

# HoofBeat



## A Note from Susie

Dear Friends,

I am excited for this year and all it holds and blessed that you are a Friend of Freedom Farm and are sharing this walk with me.

We recently completed a winter 10 week session of 'Hope with Horses' with students from Watertown-Mayer High School. HS students worked on skills of teamwork, choices, respect while working with horses. The last 2 weeks they used these skills while assisting riders during a therapeutic riding lesson.



*'when you help someone else, you start helping yourself'*

Our therapeutic riding lessons start in April and this year we are adding an outdoor sensory trail! The first planning meeting was held and the team has already begun construction on many of the items. The hay field our riders love to walk around will not be available this year. We need to revitalize the ground with a crop of corn. The sensory trail will be a great addition for outdoor riding. I am so excited for the plan that has been in my head for the last 5 years to materialize. Because I dream big, we will need a lot of help getting the material donated. If you are interested, please give me a call to discuss the details. Here is a picture of the first of many flowers constructed from horseshoes by Dave Kummer.



The BIG project is the **Lake Ida School House at Freedom Farm**. *This is the year!* The urgency to help many is in great demand. We are in immediate need of this space to be renovated. The special programs for at-risk teens and the veterans have outgrown the new office space. Which means we are helping more and



more people!

If you or your business would like to impact lives with the gift of love and hope and would like to be involved from the beginning ~ please let me know. I promise knowing you provided the funds, materials or time will bless hundreds of lives. And you will be a part of an important piece of history.

*With love,  
Susie*



Susie with Lauren, Miranda, Abby & Ryann

2014

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On the website

[freedomfarmmn.org](http://freedomfarmmn.org)

**Freedom Farm thanks all of our generous donors & sponsors!**



**Freedom Farm enriches lives by partnering with the unique attributes of the horse to improve mobility, build confidence and encourage personal growth in children and adults with physical, mental and emotional challenges.**



**Freedom Farm 'Hope with Horses' is recipient of Cities97 Sampler 25!**

## Staff... Recollections from Sue's 10 years at Freedom Farm

I remember the first time I visited Freedom Farm. A fund raiser in 2003. Three riders were giving a demo where the volunteers now park. The next summer a door opened & thankfully, God pushed me through it!

I began volunteering the summer of 2004 and was blessed to become the first official employee that September.

### In the beginning...

- ◇ The office. A remodeled milk house where the dog had her chair, the mice had free reign & a cat, who I was allergic to.
- ◇ The horses. Ted, Holly, Dolly, Cash & Tobie trained me in. It's mind-boggling to be involved in a horse 'business' and can be heart breaking to see them come & go.
- ◇ The volunteers. Sandee was here & a huge help in showing me the ropes.
- ◇ The riders. Justin & Jackson made me laugh & melted my heart every week.

### Fun times ahead...

- My own desk! Susie & I now played bumper chairs!
- One hot August morning Susie finished the morning lessons, came running in & told me to saddle up 'Cash'. The cows were out! We spent the entire day herding cows back to the pen. Made it, just in time for afternoon lessons to start!

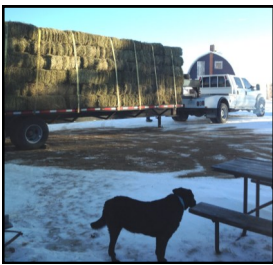
- I learned what mouse pads are really for & that mice actually pee.
- Mud is abundant in the Spring at Freedom Farm. I fell in a paddock getting a horse & was sprayed when standing in the wrong place when Matt & Susie Derner's car got stuck in the mud at volunteer training.
- Goats are escape artists!
- Shared tears of joy with a mom witnessing a first spoken word.
- Playing Annie Oakley with a possum. (I got'em.)
- Fans in the arena!
- POLO. Dresses, hats, hard work & FUN ~ Oh My!
- I get to take a horse home! CC & Shilo have become my awesome trail partners.
- THE NEW OFFICE!! Still makes me smile.

Freedom Farm & the Bjorklund's have become my home away from home. I feel so blessed to be a part of Freedom Farm and can't wait to see what the future holds!



Susie surprised me at the Riding Celebration with cards from the riders & volunteers. Left me speechless.

## Volunteers... sharing time, talent & love



Semi-loads of hay have been delivered to Freedom Farm twice this year. The driver asked me if it would be hard for me to get help unloading? He felt my smile over the phone. Freedom Farm is blessed with the most passionate group of individuals.

The first load was coming on a Saturday, then it changed to Super Bowl Sunday. I was preparing for the fact that it would be just me & Tom. TWELVE people showed up, 2 guys I had never met!



And if you have been to the Polo Event or the Riding Celebration, you have seen this incredible group in action doing what they love; helping others. We are wowed every week by their dedication and our volunteer list just keeps on growing. The time and love they share is a radiant light that brightens the lives of each and every rider & participant. They all tell us how proud they are to volunteer at Freedom Farm.

Visit the website to see the 2013 Volunteer Awards.

*Kurt thaws frozen pipes in the bathroom.*



*2013 Riding Celebration*



## Special Awards for Freedom Farm in 2013



Rider **Lauren Wisegarver**  
PATH International  
'Rider of the Year'



**Dr. Jamie Pribyl**,  
Freedom Farm's veterinarian,  
PATH International, Region 6  
'Veterinarian of the Year'



And with this award  
came boxes of **Adequan!**



**Joker is MN Horse Council's  
Therapy Horse of the Year**  
His award was accepted by  
Freedom Farm Riders **Jackson  
Hoefling and Annika Wanha**  
during the MN Horse Council's  
Annual Meeting and Banquet.



## Fundraising Events in 2014 ... save the dates!

### 7th Annual Polo Event September 6, 2014 BlackBerg Ranch

The Polo Event is the fund raiser that keeps more riders off the waiting list and helps our new programs get off the ground!



### Northern Oil & Gas and Cargill 2013 Team Sponsors



Reserve your **VIP Tent or Sponsorship NOW!**  
Call or email today.

### 2014 Riding Celebration October 4, 2014

The Riding Celebration is a time when Riders & Volunteers come together to raise funds for our equine angels.



The whole family meets Melissa's horse 'Cassie'!



Carriage Rides by '**Life is Good Ranch**'



## Freedom Farm

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info@freedomfarmMN.org

www.freedomfarmMN.org

## Freedom of balance

**Freedom of movement**

**Freedom of expression**

## Horses... our angels

The awesome part about having such incredible volunteers is they see how we partner with the horses, how well taken care of our horses are and when it is time to retire, we have great resources for them.

Last year **Larry** was moved to volunteer, **Patti Peterson**, to join his old friend Snickers. **Rocky** went to the family of volunteer, **Kim Dolan**. **Tango** is residing with volunteer, **Judy Solie**, with Dean Aschman as care taker. This winter **Ace** retired. He is greatly missed, but there is such peace in knowing he is with his best friend, Tango! Tango and Ace are just 10 minutes away sharing a beautiful pasture at Judy's farm. **Joker** continues to thrive at his beautiful retirement home in Watertown.

Consider making a donation to care for the horses who are the foundation of our programs and help



transform lives daily. We have raised \$20,300 to date, needing another \$19,000 for 2014. It costs \$4,000 a year per horse for feed, veterinary and farrier services.

**Timmy** arrived for 2014.



**Freedom Farm completed its 3rd accreditation in 2013.** We are proud to be a PATH International Premier Accredited Center for the next 5 years.

### PATH FACTS

#### Around the Globe:

850 member centers  
220 Premier Accredited Centers  
4,200 Certified Instructors  
52,000 Volunteers ~ 7,500 Equines

#### Minnesota:

12 member centers ~ 5 Premier Accredited Centers

There are 7,400 PATH individual members helping 56,000 children and adults with physical, mental and emotional challenges each year.

**YOU can become a member!** [www.pathint.org](http://www.pathint.org)

\$55 includes access to lots of information on the website, subscription to 'Strides' quarterly magazine and the 'PATH Intl News' a bi-monthly email.

# 2014 Freedom Farm Financial and In-Kind Support

*Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone!*

## Foundation Gifts

Cannon Family Foundation ~ McKinstry Charitable Foundation ~ Remick Foundation  
Total Depth Foundation/Ryan Gilbertson

## Grants

Clear Channel Management (Cities 97) ~ Delano Loretto Area United Way ~ MN Horse Council  
Wright Hennepin Electric Trust

**Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.  
Thank you Anonymous Donors!**

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We appreciate every donor who supports our mission with in-kind gifts. Horses, tack, auction & raffle items, food, flowers, office supplies and equipment, services, photography, lesson supplies, advertising and more...

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*North Central Reining Horse Association Honoring NCRHA Volunteer of the Year Kathy Burma*

*Bonita Heilman Honoring Wildcat Ranch*

*Andy & Kerry Barnauskas Honoring "T-Bone"*

*Leroy & Donna Kuta Honoring Samuel Ricks*

*Sam Ricks*



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*Raymond & Carrie Caruso In Memory of Celestine "Sally" Kinney*