



2023

Community Report

**Northern New Mexico
Horsemen's Association**

Looking Back, Looking Forward

We are delighted to publish our second annual Community Report. These reports highlight a full year of accomplishments as a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization.

Our regional focus is northern New Mexico, and we work with various organizations and governmental entities to educate and advocate on behalf of the greater equine community.



Throughout the year, we worked with a variety of other nonprofit organizations or individuals that included trainers, clinicians, rescue or shelter groups, veterinarians and farriers.

In this year's report, you will find an overview of the sponsorships, grants and scholarships that we hosted or helped fund in 2023. Think of our Community Reports as a "year in review," as we look forward!

SGS Giving Program is Key to Helping Others

A major part of what we do to support the equine community occurs through our SGS (Sponsorship Grants Scholarships) Program. We acquired the funding to do so in 2020 when a parcel of land was sold.

The proceeds from that sale are invested in conservatively managed funds, and we use the interest to support horse owners, caregivers and others in this region. We are both pleased and humbled with the possibilities and opportunities that we can use to help others.

A documented written process is in place that ensures all funded efforts are directly tied to our mission and goals. Each application must not only complete this process but also receive Board approval.

During 2024, we financially supported a total of 13 SGS Giving Program applications and disbursed a total of \$13,100.

Sponsorships

We helped sponsor and participated in the Chile Roast All-Breed Horse Show and Expo at Hipico in Santa Fe. As a part of this three-day event, we organized and produced Meet-a-Horse Family Fiesta that included several demonstrations that focused on youth and adults unfamiliar with equines.

These demos were fun for observers, as well as the people of all ages who participated in these sessions:

- Donkeys are Different
- Horseback Rescue, presented by the Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse
- Mighty Minis, presented in part by My Little Horse Listener
- Horses as Healers, presented by the NM Center for Therapeutic Riding
- English vs Western Riding



We invited representatives and members of youth groups to join us for these demos. From there, we began to build a database and look forward to creating or sponsoring other events to meet the interests of “I don’t know anything about horses but want to...” area youth and adults.



Through our SGS Giving Program, we also supported a series of Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinics, the annual Caja del Rio Endurance Ride, a Bodywork Clinic, a four-rider team participating in an extreme cowgirl competition, two clinics, a series of barrel races, a junior rodeo and a virtual horse bowl tournament.

*“The joy that these youth and families have is something I want to keep (going)... This has opened a lot of new doors and ideas...to keep horsemanship alive.
Joyletta Vincenti, junior rodeo rep*

*“The horse industry needs events that are inclusive... We can all do this, if we work together.”
Mariah Wilson, Chile Roast organizer*

Scholarships

We awarded two recipients with our first Eldon and Karen Reyer Youth Scholarships. These scholarships go toward higher education to recipients who are pursuing equine science or agricultural degrees. Both recipients are now freshmen in college, pursuing degrees in animal science.

This newly created scholarship is intended to help address the equine veterinarian shortage, especially in our area. The award is in memory of two leaders in the community who supported horse health and welfare for many years. We are proud to recognize them with youth scholarships.

*“I’ve wanted to be a veterinarian since I was nine years old. I enjoy working outside and being around animals and can’t think of any other kind of work I’d rather do.”
Savannah McSweeney
Recipient of Eldon and Karen Reyer Youth Scholarship*

Grants

Awarding grants helps exemplary individuals and groups that are pursuing valuable goals themselves. In 2023, we awarded a grant to the Back Country Horsemen, Santa Fe Chapter, in memory of Eldon Reyer, to be used for materials and supplies, and another to Paz de Cheval, a rescue organization for off-the-track Thoroughbreds.

Application Process

If you know of a project or a person who deserves our support, please visit our website for information about our programs, events and SGS Giving Program.

Applications for sponsorships, scholarships and grants are posted on our website. We are glad to answer questions about what we can do.

Ridge Rider Rides

This year, we hosted eight Ridge Riders rides. These rides have long been a popular event organized and led by NNMHA. Riding group sizes ranged from several to more than a dozen riders during the spring/summer/fall seasons. Riders ranged in age from six years of age on up.



Rides are organized by our experienced trail boss and visit such scenic areas as Rowe Mesa, Caja del Rio, the Nambe Badlands, Chama and Pajarito Mountain. Rides are free of charge and open to all members. We always follow safety rules and horse-riding etiquette.

Educational Program Meetings

We continued our popular regular monthly program meetings, trail rides and special events that bring members and others together. Members are at the heart of our organization, and NNMHA could not exist as it does without our members.

Throughout the year, we hosted 11 monthly educational programs with expert speakers ranging from presentations by veterinarians and farriers to outdoor demonstrations of driving and mounted archery.

We also hosted two annual get-togethers where we can talk with others



who have similar equine interests and informally share information. These meetings are open to the public and free of charge. There's always time to ask questions!



Typically, there is also an educational component to these get-togethers that includes speakers of various disciplines. For example, our Holiday Party featured a retired state veterinarian as a speaker.

During the winter months, we organized occasional come-as-you-are Coffee Chat gatherings that allowed participants to visit informally. All of our social events are open to members and their guests.



Equine Welfare and Advocacy

For the second year, NNMHA organized a screening of a film. This year it was “The Rider.” Following the screening we hosted a discussion with several area trainers and clinicians. This event also supported the Center for Contemporary Arts, a local nonprofit theater that aired the film and provided for the discussion.

We published a three-part series of articles authored by Lynn Allen about the equine veterinarian shortage in our newsletter, *Paddock Paper*.



We also helped secure an article in the *Albuquerque Journal* about the same issue: “More than horseplay: Challenges of profession cause decline in number of large-animal veterinarians.”

We see a role for NNMHA to address concerns such as this among our members and community leaders who have influence regarding equine issues.

In an ongoing effort, we are also working with other horse-related organizations to further develop an evacuation plan, including emergency shelters, in the event of natural disasters such as wildfires.

Our Future Looks Bright

The future of NNMHA looks bright. We hope to increase our disbursements, particularly with an eye toward youth and novice adults. We are actively working on

expanding our database and planning activities and events that appeal to these groups. It’s all about sharing our passion for horses with others.

We will continue to participate, fund and support various events with trainers, clinicians, riders, veterinarians, farriers, rescue and shelter organizations and other equine specialists in our area. We can never learn too much about our critters.

Who and What is NNMHA

NNMHA has been around for more than 75 years, always with a focus to support horse enthusiasts of all disciplines and ages. Horses are our passion, and we believe lives are better for having equines in them, whether they are big or small, competitors or backyard companions.

Our 2024 Board of Directors include: Howard Gershon, Ed Srsic, John Pearson, Ralph Larranaga, Lynn Allen, Leanne DeVane and Karla Lauritsen. Non-board committee chairs or advisors are Joyce Davis, Karen Denison, Carol Marthens and Sandra Smith.

Join Up and Become a Member

Does this sound like something that interests you? We have fun, learn, share and seek to make a difference in our horse world.



You will find membership information and more on our website, www.nnmha.org. For questions, our email address is contact@nnmha.org.

List of 2023 Recipients

- *Back Country Horsemen, Santa Fe Chapter - Grant* – in memory of Eldon Reyer
- *New Mexico Arabian Horse Association, Mariah Wilson, Sponsorship* – Chile Roast All-breed Horse Show and Expo, held at Hipico, Santa Fe
- *Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinics, Sponsorship* – series of clinics hosted by Maureen Maestas, Hell Canyon Ranch, at Hipico, Santa Fe
- *Caja del Rio Endurance Race, Aura Rose Jensen Curtis, Sponsorship* – annual competition open to the public
- *Land of Enchantment Circuit, Ed Adler – Sponsorship*, New Mexico Quarter Horse Association
- *Turquoise Trail Pack Burro Race, Shane Wiegand, Sponsorship* – annual event in Cerrillos
- *Bodywork Clinic on Masterson Method, Sponsorship* – led by clinician and trainer Leela Brightenburg
- *Confidence Clinic, Sponsorship* – clinic hosted by trainer Loal Tucker
- *NM Entry in Extreme Cowgirl Competition, Kendra Werner, Sponsorship* – supported participation in national event
- *Wednesday Night Barrel Racing, sponsorship* – provided funding for Rodeo de Santa Fe series
- *Junior Dulce Rodeo, Joyletta Vicenti, sponsorship* – provided funding for youth rodeo held in Dulce, New Mexico
- *Eldon and Karen Reyer Youth Scholarship, scholarship* – awarded to Savannah McSween and Emily Adams to pursue higher education degrees in equine science
- *New Mexico 4-H Virtual Horse Bowl, sponsorship* - support for Dr. Jason Turner, New Mexico State University professor & Extension Horse Specialist, funding for online equine learning opportunity for more than 100 participants
- *Pas de Cheval, Erin Calhoun, Grant* – funding for ongoing care for off-the-track rescued Thoroughbreds



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