

Bits & Paces



Lizzie Beemiller

Horses Reach People in Extraordinary Ways

Our therapy horses motivate, encourage and comfort. They help our students build confidence and strength, making a connection without saying a word. Their generous hearts and willingness to serve transform the lives of our students and help them discover what's possible. *Read on to learn how our horses are changing lives.*

Delaney Finds Joy in Horses



Delaney felt lost after her cousin died. They were best friends and just five months apart. She missed her cousin. They did everything together. And her family didn't know exactly how to help their elementary-aged daughter grieve.

Delaney had always dreamed of riding horses with her cousin who rode at another therapeutic riding center so when the family learned of the Riding Through Grief program at Fieldstone Farm, they thought it could be exactly what they needed to help Delaney cope with the loss of her cousin.

The experience has been so positive that Delaney continues to ride at Fieldstone Farm year-round despite an hour-long drive from her home in Berea. Delaney said she feels most connected to her cousin when she is riding. And the entire family has healed, watching Delaney embrace the love of horses, just as her cousin had done.

At the Chagrin Valley Hunter Jumper Classic in July, while surrounded by her parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, Delaney demonstrated the confidence and acceptance she has learned from riding at Fieldstone. *When awarded a blue ribbon for her show performance*

Horses Help Heal Grieving Families

Horses offer a powerful and unique landscape where counselors can reach grieving families. Warm and soft, large and intimidating, horses respond authentically to people and their feelings. Horses are patient or impatient, gentle or demanding, willing or unwilling and they always act in the moment, helping people to connect with their feelings and the world around them.

Understanding the therapeutic power of our horses and the benefits of working in our tranquil farm environment, the Hospice of the Western Reserve and Fieldstone Farm partnered in 2012 to design a bereavement camp to help families process their grief. The program has been so successful that the two organizations continue to collaborate through a generous grant from The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation.



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when awarded a blue ribbon for her show performance, Delaney smiled from ear-to-ear while her family laughed and cried in joy. Horses have helped the family heal in ways they never imagined.

Chefs Unbridled Set for September 7

Join us for a wonderful evening under the stars at our annual fundraiser, Chefs Unbridled, on Saturday, September 7. Some of Cleveland's most talented chefs led by Scott Kuhn, Chris Hodgson, and Jonathon Sawyer will return to prepare a unique tasting dinner under a beautifully decorated tent on the grounds of the picturesque Chagrin Valley Hunt Club Polo Field. Last year was a sellout, so reserve your tickets today by emailing mfoster@fieldstonefarmtrc.com.



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Sight Center Students Gain Strength

Climbing on a horse for the first time for anyone is a challenge - but for sight-impaired students from the Cleveland Sight Center it takes an enormous amount of trust. Conquering this challenge helps build confidence. It also helps these students gain balance and strength, which is important as balance issues and low muscle tone are common for those with sight impairments. Sitting on a horse naturally challenges one's balance. Riding also builds strength and improves posture. Leg muscles stretch and



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strengthen and improves posture. Leg muscles stretch and strengthen and core muscles work to hold the body balanced and strong. The Sight Center has been coming to Fieldstone Farm for many years thanks to our donors. The spring session was funded through a generous donation from ESCO Technologies.

High Schoolers Learn Leadership Skills



Students from Facing History New Tech High School

This spring, through a generous grant from Kevin Ellison, 35 ninth graders from Facing History New Tech High School explored the "seven norms of collaborations" through a variety of exercises with our horses. The students left Fieldstone Farm with a greater awareness of themselves and energized to work with others. The team leader wrote, "I was blown away by the students' willingness, creativity and courage. Thank you Fieldstone Farm. This was a wonderful experience." Plans for next year's participation are already underway.

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Congratulations Riders

More than 50 riders demonstrated their abilities at the annual Chagrin Valley Hunter Jumper Classic. Thanks to a team of more than 40 volunteers and 10 horses, the students and their families enjoyed a wonderful celebration of their talents. Our students were featured in [The Plain Dealer](#), [The Plain Dealer Blog](#) and on [WKYC TV](#).





Volunteer Campaign Raises Tens of Thousands for Horses

Through the support and generosity of an active team of volunteers, the Volunteer Campaign raised \$43,000 in two months to fund the care of our hard-working herd of horses. Three out of four volunteers donated to the campaign, which is the highest participation rate ever.

"Thank you does not convey how grateful I am to all my fellow volunteers for their tremendous support," Christine Thompson, Campaign Chair, said.

As part of the campaign, nearly 50 donors received photographs with their favorite horse thanks to the artistic eyes behind the lenses of Lynne Netschke, Tammie Packer and Creed Woodka.



Diane Lichner and Chrissy

2013 Class Graduates from Gaitwav

Our Gaitway High School continues to offer an alternative to students who are not thriving in a traditional school environment. Time spent around the horses, the farm and within an experiential learning environment with social service support helps them get inspired to learn again and ultimately graduate. Since the school's founding six years ago, 31 students have graduated from Gaitway with their high school diplomas.

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 2013 through June 2013, 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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