



Good Shepherd
Horse Rescue and Learning Center
Theory of Change

Theory of Change – Good Shepherd Horse Rescue and Learning Center

Overview:

Good Shepherd Horse Rescue and Learning Center operates on the belief that rescued horses and people can heal and grow together through compassionate care, education, and connection. Our mission is to rescue neglected and at-risk horses, provide them with the veterinary care and rehabilitation they need, and create opportunities for community learning and personal development through horsemanship programs.

Problem Statement:

Many horses suffer from neglect, abandonment, or chronic health conditions due to lack of resources, education, and advocacy. At the same time, many people—especially youth, individuals with disabilities, and those in underserved communities—lack access to enriching, therapeutic, and inclusive outdoor programs that foster personal growth and a sense of responsibility.

Inputs:

- Experienced staff and volunteers
- Donated funds, grants, and sponsorships
- Rescued horses in need of care
- Horsemanship curriculum and facilities
- Community partnerships

Activities:

- Rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome or provide sanctuary for horses
- Provide ongoing veterinary care including dental work, arthritis management, injury treatment, and emergency services
- Offer horsemanship classes that teach communication, empathy, responsibility, and respect
- Create volunteer opportunities for community members to engage with the animals and support our work
- Educate the public about horse welfare, behavior, and care through workshops and outreach

Outputs:

- Horses receive necessary medical attention and a safe, loving environment
- Participants gain hands-on experience in horse care and training
- Increased community involvement through volunteering and educational programming
- Greater awareness about animal welfare and ethical horsemanship

Short-Term Outcomes:

- Improved physical and emotional health for rescued horses

- Increased knowledge and confidence in participants
- Stronger bonds between people and animals
- A more supportive and inclusive community environment

Long-Term Impact:

- A sustainable rescue and learning center that continues to save horses and enrich lives
- A model for compassionate, respectful human-animal relationships
- Empowered individuals who carry forward values of stewardship, empathy, and service
- A reduction in horse neglect through education and advocacy

Conclusion:

Through rescue, rehabilitation, education, and community engagement, Good Shepherd Horse Rescue and Learning Center creates a cycle of healing and hope—for horses and people alike. This is our theory of change: that by transforming the lives of horses, we can also transform the lives of people.