

# PROJECT Spirit Equine Rescue & Rehab



Welcome to the inaugural issue of **Project Spirit's Rescue Diaries**; The quarterly newsletter from Project Spirit Equine Rescue and Rehab; a non-profit rescue organization based in Chiloquin, OR. We're on Facebook and on the web <http://www.projectspirit.org>.

**Mission Statement:** Project Spirit is a 100% donor financed 501(c)3 charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to finding homes for abandoned, neglected, and abused horses in Oregon. We are focused on rescue, rehabilitation, training and placement of every horse we bring into our organization. The goal for all Project Spirit horses is adoption to good homes.

## **Big Changes for Project Spirit**

The first quarter of 2017 brought some momentous changes for Project Spirit locally and regionally. Our founders Chuck and Nadine Hoy retired after 25+ years working in horse rescue in the Klamath Basin and turned the rescue over to Director Connie Willard. We've ended our association with the Klamath Humane Society Large Animal Division and no longer lease their facility on Miller Island Rd. in Klamath Falls. We have moved the base of operations from Klamath Falls and Keno to Chiloquin, OR.

Read this story in the Klamath Herald and News about the new facility.

[http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/project-spirit-up-and-running-at-new-home/article\\_56f099a4-1b8b-59f8-bb5c-59c0014a821a.html](http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/project-spirit-up-and-running-at-new-home/article_56f099a4-1b8b-59f8-bb5c-59c0014a821a.html)

## **Our Daily Mission**

What has not changed is Project Spirit's absolute commitment to rescuing horses in need.

We are working daily to help with owner hardships and surrenders, medical needs and to rescue and rehab abandoned and neglected horses in need of help.

## **Fosters and Volunteers**

Our network of fosters and volunteers is one of the keys to our success in rehabbing and rehoming rescue horses. If you'd like to volunteer to assist the rescue or foster a horse in need, please call Project Spirit at 541-891-2921 or contact us via message on the website or on Facebook.

## **Fundraising**

Project Spirit is 100% donor funded. We are working tirelessly to raise funds to feed and provide veterinary care for the horses we rescue. If you have a heart for animals, please consider a donation to Project Spirit. We accept PayPal through the website or you can mail in a tax-deductible donation to Project Spirit P.O Box 580 Chiloquin, OR 97624 our Federal Tax ID is **30-0525427**.

Project Spirit has a few fundraising events in the planning stages at the moment, and we'll advise you when the plans are set. We would love to see you come out and say hello!

## **Community Involvement**

Project Spirit participated in a tack sale at the Klamath Equestrian Center earlier this month, as well as the Klamath Rock and Arrowhead sponsored Rock and Gem Show where we were the beneficiary charity for the club. We had a booth for the weekend and raffled a beautiful painting donated by Heather Honeywell, a local Chiloquin artist <http://honeywellheather.wix.com/artwork> . It was a fun time meeting our supporters face to face! See the photos below of our booth and the beautiful painting.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Kristin Sayles and the Klamath Rock and Arrowhead Club for inviting us to participate in this fun event. To learn more about the Rock and Arrowhead Club go to [www.klamathrockclub.org/](http://www.klamathrockclub.org/)

Look for announcements of some other fun events that Project Spirit will be involved with as information becomes available.

If you'd like Project Spirit representatives to make a personal appearance with a rescue equine at one of your events, please contact Director Connie at 541-891-2921.

**\*\*\*\*\*Your Support Makes All The Difference ! \*\*\*\*\***



**Coming up:**

**May 5-7 HDTR Wilderness Skills and Packing Clinic:** The High Desert Trail Riders Annual Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic weekend is coming up in May. Project Spirit will be there with a tack sale booth . We're currently accepting donations for saddles and miscellaneous equine equipment for this fundraising event at the Klamath Event Center. If you would like to donate please call Director Connie at 541-891-2921.

**May 20 Oregon Rescue Challenge:** Project Spirit has been asked to participate in this event for the first time in 2017. We have two rescue horses currently being trained and made ready to exhibit on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rim Rock Riders Event Center in Powell Butte, OR; Flair and Vida are getting ready to find their forever homes at this event. Learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonRescueChallenge/> Contact Project Spirit if you'd like to adopt one of these amazing mares at the event. Thank you to the Oregon Rescue Challenge for asking us to participate!

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> The Pegasus Project Rescue Horse / Trainer Challenge and Adoption Event:** This is the third year for Project Spirit to put on this event at the Klamath County Fairgrounds. As in past years, we have amazing horses and trainers that are working hard getting in shape to show on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. These 6 rescue horses will be exhibited and made available for adoption to approved homes in the auction at the end of the event. Our motto is "From Forgotten to Forever." We want all our horses to go to their forever homes.

To see photos and progress videos go to our website <http://www.projectspirit.org/connies-new-page> and to The Pegasus Project Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ThePegasusProjectRescueHorseEvent/> to see more of the horses and trainers. If you've got your eye on one of these great horses, get your adoption application in ASAP so that if you win your bid, you can take your horse home.

### **Spotlight on Kona:**



Project Spirit gets calls of loose and abandoned horses with sad regularity. The story of Kona was particularly poignant as he is a senior horse (estimated age of 25+) and has a damaged, swollen knee. This forlorn gelding was dumped out in a remote area and left to fend for himself. Thankfully, we received a call from Project Spirit friend Pete Altman that he'd been informed about an old horse that had been left to die out in the wilderness. He picked up the horse and brought it in to Project Spirit.

This sweet, scared, emaciated horse was covered and infested with parasites. He could barely walk and was obviously in pain. Project Spirit did our due diligence to meet ownership requirements but no one came forward to claim him. An anonymous tip gave us the story of a man who was shot by his girlfriend in the area and the Sheriff's Deputy who works with us on rescues was the one who found the body in the trash pit. It is believed that this horse belonged to that situation.

It was a tense couple of weeks waiting to see if someone would claim Kona because anyone who would let a horse become so neglected was not someone we wanted to return an animal to. But the Fates were

smiling on Kona, because no one claimed him, and now he belongs to Project Spirit. Veterinary exam showed arthritis in the knee and continued treatment showed not only bots and worms, but over 100 ticks. A decision was made not to euthanize the animal even though the prognosis was less than good. Kona was freed from all of the parasitic infestation, given Red Cell and vitamin supplements and slowly reintroduced to proper nutrition. His feet were treated, and all of his injuries including the swelling in the knee were addressed. Kona is pictured here with volunteer Shelby Foley.



Fast forward about a month and Kona is on the mend. His bones are less prominent and his eyes are no longer dull and sunken, but bright and curious. The knee, while it will never heal, has reduced swelling and the horse can trot and even lope a little now. He has no prominent limp. Kona has passed out of his quarantine period and is now stabled nearer to the rest of the horses, where he calls to them and interacts from his corral. He can be haltered and handled, and waits each day for his mash to be delivered. He's still a bit fearful and vigilant around strangers but will relax once you've spent some time with him. Once he reaches a healthier weight, he will be made available for adoption to an approved home as a pasture companion. He will never be able to be ridden, but will live out the rest of his life not as someone's throwaway, but a valued member of a safe and loving home.

**A Friendly Reminder:** Please report abuse when you see it. Don't assume someone else will.

Thank you from the horses and the Project Spirit Team.

