



## Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

Horse Rescue & Adoption

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*“Many have forgotten this truth, but you must never forget it.  
You remain responsible forever for what you have tamed.”  
-Antoine de Saint Exupery*

November 29, 2016

Dear Valued Friends,

Our “year-end” newsletter provides opportunity to reflect and give thanks. Blue Rose Ranch is a wonderful place to live for the horses and for all of us. We have magnificent sunrises and sunsets, the horses graze next to the deer, and the vastness of the prairie sky seems endless. This has been a great year for our organization. We received national recognition from the ASPCA for our “Help a Horse Day” outreach and we were blessed with tremendous support from our local community throughout the year. We were honored that one of the small towns in our area, Campo, made a contribution to Blue Rose Ranch as a thank you for our help with horses in their municipality. Our volunteers, as always, have provided important TLC for the horses and assist the ranch in many ways. Volunteers are gold, and we truly appreciate them.

### **Horse News:**

Two and one half horses have arrived at Blue Rose Ranch since our August mailing. The “one half” horse is a miniature gelding we named *Little Chief* – he looks just like our big *Chief*. *Little Chief* is full of personality, and he sees himself as the big man on campus. *Golden Baby* is a beautiful thoroughbred. She arrived at Blue Rose Ranch along with her friend *Nugget*. *Nugget* is a handsome gray gelding. The two came from a situation where the owner could not afford to feed them. Both have thrived at Blue Rose Ranch with acres of grass to graze and they have gained weight and condition.

*Lucky* and *Nugget* were accepted into the Equine Comeback Challenge. The two are in the Denver area being trained and will compete at the 2017 Horse Expo in March. This is a wonderful opportunity for horses to receive quality training and to be showcased for potential adopters.

There are seasons/years when expenses to care for horses are higher than others. This has been one of those years. In the past few months we had two horses arrive that needed gelding, and we have had several older horses arrive who needed teeth floated and extensive dental work. These older horses required special feed to help them hold weight and to receive adequate nutrition. We have four horses now on permanent, costly pain medication. We definitely have made more trips to the veterinarian than normal, and our vet bills this year reflect that.

### **Infrastructure:**

Imagine a giant erector set. Hundreds of sheets of galvanized metal. 5000 bolts. That is pretty much how our hay barn started. This choice of building was made because it is cost effective. There are many of these round-tops in farm/ranch communities. When we talked with some who had built them, they had stories of the difficulties and the common theme was “never want to do that again!” Our volunteers who helped with this building were tremendous. The high winds stopped construction and forced days of delay. Still not finished, the round top building will house large hay bales. Hay can last many years if it is covered from rain and snow. This year we had 20 tons of hay that was compromised due to exposure to

the elements. Horses need quality hay. We donated the compromised hay to a neighbor to mix in with his cow feed. Because of their different digestive systems, cows can utilize that hay. Our hay barn is an important addition to our operations and is an investment to protect hay and save money. A lesson learned the hard way.

Living in rural areas has unique challenges. We have miles of roads to maintain on Blue Rose Ranch. We also have a mile long County Road leading into the Canyon Ranch that the County does not maintain. We are responsible for this road, as we are the only ones who use it. We move horses, hay, and equipment on the roads, and they need to be maintained for safety and access. We have not done meaningful work on the roads in 10 years, and this year we had to make a major investment in our roads. We hauled in tons of rock and road mix to rebuild areas that had been compromised due to weather and heavy use. Some areas were resurfaced with chip seal. Work on roads is not something people usually think of when considering horse rescue operation expenses, but roads are important to carry on our work. We invested \$17,000 in this project in 2016.

### ***From the desk of John Webb***

As the holidays approach and the end of the year is suddenly upon us, I would like to wax philosophical and take a moment to reflect on my long-held belief: ***Everything you need to know in this life you can learn from horses.***

I seem to love all horses unconditionally and find it easy to overlook their physical and personality deficits. *Rain Dancer*, a real favorite of mine, has all her life, had a very weak and enlarged right front knee. She limps always and tries to run on three. She came to us with this birth defect. She also has a permanently scarred area on her face where she has been bitten twice in the same spot by rattlesnakes.

*Charley Horse*, is short, kind of a loner, and is nearly totally blind. He maybe can see a few shadows. He manages well with his limitation but we occasionally hear him in the middle of the night calling to the herd because he got separated and is scared.

*Willie* had one of his eyes removed and has a sunken hole in his face where the eye was. He also came to us with a bent and crooked back leg that had been broken but was left to heal on its own without ever having been treated by a vet. A real victim of neglect.

The stories are many of injury, abandonment, neglect and abuse. I marvel and respect beyond words a horse's ability to accept and heal. Horses have brave hearts, long memories and they love life. They also love those who care for them. I see in each of them the magnificent and noble creation they are.

My hope this holiday season is that all of us discover in ourselves the ability to love and respect one another the way we do horses - even those individuals who try our patience, have challenging appearances, lifestyles and mannerisms. ***Everything you need to know in this life you can learn from horses.*** Happy Holidays, John Webb

***We wish you a Wonderful Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year!***

John and Cheryl Webb  
Executive Directors

# ***Horses we've highlighted this mailing:***



***Little Chief - his first day at Blue Rose Ranch. Ready to meet the herd!***

***Chief - a resident of Blue Rose Ranch for several years.***



***Willie - loved at Blue Rose Ranch***



***Golden Baby when she arrived at Blue Rose Ranch.***



***Golden Baby after some TLC... she is still gaining weight!***



*Lucky with his trainer for the Comeback Challenge, Samuel Grogan.*



*Nugget at the check-in for the Comeback Challenge.*

*Hay Barn: The Giant Erector Set in Progress.*



*Charley Horse with one of our horse walker volunteers, Carla.*

*Rain Dancer - always looking for that pet*



### ***An Opportunity to give...***

Blue Rose Ranch will again participate in *Colorado Gives Day*. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, you can log-in and easily make a contribution to Blue Rose Ranch. The Community First Foundation organizes this philanthropic outreach, and on December 6<sup>th</sup>, they do not take out handling fees. All of the contribution comes to the horse rescue. (see [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org))

**Also...**  
When you file your *Colorado tax return*, you can “check-off” at the end of the form and contribute a few dollars to State approved organizations. One of those is the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance (CUHA). CUHA awards grants to horse rescues with funds they receive from the tax check-off. Blue Rose Ranch has received several grants from CUHA. You may need to search the list of organizations, as sometimes CUHA is listed as “Unwanted Horses”. John Webb is the Board of Directors’ Treasurer for CUHA.

**Also...**  
*You can shop!* When you shop on Amazon, through the “Amazon Smile” program, you can select Blue Rose Ranch as your favorite charity and they will donate a percentage of your purchase to our organization. (see [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com))

**And...**  
You can *Remember or Honor* an individual or beloved family pet with a memorial plaque to be displayed in our indoor riding arena. Please see the enclosed form. *If you would like to donate a plaque as a Christmas Present, Blue Rose Ranch can provide an acknowledgement “gift letter”.*

*Blue Rose Ranch is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation and all contributions are tax-deductible.  
Contributions to Blue Rose Ranch can be made directly via check or donate via PayPal on our website.*

## **Blue Rose Ranch would like to thank the following Foundations for their support:**

Alice Jenkins Foundation  
Animal Assistance Foundation  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
ASPCA  
(The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals)  
Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation  
Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance  
El Pomar’s Hambrick Fund

Equus Foundation  
Merck Animal Health  
Rutherford Foundation  
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Southern Colorado Community  
Foundation  
William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris  
Foundation  
Unwanted Horse  
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