

# News From the Hill

## Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp



Volume 9 Issue 3

December 2011



### Letter From the Director

**Janet Maasch, Executive Director, (Volunteer)**

The 2011 year is coming to a close, and what a wonderful year it has been. I am learning to listen more to the sounds of the birds and animals playing in the fields instead of the sounds of laughter which is commonly heard when our friends are playing and having a good time. The horses are in the field grazing and resting up for spring for the first therapeutic riding session to start in April. I believe they also miss the beloved riders and their laughter.

This is a time for all of us to think of new ideas for 2012 to make our friends' camp sessions even more exciting. It is a time to find grants so that we can continue to grow and build even more to our beautiful facility. Our economy continues to struggle, and you, our community, continues to support us financially. If you're not able to financially support us, please keep us in your prayers. I want to always make sure that everyone remembers, since day one, that this beautiful place has been built on faith. We are following what the Good Lord would want us to do at HIS creation known as Still Meadows, a place for our special friends in our community.



WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS AND EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY A "MERRY CHRISTMAS" AND A WONDERFUL 2012.



### FROM THE GARDEN

In the spring of 2012, there will be an explosion of color that will greet you at Still Meadows. Okay, it is a while until spring comes, but we are looking forward to the results of the work of Wendy Kipple, our new part-time gardener. Wendy has planted over 4,000 daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths, and narcissus bulbs around the campgrounds and in the woods. These bulbs were donated by friends of Still Meadows for our special friends and guests to enjoy. Be prepared to have many beautiful surprises.

While we are waiting for the arrival of spring, the gardens need to be readied for winter! Wendy has trimmed shrubs and worked the beds in preparation for winter hibernation. She has cleaned, sprayed and turned over the beds so they can rest under the cold and snow.

Our special friends enjoyed the Healing Gardens throughout the summer months. They were able to pick strawberries, beans, radishes, peas, and all the fixings for a good vegetable salad. During a camp session, the story teller shared a story called "Jamie and the Giant Potato" in which Jamie's wife plants a magical potato that grows into a potato that feeds the entire village. Several campers were very excited to announce that they, too, had dug up potatoes that very morning. When asked how large their potato had grown to be, they indicated the size by making a circle with their thumb and forefinger. The size did not matter to them. What mattered was the fact that they had been able to work in a beautiful garden and enjoy the results.



As we continue to grow, our plans are growing also. We hope to increase our raised beds so there will be even more for our friends to enjoy and help plant.

An addition to the Healing Gardens has been a playhouse. Campers have transformed the playhouse into a restaurant, a family kitchen, and more with their vivid imaginations.

# The Healing Gardens



Wendy Kipple is a new part-time employee hired to work on the campgrounds as Brittany Maasch is now a full-time student at Blue Ridge Community College. Wendy graduated from Lord Fairfax Community College with studies in Horticulture and Landscaping. She has worked at two local universities, and was the arboretum assistant at Blue Ridge Community College. She completed her Master Gardner Program in May, 2011, and she included Still Meadows as part of her program presentation. We have been very fortunate to have Wendy over the fall season



# 10th Annual Horseback Ride-a-thon



**Joy & Gary Halterman**



**Maggie Honeycutt and Paul Foltz**

Every year, we say we had the best Ride-a-thon EVER, but this year really was the BEST! It had been days of heavy rain, including the night before the ride. The abundantly green fields were soggy wet and muddy. The thermometer read 35 degrees the morning of the ride, and Jan worried throughout the night. That morning she had a conversation and coffee with the good **Lord**. She agreed to put the day in **His** hands, repeating with **Him**, "I shall trust and not be afraid." The horse trailers started arriving at the Willow Spring Farm around 7:00 a.m. Faithful riders were looking forward to a day of reveling in nature with their friends, human and horse. Prayers went with each truck and trailer as they approached the slippery hillside. Almost every one pulled it with no problems, and those who had a problem were assisted easily. Previous rides had 70-90 riders, but only 43 faithful riders braved a cold and wet Fall day. After registering, they were served an outstanding warm country breakfast followed by a inspiring worship service led by Pastor Don Guthrie.

When the riders returned, they were ready for a lunch of vegetable soup, chili, and homemade pie. The food was again prepared by Jan's niece, Patti Clontz, who comes from Michigan every year. Patti spends over a week planning and organizing the two meals and supervising the food tent. Volunteers helped with the serving and clean-up. It was a sight to behold. The sounds of lively chatter and laughter of friends sharing a meal, while their horses rested patiently, drifted over the fields. The food was outstanding and spirits were high.

A total of \$25,878 was raised with a net profit of \$24,530. We thank the many supporters who donated money for pledges, and folks who gave prizes and donations of food. Special thanks goes to our three corporate sponsors: Modern Woodmen of America, Amerigroup Corporation, and Frazier Quarry. This fundraiser could not be done without you and our communities' continued support.

#### RIDE-A-THON WINNERS:

First place in Pledges – Joy & Gary Halterman - \$3,545

Second Place in Pledges – Dr. Maggie Jeffreys-Honeycutt - \$3,070

Third Place in Pledges – Brittany Maasch, \$2,898

Gasoline Raffle Winners: Karen Billhimer (1<sup>st</sup>), Cassandra Shoemaker (2<sup>nd</sup>), Bill Bost (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

**Special Education and Resource classes are always welcome to visit Still Meadows on field trips.**

## GOBBLERS ROCK!

Fifty members of the unbeatable Broadway Gobblers Football Team along with their coaches visited Still Meadows to work on the grounds. Some repaired damage caused by the early snowfall by picking up downed tree limbs and moving them to the burn pile while others cut up trees and loaded the wood into waiting trucks. They unloaded the monster pieces of wood into stacks for volunteers to split and deliver to families in need of heating assistance this winter. These wonderful students moved a pile of dirt by hand and prepared the area for seeding. Picking up railroad ties like toothpicks, they placed them around the newly prepared area and finished the project by shoveling gravel around the ties. This work was done with true team spirit and work, which shows one reason they were unbeatable in the 2011 season!

**THANK YOU, BHS FOOTBALL TEAM and Coaches (Brad Lutz, Josh Haymore, Brian Ratliff, Willie Tinnell, Adam Lutz, and Ryan Flanagan)**

**YES, I want to make a DONATION** to help support this center for persons with developmental, intellectual, and/or physical disabilities.

\_\_\_\_ Donation of \$1,000

**Tax ID # 54-1857340**

\_\_\_\_ Donation of \$100

\_\_\_\_ Donation of \$50

\_\_\_\_ Donation of \$25

Enclosed is my \$\_\_\_\_\_ contribution.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp, 11992 Hollar School Road, Linville, Virginia 22834**

*(All donations are tax deductible!)*



**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
**June Camp Session    June 18-22, 2012**  
**July Camp Session    July 9-12, 2012**  
**August Camp Session   July 30-August 3, 2012**



**YES, I want to pay for a SCHOLARSHIP(s)**

Because of extensive medical bills and/or other family situations, many families are not able to afford to send their sons or daughters to Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp.

Individuals and clubs are encouraged to provide a full or partial scholarship to enable a camper or rider to attend either a one-week camp session or an 8-week therapeutic horseback riding session.

Each program also provides the participant's family with much needed respite that allows them to regroup physically and mentally.

Your tax-exempt gift will provide a full scholarship to a camper who would otherwise be unable to attend one of our programs.

\_\_\_\_ Day Camp (\$200)

**Tax ID # 54-1857340**

\_\_\_\_ Therapeutic Horseback Riding (\$225)

\_\_\_\_ Partial Scholarship (Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Program \_\_\_\_\_)

DONOR: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp, 11992 Hollar School Road, Linville, Virginia 22834**

*(All donations are tax deductible)*

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

On Sunday, October 16, 2011, the Still Meadows Board of Directors provided a delicious picnic for all volunteers and their families who gave so much time and effort to our camp and facility. These volunteers assisted during camp weeks, therapeutic riding sessions, and with all camp activities. Volunteers mowed grass, repaired equipment and buildings, planted gardens, brought in snacks for campers, guided camp activities, and MUCH MORE. To our minds and hearts, every one of these volunteers is AWESOME.

Jan presented awards following a lunch of fried chicken and all the fixings to outstanding volunteers. The recipient of the VOLUNTEER OF 2011 was ALAN SMITH. Alan, who is a Sophomore at Eastern Mennonite High School, has given over 1000 hours of service to Still Meadows. He has spent hours quietly guiding and leading our special friends who always responded to him with smiles and laughter. Over the summer, he helped Brittany Maasch with mowing and trimming the ever-growing grass. Alan is the son of Daryl Smith and Terry Tucker who currently serves on the Board of Directors as Assistant Treasurer. Alan has spent many years at Still Meadows as he was one of Jan’s preschool “kids”. Alan was with Cub Scout Pack #40 as a Tiger Scout at the age of six. His first visit to the camp was to pick up sticks in the woods, and he continues with the Venture Crew and hopes to include Still Meadows in his Eagle Scout project. Alan also helps with our fundraisers in-between EMHS baseball games.

Another award presented by Jan was the ANNUAL MAASCH MESS award to KEITH LANTZ. Keith has spent many years at the summer camps along with his family. His lively antics and ability to outwit Jan qualified him for this new award.

The Entertainer of the Year was awarded to Devin Nesselrodt, who created laughter with her songs and movement with her dances.

ALAN SMITH

KEITH LANTZ

DEVIN NESSELRODT



#### WISH LIST

Folding Chairs, 20 @ \$20

Hay for horses

Wheelchair Accessible Golf Cart, \$10,000

Fold-out Heavy Duty Sign (2), \$100

#### MOTORCYCLE RIDE-A-THON

Unfortunately, the POW/MIA Veterans Motorcycle Poker Run and Auction was postponed due to a rainy, cold and wet weekend. However, pork barbecue sandwiches and white beans prepared by the Board of Directors for the event were sold from several locations throughout Harrisonburg. The ride was rescheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> and the weather was beautiful, but many riders could not join us. We will be trying to have this event again on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Hopefully, more riders will be able to attend next year.

### FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

Virginia State Aerie Worthy President for 2011-2012, Franklin “Dee” Howdyshell of Harrisonburg, has chosen the Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp as his charity of the year of his presidency. Mr. Howdyshell will be speaking to Eagle Chapters all over the state of Virginia about Still Meadows and will be collecting donations for our organization. In June of 2012, he will give Still Meadows the bounty of donations he and his fellow Eagles have collected for the year. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Jan gave a presentation about Still Meadows at the Eagles State Conference in Harrisonburg. A check was given to Jan to kick off the fundraising project. We are so blessed to have folks like Mr. Howdyshell and the Eagles giving so much of themselves to support our facility and all our special friends we serve.

Thank you, Grand, from the bottom of our hearts! On September 8, 2011, employees of GRAND HOME FURNISHINGS dropped off five full-sized mattresses, box springs and frames to Still Meadows. The donation was in honor of Grand’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary where employees are making “grand gestures.” The mattress sets were distributed throughout the community for folks in need. Our community is so fantastic and generous to Still Meadows!

Please remember us in your will and estate planning. We depend on donations from our community.

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**TO: Or Current Resident**



## **SPOTLIGHT ON KAILEY SANDRIDGE**

By Jane Smith

A passion for horses has inspired Kailey Sandridge in the therapeutic riding program at Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp. Kailey is a thirteen-year-old girl who has Cri-Du-Chat syndrome. Cri-Du-Chat is a rare genetic disorder due to a missing part of chromosome 5. It is characterized by delayed speech, cognitive, and motor skills. To the general public, it would appear that Kailey has had a stroke, but Kailey has beat the odds in that she can walk, talk, and has a good memory.

Kailey attends Montevideo Middle School where she attends some special classes but participates in regular home economics and music classes, which she loves. She also loves to read and is involved in Young Life and tap dance classes of school.

Kailey's mother, Amy Propst, says that Kailey's favorite thing of all is riding horses. Kailey has been riding in the therapeutic riding program for four summers. Amy says that they saw such a difference even that first summer. Kailey has problems with weak muscles, posture, and her foot turning in. Riding requires good posture, and with Kailey's natural connection with the horses, it has given her an "amazing amount of confidence" and has improved her walking skills. Kailey's progress and her confidence are the best rewards for which the riding volunteers could ask.