



# THE LEAD LINE

HOPE SPRINGS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY, INC.

FALL 2019

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Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy  
is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)  
(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

We are a member of the  
Pennsylvania Association of  
Nonprofit Organizations and  
the PA Council on Therapeutic  
Horsemanship.



### MAILING ADDRESS

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 156  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

### WEBSITE & EMAIL

www.hope-springs.org  
director@hope-springs.org

### FACILITY LOCATION

1800 Art School Rd  
Chester Springs, PA

@HOPESPRINGSORC



## Staying Warm

Anyone who has spent time around horses  
knows: Winter is hard.

Icy driveways. Mucking stalls in subzero  
temps. Frosty toes in stirrups. Blankets and  
bran mash and brrrr....

At Hope Springs, when winter months  
feel heavy, we're grateful to our riders,  
parents, and volunteers for making it all  
worthwhile. Here are a few stories that  
warm our hearts.



### Parent Perspective

Our son began riding at Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy when he was six years old. He was so excited to see the horses and meet Jeannie at our first visit. Her encouragement motivated him and provided a great incentive for him to move forward with his first lesson.



Parent perspective provided anonymously

As with all of the students at Hope Springs, our child has special needs. He is easily distracted, and sometimes he cannot communicate well and finds it difficult to follow instructions. Jeannie's ceaseless guidance and patience have made an incredible difference in our son's life. He's learned valuable lessons and realized the many benefits of equestrian therapy since he began riding at Hope Springs.

**Focus** – The first lesson our son needed to learn was safety. He has learned to listen carefully and pay attention to his instructor. He takes his lessons seriously and understands that he needs to focus in order to complete the sequence of instructions accurately.

**Communication** – Our son's communication skills have improved since beginning his riding lessons. He listens to Jeannie's instructions on how to communicate with his horse. He asks Jeannie questions to improve his understanding of different equine terminology. He has also learned to communicate with his horse while he is taking care of it before and after he rides.

**Response** – The horse's response to our son's instructions is immediate. If he misunderstands an instruction from Jeannie or gives an incorrect instruction to the horse, he experiences the results when the horse does

### Volunteer Perspective

During the Middle Ages, I may have been known as a "voluntaire", from middle French, c.1600, but I prefer the title of Volunteer, at Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, located in Chester Springs. I started volunteering about 10 years ago and have had the privilege



Biff Rugh

to see many students and the progress they have made during their lessons at Hope Springs, as well as the many changes the program itself has made. Since I have joined, the program has moved to a new location, welcomed new instructors, and even introduced new programs including Cricket's Carriage Class, which I have been very happy to be part of.

Why do I volunteer? To give back to those in need, to help those less fortunate than me, and in my own small way, to make society a little better. Students at Hope Springs come from all walks of life; some are disabled, while some just need to learn a new way of doing things, perhaps just learning to listen, or follow directions. Our horses are so special, and our instructors are incredible. My favorite horse, by the way, is Henri.

Allow me to share some of my cherished times at Hope Springs. Many of my students have not been able to walk unassisted, due to traumatic accidents. One of our ladies could not get on a horse without help, so every Friday she would arrive, spend a few minutes with her favorite barn cat, and then we would lift her on her horse, two of us supporting her, and off she went around the paddock. She was thrilled, calling "Yippee" as she rode, smiling all the way.

# CELEBRATING HOPE

**H**ope Springs Equestrian Therapy celebrated our 22nd year of service to riders with disabilities on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at our annual benefit brunch and fundraiser Celebrate Hope! This year's event was a great success, and all proceeds directly benefit the riders of Hope Springs.

"We are blessed to have an outstanding team of instructors, staff and volunteers whose hard work and passion make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve," Hope Springs President Sandy Hansen said.

"We also celebrate our gentle four-legged therapists who develop special bonds with our students and provide the patient encouragement needed for each student to reach their goals."

Executive Director Jeannie Knowlton was proud to celebrate another anniversary with so many Hope Springs supporters. "Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy has had the privilege to provide a safe and familiar environment to our riders, families and caregivers for 22 years," Knowlton said. "Starting with one pony and one student, we have grown to help hundreds of students. As our 23rd year begins, we will continue to share our knowl-

edge and passion for this therapy, at the same time giving those students the confidence of helping them achieve their individual goals."

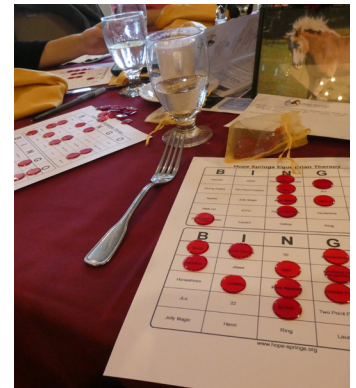
This year's event featured a full buffet brunch, caricatures, a photo booth, and our annual favorite "Pony Bingo." We're grateful for the wide variety of items donated for our silent auction. Special thanks to Alan and Jenny Warner for their generous donation of a one-week beach-house vacation on Sanibel Island. 🐾



*Hope Springs' Board of Directors was well represented at Celebrate Hope 2019.*



*Rider Kathleen poses for a caricature with our event artist.*



*As always, everyone enjoyed Pony Bingo!*

**ON BEHALF OF THE RIDERS, FAMILIES, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HOPE SPRINGS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY, THANK YOU TO OUR CELEBRATE HOPE EVENT SPONSORS!**

### **GALLOP**

*Ken Swimm*

### **CANTER**

*In Memory of Jean Margaret Knowlton  
Kent Smith  
The Hansen Family  
Gawthrop Greenwood PC*

### **TROT**

*Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)  
The Bullivant Family*

### **WALK**

*AdminService  
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Brooks  
Robert Hollenbach  
Brad Norford, PhD  
Biff Rugh*

*We are grateful to the following foundations for their recent support of Hope Springs:*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Allerton Foundation                       | Independence Foundation  | Phoenixville Community Health Foundation                                     |
| Barra Foundation                          | Kistler Tiffany Foundation   | Quaker City Foundation   |
| Bob Cashen Memorial Scholarship Fund      | Merck Foundation   | Renaissance Academy  |
| Charter Foundation                        | Mill Spring Foundation   | Shrenk Family Foundation   |
| Council on Brain Injury                   | Mrs. Donald Danforth Jr., a Donor Advised Fund of The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust | Wawa Foundation  |
| Detwiler Family Foundation                | Mutual Fire Foundation   | Whitford Charitable Fund, a fund for the Chester County Community Foundation |
| Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation  | Niles Foundation   | AXA XL   |
| First United Methodist Church Scholarship | OJR Education Foundation   |  |
| Genuardi Family Foundation                | Pennsylvania National Horse Show   |  |
| Haley Foundation                          | Phantoms for Phoenixville  | EITC Donation: Mid-Penn Bank   |
| Harriet G Fredericks Foundation           |  |  |





## Thorncroft Annual Fall Horse Show

Sunday, October 20, 2019



We're so proud of all of our riders for their excellent rides at the Thorncroft Annual Fall Horse Show. Special thanks to volunteers Michelle, Sandy, Courtney, Kate, and Lindsey sharing a rainy, chilly day with us. 🐾

## JOIN US!

DECEMBER 14, 2019

End-of-Year Party  
& Open House



*Come join us as we celebrate another great year at Hope Springs!*

## SO FAR THIS YEAR...

ONGOING		Community Work Days Volunteers clean trails, paint rails, clean tack, clean the barn, plant flowers, etc. We are grateful!
MARCH	16	St. Patrick's Day Saturday Camp
MAY	25	Devon Horse Show Handicapped Riders Division
JULY	22-26	Summer Camp I
AUGUST	10	Stone Barn Cellars Winery Celebration & Fundraiser
	12-16	Summer Camp II
OCTOBER	13	Fall Fundraiser at Whitfield Country Club
	20	Thorncroft Fall Horse Show
NOVEMBER	23	Thanksgiving Camp

## WHAT'S AHEAD...

DECEMBER	14	End of Year Party & Open House
	26-28	Holiday Day Camps
MARCH	21	First Saturday Day Camp of 2020
APRIL	25	"Spring is Here" Camp

## HOPE SPRINGS JOINS GIANT® GIVING TAG PROGRAM

We are so excited to share that Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is now participating in the GIANT Giving Tag Program, which is designed to make it easy for customers of GIANT stores to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment.

This ongoing opportunity can be taken advantage of at any GIANT store. **All you have to do is purchase a \$2.50 reusable "Bags 4 My Cause" Bag, follow the instructions on the attached Giving Tag within 7 days of your purchase and Hope Springs will receive a \$1 donation!**

So how can you help? In addition to purchasing your own Bags 4 My Cause Bag the next time you're at GIANT, we could also use your help sharing the news of this opportunity with your friends and family. Call friends, send emails and post on social media.

The more people who learn about the program, purchase the Bags 4 My Cause Bag and use the attached Giving Tag to direct the donation to Hope Springs, the more money we will raise.

To learn more about this program, visit: [giant.bags4mycause.com](http://giant.bags4mycause.com). 🐾



HERE'S TO LOTS OF LEARNING & LAUGHTER IN 2019  
and lots more to celebrate in 2020!

WATCH [WWW.HOPE-SPRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.HOPE-SPRINGS.ORG) FOR DETAILS ON  
OUR UPCOMING 2020 CAMPS & EVENTS!

## NEW VIDEO CELEBRATES UNIQUE THERAPEUTIC CARRIAGE CLASS

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, Inc. was awarded a grant for a promotional video from The PHILO Project. The new video, which is featured on the homepage of the Hope Springs website, features Hope Springs' new therapeutic driving program, Cricket's Carriage Class.

The new driving program allows students who cannot ride a horse safely or comfortably the rewards of interaction and control of a horse or pony from a carriage seat. The introduction of this program in 2018 makes Hope Springs one of the only equestrian therapy facilities in the region to provide this type of service.

Therapeutic driving (also known as carriage driving) gives participants a riding alternative, opening up the world of horse-facilitated therapy to those who may be unable to ride on horseback due to disabilities.

"Cricket's Carriage Class is an exciting addition to our program," says Executive Director Jeannie Knowlton. "This will allow our students who are no longer able to ride the opportunity to experience not only working with our therapy pony Cricket, but actually get the motion of the horse through the movement of the cart as she pulls us through the countryside."

The new video promoting the program and other services offered by Hope Springs was created through a grant from The PHILO Project, under executive director Gerald Kolpan. "We are so grateful to Gerald Kolpan and his team at The PHILO Project for this wonderful video depicting our riders, horses and new cart program," Knowlton said.

The PHILO Project creates high-quality, professional videos for small, Philadelphia-area nonprofits free of charge. Since 2014, PHILO has produced over 70 such videos. PHILO is fiscally sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Film Office. 🐾



[WATCH THE VIDEO AT HOPE-SPRINGS.ORG](http://HOPE-SPRINGS.ORG)

### We relaunched our site!

**Have you visited [hope-springs.org](http://hope-springs.org) recently?** We re-launched our website in 2019, with updated galleries, event listings, and ways to get involved. Stop by and let us know what you think!

#### Parent Perspective, continued >

not respond as expected. He has learned to make adjustments to improve his riding skills.

**Balance** – Our son's physical balance has improved since he began riding. He needs to be focused as he rides, and he's learned to adjust his body movements to match the horse's rhythm, which has made him stronger. He has learned to complete different activities while riding such as picking up an item on one of the fences.

**Responsibility** – Our son has also learned responsibility during his time with Hope Springs. He understands that it's his responsibility to take care of the horse before and after his lesson, and that it's an obligation in order to have the privilege to ride. Jeannie has taught him that riding is a partnership between horse and rider, and he's learned to comfort and encourage his horse by saying "good job" and "thank you" at the end of each lesson.

**Discipline** – Our son understands that he must follow certain rules as part of his riding lesson. He also understands that his lessons are a privilege and he has become serious about working hard during his lessons.

Jeannie and Hope Springs have opened a door to a new world for our son and our family. He always looks forward to his next riding lesson. We cannot express enough how much we appreciate the family of Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy. The instructors, volunteers and staff are just like family members to our son, and we are grateful for everything they do. 🐾

#### Volunteer Perspective, continued >

Another student, four years old, who had a language lapse, rode Norman. He would sing "Twinkle, Twinkle" as he proudly circled the ring, and soon, was talking with the volunteers as he rode.

Another student came each week, at first just to groom, but eventually developed a very close bond with his horse, "Beauty," who became his lifelong friend until he died. Several students have been blind, but once on their horse, sat up straight, learned to obey verbal commands, and rode like champions. A young girl, badly injured in an auto accident, had to learn to walk again, and one of her legs just would not go over the saddle, so we put her on backwards, and off she went.

For those students who just cannot get on the horse, we developed a new program, using a pony cart and our special driving pony, Cricket. Past owners always said Cricket could drive, but we really never knew until she went to an Amish horse trainer, who, after a week, gave her an A+ for driving. She now has four or five lessons each week with students who can only ride in the cart. What a thrill it is to see Cricket, Jeannie and a student driving the roads and fields near our barn, and the "clip, clop" echoing as they go.

There are many more stories, but now you see why I volunteer at Hope Springs. Please join our volunteer staff; your life will be changed for the best.

For more information about volunteering with Hope Springs, visit [hope-springs.org/volunteering](http://hope-springs.org/volunteering) or contact us at [volunteer@hope-springs.org](mailto:volunteer@hope-springs.org). 🐾

-Biff Rugh

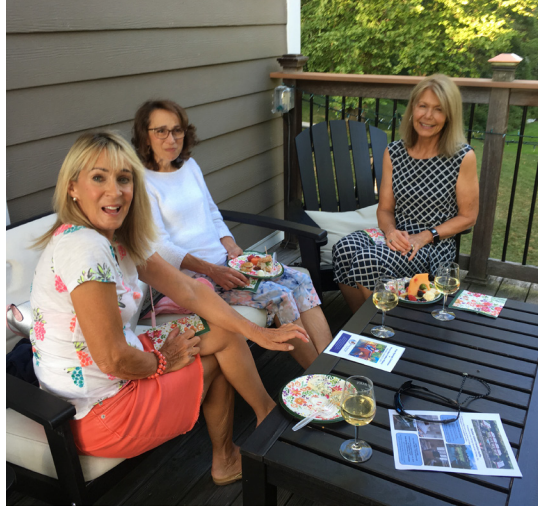


# NEW SUMMER FUNDRAISER CELEBRATES LOCAL VENUE, MUSIC

At a new fundraising event on August 10, 2019, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy hosted a capacity crowd at the Stone Barn Cellars Winery in Spring City.

Everyone enjoyed the musical talents of the TaP Duo (Tom Burkholder and Paul Scarola) whose harmonies were the perfect backdrop to a wonderful evening.

We were fortunate to enjoy the best weekend weather all summer! We enjoyed the delicious Stone Barn Cellars wines and snacked on some light refreshments. Attendees enjoyed games of corn hole and Giant Jenga in the winery's backyard.



Attendees enjoyed beautiful weather on the deck.



Dallas had a great time playing Jenga in the backyard.



Giant Jenga was a highlight!



Sandy, Dallas, Jeannie, Jan and Ken welcomed our supporters.



Music was provided by the TaP Duo (Tom Burkholder and Paul Scarola)

**Thanks to our event sponsors:**

- Ted Aicher
- Jan Brooks
- Amy Bullivant
- Eileen Corl
- Tammy Gingrich
- Sandy Hansen
- Jeannie Knowlton
- Jane Ann Yankelitis

## #GIVING TUESDAY

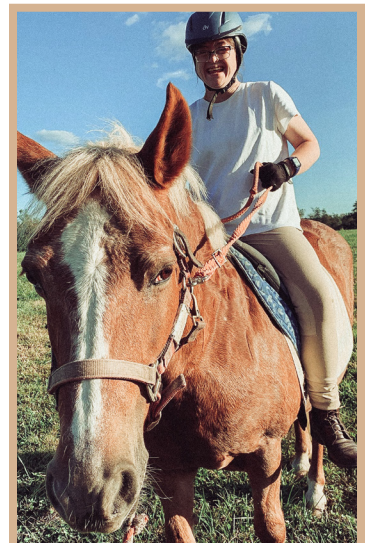
Thank you to everyone who supported Hope Springs on Giving Tuesday 2019!

If you did not get the opportunity to support Hope Springs as part of the Giving Tuesday promotions, please consider donating through our current Annual Appeal. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.hope-springs.org](http://www.hope-springs.org).



### KEEP THOSE SMILES COMING!

To see more of the learning, laughter, and growth of our riders every day, make sure to follow Hope Springs on social media!







P.O. Box 156  
Chester Springs, PA 19425



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.

# PLEASE SUPPORT HOPE SPRINGS!

Thanks to all of you — the friends and families of  
Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy!  
We look forward to your continued support this year.



The mission of Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy is to enhance the quality of life of individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional or behavioral disabilities by providing them with affordable therapeutic horseback riding and associated special education of the highest possible quality, in a warm, safe and familiar environment.

*Hope Springs simply could not do what we do without you.*

With your help, we can provide life-enriching experiences to even more adults and children.

Visit our website to learn more about Hope Springs' riding programs, the many physical, mental and emotional benefits of equestrian therapy, and how your donation can make a real difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Your generosity makes a difference for our students, horses, and volunteers.

*Please donate using the enclosed envelope or give online at [www.hope-springs.org](http://www.hope-springs.org)*

