



## 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 25, 2013

Dear Valued Friends and Supporters,

As we approach the end of 2013, we are grateful for the many supporters of Blue Rose Ranch. This has been a great year for our organization. We have maximized operational efficiency in many areas, increased awareness of the needs and innovative solutions for our horse rescue industry, and have found great, forever homes for many horses. We would like to recognize two new Foundations who have supported our work this fall: The Build-a-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation and The Alice Jenkins Foundation.

### **Foundations and Blue Rose Ranch:**

Grants we receive from Foundations help Blue Rose Ranch with capital projects and program operating support. This past year, we were able to employ several additional horse trainers through grant funding from the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance. Trained horses are more adoptable, thus training helps us prepare horses for forever homes. Funding from the Southern Colorado Community Foundation was utilized in our youth programs, specifically directed toward leadership development. Our internship horse training program and youth horse camp benefited from this grant. The Animal Assistance Foundation granted funds to build shelters and corrals on our Canyon Ranch facility. The horses rotated to the Canyon Ranch for pasture time now have a great, safe home base. The Build-a-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation granted funds to purchase hay. These funds are greatly appreciated because the drought in our region still impacts the price and availability of hay. The Alice Jenkins Foundation granted funds to purchase an automatic water system for the main corrals. This will save in energy costs while keeping water flowing during winter months, and it will also conserve water.

### **Realities of Country Life:**

John piloted this popular feature in our last newsletter, discussing the Hobby Farm movement and the challenges of locating in rural areas. Blue Rose Ranch has benefited in many ways with our location and acreage, but not without challenge!

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

In this final mailing of 2013, I would like to draw your focus to a large and often underestimated part of any ranch operation, maintenance. We have, by Baca County, CO standards, a small operation. Yet we operate and maintain hundreds of acres and miles of fences that include: 5 metered electrical systems, 4 wells, 2 septic systems, 10 motorized vehicles, 6 trailers, 6 locations where water crosses fence lines (gaps), 13 corrals, 19 out-buildings, a shop and a large ranch house. We use 4 sets of tools, 2 welders, a cutting torch, a mobile generator, augers, chain saws, 3 mowers, more power tools than you can count, 4 ceiling high racks of spare and replacement parts, piles of replacement fence

posts, horse panels and pipe, wire and, on and on, not to mention; ladders, paint, and it seems like 1 million light bulbs, many of which are on top of telephone poles. The time and cost of maintenance took us by surprise. We do virtually all maintenance and repairs ourselves except for large welding jobs and sophisticated repairs on engines. When people consider moving to a rural ranch/farm life, even a small one; One needs to take seriously into account the cost and time involved with maintenance and whether one has the skill sets and help required to take on that work load. On a ranch the work is never done – and that’s just the maintenance.

***Cheryl adds:***

When we moved to the ranch, I envisioned the bulk of our time being spent working with horses. Maintenance is a priority for the safety of the horses, and to keep the ranch operation running efficiently. Just one example from John’s list: fence line gaps. Fence line gaps are those fence areas across creek beds that usually separate property. When there is a heavy rain or flood, or when wind pushes mounds of tumbleweeds, the fence line is down - sometimes for a mile. The result: the neighbor’s cows are on our property and the horses on theirs. Time to resort the animals and rebuild the fence!

**Horse News:** Blue Rose Ranch, Horse Rescue and **ADOPTION!** We have found wonderful homes for many of our beloved horses the past few months. Many of you who have visited the ranch had opportunity to ride our strawberry roan mare named Belle. Belle has been adopted to a family outside of Colorado Springs, where she will continue her work as a reliable steed, and as a companion to another horse. Belle has had a bit of adjustment after living on the prairie and running in horse herds. She now has her own indoor corral, turn out acreage to play with her new friend, and a family that brushes her and dotes on her daily. Max has gone to college, and has been adopted by a young lady in the horse program at Lamar Community College. Max is thriving in his new job and under the love of his new owner. Tigger and Brandi have moved to Columbus, GA. Our good friends and long time volunteers at Blue Rose Ranch, Lesley and Anton, relocated to Georgia. They were very happy to officially adopt Brandi and Tigger, and to have their horses arrive back east. Tigger and Brandi are now becoming expert “forest” trail horses. Samson has moved to the upper west side, and is living at the top of a mountain along the front range. He was adopted by the manager of a very fancy horse stable, and Samson now has a private stall and run, turnout areas with new friends, and great adventure opportunities. He is adored by his new owner and will want for nothing. Shilo has moved to Oklahoma for special training under Ramsye, the young lady who trained horses at Blue Rose Ranch in 2012. She is an incredible horse trainer who loves horses. Ramsye and her new husband, Stetson, are nationally ranked team ropers. They are well able to help Shilo become a great horse. Shilo could end up at the rodeo nationals someday!

The newest arrivals to the horse rescue are Cork and Cabo. These two Paso Fino horses are finally under our protection and owned by Blue Rose Ranch. They first came to us a year ago after being confiscated by the sheriff due to neglect. The courts returned these horses to their previous owner, who after a year of moving the horses around determined she could not feed and care for them. These horses came back to us underweight and

fearful. Cork and Cabo have gained weight and are being gentled and trained. They are very intelligent and quite an entertaining pair.

**Youth and Kids:** Blue Rose Ranch would like to announce the promotion of Elizabeth Walker to the position of “Youth Director of Horse Operations”. Elizabeth has been volunteering at the horse rescue for several years, and is currently a junior at Springfield High School. She has “grown up” quicker than any of us would like, and has a deep love and concern for the horses under our care. Her leadership of the youth programs and assistance with the horse operations is very valuable. She oversees the ongoing riding sessions at the ranch, pairing young volunteer riders to horses so that both the riders and the horses improve their skills.

**Thanks to our supporters:**

Some of you might have interest in supporting Blue Rose Ranch by fostering a horse. We currently have several horses foster-parented at the ranch. Foster parents choose a horse that becomes “their horse”. The horse lives at Blue Rose Ranch, and you enjoy special ownership from wherever you live. And of course, when you come to visit, you can spend hours with “your” horse. Foster parents contribute \$125.00 each month to care for their horse. Please contact us to learn more about this program.

Our ability to care for unwanted horses is only possible because of donations and the volunteer work of our supporters. As the end of the year approaches, please consider a tax-deductible gift to Blue Rose Ranch, Inc. There are several avenues to make a contribution. You can send a check directly to the ranch. You can contribute online through our website. Blue Rose Ranch, Inc. is also participating in “Colorado Gives Day”, where one can contribute online via the website, [www.ColoradoGives.org](http://www.ColoradoGives.org). If you live in the Denver area, you will start seeing advertisements for Colorado Gives Day, which is Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> this year. All contributions made to Blue Rose Ranch on December 10th, and actually any other day via the Colorado Gives website will come to the horse rescue.

Finally, we would like to remind you that you can follow the horses and happenings of Blue Rose Ranch on our facebook page. Michelle Ivanoff creates and maintains this outreach for us. Her talent and time are greatly valued and appreciated.  
Thanks Michelle!

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

Sincerely,

John and Cheryl Webb  
Executive Directors