



SUMMER/FALL 2025

GROUNDING IN HOPE

Newsletter from Memory Lane Farm, Inc.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FARM

Beth Zarnke, Executive Director

What an incredible years it's been at Memory Lane Farm! From AgriVenture Farm Camp to Acres of Fun foster care camps, we've watched kids laugh, try new things, and grow in confidence. Every wagon ride, every moment with the animals, every problem solving opportunity, every new friendship reminded me why we do what we do—hope takes root here at the farm!

Our mentoring program is growing stronger than ever (more on that later!), and we've already welcomed more clients this year than ever before. The best is truly yet to come.

Like the photo above, some days feel a bit foggy—yet the sun always finds a way to shine through. That's exactly what the farm feels like: a place of peace and tranquility that we believe every visitor experiences when they come. As summer winds down and we step into fall, my heart is full.

And of course, one of my favorite traditions is just around the corner—our annual Christmas in the Barn event (December 5 & 6)! It's always such a special way to gather as a community and celebrate the season together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your prayers, encouragement, and support make every story of growth and healing possible. I can't wait to see all that's ahead!

With joy and gratitude, *Beth*

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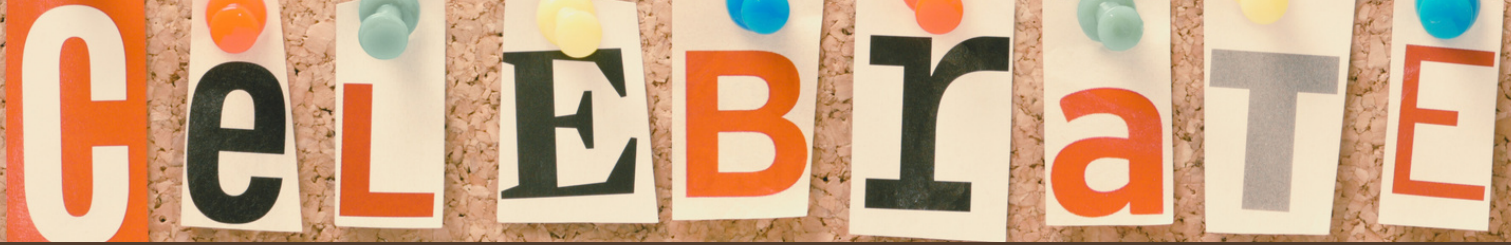
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A MILESTONE OF HOPE: 5 YEARS OF MENTORING AT THE FARM

This year marks a milestone worth celebrating—five years of mentoring at Memory Lane Farm!

What began as a simple vision to provide a safe place of hope, encouragement, and healing has now grown into a thriving program serving children, teens, and adults from across our community and county.

In 2020, as the Covid crisis gripped our nation and community, we knew we needed to do something impactful! We started small—just a handful of mentees, a couple of horses, and a dream. Since then, God has faithfully multiplied that vision. Through horses, our farm animals, art, and nature, 109 mentees have experienced the power of connection, hope, and healing here at the farm. In 2025, we have already mentored 31 participants - a 45% increase over 2024 - all at no charge!

The past five years have been filled with stories of growth—young people and adults finding confidence, families experiencing support, and individuals discovering peace in the presence of God's creation. Each step of the way, we've seen how meaningful relationships and the gentle guidance of our animals can help open hearts and restore hope.

As we celebrate this 5-year milestone, we look ahead with gratitude and expectation. Our mission remains the same: to provide a refuge for those who are vulnerable, offering acceptance and hope so they can step onto a path of healing.

Thank you to our mentors, volunteers, donors, and community who have made this journey possible. Here's to the next five years—and the lives yet to be touched at Memory Lane Farm!



AMELIA'S JOURNEY OF GROWTH

“When I first came to Memory Lane Farm, I was struggling with anxiety and sadness after moving to a new state and school. I missed my friends and felt out of place.

My mentor helped me focus on the good things instead of the bad. Spending time with the animals allowed me to express my feelings, and they comforted me. Learning farm chores and interacting with the horses gave me confidence and taught me new skills.

Memory Lane Farm helped me make new friends and feel more at home. My mentor showed me how to communicate better during conflict and set healthy boundaries for myself and others. Working with the animals built confidence that I carried into my relationships, and I loved every moment with them. Keeping a gratitude journal helped me see how many blessings I truly have and reminded me to focus on the good every day.

I loved going to the farm each week. My mentor made me feel loved and heard. This program has made a big difference in my life, and I'm so thankful I got to be part of mentoring at Memory Lane Farm.” -

Amelia



Connecting
with Annie



First Snowman – Ever!



WHAT IS OUR MENTORING MODEL?

We often receive this question, and truth be told, it's taken us a few years to settle on a system that truly works for us. Drawing inspiration from other farm and ranch programs, such as Hope Reins, and shaping it through our own experiences, we have developed a mentoring model that fits the unique needs of the kids, teens, and adults who come to Memory Lane Farm. Due to Wisconsin winters, we mentor from March - October.

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

“My daughter absolutely loved this program and actually has begged to be apart of it again. She was able to learn new skills while being outdoors and with animals, which is some of her favorite things to do”.



Hope & Healing

Core Beliefs & Skills We Give Our Mentees

Hope <i>Confident Beliefs</i>	Healing <i>Resiliency Skills</i>	Outcome Indicators
 I AM SAFE	Trust Concepts like: safety, reliability, love	Memory Lane Farm monitors weekly growth in the four faith-based resiliency skills.
 I MATTER	Boundaries Concepts like: value, honor, self-awareness	Parent/Caregiver -reported outcomes: ☒ Reduced anxiety and depression
 I AM NOT ALONE	Communication Concepts like: belonging, affirmation, grace	☒ Reduced destructive behaviors ☒ Improved relationships and increased empathy
 I HAVE A PURPOSE	Leadership Concepts like: service, initiative, vision	☒ Improved school/life performance ☒ Increased self-confidence and positive self-talk



SUMMER CAMPS: GROWING, LEARNING & HAVING FUN!

This summer was full of life at Memory Lane Farm with AgriVenture Farm Camp and two Foster Care Camps, bringing kids together for unforgettable experiences.

AgriVenture Farm Camp returned in its 8th year with hands-on learning, wagon rides to the woods for environmental science, gardening, workshop, farm animal education, and creative crafts. Campers discovered lessons about faith, respect, and freedom – all while having fun on the farm. Highlights included bean art, composting, animal interactions, and creating a daily challenges with their Morse Code devices that encouraged problem-solving and collaboration.

We also had the privilege of hosting two special Foster Care Camps, designed specifically for children in foster care. These camps offered a safe and welcoming space where kids could relax, play, and experience the joy of farm life. From wagon rides and games to hands-on farm chores, every moment was an opportunity for connection and growth. One camper shared, “I loved riding the horses and learning to brush them—it made me feel brave!”

Through these camps, we saw children laugh, build friendships, gain confidence, and experience hope. Volunteers and staff also noted the incredible ways the animals brought comfort and joy, helping campers open up and express themselves.

These camps remind us why we do what we do: to provide hope, healing, and fun-filled learning experiences for every child who walks through our gates.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Memory Lane Farm is deeply grateful to the generous donors who make AgriVenture Farm Camp and Acres of Fun possible, including Nasonville Dairy, Bluff View Church, Nelda Wolf, Steve & Barry Ott (Ott Farm), Nostalgic Auto Crafters, Nutz Deep II, Melody Gardens Restaurant & Skateland, Counter-Form Inc., and J & S Meat Processing.

Your support allows children to experience the joy of interacting with animals, learning new skills, enjoying ice cream, exploring the farm, and building confidence in a safe and nurturing environment. Every wagon ride, craft project, and moment is made possible because of your kindness. Your generosity not only sustains these programs but also plants seeds of hope, growth, and transformation in the lives of every child who visits the farm.



We are so grateful for the generosity of our volunteers, whose time, energy, and hearts make our camps possible. At AgriVenture Farm Camp, 40 volunteers dedicated 750 hours guiding activities, helping with the project areas and leading our Family Night, while creating a safe and joyful environment for every camper. For Acres of Fun, we are especially thankful to our county and community volunteers, who stepped in to support foster care campers, ensuring each child experienced fun, connection, and care.



WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Did you know? Memory Lane Farm provides mentoring services at no cost to children, teens, and adults who need encouragement, hope, and connection. Together, we can continue offering life-changing mentoring at no cost and provide hope to those who need it most.

With our growth of our programs, we have specific volunteer and financial needs at this time. To learn more, [visit our website](#) or [contact us](#).

1. Volunteer Your Time

- Serve as a mentor in our Cultivating Hope program
- Use gifts for marketing, grant writing, and development

2. Donate Financially

- Your donations help cover animal care, program supplies, and educational materials
- Sponsor a mentee or a camp activity
- Give monthly or one-time gifts to help sustain no-cost programming

3. Provide In-Kind Support

- Farm supplies, grooming tools, or craft materials
- Snacks, water, or other essentials for camps and mentoring sessions
- Volunteer expertise (e.g., teaching a skill, leading an activity, or providing professional services)

4. Spread the Word

- Tell friends, family, and neighbors about our programs
- Invite others to volunteer or support our mission
- Share our social media posts and newsletter updates

5. Pray With Us

- Pray for our mentees, volunteers, and staff
- Ask God to guide the work of Memory Lane Farm and continue to provide hope and healing

Let's Make a Difference TOGETHER!

Sign me up to Volunteer!

(Online volunteer Application can be found at memorylanefarm.org/resources)

- ☐ Mentor
☐ Camp Volunteer
☐ 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 at www.memorylanefarm.org

Please make my donation a gift:

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

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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