

NOV/DEC 2023

GROUNDED IN HOPE

Newsletter from Memory Lane Farm, Inc.

A Year of Joy!

By Beth Zarnke, Executive Director

As I look outside the MLF Farmhouse, I am warmed by the sun's rays displayed on open fields and with a hint of snow glimmering. While we know this won't last for long, it is hard to believe that another year has passed us up so quickly.

As I reflect on 2023, I am filled with gratitude. There isn't a day that goes by where I don't thank God for this opportunity to be part of His plan of bringing hope and healing to people of all ages at the farm. We have been blessed by staff who are passionate, caring and creative. We've hit the jackpot with amazing volunteers who served in a variety of roles from camps, reading with children, special events and have dedicated time to reach our mission and beyond.

This year was marked with excitement with the addition of utilizing the MLF Farmhouse for our staff offices. Creating meeting, work and storage space has been a true delight.

The Horse Powered Reading literacy program kicked off in March and we haven't looked back since! With individual and group sessions in spring and fall, summer camps, and library outreach events, it proved to be an excellent addition to the farm's programming.

Our mentoring program "Cultivating Hope" grew in depth and in participants, as we integrated new programming resources and have worked to further promote our program in schools and the community.

Last, but not least, our hearts are overflowing with the overwhelming community support we've receive this year! From golf outings, bake sales, and general donations - we've been incredibly blessed! Thank you!

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“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”
– Maya Angelou

Marvelous Mentoring Moments

By Korinna Johnson, Mentor & Equine Manager

As the days of summer approached quickly, I found myself immersed in a truly wonderful experience as a mentor for my second summer at Memory Lane Farm. This place became home for both my horse Drifter and I, and it was the start of a season of growth, learning, and heartwarming connections.

Mentoring at Memory Lane Farm was not merely a role; it became a journey of shared experiences, laughter, and making friends. From the very beginning, the sense of community and warmth engulfed me, setting the stage for a summer filled with growth.

One of the highlights of my mentoring experience was the opportunity to share stories with other staff and mentees. The spirit at the farm provided an environment where everyone felt comfortable opening up. We told each other stories of accomplishments, challenges, and the lessons learned along the way, creating a bond through shared experiences and trust.

The farm's very special horses played a very important role in our mentoring sessions. I vividly remember a transformational moment when a mentee, initially reserved and hesitant, found peace and confidence while bonding with one of the horses. The therapeutic effect of interacting with these creatures became a recurring theme in mentoring, reminding us of the meaningful connections that can be made beyond human interactions.

Mentoring, at its core, I found to be quite a process, and I found myself learning as much as I was teaching. The laughter shared during horse grooming sessions, the shared achievements of overcoming fears, and the sense of accomplishment after a day's work were all things that proved to be important to the power of mentoring.

My second summer at Memory Lane Farm was not just a mentoring experience; it was a journey of self-discovery, growth, and building lasting connections. The stories woven through the laughter and the therapeutic presence of horses, as well as other animals on the farm and the beauty of nature in the woods, created memories that will forever hold a special place in my heart. As I reflect on this summer's experience, I am reminded that true fulfillment is found not only in personal achievements, but in the shared moments of joy and growth that come from uplifting others along the way.





The Giving Tree - A Year Round Gift

Our email inboxes and social media have been inundated with invitations to join in the holiday and year end sales, and donation requests. You too? We realize that many of these appeals are absolutely critical to the needs of the requesting organization/business, but we'd rather share with you ONGOING needs that can be called upon whenever it best suits you throughout the giving year.

This winter we started the MLF Giving Tree program, liken it to an Angel Tree, specifically (at this time) for the needs of our program horses, which is ongoing to support their health and well-being. The Giving Tree is simple - choose a tax deductible donation tag and let us know which tag you'd like to make a donation. We will continue to post our tags in upcoming months, as our needs arise. To claim a tag, email us at memorylanefarm86@gmail.com for details. We will also update our website in the near future.





Christmas In The Barn - Splendid Success

The evening lights shown bright at Memory Lane Farm on December 1 and 2, as we hosted our third annual Christmas in the Barn event for the community. With a record attendance of over 2,000 guests, we were thrilled with the community support. As our Parking Crew shared “we couldn’t believe the line up of cars and people so excited to participate in this unique event - it was magical.”

Along with our guests, 200 volunteers gave their time to make the event special. for all who attended. From roles on the planning team, decor, parking team, greeters, blacksmith and two-man saw activities, petting zoo, kids crafts, welcome center/guest hospitality, authentic Bethlehem market cast, including Roman Soldiers and volunteers who served as Wisemen, Angels, Shepherds. Our event wouldn’t be complete without the help of costume seamstresses, fitters and a volunteer hospitality team. Each volunteer shared the joy of the season!

The outdoor activity area was filled throughout the entire weekend as children and parents worked together to cut wood with a two man saw. They were mesmerized by having their cuts branded with a one-f-a-kind handmade CITB (Christmas in the Barn) brand that sizzled as it was scored into the wood. The Mercantile was a popular hot spot while children enjoyed crafts and petting adorable puppies. Local “makers” of homemade candies, jams, trivets, wax melts, MLF merchandise and other seasonal delights brought smiles to adults and children alike. Special thanks to our event sponsors: Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, Sunbelt Rental, and Thrivent.

This year Compassion In Action, a local non-profit organization, was chosen to be the recipient for CITB donations. Their local outreach programs support The Bread Barn Food Pantry in Arpin, WI and The Cashmere & Corduroy Closet, a free closet for women and children in crisis. Guests generously gave \$1,000 in donations and filled TWO pick up trucks with diapers, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins and new socks and underwear for Compassion In Action’s outreaches. Not only are our hearts overflowing in gratitude, the shelves at The Bread Barn are filled with needed paper products!

More images and video are found on our website and Facebook.





**Yes! I believe in the mission of
Memory Lane Farm, Inc.
Here is how I can help:**

Sign me up to volunteer:

- Horse Powered Reading Facilitator / Helper
- Camp Volunteer
- Special Events
- Other (please list): _____

Please mark above, then complete the name & address portion below or visit www.memorylanefarm.org/volunteer

I'm happy to donate - use my donation for:

- Use it where it is needed the most
- Scholarships for programs

Payment Method:

- A check payable to Memory Lane Farm Inc. or MLF for \$ _____

*Donations may be sent to: Memory Lane Farm, Inc.,
8640 Heritage Drive, Marshfield WI 54449*

- Donations may also be made online (see Donations button) at www.memorylanefarm.org

Please make my donation a gift:

- In honor of: _____
- In memory of: _____

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We wish you a

*Merry
Christmas*

The gift of love.
The gift of peace.
The gift of happiness.
May all these be yours
at Christmas.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable Gift.
– 2 Corinthians 9:15



Partner Program

Email: memorylanefarm86@gmail.com

Phone: 715.897.7187