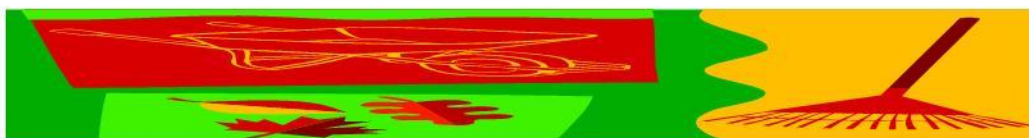


# Safe Haven Farms



This newsletter is a parent driven publication of Safe Haven Farms, a community of choice for adults with autism, established in southwest Ohio, 2010. Reading this newsletter constitutes an agreement to hold harmless all volunteers and contributors for anything contained in this newsletter.

## SHF wins \$112K grant for therapeutic riding

The dream of establishing a Therapeutic Riding Program at Safe Haven Farms moved one giant step closer to reality on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> as the women of Impact 100, a local philanthropic group, voted to award Safe Haven a grant of \$112,000.

Dave and Sue Wilson wrote the grant in record time, under the pressure of a looming deadline. Safe Haven was chosen as one of four finalists for (2) \$112,000 grants. As part of Impact 100's 10 year anniversary festivities, a banquet, including presentations by the finalists, was held at the Museum Center at Union Terminal. Denny Rogers

and Kathy Bolduc made the winning presentation. It was an exciting evening as votes were tabulated and winners announced over dessert. Stepping Stones Center won the second grant for a respite program geared toward children with severe behavioral challenges. An

autism sweep! Therapeutic riding increases attention, concentration, balance, learning and verbal skills, and also fosters social and communication skills of the rider.

Safe Haven Farm's therapeutic riding program will be open to those with autism who live in our surrounding communities, helping to fulfill our mission of offering residential, day and community services for individuals on the autism spectrum. "This grant will expand our reach to more individuals with disabilities and their families in



(from left Kathy Bolduc, Denny Rogers, Dave and Sue Wilson, pose with the Impact100 award.)

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Special points of interest:

- Learning Center
- Fundraising photos
- Dance, dance, dance

## DO YOU WANNA DANCE?

Most of our farmers love to dance, so dance they will on our newly acquired dance floor! At press time, Ann Rogers, Imogene O'Lenick, and Connie Proctor have planned some themed dances: An afternoon Football dance, Sunday November 20, 3:30-5:30 pm A New Year's Eve dance, Saturday December 31, 5 pm-?

Nancy Spidare will fix a light meal for each dance, so support staff won't have to rush to get dinner on the table before the farmers walk to the Hatton Center for the dance. If you'd like to volunteer time or resources for the dances, contact Ann Rogers at rogersak1@aol.com



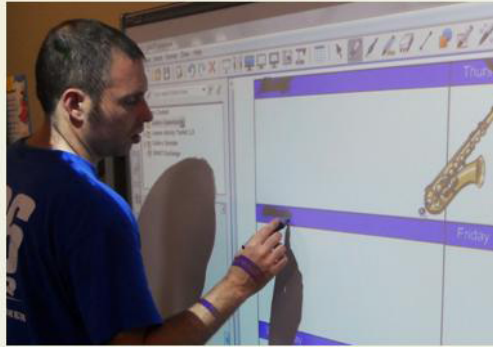




## Learning Center features high-tech

Safe Haven farmers spend a good portion of their day managing chores and activities that involve agriculture. But the learning doesn't end with the great outdoors - as high tech devices make the inside work pretty great as well.

Enhancements to the Hatton Center are motivating and inspiring farmers to learn new academic skills. The Learning Center room is equipped with state of the art devices to spur cognitive development and critical thinking skills while being fun and exciting to use. Aside from the large flat screen televi-



sion, the center features computers, a smart board, iPads, floor puzzles and Nintendo Wii and games.

"Everyone loves the iPads and each individual interacts at his or her own level and pace," said Mike Rogers, learning center coordinator. "One main thing I focus on is having them confident to communicate their needs either non-verbally or through talking."

Small groups rotate through the room, solving the giant floor puzzles, working

on the math applications, or surfing the web for favorite sites. On special days, a movie might be the main attraction or using the smart board to plan an upcoming holiday event. As the day program staff and farmers become more familiar with the technology at the Learning Center, the possibilities will also expand.

### Other techy news

SHF President Denny Rogers has been following GPS technology for years and reports that a recent article in USA Today noted that the Federal Communication Commission has approved shoes embedded with tracking devices that could be used for persons with developmental disabilities or Alzheimer disease. The shoes retail for approximately \$299 and information about the manufacturer can be found online by googling "GPS shoe." With the advent of smart phones, it may be possible to download an app and track the shoe wearer through an iPad or other similar device, noted Denny, who added that you could set up a virtual fence area and get an alert when the person leaves this safety zone.

## Impact 100 GRANT makes big impact!

*(Continued from page 1)*

southwest Ohio," said Denny Rogers, president of Safe Haven Farms. "It will help us transform our dream into reality."

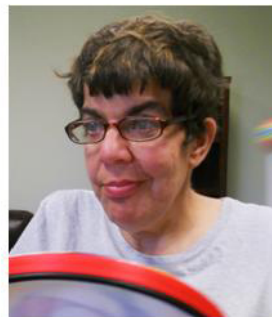
Planning for the barn renovation, which includes new stalls, an indoor arena, viewing area and restroom; an outdoor riding arena; as well as hiring a program director and finding appropriate horses and volunteers, is in the works. Stay tuned for more info.

### MORE THANKS

Much of SHF's success would be impossible without the great parent, donor and volunteer support. A very special thank you goes out to all participants on the fundraising, grant proposal, recreational committees and other volunteers who give their resources, time and effort. We are also very grateful for the financial support of our spon-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Spotlight on: Teresa Blevins



If you visited the farm on a spectacularly colorful day this fall, chances are you were serenaded by Teresa. Teresa loves to sing, and spends many happy hours on her front porch swing,

singing along to Rose's guitar (Rose is a direct care staff in Teresa's home).

Music Therapy with Laura Baggette is Teresa's favorite activity of the week. She has great rhythm, so she naturally gravitates toward the drums. It should come as no surprise that Teresa also loves to dance.

If you ask nicely, maybe she will save you a dance at an upcoming Safe Haven dance!







**HOOFERS AND HACKERS**

Hundreds gathered to support SHF at the golf and 5k race outings. Many thanks to all involved, especially parent committee chairs Don O'Brien and Melanie Moon, (race), and Sherry and Rick Fishbaugh (golf), sponsors, and participants. Friends and farmers gathered at the 5k race and fun run at Lakota West high school and at the golf outing at Wildwood country club in Middletown to raise funds to ensure high quality programming at SHF. Many thanks to all who participated, sponsored and volunteered their time to make these two fund raisers successful. (see page two for a partial list of key people).





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MAILING ADDRESS

# Safe Haven Farms

## THANK YOU!!!!

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sors of the fund-raisers. Although not inclusive, the following includes some of these special people: General Electric volunteers, Rick and Sherry Fishbaugh, Melanie Moon, Don O'Brien, Autism Speaks students from Miami University, Erie Insurance, Eagle Scout troops, Starbucks, Skip's Bagels, Kroger's Quatman Cafe, Smoothie King, Centerville Pharmacy, State Auto Insurance Companies, Truepoint Incorporated, Progressive Insurance, AK Steel, Emery Oleochemicals, Stephano's Italian Cafe, Moon & Adrion Insurance, Cristo Homes, Crane-Tec, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy students, BridgePointe Psychological and Counseling Services, Imprint Promotions Inc., Noonan, Brockman & Pollock D.D.S, Inc., Middletown Ford, Dr. Gene F. Sherwood, podiatrist, D.W Norris Co., L.P.A. , Matta Foundation, RMS, Magnode, and Fishbaugh Homes.



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A community of choice for adults with autism

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