



2019 – October – Banner of Hope

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your
toil is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

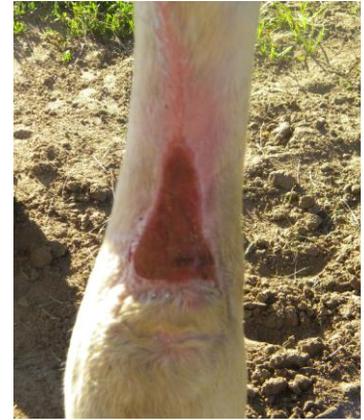
Good Friday 2011 presented itself to be cold and wet. Horse Rescue Team members had been praying that God would help them pick out the right horse. Specifically, one that was trained to ride. Because one of the girls had a dream about a Palomino, everyone thought we were going to bring home a Palomino and name it Banner.

The area where the loose pen horses were being held was dimly lit. Looking over the selection of horses revealed no Palomino horses. Standing in the middle of about twenty horses, stood a Paint mare. From a distance it was hard to tell her color. Was she a Palomino Paint? Our team made our way through the maze of gates for a closer look. She was a gorgeous light red Roan Paint with a yellow undertone. She had large kind eyes and stood quietly with one of her hind legs cocked. "Look at her leg!" Leah gasped. All eyes focused on her cocked leg. It was badly injured. The skin was peeled back on the front of her lower leg. At the bottom of the injury hung a piece of flesh about an inch thick. Below the injury, her hair and hoof were caked in dried blood. "I wonder how that happened?" someone asked. "She could have kicked through a metal barn or even injured it on a fence," Vickie answered, "But it sure looks like no one has even tried to treat this."

Vickie's cellphone rang. It was Jean, one of our Rescue Team members. She had planned on staying home, but as she was praying that morning, the Lord would not give her peace about staying home. "I'm here," Jean said. "Where are you?" I gave her directions and she joined our group. We prayed. "I think we are being directed to rescue this mare that really needs our help," Jean said. All the other horses in the loose pen became a blur as we entered the pen to slip a halter on the mare. She was friendly and walked without limping on her injured leg, which gave us hope. Everyone agreed to rescue this mare, no matter what the final outcome was. We bid against a meat buyer and bought her for \$200.00 plus \$14.00 tax and named her Banner of Hope. After paying for Banner, Dana led her out of the holding pen. As we stepped out of the barn, two women noticed her leg and gasped with horror as she walked by. Within minutes Banner was loaded in the trailer for the hour long ride home. On the way back to True Vine, our veterinarian, Dr. Lynn Applegate, was called. She was on a call about thirty minutes from True Vine and agreed to head our way as soon as she was finished.



Dr. Applegate arrived and immediately began to treat Banner's injury, which was down to the tendons. We were thankful the tendons were not damaged. She also estimated Banner to be about ten years old.



Every day Banner's injury was treated. The wrap was taken off, the wound cleaned and treated, and then a new bandage and wrap put on. Banner also had cold laser treatments during the healing process.

Four months later Banner's leg was completely healed, leaving only a scar as evidence of a past injury.

Experienced team members continued her ground work training and began to ride her. It was evident that somewhere in her past, she had a good start. She was broke to ride and only needed some schooling. By October of the same year, Banner began to be used in our therapy program for children with special needs.

Banner is a wonderful lesson horse, giving her riders confidence as they learn to ride.

Just like Banner, a broken horse who was rescued and cared for, Jesus rescues all those who come to Him in faith. Jesus rescues us from sin and takes us in, broken and injured. Jesus truly is our "Banner" and our "Hope."

We would like to say a big thank you to our veterinarian, who donated her services for Banner.

Banner is now 18 years old and continues to faithfully teach students of all ages and abilities. Her steadiness is especially appreciated as young students learn to ride independently.

Please consider sponsoring Banner of Hope! Call 269-501-0529 for more information.

Monthly needs: \$120.00