

THE LEAD LINE

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volunteer@hope-springs.org

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(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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19425

WEBSITE & EMAIL:

WWW.HOPE-SPRINGS.ORG
director@hope-springs.org

FACILITY LOCATION:

1800 Art School Rd
Chester Springs, PA
610-827-0931



Hope Springs

Experience the wonder!

FALL 2021

HAPPY FALL YA'LL!!

A message from our Executive Director, Jeannie Knowlton

As we come to the close of the 2021 year, we look back at our accomplishments during this very difficult time for everyone.

When we shut down our lessons in March 2020, we truly thought we would only be closed for a very short time. But fate had other thoughts.

We immediately put safety first and began thinking outside the box for ways to implement the new safety protocols.

A huge Thank You, to the Hope Springs Staff for continuing to keep our horses ready and fit for the eventual reopening. Finally in August 2020, five months later, we reopened with our Phase I riders. Phase I riders are completely independent. Then in early Fall of 2020, we opened for Phase II riders who require one volunteer, and in Jan/Feb 2021 we fully opened to all including Phase III students.

Still in place today are these safety measures: using disposable reins, airing all tack after each ride, equipment being used only once in a day, limited time in the barn, each horse has its own cleaning brushes, and of course wearing masks, hand washing, and social distancing.

We want to send a Thank You to our students, who have stood by us through all these trials and tribulations. Thank you to our returning volunteers. Thank you to our funders who have kept their faith in us knowing the wonderful service we provide for the community.

We are looking forward to providing that service to our current and future students.



Due to Covid precautions we cancelled our annual fall Celebrate Hope fundraiser again this year. Will you please consider donating now!

Giving Tuesday is November 30th this year, but donations can be made anytime!

Fundraising during Covid...

We have been constrained by Covid in having fundraising events and are looking forward to holding several in person events next year! This fall we will reach out to friends for support by email as well as through Facebook and participating in Giving Tuesday.

We encourage all to visit our website and watch the video that shows how much our services mean to our riders and their families.

Please visit <http://hope-springs.org/2021-fundraiser/> and consider supporting Hope Springs!

Follow Hope Springs on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/HopeSpringsOrg>
No login is necessary!

Follow us @HopeSpringsOrg



HORSE TAILS



Our volunteers continue to be special:

Melissa Menyo, at *Whole Foods* in Newtown Square and her co-workers were awarded \$1642, to be donated to Hope Springs in their name.

Betty Mulholland submitted our name to her plumber and *Mattioni Plumbing* awarded us \$1,000.

Kudos to Miss Melissa and Miss Betty for their continuing work at Hope Springs and for supporting our community.

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers!

HORSE TAILS will continue to report on our volunteers in each issue of the *The Lead Line*.



PARENT PERSPECTIVE

When I think of how Luke and Beau have benefitted from riding at Hope Springs... here's what comes to mind:

Before we came to Hope Springs, I remember reading up on equine and hippotherapy and thinking Beau needed that movement in his life. I was less concerned about including literal occupational or physical therapy activities; more interested in the movement benefits and it being 'fun' (not seeming like another therapy session). Oddly enough, Luke had just learned from a classmate that it was possible to take lessons to ride a horse and was asking if he could learn. Was I ever excited to find out that a 'Sibling Ride' program was a thing!



My biggest concern was not if Beau would enjoy riding, but how were we going to get him on the horse! This was a concept that was completely foreign to him in 'real life' and an animal that I can't say I ever took much interest in. BUT... I can honestly say that your approach was perfect. I distinctly remember how you went over all the parts of a horse and related them to parts of Beau (feet, legs, head, hair, etc.), color, name (this is Norman, you are Beau) and relative size (where Norman started and ended and where Beau started and ended). I remember Beau being overwhelmed, I remember you pushing forward (which was good!, too often therapists, teachers, etc stop at the slightest whimper and I just want them to continue!), and I remember Beau coming to an understanding. By the 3rd week, Beau was not only riding Norman, but excited about it, and by week 6, I was able to walk behind you guys instead of beside!

My biggest concern with Luke, while minor comparatively speaking, was if he was truly interested in actual riding or if he was interested in 'the idea'. Other than him telling me that a horse was 'way bigger' than he thought, he said his lessons were exactly what he was thinking. He definitely continues to enjoy learning how to ride and care for a horse; and he continues to get excited about learning something new or getting more 'responsibility' guiding whichever horse he is on.

Obviously, both boys have different abilities and are at different levels in their riding, but they have experienced most of the same benefits. Both have gained CONFIDENCE. Confidence in what they do, confidence in themselves, confidence in trying new things. They both have improved balance and movement control – for Beau this is evidenced in improvements with core strength (he sits more upright, he can sit on a regular chair comfortably, he can also manipulate toys with better control, etc); for Luke this is evidenced in other activities he does, like riding and balancing on a bike or being less shaky when doing moves in karate. Both boys are happy that this is something they can do TOGETHER, which isn't something that is always easy to come by. For Beau, I believe the movement from being on the horse helped improve his vision with regard to orienting himself, figuring out how to figure out where he is and what he is looking at. Thank you so much Hope Springs!

A message from our President, Jan Brooks:

THANK YOU SANDY!!

As we all know, due to the pandemic, the past 18 months have been extremely difficult for all, but for non-profits like Hope Springs things have been even more frustrating. Closing our doors to students was devastating for not only our students, but for our staff and horses as well. Sandy Hansen took on the Presidency of the Hope Springs Board in January of 2018, never realizing what she and Hope Springs as well as the rest of the world, would face in the spring of 2020. As it became apparent that the Covid virus was not just going to disappear, Sandy, Jeannie and the staff went to work to make sure that our program would follow all protocols and mandates to insure the safety of our students, volunteers and staff. As we slowly started to reopen to students, Sandy continued to work with the staff and the board to make sure we were providing a safe environment for all. Her efforts and support allowed us to continue our program when many programs have not survived. Therefore, we want to say a special Thank You to Sandy Hansen for being such a great leader during such hard times!

Hope Springs welcomes two new board members, Elena Shaffer and Verne Sullivan.

Elena is no stranger to Hope Springs as she was the founder and former board member of Hope Springs. Elena founded Hope Springs in 1997 and acted as its executive director for the first 10 years. Elena works for Schweitzer Engineering, where she supports customers in the U.S., Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Elena lives in Chester Springs with her dog, Linus, and enjoys travel, the outdoors, and designing in fiber arts. Her son and his growing family also keep her busy. Welcome back, Elena!

Verne Sullivan is a Job Trainer for the Chester County Intermediate Unit Discover Program. She is an avid equestrian and enjoys different aspects of the sport. She is looking forward to working with the Hope Springs team.



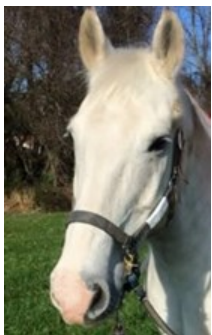
***Welcome to our new Board Members
Elena and Verne!***

**Jeannie Knowlton and
Elena Gonzalez Shaffer.
Welcome back Elena!**

**Verne Sullivan and
her horse Allie!**



PHOTO GALLERY



Visit www.hope-springs.org and click on Gallery to see more photos!!



THE LEAD LINE
HOPE SPRINGS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY, INC.
P.O. Box 156, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Address Correction Requested.

PLEASE SUPPORT HOPE SPRINGS TODAY!

The mission of Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is to enhance the quality of life of individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional or behavioral disabilities by providing them with affordable therapeutic horseback riding and associated special education of the highest possible quality, in a warm, safe and familiar environment.

With your help, we can provide life-enriching experiences to even more adults and children.

Please donate using the enclosed envelope or give online at www.hope-springs.org.

Do you shop on Amazon?

If you are an online shopper & frequent Amazon.com, please consider visiting [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and designating Hope Springs as your charity. When you shop via Amazon Smile, Amazon donates 0.5% of every purchase you make to Hope Springs – at no additional cost to you!

**Hope Springs is CLOSED
for a winter break from
December 18—January 2.
We reopen on January 3.**

**Happy Holidays and thank
you for your continued
support!!**



We offer riding, driving and horse camps!

Since 1997, Hope Springs has served thousands of children, youth and adults with physical, mental, developmental, social and behavioral disabilities. Our approach to equestrian therapy is rider-centered, with each receiving individualized attention, instruction, and therapy. In 2020, despite a 5 month COVID shutdown, we delivered 525 hours of equestrian therapy to 40 students with disabilities. To learn more about therapeutic riding, therapeutic driving, and horse camps for kids, visit www.hope-springs.org.

OUR THANKS TO THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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