

# Bits & Paces

Winter 2020



## *"Grateful"*

Dear Friends,

They call this the season for gratitude and even at such an uncertain time, we have much for which we can be grateful.

During our shutdown this spring, our dedicated equine team never missed a beat. They worked tirelessly to care for our horses, despite everything going on around them. In return, our horses gave peace and solace to so many as students and volunteers drove by just to see them happily grazing in the pastures.

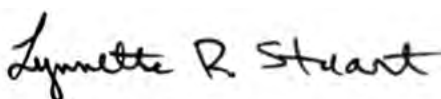
Our program staff was creatively working on virtual lessons and ways to support their students. They could not have been more thrilled to then welcome some of our greatly missed students and volunteers back beginning in June and every week, those numbers have grown. We currently have 148 students (65% of pre-COVID-19) and 97 volunteers (50% of pre-COVID-19) attending weekly. This fall, we were so pleased to see our Gaitway staff and students return. Having some "hustle and bustle" throughout the building every day gives us all a greater sense of normalcy, which is very comforting.

Every person who has come into our building has worked very hard to follow our safety protocols. It seems to be making a difference and for that, we are also very appreciative. It is our greatest hope that the rest of our students and volunteers will be able to return soon.

And through all of this, our donors have continued to give their generous support to ensure that we will be here when things are "normal" again.

So, despite this year being one of the toughest yet, we can't begin to express how truly grateful we are to each and every one of you. You have kept us going and helped to ensure we will be able to offer our services to our students in the years to come, no matter what challenges we face. For that, we have so much gratitude!

Thank you!



Lynnette R. Stuart  
Chief Executive Officer





*Thank you to all of our students for wearing masks to help keep everyone as safe as possible.*



*Instructors Betsy (left) and Berni congratulate a student at our outdoor awards ceremony in May.*



*Instructors Shellie and Katy (right) meet with our Ohio Military Kids in a virtual lesson.*



*Thank you to volunteer Joan Milligan for sewing dozens of saddle covers so they can be washed in between each ride to keep everyone safe.*



# Chefs Unbridled postponed but sponsors still give!

In an incredible show of support, many of our Chefs Unbridled sponsors asked us to change their sponsorship to a 2020 donation! Wow! We extend a **huge thank you** to our amazing group of sponsors including:

## Title Sponsor

The Harrington Family Foundation

## \$15,000

The Kuhn Family Foundation

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*Scott Kuhn serving up  
a delicious plate at  
Chefs Unbridled in 2019.*



# Whoa! Mobile Mini Program Underway.

Our miniature horses are hitting the road in a newly outfitted transport van to extend our programming beyond the farm. Our Mobile Mini Program officially kicked off with a visit to the Galvin Therapy Center in November. Patients and therapists loved interacting with Thunder, one of our four traveling miniature horses, and can't wait for his return.

Other visits scheduled include senior centers, hospitals and schools. While the mobile program was conceived before the pandemic, it turns out that it is a great way to connect with many of our partner organizations during these socially distancing times. The minis serve as our ambassadors, helping to foster how a connection with a horse can improve mood, mindfulness, motivation, confidence, relaxation and happiness. They also help students with experiential learning based around math, science, art and social skills.

A big thank you to The Reinberger Foundation for a generous grant to fund the van and startup costs for this new program.

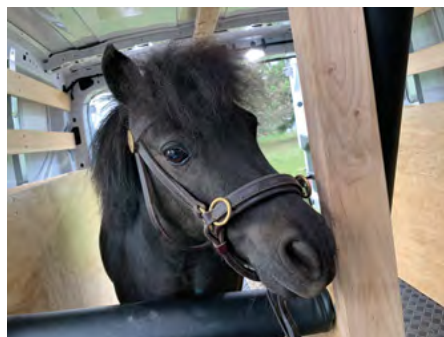
If you are interested in learning more about the program or would like to schedule a visit, please contact Katy at [kflint@fieldstonefarmtrc.com](mailto:kflint@fieldstonefarmtrc.com).



*Lyla smiles at Willy, one of our four miniature horses at the farm.*



*Jinene stands with Thunder before loading him into our new van.*



*Thunder, ready to travel in the new van.*



# Veteran finds peace with horses.



*Jerry bonds with Rico. Photo and cover photo by Frank Gwirtz.*

Before Jerry accepted a work transfer from Washington, D.C. to Cleveland, he wanted to be sure there was a therapeutic horseback riding center nearby. Horses had helped him navigate the challenges of returning from Iraq after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom years ago and had become a big part of his life. A quick search on the internet pointed him in the direction of Fieldstone Farm.

That was more than a year ago. He has been coming to the farm to work with our horses ever since. Fieldstone is his safe place.

*“Fieldstone is a respite from the turbulent world that we all live in,” says Jerry. “When you groom a horse, you develop a connection. They help you focus on the moment and take your mind off other things. I am most at peace when I am with horses.”*

His instructor, Aviva, says horses can help reset emotions. When she asks Jerry to lean his body weight into the horse with a big hug, and rest there for a few minutes waiting to match breaths, she sees him begin to physically de-stress. But even when Jerry thinks he’s relaxed, the horse will wiggle still sensing stress. It is only when Jerry is truly relaxed, physically and mentally, that the horse will stand completely still and they are able to breathe together as one.





Jerry and Ernest with therapy horse Jake on our carriage trail. Photo by Tammie Packer.

"This exercise is an emotional reset to the nervous system and allows us to feel fully grounded. It sounds simple, but the sensory experience with such a large animal is powerful," says Aviva, adding that these skills are transferable outside the barn. "If you feel stressed at work, you can recall the sensory input and grounding feeling, consciously regroup, and become calm."

Jerry has benefitted so greatly from horses that he wanted to share this experience with his daughter, Sofia. She now is in lessons too, quickly learning riding skills and getting to know our horses. Jerry says working with horses has helped build her confidence and sharpen her focus which is translating to other aspects of her life including school. Recently she competed in our annual horse show with her dad eagerly watching and capturing her smile on camera.

Beyond horses, Jerry has found friendship. Recently, he started in our Carriage Driving Program and met Ernest, a volunteer and fellow veteran. While sitting alongside Jerry in the carriage and helping him learn the ropes, they talked and shared stories.

"I think I made him feel comfortable and at ease just sitting next to him in the carriage and not judging," Ernest says. As they got to know each other, you often would see smiles, laughs and lots of encouragement. They had become a team.

*"Ernest is the sweetest, kindest person I have ever met," says Jerry who calls Ernest his guardian angel and has affectionately nicknamed him, Clarence, after the fictional character in the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life."*

Jerry and Ernest are two of the many veterans who come to the farm each week. To learn more about our programs for veterans and their families, please contact Aviva at [avincent@fieldstonefarmtrc.com](mailto:avincent@fieldstonefarmtrc.com) or (440) 708-0013 ext. 124.



Sofia enjoys a trail ride with her class. Photo by Frank Gwartz.



## Farrier keeps our herd healthy and happy.

When it comes to horses, foot care is paramount to good health. Keeping our 38 horses sound is essential to serving our students and the community. At Fieldstone Farm, we are fortunate to have Jimmy Marino as our farrier. "He is the best of the best," says Jinene, our Equine Director.

*"Jimmy's pretty creative in finding solutions for our horses and willing to try anything to help them."*

*Jinene*



*Above - Jimmy replaces a shoe on one of our horses.*

*Larger Photo - Jimmy stands in front of his truck with all the tools of the trade.*

*Photos by Tammie Packer.*

Every Wednesday, Jimmy pulls into the farm ready to solve problems. With our aging herd, it isn't always the typical trimming and shoeing. It can involve treating an abscess or figuring out a creative way to keep our older horses comfortable and able to do their jobs.

Many of our horses, due to their age, are arthritic or they can have navicular or ringbone. Jimmy's lifelong experience with horses and knowledge of anatomy and physiology helps him treat various conditions common in aging horses. He also works closely with our veterinarian to fine tune his work. He can make a shoe that is unique for the horse he is trying to help.

Jimmy came to Fieldstone at the recommendation of our retired veterinarian, Dr. Genovese. "That says a lot when the 'grandfather of lameness' sings your praises," says Jinene, emphasizing how important a farrier is to the well-being of a horse. Since Jimmy became our farrier we have seen a significant improvement in our horses' ability to do their jobs and continue doing their work for years.

Even though Jimmy is in high demand as a farrier for local tracks, hunter jumper barns and private farms, he has been very generous donating time and services, including helping to haul our horses to the annual Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic horse show, fostering our horses at his farm where he rehabs horses and donating horse shoes to become picture frames for our students. His wife, also a lifelong horse person, who was an outrider with him at the track, repairs our tack and blankets. Thank you, Jimmy, for all that you do!



# The show goes on!

With extra safety precautions and required masks, our annual fall horse show was a huge hit as a record number of 60 students competed! A big thank you to our volunteers and students who diligently and patiently followed our safety protocols. It was a great day and even our masks couldn't hide the smiles!



*Photo by Michael Steinberg.*

## Thank you donors

A huge thank you to our very generous donors. Your support means more than you know, especially this year. We will publish a full list of all of our supporters in our Annual Report in the spring.

Thank you all!

## Thank you Grand Champions

Our Board recognizes individuals as Grand Champions in gratitude for their outstanding service. We sincerely appreciate their exceptional dedication to our program.

Robert Crump\*  
Bobbin Davis  
Carol Donaldson  
Kevin Ellison  
Robert I. Gale, III  
Sunny Jones  
Dr. Ron Genovese  
Dick Hambleton\*  
KC Henry  
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Judith B. McConnell  
James B. Naylor, IV  
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Robert F. Sposito\*  
Billie Howland Steffee\*  
Jean H. Taber\*  
Andrea & Jim Thome  
Allen Wiant

\*Deceased



*Photo by Michael Steinberg.*



*Photo by Marty Culbertson.*

### Horse Wish List

- Corn brooms
- Davis bell boots, large and medium
- Elastic leg straps
- Fleece topped bell boots, size large and XL
- Fortex corner feeders
- Himalayan Rock Salt with the rope
- Hot hands one-time use hand warmers
- Muck buckets

- Plastic replacement pick heads
- Rubber ground feeders, any size

### Maintenance Wish List

- 10W-30 oil
- 50-foot extension cord
- 60/100 watt replacement energy saver light bulbs
- Plastic tarp
- Shop towels

# Mitch is his name, but he is our "Steady Eddie."

## Mitch



*Mitch enjoying turnout. Photo by Tammie Packer.*

One of our most dependable and versatile horses, Mitch, joined the herd when he was only five! He holds the distinction of being here the longest, at 18 years, second only to Princeton, who was with us for 19 years!

Mitch has remained a "go-to" horse for both our riding and carriage driving programs because he happily works with all types of students, from our most involved hippotherapy clients to our most skilled riders and drivers. We call him our golden child and would clone him if we could.

With a Registered name of Michel's Checkmark DRH with The Haflinger Association, he competed in driving competitions before coming to Fieldstone, earning his share of ribbons. A good-natured, humble guy, Mitch didn't let this fame go to his head. He stands perfectly still for our most reluctant riders as they get on for the first time, helping to build their confidence and trust.

## Welcome our newest members of the herd.

### Sebastian



Sebastian rejoined the herd in March, after some time spent at a nearby farm. He was originally donated by Julie Kleshinski of Mansfield in 2016. Sebastian has loads of experience – English, Western, a little jumping, he showed in 4-H and even at the Ohio State Fair. He is a 15.1 hand sorrel / white Tobiano Paint gelding. He has an easy going, laid back personality, perfect for our riders.

### Leo



A cute, sensible, chestnut Quarter Horse gelding, Leo, is one of our newest additions to the herd. He is a 'been there, done that' kind of guy. He has mostly been ridden Western and even contested and showed in 4-H. At 15 hands, he is the perfect size for kids and small adults. Jerry Cavanaugh donated him in July, and Leo has been getting lots of love and attention ever since.

### Tex



Tex, a new favorite at the barn, is a 15.1-hand, flashy sorrel Appendix Quarter Horse that worked on a ranch in Idaho and contested early in his career. Louise, Will and Christina Frasier of Chardon taught him dressage, and he cleaned up in the show ring. The family donated him in January and he is excelling as a therapy horse with his sweet demeanor and eagerness to please. Tex is the second horse that the family has donated to the farm – thank you Frasier!



# Charitable Giving with Retirement Accounts & the SECURE Act

*If you are interested in donating to Fieldstone Farm, the article below shares details of the new SECURE Act and how it can help to make the most of your support.*

Article by Joseph M. Ferraro, Esq. – Tucker Ellis LLP

On January 1, 2020, the SECURE Act (“Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement”) was signed into law, which made significant changes to retirement accounts. These new rules make it more attractive to name charities as beneficiaries of retirement accounts. Generally, withdrawals made from a retirement account (other than a Roth IRA) are taxed as ordinary income. This applies to withdrawals made by the account owner during life, and by beneficiaries of the account after the account owner’s death. However, when a charity is named as a beneficiary of a retirement account, the charity receives the retirement account tax-free.

The SECURE Act has significantly changed the distribution rules for non-spouse, individual beneficiaries who inherit retirement accounts. Specifically, the technique commonly referred to as the “Stretch IRA” is eliminated for most non-spouse beneficiaries. Prior to the passage of the SECURE Act, most non-spouse beneficiaries who inherited a retirement account could “stretch” the period for taking required withdrawals from the account over the beneficiary’s lifetime. Now, most non-spouse beneficiaries must withdraw the entire inherited retirement account within 10 years. It is important to note that the rules did not change with respect to naming a spouse as beneficiary of a retirement account. Because the withdrawal and taxation of an inherited retirement account is accelerated for a non-spouse beneficiary, it has become even more attractive to name a charity as a retirement account beneficiary.

It is also important to note that the SECURE Act did not change the rules which allow account owners to make donations to charities directly from retirement accounts up to \$100,000 per year (called a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” or “QCD”), which can be used to satisfy an account owner’s annual Required Minimum Distribution (“RMD”). The QCD provides a significant tax benefit as it is considered an “above the line” deduction, meaning it is not included in taxable income, and therefore not dependent on whether an account owner itemizes deductions (unlike the traditional charitable deduction). Although the SECURE Act increased the beginning age for making RMDs to 72, it preserved the ability to make a QCD beginning at age 70 ½. The QCD should be considered by retirement account owners each year as part of their gift planning, especially at the end of the year if the RMD has not yet been made.

Put literally, a dollar from a retirement account is worth significantly more to a charity than it is to an individual beneficiary, as it is tax-free. Using retirement accounts as part of your charitable giving plan, either by naming charities as retirement account beneficiaries, or using QCDs to make annual gifts, allows you to get more bang for your charitable-giving buck. Retirement account owners should review their estate plans and beneficiary designations to take advantage of these strategies.

## 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  
Julia Brandow  
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Diane & Robert Stahler  
Billie Howland Steffee\*  
Jean H. Taber\*  
Anne Marie Kollander & Mark  
W. Teague  
Cynthia Woc

*\*Deceased*



Dillon. 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.*

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

[www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com](http://www.fieldstonefarmtrc.com)  
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Fieldstone Farm has continually received the PATH Intl Premier Accredited Center designation.

