

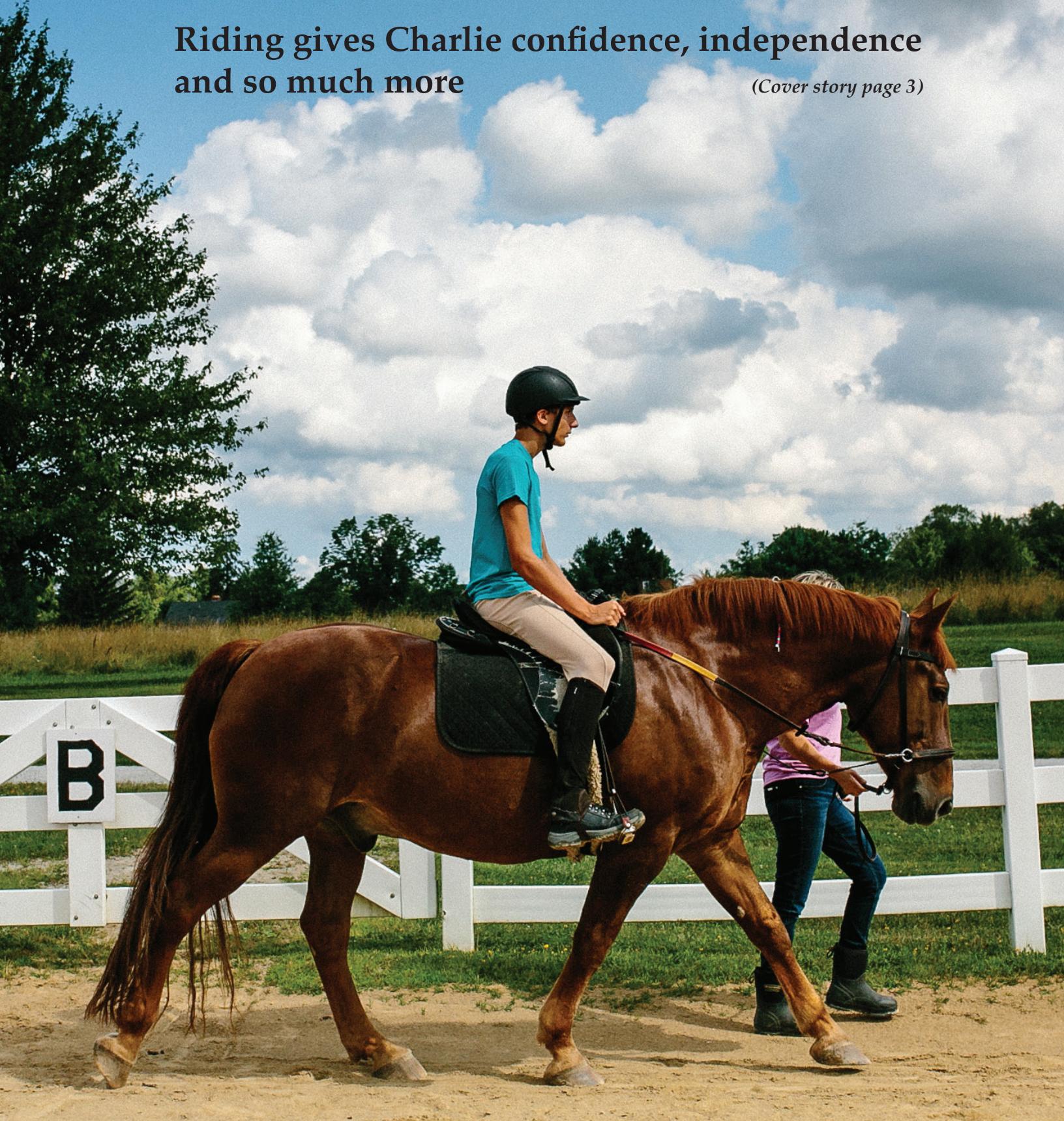


Bits & Paces

Winter 2019/2020

Riding gives Charlie confidence, independence
and so much more

(Cover story page 3)



Congratulations students

Our annual horse show at the farm in October brought great joy to our students and their families. Riders competed in a variety of equitation and pleasure classes and were able to demonstrate all of what they have accomplished in their weekly lessons in front of their families, friends and the community. It was a special day of celebration!



Thank you Victory Society

We are grateful to all who have named Fieldstone Farm in their wills, bequests, insurance policies, IRAs or other forms of planned giving. Below is a list of these generous donors.

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Charlie's confidence grows and so does his smile

Photo by Megan Velotta | Cover photo by Ryals Photo

When Charlie first came to Fieldstone about 16 years ago, he came by stroller, tagging along as his mom, Megan, attended meetings as a volunteer for our annual Hay Day fundraiser. He was so young at the time, she didn't know he would one day be a candidate for lessons.

Flash forward to today and Charlie, who has autism, rides every Tuesday as his mom looks on. "It really came full circle for us," says Megan. "I just love seeing him so happy on a horse." She understands this joy. She used to ride and knows first-hand how fun it can be while at the same time helping to build strength and confidence, as well as a meaningful bond with such a large animal.

"Charlie's doing amazing," according to Megan. Riding has not only given him independence and confidence, it has helped his posture and ability to follow directions. When his instructor asks him to turn left or right with his horse or put his heels down, he knows exactly what to do. And while his verbal communication is somewhat limited, he knows all the horse commands like whoa, walk on, and trot. He is working on his posting trot and hopes to become an even more independent rider very soon.

This past summer Charlie attended our summer camp and Megan, who teaches yoga at a studio nearby, volunteered as a yoga instructor for the kids when they weren't riding. They loved it and she plans on coming back this summer.

Participating at the Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic horse show this summer was a highlight of Charlie's year, as he earned two ribbons on his favorite horse, Frankie. Way to go, Charlie!



Welcome to our newest members of the herd

Photos by Tammie Packer and Elizabeth Krouse



BUDA, a 15-hand, registered bay Appendix Quarter horse, has loads of experience. You name it, he's done it: English, Western, trails, cross country, obstacle courses and even some cow sorting. **Kimi Baduria** donated him in August and his registered name is Bett Me A Scotch. Born in 2001, he is one of the friendliest horses in the barn but he is best known for his toothy grin, which he will demonstrate on command.



An eye-catching buckskin Quarter horse, **CODY** was born in 2008. **Jim and Shelene Studzinski** donated him in October, after primarily riding him Western and on trail. At 14.1 hands, he is a versatile size for our students. He has a strong work ethic and loves all of the attention he gets at Fieldstone. He is proving to be one of the new favorites.



Our two new minis, **THUNDER** and **LIGHTNING**, joined the herd in October. Donated by **Ellen and Dennis Tom**, the two have been together since 2006, the year they were born. Lightning, the bigger of the two, is a gray 32-inch miniature horse. Thunder is a 30-inch, black, miniature horse. The two are already capturing the hearts of all who meet them!



DAISY, born in 2008, is a super cute, 15.1 hand black Percheron cross. **Heath and Courtney Ball** donated her in April after a career in foxhunting. She is the perfect size for many of our students and has a wonderful forward and active gait. Her official name is Miss Daisy, but everyone just calls her Daisy here.



XENA, a striking 15.2-hand black and white tobiano Spotted Draft mare with bright blue eyes, joined the herd in February. Born in 2005, she was an Amish work horse most of her life. Xena is quite the favorite and is versatile too, serving in both our riding and driving program.



FAX, registered with AQHA as Fax My Asset, joined the program in May. **Jill McLaughlin** donated him and he is a wonderful addition to the team. Born in 2002, he was shown Western pleasure in 4-H, open shows and youth shows. A handsome bay, 15.1 hand gentleman, he is quite the looker with the most perfect ground manners.



A big, strapping guy, **LOGAN** is a 16.1 hand chestnut Belgian Quarter Horse born in 2004. He is a true gentleman. His donors, **Carla and John Babcock**, rode him in the hunt field for many years and he joined the program in April. He has been a welcome addition to the team and helped several riders win blue ribbons at the summer and fall horse shows.



With a show name of Cupid's Arrow, this pony is sure to be one of the most lovable you will ever meet. We call him **YOGI** and **Stacie Foor** donated him in June. Yogi has an easy-going, fun-loving personality. Born in 2001, he is a 12.1-hand red roan German riding pony, that was imported to the U.S. when he was four. He has loads of experience – showing in leadline classes, trail riding, and even having participated in school plays. He is a great size and will be working in both riding and ground lessons.

Chefs Unbridled is a huge success

Photos by Lynne Netschke

A sell-out crowd of 600 gathered once again under a massive tent at our annual Chefs Unbridled fundraiser in September on the grounds of The Hunt Club Polo Field in Gates Mills raising a net of more than \$250,000 for our students and programs. This is a tremendous result and we are very grateful to everyone who supported this major fundraiser.

A big shout out goes to our presenting sponsor, The Harrington Family Foundation, and all of our other generous sponsors including Celebrity Cruises, Betsy and Charley Daane and The Frank H. And Nancy L. Porter Fund of The Cleveland Foundation, the Kuhn Family Foundation, Davis Automotive Group, and Betsy Juliano and Litigation Management, Inc., along with Chefs Scott Kuhn and Chris Hodgson, who led a team of Cleveland's all-star chefs with delicious culinary creations for all to enjoy.

Next year's event is set for September 12th. Mark your calendars!



Horse Wish List

Corn brooms
Himalayan Rock Salt with the rope
Plastic replacement pick heads
Elastic leg straps
Rubber ground feeders, any size
Davis bell boots, large
Fortex corner feeders
Salt blocks – small – 4 lbs. block size
Muck buckets

Maintenance Wish List

10W 30 oil
Plastic tarps
Shop towels
60/100 watt replacement energy saver light bulbs
50' extension cord

Friendships flourish beyond the farm

Photo by Maria Krouse

People typically come to Fieldstone for healing. But one of the many benefits they don't expect is making so many friends. Kids befriend kids. Students build lasting friendships with instructors and volunteers. And even the parents become close.

Just walk in the farm any afternoon or evening and you will see everyone greet each other with smiles and hugs. Often these encounters are limited to the weekly lessons at the farm.

But Samantha Francetic, 24, and mom Kim, hatched up an idea. What about asking her riding friends to do something outside of the farm? Kim says it is tough for kids with autism and special needs in their twenties because there are very few social opportunities. Once they start working, their friendships with co-workers only go so far, she says. They feel a bit isolated.

So Samantha took planning events into her own hands. Her friends jumped on board and the first outing was to a Cavs game. Then they went bowling. Now they have a group text and are planning to go to a Monsters game.

"It's a fun bunch," says Samantha, who enjoys hanging out with her riding friends. "They are cool, and it's good to get out of the house."

AJ, 25, one of Samantha's riding friends, enjoys the socializing too. His mom, Amanda, added, "It is just really nice because they get each other."



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Photo by Tammie Packer

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Mission:

Fieldstone Farm engages the therapeutic power of our horses to discover and nurture the special abilities of individuals, families and communities.

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