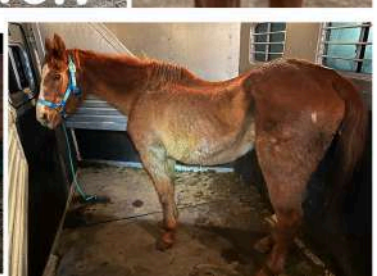
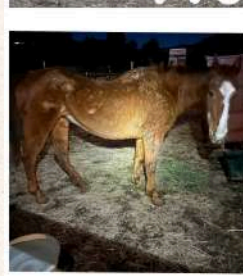


FRIENDS OF LACKOTA ANIMAL SANCTUARY

2026: YEAR OF THE HORSE, YEAR OF THE RESCUE.



| Feature Story

A Celebration of Five Years of Miracles!

Five years ago, we started with a modest dream on a 10-acre farm. We knew we wanted to help, but we never could have imagined the journey ahead. Today, Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary (FoLAS) has grown into something far greater than we ever dared to dream—spanning over 200 acres of peaceful Colorado pasture.

In just half a decade, we have saved over 300 lives. Currently, there are more than 100 animals—the seniors, the "unwanted," and the hospice cases—that call this sanctuary home.



A Soul Too Big For His Broken Body

Meet Wren, hear his story, and find out how you can be a part of his journey.




| Team Spotlight

Meet the Changemakers

- Who are the Board of Directors? Plus, get up close and personal with the Vice President, Victoria Clipsham.
- Meet the Kliever family, this editions volunteer spotlight.



| In this edition

-  To our village: A heartfelt thank you.
-  A message from the Founders, why say yes when you are full.
-  A photo recap of 2025, plus our digital sanctuary gets a makeover.



Feature Story Continued

Five Years of Miracles: From 10 Acres to a 200-Acre Legacy

The Hearts of the Sanctuary

Our story is written in the souls of the animals who have lived here. We celebrate the icons of FoLAS who remind us daily why we do this work:

- **Major:** Our majestic "gentle giant" who commands respect and gives back even more love. Major is the embodiment of the dignity we strive to provide for every resident.
- **Mr. Moo:** Who could forget the face that launched a thousand smiles? Mr. Moo has become a true fan favorite, proving that sanctuary life is about more than just survival—it's about joy.
- **Salem & Phoebe:** Rescued from the slaughter pipeline, Salem didn't just find safety; she found a place to raise her baby, free from fear.
- **Sophia "The House Donkey":** She arrived as a completely unhandled mini donkey, wary of human touch and skeptical of her new surroundings to walking right into the house like she owns the place.
- **Honoring Our Legends:** As we celebrate, we also hold a space of silence for Helen, Gabe, June, Prince, and Baby Horse. They were some of our hardest cases, arriving broken and leaving loved. Though they have passed, they are the reason we continue to fight for the "hopeless." Every soul we have lost has made an impact on our lives, no matter how long or how short they were with us.

The Power of "Yes"

We often say we are "technically full," yet when the call comes for a soul like Wren—a foal who couldn't walk without pain—we find a way. Moving from 10 acres to 200 wasn't just a change in geography; it was a promise that we would never stop expanding our hearts for those in need.

The Next Five Years Begin with You

We operate with zero salaried staff. Every dollar goes to the 45+ round bales of hay fed each month, the specialized senior grain, the necessary medications, the supplements, and life-saving surgeries.

*Become a Monthly Guardian: Ensure the next 5 years are secure for Major, Mr. Moo, and the rest of the herd.

*Support Wren's Final Surgery: Help our youngest resident find his stride.

*Sponsor a Resident: Connect personally with one of the 200 animals currently in our care.

We didn't build this—YOU did. Thank you for five years of choosing the "unwanted."

Resident Spotlight

We are excited to introduce to you, Wren!



Wren's Brave Fight

When we arrived to save a mare who was suffering from skin cancer so severe her pictures appeared as if she was bleeding from her eyes, we met Wren for the first time. Technically, we were full. We didn't have the space, and we certainly didn't have the "emergency" funds for a medical case this severe. But when we saw this baby—rescued from a kill pen alongside his only friends, Esme and Drew—we knew we couldn't look away. We took him in unexpectedly, because "full" doesn't matter when a life is hanging in the balance.

Wren arrived with a diagnosis that should have been his death sentence: severe arthritis in both front legs, likely born from the agony of an untreated infection. While other foals his age were galloping, Wren stood perfectly still, his head hung low, trying to bear the weight of a body that was failing him.

"He looked at us with eyes that had already seen the end of the road—at only six months old."



For a long time, the only thing Wren knew was the sharp, biting pain of bone grinding on bone. We tried every medication to give him peace, but the pain was too loud. We were faced with a choice no rescuer wants to make. But then, we saw the way he still nuzzled his companions, the way he tried so hard to be "just a horse," and we knew we had to find a way to save him.

The First Step Toward Freedom: Wren recently underwent a major surgery to permanently fuse the joint in his front right leg. For the first time in his life, he can stand without trembling. Our hearts nearly burst when we saw him actually try to play in his stall last week—a miracle we weren't sure we'd ever see.

A Hidden Burden: During his pre-op, doctors discovered a heart murmur caused by a hole in his tiny heart. It's another weight for him to carry, but we are monitoring him closely, praying his body heals as his spirit grows.

The Final Mountain: In just three months, Wren must go back for a second surgery on his left leg. Without it, he will never be truly sound.

He Can't Do This Alone

Wren's "second chance" comes with a staggering price tag of \$15,000 to \$20,000. Because his arrival was unplanned and his needs are so great, we are leaning on our community like never before. We don't have a safety net; we only have people like you who believe that a life—no matter how broken—is worth choosing.



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet the Kliewers

Young Volunteer Finds Confidence and Calm at Local Animal Sanctuary

At FoLAS, compassion isn't just something extended to rescued animals — it's something that transforms the people who walk through its gates.

For Giovanni, a young volunteer with special needs, the sanctuary has become more than a place to help animals. It has become a place of growth, calm, and confidence.

A Calming Presence

From the moment Giovanni began volunteering, his family noticed something special. Being around the animals had an immediate calming effect on him. The gentle rhythm of brushing a goat, feeding chickens, or quietly sitting near rescued farm animals seemed to ground him in a way few other environments could.

"Something changes when he's around them," his family shared. "He becomes more centered, more patient."

That calm doesn't stay at the sanctuary. Even after returning home, Giovanni carries that peaceful demeanor with him. His overall temperament is noticeably steadier, and daily routines have become smoother and more manageable.

Growing Responsibility

Volunteering has also sparked a new sense of accountability in Giovanni. Inspired by his work at the sanctuary, he has taken on more responsibility caring for his family's own animals at home. Feeding, checking water bowls, and helping with daily pet routines are no longer chores he avoids — they are tasks he approaches with pride.

Beyond animal care, that responsibility has expanded into other areas of his life. Family members have observed a greater willingness to help, complete tasks independently, and follow through on commitments.

Increasing Independence

Perhaps most meaningful has been Giovanni's growth in independence. As his comfort level with the animals has grown, so has his confidence. He now requires less supervision while completing his volunteer tasks — a significant milestone for a child with special needs.

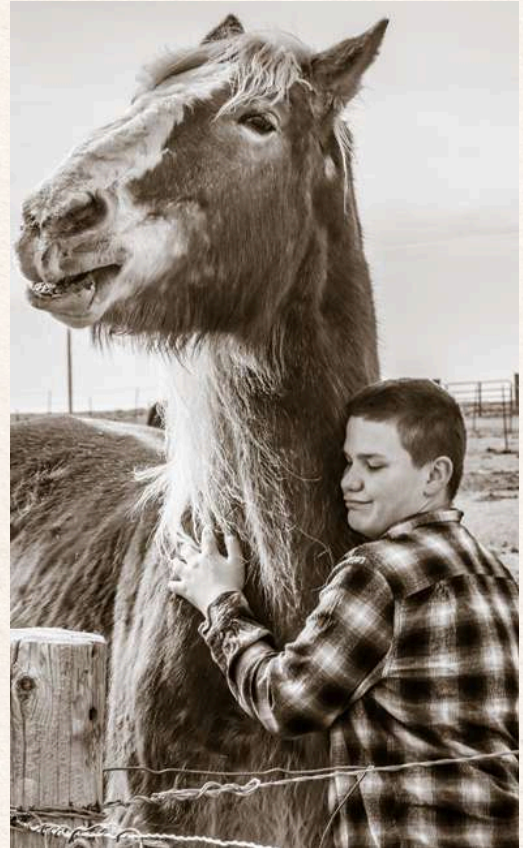
The structured yet nurturing environment at the sanctuary provides a perfect balance: guidance when needed, but space to succeed on his own. Each successful interaction builds not only skills, but self-belief.

More Than Volunteering

For Giovanni, volunteering at Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary isn't simply community service — it's personal development in action. It's therapy without walls. It's responsibility without pressure. Its independence built through compassion.

And while the sanctuary exists to rescue and protect animals, its impact clearly reaches far beyond the barn doors.

For one young volunteer, it has created calm, confidence, and a stronger sense of self — one gentle interaction at a time.



Young Volunteer Yvaine Blossoms Through Service at Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary



Volunteering is about more than caring for rescued animals — it's about building character, confidence, and resilience. For Yvaine, a naturally introverted young volunteer, her time at FoLAS has sparked meaningful personal growth.

Known for being quiet and reserved, Yvaine has gained noticeable confidence in speaking with authority figures, including sanctuary staff and coordinators. Tasks that once might have felt intimidating — asking questions, confirming instructions, or reporting completed work — now come more naturally. Her experience has helped her find her voice while still honoring her thoughtful, introverted nature.

Working closely with the animals has also brought unexpected calm. For someone who was once highly sensitive to germs, the hands-on responsibilities of feeding, cleaning stalls, and maintaining animal areas have eased those anxieties. The structured environment and clear purpose behind each task have helped her focus less on worry and more on contribution.

Perhaps her favorite role at the sanctuary is one she proudly calls her own: "the watering rights." Yvaine has taken ownership of watering all of the animals, embracing the responsibility with enthusiasm. She also assists with feeding routines and cleaning stalls, showing dedication and pride in her work. Taking charge of these daily duties has strengthened her sense of accountability and independence.

For Yvaine, volunteering has become more than service — it has become a pathway to confidence, calm, and personal ownership. At Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary, she hasn't just helped care for animals; she has quietly built a stronger version of herself.

Volunteer Spotlight

Noah Demonstrates Strong Work Ethic Through Service at Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary

At FoLAS, volunteers play a vital role in ensuring rescued animals receive the care and attention they deserve. Among those making a meaningful impact is Noah, a young volunteer known for his strong work ethic and commitment to excellence.

From the beginning, Noah has approached every task with focus and determination. Whether assisting with feeding routines, cleaning enclosures, or helping with general maintenance, he consistently strives to deliver high-quality results. His attention to detail and willingness to do the job right — not just quickly — have made him a dependable presence at the sanctuary.

Beyond his dedication to quality work, Noah genuinely enjoys being around the animals. He takes pride in contributing in any way possible, understanding that even the smallest task plays a role in the well-being of the sanctuary's residents. His positive attitude and readiness to help wherever needed reflect a maturity well beyond his years. For Noah, volunteering is more than a responsibility — it's an opportunity to serve with purpose. Through his consistent effort and passion for contributing, he continues to make a lasting difference at Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary.



Pamela Finds Purpose and Peace Through Family Volunteering at Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary



At the Sanctuary, volunteering is a family commitment for Pamela — one that has brought both personal calm and powerful life lessons for her children. Being around the animals has significantly reduced Pamela's nerves, offering a peaceful escape from the busyness of everyday life. The simple acts of feeding, caring, and tending to rescued animals create a grounding experience. Watching her children work alongside her — interacting gently with the animals and contributing to a meaningful cause — adds an even deeper sense of fulfillment.

As a homeschooling parent, Pamela views volunteering as an extension of her children's education. Beyond academics, she values teaching responsibility, compassion, and work ethic through real-world experiences. Seeing her children grow into responsible individuals while helping care for vulnerable animals reinforces the importance of service and stewardship.

Pamela also takes pride in supporting the sanctuary's mission to provide a safe, peaceful haven for animals escaping difficult and often harmful situations. Knowing she is helping create a place where animals can heal and live without fear gives her work lasting purpose.

For Pamela, volunteering is more than service — it is family growth, personal peace, and the opportunity to help build a refuge where compassion leads the way.

At Friends of Lackota, we have zero paid employees—just a relentless team of volunteers like the Kliewers who show up through rain, snow, and howling winds to keep our Sanctuary running. Want to be the reason our residents stay happy and healthy? We need your hands and your heart. Head to our website to fill out a volunteer form today. Trust us—even on your toughest days, one look at these faces will bring a smile to yours.

Collaboration's Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education



Located in Wellington, Colorado, Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of donkeys across the Front Range. Founded in 2021 by Rachel, an Equine Science graduate from Colorado State University, the organization operates on a private property with a mission to improve the welfare of "long-ears" through specialized care and public education.

Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education offers :

- **Rescue and Rehab:** The facility serves as a "halfway house," providing medical care, proper nutrition (a specific "donkey diet"), and training to prepare animals for permanent homes. As of early 2026, the rescue has successfully helped over 50 equines.
- **Education and Advocacy:** A primary goal is educating owners on the unique needs of donkeys, which differ significantly from horses in diet and social structure. Rachel has even authored the Starting The Donkey Book Series to guide new owners.



The Power of Partnership: Strengthening the Long-Ear Community and beyond.

In the world of equine rescue, the old adage "it takes a village" isn't just a sentiment—it is a necessity. While Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education has become a beacon of hope for donkeys in Colorado, its success is amplified by "deep-rooted collaborations. For those working alongside founder Rachel, 2025 marked a transformative year where professional respect blossomed into a vital, symbiotic partnership.

A Multidisciplinary Approach to Rescue

The collaboration focuses on the diverse needs of equines entering the rescue system. By pooling resources and expertise, the team has been able to streamline the journey from intake to "forever home" through three key pillars:

- **Testing and Evaluation:** Accurately "testing out" horses ensures that each animal is placed in an environment where they can thrive, matching their temperament with the right rider or handler.
- **Specialized Training:** Donkeys require a different psychological approach than horses. Shared training efforts help these "long-ears" gain the confidence they need to become safe, lovable companions.
- **Adoption Advocacy:** Finding the perfect match is a complex puzzle. Working together on adoptions ensures a higher success rate and a more thorough vetting process for every animal.

More Than Just Logistics

Beyond the daily chores of mucking stalls and training sessions, the relationship between these rescue partners has become a cornerstone of emotional support.

A note from our founders

Why we said "Yes" to Wren when the barn was full



They say you should never let your heart outrun your budget, but in rescue, sometimes your heart is the only thing that sees the truth.

When we unexpectedly came across Wren, we knew we were at capacity. Every stall at the Sanctuary was accounted for, and our "rainy day" fund was already spoken for by our senior residents. But when we looked at that six-month-old baby—standing on legs that were failing him, yet still leaning in for a gentle nuzzle—we didn't see a "case number" or a "budget deficit." We saw a life that had never been given a fair start.

We took Wren in because if we didn't, his story would have ended in a kill pen before it even began. People ask how we manage to say "yes" when we are technically full. The answer is simple: Because you are standing behind us.

Every time we take a leap of faith for a "hopeless" horse like Wren, it's because we know this community won't let them fall. We don't have a corporate safety net; we have you. Taking Wren was a gamble on his future, but more importantly, it was a vote of confidence in the kindness of people who believe that dignity has no price tag.

Thank you for helping us make room for one more.

Going to King Soopers or City Market?



Did you know you can earn money for the sanctuary every time you use your shoppers card? Its free and you don't have to pay for anything.

- *Log into your digital shoppers card account
- *Scroll to the bottom of the page and find "about us".
- *Select the community rewards link.
- *Follow the simple instructions on the page to link your shoppers card to the Sanctuary.
- **You donate to all the animals calling FoLAS home every time you go grocery shopping.

Board of Directors spotlight

Vice President Victoria Clipsham MD

Hello! My name is Victoria and I've been a volunteer with Friends of Lackota since the summer of 2021.

First, I'll tell you a little bit about myself. I moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in January, 2007, for a new job opportunity. I'm an Internal Medicine physician and came to the area to join Northern Colorado Hospitalists (NCH). I work at 3 area hospitals —MCR, PVH, and the Greeley Hospital. It's been amazing helping patients and seeing my group of physicians grow from 7 doctors to 90+ providers over the past 19 years. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and helping animals! I've always loved all animals but especially horses. They are intelligent, magnificent creatures and we as humans can form a profoundly deep and beautiful connection with them. I'm not a very confident rider, but that's ok! I really just relish any opportunity to hang out with horses.

In 2023, I joined the Friends of Lackota Board of Directors as the Vice President. In this role, I've explored many varying aspects of the grassroots nonprofit world. I've attended monthly BOD meetings, researched grant opportunities, written online grants, spearheaded events such as our annual online holiday silent auction for past 4 years, participating in Estes Park's ElkFest for past 3 years, and hosted a booth with fellow Board Member Madison at the 2025 Bright Futures student volunteer recruitment fair. Really love meeting and working alongside other people who are also passionate about helping animals.

I met one of Friends of Lackota's founders, Thom Munholland, through mutual friends Michele and Lucinda in the summer of 2021. One of the first things that impressed me (and continues to impress me to this day) about Thom and his husband, Sam, is their passion each and every day for these animals. The first time I visited the Sanctuary, it took Thom 2 1/2 hours to introduce us to the animal residents (and this was when they only had about 15 horses and donkeys!). That's because he had to tell us the story about how each abused or neglected animal came to the Sanctuary, about each animal's personality, and then he gave love to every one of them, before we could move on to the next paddock. These 2 gentlemen are the heart and soul of the operation.

One of my fondest memories of Friends of Lackota is from Christmas Eve, 2023. I had the day off from the hospital, so went over to Friends of Lackota to help Thom clean pens (his husband, Sam, had to work that day). Weather wasn't too cold, the sun was shining. We chatted and caught up with each other as we cleaned the pens, had coffee. Then I walked around the Sanctuary with 10 pounds of carrots and handed them out as stocking stuffers to all the animals along with plenty of ear scratches. It was so peaceful and wonderful to see these horses, donkeys, goats, chickens, and ponies happy, loved, and with full bellies. That's what we're all about here at FoLAS!



Change Makers

The Heartbeat of FoLAS: Meet Our Incredible Board



As we celebrate five years, we have to look behind the scenes at the people who make the impossible happen every single day. At [Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary](#), we have zero paid employees. Every feeding, every fence repair, and every life-saving surgery is fueled by pure passion and tireless volunteer work.

To Our Dedicated Board of Directors:

- Victoria: Our "Everything" person. Whether she is handing out carrots, writing grants that keep us afloat, sending out heartfelt thank yous, or stepping up with critical financial assistance exactly when a resident needs it most—Victoria is always there.
- Madison: Our boots-on-the-ground hero. Between her demanding studies to become a veterinarian, Madison coordinates our volunteers and works endless hours at the sanctuary. She is the support system we never knew we could have.
- Cindy: Our financial anchor. Since joining last year to handle the bookkeeping, Cindy has brought a level of organization we truly don't know how we ever lived without.
- Our Newest Members: A warm welcome to Nicole, Sonia, and Andrew! We are so excited to have your fresh energy and vision on board as we look toward the next five years.

The Visionaries at the Helm:

Last, but certainly not least, we recognize our Co-Founders: Thom (Board President) and Sam (Executive Director).

Thom and Sam live, breathe, and bleed this sanctuary. On top of their full-time jobs, they dedicate every spare hour, dollar, and ounce of energy to ensure FoLAS makes it from one day to the next. They sacrifice their sleep, their personal time, and their own resources to guarantee that nearly 200 animals have a safe place to sleep. Without their "all-in" commitment, there would be no 200-acre haven.

To Our Village: A Heartfelt Thank You

As we look across our 200 acres and see nearly 200 souls living in peace, we are reminded that it takes a village to save a life. Behind every transformation—from the first "yes" to the final peaceful goodbye—is a network of heroes.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the people who make this mission possible:

Our Incredible Volunteers: You are the hands and feet of this sanctuary. Whether you're mucking stalls in the Colorado wind or grooming a senior who just needs a friend, your time is the greatest gift we receive.

Our Life-Saving Medical Teams: A special thank you to our dedicated local veterinarians and the world-class team at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Your expertise gives residents like Wren a fighting chance when the odds are stacked against them.

Our Amazing Farrier: Thank you for keeping our herd balanced and comfortable, one hoof at a time.

Our Partners in Rescue: To Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue, Heehaw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education and the many others we've met along the way—thank you for your collaboration and shared commitment to the "unwanted."

Heart and Hooves: We don't know what we would do without you. Thank you for always being right there when we need you.

To Every Donor: Whether you give \$5 or \$5,000, you are the reason the hay arrives and the surgeries happen.

To the countless individuals we haven't named by name—please know that we see you. We feel your support in every encouraging comment, every shared post, and every donation. You are the reason we made it to Year Five, and you are the reason we will make it to Year Ten.

| Education corner

*Fun Facts!***Horses have almost 360° vision.**

Even though they do not see as clearly as humans and don't have the best depth perception, they have only two blind spots: directly in front of their nose and directly behind their tail.

**Donkeys have an incredible memory.**

They can remember places, routes, and other animals for 20+ years—much longer than horses in many cases.

A mule (horse + donkey) is usually sterile—but not always.

Rare female mules have successfully given birth. It's uncommon, but scientifically documented.



| Events update

Annual Silent Auction

In December, 2025, we had our 4th annual Holiday Silent Auction. This online auction is our biggest fundraising campaign of the year and 2025's was our most successful campaign yet! We raised over \$7,000 for hay, grain, medicine, veterinary care, and supplies for our beautiful animals! Thanks to all of our business contributors, volunteers, and participants who made this such a successful event!

We're already excited for our 5th Annual Holiday Auction! Later this year, we'll keep you posted on details about how to join the fun! Thanks so much again!

****You can donate to the Sanctuary every time you use your debit or credit card. Learn more about Roundup.org and how to help by following the QR code below.**



| In the Workshop

Our Digital Sanctuary Gets a Makeover!

We are so excited to unveil the fresh, new look of lackotasfriends.org!

Please keep in mind that our new site is a work in progress. With 100+ residents calling FoLAS home, it takes time to get all their beautiful faces and stories uploaded. If you don't see your favorite resident yet, keep checking back as we continue to populate our gallery! We will keep updating our applications, adding new web links, and creating new email addresses to make contacting us much easier. If you don't hear back from us after reaching out, please know we are not ignoring you, we are still working out all the bugs. Don't forget to check out and sign up for our feeding club.

This beautiful transformation was made possible by a wonderful team of supporters:

- A Heartfelt Thank You to Sonia Cooper: This entire project was made possible through Sonia's incredible generosity. Her donation provided the foundation for a website that finally reflects the scale of our mission.
- Design Excellence: A huge shout-out to Brenda Davisson at Field of Dreams Web Design for her tireless work in crafting this amazing new look.
- Visual Storytelling: Special thanks to Andrew Durant and his team at Dollar Movies for capturing the stunning drone photography and assisting with our social media presence.



Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary Gives Farm Animals Another Shot at Life

Good Morning FoLAS Friends and Family

Baby Faith and Mommy Emmie



Thank You

To the Phase Foundation for your generous grant in 2026 and years past.

To the Clark Charitable Trust for their incredibly generous grant again in 2025. We are humbled by your generosity and kindness.

To the Loveland Jax Farm and Ranch for your continuous donations of feed and supplies, we cannot thank you enough.

To the Leslie L. Alexander Foundation for your generous grant to help support our lifesaving mission

In the Chinese zodiac, 2026 is the Year of the Horse, specifically a Fire Horse year, a rare event that happens once every 60 years, amplifying passion and intensity.

As a Fire Horse year, 2026 emphasizes "transformative change" and "rapid momentum". For a sanctuary like Friends of Lackota, which provides hospice and lifetime care, this is a powerful time to invite our donors to "run alongside" the herd and ensure no horse is left behind. Their Spirit, Our mission.



FRIENDS OF LACKOTA ANIMAL SANCTUARY



Nunn, Colorado



Tax ID 86-1490591

Ways to donate, and remember all donations are tax deductible!

Through our website: lackotasfriends.org
Venmo: @FriendsofLackota
Paypal: @friendsoflackota
Zelle: friendsoflackota@gmail.com
or send us an email for the mailing address.