

Bits & Paces



The Bond Between Horse and Rider Reveals What's Possible

Horses can sense your needs without saying a word. Bryanna can attest to that! They help turn fear into trust, anxiety into peace and sadness into joy. They feel if you are uncertain, unbalanced or weak and challenge you to become confident, secure and strong. It is the intuitive power of our horses that helps us transform the lives of our students and their families. *Read on to learn how our horses are changing lives.*

Our Horses Help Bryanna Build Confidence



Bryanna loved horses from as far back as she can remember. So it was no surprise that when her mom asked if she wanted to attend a high school with horses, she instantly said, "I'm in." That was four years ago. In June, she graduated from our alternative high school, Gaitway.

She says her experience at Fieldstone Farm has helped her confront her anxiety and become a more positive person.

"When I am with horses, I just settle down. Horses don't judge you, they don't live in the past, they live in the now," she says talking about the bonds she made with our horses.

"I know when I am with them everything is going to be okay," she says recalling one day when everything was going wrong. She remembers walking into Rascal's stall to bring him out for a lesson, and she gave him a hug. Instinctively he knew she was upset. She didn't have to explain what had gone wrong or how she was feeling. He just gently laid his head on hers and comforted her. It was exactly what she needed. He understood. It made the tears rush out.

The horses at Fieldstone Farm and Gaitway High School have changed her life and helped her to chart a new course for her future. After graduating from Gaitway this past May, Bryanna will attend Lake Erie College this fall.

Nine Students Graduate from Gaitway in May

With the class of 2014, Gaitway High School now has 40 graduates since its founding in 2008. Once just a dream, Gaitway has become a beacon of hope to many who struggle in a traditional school environment.

At Gaitway, student attendance rates climb from below 20 percent to more than 90 percent; and grade point averages increase by at least 1.5 points. Many Gaitway students are struggling with anxiety, depression or learning disabilities and the time with horses in an experiential learning and supportive environment helps them thrive and ultimately, graduate.

Fieldstone Farm was the first therapeutic riding center in the country to open an alternative high school. As the industry has watched it thrive, other centers are following suit and opening similar schools of their own.

"We are delighted at the success of Gaitway and thrilled at the positive impact it has had on so many teenagers and their families. And to think that it was once the first and only one of its kind and that it has now inspired other centers to build similar institutions is truly humbling. We are grateful for all who helped make this school a reality," said CEO Lynnette Stuart.

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past May, Bryanna will attend Lake Erie College this fall with the hope of pursuing a career with horses. Congratulations to Bryanna!



Ohio Operation Military Kids Enjoy Day at the Farm in April

Families from Ohio Operation Military Kids came to Fieldstone Farm to work with our horses as they cope with issues related to having parents who are deployed and return from service. Our veterans program continues to grow and this was the first partnership with Ohio Operation Military Kids.



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Chefs Unbridled Slated for Sept. 13

Join us for a wonderful evening under the stars at our annual fundraiser, Chefs Unbridled, on Saturday, September 13. Some of Cleveland's most talented chefs led by Scott Kuhn and Chris Hodgson will return to prepare a unique tasting dinner

Staff

Candy Bradley, *Barn Assistant*
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prepare a unique tasting dinner under a beautifully decorated tent on the grounds of the

picturesque Chagrin Valley Hunt Club Polo Field in Gates Mills. Every year has been a sellout, so reserve your tickets today by emailing mfoster@fieldstonefarmtrc.com.

Summer Camp Underway

Scores of kids are enjoying summer at the farm. Riding in the morning and exploring the farm and crafts in the afternoons, campers are understanding more about their best selves. Enjoy these pictures of campers on the farm!



Justin Donaldson, Barn Assistant
 Maureen Foster, Development Director
 Debbie Gadus, PATH Certified Advanced Instructor, Level II Driving Instructor
 Sue Harris, Classroom Instructor
 Melissa Hauserman, Volunteer and Community Outreach Director
 Sunny Jones, Volunteer Driving Instructor
 Lisa Kaufman, Physical Therapist
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 Sandy Kutash, PATH Certified Instructor, Classroom Instructor
 Anne Lyness, Finance Manager
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 Deb Manke, Barn Assistant
 Leslie Mapes, Chief Operating Officer, PATH Certified Instructor
 Marissa Margraf, PATH Certified Instructor
 Teresa Morris, Programming Specialist, PATH Certified Advanced Instructor
 Myrtle Muntz, Endowment Campaign Consultant
 Marilyn Murawski, Barn Assistant
 Betsy Oliver, Barn Assistant
 Desiree Ruscin, Barn Assistant
 Molly Schlanser, Education Coordinator, Classroom Instructor
 Beth Sebrasky, Barn Assistant
 Lauren Simak, Special Program Coordinator, PATH Certified Instructor
 Carey Smith-Wilson, Student Outreach Specialist, PATH Certified Instructor
 Winni Spisak, Head Instructor, PATH Certified Instructor
 Bailey Stewart, Barn Assistant
 Lynnette Stuart, Chief Executive Officer, PATH Certified Instructor
 Jinene Studzinski, Equine and Facility Director, PATH Certified Instructor
 Arlene Taylor, Social Media Specialist, PATH Certified Instructor
 Mitchel Tropf, Maintenance Assistant
 Tonya Zimmer, Certified Advanced Instructor

More than 50 Show off Their Abilities at Horse Show

Our Summer Invitational Horse Show was a great celebration! Students from Fieldstone Farm and those from other centers traveled to the farm to demonstrate all they had learned in classes. The sun was out and everyone enjoyed the day. Below you will see the joy captured on film.





Volunteer Campaign Raises Tens of Thousands for Horses

Through the support and generosity of an active team of volunteers, the Volunteer Campaign raised more than \$35,000 in two months to fund the care of our hard-working herd of horses. Seventy-five percent of our active volunteers donated to the campaign, which is the highest participation rate ever. We appreciate our amazing volunteers who not only give of their time and talent, but monetarily contribute to this fundraising campaign year after year. Thank you all!

Thank you for your support.

We are so grateful to all of our donors. We would not be able to serve the community without your support. For a full list of our donors from January 2014 through June 2014, please visit our website donor pages at www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com/donors.

Visit us on [Facebook](#) or at fieldstonefarmtrc.com Or call 440-708-0013!



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