

Safe Haven Farms



Special points of interest:

- Horseback riding
- Meet the therapy dog
- Summer activities



Safe Haven Farms celebrates first year, looks forward

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.

Safe Haven families and friends gathered on July 5 for a Harvest Party for a taste of their garden. A festive mood filled the air-conditioned spaces of the Hatton Center, where a crowd gravitated to escape the 90 degree heat. Party music resulted in some fancy footwork. A few chose picnic tables under the cottonwood outside, where Sally Collins manned the grill. And, thanks to the Ison's, the hayride proved to be the evening's most popular attraction.

"Can you believe it's been a year?" Ashley Johnson, RMS director, asked as the hayride wagon, filled with farmers, lumbered along the circle drive. One year ago this summer 16 farmers moved into four brand-

spanking-new houses on Safe Haven Lane. Years of dreaming and planning became reality as farmers transitioned from family homes, group homes, and apartments in town to life on the farm.

Emily, Audrey, Adam, and David (House 110), inaugurated Safe Haven in May, 2010. Gradually, throughout June and July, they were joined by Parul, Teresa, Patrick, Chale', Joel, Kevin, Jim, Eli, Jake, John, and Pete. Each house quickly exhibited its own character and flair, as well as creative ways to ease the transition. The residents of some houses liked to sunbathe and swim, some liked to hike, and some couldn't wait to frequent local restaurants. All of the

farmers enjoyed communal cook-outs, and trips into the community for swimming, bowling, and meals at Frisch's. The swimming pool helped to beat the heat and became a favorite gathering spot.

Can you believe it's been a year? I think most families would say, no, that much time can't possibly have elapsed since that first hayride on the 4th of July, 2010. But then again, the accomplishments of the past year at Safe Haven Farms boggle the mind. Can we possibly have achieved all of this within one year? Next year will bring more growth and excitement!

Happy birthday, Safe Haven Farms!





Funds needed for SHF therapeutic horseback riding program

The many farm animals already in residence may have some additional four-footed friends, as Safe Haven Farm's grant committee works at securing funding for a therapeutic riding program. Dave and Sue Wilson are heading up the project, and the farm is also

seeking donations to begin this exciting program that is planned to be a community-wide asset for persons with autism.

The therapeutic benefits of horseback riding have been well-documented. For individuals with autism, who find social interactions difficult, bonding with the horse, making new friends, and respecting the authority of the horse, instructor and volunteer side-walker are just a few of therapeutic riding's benefits. Enhanced self-esteem, self-control, and confidence are positive outcomes, as well. Most importantly, children and adults with autism learn to connect with their horse, building a trusting rela-

tionship that is fun, rewarding, and life-changing.

Start up costs include a barn renovation, an indoor arena with seating area, new fencing and gates, as well as an outdoor arena. **It is our desire to open this program to children and adults with autism who live in the surrounding communities!** If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate financially to make this program happen, please contact us at Donations@SafeHavenFarms.org.

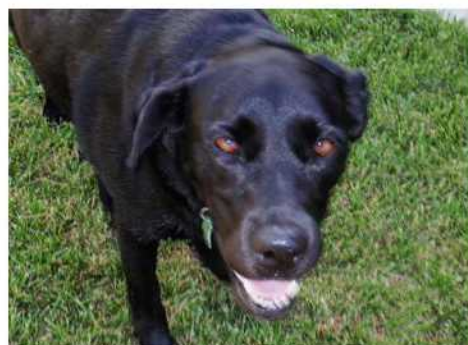


The resident alpacas (above) hope to be joined by horses in the not too distant future!

We need EWE!
Safe Haven Farms has many opportunities for volunteers! Right now we are looking for some help with maintaining gardens and hoop house projects.
Lend a hand by contacting volunteers@safehavenfarms.org.

SHE'S HERE—Congratulations to RMS director Ashley Johnson and her husband Drew, on the birth of their daughter, Isabel Eileen Johnson, on July 21!!

SPOTLIGHT: Honey the therapy dog



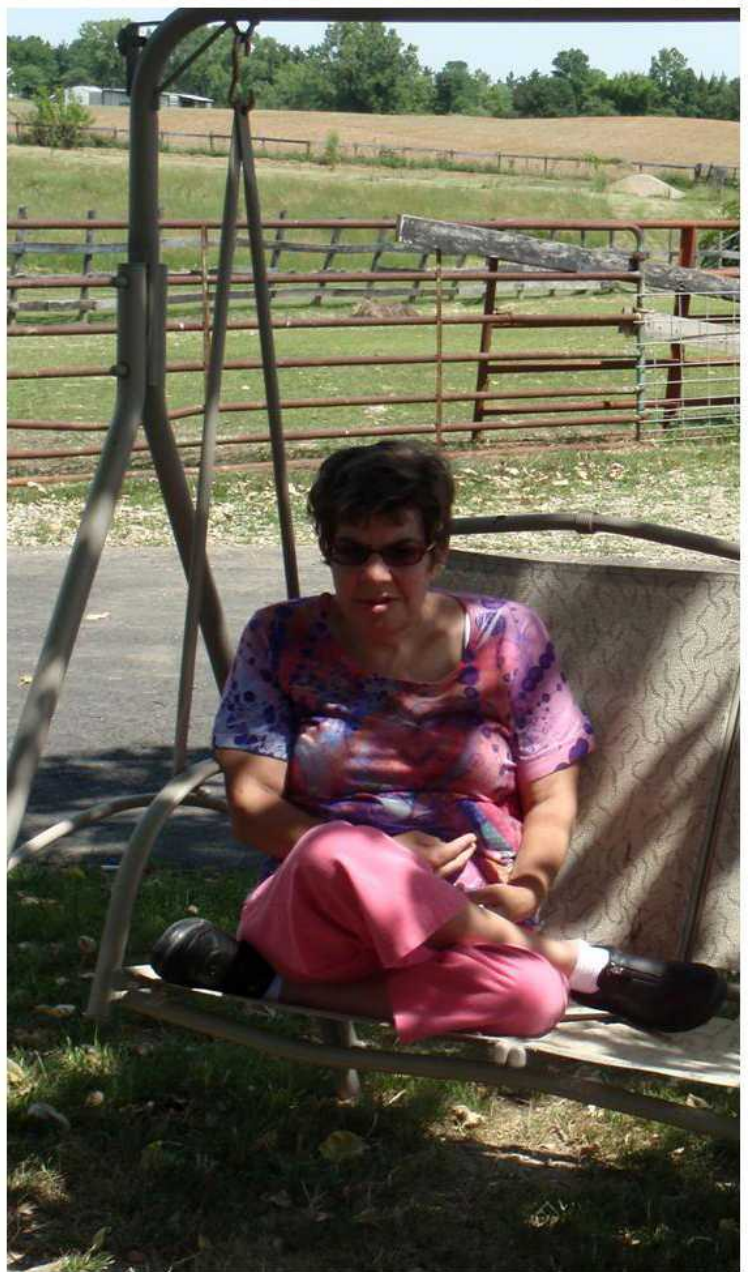
Safe Haven Farms has a honey of a therapy dog—literally—the friendly and gentle black Labrador is named Honey and she is a welcomed addition to the farm family. Donated by Marty Gerndt, Honey “works” the day-habilitation program and goes home each night with Janice Tinch, office coordinator.

Everyone agrees that she's a sweet soul, befitting her name!

Summertime...and the living is easy. Pictures (at right) show farmers enjoying the favorite shady spot under the cottonwood tree, visiting with friends and family and practicing good social skills with staff and visitors. New to the farm this spring are two large metal swing sets, donated and assembled by GE volunteers!



Summer 2011



Safe Haven Farms
210 Safe Haven Way
Middletown, OH 45042



Safe Haven Farms



A community of choice for adults with autism

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SPECIAL EVENTS

SIGN UP NOW for Safe Haven Farm's "Tee off for Autism" golf tournament on Monday, Aug. 8 at Wildwood Golf Course, in Middletown. Sponsors and golfers are needed. Contact Rick or Sherry Fishbaugh at info@fishbaughhomes.com

The third annual Run Around the Barn 5K and Fun Run is set for Sunday, Sept. 18 at Lakota West High school. Runners can sign up at www.getmeregistered.com or contact Don O'Brien at dgobrien@fuse.net

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• On the web!! •
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• (513) 422-1880. •
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