

THE LEAD LINE



Hope Springs
Experience the wonder!

Spring 2026

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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.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 156
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Facility Location:

2434 Malehorn Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

A Message from our President

I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy. We are blessed with a fantastic team of instructors and volunteers who share the passion of providing our students with the very best therapeutic riding experience and giving them the tools to reach and exceed their goals. The bonds that students form with our amazing horses is heartwarming.

Over the years, parents have shared with me how important Hope Springs is to their family. Their words are a powerful reminder of why the work we do really matters. Hope Springs is a place where students, instructors, and volunteers build relationships beyond the barn – we are family. I am truly proud of this organization and the impact we have on the community!

A Message from the Executive Director

As we move through the final stretch of winter, we are already seeing the first quiet signs of the coming season. While the fields still hold the winter chill, there is a sense of anticipation in the barn. Our horses are starting to shed their heavy winter coats, and we are preparing for the vibrant growth that spring always brings. It is clear our herd is thriving in the relaxed atmosphere of our new home, getting plenty of time to "just be horses" out in the field. But most importantly, they are always happiest when their favorite people come to see and ride them each week.

As we look ahead to the new year and the warmer days on the horizon, we remain dedicated to providing our students with the tools necessary to reach their greatest potential. Thank you for continuing to support and belief in Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy.

Horse Tails

Last August, we hosted a group of volunteers from Venerable to Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy for a productive and joy-filled Volunteer Day! Their team rolled up their sleeves and tackled a variety of projects around the farm — from cleaning the barn to field work like picking up stones and branches and trimming low limbs. They even spent time grooming and bathing our horses to keep our equine partners looking their best. Their hard work and positive energy made a huge difference, leaving the barn sparkling and the horses happy. We are so grateful for their support and dedication to our mission!



Volunteer Spotlight

Melanie H. has been a consistent presence at Hope Springs since she began volunteering in 2024. She serves in a dual capacity, contributing her time as both a lesson volunteer and a barn volunteer. In her lesson work, she assists our students in developing their skills, while her time in the barn has allowed her to build a thorough understanding of our herd. Melanie has become familiar with each horse's individual personality, from their social dynamics and "best friends" to the unique habits of our resident escape artists. She values the ongoing learning opportunities provided by our staff and works closely with Jeannie to further her knowledge of horse care.



Last year, we welcomed our new horse Paddington (or Paddy, to his friends) to Hope Springs. He's a handsome and sturdy Irish Daught horse and comes to us after a distinguished career as a fox hunter, where he navigated fields and fences with courage, agility, and a calm disposition. He's very excited for his new life as a therapy horse.

Hope Springs is honored to be a 2025 grant recipient of Phillies Charities, Inc., an incredible partnership that recently brought our community together at the ballpark. The highlight of the season was watching our student Cain take the mound to throw out the ceremonial first pitch to the Phillie Phanatic! We are deeply grateful for this support, and we encourage our friends to participate in the Phillies 50/50 drawing, which helps nonprofits like ours continue to thrive.



Through a partnership with West Chester University's Center for Community Solutions, we welcomed student intern Annie K. to our team for the 2025-2026 school year. Annie has been instrumental in strengthening our social media presence, bringing a fresh perspective and genuine dedication to the Hope Springs mission.



Parent's Perspective

Joshua has been part of Hope Springs for several years. When we first arrived, he was navigating new diagnoses of autism, ADHD, and anxiety, but he immediately began to thrive. I've always believed in the bond between riders and horses; I knew it would calm Joshua and help him focus. For him, riding became a voice.

What surprises me most is how much he learns from riding different horses. Adjusting to each animal's unique personality requires a flexibility that can be challenging for someone on the spectrum, but here, it feels natural and fun. Joshua has built incredible adaptability by working with them.

I also can't say enough about his instructor, Ms. Jeannie. She is a steady advocate who pushes Joshua because she sees his potential. There is no one else I'd rather have by his side.

If I had to describe Hope Springs in one word, it would be "valuable." Watching Joshua's confidence grow around Tigger Too or J Lo is inspiring. For any parent considering equestrian therapy, the impact is undeniable—for our family, it has been life-changing.

Melissa S.



Totally Awesome: I Love the 80s to Death!

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy hosted a major blast from the past this past October for our murder mystery dinner fundraiser! Guests stepped back into the era of neon, big hair, and leg warmers for the "I Love the 80's to Death" event, ready to solve a killer case. Many in attendance embraced the theme, showing up in their 80s best while working diligently to piece together the clues and catch the culprit. The energy was electric, the costumes were righteous, and the crime was solved!

A special and heartfelt thank you goes out to The Murder Mystery Company for a wonderfully entertaining night, and to all our guests! Your attendance, enthusiasm, and generous support were truly rad, and your support helped us raise critical funds to support our program.



Volunteer Opportunities

We're growing and looking for help in these areas:

- Fundraising & Event Support
- Marketing & Communications
- Social Media Content Creation
- Grant Research & Writing

Perfect for professionals, retirees, students, or anyone else looking to give back! Your skills help us reach more families and expand our programs.

Interested? Contact us at volunteer@hope-springs.org.

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.



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Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy
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Address Correction Requested.

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Please Support Hope Springs Today

For nearly 30 years, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy has seen how a single stride can represent a monumental leap in healing. Our mission to help children and adults with physical and emotional challenges find confidence and joy is only possible through the bond between horse and rider. To provide care for our horses and offer scholarships to our families, **we rely entirely on the generosity of our community.**

Help us continue to provide our services throughout 2026 by donating today. Every gift, regardless of size, sustains the heart of our barn and provides life-changing experiences for our riders and their families. Please consider making a donation to help us keep the healing power of horses alive. **You can donate using the enclosed envelope or online by scanning the QR code.** Together, we can ensure that Hope Springs remains a place of progress and hope for all who enter our arena.

Donate through an IRA: For donors aged 70 1/2 or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA offers a tax-efficient way to give. By transferring up to \$100,000 directly to Hope Springs, you can satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution while excluding that amount from your taxable income. This giving method allows you to further our mission while potentially lowering your tax bracket. Please contact your IRA plan administrator to initiate a transfer.

