



Amy Hines

## Passion spurs riding program

Thanks to Impact 100's transformational grant, SHF's Therapeutic Riding Program is on the road to reality, with Amy Hines as Program Director and Lead Riding Instructor.

Ms. Hines is passionate about horses. She also has a heart for people with disabilities. She is the mother of six children, two of whom have special needs. "I'm thrilled not only with this equestrian program, but with Safe Haven Farms in general.

To be a part of Safe Haven is super exciting for me."

The owner of three horses, Amy's experience includes several years as a volunteer with the Winton Woods Special Riders Program. She has also worked with the Hamilton County Park District to provide hazard training for the horses used by the park rangers. Hazard training involves preparing the horses to be comfortable in busy environments. "They've got to be bomb-proof," she says with a laugh. Amy also volunteered with the horse program at Pleasant Vineyard Camp outside of Oxford. Some of that time was spent working with campers with autism who, through the Cincinnati Center for Autism, spent two weeks at the camp.

"As a mom," Amy says, "I'm big on safety." Amy is working on her certification through PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship), whose tagline is "Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activi-

ties and therapies" (Safe Haven's therapeutic riding program will be PATH certified).

Amy is working with a team that includes Denny Rogers, Gary Blevins, Dave and Sue Wilson, Sue Radabaugh (co-founder of Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship) Jim Adams (Safe Haven Board member who owns a ranch with several horses), and Laura DeMark (former program director for RMS). With Amy's help, this team is working on facility preparation, liability concerns and risk management, written policies and procedures, equipment acquisition, horse selection, volunteer recruiting, and training of horses and volunteers.

"We're not rushing into this," Amy says. "We're working on a sustainable plan that can safely serve Safe Haven's farmers, as well as the broader community population with autism for many years to come."

(Continued on page 2)

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.

### Inside this issue:

Equestrian Program	1
Dance Fever	1
Spotlight on Farmer	2
Autism Rates Skyrocket	3
Smile! Photos of SHF holiday parties, dances	4-5
Safe Haven List of Donors	6
Farmers Give Back!	7

## Dancing fever hits Safe Haven farmers and friends

Safe Haven Farms' monthly Dance Party continues to be a favorite activity for our farmers. Held on Saturday evenings from 5-7 pm, each dance gives our guys and gals something special to look forward to. Everyone loves music, and the sound system cranks out some good party tunes to keep everyone moving to the beat. The

dance floor is a great stage to try out those new moves. Dances were held in October and November and the New Year's Eve dance brought 2011 to an end in style. The Snowflake Dance in January and the Valentine's Dance in February started the year off on a happy note. Another dance is planned in March with a St.

Patrick's theme (think green!). Dates for future dances will be announced soon.

Students from Miami University's Speech and Language program have been a wonderful addition to the parties. Not only do they help decorate before the dance, they get out on the dance floor and actively

(Continued on page 8)



# Horse program “getting legs”

(Continued from page 1)

Amy has reassuring words for parents who aren't sure that their adult children are ready to ride a horse. She says it's important to remember that simply spending time with horses is healing. "I've seen such great benefits—emotional benefits—in just hanging out with horses. It's therapeutic for me, for anyone, in a non-therapeutic environment, to have that time to just enjoy a relationship with a horse," she says with a smile. She pauses a moment before adding, "I'm so excited about this job. This is my heart."

### Welcome Back, Laura DeMark!

Safe Haven is pleased to announce that Laura DeMark, former Program Coordinator with RMS, will be participating as the Riding Instructor of The Therapeutic Riding Program. Laura has been working as a special education teacher in the Lakota School District since the fall of 2011, and is excited to be able to spend weekends and evenings at the

farm combining her love for horses with her passion for working with people with autism.

Laura says, "I have been riding horses most of my life." Horseback riding with friends and summer horse camps were regular events during her growing-up years. As a college student, Laura spent her summers working on a ranch in Durango Colorado as the head wrangler. She looks back on those years with fondness. "I was responsible for caring for 70 horses and helping to teach others how to love and ride horses."

Laura holds certifications in horse training and horsemanship. She will soon be certified through PATH or EAGALA.

Laura's background is the perfect lead-up to working with Safe Haven's Therapeutic Riding Program. Her experience with, and knowledge of the Safe Haven farmers, will be invaluable as the program gets up and running.



Laura DeMark

### Saddle up and help out!

Donations needed for Riding Program: Dressage saddles, dressage saddle pads, English bridles, snaffle bits, grooming supplies, brushes, hoof picks, rope halters, and lead ropes. Please contact SHF if you can help.

### SHF Spotlight: Jim Wilson, barn “supervisor”

Jim loves the great outdoors. In fact, spending time outside is what Jim likes best about his life at Safe Haven Farms.

Jim enjoys working with the animals, and spends a lot of time in the barn, cleaning stalls and making sure the sheep, alpaca and goats have plenty of food and water. Last winter Jim kept busy driving the snow plow, but so far this winter he's not had

a chance to use those skills (knock on wood!). He looks forward to warmer weather and getting out there on the tractor. In his leisure time, Jim plays video games.

When he's not spending the weekend with his family, he looks forward to going out for Friday night pizza with the guys from House 130.





# Autism rates demand action on lack of adult options

*Autism prevalence rates have skyrocketed and future predictions point to what can be termed a catastrophic climb in incidence – leaving already overburdened funding sources woefully unequipped to handle even the basic needs of thousands of these individuals. SHF founder and President Dennis Rogers recently presented an updated forecast on autism rates at the National Association of Residential Providers with Adults for Autism. A tireless advocate for autism, he was asked to author an article in the current periodical, Autism Advocate, published by the Autism Society, Bethesda, Maryland. The following article features excerpts from this story, which can be read in its entirety on*

Autism rates are rising at alarming levels from one in 2,000 children in pre-1990 to one in 110 births in 2009, or one percent of all children. The schools are now struggling with overwhelming numbers of students to serve and the eldest of these individuals have, or will soon, enter the adult service realm.

numbers point to even a more disastrous reality if left unsolved. For example, using a model based on three percent per year annual prevalence increase, the number of school age children is projected to rise by 133 percent and adults are anticipated to increase by 671 percent in 2030 (as compared to 2010).

“There is now a national crisis in services for adults with developmental disabilities, especially residential services and especially for those with autism,” writes Mr. Rogers. “We cannot allow another generation of our adult children to go without the vital services that any humane society knows is necessary for a life of dignity and worth.”

Lack of funding is a great challenge, especially when the cost of adult services for these individuals can be stunning as compared to the

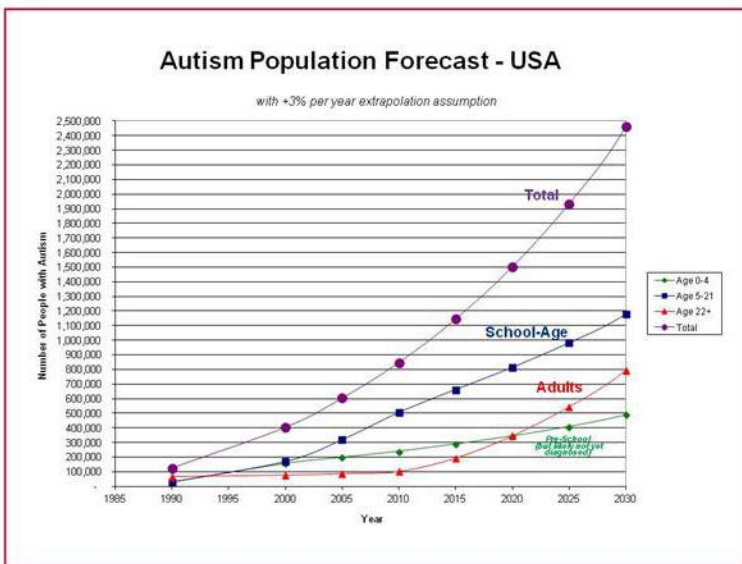
**“There is now a national crisis in services for adults with developmental disabilities, especially residential services, and especially for those with autism. We cannot allow another generation of our adult children to go without the vital services that any humane society knows is necessary for a life of dignity and worth.”**

A call to action was issued by the Autism Society in 2001, spurred on by a report on the crucial shortages of services for adults. “National Crisis in Adult Services for Individuals with Autism,” written by Ruth Christ Sullivan, highlighted the daily hardships of tens of thousands of families who struggle to provide meaningful and productive lives for their family members who aged out of school services. This call was reissued in 2007 and, five years later, the incidence

school district burdens. “Children with autism who are enrolled in schools today (with a mandated right to services) will graduate and many will require ongoing services and supports from a currently over-taxed system (Medicaid, Social Security, Vocational Rehabilitation, community services provide

*the Autism Society of America website.*

(Continued on page 7)







Photos of farmers, friends and family enjoying the holiday parties and dances. Thank you to all who made them all special!







# 2011 Donors List

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**Safe Haven Farms is truly blessed to have the generous support of our families, friends, neighbors, businesses, foundations and community.**

**We are sincerely grateful and feel humbled and fortunate to have your continued support.**

**Thank you!**

## Farmers start outreach program

Safe Haven Farms strives to be a loving and accepting community and this includes its friends and neighbors who are beneficiaries of a new outreach program. "Safe Haven Smiles" collected over 100 new warm weather accessories this winter and made dozens of cookies and delivered them to local fire, police and neighbors. What began as a heartfelt desire to give back to the community resulted in a partnership between senior center, 10 Wilmington Place in Dayton and SHF to bring scarves, hats, gloves and some coats to area needy families.

"We have so many blessings at Safe Haven," said Sally Collins, who, with Mike and Kari Rogers, spearheaded a committee to plan this outreach. "The farmers loved it. They lit up and love to give back. It boosts their morale and makes them feel so good."

SHF plans to make this program an annual event and hopes that it grows in size and scope to include other types of charitable events.

More community involvement is planned as SHF will participate in the Dickey Road Garage Sale and Craft show planned for June 15-16. Rena Blevins is gathering information on this event, which will include a SHF craft show.

## Autism continues to rise at alarming rates

(Continued from page 3)

ers, etc.) It has been estimated that the annual cost to educate a student with disabilities is \$12-13,000. Annual cost to support an individual with autism who is living in a supportive residential setting can range from \$50-100,000.

Identifying more children on the autistic spectrum has led to improved teaching and treatment options, but it doesn't negate a serious need for the future services and discussion among all service providers and funding sources. Mr. Rogers notes that by the year 2030, six to seven times more adults will require these services and that we can no longer ignore this coming surge.

"The crisis forecast by Ruth Christ Sullivan back in 2001 has arrived. We urgently need to start a national dialogue on how we are going to serve this population and their families.

**There is no time to lose – we need to act NOW"**

*For his article, Mr. Rogers references the US census, California Department of Developmental Services, IDEA, the CDC and other sources.*



- We are on the web!! Visit us at
- [www.safehavenfarms.org](http://www.safehavenfarms.org)
- Or call
- (513) 422-1880.
- We have a new mailing address:
- Safe Haven Farms
- PO Box 633
- Mohroe, Ohio 45050

**Barn Work Update:** Renovations are underway and so much work has been done, including removing animal stalls, a tool room and storage area to make room for a new indoor riding arena, a tack room, a restroom, and a wash stall.

A major grant from Impact 100 of Cincinnati (\$112,000) funds this renovation to build the indoor and outdoor riding arenas. The E. Kenneth & Esther Marie Hatton Foundation awarded a grant (\$20,000) to build the tack room and buy needed horse equipment.

The West Chester Liberty Foundation awarded a grant (\$5,000) to renovate stalls for the displaced farm animals—the alpacas, sheep, and goats. The Miriam G. Knoll Foundation awarded a grant (\$15,000) to build a tool room and renovate space in an adjacent lean-to that is attached to the horse barn. To complete the therapeutic riding capital improvements, we have applied for additional grants to build a smaller barn near the horse barn to store hay, bedding, equipment and provide a workshop.

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#### Come dance the night away at Safe Haven

*(Continued from page 1)*

participate with our farmers. And, on a fun note, Joel Bolduc has become the unofficial DJ of the Dance Parties. He's been known to urge shy farmers to "Get on up here and dance!"

Nancy Spidare, dayhab staff, prepares a wonderful meal for each dance. People are still raving about the fixings for the Football Dance: roast pork with cranberry orange sauce, mushroom rice pilaf, and a spinach salad with roasted sweet potatoes,

pecans, chopped turkey bacon, and goat cheese. Mmmm-good! Nancy even does this on a budget—she looks at the grocery ads for that week and plans her menu around the bargains. If you're looking for someone to cater a party, give Nancy a call!

These dances take a lot of planning and execution. Please give Ann Rogers a call and sign up to help with an upcoming dance. You'll be glad you did!

This newsletter will be published twice a year. If you would like to receive this electronically, to save us printing and mailing costs, please contact us at [dennis.rogers@safehavenfarms.org](mailto:dennis.rogers@safehavenfarms.org).

#### Mark Your Calendars:

**June 15-16 Dickey Road Garage Sale and SHF Craft Sale**

**June 25 Second Annual Safe Haven Farms Golf Tournament**

**Wildwood Golf Club, Middletown, Ohio**

