



Chris Harris



Kiki and Chris

The Turtle Valley Volunteer-Powered Donkey Refuge

From left: Gerrit, Kaatje, and Franny

Most of us have participated in a local charity event or visited a nonprofit facility.

If you visited the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge in Chase, BC, you hugged and petted several of our donkeys and mules. The fact that they were willing to interact with you pays homage to the commitment and patient care of the “volunteer” humans who love and respect them.

In their earlier lives, many of our donkeys have suffered at the hands of humans. A visit to the Refuge gives you an opportunity to experience the joy of being part of a story of love and commitment to donkeys, in a beautiful and appropriate setting.

Volunteers Rock!!!

Behind our serene setting and the friendly, well-cared-for donkeys who have been given a second chance at a safe, healthy, and loving permanent home is a dedicated team of volunteers such as the person who greeted you and the lucky individuals in the paddocks, brushing and hugging donkeys.

If you were here for a special event such as the Annual Pancake Breakfast each September, you were greeted, guided, fed, and entertained by volunteers.

Many of the beautiful items in the Donkey Shoppe were made and donated by volunteers. If you were here for a special event such as the Annual Pancake Breakfast each September, you were greeted, guided, fed, and entertained by volunteers.

All the individuals on our management team are full-time volunteers. During the summer, a team of special needs adults donates time once a week to dust rails in the barns and care for our gardens and flower planters. We are most definitely volunteer-powered!

Doing a Good Thing Requires Ongoing Financial Support

What you do not see is the large-animal veterinarian who has been called in to care for a sick or injured donkey. And the farrier who comes

every week to trim 10 sets of hooves and provide relief for chronic hoof pain. And the equine dentist who attends for regular annual dental care or an emergency issue.

Before you arrived in the morning, a small team of hardworking barn staff members cleaned the barns and paddocks, replenished the shavings, performed minor repairs as needed, and moved hay. The animal health-care staff member did the herd health-checks, cleaned hooves and eyes and ears, rewrapped abscesses, and treated skin issues and minor injuries. She prepared and shared the special feed required for donkeys who are ill or cannot chew hay properly due to age or missing teeth. She gave the donkeys their breakfast of hay, let them into the pasture for a romp, and herded them back into their paddocks.

Our donkey family consumes over 10 large square bales of the mandatory good-quality grass hay (no grains or alfalfa) each day. Typical farm expenses include utilities, property taxes, insurance, property and equipment maintenance, and repairs.

On their behalf, our Volunteer Management Team works tirelessly to be sure we have the funds to cover current expenditures and funds that will sustain us far into the future. We appreciate the support we receive from visitors to our facility, our website, and our Facebook page.

About 80 per cent of our funds come from caring, generous donors who share our commitment to make the world a better place by advocating and providing the funds to care for these glorious beasts of burden who have been abused, misused, and misrepresented throughout history.

In dollar terms, our current budget is \$350,000 of which \$280,000 must come from charitable giving. Capital projects such as a second well to provide irrigation to our pastures and reduce hay costs are funded through Special Campaigns. We provide charitable tax receipts for all financial and in-kind donations and stay in touch with our donors via semi-annual printed newsletters and our monthly eBRAY online newsletter.



Steve the miniature donkey

Planned Giving Ensures Our Future

Our youngest donkey is sweet miniature Steve, only 2 years old. This healthy young fellow could live to be 50. Even if we closed our doors to new rescues—which we could not and would not do, our charity must continue for another 48 years to give Steve the safe and healthy forever home we promised him when he arrived into our care.



George

**Hug a donkey.
Your heart will be happy!**

We have been blessed to receive a growing number of planned giving annual or one-time donations through endowments and as beneficiaries in Wills and estate planning. We have received transfers of publicly traded securities that have resulted in significant tax savings for our donors. Those amazing folks are creating their legacy and making sure their chosen causes receive their continued support. Their generosity ensures we will be able to continue our mission well into the future.

We are grateful for our volunteers and to those who have included us in their charitable giving commitment. We work hard to meet and beat their expectations by providing our rescued donkeys with the love and care they have rightfully earned through centuries of service to mankind. To know a donkey is to love a donkey! Our 2019 calendar is ready.

As we always say, hug a donkey. It will make your heart happy! ▲

Chris Harris is a volunteer and Board member at Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge.