

March 21, 2021



STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

I've been waiting impatiently for some major details to be finalized so that I would have concrete updates to share with all of you, and the time to reveal lots of exciting news has finally come!

We have a LOGO!

I carried a picture of what I imagined for a logo—a child lifted higher by the horse and able to stand taller supported by the stirrups to reach for the stars—around in my head ever since the name was decided, spent hours searching for images that would match different parts of what was in my head, tracing silhouette shapes, hand drawing, and redrawing until I felt like I had captured it, and then handed the drawing over to my husband who took pictures of our children modeling to get a more accurate child silhouette and turned the whole thing into a digital image.

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Followed by searching through hundreds of fonts and styles to find one that felt just right for a riding stable. I loved how the structure of the letters in this one have a horse-shoe feel to them—especially the U's—and how the G looks like it has an arrow pointing up!

Besides the obvious inclusion of a child and a horse, if you look closely the arrangements of stars in the sky form an "S", and the stirrup with the child's toe poking out makes a "C"! There are 7 total stars the child is reaching toward, which represent the 3 core values for the program (Safety, Acceptance, Encouragement) and 4 main goals for participants (Confidence, Connectedness, Caring, Coping Skills). I hope you love the end results as much as I do!



We have a WEBSITE!

It is VERY basic right now, but if you check out www.stirrupcourage.org, it provides an intro and the same overview of the vision, goals, etc. that was sent to everyone in the early stages. So now if you talk to someone who you think would be interested in getting involved, you can send them to the website link to read an overview of what we are trying to accomplish, and they can contact me if they want to be added to our mailing list!

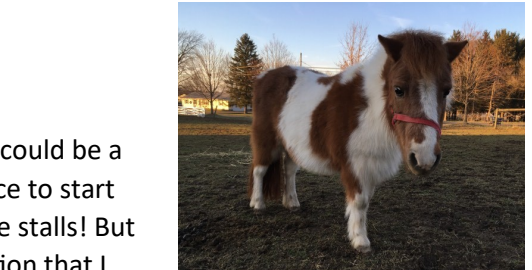
We have a LOCATION!

Land purchase details were still unsure when I first started talking about plans with most of you, but we are now able to announce that we have a home! Stirrup Courage Equestrian Learning Center will be built at 821 S Kohler Road, Orrville (which is actually closer to Kidron, very near our home right off route 30). The property was purchased by my husband's parents, who will be putting up the main building structure for us and renting to the non-profit. The land includes great frontage on Kohler making it easy for people to find, and a great flat space for building the barn and attached indoor arena, as well as plenty of pasture acreage in back, and a small woods further back for short trail rides. It has everything I had hoped for, is easy to access and a great central point between Wayne and Stark counties. We are grateful to have it offered for our use without needing to purchase land! We are close to finalizing building plans, which I am excited to share in the next update!



We have a BOARD!

I am so excited about working with the team of women I have supporting me on our starting board! Kristen Collins (my little sister) is my go-to for all the practical horse and equipment questions, as she's been in the lesson, training, showing, and boarding business full time and has seen lots of what works and what doesn't. Brandy Sears will be our board secretary and brings so much heart and enthusiasm for helping kids and has a family FULL of horse-loving future volunteers who are all ready to help this program get started! Andrea Weaver, who will be our treasurer, grew up with horses and has 3 adopted children with a fourth in process of being adopted from foster care, so she also knows all about the challenges of foster parenting and the need for more supports for children who have experienced trauma. Kristen, Brandy, Andrea, and I met all together for the first time on-site March 7 to get a tour of the property and sign 501c3 paperwork, along with lots of sharing dreams and ideas!



We have a PONY!

As excited as I am for all the people who have said they have a horse that could be a good fit that they'd be willing to donate for the program, I don't have space to start building our horse team until the Stirrup Courage barn is built and we have stalls! But when the offer of this little pony came up, she was just the right size addition that I could squeeze in with my little herd at home for now. Meet GINGER, our first official SC pony and mascot/covergirl for all our marketing materials for now! Thanks Sheila Shoup for thinking to pass her info on to me, and Janelle Hofstetter for passing along your sweet pony for our program! Ginger stands quietly to be groomed and have her feet done, and has passed the being-led-all-around-by-a-five-year-old test, and the being-led-around-with-a-kid-riding-bareback test! She will be a great start for our youngest participants, for children to be introduced to groundwork safety and grooming, and to give a confidence boost to more timid children who aren't quite sure about interacting with the full-size versions right away!



Thanks again to all of you for expressing interest in following our journey and helping to make this dream come true! I look forward to sharing more of the official building plan details and news that we are officially on file with the IRS to receive our 501c3 status VERY SOON! Our next big project will be FUNDRAISING PLANS, so be thinking!

Tara Steiner

Director, Board President

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