

# The Safe Haven Way

A Publication of Safe Haven Farm, Butler County Ohio

Spring 2020



## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAFE HAVEN FARMS

### Work on the Farm in the Time of COVID-19 *By Pam Lockwood*

**T**he world has been a pretty crazy place lately, but I wanted to report on life at Safe Haven Farms in the midst of the pandemic. The day services program was closed to community participants in mid-March. Day and residential staff and our farmers, as we like to call them, prepared to hunker down and ride out the virus. Things were a little challenging initially when toilet paper was hard to find and everyone was buying out the stores. The staff did a heroic job hunting down supplies and that has sorted itself out largely with some additional help from the county board of DD.

There was a recent scare with a resident getting tested for the virus, but that turned out negative and everyone breathed a huge sigh of relief. Yet we realized it is going to be a long journey to get through this, and other scares might occur. Amazingly, though, our folks have done beautifully. You may know that our residents thrive on structure and some of us worried that the stay at home order would change everything. But Choices in Community Living staff were resilient and creative and put in place a plan to meet the requirements of the order, yet keep our folks busy and structured.

I had an opportunity to visit the farm briefly in early April to take some supplies. I saw a beautiful, green landscape which was peaceful and organized. Small groups of farmers have been taking care of the animals, planting and watering the gardens, creating crafts in the Hatton Center, taking walks

around the farm and visiting nearby parks. The staff was very positive and remarked how blessed we are in this chaotic time to have place of beauty and calm for our farmers, most of whom do not even understand what is going on in the world outside.

Horticulture is in full swing with expanded numbers of beds and planting underway. I saw onions, spinach, beets, strawberries and too many other vegetables to count. There is an expanded melon garden and a new shade garden. The snap peas will be amazing and we will have purple potatoes. The alpacas, horses, chickens—some new babies—and ducks are doing well. Fields are green and fences are being repaired.

In this uncertain time we are more committed than ever to having a vibrant, active farm life for our children and others from the community when they can return. We will start up our equestrian program again, work on our Community Supported Agriculture plan, have vegetables for the community and residents, and continue to weather the storm.

Thanks to everyone who helps to make this dream come true on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Safe Haven Farms. We appreciate the support and love you share with us.

*Dr. Pamela Lockwood is the President of the Safe Haven Farms, Inc., Board of Directors*

*"The staff was very positive and remarked how blessed we are in this chaotic time to have a place of beauty and calm for our farmers."*

*“Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.”*

**May Sarton**



It's hard to reconcile the lush greenness of spring with the bleak realities of the world today. Even though the farm is closed right now to Day Services participants and visitors, the residents are gearing up for another successful gardening season. Planting is proceeding with the hope that this season will provide sufficient bounty for a new venture. Won't you please help us with this project?

We have been planning to start a **Community Supported Agriculture** program. A CSA is a subscription program

for those in the community who want locally grown, fresh picked, chemical-free produce. Over the years the farmers have learned to plant seeds, transplant seedlings, water and nurture young plants, and harvest ready to pick produce.

The next step is for the farmers to learn how to assemble containers of fresh produce for the CSA subscribers. A pilot program this summer will launch this effort and we could use your donation.

We need to purchase supplies for our hydroponic greenhouse, a stainless steel sink, vegetable sorting tables, an upgraded



HVAC for our horticulture barn, and new water lines for washing produce. To keep the freshly picked and packed produce fresh, we will need to buy a commercial refrigeration unit.

Even if we are still under some stage of lockdown this summer, we are considering safe ways for subscribers to pick up their containers or for us to deliver them.

When we once again can allow visitors to the farm, we intend to create a farm store in the horticulture barn where we can sell produce and flowers and other items created by the farmers. Hope keeps this vision alive.

We hope all of us will be out and about again by September! Our sixth annual fundraising walk will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at the Voice of America Park in Butler County.



## A Job Well Done!

For the past 12 years Denny Rogers has served as the President of the Safe Haven Board of Directors. More than that, Denny has given crucial leadership and thousands of hours of planning and work as a founding parent for the farm. His contribution to the success of Safe Haven Farms cannot be exaggerated. Denny's daughter Emily has been the

inspiration in all of his efforts. Denny, there are not enough kudos and thank-yous.

Denny will continue on the Safe Haven Board of Directors. He has moved to the treasurer role for the board. Pam Lockwood, another founding parent, has assumed the President's job.



Seen at recent Share the Love dinner, Pam Lockwood, left and Denny Rogers, right.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS!** Working at Safe Haven can entitle you to a bonus of up to \$1,500 dollars a semester for educational expenses. To apply for a job at Safe Haven go to [cicljobs.com](http://cicljobs.com) to submit an application specifying Safe Haven Farms as the location.

# Donations, Fundraising, Equestrian 2019

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# Safe Haven Farms Hiring First Executive Director

Safe Haven is transitioning from a working board leadership model to an Executive Director leadership structure. An Executive Director will work to achieve the farm's long term sustainability and to assure that the farm thrives and operates to provide safety, happiness and well-being for those served at Safe Haven.

The board is excited to be at this stage of its growth and a search committee has begun the task of hiring. It is hoped that the new executive director will begin work by late spring 2020. If there are questions about the process, Kay Brown can be contacted at [mkaybrown@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mkaybrown@cinci.rr.com).

## Memories of "Normal" Days

It's quiet at the farm right now, just the residents and the carefully screened staff and contractors. Missing is the energy of our dances, our holiday parties with the lavish buffet tables, our buddies from Equestrian and Day Services, and most of all our parents! Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas...we look forward to celebrating with all those who love and support us.



## The Sixth Annual Share the Love Dinner—Thank YOU!!

Congratulations to the winners of our event raffle at the Grand Finale Restaurant!

**Todd Gomia** took home a Barrel of Cheer loaded with red and white wines and spirits. **Sue Radabaugh** will vacation this summer near Estes Park, Colorado with a one-week stay at a private cabin near Rocky Mountain National Park. **Tom Holmes** will have an evening out with dinner at Stone Creek followed by a performance from the Cincinnati Pops at Music Hall. **Pam Lockwood** will enjoy an autumn weekend among the Amish in northeast Ohio. The door prizes—Grand Finale gift certificates—were won by **James Johnson**, **Nancy Albright**, and **Stacy Roberts**.

We are grateful to the staff of the Grand Finale and to our sponsors for contributing to the success of our event and want to extend heart-felt appreciation for our returning sponsors!

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**John & Shirley Davies Foundation**  
**David & Patricia Poppelwell**  
**Dennis & Ann Rogers**  
**Michael Wiser**

Join us next February for our **seventh** annual **Share the Love** dinner at the Grand Finale.

## A Volunteer Extraordinaire

Safe Haven Farms has always considered itself a community resource. Not only do we provide homes for those with autism and other developmental disabilities, employment for many, and services for those in the community with special needs, we welcome volunteers with a variety of skills and abilities. Volunteers often discover, as someone once said, that it is only by giving that you receive more than you already had.

For several months Safe Haven Farms has been blessed with the work of Sarah Wisecup, a new volunteer. Sarah is able to live independently, but her parents live near the farm. One day the family dropped in for a tour, and Sarah fell in love with Safe Haven and the animals.

Before the lock-down she drove to the farm three days a week to give a helping hand exercising Jack, the mini, walking him around the farm and feeding him carrots. Sarah says the exercise helps her, too. Mattie, Safe Haven's black lab, is her special friend. He follows her around the farm as she does her volunteer chores.

Sarah's dad Wilbur was also inspired to help. With his tractor he tilled an area along the tree line for a shade garden for plants that don't tolerate full sun. Dad says that Sarah's volunteering has changed her life. Yes, but Sarah's volunteer work is changing the lives of all who meet her. This generous family was enriched by the opportunity for accomplishment that Safe Haven offers, and they are among the many so blessed.

*Information provided by Mike Rogers, Choices Horticulture Manager at Safe Haven Farms*



Sarah dehydrated herbs to be sold at Safe Haven's farm market when it is in operation again.



Safe Haven Farms

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 633  
Monroe, Ohio 45050

**Street Address**

5970 No. Mans Rd.  
Middletown, OH 45042

513.422.1880

[www.safehavenfarms.org](http://www.safehavenfarms.org)

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## Life is Better with Horses!

While the rest of us are sheltering in our homes, our horses Poco, Lucky and Sassy are enjoying being outside running around the paddock. All horses love springtime because the grass is so green and delicious.

Equestrian classes have been cancelled until sometime this summer, and the horses miss having their riders. In the meantime our animal care staff has continued to give them fantastic care.

We will reach out to our riders and volunteers when classes resume. If you are not an established rider or volunteer and want more information, enter this link in your web browser.

<https://www.safehavenfarms.org/equestrian>

Scroll down to *Equestrian Inquiries*, and complete an online form with your contact information. For now take care and stay safe.



**Keep in Touch! Won't you please give us your email address so you can receive electronic messages from us. See the enclosed envelope for information.**