



# THE LEAD LINE

HOPE SPRINGS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY, INC.

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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

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 156  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

### WEBSITE & EMAIL

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director@hope-springs.org

### FACILITY LOCATION

1800 Art School Rd  
Chester Springs, PA

### FOLLOW HOPE SPRINGS @HOPESPRINGSORC

Follow HSET on Facebook at  
www.facebook.com/HopeSpringsOrg  
No login necessary!



## OUR NEW FACILITY



## WE'VE MOVED!

2016 brought about a great change for the Hope Springs community. Our equine therapy program moved to nearby Peace by Piece Farm, an extraordinary equestrian facility with an indoor ring.

The owners of Peace by Piece, Ray and Linda Sturgeon, met Hope Springs founder, Elena Gonzalez Shaffer, ten years ago and knew about our mission and function. This past December, the Peace by



Piece property manager, TJ Robinson, heard of the challenges we faced in the winter due to inclement weather and graciously offered two barns and use of the indoor ring to Hope Springs for the winter.

The Hope Springs horses and equipment were moved to Peace by Piece for the winter. The indoor ring helped provide a record number of winter lessons, while family members watched from a heated second floor observation room.

As the Hope Springs family became acquainted with the facilities and the Sturgeon family, both sides wanted to continue working together. Hope Springs and Peace by Piece are now going to partner all year round moving forward. The facilities are top

notch and there is room to grow.

"We strongly support the equine therapy concept and the people associated with Hope Springs are delightful, committed, enthusiastic and great tenants," Roy says. "It's all about the riders and their needs and about the parents, loved ones, volunteers and staff that support their children, relatives and friends."

Peace by Piece is located on 1800 Court Road, just off of historic Route 113 in the farmlands of beautiful Chester Springs. The farm includes multiple barns, pastures and open space. Good weather will allow riders to take trail rides through the peaceful

landscape. Along with the peace and "the joy of watching the riders and how they delight in the time they spend with Hope Springs," Roy is excited for a long term relationship.

So is Hope Springs! 🐾

"IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RIDERS AND THEIR NEEDS AND ABOUT THE PARENTS, LOVED ONES, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF THAT SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS."



Peace by Piece's indoor ring is helping Hope Springs to continue lessons in inclement weather.

## WITH GRATITUDE

As we relocate from our former home, Hope Springs is grateful to Rick Hevner and the Green Lane Farm. For over 18 years, the Green Lane barn provided a warm, safe haven for the Hope Springs' horses, staff, riders and their families. We thank Rick for his generosity, cooperation and support. 🐾



## MEET OUR NEW INSTRUCTORS



**LAUREN EDER** joined Hope Springs as a part-time instructor in 2015. She has a Masters in Social Services and is pursuing her Therapeutic Riding Instructor and Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning PATH certifications. Lauren started teaching riding at age 15 and has a decade of professional experience assisting children with autism and other disabilities at the Devereux Foundation and the Chester County Intermediate Unit.

**JULIE STEVENSON** taught horseback riding for 30 years before joining Hope Springs as a part-time instructor in 2015. She grew up teaching horseback riding in Montgomery County for winning members of the Pennsylvania Horse Show Association and "Master of the Hounds" for the Highland Hunt. She also operates her own farm in Berks County, where she teaches riding, trains horses, and provides summer camps and horse shows for her local community. 🐾



## WHAT MAKES OUR HOPE SPRINGS HORSES SPECIAL?



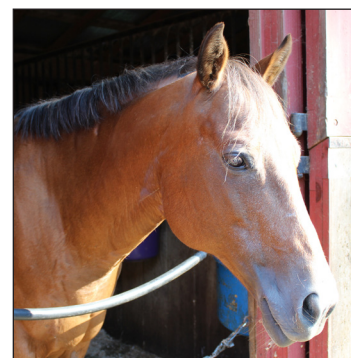
**HENRI** "I love his white eyelashes." • "He has attitude and showmanship!" • "He's a handsome pony with a huge personality!"



**TEMPEST** "He's really gentle - it's fun to ride him!" • "He is such a love bug!" • "He always takes such good, gentle care of all his people and loves them with his big, silly heart!"



**NORMAN** "He's adorable." • "He can hang with the big boys." • "He is so fluffy!"



**J LO** "J Lo is a good listener." • "J Lo is patient and skilled enough to handle the severely disabled." • "She has given my grandson confidence around & on her!"



**BEAUTY** "Beauty loves everyone and always makes whoever she's with feel special." • "She's beautiful on the inside too and gives great horsey kisses."



**CRICKET** "When she trots she's really bouncy and it's fun." • "She knows how to take care of riders and challenge them to ride their very best at the same time!"



**BARON** "He is a big noble friend!" • "I love his handsome face and goofy personality." • "He came willingly to Hope Springs and is a dear gentleman." • "He's a licker."



**MONTE** "He is very calm and does not get alarmed by my son's squeals!" • "He is goofy and sweet!" • "He is the messiest, most lovable horse!" 🐾

Our riders at Hope Springs form real attachments and friendships with their horses. Each rider rides the same horse every week, which allows them to get to know each other well. Such continuity is especially important in equestrian therapy and helps our riders to develop trust and confidence.

The quality of our therapy relies on having well trained, healthy horses. Feed, blacksmith services, and veterinary care form a substantial portion of our budget - in fact, it costs an average of \$500 per month to care for one horse. Would you consider sponsoring a horse for a month, several months or a year? To donate, visit [www.hope-springs.org](http://www.hope-springs.org).





## THANK YOU TO THE WEST LAUREL HILL CEMETERY!

The West Laurel Hill Cemetery is a non-profit and non-denominational cemetery incorporated in 1869 in Bala Cynwyd. As part of their mission to serve the community, West Laurel Hill established a non-profit organization that focuses on giving back to the community that they serve. This philanthropic group hosts various events throughout the year to raise money to give back to local non-profit organizations.

This year, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy was fortunate enough to once again benefit from the annual West Laurel Hill Cemetery Derby Party on May 7. A large crowd, including Hope Springs board members & friends, gathered to view the



Board Member Julie Kingery, Program Director Dallas Knowlton and Instructor Lauren Eder

142nd running of the Kentucky Derby and enjoy live music, delicious treats and mint juleps.

Thank you to everyone at West Laurel Hill for hosting a wonderful party that provided a generous contribution to Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy! 🐾



Christie Martin and Jr. Director Jill Yankelitis model fabulous derby hats



Executive Director Jeannie Knowlton, founder Elena Gonzalez Shaffer and guests enjoying a buggy ride!



Board Member Eileen Corl, Andy Cappelli, and Parker Hawley



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT HOPE SPRINGS?

JANUARY	30	Vanguard Special Kids Camp Expo
MAY	7	Kentucky Derby Benefit West Laurel Hill Cemetery
	28	Devon Horse Show Handicapped Riders Division
JUNE	25	School's Out Saturday Camp

## WHAT'S COMING UP AT HOPE SPRINGS?

AUGUST	1-5	August Summer Camp #1
	15-19	August Summer Camp #2
SEPT.	16-18	Whitford Charitable Fund Classic
	24	Back-to-School Saturday Camp
OCTOBER	9	Hopes and Dreams 2016
	15	Fall 2016 Horse Show
	29	Halloween Saturday Camp
NOV.	29	#GivingTuesday 2016
DECEMBER	3	End-of-Year Party
	27-29	Holiday Horse Camps



## Hope Springs offers SUMMER HORSE CAMPS

for kids with disabilities

Aug. 1-5 🐾 Aug. 15-19

Learn more or register online at [www.hope-springs.org/camps](http://www.hope-springs.org/camps)

## OUR THANKS TO THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

Allerton Foundation  
Barra Foundation  
Charter Foundation  
Chester County Community Foundation  
Council on Brain Injury  
Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation  
Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund  
Focus Fund  
Harriet G. Fredericks Foundation  
Hockman Family Foundation  
H. O. West Foundation  
Independence Foundation  
Kistler-Tiffany Foundation  
Meridian Bank  
Mill Spring Foundation  
PA National Horse Show Foundation  
Penn Liberty Bank  
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation  
Pilot Club of Valley Forge  
Siemens Caring Hands Foundation  
Stewart Huston Charitable Trust  
The Wawa Foundation  
Whitford Charitable Fund  
XL Global Services 🐾

## INTERESTED IN THERAPEUTIC RIDING?

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. Hope Springs delivered 1416

therapeutic riding lessons and 84 days of camp to 94 unique individuals in 2015. Weekly lesson riders ranged from 50-55, including 22 individuals-in-need who received weekly riding lessons and 4 campers who received scholarship assistance. To learn more about riding at Hope Springs or our horse camps, visit [www.hope-springs.org](http://www.hope-springs.org). 🐾



## CELEBRATING HOPES AND DREAMS



*Celebrating with pictured members of our Fundraising Committee - Julie, Jill, Jan, Dallas, Tammy, Jeannie, and Jane Ann. Thanks to all for making the event a success!*



*At Pony Bingo, Hope Springs shared facts about the organization while supporters won prizes.*



*Beautiful work by Crazy Faces Face Painting*

We are looking forward to our annual fundraiser, Hopes and Dreams, which will be held on Sunday, October 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Whitford Country Club in Exton, PA. All proceeds from this family-friendly brunch event directly benefit the riders of Hope Springs.

We send our heartfelt thanks to all who made last year's celebration so successful – especially our donors and sponsors. The Whitford Country Club was the perfect venue to celebrate our 18th year of service to riders with disabilities and we are returning this October to celebrate another phenomenal year.

This year's event will include a full buffet brunch, children's craft corner and face painting. Once again, we will have a large selection of items available in our silent auction. We are bringing back, by popular demand, our Hope Springs-inspired "Pony Bingo," hosted by the dynamic Dallas Knowlton, featuring lots of laughs and fun prizes. 🐾

### LIFE AROUND THE FARM AT HOPE SPRINGS



### THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 HOPES AND DREAMS SPONSORS!

#### GALLOP

The Swimm Family  
The Phifer-Gertz Family

#### CANTER

Colliers International  
Julie & Rick Kingery

#### TROT

Penn Liberty Bank  
KT Administrators  
Jeannie Knowlton

Eileen M. Corl  
Marcia Berner  
Saunders & Sallie Dixon

#### WALK

The Berta Family  
Thorndale Dental  
AdminService 🐾

## INTERESTED IN ATTENDING HOPES AND DREAMS 2016?

Sunday Oct. 9 • 11AM - 3PM  
Whitford Country Club

Please visit  
[www.hope-springs.org/HopesAndDreams](http://www.hope-springs.org/HopesAndDreams)

Event sponsor and silent auction donation forms are also available online!

## INSPIRED BY THE EXPERIENCE



*Sandy Hansen volunteering at HSET*

*Volunteer Sandy Hansen is our most recent addition to the Hope Spring Board.*

"Volunteering at Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is most certainly the highlight of my week. No matter what drama or stress I encounter at work, I know that Friday will be a great day! The staff and instructors at Hope Springs work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for riders with disabilities. They provide one-on-one therapeutic instruction which is specifically developed for each rider. The therapy horses are equally dedicated and form close bonds with their riders.

I am inspired each week when I volunteer at Hope Springs. I personally observe the progress experienced by riders who have gained core strength, improved

balance and flexibility and gained confidence. I was amazed to hear a completely non-verbal autistic child speak a few words to his horse! I can say without hesitation that volunteering at Hope Springs is one of the most energizing, fun and rewarding experiences of my life!

The dedication of everyone associated with Hope Springs touches my heart and makes me want to do more than volunteer each week. I am blessed to be able to contribute financially and am fortunate that my employer recognizes Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy through a matching gifts program. My family and I feel so strongly about the wonderful work the people of Hope Springs do that we try to attend as many events as possible and encourage friends to join us." 🐾

**"THE DEDICATION OF EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH HOPE SPRINGS TOUCHES MY HEART AND MAKES ME WANT TO DO MORE THAN VOLUNTEER EACH WEEK."**



## VOLUNTEERING AT HOPE SPRINGS

Hope Springs cannot function without the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers. They make the lessons for each rider fun while empowering them to do their best. Hope Springs' volunteers are not only dedicated to the mission of Hope Springs but also dedicated to seeing our riders succeed. Each and every volunteer continues to remain a great example of volunteerism in today's society.

The responsibilities of a volunteer include tacking and grooming the horses, acting as a leader for the horse and/or being a side aide for the rider during each lesson.

In order to meet the needs of our riders, Hope Springs' volunteers attend at least one volunteer training session per year. This training is a hands-on session covering aspects of assisting the riding instructors. This training is a way for Hope Springs' staff to provide all the necessary tools to be an effective volunteer.



**"IT WAS INSPIRING. IT IS UPLIFTING TO SEE HOW WE HELPED PEOPLE DO WHAT THEY LOVE."**



### WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO:

Instructors and volunteers work with our students to help groom and tack up their horse. During lessons, volunteers lead the horse or act as a side aide. Training is provided for volunteers - no experience is necessary.

### WHAT WE NEED:

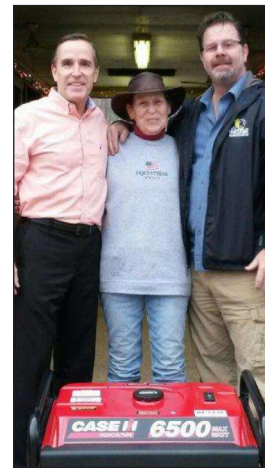
If you help with riding lessons, we need a commitment for at least one lesson a week (about 1 1/2 hours), preferably at the same time each week. It is important for our students to see familiar faces which allows us to develop relationships. If you are unable to make that time commitment, Hope Springs hosts a number of special events - camps, shows, and fundraisers - throughout the year where volunteers are always needed. You can help by soliciting items for our silent auction, pitching in during a community clean-up day, or assisting with a special event.

## A "POWERFUL" DONATION TO HOPE SPRINGS

Hope Springs received a powerful donation from Wistar Equipment Company: a 6500 watt generator to enable Hope Springs to keep its power on, and, critically, its horses warm and well-fed during power outages that can hit the organization's farm at any time of year.

Wistar Equipment, founded in 1983 and headquartered in its 65,000 square foot facility in Carney's Point, NJ, is the Tri-State leader in temporary power and industrial equipment rental and sales and supports a customer base that extends throughout the United States.

"Winter weather can be a real challenge for our operation," said Ken Swimm, President of Hope Springs. "Our goal is to deliver non-stop service to our riders, without disruption. This powerful donation from Wistar will help keep our operation running all winter long."



*Scott Wistar, President of Wistar Equipment, Inc., Hope Springs Executive Director Joanne Knaulton, and Michael Curry, Legal Counsel to both.*

## SMILES FROM DEVON

Riders Anna, Chris, Reema, and Emily competed in the Handicapped Riding Division of the Devon Horse Show hosted at Thorncroft on May 28. Cricket, Tempest, and Baron went along with volunteers Julie, Sandy, Betty, Jess, Kate, Donna, Karen, Joe, and Alyssa and Ariek. Although the heat was intense everyone had great rides and the horses were awesome.



## DO YOU SHOP ON amazon?

If you are an online shopper who frequents Amazon, please consider visiting [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](http://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!

## #GIVINGTUESDAY

**THANKS TO SUPPORTERS WHO DONATED TO OUR GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN IN DECEMBER 2015!**

For more information on Giving Tuesday, please visit [www.hope-springs.org/givingtuesday](http://www.hope-springs.org/givingtuesday)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.



P.O. Box 156  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

## PLEASE SUPPORT HOPE SPRINGS!

Thanks to all of you - the friends and families of Hope Springs!

We look forward to your continued support this year.

**Please donate using the enclosed envelope  
or give online at [www.hope-springs.org](http://www.hope-springs.org)**

Hope Springs simply could not do what we do without you. With your help, we can provide life-enriching experiences to even more children and adults like Christopher.



*"My son Christopher has Autism and is nonverbal. When I started to investigate therapeutic riding programs for him, I came across Hope Springs. What was so special and unique about the program is they only offer their services to children and adults with disabilities. That was very important to me because I knew the instructors who would teach my son were specialized with all disabilities and would have the patience required, and they do! Everyone is so kind, loving and caring and, as a mother, that is so important to me!"*

*I can't begin to tell you how much riding at Hope Springs has helped Christopher. When he first started, Christopher had to have at least two volunteers along with the instructor because someone had to make sure that he wouldn't lean as his core muscles were weak and he could not sit up straight on the horse. Additionally, Christopher is not just riding a*

*horse around a ring or through the woods. He is learning - from being taught the names of his body parts to learning to sign "walk on" and hold reins.*

*Today, I am so proud that Christopher no longer requires a volunteer by his side. He can sit up straight and tall while riding Monte (his favorite horse) and his core muscle strength has increased immensely. His focus and attention while riding are outstanding. He is in tune with his surroundings and listens to his instructor. He is now advising Monte when to stop, turn left and right, and (his favorite) trot. Christopher loves the input he receives from bouncing up and down while trotting ...it puts the biggest smile on his face. I look forward to my son riding at Hope Springs for a very long time!"*

**-Donna, mother of 12-year-old Christopher**

Visit our website to learn more about Hope Springs' riding programs, the many physical, mental, and emotional benefits of equestrian therapy, and how your donation can make a real difference in the lives children and adults with disabilities.