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Most of the homes during this time had looms. However, as places became more populated, commercial fabrics became more available. Once people had more income, they could purchase more goods. Eventually people quit using looms. Many looms like this one were packed away in cellars, barns and basements. Many of them got burned for fire wood because when you took it apart, they're full of lumber.

The looms were something that a good woodworker could make. The looms were mostly home made, but there are a few pieces on it that wouldn't be made at home. The wig and this piece that holds it are forged out of metal. So they would have gotten a blacksmith to make that. The need would have been purchased from a peddler. However, the rest of it could have been made by a person who was capable of making tables, chairs, and other furniture for a house.

We look at it and think it's really complicated, but people back then were more able to look at something and reproduce it than we are today because we don't commonly use our tools as much.

I don't have the exact history of this loom because it was donated a number of years ago to the Moore County Historical Society, but we're very fortunate to have it here.

Today, I'm weaving rag rugs on the loom which will be used at the Shaw House. Back on the day, every family had a rag bag because once clothing wore out, they would rake the buttons off and put it in the rag bag. When you needed a rag for either washing or cleaning or you wanted to piece a quilt, then you could go to the rag bag and find what you needed. This was the last hurrah for the fabric because you could cut these narrow strips, haul them together, and weave something which added color to the loom. The rugs also added insulation, warmth, value, and were attractive with all the pretty colors. Rag rugs were used from the mid-1800s, but looms were common in the homes from the 1700s on.



Linda Harison weaving rag rugs for the Shaw House on the loom at Clenny Creek. See Clenny Creek Day info on p.4.

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## CARING HEARTS cont. from p.2

Thy poor...and in thy need? (Deut. 15:11) Caring Hearts opens their hearts to anyone in need. Established in November 2013, Caring Hearts has grown donation upon donation and friend upon friend. Jackie recalls the early days, "Ann and I met online years ago. We were going separately, but it always seemed that we were working together on projects, so we eventually became a team. Ann continues, "We'd see these online groups and ask, 'Why not make a local group so we can help each other in our communities?'" It came together. Ann and Jackie formed their Facebook page CARING HEARTS FOR KIDS OF MOORE, and both "the likes" and the donations started coming in.



CARING HEARTS continued... and we had just enough toys left over to take a truck load to those three kids. Every donation you give that year supplied us down to the day after Christmas.

"So you've come a whole year," I realize. "How was Christmas 2014?" Jackie beams. "We gave to 127 children the first Christmas, to another 98 the year we added another 43 on Christmas Eve." Without ladies volunteering, having families and still managing Caring Hearts, their dedication comes from both hearts full of love and sacrifice. Ann confides, "I've got fibromyalgia and other health problems, but I push myself to do what I can do. I decided that I could get up and do something and have pain, or I can lay in bed and have pain, so I wanted to do something."

Jackie clarifies, "Our primary focus is the children, but it's hard to just help the children because then you meet their families who need food, and then the whole family needs clothes. We've seen families who have been living in cars, and we put them up in a motel. We want to keep our focus on children, but we've done so much more."

As Jackie points out, "With the children come the families. And we've even helped families, who didn't have children, but who needed blankets and clothing. A couple of years ago a lady was getting clothes for a man living in the woods near Sears. We saw found out that you just need it."

With the abundance of local charities, what sets them apart Ann explains, "We only started when we started. Our main goal, when we started, was to have the group page help one another."

As Jackie explains, "We've grown our widest imagination is." With the growth came a new facility, Jackie informs. "We've been here since July 1, 2014. We now have a large bay to hold all of our donations, and we have our office space up here." Caring Hearts continues, "We help others who need a hand-up, not a hand-out and to help as-needed children & families go the extra mile they require offering a hand-up or to let them know they are being heard, a friend so that they are not alone, and assistance so they know that someone really does care. Children, families and animals - making a difference, one heart at a time."

The prerequisites for those they help are minimal. "We've had to incorporate some guidelines such as: clients can't come once a month for food or clothing, but if there's an emergency, we help immediately. We also ask that clients donate some time in an effort for the goods. We also work with the Moore county schools by having the teachers fill out the specific needs of the children." Jackie adds, "We continue confirms. "One of our biggest hurdles CARING HEARTS cont. p.14

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**CARING HEARTS FOR KIDS OF MOORE**

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## Horse Helpers

by Kate Smith

For ten years, Horse Helpers of the High Country was the only horse rescue in a six-county chunk of the Appalachian mountains. What began in 2014 as a nonprofit with one horse and a Tupperware box of supplies, now rescues and rehabilitates about 20 horses a year. It's one of the few sanctuaries that is verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and it's run by one woman and a pack of volunteers.



On a November Saturday, president Amy Hudnall is coordinating students mucking, feeding and bedding the 12 horses on the 50 acres, and four being rehabilitated. She teaches global studies at Appalachian State University and is mentally preparing for grading exams as she brushes a hind horse. "So time is, well, I don't have any," Hudnall said. "But with these horses, I get lost in the moment, and I don't worry."

Hudnall lived on the property for a year before her horse trainer, who was the second president of Horse Helpers, persuaded her to take over. A licensed equine investigator, Hudnall knew how foreign animal control is with seeing abused horses, and felt like she could help. "At ASU, I specialize in genocide and peace studies, so I see the worst in people," Hudnall said. "My animals help me keep going when I see the worst in people, so I just focused nature to give back."

And since she took over in 2018, volunteers have gone up. Twelve horses were adopted and one euthanized in 2014. Tens of volunteers work on the farm every week, along with court-ordered horses. —HORSE HELPERS cont. p. next column

## Through the Muscadine

HORSE HELPERS continued

ordered continuity service recipients, children with special needs, teachers, students and advocacy workers. "We started this because we thought we were doing a horse rescue, but it ended up becoming a people rescue too," Hudnall said. She tells of a woman who would brush horses for hours while recovering from being sold to the sex trade as a teenager. She tells of people changing their attitudes in order to successfully guide an unbridled horse through tests during conflict resolution workshops.

Hudnall thinks this is because horses, unlike domesticated but predatory dogs, have always been prey. They are physically tuned in to people more than any animal I've ever dealt with." Hudnall says, "It's not two ways to say that when you walk in the door, they know the mood you're in and what your needs are. It's because they can read us like we don't know how to read ourselves."

For instance, when Hudnall began working with a rescued black stallion Ethan, he threw her against walls and gates, leaving her for months. "The person helping me train him said that Ethan came here because he needed me to learn how to make boundaries," Hudnall said. "And it absolutely is true. It taught me boundaries, and I love much better with people who become of him."

Hudnall has also found that the horses facilitate a type of meditation by centering and giving peace in the midst of her 80-hour work week and the frustration she feels by being unable to rescue more horses.

Horse Helpers' only outside funding is from grants, which scarcely gave the \$150,000 it cost to care for the 30 horses housed at Horse Helpers during 2014.

Because Horse Helpers is located on a land between, Hudnall would like to see it have its own property and a paid director to take over the grunt work of the rescue so the president can focus on facilitating more funding.

For more information, contact Amy Hudnall at [email.HorseHelpers@gmail.com](mailto:email.HorseHelpers@gmail.com).



Since 2004, Hudnall has contacted the county, Sheriff's Office, Animal Control and called press conferences related to Dutch Creek Trails, a local trail riding business. Hudnall said she had a 200-page report with nearly 1,000 photographs and 100+ hours of video. —HORSE HELPERS cont. next column

## great designs



HORSE HELPERS continued

personal testimonies from those who have said they have witnessed the neglect and premature death of Dutch Creek Trails horses. The county has responded by issuing a \$50 citation to owner Keith Hudnall for failing to provide veterinarian care prior to euthanizing a horse.

"Citizens can ask county commissioners why they're not doing their jobs," Hudnall says. "In North Carolina, all horses are required to have access to food, shelter and water, but it can be algae water, and it's still alright." □



Kate Smith, Local Resident and Graduate of Appalachian State University.

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\*Close the last weekend of every month.

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