



THE LEAD LINE

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Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is tax-exempt under Section 501 © 3 of the Internal Revenue Service. We are a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations and the PA Council on Therapeutic Horsemanship.

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Letter from the President ...

As we embark upon our fifteenth year, Hope Springs continues to expand and reach out to new members of our community. This winter, we welcomed several new riders from ReMed, an organization that provides rehabilitation and supported living for people with traumatic brain injuries. After nine years of outstanding service, we promoted Jeannie Knowlton to the position of Executive Director. As the driving force behind our successful therapeutic riding program, Jeannie brings extensive hands-on experience with our riders and their families to her expanded role. We also welcomed Eileen Corl, Judy Gertz, and Lisa Phifer onto our Board at the end of 2011, joined this month by Beth Sgarra, one of our rider's parents. Based on the positive feedback that we receive from parents about the quality of life enhancements that we deliver to children, youth, and adults with disabilities, Hope Springs looks forward to another banner year in 2012. We offer our sincere thanks to all of you – foundations, corporations, individuals, and volunteers – whose contributions continue to make all of this possible.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Swimm

President

SIBLING RIDER PROGRAM — NEW IDEA FOR HSET

We have noted that some students could benefit from greater family participation in our program. By offering these families the opportunity for brothers or sisters to ride at the same time as a student with a disability, we are finding that the bond between siblings grows stronger. Each sibling has his or her own instructor and is taught to strengthen their own individual abilities, but these riders now have one more activity in common. Siblings progress at their own pace, but parents have told us that these students are excited to share with their parents and each other what each learns during lessons, and sibling riders push each other to "get ready" to come to lessons. To learn more about our sibling ride program, ask your child's instructor.



Tyler and Daniel, brothers who started riding together last fall as part of Hope Springs' new sibling rider program.



CALLING ALL CAMPERS

PARENTS: GREAT ACTIVITY FOR YOUR CHILD THIS SUMMER

Come join us - our camps offer horseback riding instruction while having fun playing games and trail riding, learning about horse care and equestrian themed arts and crafts.

HOPE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM, 4 SESSIONS AVAILABLE
visit our website for information and camp sign-up forms.



The Lead Line

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY'S INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CONFERENCE



Jeannie and Dallas
at WCU Event

On March 30th, Hope Springs participated in the West Chester University's 13th Integrative Health Conference, an annual event that brings together practitioners interested in the human-animal bond and its impact on health. We had a great time meeting other individuals and educators involved in animal assisted therapy. We picked up some new ideas that are relevant to our program that we hope to apply back at the barn.

WINTER CAMP

On December 27-29th, 2011, riders participated in the first Winter Horse Camp at Hope Springs. While there was no snow to play in, campers had fun learning basic horse care and horsemanship skills in the barn as well as navigating obstacle courses and practicing walking, trotting, and communicating with their horses during the riding portion of camp. We then moved to the classroom to learn more about horses and warm up! Our first Winter camp session was enjoyable and successful; we hope to offer this program again in 2012. But you don't have to wait until December! Join us in the summer months for our four weeks of camp. Visit our website for camp options.

TALK OF CHESTER COUNTY



On March 5th, WCHE 1520 AM – the talk of Chester County – invited Jeannie Knowlton to chat with "Passionate about Pets" talk show host Rich Britton about our wonderful therapy horses, their riders, and the close relationships forged between them. If you missed the live show, **visit www.hope-springs.org** to download and replay this interview. Our thanks to WCHE and Rich for helping us reach out to our community – we already have one new rider whose Mom learned about Hope Springs through this radio show.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR RECENT SUPPORT

Allerton Foundation
Beckett Foundation
Connelly Foundation
D. Rosato Foundation
Elite Companies Charitable Foundation
Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation
Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Foundation
Focus Foundation
Fredericks Foundation
Garthwaite Foundation

Genuardi's Employees Foundation
Mill Spring Foundation
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
Penn Liberty Bank - EITC Contributor
Quaker City Foundation
RJM Foundation
Rosenlund Family Foundation
Scholler Foundation
Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation
W. Percy Simpson Trust



Brian Ainscoe, Store
Manager, Genuardi
presenting check to
Jeannie.

Our special thanks to Genuardi's Employee Foundation for their generous donation to the Hope Springs therapeutic riding program. HSET president Ken Swimm and executive director Jeannie Knowlton attended an award ceremony at Genuardi's on April 3rd to accept this grant, which will be used to provide lessons to children with disabilities.

Hope Springs is going **GREEN!** Please help by telling us how you would prefer to be reached. Visit www.hope-springs.org and click "join or update our mailing list".

Three ways to stay up to date and follow HSET:



www.facebook.com/HopeSpringsOrg



Follow us on the Web:
www.hope-springs.org



www.twitter.com/HopeSpringsOrg

Spring 2012

A NEW PARTNERSHIP HAS FORMED

Last fall, Hope Springs accepted one new student from ReMed, an organization that provides rehabilitation and long term supported living for people with traumatic brain injuries. Based on our initial success, we have now grown to four ReMed students, with more interested in coming to Hope Springs to learn how to ride.

Each of our ReMed riders is an adult who has suffered traumatic brain injury and uses a wheelchair as their normal mode of transportation. That is, until they get on a horse... during therapeutic riding lessons, these individuals become just like every other rider as they work on posture, steering and controlling their horse. Little by little, each student is accomplishing these attainable goals. The pride and confidence that our ReMed riders have gained is proof that horses accept all of us as equals – although they do especially love riders who bring them treats!



ReMed rider Julie's back strength, core muscle tone, limb sensation, and concentration have all improved since she began riding at Hope Springs. At the age of 7, Julie's head was caught in a car window, causing an anoxic injury that makes it hard for her to speak clearly or feel or control her limbs. During each lesson, volunteers help transfer Julie onto her horse, where she can sit and steer independently while focusing on therapy tasks. Julie loves grooming her horse Cricket and cuddling barn cat Smudge at the end of each lesson.

— Photos by Jenn Lord



EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT

In February, we received a generous donation from Penn Liberty Bank in support of education that Hope Springs delivers through Pennsylvania's Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. As an educational improvement organization, Hope Springs has been approved to offer three programs that businesses can support while receiving tax credit: Advanced Social Studies, Advanced Environmental Sciences, and Vocational Training in Stable Management and Horse Care Giving.

To learn about how your business or your employer can qualify to make a cash or in-kind donation through EITC, please contact Mark Comyns (eitc@hope-springs.org) or visit www.newpa.com/eitc. To learn about EITC educational opportunities for your children at Hope Springs, please contact Jeannie Knowlton (director@hope-springs.org).

VOLUNTEER NEWS:

Thank you to all of our volunteers, old and new, for all the time and effort they give to help the riders of Hope Springs!

Hope Springs is now using **VOLUNTEERMATCH**, a non-profit dedicated to strengthening communities by making it easier for good people and good causes to connect. Visitors to VolunteerMatch.org can now learn about Hope Springs and contact us to volunteer or donate. Thanks to this website, we have already added some new faces to our team of wonderful volunteers!

Hope Springs also recently joined **CARROTS4ACAUSE**, an EQUUS Foundation program that brings together interested individuals with equestrian and horse-related organizations across America. Using CARROTS4ACAUSE, organizations like Hope Springs can advertise volunteer opportunities and wish list items and help existing volunteers track hours online. By logging your hours at CARROTS4ACAUSE, you not only help Hope Springs demonstrate the amazing help that we receive from our volunteers, but those of you who log 24+ hours per year will be recognized as CARROTS4ACAUSE "Champions." For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.equusfoundation.org/get-involved.php>.



UPCOMING EVENTS ... Busy busy months ahead for HSET ...

APRIL 14, 2012 : SPRING CLEANING/ CLEAN-UP DAY – Join volunteers from Saint Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church as they visit HSET from 10am until 2pm to clean trails, paint rails, clean tack, clean the barn, plant flowers, etc.

APRIL 21 AND MAY 5, 2012 : HOPE SPRINGS ANNUAL HORSE SHOWS – Come out to cheer our riders on as they demonstrate their skills in the ring from 12 noon to 4pm. Thanks to our local 4-H club for coming to clean and prep our horses!

APRIL 27, 2012: GIRL SCOUT TRAINING DAY – HSET – welcomes a local Girl Scout troop to the barn for a mini-volunteer training course to learn what we do. Some scouts will be coming back to help with our second horse show...

MAY 12, 2012: HSET @ COMMUNITY DAY WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP PARK

MAY 19, 2012: HSET @ COMMUNITY DAY AT VANGUARD SCHOOL

MAY 26, 2012: HSET @ THORNCROFT HORSE SHOW – Join us at Thorncroft in Malvern as several Hope Springs students compete in this annual horse show.

JUNE 25 -29, 2012: HOPE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM, SESSION 1 – visit our website for additional information and camp sign-up forms.

JULY 16 – 20, 2012: HOPE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM, SESSION 2

AUGUST 4, 11 AND 18, 2012: VANGUARD SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM (Vanguard students only)

AUGUST 6 – 10, 2012: HOPE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP, PROGRAM, SESSION 3

AUGUST 13 – 17, 2012: HOPE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP, PROGRAM, SESSION 4

OCTOBER 6, 2012: HSET FALL FUNDRAISER – **SAVE THE DATE!**



HSET – WISH LIST

We would love to have the following items, can you help us?

- Horse clippers
- Horse vacuum
- Bareback saddles - youth, adult
- Ladder reins
- Vaulting surcingle - horse, not pony
- Fly masks with ears - pony, horse, draft
- Sheepskin pads

Gift cards from Staples, Office Max, Lowes, Home Depot, or any horse tack shop would also be greatly appreciated!

See our website for more details
<http://www.hope-springs.org/>

... **A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to our staff Anne, Dallas, Doreen, Elena, Heather and Melanie and the Board of HSET for being a dedicated, hard-working and motivated organization and proving that we may be small, but we can achieve wonderful results working together.

Thank You for all you do.

Jeannie Knoulton

SUPPORT HOPE SPRINGS

Thanks to all of you -- the friends and families of Hope Springs -- for helping us raise over \$5,000 during last year's Annual Appeal! We look forward to your continued support in 2012. Hope Springs simply could not do what we do without you - here's how you can help:

- ⇒ Donate by returning the enclosed envelope
- ➔ Visit www.hope-springs.org to give on-line
- ⇒ Help care for our wonderful horses by "adopting" one
- ➔ Support us all year long with a recurring donation
- ⇒ Give us much-needed items from our "wish list"
- ➔ Leave a legacy: make a bequest to Hope Springs
- ⇒ Encourage your employer to donate through EITC
- ➔ Contribute items to our Silent Auction, Attend or sponsor our fundraiser on October 6th
- ⇒ Cheer our riders on by attending a show
- ➔ Post an HSET flyer at your office or school
- ⇒ Volunteer to assist with lessons or camps

To learn more about these and other ways that YOU can make a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities, please visit our website.