

Bits & Paces

December 2013



Vietnam veteran finds hope and joy

(Cover story page 3)

Rascal wins Thoroughbred of the Year

(Story page 5)

Chefs Unbridled raises record dollars

(Page 7)

Progress on Strategic Plan underway

By Lynnette R. Stuart, CEO

In the 2012 Annual Report, we noted that our Board of Trustees had completed the next iteration of the Strategic Plan, with specific goals to guide the program through the end of 2015. We are happy to report that as we enter the 4th quarter of the year, significant progress has been made on many of the goals.

Of particular note, the Board has taken a hard look at our organizational structure. It was determined that with the size and scope of our program being what it is, division of the top-line responsibilities would help us to maintain excellence in our field.

The position of Chief Operating Officer was recently created to oversee the operational responsibilities of programming, volunteer management and equine and facility management. We were fortunate to hire **Leslie Mapes** into this important new role.

Leslie has been with our program as a part-time PATH Certified Instructor for more than 12 years and worked as a volunteer before that. She brings a diverse set of experience including background in nonprofits, marketing, development and management. Most recently, she was Senior Director of Development at Hopewell. Her expertise in such a variety of areas will enable her to be highly successful in this new role.

Another key area of strategic focus is in trying to achieve financial stability and growth. Increasing the size of our endowment fund is a step toward ensuring future sustainability. After careful study, our Board approved an endowment campaign and we have recently contracted with **Myrtle Muntz** to oversee this effort.

Myrtle comes with a great deal of experience as former CEO of Recovery Resources, VP of Development at Notre Dame, and Executive in Residence at Lawrence School. She has worked on both capital and endowment campaigns. We are very happy to have her join the team.

Welcome to both Leslie and Myrtle!



Leslie Mapes (left) and Myrtle Muntz (right) enjoy a fall day with Baby Huey.

Charles Alusheff will be missed

Our hearts go out to the family of Charles Alusheff who passed away on November 19th. Chuck was a member of the Board of Trustees at Fieldstone Farm since 2007. He and his family have been dedicated to the mission of the program for many years dating back to when his daughter, Lauren, was a rider and his wife, Donna, served on committees. Chuck always valued his board service as his way to give back to Fieldstone Farm. We were honored to work with Chuck. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this difficult time. Chuck will be missed dearly.

Thank you donors

We are so grateful to all of our donors. We would not be able to serve the community without your support. A full list of our donors from January 2013 through September 2013 is posted on our website donor pages, www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com/donors.

Giving trees

Be sure to check out our giving trees during the holiday season to help purchase much needed wish list items. Thank you to our sponsor locations: **Sears Hardware** in Bainbridge, **Big D's Tack** in Streetsboro, **Schneider's Saddlery** in Bainbridge, and **Western Reserve Feed** in Middlefield, Ravenna and Chardon. Please shop and support Fieldstone Farm and these generous store sponsors!

Barn & Horses wish list

Corn brooms
Gift cards to Big D's, Schneider's Saddlery, Tractor Supply or Western Reserve Feed
Large push brooms
Muck buckets
Plastic replacement pick heads
Pull on Bell Boots – Medium or Large
Salt blocks – small – 4lbs. block size

Maintenance wish list

10W – 30 oil – SAE
5W – 40 oil – SAE
9 –V Batteries
Deep well sockets for ½ inch ratchet
Double A batteries
Double end snaps
Duct tape
Garden hoses and wheeled hose caddy
Gardening or work gloves
Gift cards from Home Depot & Sears
Plastic laundry baskets
Plastic or vinyl tarps – any size
Pressurized grease gun
Small hand trimmers/nippers
Towels or shop towels
Trouble light
Welder

Vietnam veteran finds hope and joy from our horses

For years, Ernest's life was going along smoothly. Happily married with children and grandchildren, he was running his own company and playing golf and skiing in his free time. Life was good.

Then one day, everything changed. He tripped on the curb of a sidewalk and an old foot injury from Vietnam came back to haunt him. The pain from his foot, radiated to his back, making it difficult to walk and even stand up straight. He couldn't work, had to sell his company and became depressed. It was then that all of the memories from the war came flooding back. "I had never really processed my feelings from Vietnam," he said. "I was in denial."

One day, he became very agitated after a flashback and it scared his grandson. It was at this moment, he knew he needed help. He reached out to counselors at the **Veterans Administration** and learned about a program with Fieldstone Farm. He remembered his days growing up on a farm, as the oldest of five kids in Georgia, and became intrigued. He enrolled in the program last spring and spent four months working with our horses and the counselors from the VA.

"Coming to Fieldstone allowed me to take a vacation from my chronic pain," Ernest says, explaining how the horses helped him heal both physically and mentally. "They have transformed my life. I don't have bad thoughts when I am at the farm."

Now, Ernest is giving back to veterans just like himself and is a volunteer at Fieldstone Farm in the carriage driving program. He wants to help other veterans find confidence, courage and independence, like he has. He recalls how a triple amputee held the reins while carriage driving one day, and what joy it brought to both he and the other veteran.

Life for Ernest is good again. He continues to be close with his family and his grandson with whom he credits his transformation. "He was my inspiration," he says. His grandson is now a senior at Marietta University and this year ranked second in division three of NCAA Fall Championship in high hurdles.



Photo and cover photo by Tammie Packer



Our horses are the backbone of our program

Each day we discover more about the power of the bond between horses and humans. Our horses encourage our students. They help our students build confidence and strength, making a connection without saying a word. Their generous hearts and instinct to serve transform the lives of our students and their families. Today more than 30 horses call Fieldstone Farm home. Please welcome our newest members of the herd.



▶ **Fūni** – One of our most recent new guys donated by **James and Judy Jolley**. He is an Icelandic horse and already is becoming a favorite at the farm.



▶ **Guyther** – Donated by **James and Judy Jolley**, just like his barnmate Fūni, he is a 20-year-old Icelandic horse and a huge asset to our program.



▶ **Pilgrim** – This cute 11.2 hand Welsh pony was donated by **Sara Conley**. He is 13 years old and a great pony for teaching our beginners.



▶ **Snickers** – Donated by **Robyn Loparo** in June, Snickers has been a great addition to our hippotherapy program (physical therapy on horseback). He is a Welsh/P.O.A. cross.

▶ **Arnie** – A recent addition to the riding and driving program, Arnie is a bay, Hackney belgian cross.

▶ **Jewel** – Welcome to this beautiful 15.2 hand, Shire/Percheron cross. She is working great in our riding and driving program.

All horse photos by Tammie Packer



▲ **Bambi** – This lovely little 14.2 hand Haflinger mare was donated by **Kara Toth**. Bambi was born in 1996 and donated in June of 2013.



Rascal wins Thoroughbred of the Year

Our very own, **Loveable Rascal**, was named The Jockey Club's 2013 **Thoroughbred of the Year**. Serving as a treasured therapy horse for six years, Loveable Rascal, along with his fellow horses at Fieldstone Farm, helps thousands of people with special needs achieve what they thought was impossible.

This national award is presented to a thoroughbred each year who has excelled in a non-competitive career. The Jockey Club presented a \$5,000 donation to Fieldstone Farm in Rascal's honor at **Thistledown Racino** in October.

Rascal is a special horse reaching people of all ages with many challenges. He helps them become stronger physically and emotionally so they can better cope with daily life. His impact on people's lives can be found simply by looking outside his stall where his "fan mail" is posted. "Best horse ever," "I love you Rascal," and "Thank you Rascal" are some of the messages. He has touched the lives of so many.

Born in Kentucky in 2002, Loveable Rascal was bred from two winning race horses in the hopes that he too would deliver on the track. But after four races without a ribbon, he was steered to the show ring where he competed in hunter jumpers. At one point, he was even owned by the Governor of Kentucky. After an injury made him unable to jump fences, his owner, **Daryl Whitmoyer**, donated him to the therapeutic riding program at Fieldstone Farm.

Transitioning to become a therapy horse from the race track and a competitive showing career is not for every horse. But Rascal's patience, easy-going attitude and a special intuition to know he is helping a person who needs a little extra attention have made him a favorite in the barn. "Rascal is one of those horses that not only knows he is helping riders, he wants to!" says **Jinene Studzinski**, Equine Director.

Always kind and patient, Rascal is an incredible horse! We rely on him to help our students realize their dreams. Congratulations Rascal!



Photo by Tammie Packer



Fieldstone Farm accepts a \$5,000 award from The Jockey Club at Thistledown Racino. From left to right, Jinene Studzinski, Lynnette Stuart, Maureen Foster of Fieldstone Farm, along with Kristin Werner Leshney and Cathy O'Meara of The Jockey Club.

Students rein victorious at the October Horse Show

Congratulations to the nearly 40 students who displayed their talents at our annual horse show at Fieldstone Farm. We are so proud of all of our participants, including: **DJ Banasik, Sharbel Boustani, Lindsay Campbell, Sydney Corcoran, Lauren Damian, Olivia DePiere, Katherine Devonshire, Chaz Fitzgerald, Samantha Francetic, Peyton Giesey, Fred Goldstein, Kayla Goodman, Vince Gwartz, Stacie Hodge, Leah Hopson, Conor L'Esperance, Laura Little, Delaney Maclay, James McNeil, Avery Mitchell, Amanda Morgan, Peter Pogacar, Tim Raia, Wayne Randall, Joe Reagan, Lilyana Reginelli, John Ross, Alexis Schween, Jacob Stolle, Elise Sullivan, Margaret Sulzmann, Stephen Sydenstricker, Brian Tobin, Charlotte Twells, Katie White, Bryce Wilson and Matthew Young.** Thank you also to all of the volunteers who helped to make this incredible day possible!



Photo by Naomi Goodman

▶ **Kayla Goodman** leads **Jackson** into a balanced trot in the show ring at the horse show. Kayla, who until recently rode with a volunteer leader, handled Jackson independently at the show. "This was a tremendous accomplishment. I am so proud of Kayla. She worked hard and it showed," **Carey Wilson-Smith** said of her student. Kayla won a 2nd and 4th place ribbon.



▲ **Wayne Randall** celebrates his 1st and 2nd place awards with his mom, **Tammy**.



Photo by Lynne Netschke

▶ **DJ Banasik** drops his jaw when he learns he has won a blue ribbon in the Intermediate Equitation Division riding **Rascal**.

Chefs Unbridled raises record dollars

Chefs Unbridled tops last year's record and becomes the largest fundraising event ever for Fieldstone Farm with a sell-out crowd. More than 600 supporters gathered at the **Chagrin Valley Hunt Club** in Gates Mills to raise a record net of more than \$175,000 for our therapeutic riding programs. Wow!

"Chefs Unbridled continues to be an incredible success. Our chefs are amazing, the **Cleveland Jazz Orchestra** dazzled the crowd, our committee was so dedicated and the Hunt Club was the perfect venue for this annual event!" said Development Director **Maureen Foster**. "We are so thankful to everyone who came out to support us." A special thank you to our lead sponsors:

Jim and Andrea Thome Family

**Betsy Juliano and
Litigation Management, Inc.**

Land Rover Solon/Jaguar Cleveland

Robert Kaplan Family Foundation

Wolf Family Foundation



600 gather under a beautiful tent on a fall night for Chefs Unbridled.



Photo by Betty Weibel

▲ 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.



Photos by Creed Woodka

▲ Thank you also to our committee chairs **Tammie Packer** (left), **Shari Weeden** (right), and committee member **Christine Thompson** (center).

Volunteer ornithologist watches over our Bluebirds

When **John Barber** first came to Fieldstone Farm as part of a service day project with **Key Bank** years ago, he noticed that our back fields were a perfect habitat for bluebirds. An ornithologist himself, he offered to install bluebird houses to encourage bluebirds to nest at Fieldstone Farm. We enthusiastically accepted his offer and since then he has been able to establish a thriving bluebird population surrounding the pond at Fieldstone Farm. This year he spotted three nests and 10 fledgings in late April and July. John even identified two loyal adult females born at Fieldstone Farm who he had banded and returned this year to breed. Next spring when you see a flash of blue or hear a cheery song in the fields, please thank our volunteer ornithologist, John Barber.

We are grateful to our service groups



Edgepark employees paint saddle racks for the barn.

Maintaining our farm, equipment and facility is no easy task. Several local companies encourage their employees to work "off-site" at Fieldstone for a half day or a full day each year. They paint, plant, weed, and take on any task our Volunteer Director **Melissa Hauserman** and Facility and Groundskeeper **John Sewell** ask. Thank you to **Meyer Distributing**, **Edgepark Medical Supply**, **Tucker Ellis**, **Key Bank** and the **Jewish Community Center** for their hard work this year. We really appreciate it!

Thank you photographers

A big thanks to **Tammie Packer**, **Lynn Netschke**, **Creed Woodka**, **Bill Miller**, **Matt Miller**, **Arlene Taylor** and **Jo Marble** who all have donated their time and talent to capture our horses and students on film. These pictures demonstrate just how much our horses are changing lives. Watch for their images in our newsletter and many other places. If you love taking pictures and are interested in volunteering, please contact **Elizabeth Krouse** at ekrouse@fieldstonefarmtrc.com.



FIELDSTONE FARM

16497 Snyder Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 1912



Board of Trustees

Elizabeth B. Juliano, *Chair*
Thomas Rathbone, *President*
Rob Rogers, *Vice President*
Allen K. Wiant, *Vice President*
Teresa J. Schaffer, *Treasurer*
Anne Houin, *Secretary*

Charles P. Alusheff*
Geoff Baker
Joan Englund
Lynn B. Handke
KC Henry
Leslie Kantra
Stephen J. O'Neill
Tammie L. Packer
Ed Pavlish
Richard B. Renner
Christine Thompson
T. Rodney Twells
Amanda H. Wilcox
John H. Wilharm, Jr.

*Deceased

Lynnette R. Stuart, *Chief Executive Officer*

TRC

Foundation Trustees

James B. Naylor, IV, *Chair & President*
Jane C. Lehman, *Co-Chair & Secretary*

Robert I. Gale, III
Thomas A. Good
Alison Jones
Joseph J. Mahovlic
Judith B. McConnell
Paul Neidhardt
William J. O'Neill, Jr.
Richard B. Renner
Mark W. Teague

Constance Lincoln, *Emeritus*
Billie Howland Steffee, *Emeritus*

Staff

Missy Borrer, *Barn Assistant*
Stacey Cozzens, *Gaitway Liaison, Instructor*
Nancy Cruikshank, *Ground Instructor*
Marty Culbertson, *Ground Instructor*
Don Dalton, *Instructor*
Ellen Davidson, *Instructor*
Bobbin Davis, *Physical Therapist*
Yari Dominguez,
Senior Support Administrator
Maureen Foster, *Development Director*
Debbie Gadus, *Instructor*
Sue Harris, *Ground Instructor*
Melissa Hauserman, *Director of Volunteers*
and Student Outreach, Instructor
Sunny Jones, *Volunteer Instructor*
Lisa Kaufman, *Physical Therapist*
Elizabeth Krouse, *Grants and*
Marketing Specialist
Sandy Kutash, *Instructor*
Anne Lyness, *Finance Manager*
Maureen Manetta, *Barn Assistant*
Deb Manke, *Barn Assistant*
Leslie Mapes, *Chief Operating Officer,*
Instructor

Marissa Margraf, *Instructor*
Teresa Morris, *Programming Specialist,*
Instructor
Myrtle Muntz,
Endowment Campaign Consultant
Theresa Overton, *Volunteer and*
Outreach Assistant
Ann Ponikvar, *Instructor*
Desiree Ruscini, *Barn Assistant*
John Sewell, *Facility and Groundskeeper*
Lauren Simak, *Special Programs*
Coordinator, Instructor
Carey Smith-Wilson,
Student Outreach Specialist, Instructor
Winni Spisak, *Head Instructor*
Lynnette Stuart, *Chief Executive Officer,*
Instructor
Jinene Studzinski,
Equine and Facility Director, Instructor
Arlene Taylor, *Social Media Specialist,*
Instructor
Mitchel Tropf, *Maintenance Assistant*
Tonya Zimmer, *Instructor*

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.

440-708-0013 • www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com

Be our friend on Facebook.

