



Bits & Paces

Winter 2014

**Horses help Kathy
overcome cancer diagnosis**

(Cover story page 3)

**RJF Foundation makes major gift
to Endowment Campaign**

(Story page 2)

RJF Foundation gives \$150,000 to endowment

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

It is this quote from **Ronald Reagan** that spurred longtime supporters **Sheila and Walt Collins** to call Fieldstone Farm and direct a major gift to our endowment campaign. The Collinses have developed a love for Fieldstone since Sheila started volunteering more than seven years ago after a long career as a nurse for **JCB Bellefaire** residential treatment center. They know how our gentle therapy horses can bring such joy to our students.

Walt became a trustee of the **Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation** after his dear friend **Dick Fasenmyer** died. Walt and Dick had met at a public accounting firm early in their careers and they remained good friends for many years. Dick embraced life and enjoyed giving to others. He joined Walt Sheila and their five kids on their family vacations frequently. Walt, Sheila and Dick owned Thoroughbred racehorses together for more than 20 years.

Dick went on to own his own company, **RJF International**, and started the Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation with the mission of funding research for clinical immunology and support for the arts. In recent years, RJF Foundation has made major gifts to the **Cleveland Clinic, Case Medical School** and **Playhouse Square**.



Photo by Lynn Nelschke

Walt and Sheila share the joy with Amanda Morgan at our annual horse show.

This year all of the RJF trustees had the opportunity to direct some discretionary dollars. Fieldstone was fortunate enough to be one of the organizations that Walt and Sheila chose. Dick loved horses and Walt and Sheila knew he would love how the horses are impacting people's lives at Fieldstone Farm.

Dick also loved surprises. So Walt and Sheila decided to share the news in person. They invited CEO **Lynnette Stuart** and Development Director **Maureen Foster** to lunch at a local restaurant in Chagrin Falls. When they broke the news, the kindness and impact of the gift brought tears to Lynnette's and Maureen's eyes. They were completely stunned. Walt said, "Giving is fun!" He was quite sure that Dick would approve.

The trio of friends continue to make an impact even after Dick's passing and they couldn't be happier to have his memory live on through the programs at Fieldstone Farm.

Photo by Claus Christenson



Walt and Sheila stand with Dick Fasenmyer and their winning horse, Chew 'Em Up.

Victories Forever Endowment Campaign underway

We are pleased to report that we have reached 70 percent of our \$3 million Lasting Victories Endowment Campaign with \$2.1 million in pledges and gifts to date. We are grateful to all that have given including many individuals and foundations. The endowment will help sustain Fieldstone Farm long into the future. We are also delighted that 100 percent of our board and 85 percent of our staff have elected to participate in the campaign. Thank you all!

See the complete list of our generous donors on page 5. If you are interested in learning more about the Lasting Victories campaign, please contact **Myrtle Muntz**, Endowment Campaign Director.

Horses give Kathy strength and peace

Cover photos by Tammie Packer

Kathy was leading a full life in Lexington, Kentucky. She was teaching English at a small private college, working in admissions at an equine hospital nearby and riding her horse whenever she could get the chance.

Then one weekend she started to feel really sick. By that Monday she was in the hospital and diagnosed with leukemia. Soon she was transported to a major cancer hospital. A bone marrow transplant was her only chance for life. She needed a donor. Her family didn't match so she turned to an international donor database and a 25-year-old woman in Europe was an exact match. She was overjoyed and received her bone marrow transplant.

Soon after, she moved home to Cleveland. She was determined to regain her strength and ride horses again. She learned about Fieldstone Farm from a friend and read about the partnership with **The Gathering Place** and thought maybe there was a chance she could join a class.

She started riding last year and has been getting stronger by the week. When she is at Fieldstone Farm she forgets all about her illness. She is in the moment, riding and working with horses, her love. She says riding settles her. It gives her peace, confidence and direction. She also has developed her core strength and balance. She loves working with the horses so much that she is now learning to carriage drive, and even volunteers to help other participants at the farm.

Kathy always knew horses would be part of her life, but she never knew how they would change her life in such an important way.

Photo by Lynne Nieschke



Kathy smiles as she wins blue on Rudy at our annual horse show.



Kathy trots in a lesson.

Photo by Tammie Packer

Our horses are the stars of the program

Photos by Tammie Packer

There is not one day that goes by that we are not amazed by our gentle giants. They help our students turn fear into trust, anxiety into peace and sadness into joy. They feel if their riders are uncertain, unbalanced or weak and challenge them to become confident and strong. It is the intuitive powers of our horses that help us transform the lives of our students and families. Please welcome our newest members of the herd and check out the recent news.

Congratulations to Rascal!

After winning "Thoroughbred of the Year" last year from the **Jockey Club**, he has brought home even more awards this year. In May, he was recognized as **Smartpak's** Horse of the Month and in August, he won **PATH's** Region 4 Therapy Horse of the Year Award. We are thrilled by all of his accomplishments. Thanks **Rascal** . . . you are a very talented therapy horse. ▼



▲ **Ty** – This tall, 10-year-old loud-colored guy was donated by the **Thurman Family** in March. He brings a smile to everyone's face as he is quite the character.



▲ **Topeak** – Welcome to this sturdy gentleman donated by **Malinda Swyers** in May. He is a 20-year-old Quarter horse.



▲ **Scotty** – This handsome fellow was donated by **Susan Luria** in September. He is an amazing and talented mount for our independent riders and he is only 14 years old.



Willy gets around

Willy is quite popular here at Fieldstone. In fact, he is so well-liked that his presence is requested at special events all over the community. This year Willy made numerous trips offsite — **Solon Fun Fest, Meyer Distributing Company, Aclara Technologies** and the **Chili Cook Off** in Solon, just to name a few. Everyone loves Willy! ▼



▲ **Sundance** – This sweet and easy going fellow was donated in May by **Rosemary Masterson**. He is another wonderful addition to our program.

◀ **Arrow** – He is a 19-year-old Quarter horse who joined the program in February. This solid, easy going guy is great for our timid riders.

Thank you to our Victories Forever Campaign donors

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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.

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 *Deceased

Horses help heal

Photos by Tammie Packer

Our **Horses and Healing Program** is designed to help children grieve the loss of a loved one. This summer, 20 children attended the camp that we run in partnership with **The Hospice of the Western Reserve**. Our horses, along with trained grief counselors and our therapeutic riding instructors, helped children share and grieve, uncover coping skills, and find a glimmer of joy during a very difficult time in their lives. Through grooming, touching, riding and bonding with the horses, children explored their feelings in a supported environment. This program is made possible through a generous grant from the **William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation**.



Students shine at annual horse show

More than 40 students showed off their abilities at our annual horse show in September. Congratulations to all!

Photo by Lynne Netschke



Avery Mitchell negotiates poles with Dillon.



Audrey Swiger sits tall and proud after her class.

Photo by Lynne Netschke



Vince Gwartz praises May after his win in carriage driving.

Photo by Frank Gwartz

Check out our new website

We just unveiled a completely redesigned website loaded with information about our programs. It includes new pictures and stories about our students and our horses. Be sure to check it out at www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com. And for those not logged onto facebook, you can enjoy our ongoing feed on the news pages.

Chefs Unbridled, a big success once again

Chefs Unbridled continues to delight a sell-out crowd every year with culinary creations from some of the best chefs in Cleveland and tunes from the **Cleveland Jazz Orchestra**. This year we once again broke a record by netting nearly \$200,000 for our programs. We thank all who made this possible including our sponsors, guests, chefs and committee chairs, **Tammie Packer**, **Christine Thompson** and **Shari Weeden**. Your commitment to our programs and this event is unbelievable. A special thanks to our lead sponsors:

**Betsy Juliano and
Litigation Management, Inc.**
The Kuhn Family Foundation
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◀ Chefs **Scott Kuhn** (left) and **Chris Hodgson** (right), celebrate a wonderful evening of great food and fun to benefit Fieldstone Farm. Both chefs have been instrumental in the success of Chefs Unbridled.



Photo by Creed Woodka



Photo by Tammie Packer

▲ **Open Doors Academy** came to the farm for a week of horses, fun and exploration this summer. This program is made possible through a generous grant from the **Ames Family Foundation**.

Thank you to our donors

We are grateful for our generous supporters that make it possible for us to serve those with special needs and challenges. For a full list of our donors from January through September of 2014, please go to our website, www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com.

Giving trees

While shopping this holiday season, don't forget to check the giving trees at **Sear's Hardware** of Bainbridge, **Schneiders Saddlery**, **Big D's Tack** and **Western Reserve Feed** of Chardon to purchase much needed items for the farm. Thank you to our generous store sponsors.

Horse and barn wish list

- Corn brooms
- Large push brooms
- Molasses for horse treats
- Muck buckets
- Plastic replacement pick heads
- Pull-on Bell Boots – medium or large
- Salt blocks – small – 4lb. block size

Maintenance wish list

- 10W – 30 oil – SAE
- 5W – 40 oil – SAE
- 600 – 800# ratchet tie down straps
- Dryer sheets
- Duct tape
- Gardening or work gloves
- Pressurized grease gun
- Towels or shop towels
- Trouble light
- Push mower

For our full wish lists, please see our website.

Thank you photographers

We are so fortunate to have an incredible team of talented photographers who help us share the joy, accomplishments and fun at Fieldstone Farm. Thank you to **Frank Gwartz**, **Lynne Netschke**, **Tammie Packer** and **Creed Woodka** for sharing their artistry. Many of their shots are pictured in this newsletter. If you have any interest in taking pictures at the farm, please let us know.



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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.

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving the *Bits & Paces* newsletter, please call (440) 708-0013 or email info@fieldstonefarmtrc.com.

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