring for horses for 150 years and her gift ensures the MSSPA will be here when horses need it. Thank you to Sheila and all those whose plans include helping the horses now - and in the future.

All You Need is Love?



Legendary Maine horse vet, author, and MSSPA Director Dr. David Jefferson recently published "Goodbye Old Friend," which explores the difficult but oh-so-important topic of horse euthanasia. And if you haven't already read his first book "Maine Horse Doctor," it is highly recommended for horse lovers of all sorts. Both can be purchased through smile.amazon.com, and please make sure your Amazon Smile charity is set to MSSPA! Thank you, Dr. J, for writing this important new book and for your continued support of the rescued horses as a member of the MSSPA Board of Directors.



The Beatles were wrong and Emma knows it. The older red dun, watch-eyed mare was anxious, in need of some groceries, farrier care, and who could say when the vet last tended to her. Her younger companion, a chestnut gelding, was in similar shape. Emma had lived with her owner for more than 20 years. Both horses were well loved by their now-deceased owner and her family. It wasn't enough. Contrary to the premise of the classic song from Sgt. Pepper's, love is not all you need. Everyone needs an estate plan, especially if you own horses.

MSSPA met Emma and Sunny when their owner's family contacted the shelter asking for help. Sorting out the legalities of ownership and their owner's estate settlement process was complicated. There was no money for the horses. Takeaway? Emma asks all horse owners, please, make a plan of care for your horses after your death. A lawyer or financial planner can help you ensure there are funds for their care. Without it, your horses could end up on the not so long and winding road to neglect.

You don't own horses? Well, Emma would like you to know that your planned gifts help the MSSPA maintain the operating capital and endowment needed to provide life-saving care to horses like her. Your planned gifts maintain safe barns and turnouts, purchase nutritious bales of hay, and pay the vets and farriers. Your gifts now and your planned gifts in the future mean MSSPA will serve Maine horses for the next 150 years – with a little help from our friends - you.



Emma and Sunny on arrival



Emma on a recent spring day



There are many ways to make a planned gift. You can start today by planning to make your gift to the horses every month! Becoming a Horse Hero by joining the Monthly Giving Club means you help care for the horses at MSSPA all year long.

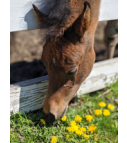
January	<p>It's cold and snowy. Your monthly gift buys horse blankets to keep horses toasty warm.</p> 	February	<p>Your monthly gift shows the love by covering annual veterinary exams.</p> 	March	<p>Our lucky horses receive yearly vaccinations because of your monthly gift.</p> 
April	<p>Mud season is mucky. Your monthly gift buys shavings to keep stalls clean.</p> 	May	<p>More time outside means more horse training, supported by your monthly gift.</p> 	June	<p>Your monthly gift assures wagonloads of delicious first cut hay.</p> 
July	<p>Flies, go away! Your monthly gift supplies fly masks for bugged horses.</p> 	August	<p>An active summer on their feet means a farrier visit thanks to your monthly gift.</p> 	September	<p>Teachers aren't the only ones who like apples! Your monthly gift buys plenty for the horses.</p> 
October	<p>Pumpkin spice is nice, but the horses prefer dentistry services, paid for by your monthly gift.</p> 	November	<p>Thankful horses feast on the grain and supplements provided by your monthly gift.</p> 	December	<p>For the holidays, it's new halters and leads, gifted by your monthly generosity.</p> 

An Arabian Breeze in Windham



When neglected Arabian mare Eva arrived at the shelter last July, we had no idea what a surprise she had in store. Fast-forward to February, and Eva foaled a lovely colt named Arabian Breeze, or Breezy, or Little B! Our new arrival is quite a character. He is very brave and loves to run and play. With his mother's excellent example, he is sure to be a friendly fellow. Everyone at MSSPA is so happy to have a healthy and happy foal in the shelter.

To learn more and see more photos, you can visit msspa.org/littleb. Please join the herd and sign up for MSSPA's email list to stay up-to-date on all the happenings at the shelter.



Maine State Society
for the Protection
of Animals
P.O. Box 10
South Windham, ME
04082-0010

Picnic with Ponies



The sun is (mostly) shining, and it's time to Picnic with Ponies! MSSPA's popular free program is back for a second season. You'll get all the details and find the signup form on our website at msspa.org/picnic, or call (207) 892-3040 to make a reservation over the phone. Groups of up to 8 people are welcomed several days each week. You don't have to bring a picnic with you, but you do need to sign up for a time slot to visit the horses. Breezy, Emma, and all of the horses are looking forward to seeing you soon.

279 River Road
P.O. Box 10
S. Windham, ME 04082



(207) 892-3040
info@msspa.org
www.msspa.org