

Bits & Paces

Winter 2017/2018

Brian's 36-year journey
with Fieldstone Farm
continues . . .

(Cover story page 3)



Congratulations Riders!

Each year we host several horse shows giving our students the opportunity to demonstrate all they have learned. It is a day of celebration as scores of families, friends and instructors beam with pride at the students' incredible accomplishments. Check out a few of the pictures from our fall show by volunteer photographer **Lynne Netschke**.



Addie Kiefer's mom couldn't be prouder of her daughter who won top ribbons for her performances.



Vince Gwartz rides Rudy confidently as volunteer Betsy Ortner assists.



(Left) Madeline Graban is all smiles after receiving a trophy and blue ribbon for her wonderful ride.

Horses transform Brian's life

Photos and cover photo by Frank Gwirtz



(Top right) Brian at age six rides a horse at Fieldstone Farm (then called TRC). Today Brian has fun driving the carriage with able-bodied whip Dave Watkins.

Every week for the past 36 years, Brian has been coming to Fieldstone Farm to ride, carriage drive, and work with our horses. And the smile that appeared the first time he rode at age six, persists at 41, as he drives our carriages and grooms our horses.

Brian's parents, Donna and Kevin, say the experience at Fieldstone has been incredible. Not only has working with horses helped strengthen his muscles, but it has also improved his posture, his speech, his attention-span, and helped him learn to follow directions and understand concepts such as colors and letters. Fieldstone also gives him an opportunity to socialize and make friends.

Even when Brian has had a tough day, Donna says he is always very patient with the horses. She says he likes routine and typically doesn't like transitions. But for some reason with the horses, it's different, Brian is more relaxed and flexible, and accepting of change.

Brian's dad, Kevin, says the experience at the farm has been an important part of his life. His brothers and two sisters were competitive swimmers and brought home many trophies and ribbons. Riding at Fieldstone gave Brian the same opportunity when he would compete in the horse shows and bring home his own awards. To this day, Kevin says, Fieldstone Farm trophies adorn their home.

"Brian and his family's commitment to our lesson program has been incredible," says Lynnette Stuart, Chief Executive Officer. "I love seeing Brian's smile when he comes into the barn each week. Everyone at Fieldstone looks forward to seeing him driving our horses for many more years to come!"

Sunny and her 23-year legacy

Photos by Tammie Packer

At 82, Alison “Sunny” Jones, has decided to step back from her regular weekly lessons at Fieldstone Farm after a 23-year career as a volunteer instructor, board member and donor.

But she isn’t hanging up her breeches yet. Sunny will still be riding and carriage driving at her farm, Tannerwood, in Chardon, and will continue on as a substitute driving instructor when needed. She plans to continue her support to Fieldstone Farm through her family foundation, the Triple T Foundation.

“It’s bittersweet,” says Sunny, who will miss working with the students and her carriage driving team. She’s proud of the carriage driving program that she helped develop, and so pleased that people who are unable to ride have the opportunity to drive horses.

With carriage driving you have to know and trust your horse, she says. Unlike riding, when driving, all you have is your reins, whip and voice, she explains. “You really are a team and it takes a lot of training and preparation.”

“Sunny’s passion for horses and our students has been a big driver for our success,” says Lauren Simak, instructor

and head of the driving program. She’s been involved in the leadership of the organization for more than 20 years as a board member, honorary chair of our capital campaign that funded the building of our facility, and a founder of our carriage driving program, as well as being a generous donor.

A lifelong horse woman and breeder, Sunny first came to volunteer at Fieldstone when her good friend Debbie Gadus, now also an instructor at Fieldstone, was seriously injured in an accident and paralyzed. Together they came to the farm and developed our carriage driving program. Now, 20-plus years later, our carriage driving program is thriving, with veterans and other students driving several days a week with the help of our highly trained team of horses and volunteers.

In addition to her leadership at Fieldstone Farm, Sunny was influential in developing equine programs at Lake Erie College and the girls’ riding program at Chincapin of Red Oak Camps, which is now housed at her farm in Chardon.

We thank Sunny for her extraordinary service and commitment to Fieldstone Farm. She will be missed in lessons although we are so glad that she’ll remain involved!





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.

Anonymous

Donna & Charles* Alusheff

Kimberly Ann

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Cynthia Woc

**Deceased*

Welcome to our newest members of the herd

Photos by Tammie Packer



▲ **Tom** (left) and **King** (right), joined the herd this fall and were donated by **Cheryl Ciancibelli**. They will be part of our riding and carriage driving programs and are sure to be favorites in the barn. King is a handsome 16.3 hand Percheron gelding and Tom is a sweet gray 16.2-hand Percheron gelding.



▲ A 15-hand registered Halflinger gelding, **Jake** was donated to the farm in July by **Lisa and Scott Schinness**. Born in 2000, his registered name is Amman Caf and he is already adored by all.

▲ Handsome and sweet, **George**, a 16.3-hand Oldenburg, was donated by his namesake **The George Family** in early 2017. A retired jumper, his show name is Midnight Run. George joins our riding program with loads of experience.

Doc, joined the program after his owner, military veteran **Michael Grattan**, thought Doc would be a perfect fit for our veterans program. A 15-hand, bay Quarter horse, Doc has been a wonderful addition to our team.



Chefs Unbridled raises more than \$265,000

Photos by Lynne Netschke

A huge thank you to our sponsors, guests, board members and volunteers for making our annual fundraiser, Chefs Unbridled, one of our best ever, raising more than \$265,000 for our programs. A sell-out crowd of 600 attendees enjoyed the delicious samplings served up by Cleveland's hottest chefs, led by **Scott Kuhn** and **Chris Hodgson**, on the grounds of the picturesque Hunt Club grounds in Gates Mills.



Kurt Packer (left), TRC Foundation trustee and event sponsor, enjoys the company of his guests while gathered under the tent at Chefs Unbridled.



Emeritus Trustee, event sponsor and former Board Chair Elizabeth B. Juliano celebrates with chefs Scott Kuhn, left, and Chris Hodgson, right, who led an all-star culinary line-up at the event.



The Hunt Club offers the most charming setting for this outdoor evening each fall.

Thank you donors

We are grateful for your generous support. Without your funding we would not be able to serve those with special needs and challenges. Thank you all for making this possible. To view a full list of our donors, please go to our website at www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com.

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Horse wish list

- Corn brooms
- High Country insulated buckets
- Himalayan Rock Salt with the rope
- Plug-in style stock tank heaters
- Pull-on Bell Boots – medium and large
- Plastic replacement pick heads
- Large push brooms
- Elastic leg straps
- Salt blocks – small – 4 lbs. block size
- Muck buckets
- Molasses for horse treats
- Gift cards for Big D's, Schneider's or Tractor Supply

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Maintenance wish list

- 10W 30 oil
- Garden hose
- Plastic tarps
- Shop towels
- 60/100 watt replacement energy saver light bulbs (those curly ones)
- 50' extension cord
- Gift cards to Home Depot



FIELDSTONE FARM

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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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