

HAPI Trails

Horse Adoption Program, Inc.

June 1, 2018

by Julie Martin, Executive Director/Co-Founder

HAPI Trails

Healing with, and for the horses.

Why We Matter

Have you ever been close to a horse? So close you could smell it? Feel it's breath on your skin? Touch its silky coat and see its muscles tense with each movement? Their muzzle is one of the softest things you'll ever touch, and their eyes have a depth far beyond what we can see on the surface. Horses are big, beautiful and powerful. Yet, they have the ability to respond to us with a unique insight into exactly who we are in that moment.

Most likely you have been close to a horse. Teton Valley is a ranching community with many residents coming here to fulfill a dream of living in the West, near National Parks, mountains and trout-filled rivers. Often those dreams include horses. Vast fields, rich with cattle or a crop, endless trails filled with wildlife and adventure beckon a desire to be with horses. Horses play a role in many of our residents everyday life, or is their very livelihood.

In our reality owners age, pass away, or find themselves in difficult financial or physical situations wherein they can no longer properly care for their horses. When the economy gets the best of an owner, or 'life happens', HAPI Trails will intervene in the hopes of keeping a situation from turning into abuse or neglect. We've encountered horses that were left behind when their owners had no other choice, and just drove away.

Since 2009, HAPI Trails has been dedicated to helping these horses, giving over 75 a second chance - enhancing the life of the horse and their new owner. Initially, funding and limited space did not allow for us to help more than eight to ten per year. Our goal is to rehabilitate and re-home each one, and taking more than our funding or space could support,

would have jeopardized the ones already in our program. It is a slow and costly endeavor, and can be heartbreaking at times. Each of these horses deserves a happy and healthy future.

In 2017, HAPI Trails signed a long-term lease on a torn-down and abandoned equestrian property located in the heart of Teton Valley. It was filled with broken down fences, huge gofer holes, and severed water and electrical lines. But it had 17 acres with pastures, corrals, a round pen and outdoor arenas... and an encouraging Home Owners Association. It was enough space to house up to 25 horses and implement new programming. It was a dream come true.

So why does HAPI Trails Matter? Because horses, like any living creature, deserves to be cared for in a loving, respectful and compassionate way. Because providing an alternative to abuse, neglect or abandonment is something our society and our community needs.

HAPI Trails mission is to facilitate the rescue, rehabilitation and permanent placement of these abused, abandoned and neglected animals. Our vision is that all horses are treated in an ethical and caring manner. Our values bring to bear every resource at our disposal to heal and rehabilitate each equine that enters our facility. And our goals, not only include caring for these horses, but also in providing our community with educational, healing and hands-on growth with horses.

Why does giving to HAPI Trails through the Tin Cup Matter? Because your contribution gives these horses a chance to 'matter', and show us just how much they deserve to be loved. Your contribution gives HAPI Trails the ability to utilize our new facility, and care for horses that desperately need our help.

The Tin Cup's funding provides almost 60% of our annual budget. It puts 75 ton of hay and 1,500 pounds of feed in our cupboards. It provides vet care and shelter from intense weather. It provides for unique programming, giving our community more opportunities to be around horses... to smell them, to feel their breath, to connect... mind, body and soul. Each contribution to HAPI Trails, not only gives these horses an opportunity to matter, it gives our community an opportunity to thrive; by giving, volunteering, learning about and growing with horses. It gives us all a sense of accomplishment and a beautiful way to *heal with, and for the horses.*