



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

October, November & December 2021

11th Annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Days

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) organized and sponsored the first annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Day in November of 2011. There were twelve veterinarians who readily agreed to participate and charge \$100 for each castration they performed. Combined, they castrated over 100 stallions! You must admit, that is pretty impressive for the first year. GERL paid the vets half of the \$100 fee, plus the cost of the drugs they used, and the owners of the stallions paid \$50. It was a win-win for everybody and became a BIG HIT, right from the start.

Back then, the market was flooded with stallions and

horses, in general. People were giving their stallions away, in many cases, and this resulted in another huge



problem for law enforcement. This new class of equine owners did not possess the knowledge or financial means to care for a horse. Consequently, GERL started paying the full cost of castration for any stallions picked up by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and local county animal controls. Over the years, GERL has helped pay for the castration of over 1,200 stallions in Georgia. This year we had 8 vet-

erinarians who participated and castrated a total of 54 stallions.

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11th Annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Days

By Patty Livingston

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Earlier this year, the GERL Board of Directors voted to increase the set amount of \$100 per castration to \$175. The client/owner pays \$100 and GERL now pays \$75, plus the cost of drugs used. We are hoping that this increase will help retain the loyal veterinarians that have been participating for the past eleven years, but perhaps may entice some new ones to sign up. If you live in a remote area in Middle or South Georgia, there are very few vets who participate. This is a very important program so please spread the word to your equine vets to make them aware and encourage them to participate. The details can be found on the GERL website under Programs. (gerlltd.org)

We are very grateful to all of the veterinarians who participated this year!



Amicalola Veterinary Service's participated in Castration Day

We are very grateful to all of the veterinarians who participated this year!

- **Amicalola Veterinary Services – Ava Griner Talmage, DVM – East Ellijay**
 - **Royston Animal Hospital – Wanda Thompson, DVM – Royston**
 - **Barrow Veterinary Service – Robin Barrow, DVM – Social Circle**
 - **King Equine Veterinary Service – Logan King, DVM – McDonough**
 - **Fulton Equine Clinic – Melissa J. Fulton, DVM – Griffin**
- **Piedmont Equine Associates – Daniel Pike, DVM/John Elliott, DVM – Madison**
 - **Philema Animal Clinic – Trey Morrison, DVM – Leesburg**
- **Southern Crescent Equine Services - Jason McLendon, DVM – Newnan**



Flynn Goes to Her Forever Home

By Patty Livingston

In early November the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) agreed to help out a local animal control agency by picking up 3 horses and bringing them into their foster program. Cynthia Anderson picked them up and brought them back to her house until I arrived a few days later to take two of them back to my house. One of the horses was at least 25 years old and very skinny. The other one was a smaller horse that appeared to be of Arabian breeding and a normal body score, that was aged at 18 years old.

Where one went, they both had to go. The only problem with that was the skinny mare was getting senior feed and alfalfa hay three times a day and it only took about a week before the Arabian mare, I named Flynn, was quite chunky. I had to make some adjustments to separate them at mealtime which did result in some separation anxiety, at first. Things worked out well as soon as I got Flynn accustomed to eating out of a different bowl than her old friend, which also happened to be located outside of the stall. She is a smart horse and they each went to their respective bowls from then on.

I liked her immediately. Not only was she smart, but she was respectful and had great ground manners. The icing on the cake was that she was rideable, and she loved people. I decided to put a saddle on her and check things out. I was impressed. She was a fun horse to ride, and it was apparent that she had had a good bit of training in her life.

I had just recently received a text from a person who had previously adopted a couple of horses from GERL. She was looking for a safe horse for a friend who was in the market for her first horse. We took some videos of the ride and sent them to her. She was impressed enough to come for a face-to-face meeting. And, the rest is history.

Flynn was a diamond in the rough, in my opinion and we couldn't have matched her up more perfectly than to spend her life with Katherine, who adopted her shortly after that. I'm looking forward to hearing from Katherine with updates on Flynn and their life together.



Flynn waits outside the stall while her old friend eats her grain.



Katherine meets Flynn for the first time.

Workday at Warriors Ranch

By Cynthia Anderson

Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch is a beautiful facility located in Dublin Georgia. The folks at Warriors Ranch are dedicated to helping veterans, first responders, and their families heal from trauma sustained while serving their country and communities. They understand the benefits of equine therapy not just on the individual, but the family as well.

Toward the end of October I received an inquiry into GERL's Horses Heal Veterans grant. After reviewing the letter of inquiry we decided to send them a grant application and schedule an onsite visit. I must say we were impressed with the facility and the vision of Marla Roche and the folks at Warriors Ranch. On paper and from our on-site visit Warriors Ranch seems kind of facility that our Horses Heal Veterans program wants to support.

On Saturday, December 4, 2021 Patty Livingston and I were invited to attend a work day at Warriors Ranch in Dublin Georgia. After our initial on-site visit we were very excited to attend and get a chance to become more familiar with the ranch and its participants. We were looking forward to a day of fun and fellowship.

When we arrived everything was in full swing. Volunteers and participants were already hard at work putting up fence dividing the pasture. Marla Roche, the owner and co-founder, was sharing her vision with families and people interested in participating in the programs offered at Warriors Ranch. We were welcomed with open arms and introduced to everyone involved with the ranch. We were then given free rein to explore the facility and speak to whomever we wished.

We met the Honorable Yancey Brown and his wife. Yancey served in Vietnam. Worked in law enforcement and served as a magistrate judge. He was watching the news one morning and saw a story on Warriors Ranch and its mission. Yancey said he was so moved by the horses that it brought him to tears. Soon after the news cast Mr. Brown and his wife visited Warrior Ranch. When we meet them they were there for a second visit.



Veteran volunteers putting up fence to divide a pasture.



Lunch was delicious!

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Workday at Warriors Ranch

By Cynthia Anderson

Continued from page 4

Then we walked down through the pasture to speak with the folks putting up the fence. They were friendly and interested in sharing experiences. The volunteers were from all over. I spoke with a young dressage instructor from Watkinsville, Alaina Albury. Members of a motorcycle club were there working away. We were shown where they are going to build cabin and a pond to hold retreats for veterans, first responders and their families. We enjoyed learning about the horses and their dietary requirements from co-founder Paula Smith. We then headed back to the old barn, which is in the process of becoming the offices, for lunch and fellowship.

We certainly enjoyed the food and conversation at Warriors Ranch. A wonderful time was had by all that attended. Patty and I left knowing Warriors Ranch is indeed the kind of facility that GERL's Horses Heal Veterans program was designed to support. Please check out Warriors Ranch

(warriorsranchandrecoverycenter.org)



Veteran volunteers showed up to work.



Group photo with some of the veteran volunteers and visitors who came out.

In Memory of Mickey Farmer

By Patty Livingston

It is with great sadness that I tell you about the recent passing of our World-Famous auctioneer, Mickey Farmer. Mickey was a GERL fan from the beginning. He donated his auctioneering talents and time to GERL for 27 years, never expecting anything in return.

I first saw Mickey Farmer in October of 1994. He was the auctioneer at the first annual GERL Fallfest weekend trail ride that was held at Sunburst Stables near Helen, GA. He was perched up on a podium beside the biggest pile of auction items I've ever seen. Most of it was household goods, but nobody seemed to notice as we all got caught up in Mickey's lively banter and funny comments. Everybody was thoroughly entertained and at the end of the auction, the large pile of junk was gone. One man commented that Mickey had sold him a fireplace tool set and he didn't even own a fireplace! We all went home talking about what a good time we'd had vowed to never miss a GERL ride.

Two years later, we attended the GERL Fallfest at the R-Ranch and actually met Mickey. Almost immediately, he became a regular member of our riding group, which had grown to some size by then. Our camp soon became the hangout for just about anybody who was curious and bold enough to walk up and introduce themselves. Our camp was the fun camp. Never have I laughed so much, nor had so much fun. I'm not alone in this statement, I'm pretty sure. Mickey could make anything fun and everything funny! He was just that way. He knew a lot of people and had a lot of friends, to which he was loyal. For the next 13 years or so we traveled all over the Southeast camping and riding and having some of the best times of our lives.

I became President of GERL in 2009 and Mickey became my champion and hero. In fact, he was the first recipient of the coveted Marty Paulk Cheerleader award. He graciously agreed to donate his time to attend and auctioneer at all of the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) equine auctions, which required a good bit of driving to sell their horses. GERL was hosting a lot of fundraising events which all included an auction. He never complained nor did he ever fail to show up.



Mickey with the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award.



Mickey and Patty at a Mansfield horse auction.

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In Memory of Mickey Farmer

By Patty Livingston

Continued on page 6

For the past 12 years or so Mickey pretty much hung up his horse-riding hobby for motorcycles. He joined up with a group of like-minded motorcycle enthusiasts called “The Neutered Hogs”. They traveled all over the Southeast on their bikes. I’ve had the opportunity to attend trips and hang out with them over the years and I can tell you that they picked up on motorcycles and trikes where the horses left off. That is to say, lots of fun and gut-hugging laughter! Mickey loved his Neutered Hogs!

He had a serious side to him and that was his job as an auctioneer. He was a true professional and I always admired his ability to make an auction fun for everybody, and get money out of people who had no intentions of bidding!

I feel very fortunate to have gotten to know Mickey and call him my friend. He was a good friend to have and we are all going to miss him!



Mickey loved motorcycles and horses.



Mickey and Thomas Threat



The Mickey Farmer we all know and love!



And, Mickey loved his “Neutered Hogs”

GERL 2021 Christmas Party

by Patty Livingston

The annual Christmas party for the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) was a rainy evening which automatically guaranteed a small turn-out. I've been hosting the party for many, many years, now, so I no longer take it personally when people don't attend. I've learned that there is a silver lining to having a small party. First of all, I actually get to sit down and have a real conversation with someone. Secondly, I get to enjoy a hot plate of all of the yummy food that can be produced by as little as 6 or 7 people. In this case, we actually had an even dozen, counting myself.

I had received a personal invitation from Ann Wyrosdick at the Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) to attend their Christmas party the previous weekend. It had been a few years since I had attended, so I decided to drive to Dahlonega to celebrate with them. I had a wonderful time and as I got ready to leave, Susan Bruno told me that a few of them were going to get together and attend the GERL party the following weekend. I've learned to look for people who say they're coming, when I see the whites of their eyes. However, Susan, Jo West, Ann & Jim Wyrosdick and Erma McClain did show up that evening and we had a wonderful time talking about everything you can imagine. Donna Pieper, Keith Fleming, Ben and Kenda Petree, Krista Gingerich & Nick also attended. It was a very nice party and the food was absolutely out of this world!



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AREA COORDINATORS NEEDED in MIDDLE AND SOUTH GEORGIA!

We Need You!! Please consider volunteering to be GERL's horse "go to person" in your area. The types of things that you might be asked to do would be to perform a "drive-by" to check out a "skinny horse" report in your area. Perhaps someone in your area has applied to adopt one of our horses and we need someone to perform a farm visit. Please call Patty Livingston at (770) 867-0760 if you can spare a little of you time.

BIO's online: <https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/>

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GERL
THROUGH THE
AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM.**

As of August 2021 GERL has received \$6,523.53 That is very encouraging, thank you to those who always go to the Amazon Smile link and support GERL while you do your shopping. If you shop on Amazon through their Amazon Smiles program, 0.5% of your purchase is donated to GERL. In order to support GERL through the Amazon Smiles program, all you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2080606> and choose Georgia Equine Rescue League as your charity. You also have to begin shopping via that link in order for your purchases to be credited toward GERL. What a great way to support a great cause without spending any of your own money.

You can find links to both of these programs on the GERL website at <https://gerlltd.org>. Our thanks go out to all of you who have chosen to support GERL through these programs.

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You shop. Amazon gives.



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Contact us for more info:
www.georgiahorsecouncil.com
info@georgiahorsecouncil.com

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe **Delicious Ham and Potato Soup**

INGREDIENTS

3 ½ cups peeled and
diced potatoes
⅓ cup diced celery
⅓ cup finely chopped
onion
¾ cup diced cooked
ham
3 ¼ cups water
2 tablespoons chicken

bouillon granules
½ teaspoon salt, or to
taste
1 teaspoon ground white
or black pepper, or to
taste
5 tablespoons butter
5 tablespoons all-
purpose flour
2 cups milk

Prep: 20 mins

Servings: 8

Cook: 25 mins

Yield: 8 servings

Total: 45 mins





585 Kalambrasia Road
Dublin, Georgia 31021

"Helping Heal our Heroes"

Dear GERL,

It is with sincere gratitude that I write this letter on behalf of Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch, Inc. to express our humble appreciation for your support and generous donation of \$2,000.

Our mission at Warriors Ranch is to serve Veterans, Active Military, First Responders and their families by providing positive, life-changing experiences through a combination of peer support interventions as well as equine-assisted and other evidence-based psychotherapies.

Paula, Shawn and I are blessed beyond measure to live in such a warm and supportive community where our citizens, veteran organizations, and local businesses not only share a vision of helping support such noble causes, but demonstrate passion and commitment in serving those who have honorably served us. That is our ultimate goal at Warriors Ranch... to help rekindle relationships, instill hope, healing and recovery to those impacted by traumatic experiences incurred while in the line of duty.

In closing, please accept this letter as an open invitation to visit us any time at the Ranch. We look forward to a continued partnership with Georgia Equine Rescue League and are excited to see what the future holds. If your schedule permits, please join us on January 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm for another workday and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Thank you again for your kind donation and continued support.

Kindest Regards,

Marla L. Roche, LCSW, BCD

REACH THOUSANDS OF POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS!

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Coverage in our Newsletter and website!

Business Card Page (Color) Annual: \$100.00

1/4 Page: \$150.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

1/2 Page: \$200.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

Full Page \$300.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

(Above 3 ads include a 2" X 3.5" color on the front page of our website)
(Customer supplies business card/photos/graphics)

Contact: ads@gerlltd.org

We'd Like To Hear From You!

Do you know any special kids who deserve a shout out for their good works? Contact us. We would like to feature them in an upcoming newsletter!

gerlpatty@yahoo.com

Who's Who

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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GERL Advisory Board - Rhonda Veit, DVM



To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division
Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852
If you would like GERL to assist with an Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

Area Coordinator Director
Patty Livingston
(770) 867-0760
gerlpatty@yahoo.com

Where Does the Money Go?

For those of you who like to know where GERL spends your donated dollars, below is an update on our impact directly to horses since our last quarterly newsletter:

- GERL spent \$5,309.00 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$800.00 on training for one of our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$4,012.17 on feed, hay and vet care for Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.
- GERL spent \$4,036.54 on castrations during our 2021 Stallion to Gelding Days.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$14,336.88 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.



Join our Feed A Horse Program



Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. "Feed a Horse" program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



Itty Bitty Before



Itty Bitty After



I would like to make a donation of:

- \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$ _____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$ _____ any donation is gladly accepted!

...or donate online @ <https://gerlltd.org>

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

<https://gerlltd.org>

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to:
 GERL
 Mail to: P.O. Box 328
 Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

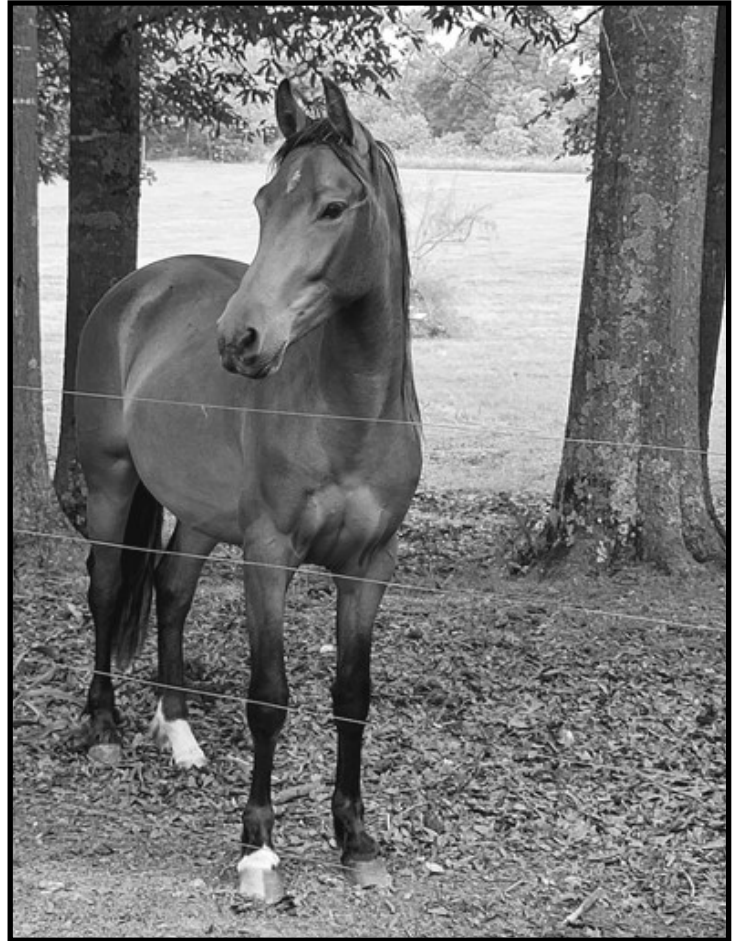
*Your donation is
tax deductible!*

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator. (706) 371-6804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



Forrest is also one of the “Six Amigos”. He is approximately 13.2 hh, 3-year-old Bay Grade gelding. Super cute! He is currently spending time with a trainer to get him started.



Jenny is one of the “Six Amigos”. She is approximately 13.2 hh, 2 1/2 year-old Bay Grade mare. She would be perfect for someone who wants to start with a fresh slate with their horse.

GERL Has Artwork for Sale

By Patty Livingston

One of the perks to this business is meeting some of the nicest and most generous people on the planet. One such person who fits into that category is Arlene Kosack. Arlene was one of our vendors at the Georgia Horse Fair that we hosted back in April. She decided to retire to do some other things and donated all of her inventory to GERL. Huge thanks to Arlene for her donation!

All of the artwork is beautifully matted and framed, wrapped in plastic and protected in a box. Some of the mats and small artwork can be found at the GERL booth at Picker’s Paradise in Monroe, located directly behind the BB&T Bank on Spring Street. For larger pieces, please contact Patty Livingston at 770-867-0760 for more information or viewing.

Support GERL by purchasing our merchandise!

Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00



Front

Colors:
Kiwi/Violet/Chalky Mint

Back

T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Gildan Soft style Ladies V-Neck Tee \$16.00



Front

Colors: Azalea Only

V-Neck T-Shirt with printed logo on front
Sizes available: M (6-8), L (8-10), XL(10-12) & 2X(12-14)

Sweat Shirt \$55.00



Colors:

Sweat Shirt with printed logo
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

T-Shirt \$16.00



Back of shirt

Colors: Mint/Blossom/Melon
T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Available to purchase on our website www.gerlltd.org

Thank you for your donations

Lauren Norwood
Cecelia Severens
Peggy Paris
Kathy Adams
Lisa Casey
Anonymous
Kim Hampton
Sherry Massey
Susan Lang
Angela M. Samuels
Allison Jenkins
Stacy Hurd
Jan Smith

Merinda Lee
Katrina Avey
Cortney Kangas
Stephen Boots
Teresa Dobrosky
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Dixie Cowles
Bent Tree Saddle Club
Debbie Ferrell
Arlene Kosack
Kimberly Townsend
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Alice Johnson
Haley Family Foundation

Amazon

Your AmazonSmile charity received
\$6,523.53

Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner
John Lynn
Bonnie LaVoie
Constance Burchette
Denise Masters
Mary Dove – donation for Spalding Co.
horses
Yvonne Nadler
Lucy Dudley
Sherri Sharpe
Tracy Amitrano
Vivian Gowitt
George & Denise Mortensen
Margaret & Bob Wallace
Dr. Christopher & Susan Gregory
Bob and Jan Collins

Welcome New Members

Lori King
Marion Bailey
Denise Masters
Pam Horton
Anita and Howard Caston
Sarah Cheatham
Sabra Rockwell - The Rescue
Pam Clark
Lee Ann Gilson
Katrina Avey
Joanne Bolton
Cortney Kangas -Mary Kay Independent
Beauty
Kathy Beall

Kroger

Quarterly Check \$90.34

In Memory of

Shiloh: long-time companion of Kaitlyn Byers by Dr. Ava Talmage
John Hobbs by Kara Huntoon
PK Boo, my soul horse. So that other horses can have the amazing life they deserve” by
Cynthia Sprague
Buddy, beloved horse of Tiffany Stewart by Andi Lerner
Touch of Natal “Buddy” beloved horse of Tiffany Stewart by Mary Bess Davis
Pat Dean’s beloved David and “Star” by Margaret Clower
Star, Pat Dean’s beloved horse by Patty Livingston
Faro and Amfi by Susan Heuke
Chris Altizer by Carole Evans
Nancy Oakes by Marilyn Kirkover
Mayday by John & Laurie Absalon
Mickey Farmer by Nathan Townsend
Mickey Farmer by John & Rhonda Bailey
Mickey Farmer by Wayne & Jill Miller
Mickey Farmer by Thomas Threatt
Mickey Farmer by Patty Livingston
Mickey Farmer by Jan Wilson
Mickey Farmer by Laura Whitt
Mickey Farmer by Mac Little
Mickey Farmer by Charles & Gail Ingram
Mickey Farmer by Robert & Sandra Ingram
Mickey Farmer by Norma Weber
Mickey Farmer by Jerry Castleberry
Mickey Farmer by Helen Walsh
Mickey Farmer by Judy Willingham
Mickey Farmer by Holly Maladay
Mickey Farmer by Gary & Kimberly Scott
Mickey Farmer by Ronnie Pesserilo
Mickey Farmer by Ray & Pierette Ziebell
Mickey Farmer by Betty & Duane Evenson
Mickey Farmer by the GDA Mansfield barn volunteers and employees: Bob “Coop”
Cooper, George & Margaret Bailey, John Marasco, Susie Bond, Jessie & Tom Murray,
Margie Shepherd and Willie. Moore.
Mickey Farmer by Libby Spurr Banks
Mickey Farmer by Elizabeth Dees & Family
Mickey Farmer by Health Union, LLC
Lily Haram by Brigitte Haram
Ree Hilley Masters by Cheryl Hecht
Zeus by Patricia Petelle

Baldwin County Animal Control Receives Equine Shelter

By Cynthia Anderson

On October 5, 2021, I received a call from Baldwin County Animal Control requesting GERL to take a draft horse and a donkey that they had recently picked. After speaking with everyone involved, GERL agreed to help. So, early the next morning I hooked up my trailer and picked them up. They had been temporarily placed at a local farm. You see, Baldwin County Animal control had no shelter for large animals. Well, it wasn't two weeks later I received another call about 3 horses in Baldwin County. This time the horses had to be placed at two different locations. Baldwin County is a county in need of a shelter.

So, of course it has always been part of GERL's mission to support law enforcement. GERL is dedicated to helping counties that are willing to take animal cruelty seriously and prosecute known offenders. I am I am happy to say that Baldwin County is one county that is stepping up. They are picking up the horses, along with other animals that are suffering. They are seeking felony charges and seeking prosecution of these offenders. They are doing this on a shoestring budget,

Now Baldwin County Animal Control needs support of the community and organizations to accomplish their mission. Thank goodness the Baldwin County Animal shelter has good fencing and decent grass. They just needed a shelter to be able to provide a nice safe place for large animals. Well, I am very pleased to announce that thanks to GERL for providing the money and Downeyland Barns and Containers in Milledgeville for providing the shelter; Baldwin County Animal Control has a new shelter in place.

Now the Baldwin County animal shelter needs a few



other items to make their large animal facility complete. They need a couple of waterers, feed bowls, halters, lead ropes, brushes, hoof picks, blankets, etc. Basically they have nothing related to equine. If you would like to donate you can donate directly to the Baldwin County Animal Shelter or you can donate through GERL. You can also donate to help with the rehab of the draft horse, Believe or any of our other programs. 100% of your donation goes to whatever you designated for. Thank you to everyone that supports GERL. You it possible for us to continue to help the unwanted, neglected, and abused horses in Georgia. We can make a difference!



In Honor of

- Rebecca Gimenez Husted for her tireless efforts to improve equine welfare by Cynthia Sprague
- Tom and Jennifer Hartig by Michael Mielke
- Lisa Sykes by Judy Gore
- Donna Pieper by Steven Horn

GERL awarded \$5K in Grant Funds in 2021:

- **Calvin Center** received \$3,000 in grant funds.
- **Warrior Ranch** with \$2,000 in grant funds.

Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South GA

Dear GERL,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the silent auction fundraiser for BCHMSG. Your support will specifically help us with our upcoming work day in the National Forest when we will be clearing fallen trees, shoring up muddy areas, caring for gravesites, and putting up several picnic tables. Our volunteer work helps the Forestry Service keep the trails open for horseback riders, hikers and other users. Having trails available to everyone to enjoy the fresh air and nature and engage in social activities outdoors is more important now than ever. Thank you again for your generous donations of the jewelry and more and for trusting us to be good stewards of the money raised.

Sincerely on behalf of our entire chapter, Blaine Lower, President 2021

**Thank
You!**



Remember Charm? She is one of two mini-horses that came into our program last year. She came in with a little black mini-horse named Huck-leberry. Both were adopted by Lauren Norman, who wrote a story about how good they are with kids in a therapeutic arena. Check out this photo of Charm sailing over this jump. Who would have guessed that these ponies would fit in so perfectly at Norman Farms?



GERL Mail Bag

Dear GERL,

My new lagoon hoodie is lovely! I am excited to own it and will wear it proudly. I appreciate your very prompt and careful shipping too.

Thank you so much,

Teresa Dobrosky
GERL Member

GDA Impound Volunteer Get-Together

by Patty Livingston

On December 18th a group of people who used to volunteer at the Georgia Department of Agriculture's equine barns got together for some festive fellowship at Hot Rods restaurant in Social Circle. It was actually the second time that the group had gotten together since the closing of the barns almost two years ago. A good time was had by everyone.



GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

February 2022

GERL Annual Meeting
Winder Lion's Club
Date to be announced
participating veterinarians.

November 2022

Stallion to Gelding Castration Month
Participating Vets Across Georgia
Check the GERL website Oct 1st for
participating veterinarians.

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time, a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

Visit our website for up to date information on events: <https://gerlltd.org>



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

As we say good-bye to 2021, I can't help but reflect on how quickly we shifted from supporting the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) with impounded equine to supporting therapeutic horses in the care of non-profits who serve our veterans and first responders. I distinctly remember someone from the GDA management team asking me "Wouldn't you like to take the money GERL spends on the impounded horses and use it for another cause?" Of course, I retorted with something negative since I was still fighting to keep the State impound barns open. Knowledge changes things.

February will be two years since the GDA closed all of their impounds and stopped picking up horses. Despite the Pandemic, it has been two of the best years of presiding over GERL that I can remember. The pressure, stress and drama are no more.

The GERL Board of Directors voted to associate and support the world of hippotherapy as it applies to our veterans. We immediately learned about the Calvin Center in Hampton. We reached out to offer our support in 2020 by paying the feed bill for all of their therapeutic horses. It wasn't until this year that we made a field trip to their facility and learned of their other needs. We came away inspired and excited to have a new focus for our passion.

Since then, we have furnished them with a zero-turn mower and a tractor with loader bucket and bush hog. We have committed to paying for a handicapped accessible flushing toilet/restroom, complete with a septic tank. Hopefully, they will be able to find someone to build it in 2022.

We discovered another thriving non-profit veteran therapeutic organization this year. Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch, Inc., located in Dublin. They applied for one of the five, \$1,000 grants that GERL was offering, which required a farm visit by Board members. My sidekick and VP, Cynthia Anderson, and I

have since made two trips to Dublin to visit with Marla and Paula, the CEO and Business Operations Mgr. for this wonderful non-profit. They have several workdays planned for 2022, starting with January 22nd. Cynthia and I attended the one hosted in December, and they had a wonderful turn-out of veteran volunteers who put in posts for a fence project. We broke bread with a lot of nice people that day and we plan to return for the next one.

Since our last visit, GERL has picked up the feed bill for the 5 horses that are in their program. We also presented them with a \$2,000 grant fund for their veteran program.

Regardless of which facility we visit, the warm reception and genuineness are always there. And, let me say this about that, if you have never had a group of grateful veterans gather together to make a video to thank you for something, you don't know what a real heartfelt thank you is all about!

It is an emotional mission that we have embarked upon, into the world of wounded warriors. I know horses, but I don't know much about their ability to reach into a person's soul and heal even the darkest of places in a person's mind. I do know that they possess that ability and I'm looking forward to working with these two organizations in the future to learn more about this fascinating world.

In closing, I have to go back to the question asked by that GDA manager two years ago "Wouldn't you like to take the money GERL spends on the impounded horses and use it for another cause?" If asked that same question today, my answer would be totally different. In fact, I might even jump up and down and hug his neck!



Dear Patty and the entire GERL Team!

On behalf of the Calvin Center Equestrian staff, our therapeutic riders and families, volunteers and all the participants of Calvin Centers Horses & Warriors Program we want to wish you and your families the happiest of holiday season!

We want to take a moment to thank you from the bottom of hearts for your amazing ongoing support of our programming. It has been no secret that 2020/2021 has been tough years for so many—and without the support of GERL –I may have not been here to write this letter.

With your financial gifts we have been able to buy grain for our 10 horses. We have been able to get our horse's teeth cared for the first time in over five years, and our barn is full of hay for the winter! Your gift of the zero turn and tractor have allowed us to get our fields mowed, weeds knocked down and manicured our grounds so our volunteers can now walk next to the horses to provide the layers of support needed to keep our riders safe. Your scholarships have provided for 8 new veterans to ride. The gift of the bathroom???? no words will ever explain that gratitude!

With these thanks I also wanted to share some of the wonderful things that have been accomplished now that we are able to see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. In addition to getting our horses cared for and our fields tended, we have serviced an amazing number of participants. This Fall alone, the Calvin Equestrian Therapeutic Riding Program serviced 119 new participants, equating to 360 service hands on equine/human hours! We did this with the help of 47 volunteers logging in over 1480 volunteer hours! Of those 119 new participants, 60 of them participated in our Horses & Warriors program.

Your kindness and support give us the opportunity to truly change lives and we are very grateful. We are grateful for what you do to help us, and we are grateful for all you do for the other equine organizations you support –in one word you all are AMAZING!

Thank you.

Warmly,

Kate



Update on Annie Oakley and Micha.

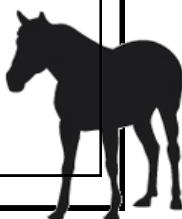
What goes up, must come down. Can you believe they came down together and in tact?

Congratulations to Micha and Annie on the one-year anniversary of their join-up!

GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:**

1266



Horses in our Foster Care Program

CeCe Calli—Foster Care Coordinator
(706) 376-2410 * foster@gerlltd.org

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
<i>Ransom</i>	28	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Cooper</i>	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Forrest</i>	3	Bay	No	CeCe Calli
<i>Jenny</i>	3	Bay	No	Angie Hammond
<i>Believe</i>	14	Roan	Yes	CeCe Calli

High Hoof



Cargill Announces new Ultra Premium Line of Horse Feeds

Cargill Feed has a new ultra-premium line of horse feed, ProElite which has now been incorporated into the SHOW program. Triple Crown POPs will also be accepted.



Please save Proof of Purchase seals from ProElite and Triple Crown and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342

Please Help!

GERL receives money for the following...

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these Southern States feeds, Legends & Reliance and Triple Crown.

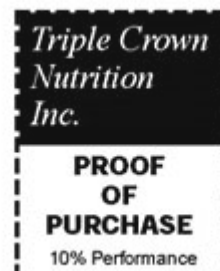
Southern States and Triple Crown Proof of Purchases (POPs) continue to trickle in. We were able to take advantage of the TC offer again this year, which is 1 \$25 VISA gift card for every 12 POPs. Thanks to our TC donors, we had enough for all 12 gift cards! Thank you, again, to our consistent donors and thank you to our newest POP donors: Rebecca Testerman, Suzanne Cottingim, A. Wester, Grace Kanavage and the Roberts on Commercial Rd. in Athens.

Please clip your Legends, Southern States, Triple Crown and ProElite POPs and send 'em my way! Let's do our part to end the suffering of many Georgia horses and put them on the path to their forever homes. Thank you for your support!

Ginny Scarritt

and send them to:

4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



Heloise Goes to Her Forever Home

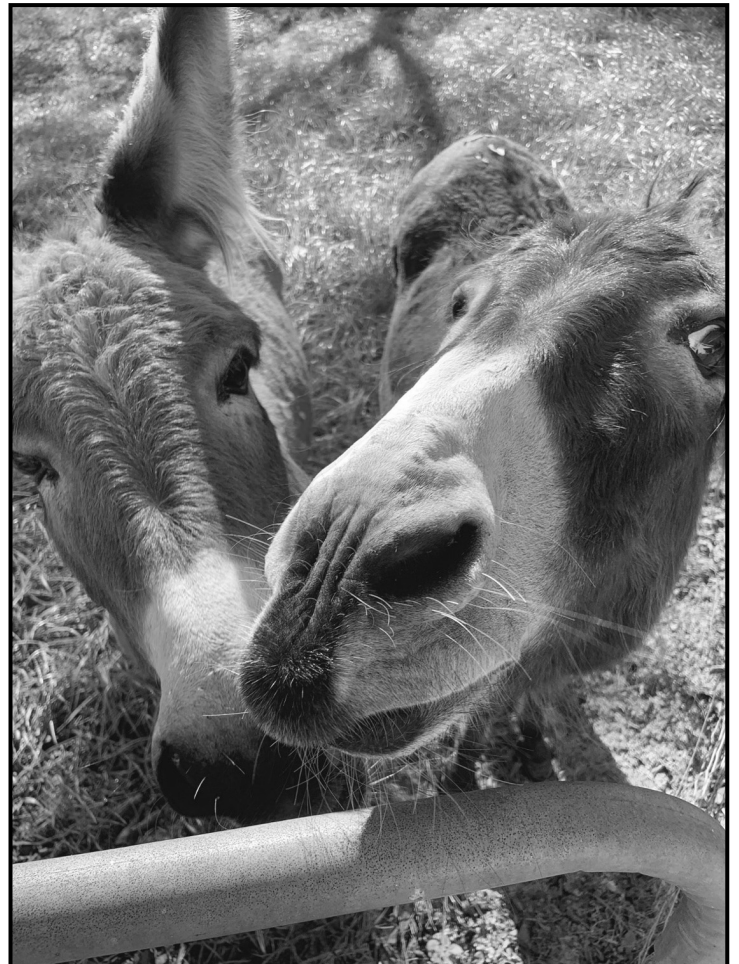
By Patty Livingston

In early October GERL accepted a draft horse and a Jenny donkey from Baldwin County into its foster program. GERL VP, Cynthia Anderson, was nice enough to pick them up and deliver them to my house. They were connected at the hip, as many equines are who live together become. Heloise was in pretty good body condition compared to her pasture mate who was akin to a skeleton.

I had previously spoken to someone who lived near me and was looking for a companion for their Jenny. I had saved his contact information in my phone, and he was the first person I called when Heloise arrived. I gave him all of the details and we set up a time for him and his wife to come over to my house and meet her.

I don't know a lot about donkeys, except for the ones that I've rescued. But I do know that they are not always nice and sweet. I had no worries about Heloise making a good impression because on the donkey scale of sweetness, she was right up there at the top. True to that thinking, they loved her and called me shortly after getting home to tell me that they wanted to adopt her. I delivered her to her new home at their small farm just 7 days later.

Heloise is now known as Rumor and has settled in nicely with Scout, their first Jenny. (Named after the characters in the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*.) I get to see them out in their pasture whenever I drive over that way, and it always makes me smile.



Heloise is now known as Rumor and she's with Scout.



Heloise eating her breakfast.

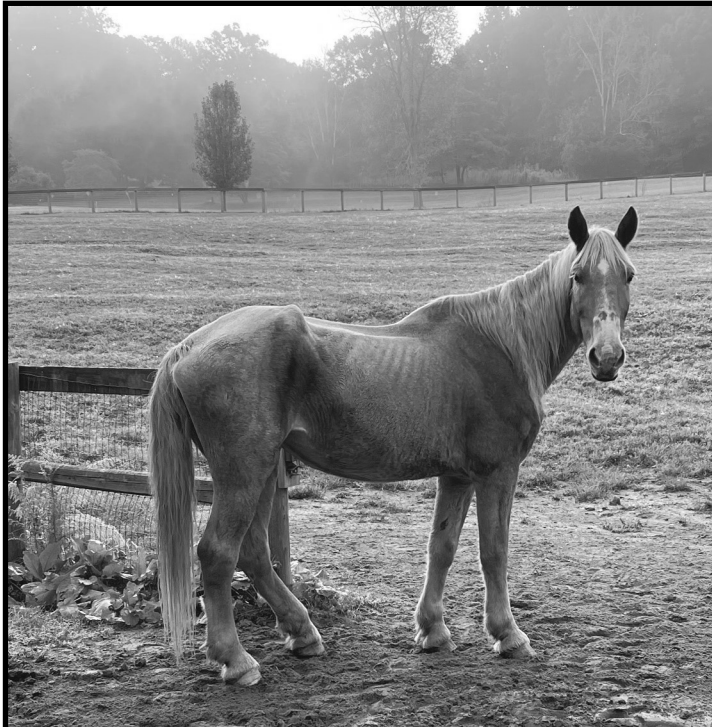


Heloise with the BIG GIRL, Believe.



Believe - Before and After

At the request of a local Animal Control agency, GERL took a 14 year old Belgium mare and 4 year old Jenny donkey into our program in early October. They were entwined in a domestic abuse situation and were not being fed by their owner. It has taken the better part of 3 months for Believe to regain her body weight. She has been under the careful watch of CeCe Calli during this time and currently has an adoption pending.



Believe on October 14th.



Believe on December 14th.



Believe and Heloise, her donkey, on Oct. 6th - Arrival Day

With *Your* Help we...*Will* Make A Difference!

Rosie Posy

By Lauren Norman

Rosie arrived at our farm in 2016 with the name Gypsy Rose. She was the 3rd mare we fostered for GERL and after we successfully adopted out the previous 2, I was happy to welcome another short-term placement. I was excited to try her out and match her off to a new forever home but through a series of events, she chose us as that forever home. While she did not show meanness towards my children, she was feisty so I assumed she would be another horse in the pasture “only mommy could ride.” Then one day my daughter, who has cerebral palsy, was standing in her walker brushing Rosie. I watched in utter amazement when she moved with noisy clinking and scraping from Rosie’s sight side to her blind side. Rosie never flinched, never snorted, never even slightly turned an ear – she simply understood that this little child was moving from one side of her to the other. In that instance I knew she had earned the role of a therapy horse at Norman Farms.

Now when you think of a traditional therapy horse you might imagine an older, slow moving, soft-eyed kind soul who is patient, willing to stand all day, tolerant of each and every pull, push, jab, and poke from a child with sensory impairments. You may see the stoic equine who suppresses the natural prey instinct to run when being approached by a variety of equipment including walkers, wheelchairs, standers, gait trainers, canes, crutches, and scooters. They probably don’t even bat an eye at any number of squeaks, groans,



squawks, shrills, and loud laughter coming from their sweet rider/patient.

Then there is Rosie – beloved among the therapy mounts at Norman Farms is the fire breathing, 1-eyed, chestnut, Arabian, mare known affectionately as Rosie Posy, Rosie Roo, or Rose Gold. She is not your typical therapy horse. As a general rule, she does not like attention in the pasture - unless of course you are one of her favored ones in which case she will walk right up to you, no treat needed, nickering happy hellos. While at the barn, she will stomp her impatient shod front feet when a rider is taking too long to groom her or tack up but if you are a petite friend with any number of assistive devices she will stand still and let you navigate around with the utmost patience.



Rosie - Beloved therapy mount at Norman Farm

Rosie is here for a reason! She is energetic. She pushes her patients to reach their goals. She has personality that they adore and subtle impairments with which they can relate. Rosie is also fearless on the trail – she is the chosen mount for my husband and other friends. She has also begun competing in endurance – winning best condition at her first ride! Lessons I’ve learned from Rosie are ongoing but I’m so happy that we gave the girl a chance and get to see her continue to blossom into a truly magnificent creature.

Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch

By Paula Smith and Marla Roche

In early 2021, two social workers were eating lunch together and discussing their goals in life. One of them, Marla Roche, LCSW, was looking for land to build her dream therapy center. She wanted it to be in Dublin, GA, where she could focus on working with veterans and first responders to help them heal from the traumas they have seen. Her goal was to incorporate equine and canine into therapy because the research showed that this type of therapy promoted healing with this population. The second social worker, Paula Smith, LCSW, had recently moved to Georgia and had horses but no place to put them. Paula had experience with equine psychotherapy and dreamed of opening a center of her own locally. On that day, Warriors Ranch went from thought to action and was established as a 501c3.

Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch, Inc. (WWRR) is situated on 18 serene acres of rolling green pastures in the heart of rural Georgia. This facility offers unique, natural, and supportive interventions for veter-

ans, first responders, and those that need a break from everyday life. The goal of WWRR is to promote hope, healing, and connection along with recovery from the wounds that keep us trapped in destructive cycles.

The staff at WWRR is composed of three clinical therapists, many peer specialists, and of course, the five mind whisperers/horses:

KT – 16-year-old Tennessee Walker

What's The Prize (AKA Essence) –14-year-old OTTB

Leaguer in the Stars (AKA Max) – 11-year-old AQHA

Hank the Tank - 11-year-old Percheron

Best Blazing Bat (AKA Tex) – 3-year-old AQHA.

Continued on page 27



Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch

By Paula Smith and Marla Roche

Continued from page 26

On any given day, you can find someone out at the Ranch working with one of these beautiful creatures in ways that help promote healing and care, and comfort.

The Ranch is supported by local volunteers' organizations that come out to do workdays. On these days, you may hear the roar of motorcycles coming down the driveway when as many as 50 combat veterans appear to help, heal, and fellowship with others who have similar experiences. This is the Ranch's goal to help curb the staggering rate of suicide among veterans and first responders. For many of these veterans gathered at the farm, finding a balance and reintegrating into civilian life can be a challenge, leaving many struggling and feeling hopeless, lost, and alone. At the Ranch, you can see burdens being lifted as veterans of all ages and all walks of life come together to tell war stories and find a common bond that many of them have been missing for so long. New friendships are formed, and bonds are created that are so strong that we have wit-

nessed veterans calling the staff at the Ranch for help for a new battle buddy that is struggling.

The ultimate goal of the Ranch is to complete our offices, build a lodge where therapy and healing can happen and crises can be handled in a safe and comfortable environment. Additionally, there are plans to add canine training with therapy dogs and a building dedicated to crafting work such as woodworking, metalworking, and other artisan crafts.

The goal of WWR is to help those that answered the call to serve others - Warriors Ranch is a judgment-free, no pressure place where one can come to be present in the moment and to leave some of their life's burdens behind - the five Amigos have pretty big shoulders, and they don't tell anyone's secrets - they're pretty good secret keepers.



Cinnamon

By Kristen Gingerich

It was a beautiful March afternoon, and I was in a hurry to get home. After the usual stops...groceries, gas station, etc., I was already behind schedule. As I drove by a farm a few blocks before my subdivision, I noticed this gorgeous horse grazing by the fence. "What a great looking horse," I thought. I hadn't lived in the neighborhood long, but I was sure I had never seen it before.

The next day it was there again, and I couldn't resist pulling over to get a closer look. I looked up at the house and didn't see anyone so got out and slowly walked toward her. It was an instant bonding. If that's even possible. She responded to my touch immediately. But I didn't want to push my luck, so I got in my truck and backed out of the drive. I glanced over my right shoulder, and I was sure she was watching me, beckoning me to come back.

I thought, wistfully, as it had always been my dream to have a horse of my own. As a teenager when my friends would dream about buying a fancy car, I dreamt of having my own horse.

The same thing happened the next day and the next. I found myself anxious to get off work and head straight to see 'my horse'. I worried what they would say and fearful they would disapprove of my boldness. Did I dare bring her treats? That might be pushing it, feeding someone else's animal.

I talked about her nonstop to my family, my friends, anyone who would listen about my new friend. A few eyebrows were raised when I described our connection and how she knows when to be at the fence when I get off work. "Horses just know these things," I insisted.

But the reality was, she wasn't mine and I was basically trespassing and becoming obsessed with someone else's pet. I needed to get permission. My biggest fear was if I asked, they may tell me no and to move on. On the other hand, maybe they would be okay with me stopping by 'now and then' to spend quality time with 'my horse'.

You can imagine my shock when I finally got the nerve

(with my mom for support) to knock on their door and introduce myself to be told she was a rescued horse, and this 'farm' was actually a HORSE RESCUE. The owner, Patty Livingston began to tell me about the organization and the work they did. But I didn't hear a word. I was still comprehending that 'my horse' did not have an actual owner. All that stressing over the possibility of the owners having me arrested for trespassing combined with the realization that I had fallen in love with a horse that had been abandoned was a lot to take in. I was slowly getting over my shock when her voice faded back in and I heard, "...so you're welcome to stop by any time to pet Cinnamon...." wait, what? Really?!

That was the beginning of our love story. Every day I couldn't wait to get off work. My mantra of "I'm off to see my horse," became, "My girl Cinnamon is waiting for me!" And sure enough, every day, there she was, at the fence waving her mane, nodding her head. And if by some chance she was up in her pasture, as soon as she saw my truck pull in, she would come trotting down to greet me. She was my girl, and I was her mama and that was that.



Continued to page 29

Cinnamon

By Kristen Gingerich

Continued from page 28

In the next days and weeks, I learned all about her foster home and the GERL organization. What a wonderful group. In her spare time Patty taught me how to work with Cinnamon. We not only were best friends, but we have become partners.

Fast forward a few months and we now have five acres where I plan to take everything Patty has taught me and set up my own farm where I plan to give Cinnamon the great life she deserves.

I thank God for meeting Patty Livingston and for making my dream a reality. She has inspired me to be a better person and gave me the chance to share that with Cinnamon and our family.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM GRAYSON

By Patty Livingston



I picked up a gray pony from Gwinnett County approximately 8 years ago at the request of the Gwinnett County Animal Control Supervisor handling the case. I named him Grayson and he was quickly adopted by the Tomaselli family for their horse-crazy daughter, Daniella. That was in February of 2013 and since that time Daniella and Grayson have done Pony Club and everything else a young girl does with a pony, I suppose. Over the years the Tomaselli's have kept me up to date with photos which I have enjoyed sharing in the newsletter. Here is their latest Christmas card featuring, none other than our favorite pony, Grayson. I never get tired of seeing photos of horses that pass through our stalls!

GERL Provides Calvin Center with Equipment

By Patty Livingston

We are so pleased to have been able to provide the good folks at the Calvin Center's Equestrian Program with some machinery to help with their yard and pasture chores! GERL purchased this Toro commercial lawn mower for them back in early October. A few weeks later, with the help of my wonderful neighbors, Ben and Kenda Petree, we delivered the GERL tractor to the equine facility at the Calvin Center. The tractor was previously located at the Mansfield Impound.

All of the folks at the Center, including the Veterans, were very grateful for the equipment. They got together and posed for a group photo for us!



Calvin Center Equine Director Kate Robbins



Kate & husband Lee pose on the tractor.



Ben & Kenda Petree with Lee Robbins



Group photo of all of the veterans and volunteers

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Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Referred by: _____

_____ I am a horse owner

_____ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

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