



HorseFriends August Newsletter

A Dream Come True: HorseFriends Increasing Services through New Partnership with Still Water Farm

by Dr. Anthony Chow, President and Executive Director of HorseFriends

It is three days that I will never forget. I wanted to document every second of the experience as HorseFriends served its first participants at Still Water Farm. Through the pictures and video I took, I saw pure joy from our young participants, their parents, and our horses. I had the privilege to witness beautiful moments like children tentatively reaching out to touch a horse, starting with fear and trepidation and ending with confidence and joy in gently caressing these towering horses. I will never forget Tucker literally grunting and arching his body in great pleasure as he had his back scratched.

I also heard so many stories from their parents - the refusal to let their challenges overcome them, the bullying their children face at school, the fatigue of taking care of a special needs child while remaining resolute that they will ensure they get the best that they can give them. I also remember one specific parent who was from New York City who had never been to a farm, and was probably more excited than her daughter to see and pet our horses, and all of the Still Water farm animals - goats, a pig, a donkey, chickens, and even a peacock.

The images that I took and the stories that I heard reaffirmed the beauty and magic of HorseFriends. Pandemic or not, HorseFriends not only continues to serve but is probably more important than ever.

All of this serves as the context for the big news: HorseFriends has partnered with Still Water Farm to hire its first full time staff member, Laura Michael, and part-time staff member, Mandy Crews. Laura is a PATH Certified Instructor and will serve as HorseFriends Program Director and Manager of all farm animal care. Mandy will serve as the Events and Operations Director for both Still Water Farm and HorseFriends, and will take the lead in developing educational programming, overseeing private lessons, hosting events, birthday parties, retreats, etc. Proceeds from these additional services will benefit HorseFriends free therapeutic riding program. Because of the high demand for lessons and other horse and farm related services and programming, we have increased our ability to serve more participants from our waiting list and will cut costs exponentially.

As we celebrate our 15th Year, please join me on this new path together as we open our hearts and doors even wider to serve participants 100% free of charge.

SAVE THE DATE!

HorseFriends Therapeutic Riding Program

OCTOBER 14 at 6:00 PM
The Barn @ Summerfield Farms

2nd Annual
BOOTS & BUCKLES BENEFIT

 Dinner ~ Silent Auction ~ Music
Tickets On Sale Soon!

 HorseFriends
Therapeutic Riding Program
Joy & strength through horses

We are very excited to announce our 2nd Annual Boots & Buckles Benefit at Summerfield Farms on Wednesday, October 14! Last year's event was well attended, tons of fun, and a wonderful fundraiser for HorseFriends. Proceeds benefit our free therapeutic riding program for individuals with special needs and it is very important that our 2020 event be successful, in order to carry our program forward into 2021. Save the date and watch our Facebook and Instagram feeds, as well as your email, for ticket information. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor for the Boots & Buckles Benefit, or would like to donate an item or service to our Silent Auction, contact Lisa Bunch (Lisa@HorseFriendsNC.org) or Sue Parker (SueParker@HorseFriendsNC.org).

HorseFriends and Summerfield Farms encourage all attendees to wear masks and practice social distancing, when not seated for dinner. Tickets for the Boots & Buckles Benefit will be limited.

Still Water Farm Day Camp



Due to Guilford County Schools decision for students to participate in online learning for the first nine weeks of school, HorseFriends has teamed up with Still Water Farm to create a day camp option for elementary and middle schoolers! Beginning August 18, our day camps will be held on Tuesdays for elementary school students and Thursdays for middle school students from 8:00-12:00. These camps will provide students the opportunity to spend a day at the farm once a week for the first nine weeks of school. Students will have a one-hour group riding lesson, an hour of study time to complete schoolwork in our bunkhouse (access to WiFi is available) and they will participate in a craft or farm related activity. Our day camps will provide students an opportunity to get out of the house and get some exercise, as well as socialize in small groups while maintaining social distancing. Our camps will be limited to six students per day. There are registration options for single day or several weeks in a row. A portion of the proceeds from the day camps will go directly to HorseFriends! If you are interested in signing up your student, please contact Mandy Crews (MandyCrews@HorseFriendsNC.org)

Riding Lessons at Still Water Farm

HorseFriends will now be offering riding lessons for able bodied riders. Through a partnership with Still Water Farm, a portion of the proceeds from all the able-bodied riding lessons given at the farm will go directly to HorseFriends! We have been working hard to prepare new lesson horses, and we are ready to schedule individual or group lessons for riders of all ages. We will specialize in giving beginner lessons for individuals who do not have much experience with horses. Riders will learn to groom and tack their own horse and beginner riding skills including basic control of the horse, riding through obstacles, proper riding position, horse/farm safety, and beginning trot work. If you are interested in scheduling a lesson or learning about our lesson packages, please contact Mandy Crews (MandyCrews@HorseFriendsNC.org)

2020 Summer Session and Camp



Over the summer at Still Water Farm, we held our first therapeutic classes with new participants from the waiting list! During our four-week therapeutic session, we held unmounted classes. Our clients came out to learn how to groom and lead their horse. Clients were also able to take a tour of our new farm and meet all of the friendly farm animals! HorseFriends served twelve clients during the summer session. We had a great group of volunteers who assisted our clients with their horses, and we couldn't have done it without them!

HorseFriends also held three weeks of summer camps! Campers enjoyed a riding lesson, crafts, and games each day of the week. We had a lot of talented riders at camp, and we hope to see them back at the farm soon! Summer camps are a huge fundraiser for HorseFriends, so if your child wasn't able to attend camp this year, we hope to see them next summer!

Volunteer Training & Meeting

On Saturday, August 22, from 9:00-11:00 AM we will hold an Onsite Volunteer Training & Meeting for all new and seasoned volunteers. If you have not watched our Virtual Training from April 25, please go to our website HorseFriendsNC.org/volunteer and watch that prior to attending. We will have the necessary volunteer forms for everyone to fill out if you have not already done so. If you did the training last year, please consider coming out for a refresher or for the information meeting at the beginning and doing the farm tour. Contact Volunteer Director, Sue Parker, if you have questions or plan to attend (SueParker@HorseFriendsNC.org)

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Sunday, September 13, from 6:00-8:00 PM all HorseFriends volunteers are invited to Still Water Farm for hayrides, a bonfire, hot dogs, cake, games, and a special Natural Horsemanship Demonstration! Please bring your family and let us show you just how much we appreciate each and every one of you!! Please RSVP by September 1 to SueParker@HorseFriendsNC.org

Upcoming Dates:

August 18 - Still Water Farm Day Camp begins

August 22 - Volunteer Training/Meeting (9:00-11:00 AM)

September 13 - Volunteer Appreciation Day (6:00-8:00 PM)

October 14 - 2nd Annual Boots and Buckle Benefit (6:00 PM)

Amazon Smile & HorseFriends

During the pandemic, so many of us have turned to online shopping for all of our grocery and household needs. There is an easy way to turn your purchases into cash for HorseFriends and it doesn't cost you a dime! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and login to your Amazon account, or create an account. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Please choose Horsefriends! You will easily find us if you search the smile.amazon.com site.

Now, the most important step!! In order for HorseFriends to receive donations from AmazonSmile, you must shop through www.smile.amazon.com. Bookmark this link and use it every time you shop through Amazon. Your account will remain the same - Amazon Prime or traditional account - but now Amazon will make a donation to HorseFriends every time you shop! Thank you!

www.HorseFriendsNC.org

Address: 7169 Strawberry Road, Summerfield, NC

Email: info@horsefriendsnc.org | **Phone:** 336-420-4588