

Beauty Haven Equine Rescue

AUGUST 2013 WINNER – 3,867 VOTES

From her farm in Morriston, Theresa Batchelor breathes life back into the broken horses.

They come to her starved and beaten. Some have been abandoned and left to die. If not saved, many would be slaughtered. Above all, the horses are scared.

Batchelor, her family and a team of dedicated volunteers work together as a part of Beauty's Haven Farm and Equine Rescue to give these horses a second chance at life. The rescue won \$1,000 in the August SunState Federal Credit Union's Charity of the Month contest with 3,867 votes on Facebook.

Batchelor takes horses in for rehabilitation and, if possible, will adopt them back out once they are healthy.

"She gets the worst of the worst," said Jeanne Bartsch, who works on the nonprofit's board of directors. "They need surgeries. They're at death's door. But she's magical. She has this way so that most of them do survive."

The story of Batchelor's equine rescue began long ago — with a horse named Beauty. Years of health problems and surgeries had left Batchelor as an "incomplete quadriplegic" and unable to feel her arms or legs. Although told by doctors she would never walk again, physical therapy and determination allowed Batchelor to not only walk but also to continue the things she loved, such as horseback riding.

During this period, she was contacted about a young Arabian mare, abused and seized by the county. His name was Beauty. It took time, but the shy, traumatized horse eventually formed a close bond with Batchelor.

"Theresa knew she needed the mare as much as the mare needed her," the organization's website reads.

The relationship with her rehabilitated horse spurred her to action. With Beauty in mind, Batchelor decided to dedicate her time to saving horses in need.

The rescue filed as an official nonprofit in 2006, and the horses have continued to find refuge at her Morriston farm ever since. Many of the volunteers at the farm are veterinary students from the University of Florida, and in this way, Beauty's Haven has become a community effort.

Horses like Spirit, the blind mare who arrived severely



wounded just a year ago, can now be seen on the organization's website as just one of the haven's many success stories. Adopted out and socialized, Spirit embodies the difference a year of compassion can make. ■

Learn more at facebook.com/BeautysHavenFarmAndEquineRescue

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