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Salt



A project bike that seasoned young lives with hope



Laura Klock takes SALT out for a spin.

Story by Laura Klock

Photos by Dave Sietsema

While rebuilding a motorcycle is not a new concept, an organization in South Dakota, Helping With Horsepower™, has given the task a different twist and a new life. The idea began as a plan to repair and customize a damaged stock Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail alongside the girls of the Abbott House, a private residential treatment center for girls, ages 7 to 17, who are at risk of not reaching adulthood and have suffered trauma and abuse. The work on the motorcycle would be completed while providing the girls with education, empowerment and encouragement that delivers an important message: Just like a motorcycle, you can repair and rebuild anything in your life with the right tools and inspiration.

The Helping With Horsepower™ Bike Re-build program was set up as a 20-week classroom project at the Abbott House where participating girls were given plenty of hands-on experience. There was a contest for the name of the bike and the

Helping with *Horsepower*™



paint scheme, and the girls were given various choices for different components such as fenders, handlebars, exhaust systems and seats. The bike that you see on these pages was their creation. During the classroom sessions, the girls were introduced to marketing concepts and even taught about sponsorships.

At the end of the 20 weeks, they could look at their motorcycle with pride. Over 40 girls contributed to the build, the youngest just 9 years old.

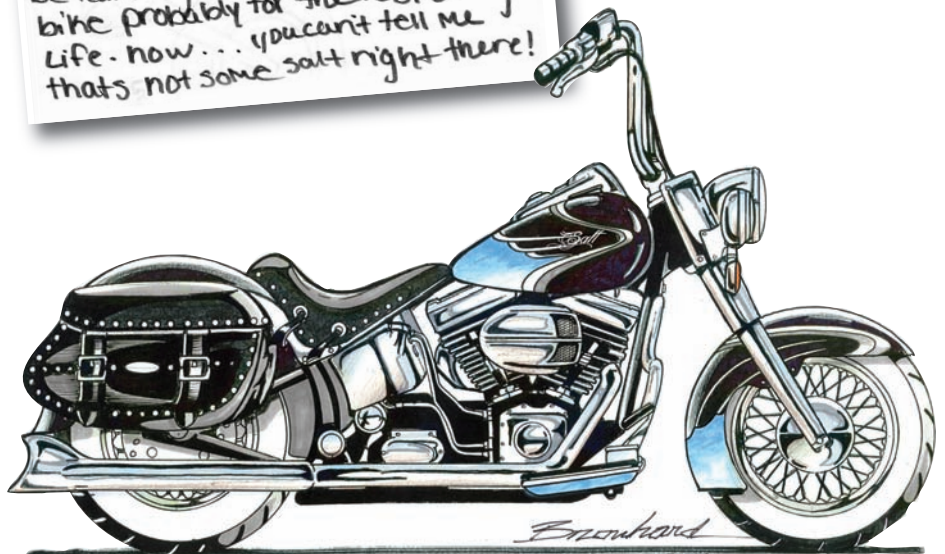
"This project gave the Abbott House girls the opportunity to learn more about teamwork, self confidence, and problem solving, while transforming a damaged motorcycle into a beautiful machine, just like they are working to transform themselves into amazing young women," said Laura Klock, co-founder of the Helping With Horsepower™ Bike Re-Build program. "Every week, class was truly a journey of discovery for the girls, and for me. It was an opportunity for us to work together to create something better."

According to Eric Klooz, director of the Abbott House, the project couldn't have come at a better time. "We are fortunate

I would like to name the bike salt.
Salt is a preservative, and to preserve something is to keep/saf save/bring back. God said "We are the salt of the world."
This bike ~~is~~ shows the good that people still have. we can all be salt. for our self or for others. just because some ~~crappy~~ pretty crappy things have happened in our lives, doesn't mean we aren't wonderful in our own ways.
Through this next year, we're gonna need some salt, which that's what the bike, ~~abbott~~ abbott house, Klock works and all the other people are!
I'm gonna use the tools I'm gonna be learning while working on this bike probably for the rest of my life. now... you can't tell me that's not some salt right there!

At left, here's the winning letter in the project-naming contest.

Below, Carl Brouhard produced this rendering from the winning paint scheme drawn by one of the girls.





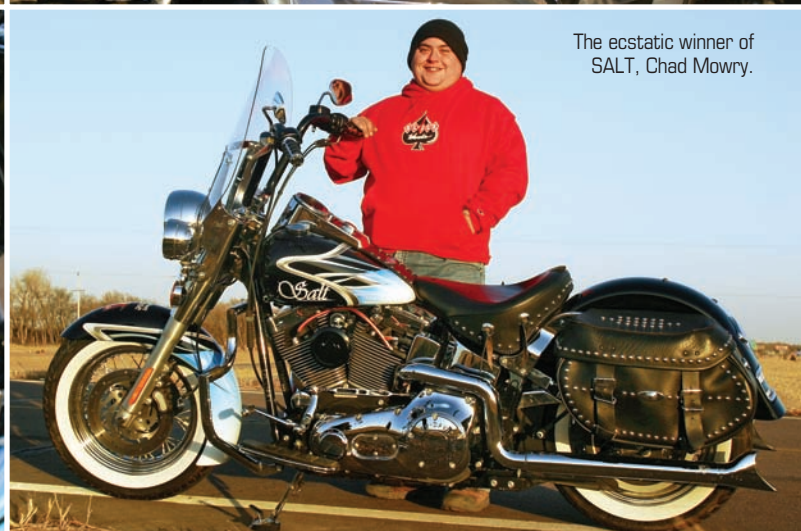
Crucial support from the Vance Family Foundation provided the funds to purchase the bike.



Mustang provided this seat plus a backrest, and the same for a passenger.



Carl Brouhard's paintwork incorporates names and personal messages in iridescent paint layers.



The ecstatic winner of SALT, Chad Mowry.



to have this project as part of our programming and our fundraising efforts," Klooze said. "It helps us help girls while simultaneously raising awareness and money to replace a \$150,000 decrease in funding this year."

Industry-leading companies who are dedicated to the project's mission stepped up by providing donations and support, among them: Klock Werks Kustom Cycles, Gear Wrench, Vance & Hines, the Vance Family Foundation, Carl Brouhard Designs, Mustang Motorcycle Seats, Lindby Custom, Inc., Wizards, Saggy Bags, IronWorks Magazine, and local sponsors. In addition to giving the girls practical experience and life skills, the Abbott House benefitted from Helping With Horsepower™ when the finished motorcycle was raffled to raise needed funds for the organization.

The bike, dubbed SALT, was unveiled in June and she went on tour. She attended parades, car shows, the Sturgis Rally and Buffalo Chip Biker Belles ride, and even graced the retail space of local gas stations and businesses, all to promote recognition and ticket sales. It was decided that she

The Klock Werks Billboard Flare™ windshield is detachable.



would never sit in the garage because each time the story of her life was shared, it was an opportunity to also share the story of the girls who re-built her.

The drawing was held on December 1st at the Abbott House's Annual Festival of Lights Celebration. Approximately 3,200 tickets were sold at \$20 each, not only raising nearly \$65,000 for Abbott House, but raising awareness of their work as well. Though ticket sales went well beyond the borders of South Dakota, when the winning ticket was drawn, it belonged to Chad Mowry of Alexandria, South Dakota. Chad arrived by 8:30 am the next day, taking the day off work in order to claim his prize. He admitted that he'd only slept about 45 minutes the night before, tossing and turning and trying to convince himself that it wasn't a dream, he really did just win that motorcycle!

The team showed Chad all the special details on SALT, took him to the classroom at the Abbott House where she was transformed, and shared stories about the project and the girls that customized SALT. During the heart warming process it became obvious what a humble, gra-

cious young man he is. He said he wouldn't change a thing on SALT. Chad requested photos of the build process and the program because he wants to carry a scrapbook in SALT's saddlebag and tell her story wherever he rides. There wasn't anything that was going to wipe the smile off Chad's face that day, not even the 20-degree riding weather!

As Chad rode away on SALT it was another symbol of what she represents. SALT is going to a new home where she will be loved and cherished, just the way she is. "This is what we pray will happen for all of the amazing girls at Abbott House," said Laura.

"It's inspiring to have this rare combination of people come together on this scale to provide something truly special for the girls in our care," said Eric Klooz. "We are extremely excited to be working with Laura, Klock Werks, and the rest of our dedicated partners on a project that inspires personal growth while simultaneously raising funds needed to continue providing refuge, education and support to girls and young women throughout the state of South Dakota." **■**

Specifications

The Motorcycle: 2002 FLSTC Heritage Softail Classic

Rigid mount, 1450cc Twin Cam 88BTM balanced engine, 1950s-style leather saddlebags w/quick detach buckles (restored by the girls), chrome passing lamps, chrome-plated directional light bar, chrome hub cover

Customized with:

Klock Werks Perfecta Handlebars

Klock Werks Tire Hugger Series Front Fender

Klock Werks Benchmark Rear Fender for Softails w/plate pocket

Klock Werks Lighted License Plate Frame

Klock Werks Logo Points Cover

Klock Werks Spade Taillight

Klock Werks Round Marker Lights installed in saddlebags

Klock Werks Logo Horn Cover

Klock Werks Billboard Flare™ Windshield for Softails

Lindby Highway Bar

Mustang Wide Touring Seat w/passenger seat, passenger and rider backrest

Saggy Bags Saddlebag Restoration Kit

Vance & Hines Softail Duals with Fishtail Tips

Vance & Hines Dark Chrome Air Intake Kit

Beesake Riders Leather Shield Leather Protectant

Wizards Detailing Kit

Metzeler Wide Whitewalls Front and Rear

Custom Paint by Carl Brouhard Designs

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