379 wild horses & 46 burros live at our Lompoc & San Luis Obispo sanctuaries.

6 new shelters + fencing improvements

Six new shelters and fencing improvements were completed to secure protection from the elements for our growing population of senior horses.

BUILDING A HAY SHELTER!

RTF’s American Wild Horse Sanctuary needs a 48’ x 48’ hay cover that will protect hay from the rain while increasing safety and efficiency. RTF’s current 50-year-old wooden barn is too cramped to meet our hay storage needs. A steel, open-sided structure built on concrete in an easily accessed area will give us safer, more efficient storage that is less vulnerable to rain and fire. In addition, greater air circulation will make it less likely that hay will grow mold and ferment in damp weather and make easier the unloading from semi-trucks and loading for daily use hay bales by our sanctuary’s small staff. The new structure will also be erected in a designated “safe zone” with better protection in case of fire. It will allow us to buy hay at lower prices during and after the growing season, rather than later in the year when hay supplies dwindle and prices climb.

2 RESERVOIRS

Created 2 new reservoirs for water conservation infrastructure at both sanctuaries to collect and store more water, building on the heels of the grants from the ASPCA and Santa Barbara Foundation in 2015 which allowed us to pick up donated water for the sanctuary—saving tens of thousands of $ in water purchases.
RTF is in development on a new cooperative project to apply innovative solutions we have modeled at our American Wild Horse Sanctuary for wild horses and burros on the range which will save millions of taxpayer dollars annually.

This minimally invasive model was designed to keep wild horses and burros on the range where they belong.

established wild horse conservation program

Moved 65 wild horses and 16 burros to SLO-Springs Ranch
Saving $25,000 in monthly hay costs

11 Rescues
4 Family Reunions
7 Adoptions

106 Placements secured by RTF

We reunited 3 stallions with their original mares and relocated 10 bonded horses from capture to release at RTF’s Sanctuary. RTF secured placement for 106 neglected wild horses as part of an ongoing large scale collaborative rescue effort.

REUNIONS

Silver King & Grace

Sarge & Promise

Galahad & Hope
Always looking for ways to conserve donor funds, we found ways to cut our expenses in half, allowing us to expand our other work and refocus staffing needs.

**RESCUE**

RTF was pivotal in gathering support to repay two counties in South Dakota for fees the state incurred from impounding 887 horses. The state was scheduled to sell the horses at auction on December 20, 2016 to recoup their costs. We were able to gather the resources to pay the county's fees and stop of the sale of 540 horses at auction where many would go to slaughter, raising over $300k for the effort.

**GIVINGTUESDAY**

**50% MATCH GATES FOUNDATION**

RAISED $40,000

2016 was the first year we were able to offer a 50% match from the Gates Foundation using the GlobalGiving.org platform for our "Run the RTF Sanctuary for a Year" project. We're proud to be the only domestic cause and animal welfare organization ranked in the top 15 among 3,207 internationally scoped projects.

The Wild Horse and Burro Sanctuary Alliance (WHSBA) is a coalition initiated by RTF and co-founded in a collaborative effort by Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue, and Habitat for Horses, to provide support to wild horse and burro sanctuaries to increase communication, discuss solutions for management concerns, planning for emergencies and emergency support, as well as a host of issues that arise on a daily basis when operating a sanctuary for wild equines.
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on Nov. 17 recognized as its Horse of the Year Sutter, a 30-year-old palomino stallion who lives at RTF. President Neda DeMayo and Josephine Blossfeld, a recent in-residence volunteer at the sanctuary, accepted the award during the ASPCA’s annual Humane Award Luncheon in New York City. The event recognizes animal heroes who have demonstrated extraordinary effort as well as individuals who have shown great commitment to animal welfare. DeMayo used the opportunity to speak about how Sutter’s story of suffering early in life remains emblematic of the tens of thousands of wild horses and their

11 in residence work study
3,584 hours

Day volunteers

- 47 adults
- 13 youth
- 1,200 hours

Neda DeMayo with retired Senator Bob Dole

need for a dramatic shift away from roundups and long-term government holding facilities and toward humane, on-range management. Sutter was also featured in The New York Post and on local television stations KSBY and KCOY.
OUR REACH

We hosted more than 453 adults and 53 children through on site tours, programs & events facilitating direct contact with the natural world and horses and burros to deliver a better understanding of everything from herd behavior to the role of horses in our shared cultural heritage to the challenges facing wild horses still on the range and in government facilities.

271,600 page likes, 39,000 weekly engagement, 1.2M monthly reach

1,690 followers

7,537 followers

Subscribers: 39,000

News posts: 216

WILD HORSE AND BURRO RESOURCE GUIDE

Pat Fazio, Ph.D., began working on a comprehensive Wild Horse and Burro Resource Guide as part of our suite of learning tools and resources for wild horse supporters of all ages.
ADVOCACY IN ACTION

50% GROWTH

Our ADVOCACY IN ACTION program engages and empowers people of all ages through direct experience with wild horses at the sanctuary, on the range, witnessing roundups and meeting with their legislators. Policy reform, advocacy, and selective litigation are fueled by RTF’s Wild Horse Defense Fund.

Supported humane observers to cover 6 of the 10 helicopter roundups and leveraged information to improve the viewing and handling of wild horses during roundups by contractors. In addition 4 RTF volunteers attended roundups.

Petition opposing roundups has attracted more than 52,000 signatures, exceeding RTF’s goal.

WYOMING CHECKERBOARD

LITIGATION WINS

In October, Return to Freedom and its co-plaintiffs prevailed in a pair of precedent-setting cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. In the first case, the 10th Circuit threw out a lawsuit by the State of Wyoming to compel the Bureau of Land Management to remove hundreds of wild horses from BLM-managed public lands within the state. The court held that the BLM is not required to remove wild horses from public lands just because their populations exceed outdated population limits. In October, Return to Freedom and its co-plaintiffs prevailed in a pair of precedent-setting cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. In the second case, the 10th Circuit ruled that BLM violated both the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act and Federal Land Policy Management Act. The court found that in 2014 the agency illegally treated public lands as private when it rounded up wild horses in Wyoming’s Checkerboard region: a 2 million-acre area of alternating blocks of public and private land. BLM conducted the 2014 roundup after reaching an agreement with a ranching association to remove wild horses from the entire Checkerboard in order to them from roaming onto private land. The court’s ruling caused the cancelation of a planned fall 2016 Checkerboard roundup.

Of the two rulings the following outcomes further validated two of five of Return to Freedom’s proposed solutions outlined in our Wild on the Range Campaign:

- Manage our public lands for all Americans and not a small group of ranchers that benefit from taxpayer-subsidized grazing on our public lands.

- Commit to a long-term holistic management plan to humanely manage wild horses and burro population growth on the range, using proven PZP fertility control when necessary, as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences in 2013.
Our Living History

Due to new genetic testing we conducted in 2016, we have discovered that one of our herds DNA takes them back to the Caspian horses which date back to **3,000 BC**. We have collected hair samples from our early Spanish Colonial horses for new genetic testing to further document their heritage, health, and herd diversity.

379 Wild Horses and 16 Burros live at Return to Freedom's Wild Horse Sanctuaries in California:

**Lompoc:** 245 wild horses, 30 burros  
San Luis Obispo: 65 wild horses, 16 burros  
Alturas: 69 mares

**Mares Darter in 2015**  
A total of 22 mares were darted with PZP in 2015. Only mares kept with intact stallions were darted in 2015. Due to space and resource constraints at the Sanctuary, non-responder mares are now only kept with geldings or studs who have received vasectomies. There were no births at RTF in 2016.

**PZP Efficacy 2015 - 2016**  
22 mares were dosed in 2015: Willow (SU-4F) Blondie (SU-9)  
Cinnamon (SU-10) Drea (CAL-1) Estella (S1) Luna (CAL-2) Paloma (N1-D) Pearl (CAL-2D) Red Bird (SU-12) Red Wing (SU-11) Sierra (S2) Tahoe (S3) Bristol (M5-H) Sophie (M4-H) Mystic’s Diamond (M3-H) Stella (SU-7F) Sasha (CER-1) Alenka (M7-HK-O) Ama (M2-N) Juno (M6-P) Belina (M2-GO) Bonnie (M3-JP)
EQUINES CONT’D

RTF’s PZP efficacy for 2016 was 100%. Future Management and Data Concerns. There were no births at RTF in 2016, and most births from previous years were from “non-responder mares”: mares who have been receiving the PZP vaccine for more than 3 years but who have continued to become pregnant either every year or every other year. Non-responder mares have been removed from housing with intact stallions.

Mares Not Dlated in 2015
Mares at Return to Freedom who are not currently turned out with an intact stallion are not darted as it is not necessary. Mares who have received PZP for 7+ years and have NOT had a breakthrough foal have also been removed from further PZP administration, as there is no need (in general, 5-6 years of continuous, successful birth control will result in a high enough antibody level to continue protection from fertilization for the remainder of the mare’s life). Nine (9) Sulphur Springs mares (Sis Sis, Shuwa, Emilita, Dawn, Maya, Viola, Stella, Bonita, and Sasha) are with stallions, but were not darted because of conservation purposes. They still have not foaled. Willow has also been removed from future darting.

Mares Dlated in 2016
The following 15 mares were boosted in 2016: Willow (SU-4) Ayashi (N1-DG) Bree (C2-E) Drea (CAL-1) Paloma (ND-1) Tahoe (S3) Bristol (M5-H) Sophie (M4-H) Mystic’s Diamond (M3-H) Mystic’s Magic (M2-H) Alenka (M7-HK-O) Ama (M2-N) Sugar/Valley Ma/White Mare (BH-1) Belina (M2-GO) Bonnie (M3-JP)

The following three (3) mares were started and boosted in 2016: Amber (SU-7FR) Storm (CAL-2Q) Epic (ARM-1)

Abscesses and Granulomas
None noted.

Dec. 2, 2016, BLM caught in middle of wild horse conflicts, Wyoming Public Media Statewide Network * Refers to court case in which RTF is a co-plaintiff.

Nov. 30, 2016, 45 favorite animal charities, The Huffington Post

Nov. 28, 2016, Inside ASPCA Awards Luncheon–Bob Doie Tells Donald Trump to Get a Dog, Haute Living

Nov. 28, 2016, ASPCA Honors 2016 Humane Award Winners, Pet Age

Nov. 28, 2016, Charity Spotlight, Chronicle of the Horse

Nov. 21 Wendie Malick, Cowgirl Magazine
- Mention and image of Neda DeMayo and Wendie Malick in Wendie Wilkinson’s six page feature

Nov. 13, 2016, These are the heroic animals awarded by the ASPCA, The New York Post

Nov. 9, 2016, Sutter the Mustang Named Horse of the Year, HorseChannel.com

Nov. 4, 2016, Formerly wild stallion named “Horse of the Year”, KSBY

Nov. 1, 2016, Bodegon still life by Melinda Littlejohn, Cowboys & Indians

Oct. 26, 2016, ‘No ambiguity’: Court tells BLM it cannot treat public land as private, Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune * Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff.
Oct. 21, 2016, Lompoc horse recognized as ASPCA Horse of the Year, KEYT

Oct. 21, 2016, 'Whatever they are called, Fort Polk horses are wild', Beauregard (La) Daily News

Oct. 18, 2016, Return to Freedom, Cowgirl Magazine
  - 3 page feature on Return to Freedom and Neda DeMayo

Oct. 14, 2016, Court: Feds broke law in wild horse roundup, Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune
  - Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff. RTF is not specifically named.

Oct. 11, 2016, Federal appeals court in Denver dismisses lawsuit calling for wild horse roundup in Wyoming, The Denver Post
  - Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff.

Oct. 11, 2016, In major decision, 10th Circuit rules Wyoming can't force BLM to remove wild horses, Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune
  - Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff. RTF is not specifically named.

  * Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff. AP story appeared in numerous publications / on websites, including The Washington Post.


Oct. 6, 2016, Advocates Push For Halt To BLM Horse Removal, Law 360

Oct. 5, 2016, Wild Horse Lovers Say Neigh to BLM Roundup, Courthouse News Service

Oct. 4, 2016, Wild Horse Advocacy Group Announces Checkerboard Lawsuit, SweetwaterNow.com (Wyo.)

Oct. 4, 2016, Hay donated for starving wild horses on South Dakota ranch, Rapid City Journal
  * This sidebar story appeared in other publications, including The Globe Gazette (Mason City, Iowa)

Sept. 23, 2016, In fight over Wyoming's wild horses, advocates see test of public land stewardship, Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune
  - Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff.
Sept. 19, 2016, U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver hears arguments over removal of wild horses from public land. The Denver Post
· Story refers to court case in which RTF was a co-plaintiff.

Sept. 14, 2016, Say No To A Holocaust For Horses: 44,000 Horses Won't Die On Our Watch, The Huffington Post

Sept. 12, 2016, Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recklessly recommends euthanasia for tens of thousands captive wild horses, Yuba.net

Sept. 9, 2016, Horses, women and art! Who could ask for more?, KTTV

Sept. 3, 2016, Elle Fanning preparing a flower arrangement at a horse sanctuary is as adorable as it sounds and then some, Hello Giggles
· Same post or similar stories appeared on several celebrity websites, including Yahoo Lifestyle
Aug. 23, 2016, Marine Mammal Center to dedicate sea lion sculpture, The Orange County Register


Aug. 11, 2016, Protecting wild horses and our public lands, Las Vegas Review-Journal
· RTF op-ed

June 25, 2016, Winery partners with Return to Freedom to protect wild horses, Santa Ynez Valley News

June 21, 2016, Winery partners with Return to Freedom to protect wild horses, Santa Maria Times

June 2, 2016, The wild adventures of Neda DeMayo, Santa Maria Times, Santa Ynez Valley News

June, 2016, Katharine Ross Loves--and Paints--Horses, Cowboys & Indians online exclusive
· Talking about her painting of ‘Jack’ the Kiger Mustang to benefit RTF

May 29, 2016, Authorities Are Rounding Up The Last Of Our Wild Burros, The Dodo

Spring 2016, Return to Freedom, MMOPA magazine

2016, Horse of a Different Color (HDC), OC Register
· Side-bar
August 14, 2016 "Tonic of Wildness"
Beckmen Vineyards, Los Olivos, CA

Opening Day
"Wild Horse and Wildflowers"
May 7, 2016

Volunteer Days
2016
January 30
February 27
March 26
April 30
May 28
June 25
July 30
August 27
September 24
October 29

November 8, 2016 "The Last Ride"
The Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA

September 17, 2016
Studio C Gallery,
Los Angeles, CA
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEDA DE MAYO</td>
<td>President &amp; Founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Carone</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hines</td>
<td>Treasurer &amp; Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Redford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kevin Beckmen</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Stromberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Angela Kelly</td>
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### ADVISORY BOARD

#### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- Wendie Malick
- Diana De Mayo-Brown

#### POLICY ISSUES AND ADVOCACY

- Virginie L. Parant, ESQ
- Laura Moretti

#### EQUINE WELLNESS AND CONSERVATION

- John Fusco
- Casey Jones
- Dr. Gus Cothran
- Celeste Carlise

#### YOUTH

- Aly Michalka
- AJ Michalka
- Luke Gossett

#### DEVELOPMENT

- Michele Cardela
- Pat Hines
- Andrea Eastman
- Wendy Wilkinson

#### EDUCATION

- Carolyn Resnick
- Angelique Midthunder
- David Midthunder

#### HABITAT RESTORATION

- John Bechtold
- Natasha Lohmus

#### WILD HORSE AND BURRO WILDERNESS PRESERVE

- Elissa Kline
- Charlie Eckberg
FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES $1,337,231
TOTAL INCOME $1,230,027
NET ASSETS $2,015,984

* Estimates are based on unaudited financial statements.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Grants 4%
Individuals 96%

Fundraising 11%
Operational 13%
Programs 76%

SANCTUARY
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
CONSERVATION

Return to Freedom is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the freedom, diversity, and habitat of America's wild horses and burros through sanctuary, advocacy, education, and conservation, while enriching the human spirit through the natural world.

P.O. Box 926, Lompoc, CA 93438
(805) 737-9246