

RESCUE  
REHABILITATE  
REHOME



A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT

## Welcome to Our Newsletter!

We're very excited to share the stories and events of Midnight's Promise with you via our newsletter. I hope to get someone with much better writing skills than I have for future issues but will do my best in the interim. If you have any ideas for a name for our newsletter, let us know.

Thanks!

Deborah

## Pearl, a Hidden Gem

Pearl,... such a befitting name for this lovely mare. A pearl is created when an irritant enters an oyster's shell then slowly layer upon layer of shimmering, protective nacre is laid around the irritant until a precious treasure is created.

Pearl's previous owner had been duped into accepting the emaciated mare and after several months of struggling to help her she put out a plea for help which we answered. Days from death, Pearl arrived at the sanctuary around 1am after a 3-hour round trip to South Carolina. In addition to being starved to the brink of death, she has lost use of her right eye, has an old chest injury with broken ribs and a damaged hip. At Midnight's Promise her journey to recovery officially began and we faced many challenges as we gave her around the clock care for starvation and dehydration. It has now been about 11 weeks since she has been under our care. She has gained more than 50% of the weight she needs, is eating hay like a normal horse, and showing more of her personality and unwavering will to survive. Her future is promising.



*"Hidden inside every obstacle is a treasure to behold, a blessing to uncover, a pearl to embrace."*  
by Sandy Fulginiti



## Pony-Palooza

Join us for Pony-Palooza on Saturday, September 9 from 10am-3pm at Emerald Rose Farm at 575 Windy Knob Way Salisbury, NC for family fun, food, and ponies as we raise funds to help more horses.

Pony-Palooza is a show for ponies, donkeys, and miniature horses. In hand events include the costume contest, obstacle course, and best trick. Under saddle includes ride-a-buck, poles, cross rails, and an open equitation class. Prizes will also go to (continued page 2)

# Rocket Man, Such a Timeless Flight



From the Blog of Brandi Downs

It has been a long time since I posted an entry. Ladybird, my own rescue pony, has settled into a routine and the quiet rhythm of daily barn life has superseded the high emotion of the weeks following her rescue, Strangles diagnosis, and months of treatment. During those first few weeks I posted about Nigel, a Standardbred gelding dumped by the Amish at a nearby feedlot. He was homely, malnourished, and bound for slaughter until his Wonka bar magically revealed a Golden Ticket in the form of Deb Baker, Cindy Slate, and the other angels of Midnight's Promise Equine Rescue. I had seen "Nigel" on Facebook (Tarheel Feedlot has since taken to more inspired "marketing practices" by naming their horses after whimsical and popular movie & TV characters such as "Elrond" and "Frodo", but back then they just named every horse in the week's lot of future puppy chow with an impersonal moniker beginning with that week's letter.), and if you read that particular entry in this blog then you know how anguished I felt over his looming fate and how gloriously jubilant I was when I found out he had been saved. But even after he was saved, he still had a rough road to health. Months of expensive and laborious vet care and slow and careful dietary changes were required. It is truly a delicate balance to nurse a horse back to health. Feed a starving man a rich meal and he is likely to vomit on you. Feed a starving horse too rich a diet too soon and you might kill him by accident! But Nigel (temporarily dubbed "Friday" because he was saved the Friday after Thanksgiving) was in expert hands with Midnight's Promise.

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## Pony-Palooza (continued)



**Stacey Carter gives Belle a mini training session.**

the cutest pony, naughtiest pony and owner/pony look-alike. Enjoy watching the pony parade, food, desserts, ice cream, vendors and more. Stacey Carter of Heart Centered Horsemanship will be on hand to give “mini” training sessions to the ponies and Deb D’Amato the Horse Mumbler will be offering equine body work and massage.

Enter your pony into all the events for just \$20 and have a chance to win ribbons and medals to show how truly awesome your pony is. Or have your photo taken with your favorite pony in our photo “booth”.

To register as a vendor or participant contact us at [midnightspromise@gmail.com](mailto:midnightspromise@gmail.com) or call (704) 798-6641.

## How We Do It

People often ask where we get money to do what we do. Right now, the answer is very simple: a collection of donations from people who believe in us and what we are doing: family, friends, fellow horse and animal lovers. We are supported entirely through fund raising efforts and public donations, not grants or government support. We have a small group of loyal, steady volunteers who give their time to make sure we are doing our best to make a better life for horses in need.

Most of us work several shifts a week. We have no paid employees. We run a shoestring budget and attempt to waste as little as possible so that every dollar is well spent and goes directly to care for the horses. So if you worry that a donation of \$10-20 doesn't have enough impact to change things, please know those donations are an important piece of how we keep the mission alive.

Depending upon the health and needs of the herd, our operating costs vary between \$1500 and \$2000 a month. Truthfully, we wonder every month how we'll raise enough money but somehow we always pull through. Every donation, no matter how small, is appreciated and brings us one step closer so if we haven't said it already.....

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for your support.





[www.midnightspromise.org](http://www.midnightspromise.org)  
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**Midnight's Promise is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded on the belief that all life has value, and that there is a home, somewhere, for every horse**

**We are committed to making the world a better place. Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home home horses from starvation, abuse and slaughter through rescue efforts, community partnerships and education.**

## Rocket Man (continued)

About six months have gone by now, and not only is the formerly homely and homeless Nigel/Friday healthy, but he has a new and final name as well. I was invited out to the rescue to see the newly transformed "Rocket Man", and oh glory, I can't even begin to put into words how I felt to see him in full bloom. Homely no more, Rocket is a handsome boy who ever so gently took a peppermint from my hand. I

speak not in hyperbole when I tell you that a butterfly couldn't have landed more delicately on my palm. In tears, I stood by the fence and uttered a humble, grateful prayer of thanksgiving. Elton John sang, "Rocket Man...burnin' out his fuse up here alone." I'm so thankful that our Rocket Man is alone no more.

