



**A Community of Choice
for Adults with Autism**

Tee It Up for Autism

A good time was had in June at the 2nd annual Safe Haven "Tee It Up for Autism" golf outing at Wildwood Country Club in Middletown. Golfers enjoyed lunch, dinner, a round of golf with cart, and varied prizes from the Pro Shop, local businesses, and the event organizers.

We were blessed with good weather, a full registration, and high spirits all around. Melanie Moon, parent and one of the tourney directors, suggested giving male golfers an advantage on the longest hole—the ability to tee off from the women's tee—with the catch that they had to rent and don a woman's dress for the hole. Willing participants made this a great money-maker, and we have the photos to prove it!

Many thanks to volunteers from GE, area churches and women's groups, and parent volunteers. A special thanks to Rick and Sherry Fishbaugh (pictured below) for spearheading the event. Rick and his company are the builders of the houses and the Hatton Center at Safe Haven Farm. Rick's firm recently won a prestigious architectural award for the design of the Hatton Center. Congrats!

Mark your calendars: Next year's outing is June 24, 2013.



The Safe Haven Way

A PARENT PUBLICATION OF SAFE HAVEN FARMS, BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO



FALL 2012

this issue

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Thanks for a Wonderful Year!

It's hard to believe 2012 is almost gone. Even more amazing is how far we've come in only three years. As we enter the holiday season, we wanted to look back on all we have accomplished this year and express our gratitude to those who made it possible. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, grants from several foundations, thousands of volunteer hours, and a dedicated group of families and staff, Safe Haven continues to mature.

Some 2012 significant accomplishments:

- Supported by grants from Impact 100, the Hatton Foundation, and the West Chester/Liberty Community Foundation, we built an indoor and outdoor riding arena, made major upgrades to our barn, and began buying tack and equipment for our equestrian program to begin in the spring.
- A grant from the Miriam Knoll Foundation enabled us to convert a barn lean-to into an equipped tool room.
- With a Hatton Foundation grant, we built a new pole barn for storing hay and equipment.
- A large picnic shelter (pictured at bottom right) was designed and built by a group led by Eagle Scout Kurt Carpenter. Kurt secured donations of over \$11,000 in funding and recruited 47 volunteers who invested 1184 hours of work to create this beautiful shelter! We greatly appreciate the efforts of Kurt and his family, who were honored at the shelter dedication with a permanent plaque designating it as the "Carpenter Pavilion."
- To upgrade our entrance, we replaced the fencing along the entrance driveway and added an electric access gate. Mt. Notre Dame students Michelle Strizak and Courtney Kinman created a planting area and an entrance sign for the property as a school project (pictured above right with Denny Rogers).

- GE Volunteers continued their strong support of the farm, donating funds for several projects. Some 170 volunteers worked over 650 hours throughout the year. They did landscaping and planting projects across the property, built a patio, a fire pit, a paver sidewalk, a swing set, a deck around our pool, and a viewing deck for the outdoor riding arena.

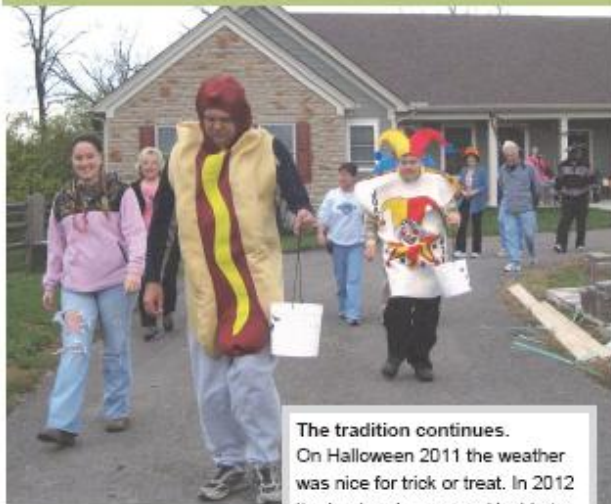


As president, I would like to thank our leadership committee Gary Blevins, Don O'Brien, and Sue and Dave Wilson for their ongoing support and willingness to lead many of the activities throughout the year. And a special thanks to our farm manager, David Callsen, who has done a terrific job improving and maintaining the farm, overseeing construction projects, and really caring about our mission and our farmers.

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Hot Dawg...It's Halloween Again!



The tradition continues.
On Halloween 2011 the weather was nice for trick or treat. In 2012 it rained and we moved inside to the Hatton Center.



"Farmer Jake" enjoys a Halloween treat from mom Sally and brother Joe.

Parent social activities recapture past traditions, create new ones

The Safe Haven parents, who have raised their children to adulthood, well understand that a person with autism often faces challenges in social situations. To enlarge the farmers' social world, the parents organize and present many parties, dinner-dances and holiday events throughout the year. The parents contribute to a social event "kitty" to partially fund the supplies, decorations and food for these events.

Each month, a themed dinner-dance is held in the Hatton Center community room. Safe Haven staff member Nancy Spidare prepares a healthy meal, often with fresh produce from the farm's gardens. The special dietary needs of several farmers are taken into account so that gluten-free and low sugar foods are available.

In months when there are farmer and staff birthdays, staff and farmers gather early in the month at the Hatton Center to celebrate the birthday honorees with healthy pizza, salad, birthday cake, and a round of singing.

Holiday potlucks are a foodie's delight with so much tasty food that leftovers are sent back to the houses for the next day. Holiday dinners on Easter, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day are well attended by farmers' parents, brothers and sisters, and grandparents. This gives the families a chance to relax and enjoy the company of their autistic family member in a supportive setting where trained staff understand and can address the unique needs and behaviors of those with autism.



Teresa and dad Gary enjoy a quiet moment on the swing.

Says Ann Rogers, a Safe Haven founding parent and social event chairman, "We want to establish these holiday events as a tradition to celebrate holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas so that when we parents are gone, the celebration will continue."

And that, after all, is the mission of Safe Haven Farms.

Farmers, family, and staff celebrate at monthly dances, birthday parties, and special holiday gatherings.



Parents and their farmers enjoy many festive events together. The food is always great and the sense of shared family memories is priceless!

Top Left: Pete and mom Sally.

Top Right: Adam and mom Connie in the picnic pavilion with Eli (in the hat).

Bottom Left: David and mom Pam.

Bottom Center: Jon and dad "say Cheez" Don.

Bottom Right: Pat and dad Tom.



Everything has rhythm, everything dances - Maya Angelou



Left: Andy masters the finer points of the Macarena demonstrated by two enthusiastic volunteers.



Right: Jake puts his special spin on the dance moves.



Parul beams appreciation for the music and fun evening.



"Come dance with me, Emily," whispers Joel. "The music is good and loud."



Chale is feeling pretty and ready for the party.

Newsletter Contributors

- Denny Rogers
- Suzanne O'Brien
- Don O'Brien
- Safe Haven parents

Reading this newsletter constitutes an agreement to hold harmless all volunteers and contributors for anything contained in this newsletter.

Farmers enjoy a hayride at the July 4th picnic. It was HOT but loads of fun.



Left: Eli steps down from the hay wagon after a tour around the farm driven by neighbor Bill Ison (above).

Right: Jimmy and dad Dave hardly know what to choose at the picnic, while staff member Luke directs his imaginary band. Sousa? Doubtful...

Board of Directors

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- Dennis Rogers, President
- Gary Blevins, Vice President
- Dave Martin, Secretary
- Peter Jezek, Treasurer

Board Members

- Jim Adams
- Scott Barbee
- Wally Bolduc
- Adam Cristo
- Dr. Patricia Herman
- Dr. Pamela Lockwood
- Craig Moon
- Suzanne O'Brien
- Donald Oda II

We Appreciate Your Support !



Safe Haven Farms, Inc., is grateful for your support and for gifts of all sizes. Please consider making a gift before December 31 to our annual campaign to help us maintain and enhance our services over the next year. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged promptly. You may donate to Safe Haven:

By Mail: Send to: Safe Haven Farms
PO Box 633
Monroe, OH 45050



Gary Blevins, Tricia Herman, Denny Rogers, and Dave Martin at the Tee It Up For Autism golf event.



Audrey shows off her art project.



Kevin cycles around Safe Haven Way.



Pat bundles up for work in the barn.

A Wonderful Year

(continued from front page)

Thanks to all of our families and friends for their commitment to the farm through their gifts, their service and their support. Of course, we couldn't do what we do without the strong support from our hundreds of donors. They provide the resources to keep our operation going and through them we are able to significantly impact the lives of individuals with autism. And finally, thanks to the RMS Spectrum Services staff for their loving and caring support of our sons and daughters. Through their daily work, they have helped to significantly improve the quality of life of all those served.

From all of us at Safe Haven Farms, we hope you and your family have a blessed holiday season, and we look forward to another exciting year in 2013.

Denny Rogers, President



Jimmy keeps the grass mowed around the farm.



Emily and Audrey cool off in the pool with staff member Terrah. Inset shows new pool deck constructed by GE volunteers.



Safe Haven Farms

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