

# HoofBeat

January 2017

# A Note from Susie...



Lovina volunteer Barb & rider Natalie

Hello Friends!

I am looking forward to our 17th year and sharing more of our amazing 'love' & 'wow' stories with you. Stories of individuals who you directly helped. Your love and your financial support has proven results. You have impacted, transformed and saved lives. The power of the horse, loving volunteers, dedicated staff and YOU are changing lives.



The power of the horse



Imagine; a Veteran spending quality time with our teens and our teens, volunteers, and veterans volunteering with Books in the Barn and therapeutic riding. Now, that is a full circle of love. We have so much love and our love keeps growing. With all this love, more space is needed! Plans have been started for a new addition. The addition to the indoor arena means more

Cindi Koopmeiners sharing her passion of reading and horses

Books in the Barn teacher people will be helped through Freedom Farm. We are excited to share the progress of this project Dedicated staff/instructor with you.



Lisa with rider

Thank you for being in our circle; for all your love, all your prayers, all your support.



With much love and God's blessings,





**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.

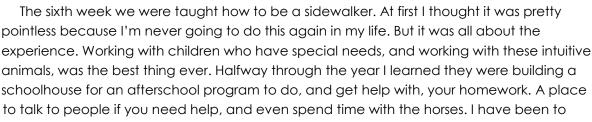


The 2016 Donor List will be sent by email, is available on the website and posted on the wall in the arena at Freedom Farm.

I was struggling in school. I wasn't making many friends. Most days I would come to school depressed and not wanting to be there. It was 2015 and I was in the second quarter of my sophomore year. Just when I thought all hope was gone, the school told me about a program for teens that met every Tuesday morning called 'Hope with Horses'. I was really excited because I had finally found a way to get out of class. I thought horses were some girly type of Taylor Swift animal. I wasn't the girly type but I thought if I gave it a shot I would like it.

The first day I went to this horse farm, I was greeted by an over-enthusiastic woman named Susie. I thought she was a little too 'happy' to be here on a Tuesday morning. I was there with 8 girls around my age and was

> comfortable with my surroundings. It was kind of like the first day of school. It was probably my first time seeing horses close up, and my goodness they were beautiful. I knew I was going to like it here.



Michela & Journey many treatment centers in my life and if Freedom Farm was an alternative learning center, I would sign up instantly.

I'm currently in my junior year of high school. After one year, I have accomplished a lot thanks to everyone at Freedom Farm. My depression has gotten a lot better. I have learned how to be social with people, I have stopped harming myself and I have met AMAZING people who have helped me every step of the way. I have written and illustrated a book for Freedom Farm titled "Goodnight Freedom Farm".

Freedom Farm gives you this feeling you can't really get until you experience it. I once said, "It's like your cup of coffee in the morning, it gives you a great way to start your day". I've bonded with so many people who understand me. I really love this place. I feel like I've come home. Bonding with the horses and especially the cat; I've really changed myself. I have donated \$70 to Freedom Farm to help with anything they need. If I hadn't met Susie, or been to Freedom Farm, I would be at rock bottom. I could see myself in an intense program center with no daylight. I come here every single day now, working on my homework, chores, and working with the horses. This program is something special. I'm so happy that I came here.

#### THE SCHOOLHOUSE...

... is a blessing to all who enter. We have kept it busy with Books in the Barn, high school students Monday through Friday, and Veterans every week. There are many volunteer opportunities that are specific to the Schoolhouse. Call us if you have a heart tug.



### VETERAN MAJOR PAUL HOILAND...

... was awarded 2016 PATH International Equine Services for Heroes Equestrian of the Year award. His passion for serving others continues at Freedom Farm. You will find Paul here several times a week volunteering with the other Veterans, teens, doing barn chores, and seeking grants.

#### **Congratulations Paul!**

Pictured: Susie Bjorklund, Paul Hoiland and his wife Melanie, after receiving his award at the Path International Conference in Virginia.



# POLO EVENT - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

Elegant hats popping with color! Tents lining the field full of spectators anticipating the thundering of hooves! Polo players athleticism showing in their strategic moves! This is **Freedom Farm's 10th Anniversary Polo Event**!

The Freedom Farm Polo Event is a fun-filled family day held at the stunning Blackberg Ranch. This high caliber Polo Match has over 2000 guests in attendance, with the best view from the VIP Tent Row.

Enjoy pony rides, face painting, kids craft tent, photo booth, carriage rides and raffle with a half-time Live Auction, Divot Stomp and Hat Contest (for both youth and adults) and mingle with professional polo players.

## You can help us now:

- Become an Event Sponsor
- 2. Donate a Big Ticket Auction Item(s)
- 3. Reserve a VIP Tent **NOW!**











Contact us today to become an event sponsor, reserve your VIP Tent or to donate an auction item!

Call: 952.955.2505 ~ Email: polo@freedomfarmMN.org

# HORSING AROUND WITH JACKSON

By Jackson Hoefling

Many of you probably know me but just in case you do not, my name is Jackson. I am a senior at Monticello High School. I cannot believe I will be graduating this June. Seems like just yesterday I began my journey at Freedom Farm. I was 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years old my first summer riding at Freedom Farm. The indoor arena was not built yet so Susie would carry me to the outdoor riding arena. I loved riding outside then and I still love it. That is why I can't

wait for the new sensory trail to be completed. Riding in the indoor arena is great too, especially on those hot July days or when the weather is questionable.

Summer 2017 will be my 15th year riding at Freedom Farm! I love riding at Freedom Farm for many reasons. The motion of the horse helps improve my balance and stretches my tight muscles. Like they say, "no pain no gain" and it's true. Being on the horse also helps me trust my volunteers and gives me confidence in my abilities. Susie makes the lessons challenging but fun. Susie cares so much about all the riders and

Jackson on Rocky - 2004 she shows it every week by making me feel important and not different.

Stay tuned for more Freedom Farm news in March. We will be sending an email newsletter filled with more exciting information including a rider/volunteer/staff highlight from me.

Also, don't forget to keep saving your change for "Horses Change Lives". Every penny counts!



Jackson & Lily - 2016



11500 Ferman Ave SW Waverly, MN 55390

www.freedomfarmMN.org

# Save The Dates:



Reserve YOUR
VIP Tent or
Sponsorship NOW

952.955.2505

info@freedomfarmMN.org
September 9, 2017

10th Annual Polo Event



The Freedom
Farm Riders
want you to
come cheer
them on!

October 28, 2017

15th Annual Riding Celebration

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Do something meaningful and fun this year. Volunteer at Freedom Farm!

Volunteers get the opportunity to work with AMAZING Riders and Horses. Mark your calendars to attend one of our upcoming volunteer trainings.

#### 2017 Training Dates:

- Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 5-7 pm
- Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 5-7 pm
- Thursday, March 23rd ~ 4-6 pm
- Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 6-8 pm
- Tuesday, March 28th ~ 9-11 am



2016 Volunteer of the Year: Beth Johnson



2016 Horse Handler of the Year: Jessica Zeug

## 2017 Freedom Farm Financial and In-Kind Support

Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone!

#### **Foundation Gifts**

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Berg Family Fund ~ The Michael & Julie Braun Charitable Fund of InFaith Community Foundation
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"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."

Thank you Anonymous Donors!

A special thank you to the following companies that matched employee donations:

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



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#### **2017 Freedom Farm Financial and In-Kind Support** Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone!

Thank you for the precious gifts in memory of loved ones and honoring special friends.

#### 2017 HONORARIUMS:

Honoring Lorraine Japs' 100th Birthday

Sandy & Harlan Dalbec

Honoring Faith Johnson's Birthday

Faith Johnson, Scott & Jeanine Johnson, Kelly Westberg

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Memory of Bette Reinert ~ Arnold Stifter

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