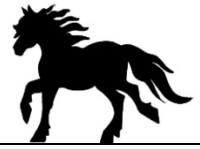


Equine Spirit Sanctuary

Summary of 2023 Activities and Plans for 2024



ESS Directors: Ruth Bourgeois, Teresa Pisano, Eleanor Hudiburg, Debbie Devine and Kris Gallegos.

Summary of 2023 activities:

It was a very busy, productive and successful year as we finally were able to resume our regular programs and activities. We had lots of kids that enjoyed learning and spending time with horses, adult visitors and program participants, fun open houses and events and, overall, many memorable moments. Despite the typical challenges that go with running a horse rescue and equine-assisted service programs, 2023 was wonderful!

- New equines: Spirit, a miniature horse with badly neglected hooves and lameness issues, February; Phoenix, appendix QH with knee chip, found abandoned at ESS in April; Tico, mustang gelding, September, owner surrender. And ESS now is also home to a llama, Tony, who came with Spirit. This was definitely a first for ESS! Tony is quite the character and loves visitors.
- Adoptions: Pepper (pony); Belle and Maggie; Jack (miniature donkey).
- Did our annual fundraiser at Barbara Meikle's Gallery in Santa Fe July 2 with our donkeys, Penelope and Marley.
- We launched a series of weekly group sessions with kids from a behavioral health agency who were dealing with issues such as abuse, trauma, family support, ADHD. The two to three-hour activity sessions included checking in, dividing into small groups, then each group taking turns with brushing and learning to halter and lead the donkeys and our pony while another group did therapeutic riding lessons, arts and crafts activities, then rotating so that all the kids got to do each activity. We finished the sessions with discussions about what they had learned or experienced.
- We also worked with groups of kids from Taos Behavioral Health, Youth Heartline, and Community Against Violence. Doing the work with groups made it possible to provide equine-assisted services for more kids, but we also did individual therapeutic riding lessons and Read to the Donkeys classes.
- For the first time we had three additional part-time workers. Shannon Davidson works as volunteer coordinator/supervisor one day a week and also on special program days. Kim Corneille is our program coordinator. Aline Gittleman worked part time as a barn and horse care assistant through the summer months. These ladies were a huge help as we resumed our lessons and program work.
- Horse experiences at ESS: started this program and did several lessons and activities just from word of mouth. I was too busy to actually get the flyers done and promote this program but clearly there was interest in it.
- Habitat for Humanity work crew helped with some maintenance projects.
- Holiday Open Barns were held the first three Saturdays in December. The first Saturday we did not do pony rides due to bad weather, but had a good turnout the next two weeks for the pony rides with Blanco and Gypsy Vanner; set up the donkeys grooming corral with Penelope and Marley and Hava also this year.
- Losses: we had three horses euthanized due to age and poor health issues – Melvin, Spirit and Midnite.
- Overall it was an excellent year for purchasing hay. With great growing conditions, we bought several hundred bales from local farmers and Gilbert Cruz from Mora, along with deliveries from Colorado from Bernie Torres. Hay is always our biggest equine expense, but at least there was no shortage of good quality hay this year.
- The last week of December we held a special memorial event here at ESS where we shared and celebrated the good times of the past months and remembered our dear departed horses.



2023 Financial: See handout. Note – this is a summary only. The official report is the 2023 990, which is done by a CPA.

2024 planned activities:

- Continue to do equine-assisted service (EAS) programs, with kids' groups and therapeutic riding lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, depending on the number of volunteers we have and funding available to cover program costs. Additional private EAS sessions may be scheduled on closed days. Aline is working at Taos Behavioral Health now and is able to work with clients here also.
- Volunteer training for Equine Assisted Services programs will be held in May on Tuesday afternoons.
- Horse experiences at ESS, for anyone interested in spending time with horses and/or donkeys, with various activities. See program details below. Continue to offer this, based on instructor availability. We are trying to recruit and hire another program instructor.
- Spring Open House Saturday, May 25.
- Fund raiser at Barbara Meikle's Gallery, Santa Fe, date TBD.
- Holiday Open Barns again in December the first three Saturdays.

Horse Experiences at ESS:

These include visits with the donkeys, hands-on grooming and learning; EAAT sessions; basic horse skills lessons; riding lessons; art; Read to the Donkeys; horse play for kids of all ages with the mini's and the ponies.

The goal is to accommodate the interests of tourists and locals, providing a unique, meaningful experience at ESS where they can choose the activity and intention. From pony rides to teaching advanced horse owners a new skill, like T-Touch or the Masterson Method®, ESS has much to offer. Since Taos is a tourist destination and we get visitors from all over the world that come to ESS, this is a great way to incorporate all of our programs.

Goals for property development:

- Misc. minor repairs to building and facility. Need to do some maintenance on the barn roof and ceiling.
- Property improvements including burying electric lines and re-burying 2 existing water lines; set up electric plug-in boxes near each of these 2 hydrants. Cost will be roughly \$3,500 for this project. These projects were on the agenda for 2023 but we did not obtain funding so had to put on hold.

Help is needed in the following areas:

- Volunteers for the HHK / therapeutic riding program and all other ESS activities.
- Facility maintenance and repairs.
- Fund raising / grant writing / office work; finding sponsors for the ESS equines.

Looking to the future:

Over the past years we have talked about how the greatest need to ensure a good future for ESS is to continue to bring in the right people and to be able to hire staff persons, not just depend upon volunteers, and to continue to work on a succession plan. It was wonderful to have additional workers and professionals in 2023. Their help made it possible to do more.

This year we will continue with our goal of building a staff that will include a barn/horse caretaker and a qualified instructor and program support staff persons.



A look back at 2023:

Horses and kids and volunteers and lots of good times!



Phoenix was found one morning in our round pen, apparently left by his owner. This sweet older roping horse has a blown out knee and will never be a riding horse again. But he has found a safe home at ESS, where he will not be abandoned or neglected.



Preparing for spring programs. It takes a lot of volunteers to clean up one horse that is shedding his thick winter coat!



Gypsy was a lovely program horse last summer. She was super patient with the young riders who came for one of the kids' groups. Each time they came to ESS they got to groom and do leading exercises with the little donkeys and Hava, the pony, and have a riding lesson on one of the bigger horses. They also did arts and crafts projects as part of their horse time and experiences.

Poncho, below left, came out of retirement and was a great program partner again.

Poncho and Blanco, below right, taking a break and standing patiently as the kids played a game of catch with stuffed toys.





Gypsy enjoyed visits with the kids even when they were not riding.

Right – Hope and Poncho got to be buddies with Tony, the llama.



Penelope and Marley were guests at a kids' activity event at the Millicent Rogers Museum. They were on their best behavior with all the little visitors that came to meet them and brush them. We have been invited to come back this summer for another donkey day with their kids program.



Blanco is our hardest working program horse. Blanco came to ESS in January of 2022 with a hind ankle ripped apart by barbed wire and needed months of wound care. He healed up nicely and is a valued member of the ESS family. He was a sweet horse when he first came, but he has become happier as time goes by and just gets better all the time.

This is what our programs for horses and people are all about!



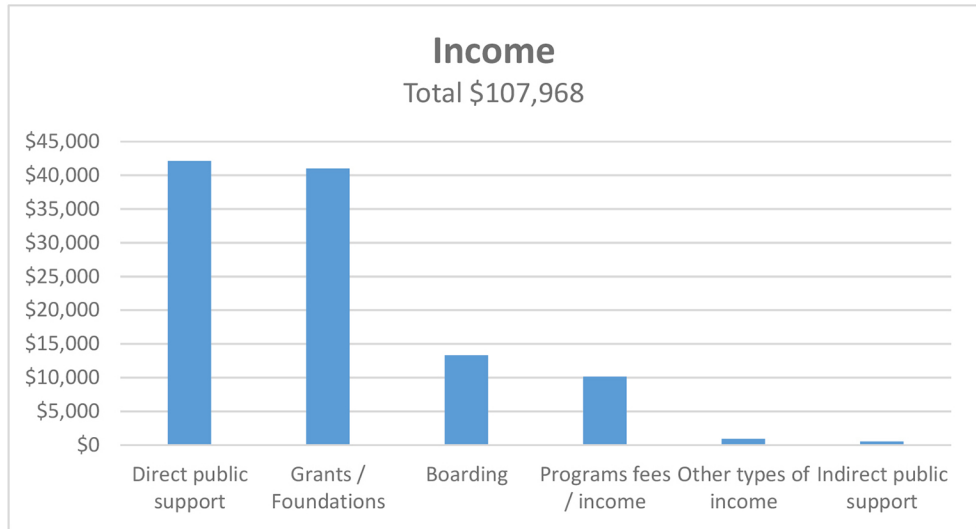
Thank you, everyone who helped make a 2023 wonderful, successful year!

Equine Spirit Sanctuary

2023 Income and Expenses Summary

Income

Direct public support	\$42,117
Grants / Foundations	\$41,000
Boarding	\$13,292
Programs fees / income	\$10,146
Other types of income	\$910
Indirect public support	\$503
Total	\$107,968



Expenses

Horse supplies and care	57,515
Payroll	35,212
Contract services	19,571
Property mortgage and taxes	13,899
Business expenses	8,760
Utilities	5,209
Other expenses	3,934
Legal and professional fees	2,823
Taxes and licenses	2,810
Total	\$149,733



Statement of Financial Position Summary

As of January 13, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	53,548.80
Total Current Assets	\$53,548.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$53,548.80
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	53,548.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$53,548.80