

Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue Inc



Annual Report



# Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue

*Dedicated to the Rescue of Neglected, Abused, or Unwanted Miniature Donkeys*

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In 2016 Little Longears was approached by an organization named Fund Raising Strategies Inc to try a “test mailing” for their direct mail fundraising program. Fund Raising Strategies felt Little Longears was a “good fit” for their type of direct mail appeal. As there was no cost to Little Longears to try the test mailing, we agreed. The result was successful and the return suggested that we would benefit from this type of fundraising effort.

Without a reliable stream of donations Little Longears cannot do the work it has dedicated itself to, i.e., the rescue and rehabilitation of abused, neglected, or unwanted miniature donkeys. After veterinary, farrier, psychological, and training needs are met, our goal is to adopt each donkey into a permanent, loving home.

Our greatest expenses are Veterinary Care and Donkey Care (hay, feed, etc). We recognized that entering into an agreement with Fund Raising Strategies meant that our “overhead” costs in the area of fundraising would increase, and many donors are watchful for “low” overhead rates. We do not believe the overhead percentage is the primary measure of the success of a non-profit or the only measure to determine if a non-profit is managing its money wisely.

The presidents and CEOs of GuideStar, Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recently wrote: “We write to correct a misconception about what matters when deciding which charity to support. The percent of charity expenses that go to administrative and fundraising costs—commonly referred to as ‘overhead’—is a poor measure of a charity’s performance. We ask you to pay attention to other factors of nonprofit performance: transparency, governance, leadership, and results.”

In 2016 we completed our first year with Fund Raising Strategies. As expected our expenses outweighed our income, however we have been assured that this will even out as more time passes and donations increase. We believe we need to give this option a try so that we can spend more time tending directly to the donkeys and less time on fundraising activities and events. We hope you will agree. This Annual Report presents our adoption rates and transparent financial reporting, which we believe is a good way to measure our performance!

As always, we are grateful for our donors and could not accomplish this very important work without you!

*Valerie Lowe*      *Cheryl Pokorny*



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## Executive Summary

2016 marked a year of tremendous growth for our rescue. This was our third full year in operation, and by far our busiest. We took in an astounding, 35 donkeys, and one was born here from a pregnant jenny that we rescued. 28 donkeys were adopted out into new, loving homes.

Our fall fundraiser, Dinner with the Donkeys, was a huge success again. The dinner, along with the combined live, silent, and online auctions raised \$15,500 for the rescue. This event is very popular, and people start asking months in advance about purchasing tickets for the next year.



We continue to rescue and save donkeys from a variety of places. Some come from auctions, many are owner surrenders, and a few come from other state or county SPCA agencies. Our small, and fairly new, rescue is growing by leaps and bounds. If we had more space, land, resources and staff, we would surely be filled to the brim in no time. It is terribly unfortunate how many unwanted donkeys there are out there, needing our help.

The rescues we highlighted from this past year are just a fraction of the work we did. We are incredibly fortunate to have such great support from the public, without which, none of this would be possible. All of these donkeys have a better and brighter future.



## 2016 Rescue Successes

In February 2016, we rescued two donkeys from the auction who were in very critical condition. An older jack and a young jenny. Beneath their furry exterior, were two donkey skeletons, struggling to survive. The jenny, who we named Spice, had an extremely bad case of pneumonia, and we were very fearful that she would not recover. We have such fantastic veterinarians, and with our round the clock care, Spice did recover.



The jack that came with her, who we named Bruiser, was in terrible shape as well. He was so incredibly thin, his ears had huge chunks missing from them, as if he had been in a lot of battles in his life, and he appeared to be blind in one eye. After both of these donkeys recovered from their initial illness, and finally returned to a healthy weight, we took Bruiser in for castration surgery, and it was decided that he should have surgery to remove his blind eye. He made a fantastic recovery and is one of the sweetest little geldings that has come through our rescue. He clearly appreciates his new life, and was adopted by one of our previous adopters, where he is now living with two other wonderful gelding donkeys.





We also learned that Spice was pregnant (Bruiser was the dad), and in May 2016, she gave birth to a very tiny little boy we named Maxwell. Max had a slow start, and because Spice was young, and likely a first time mother, she struggled as well, to know what to do.

The first few days with Max were difficult, with us needing to intervene and help him out. He couldn't suckle very well, so we milked his mom, and the vet tubed it to Max to make absolutely sure he received enough nutrition. As he gained strength, he learned to nurse properly, and after about a week, he began to act and behave like a normal, strong little donkey baby. Max was weaned and then adopted into a wonderful home in December, along with another young donkey we had rescued earlier in the year. Those two boys have a wonderful life, and play like crazy with each other!



Our rescue faced a few more veterinary challenges than we ever had before, with several donkeys needing intensive care and hospitalization. One case in particular was that of Xena, a 15 month old donkey we rescued from the auction along with

her mother, Stella and another starving jenny, Angie in October. Xena had a terrible leg injury that at the time,

looked like an old wire cut that was extremely infected, and caused severe lameness. It turned out, upon x-ray examination, that Xena still had a really thick wire embedded in her leg, double wrapped around her bone. It was so deep,



that the bone was already remodeling around this wire. She suffered extensive damage to the soft tissue structures and the bone in the leg. We took her to the Marion DuPont Scott Veterinary Hospital for surgery, where they were able to successfully remove the wire from her leg. She was able to come home the very next day and after weeks and weeks of daily bandage changes, she healed beautifully, regained use of her leg, and now runs and plays like any other normal donkey. If we had not rescued her, the infection that was ravaging her leg surely would have caused her death.

Her friend Angie, who was so starved and sick with an upper respiratory infection made a full recovery and the two of them are inseparable. They are both about 2 years old now, and play like crazy. Stella, Xena's mom, suffered a gastrointestinal infection when she first arrived and actually had to go to the hospital for treatment at the same time that Xena had her surgery. She recovered, and we discovered that



she was pregnant. Stella will remain here at the rescue, where she can relax until after her baby is born and they are both healthy enough to adopt out. This family of donkeys would not have survived much longer, given the condition they were in when we found them. They have all fully recovered and are enjoying their life to the fullest here at the rescue, while they await the perfect adopter.



## 2016 Farm Activities

One of the most exciting things that happened this past year, was that we were



awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the ASPCA for facility expansion. In order to receive the grant, we had to raise an additional \$10,000 on our own. With the help of [local news coverage](#), and a very successful open house here at our farm, we were able to raise

the required \$10,000 plus over \$10,000 more! All of this money went towards the renovation of an old

barn on our property that we turned into our quarantine and medical barn. This barn has two big stalls, a storeroom, and two paddocks.



We added electrical and water, and now we have a fantastic quarantine barn which allows us to safely take in more donkeys, and keep the rest of the donkeys at the rescue safe from any possible contagious diseases or illnesses. The addition of this quarantine barn has increased our capacity for the total number of donkeys we can take in at one time, here at our rescue by about another 5 donkeys. Winning this grant was a huge step for our rescue, and the barn has been in continual use since its completion in August of 2016.

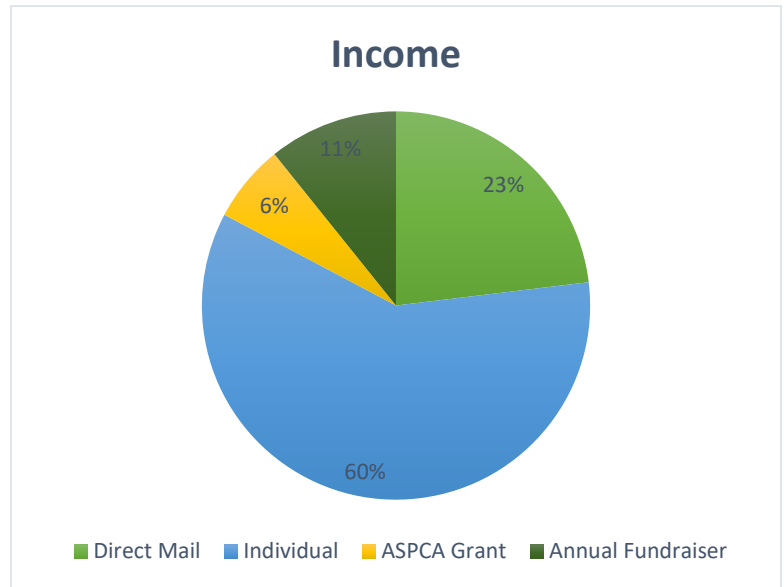




## 2016 Financials

2016 was our 2<sup>nd</sup> full year operating full-time rescuing donkeys and we think it was a pretty successful year! Our contribution sources included the following:

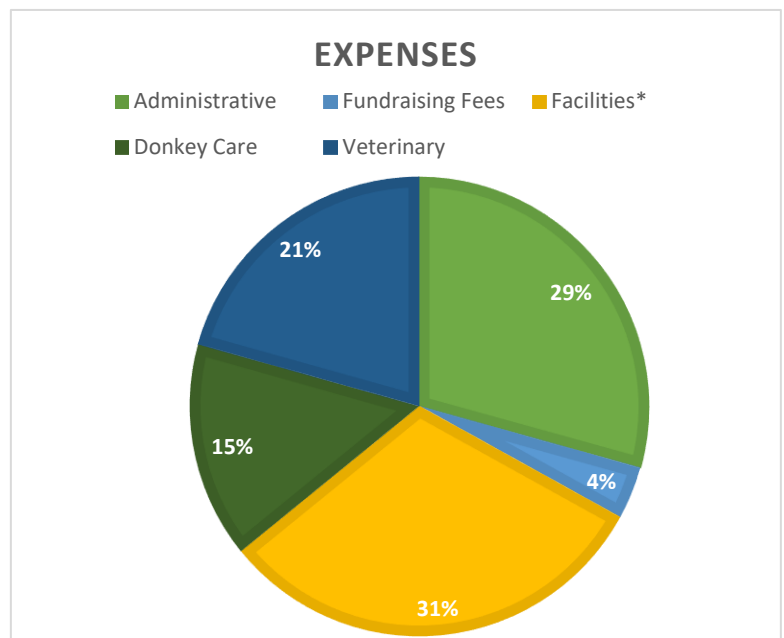
Direct Mail	\$ 35,582.00
Individual	\$ 91,972.00
ASPCA Grant	\$ 10,000.00
Annual Fundraiser	\$ 16,600.00
	\$ 154,154.00



Expenses for Little Longears include:

- Veterinary expenses - vet visits, surgeries, farrier
- Donkey Care - Shavings, Hay, Grain, etc.,
- Facilities - care of the barns, shelters, fencing, and in 2016 a renovation of our quarantine barn thanks to an ASPCA Grant
- Administration - items like stable license, postage, website, printing, etc
- Fundraising - costs in support of our Spring Open House and Fall "Dinner with the Donkeys" events

Administrative	42,660.00
Fundraising Fees	5,395.00
Facilities*	45,330.00
Donkey Care	22,110.00
Veterinary	30,054.65
	145,549.65



\*Little Longears won a \$10,000 conditional matching grant from the ASPCA in 2016 for the construction of a Quarantine/Medical Barn. We are proud to be one of only 15 recipients nationwide. We dedicated our spring Open House to fundraising for our matching funds. Little Longears raised \$20,600 and the ASPCA provided \$10,000 for us to renovate the quarantine barn. Barn renovations cost \$30,200 and additional fencing required was \$2,600. We are grateful to our donors and to the ASPCA for this opportunity.

