

Photo by Bryon DeVore

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## For the Greater Good

"For the Greater Good" is a feature dedicated to the various community, civic, and charitable service projects going on in Ashland. If there is a particular project you are involved in or care about, we invite you to send us a blurb or an article about it by the 1st of the month to be included in the following month's issue.

## Sanctuary One: Creating Magic in the Applegate

by Lloyd Matthew Haines, Founder and former Board President

"A safe place for animals, a healing place for people, while providing environmental stewardship." This is the Mission Statement of Sanctuary One, a sanctuary located in the Applegate Valley. Sanctuary One is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity that rescues abused and neglected animals, rehabilitates them, and places them in good homes when possible. Those animals that are not adopted will live out their life in a safe, nurturing and no-kill environment.

Sanctuary One is located on a 55-acre organic farm, which uses the principles of permaculture, and creates an environment where people of all ages can come and interact with the animals and the land, to experience the healing and spiritual benefits of putting animals, people and nature together. In Europe, the concept of what Sanctuary One does is called a "care farm." There, physicians can actually write prescriptions for people to visit and work on care farms as a means of improving their health and well-being.

I have always been enlivened by my connection with animals and have experienced an incredible amount of love when interacting with them. I have witnessed people's hard exteriors melt when connecting with our furry friends. So creating a place for people, animals and the land to come together was a dream of mine for many years. In 2007, I was joined by other like-minded people who believed that



creating a sanctuary where people, animals and the land could come together would create mutual healing for all involved. Sanctuary One was formally opened on the Spring Equinox of 2008.

Sanctuary One houses nearly 100 domestic animals. It is much like "Noah's Ark", in that we have cows, horses, goats, pigs, chickens, rabbits, dogs, cats, llamas, alpacas, ducks and geese. The sanctuary accepts placement of animals from law enforcement agencies, animal welfare organizations, and other sanctuaries, but not directly from the public. We are there to provide a safe and healing environment for the most difficult situations, including animals that have been shot, burned, or have incurable diseases.

In fact, we currently are in the process of creating a facility for FIV+ cats.

In addition to the staff that operates Sanctuary One, volunteers and interns are "in service" at the sanctuary, and help provide loving care for the animals and land. We have programs where "at risk" kids, war veterans, and people of all ages visit and volunteer at the sanctuary. A great deal of healing and transformation occurs through people interacting with the animals and the land, and being "in service."

I have seen miracles occur at Sanctuary One. I have witnessed hardened youth who have been diverted from the judicial system work and play at the sanctuary, and major transformation has occurred in their lives. They, as well as war vets, have experienced the value of being of service to something bigger than themselves. Just witnessing the transformation in them is a blessing.

There are many opportunities to volunteer or join our internship program. Public tours are conducted April through October on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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## From the Neighbors

Tell us about it! Send your thoughts, article, or story to kglomb@bestversionmedia.com by the 1st of the month to have it included in the following month's issue.

