

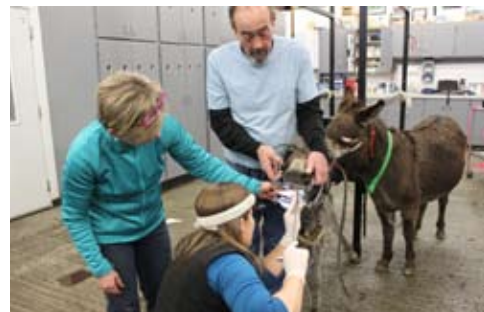
## Our donor programs and how the money supports the donkeys and mules

**Buy-A-Bale Donor Program** provides the funds to buy good quality hay to feed the donkeys year round. We need at least 6000 bales per year at an average of \$10 per bale for a total of \$60,000. 2016 donations reached almost \$25,000. The Buy-A-Bale Program is an easy, affordable way to make a donation to the care of the donkeys and can even be purchased through the BrayVe Hearts Monthly Donor Program. Our goal: \$60,000 per year.



Some donors prefer to make a donation to "where ever it is needed most" through our **General Donation Program**. Donations can include the transfer of publicly traded shares. Our goal: \$50,000 per year.

**The Planned Giving Program** allows for a gift to the Refuge through a supporters Last Will and Testament. This generous act gives us the comfort of knowing that the good works of the Refuge will continue far into the future.



**BrayVe Hearts Monthly Donor Program** provides the money to cover the cost of keeping the Refuge barns, buildings and grounds safe and secure for the donkeys. This includes the cost of our barn upkeep staff, maintenance, utilities, and equipment upkeep. In 2016 our automatic monthly donation program brought in about \$2,500 per month. We need \$8,000 per month. We only need 550 new people donating just \$10 monthly. Our goal: \$96,000 per year.



**Donkey Sponsorship Donor Program** provides the funds for our veterinarian, equine dental, and farrier costs as well as the annual vaccinations and medications the donkeys require. It also covers the salary of our animal health care staff member who provides daily health checks on all donkeys, gives special medications and first aid care to donkeys who are injured or ill or have chronic health issues and provides behavioural training. The annual cost for these expenses averages about \$950 per donkey or mule, the equivalent of 19 sponsorships. At present our sponsorships fall short of this target. Donkey sponsorships make great gifts and at only \$50 are a wonderful way to show how much you care for these often forgotten creatures. Our goal: \$95,000 per year.

**Adult, Youth and Lifetime Membership Program** provides free admission (except for special events) to the Refuge during open days for the duration of the membership and gives the member the opportunity to participate in the Annual General Meeting. Membership fees do not qualify for a tax receipt. We want to double our membership to 250 members. Our goal: \$5,000 per year.

**We also have a wonderful on-line Donkey Shoppe and fundraising celebrations several times per year to help with unanticipated costs.**

**"How do you intend to make this happen?" you may ask....**

The founders, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers will take every opportunity to make the "Donkey Refuge Experience" delightful whether it be through storytelling and tours, interaction with the donkeys or just well presented information about our Refuge and the important work that we do on behalf of our beloved long-ears. Whether our supporters visit our website, follow us on facebook, subscribe to the eBray online bulletin, visit us at the Refuge during our open season and special celebrations, or drop over when we are "on the road" they will know that by providing financial support for our mission **our donors are doing something very important and that they are appreciated beyond words.**



## Winter Newsletter 2016/17

Stay in touch!



**Detailed driving directions on our website!**  
7877 Skimikin Road, Chase, BC V0E 1M1  
Phone: 250-679-2778  
E-mail: donkeyrefuge@gmail.com  
website: www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com  
www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.blogspot.ca



Banjo

It is with heartfelt thanks and overwhelming joy we celebrate as our dreams become our reality. Our beloved donkeys are together in their forever home thanks to the unwavering commitment of the Refuge Founders, Shirley and Rob, the steadfast generosity of our supporters and a lot of donkey magic. This issue of our Refuge Newsletter is dedicated to the donors who provide the means for us to carry on our mission to rescue, provide a safe and loving permanent home, and advocate on behalf of donkeys and mules who have been abandoned, abused, neglected or can no longer be cared for by their loving humans. Each and every one of you make this world a much better place.

## Visit our Store!

- Calendars
- Christmas Cards
- Bags
- Books
- T-Shirts
- Jewellery
- and more



## Please Donate Today!

- Assist with Donkey Care.  
I wish to Sponsor a Donkey (\$50/Year)  
Donkey Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Become a Refuge Society Member  
**Adult** (\$25/Year) **Youth** (\$15/Year) **Lifetime** (\$250)
- Become a Bray-ve Heart Monthly Donor  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_/month (\$20/month minimum)
- Please Accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to support the care of the Donkeys.

### Payment Options:

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to:  
(Including post-dates for Bray-ve Heart)  
Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Society
- Please Charge my Visa / Mastercard  
# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please also note that you can donate Online at**  
[www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)  
**or by calling Shirley directly at 250.679.2778.**

### Contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail this form to:

7877 SKIMIKIN ROAD, CHASE BC, VOE 1M1

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Shirley Mainprize

On Christmas Eve nineteen years ago two little donkeys Sara and Hannah were rescued by a gentleman who wanted to save them from any further suffering. Both Sara and Hannah had endured unspeakable neglect. Hannah only lived one year and Little Sara went on to be one of our very important Ambassadors for the Donkey Refuge. Hannah and Sara found a very special place



Sara

in our hearts and they were the catalysts for the beginnings of the Donkey Refuge.

Life is a journey and the resident donkeys at the Refuge have all travelled their own personal road that has led them to live out their lives at the Donkey Refuge.

In the last 19 years we have all been working on the dream to provide the Donkeys with a home where they will enjoy safety, clean hay, a warm barn and consistent care and love. This journey has not always been easy but it has always been very rewarding and now Our Dream has truly come to life.

In 2014 the Charity purchased its first farm. This farm was the perfect home for the donkeys but we needed to build barns, put in paddocks and fence the pastures. Water and power had to be installed in each barn so the donkeys could enjoy warm drinking water in the winter. Fences had to be built so that the donkeys could be kept safe from predators and areas needed to be provided for the comfort of our visitors.

We are happy to announce that the second and third barns are now finished and the remaining 28 donkeys and mules are now moved over and enjoying their new forever home. All of the monies that have been spent on the building of the Donkey Refuge has been provided by you, our very loyal donors. You have heard the donkeys' stories

and you have agreed to help these donkeys live out their lives in a place they could call home. We could not have built this dream for the donkeys without your help and words cannot express the depth of our gratitude.

We are not finished with the work but we are confident we can continue to provide more comfort for the donkeys as they age. Barn number three will have the Infirmary which will be set up as money is raised for the purchase of equipment but for now the building is constructed.

New and exciting programs can now be developed which will give the visitors to the Refuge a chance to engage with the donkeys. This winter we will be applying for grant monies to assist with the costs of making the farm wheelchair accessible, installing regular washrooms, perhaps a gazebo picnic area for group visits, a hot water tank in the barn for the Veterinary and Dental work and something as simple as planting trees for shade. The list goes on and on but the work will be accomplished because of our love for the donkeys and with the help from folks like you who care about these most wonderful, loving and deserving long ears.

Thank you for Caring.

Happy Holidays Everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in 2017 for another exciting year at the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge.

*Shirley*

**THESE ARE OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS AND THEIR STORIES . . . Abbey, Mocha, Siska, Marco, Nick and Rita (named after their arrival)**

**Then:**  
In November 2015 5 donkeys and one mule arrived from a meat pen in the Prairies. They were just a few of many, many equines that were slated to be sold at auction....a few to kindly persons as pets but too many to meat buyers to be slaughtered for food. We knew only that without our intervention they would all meet a sad and likely painful ending. We advanced purchase funds to our solicitor who purchased and arranged transport of the donkeys and the mule. They were then transported here to the Refuge to begin a new life. We knew very little of their histories. Only that the two mammoths had lived together, that there was a mother and a young son, and that there was another stud and a mule.

The lone mini stud was going directly to a foster farm and the others would stay with us. We would keep the Mom and Son together. The fellow who transported them to us unloaded the Mom and Son and left the solo stud in the trailer to go directly to the foster farm. He kicked up such a fuss surprising us as he was supposedly not "attached" to any of the other rescues.

**Now:**  
**Abbey and Mocha**, the two mammoths are well adjusted and healthy. Mocha, the chocolate brown jenny is a bit more shy than her friend Abbey but both easily adapted to life at the Refuge, a sign that although they were purchased from the kill pen, they had been fairly treated in their "before" lives.



Abbey and Mocha

Soon after Mom, **Siska**, arrived we noticed a large amount of discharge from an injury on her face and from her nostrils. She had a huge "dent" in her upper muzzle and subsequent examination by the veterinarian confirmed that she had been hit with a bat or a pipe...hard enough to break the bone. She was diagnosed with a fractured skull. She received surgery to repair the break but continued to suffer with an infection on her muzzle. After several courses of antibiotics she is doing well. After a beating like that it is hard to believe how trusting she is of humans.

Contrary to what we were told when they were delivered, **Marco** is not Siska's son. **Nick**, the little fellow that made such a fuss, is Siska's son. No wonder he was so upset. He was only 8 months old and was separated from his Mommy.

Nick is happy and healthy at his foster home.

**Rita**, the jenny mule is still suffering from the trauma of her past life. In the 12 months she has been in our care, we have not been able to touch her. Jeanette, our animal health care worker spends time with her every day and has managed to come within a hands length. Something horrific happened to Rita and it frightened her so badly that we have not yet been able to earn her trust. We have not given up though and know that one day she will let down her guard and we will be able to show her the love that she so deserves.



Nick



Siska



Rita



Marco

**Diego**, a standard jack donkey, and his buddy **Banjo**, a mini jack donkey were surrendered to the Refuge. Their human was no longer able to care for them. They are sweet boys and fit into their new herd right away.



Steve aka Stevie "Wonder"



Banjo and Diego

We were contacted by a dog pound in the Lower Mainland who had ended up with a mini donkey stud and could not care for him. As soon as **Steve** arrived he was gelded. Once he heals from his surgery he can join the mini herd. He is already "chatting" with his soon to be mates. We think there will be a short period of "positioning" as the herd sorts out who is the alpha male.

**Welcome NEWCOMERS by sponsoring them...help with their rehabilitation**

**SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS FOR CAPITAL COSTS**

**Phase Two Barn Campaign** will allow us to repay the generosity of Rob and Shirley who have kindly advanced the money for the construction of the Phase Two barn and infirmary and a portion of the cost of the George Barn. The details of this campaign will be released in the next two months but if you want to "jump the line" and donate sooner, we will be happy for your support.  
Total needed: \$130,000. Fund so far: \$10,000.



**Infirmary Campaign** will allow us to modify a portion of the Phase Two Barn to accommodate a well equipped "field hospital" for the donkeys and mules. The infirmary will be equipped to accommodate minor surgeries and dental procedures as well as provide a quiet, safe area for donkeys that are injured or ill to recuperate.  
Total needed: \$60,000. Fund so far: \$5,000.

*"If you build it, they will come"*  
~ Shoeless Joe by W. P. Kinsella

**Treasurer's Report written by Chris Harris**

The Treasurer's Report is meant to be all about the important numbers for the Refuge. So here they are: **95 donkeys, 5 mules, 1 hinny, 3 miniature ponies and 2 goats**

I know this may seem a bit cheeky but, in truth, everything that happens at the Refuge...financially, physically, mentally and socially... revolves around these numbers.

When I started volunteering at the Refuge in 2011 there were 24 rescued donkeys in our care. The budget was small, Rob and Shirley footed the bill for the modifications to their property on Ptarmigan to accommodate the donkeys, the equipment belonged to them and they personally covered many (most) of the Refuge costs. Their passion for the donkeys was immediately evident and that has never changed.

Fast forward to 2014 when we reached capacity at the "old Refuge" and knew that we had to find a new home for the Refuge and its donkeys. We were a small charity with huge responsibilities for wonderful LIVING creatures that would need our care for longer than the present caretakers would be able to commit to providing. Depending on the generosity of Rob and Shirley was just no longer an option. We had a fairly consistent donor base that we would work hard to maintain and grow, our summer visitor numbers were growing each year and our donor programs were attracting support.

Here we are just over two years later in our new home with ALL of our residents together again. **Phase One of the Barn Complex** is complete and paid for entirely with donor dollars. **The George Barn** and pasture is complete, paid for in part by a few "George Fans" and a generous loan from Rob and Shirley that must be repaid. **Phase Two of the Barn Complex** will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter and all the don-

keys will be reunited. It was constructed in record time as we needed to move the last herd from the old Refuge. Again, the funds came from a private source and must be repaid.

So where do we go from here? How do we encourage our current and future donors to maintain or increase their support? Do our current donor programs provide information to help our supporters decide how they want their donor dollars to be spent? **How do we ask them to support special projects like the Phase Two Barn Campaign and the Infirmary Campaign without diverting regular donkey care dollars that they are already donating?**



*Donkeys Suffer In Silence.  
Not all scars show. Not all wounds heal.  
Not all illnesses can be seen.  
Not all pain is obvious.  
Therein lies our challenge.*

**Economic Downturn Widens Scope of Rescue Scenarios**