



Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp

NEWS FROM THE HILL

Volume 11, Issue 1

SPRING, 2014

Janet Maasch, Founder

Letter From the Board President, JODI HAAS

What a winter! I hope all of our friends and supporters enjoyed the beauty of the snow and ice with no major problems. It was beautiful at Still Meadows, although it did create a challenge for everyone to keep the animals warm, dry and safe and the driveway accessible.



A LITTLE "MAN" on a BIG HORSE

It was a very challenging job for our interim Executive Director, Katie Chittum. She scraped driveways and struggled through snowdrifts to the barn. Katie has been a special blessing to Still Meadows since the passing of Janet Maasch, the founder of Still Meadows. Katie put her plans for the future on hold to serve as Interim Executive Director of Still Meadows. Her job was not easy in that she covered animal care, grounds care, organizing volunteers, and speaking to civic and church groups, and running summer day camps. It is now time for Katie to

move on with her career path as she had planned. Katie will be attending the Graduate School of Nursing at Eastern Mennonite University. We are very proud that Katie is pursuing her career, and we know that she will make a wonderful addition to the medical field. She will be missed by all of her loving friends, but we hope she will remain a part of Still Meadows.

At this time, the Board of Directors is working hard to find an executive director and a camp director. Several interviews have been held, and maybe by the time this newsletter is out, staff will have been hired. We will keep everyone informed as we progress.

A quiet walk to the TREE HOUSE



I would like to welcome Jonathan Cannone to our Still Meadows family. Jonathan is taking care of our animals and grounds. He comes to us with much experience in landscape,



A race that requires SKILL.

gardening, and animal care, and I hear that he is enjoying his job. Other plans are being made to increase the activities at Still Meadows. A fourth session of therapeutic riding has been added to the year to provide service to more friends. The possibility of an additional summer camp session serving children with special needs is being explored. Plans are also being made for a larger chicken coop, a petting area for the goats, and a shelter in John's Woods. Our barn family is expanding too. We will be adding a llama, two donkeys, and a beautiful palomino horse named "Trixie."

Our goal is to continue with Jan's visions for Still Meadows, now and for the future. We know that this is not our facility; we are only caretakers as it is and will always be "God's Camp."

Jodi Haas, President
Board of Directors

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT STILL MEADOWS

APRIL, 2014

April 2-May7, 2014 - Therapeutic Riding Program, Session 1, 6:45-8:30 p.m. (6 -week duration, registration required.)

MAY, 2014

May 2, 2014 – Faith and Light Worship Service by Dave Gullman, 7:00 p.m.

May 17, 2014 – Lost River Hike Fundraiser

May 23, 2014 - Music Under the Stars @ Still Meadows, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

JUNE, 2014

May 21-June 25, 2014 – Therapeutic Riding Program, Session 2, 6:45-8:30 p.m. (6 -week duration, registration required.)

June 6, 2014 – Faith and Light Worship Service by Dave Gullman, 7:00 p.m.

June 13, 2014 – Music Under the Stars @ Still Meadows, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

June 16-20, 2014 – Day Camp, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Friday



JULY, 2014

July 7-11, – Day Camp,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Friday

July 18, 2014 – Music Under the Stars,
6:00-7:30 p.m.

July 25, 2014 – Faith and Light Worship Service by Dave Gullman, 7:00 p.m.

July 28-August 1, 2014 – Day Camp,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Friday

July 9-August 13, 2014 –Therapeutic Riding Program, Session 3, 6:45-8:30 p.m. (6 -week duration, registration required.)

AUGUST, 2014

August 8, 2014 – Music Under the Stars @ Still Meadows, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

August 22, 2014 - Faith and Light Worship Service by Don Gullman, 7:00 p.m.

August 27-October 1, 2014 - Therapeutic Riding Program, Session 4, 6:45-8:30 p.m. (6 -week duration, registration required.)

SEPTEMBER, 2014

September 1, 2014 – Food Booth @ Bridgewater Labor Day Celebration

September 12, 2014 – Music Under the Stars, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

September 19, 2014 – Faith and Light Worship Service by Dave Gullman, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER, 2014

October 5, 2014 – Thirteen Annual Horseback Ride-a-thon @ Willow Spring Farm, Virginia, 8:00 a.m.

October 19, 2014 – Volunteer Appreciation Picnic @ Still Meadows.

NOVEMBER, 2014

November, 2014 – Third Annual Auction Fundraiser

Teachers, put Still Meadows in your plans for spring and fall field trips. Possible activities include a hay ride, visiting with our animals, spending time in our gardens and a wheelchair accessible tree house.

WE NEED YOU!

Still Meadows exists because of its volunteers and support from the community. In past years, volunteers donated many hours at the camp by preparing food, picking up sticks, cleaning out the tree house and barn, planting vegetables and flowers, spreading mulch, pushing wheelchairs, walking beside horse and rider...and the list goes on and on. Our volunteers range in age from eight to eighty-eight. Girl Scouts painted walls and built animal cages. Boy Scouts spread wood chips and built a deck for the tipi. Senior citizens help with summer camp and fund raising activities. Business folks share their time and skills through the United Way and through their business community service hours. Church, civic and school groups work to keep the grounds beautiful. It takes a village to provide services for our special friends who have their own challenges of wheelchairs, constant medical needs and dependency on caretakers. Still Meadows continues to provide those experiences in nature that encourage mental and physical stimulation. This can only be accomplished by a huge team of volunteers who are committed to a common goal.

Why volunteer? The personal satisfaction of seeing a smile on a young girl's face as she balances on the back of a horse being led around a riding ring warms the hearts of those walking on both sides. The laughter of a camper in a wheelchair as he rolls into the tipi to hear a story about a wily fox and innocent rabbit brings a grin from the gentleman gently pushing the chair. The dreamy expression of a woman looking out over the woods lights the imagination of the volunteer who is guiding her along the deck of the tree house, knowing she is "flying like an eagle, if only in her mind."

We invite any group with a member or members with any type of disability to use our facility for meetings, picnics, or any other activities at no charge (free will offering accepted). Please call or email us for more information.

Still Meadows is also in need of new members for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Representations of all walks of life are needed to create and maintain a well-rounded facility. Those knowledgeable in finances promote a healthy outlook for the camp budget and needs. Facility management is a prime concern. Those with an understanding of the challenges of citizens served by Still Meadows are needed to plan and evaluate activities. Being a member of the board is a commitment that requires dedication and compassion, which is a quality of our present members, but they need help!



Our volunteers enjoy the camp activities as much as our campers.



The Girl Scouts organized our craft supplies so that everything will be ready for summer groups.

BINGO FUN

The Still Meadows Board of Directors hosted its Twelfth Annual Longaberger Basket Bingo on March 1, 2014 at the Woodmen of the World in Dayton. This year, the Board decided to expand the activity by adding Thirty-One items to the list of bingo prizes. Many door prizes, awarded between bingo games, added to the excitement of the evening. Raffle tickets were sold for the 50/50 and for other fun prizes including a large tote, a Longaberger canister set and a 42" television. After expenses, approximately \$3,000.00 was raised to help Still Meadows with operating costs.

Delicious food was served throughout the evening. Pork tenderloin, prepared by Jerry Miller, baked beans, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and candy were served as meals or individually. Wonderful pies were donated by the Mennonite community to serve as a slice of dessert or to be auctioned to lucky participants for their Sunday dinner tables.

Such a successful fundraiser requires the help of many. We thank The Woodmen of the World who provided such a nice facility and freedom to set up at our convenience, David Joseph who called the numbers with good humor and patience, and the board members who donated their time preparing the event and working that evening. We also thank those who donated baskets, totes, and door prizes. Special thanks to Faye Fox, Longaberger Consultant, and Kara Eby, Thirty-One Consultant.

Camp Still Meadows HOODIES for Sale

Preorders ONLY.

**Red with Still Meadows logo on the back
\$25.00**

Call or email Still Meadows by May 30.

540-833-2072/info@campstillmeadows.org

WISH LIST FOR STILL MEADOWS

Gravel for the Driveway

Sponsorship for Camp T-Shirts

Sponsorship for Day Camp snacks

*Animal Feed (cats, chickens, rabbit,
goats, horses, llamas, donkeys)*

*Wheelchair Accessible Play House for the
Healing Gardens*

Media Projector for Presentations

New Goat/Petting Enclosure

*Small Leland Trees for a Buffer in John's
Woods*

GRANTS HELP US THRIVE

Still Meadows is entirely funded through grants, fundraising and donations from our community. We very much appreciate the generosity of civic groups, churches, businesses, and individuals who donate to keep this facility such a special place with special services to our most challenged individuals.

Porto Charities chose Still Meadows as one of its recipients for a grant. These funds will be used to purchase seeds, plants, and supplies for the Healing Gardens.

Modern Woodmen donated funds for a new, larger chicken coop to house our beautiful egg-laying hens.

We also thank the **McGaheysville-Massanutten Lions Club** who is awarding a grant to Still Meadows to purchase materials to build a picnic/activity shelter with a handicap bathroom in John's Woods.

Many **Merck** employees have been able to double their donations to Still Meadows through the "Merck Partnership for Giving" program.

MEET OUR NEW HORSE

There is a beautiful new addition to the Still Meadows family. Her name is Trixie, and she is a quarter horse/Arabian cross. She is a palomino, white with gold patches. She loves to run through the field and seems very calm. Our therapeutic riding instructor, Karen Billhimer, is in the process of working with her in preparation for the therapeutic riding sessions. Trixie will stay at Still Meadows through the riding sessions and then return to her owner for the winter. We have added a forth riding session this summer to allow for more participants to experience our riding program. At this time, very few spaces are left. The calendar of sessions may be found on our website as well as in this newsletter. Our thanks go to Jean Donovan who loaned her beautiful horse to Still Meadows.



Please remember Still Meadows in your will and estate planning so that valuable future services may be provided for our special citizens.



FUN CAMP ACTIVITIES

Do you like to hike? Do you like scenic views in the spring?

SAVE THE DATE...May 17, 2014

You are invited to join us for a fundraising HIKE at LOST RIVER STATE PARK in West Virginia. The trails have various levels of difficulty with a wheelchair accessible trail. A healthy lunch of sandwich wraps will be provided for a freewill donation.

Times and more information will be posted on the Still Meadows website:
www.campstillmeadows.org





In March, the Interim Executive Director, Katie Chittum, visited **BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** in Bridgewater, Virginia, to speak about Still Meadows to the students and staff. At this assembly, Katie described the goals and services of Still Meadows. She also related how she became involved, as a young girl, with the therapeutic riding program at the camp. She was greeted with much enthusiasm and warmth. Blue Ridge made the decision to sponsor Still Meadows as its community service project. They embarked on a fundraising project which, at the conclusion, allowed them to present a check for \$1,674.47 to Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp. The students will also be helping Still Meadows in the future by spending time volunteering and helping around the camp. We want to thank Blue Ridge Christian students and staff for their generous gift.

SPRING AT STILL MEADOWS

After a long and difficult winter, spring has finally come to Still Meadows. Flowers and bushes are blooming, garden seedlings are in their seedling beds, the pond is flowing again and peas are planted in the Healing Gardens. What a glorious time of the year for this peaceful place!

Different groups have helped the camp to come alive. The Harrisonburg Diversion Center moved furniture and raked the washed out driveway. The Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene volunteers mulched the flower beds with four loads of mulch. Other groups who have cleaned John's Woods, the barn, and the picnic shelter included the New Life Church and the Harrisonburg Baptist Church. We are so blessed to have the support of our community.



FUTURE OF STILL MEADOWS

The future of Still Meadows is looking bright as plans are being made for expansion of facilities and programs at Still Meadows. Volunteers are needed to build a new playhouse for the Healing Gardens, a larger chicken coop, a pavilion in John's Woods, and a large petting area for the smaller animals. All of these additions will help our friends to connect with the power of nature in a setting that is inspiring yet calming.

FOR SALE...Camp's 6' Snow Blade with hydraulic angle kit.

Fits John Deere 300, 400, 500 series front end loader.

Used ONE time...Like NEW

New ones cost \$3,500-\$4,000. Will sell for \$3,000.

Call Rick Smith for details (540-421-2822)

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

____ 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
(Donations are tax deductible TAX ID# 54-1857340)



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 (\$180)

____ Partial Scholarship (Amount: \$ _____) Program _____

DONOR: _____

PHONE: _____

FULL ADDRESS: _____

MAIL TO: Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp, 11992 Hollar School Road, Linville, Virginia 22834
(Donations are tax deductible)



Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp
11992 Hollar School Road
Linville, Virginia 22834
(540) 833-2072 or (540) 435-7390
www.campstillmeadows.org
Email: info@campstillmeadows.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
PERMIT #36

TO: OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Still Meadows welcomes our newest addition to our staff, Jonathan Cannone. He has been very busy feeding and caring for the animals, preparing the grounds for spring, as well as planning and planting the Healing Gardens. Jonathan graduated from Mars Hill College in North Carolina with a B.A. degree in history. He has many talents including speaking Spanish. Jonathan served an internship with Our Community Farm where he was responsible for planting, volunteer coordination, and more!

STILL MEADOWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jodi Haas
President

Jodie Anderson
Vice President

Kristen Lanier
Treasurer

Mary Ellen Chewing
Asst. Treasurer/Grants

Arlene Reid
Secretary

Jerry Miller
Director

Deb Armentrout
Director

Beth Chenault
Director

Tim Moubray
Director

Bruce Stilwell
Director

Pete DeSmit
Director

A volunteer is needed to build a new chicken coop. We have materials and a plan. If you would like to take on this task, please give us a call. Our chickens need a larger home.

If you want to save paper and printing costs, sign up to receive your newsletter online at www.campstillmeadows.org. We are in the process of upgrading our website, so keep an eye on it.