



Clients at the Garth Homer Centre on Darwin Street in Saanich make wreaths to help buy new booties for Buddy the horse.

Contributed photo

Wreath sale for Buddy

Buddy is an aging, lame horse. He's also a staple of Mary's Farm and Sanctuary, where visitors from the Garth Homer Centre frequent and enjoy the animal's presence.

That's why members of Garth Homer's Discovery program recently held a fundraiser to raise enough money to buy Buddy a new pair of fitted boots that will make it easier for him to walk.

"The bone in his hoof has shifted, putting pressure on the bottom of his hoof. The boot will allow for extra padding so it's not so painful for him to move," said Mary Rostad, owner of the sanctuary. "The trouble is, horses, they're hard on gear. These boots are almost \$300 each, plus the ferrier to fit them."

Garth Homer clients made 12

Christmas wreaths to sell to pay for the specialty boots. The wreaths sold quickly, raising \$420. Garth Homer staff and clients will visit Buddy Thursday to present Rostad with a cheque to cover the boots.

The farm provides an opportunity for "the sacred web of life" to flourish and grow, she said.

"In comes an unwanted, lame horse and then comes an adult with a disability – and they connect. And suddenly both have a purpose and there's a magic that happens."

The Garth Homer Centre's Discovery program provides adults with developmental disabilities the opportunities to improve communication and self expression to gain independence.

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