

Safe Haven Farms



Special points of interest:

- Hats off to Hatton Center!
- Spotlight on Farmer
- RMS agency shares winter highlights



Hatton Center brings great day program space to Safe Haven

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.

Sensory Room! Learning Center! Creative Arts Center! Activity Room! These are just a few of the reasons Safe Haven farmers, parents, and staff celebrated when the state-of-the-art Hatton Center opened Jan. 3. Thanks to a significant enabling grant from the Hatton Foundation, this project began last June and was completed just before Christmas. More than 25 volunteers worked for several days over the holidays, readying the building for the farmers.

At 8,880 square feet, the Hatton Center affords space to spread out, learn and grow, find some quiet space, and

even get some exercise. It features the following:

The Activity Room full of puzzles, games, workbooks, CD's, Hot Shot basketball, and game tables.

The Learning Center houses a Smartboard, several iPads with numerous apps, computer terminals and educational software, books, TV with DVD player, and Wii games.

The Creative Arts Center is home to a plethora of craft activities.

The Sensory Room is a great place to relax and unwind with bubble tubes, projector, sound puzzles, and calming

CDs.

The Community Room is a large space with banquet tables and chairs, open floor space for physical activities, music therapy instruments, and audio visual projector and screen. Additionally, the Hatton Center has a Culinary Arts Center, Break Room, Manager's Office, four restrooms, along with additional office and conference space for Safe Haven Farms. Naming rights for the various rooms were secured by several friends and families of Safe Haven Farms, and plaques will be displayed in their honor. Equipment and furniture for the building were funded in great part by grants from the Middletown Community Foundation, the Hatton Foundation, The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation, GE Foundation, Molyneaux Foundation, John & Shirley Davies Foundation, the Costine family, and the FirstData Corporation.

Recent visits have found farmers spread out throughout the Center, engrossed in various activities. What a fantastic addition to our farm! Words cannot express our gratitude to everyone who contributed financially, as well as in volunteer hours, to make this dream a reality.





RMS staff continues training and sharing expertise on issues that impact Safe Haven farmers' lives

Volume 1, Issue 1

You can feel our farmers' excitement and anticipation as daffodil and tulip petals unfold, hoop houses heat up, and Spring comes alive at the farm. We're happy to say "good-bye" to our snowy first Winter and welcome warm weather and new opportunities at the farm.

Winter Highlights

Congratulations to our Winter 2011 Employees of the Month: Kevin Helvey, Donna McKenzie, and Pat French.

Ashley Johnson, director, RMS Spectrum Services, attended a National Association of Residential Providers of Adults with Autism (NARPAA) conference and had an opportunity to share best

practices with three other directors of residential agricultural communities for adults with autism.

RMS direct care staff attended trainings including "The Many Roles of Direct Support Professionals" and, provided by the county, "Managing Your Emotions When Working with Adults with Autism."

RMS received a nomination for community recognition at the Annual Butler County Board for Developmental Disabilities Community Dinner for contracting custodial services for the Hatton Center with a participant of Project SEARCH.

Upcoming this Spring

After successful integration of using iPads with our farmers, Ashley has been accepted to share a presentation on "Affordable and Accessible Technology for Individuals with Autism" at the National Autism Society of America conference this summer.

Miami University students and faculty groups, including Autism Speaks MU and Miami Disability Resources will volunteer at the farm.

We will have a "Harvest Party" with our farmers this Spring to teach them the benefits of working in the garden and to give them a preview of the harvest we will have this summer and fall.

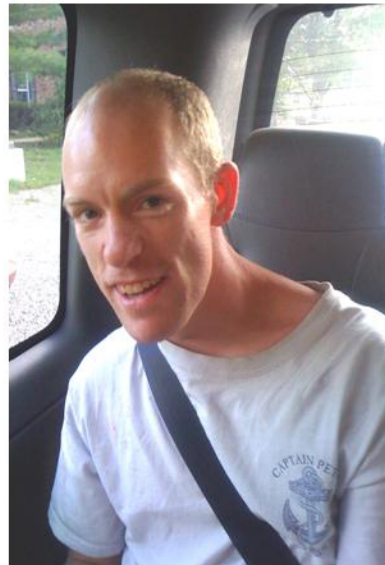
Safe Haven
has its sights set on starting an autism therapeutic horseback riding program for residents and community members. A fund raising campaign has begun to support this important cause. To donate, contact donations@safehavenfarms.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON FARMER: Peter Collins

What would Safe Haven Farms be without our farmers?

These unique, gifted, ever-surprising, and extraordinary young men and women are the backbone of this very special farm community. We will highlight one farmer in each issue of this newsletter. In this issue, we feature Pete Collins.

Pete is optimistic, happy-go-lucky, and eager to please. He enjoys learning new tasks, and is cooperative and helpful at work and at home. He always greets everyone as they come to the farm. "Happy Monday!" he calls out to visitors (or whatever the day of the week happens to be). Pete's favorite jobs are collecting the mail and taking out the trash and he is an avid gardener. He can't wait to begin gardening again this summer!



Get in on the fun!

Safe Haven Farms has many opportunities for volunteers!

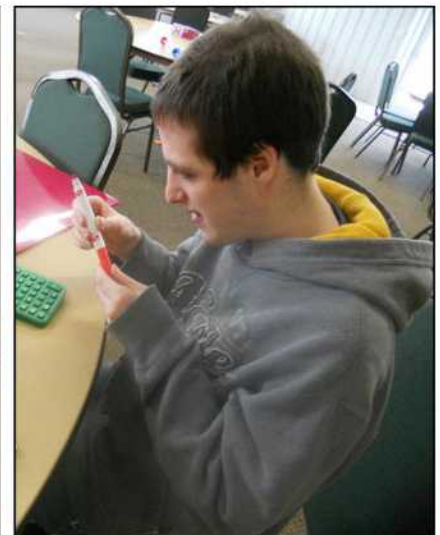
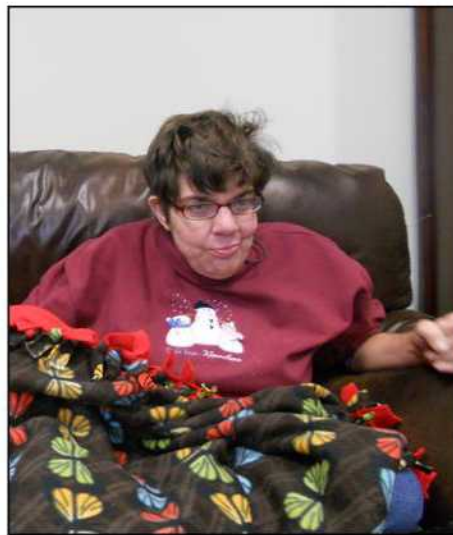
Right now we are looking for some help with rain garden plantings, building paver patios behind each home and hoop house gardening projects.

Lend a hand by contacting volunteers@safehavenfarms.org.



A day in the life.....

This sampling of photographs illustrates the wide variety of meaningful, challenging and enjoyable activities that are part of the Safe Haven Farms residents' daily life. From expressing artistic abilities, shooting hoops, maintaining living space or just hanging with friends, the farmers embrace the warm and welcoming environment that encourages their intellectual, social and life skills mastery. Farmers are challenged to continue to develop their strengths and interests and also enjoy community outings and other activities that promote a satisfying and productive life.



Safe Haven Farms



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Join us for our annual golf and 5K race fund raisers!

The annual golf tournament will be held on August 8 at the Wildwood Golf Club in Middletown.

The Safe Haven Farms Run Around the Barn 5K race is on Sunday, Sept. 18 at Lakota West High School Football stadium.

Check out our website for more details on how to participate, volunteer and/or donate!

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• **We are** •
• **On the web!!** •
• Visit us at •
• www.safehavenfarms.org •
• Or call •
• (513) 422-1880. •
• • • • •

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