Vol. 7 Laramie, Wyoming HOME ON THE RANGE ANIMAL HAVEN 2023 Year-in-Review

First Annual Family Fun Fair Fundraiser

So, we got our poop in a group, literally and figuratively (which will become obvious as you read on) and held the first annual Family Fun Fair Fundraiser on October 14 at Black Fox on Welsh. We wanted to create an annual fundraising event in place of a more traditional dinner or evening out. We charged for the fair, as other fundraising events do.

Children received a tote bag for things they collected during the event, including a donkey sticker, a snack, and starter tickets for games and crafts with additional tickets available for purchase.

Educational displays and crafts stations were arranged throughout the space with people talking about what was being displayed and crafted. Animal stickers were given away at tables along with informational handouts. Another area was set up with games with participants receiving tokens to be turned in for prizes. Dusty the Donkey roamed about talking to children, reading stories, guiding crafting, and answering any questions anyone had about donkeys.

There was a lot to take in and learn about, including the following topics: Wool, Hooves/Farriers, Goats' Digestive systems, Measuring Horses in Hands, Feed & Supplements, Grooming, Microscope Exploration Station, Story Time, Coloring contest, and a very popular "Name That Poop" table. Real animal poop (enclosed in jars) from horses, donkeys, and goats was displayed for children to name. Each participant earned a sticker saying, "I KNOW MY POOP."

Folks had the opportunity to create take-home crafts including Pumpkin Decorating, Horse Hair Braiding, Felting Wool Balls, Halloween Cats, Designing Pipe Cleaner Animals (which included an Artic Fox, upon request), and Willy's Wild Balloons.

If that wasn't enough to keep folks busy, there was Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Animal Basketball, Donkey Cornhole, Animal Bingo, and Guess How Many. PHEW! We didn't forget about the adults and had Taco's el Gordo and the Soda Pit available for food and drinks.

We couldn't have done all of this without our sponsors: Black Fox on Welsh, Dooley Oil, Grand Avenue Dental Center, StagePoint Federal Credit Union, Galand Thaxton State Farm, and UniWyo Credit Union. Helping hands and artisans included Autumn, Charleigh, Cindy, Deb, Denise, Diana, Diane, Holly, Janet, Janice, John, Jonas, Kristen, Laurie, Mackenzie, Suzanne, Walt & Willie. Keep an eye out for next year's fair!

Updating Mailing List - We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email or be removed from our list, please let us know at **laramiehomeontherange@gmail.com**

Funding Partners, Projects & Volunteers

With the cost of supplements, alfalfa, maintenance, and utilities increasing, we continue to foster relationships with funding partners and donors. We participated in the state-wide WyoGives day July 12, Giving Tuesday on November 28, and received funding from the City of Laramie Community Partners Grant, First Interstate Bank Volunteer Day, the Hughes Charitable Foundation, and the Far West Donor Advised Endowment Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation to be used complete a new hay shelter this spring that will include grooming stations for visitors and volunteers.

You might have seen us out and about in the Laradise community at the Farmer's Market, City of Laramie Health Fair, After School Bash, and Thursday Nite Bingo at Bond's. All of these efforts help to keep HORAH afloat.

Cathedral Home came out to help five times this summer. They made a goat runway for better access to grass, turned a leaky trough into a raised garden, installed three gates, and painted the goat playground.

UW Pharmacy students helped shore up a section of fencing with help from the donkeys. Then the animals got to bask in the glow of their generosity.

The goat playground got a new carpet thanks to Shay, Kyler and Treysen.

First Interstate Bank employees installed two new gates in the paddocks and enclosed a loafing shed to keep the cold Wyoming winds out and the warmth in for the equines.

Our tride & true volunteers are an instrumental part of the day-to-day operations at Home On The Range. Wade is always ready to help with anything. Thanks toAnia, Brian, and Eva, who faithfully keep the barnyard and paddocks clean of manure - even on Christmas Eve day and our yearly hay donor. You all are amazing!

Jonas Slonaker held an art show at Night Herring Books & Coffeehouse. Part of the proceeds from sales were donated to HORAH.

The Annual Summer Fun Raffle lucky winners Noah Hamontree, Tamra Morgan, Matt Munford, Janet Stansbury, and Bernard Steinman shared over $5,000 worth of prizes! Thanks to these Laramie businesses that donated prizes and merchandise: 2nd Street Deli • Accomplice Beer Company Ace Hardware • Alibi Wood Fire Pizza • Altitude Chophouse and Brewery • Altitude Fitness Atmosphere's Mountainworks • Base Camp • Big Dipper • Big Hollow Food Coop Bloedorn Lumber • Blooming Lemon • Bond's Brewing • Born in a Barn • Butcher Block Chocolate Cellar • CrossFit 7220 • Crowbar & Grill • Dynamic Endeavors Photography • Elevations Dog Daycare & Pet Resort Gallery West & The Frame Plant • Grounds Internet & Coffee Lounge • Hydro Hounds • Jacoby Golf Course • The Knot Hole Laramie Main Street • Library Sports Grille & Brewery • Lovejoy's Bar & Grill • Murdoch's • Planet Fitness • Relative Theatrics Rib & Chop House • Rockin' E Dog Training • Spine &Injury Clinic of Laramie • Sporty Chic • Sportmans' Warehouse Sugar Mouse • Sweet Melissa Café • The Pedal & Paddle Houses • The Still • UW Athletics • Walmart • West Laramie Fly Store • Windmill Hill Green House • Windy City Pet

In Memoriam

Simon the donkey passed away in the first part of 2023. He was 37 years old. Originally a Bureau of Land Management donkey who had trouble finding a forever home after he was rounded up, he found Home On the Range and ended up a real crowd-pleaser.
He was front and center when people came to visit and everybody who came remembers Simon. He was funny and had a gift for making people smile and laugh. You are so missed.

Sophie the goat passed away as the weather started getting cooler this year. She never liked the cold. She was the sweetest being ever. Sophie loved to be petted and was so endearing, especially with children. Sophie lived at Home On the Range since the Summer of 2011 and was at least 16 years old when she passed. Sixteen years is a long life for a goat and she spent it giving and receiving love. Thank you, Sophie, for sharing your life with us.

Updates Remember Bambi? The skinny Nubian goat that came in August of 2022 and couldn't walk or even turn over on his own? You should see Bambi now. We re-habbed him and got him up and walking. He's got a little hitch in his get along, but he runs and plays "butt!" with the other goats. He's got a beautiful thick coat and loves a little massage a couple of times a day.

Remember Dolly? She is a Suffolk sheep with a black face and legs. She came with the name Diva and was living up to both definitions of the name. Well, she got a new name and needed to learn how to be a good girl. When we turned her in with the goats and Peebs the sheep, she butted the goats over and chased Peebs. (Bambi was always in his stand so she couldn't topple him.) With some work on a long line, she learned NOT to chase Peebs and butt the goats. When it came time for her and Bambi to coexist, to our surprise, Dolly nurtured Bambi like he was her lamb. She has made an amazing turnaround in her personality over the past year and is now a peaceful soul.

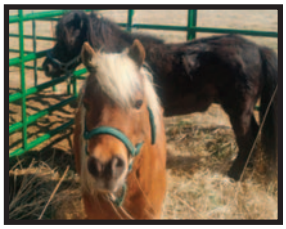
New Arrivals Arthur and Percy are Nubian goats who added some young blood into the mix. They began their life as goat tying goats. Goat tying is an event where the goat is tied to a rope, so it can't flee. A rider approaches on a horse at great speed and comes to a sliding stop before the tied goat. The rider jumps off, throws the goat — oftentimes with a lot of force — on its side, and ties 3 legs together with a rope. The person throws their hands into the air to signal complete (it's a timed event). The goat must stay tied for six seconds after the contestant has backed away from the animal. It's usually younger people who compete. At some point, the goats get too big/difficult for the person to throw and so the goats are discarded. As a result, very abruptly Percy and Arthur needed a home, or else they were going to auction (which isn't a good thing). They came to Home On the Range instead.

They were apprehensive at first, but after two days of being on the opposite side of a fence from the others, they were turned out. Both had the zoomies for about 45 minutes while the other goats and sheep looked on in disbelief. After a little bit of coaching on manners, they have become an integral part of the family. They revel when children come to run and play with them and connect so well.

Side note: Bambi decided he wanted to become part of the legend and wanted to be called Lancelot. After some negotiation, we agreed that Bambi would have a middle name, so it's Bambi Lance.

Why We Do What We Do

You may ask yourself, "Why does Home On The Range do what they do?" For the past twelve years, we've taken in abused, neglected, and abandoned farm animals, suffering from both physical and emotional symptoms, who are in need of special support. Through physical, emotional, and social support, we see the animals that come to us transformed. But the transformation also occurs in the people who interact with them. These are some of their stories and why we do what we do.



Husker the pony's back hooves had collapsed and he was walking on the sides of them, leaving him with crooked legs and a limp. The farrier propped his back hooves into an upright position using poly material. Daily visits by the farrier for both Husker and Moonlight — who came from the same place — finally turned into weekly visits. Currently, both are on the regular farrier schedule with the other equines. Husker needs an extra visit occasionally but is walking upright on all four hooves.

Bandit the goat arrived terrified of people. Over time he learned to trust with special help from his friend at Ark Regional Services who gave him the nickname Grandpa because he has a goatee.

Nellie was a very frightened little pony at first. She spent quiet time with people being close and learned that humans aren't as scary as she thought. Her best friend, Dox the horse, who gets a special mash twice a day, lets her join him when he dines to show her that people can offer up some pretty tasty goods.

Bambi the goat was very skinny and unable to stand or even roll from side to side. A year later, with good nutrition and physical rehabilitation, he runs, plays, and loves to entertain the people who come to visit.

Several older animals are getting proper food and additional supplements helping them live a good life with lots of caring attention. The list goes on….

And then there's the people:

A little five-year-old boy came with a group of children that needed some emotional support. He started out afraid but gathered his strength and learned to interact with the animals. At the end of the day, he ran up and grabbed Deb's hand as they were walking back through the barnyard. As they walked by the goats, he looked up and said, "Those goats like me." Walking by a horse, he said, "That horse likes me." And as he passed the donkeys that he was initially afraid to touch he added, "Those donkeys like me," to which Deb replied, "That's good." Then he looked up and said, "People don't like me, but these animals do."

An adolescent girl whose summer camp counselor said she hadn't smiled all summer connected with Hercules, a sometimes-contrary donkey. She opened up and started talking to Hercules and laughing with him. At the end of the visit, the counselor asked the group what they had learned on their visit to Home On the Range. The young girl said, "I learned that even though these donkeys come from bad places, they're still good donkeys, just like people."

A three-year-old boy with autism just wanted to cuddle with Thomas the turkey. His mother was in tears because she said she had never heard him say so many words before.

Then there's the very up-tight and stressed-out University student who comes out to groom the animals and transforms into a vision of blissful serenity as she becomes one with Jesse the horse.

Former Cathedral Home residents who volunteered to feel a sense of worth, who are now out on their own, write to their group leaders asking how the animals are doing.

So, we do what we do because our work helps all of us. Animals draw you into a collective center of kindness, peace, joy, empathy, love, and support—a center that guides people into a more caring and emotionally productive life, a life worth living, and a life that inspires others to find their collective center. And so, we take care of animals who then take care of people. At HORAH, we hope this collective center, which includes the animals, will grow and prevail.

These transformations happen with a lot of hard work and financial output. Over a year, expenses total approximately $46,000, including $12,000 for leased land; $20,000 for feed and nutritional supplements; $4,000 for farrier and vet care; $5,500 for barnyard maintenance; and $4,500 for utilities and administrative expenses. Please see inside for more information on how you can become a sustaining or one-time donor to help with these costs. Your support helps us provide a safe forever home, cultivate current collaborations, embrace future partnerships, and expand our healing connections within the community.

How You Can Support Home On The Range

Send a check:

Home On The Range P.O. Box 1674 Laramie, WY 82073

Donate on our website:

https://www.laramiehomeontherange.org

click on the DONATE button

Pick an item from our Amazon wishlist:

https://tinyurl.com/HORAH-Amazon

Buy a shirt, hoodie or tote bag:

www.bonfire.com/store/horah-holiday/

Visit us on Venmo:

Deb Roberts @LaramieHomeOnTheRange

Volunteer or join our mailing list: LaramieHomeontheRange@gmail.com

Visit our Website: www.laramiehomeontherange.org

Follow Us on Facebook: LaramieHomeontheRange

Call: Deb 307-760-0534 or Pam 307-760-4753

Donations, grants and fundraisers help pay for the following:

- Monthly lease payment ($1,000)
- Yearly utilities and administrtative expenses ($4,500)
- Monthly Feed (in addition to hay donation) *alfalfa for goats and sheep, cat food, supplements, and pellets & beet pulp for older equines* ($1,650)
- Yearly Farrier work for 15 equines and veterinary care/supplies ($4,000)
- Barnyard maintenance/fencing materials/miscellaneous necessities including feed pans, troughs, halters, heaters, etc. ($5,500)

Photo Contest Winner

Thanks to Holly for snapping this photo bomb by Chester.