

May 5, 2021



STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

www.stirrupcourage.org

Exciting steps have started to happen, crossing items off our starting up to-do list! First fundraisers happening, bank accounts opening, connections being made with future volunteers and local social services agencies that would like to partner with the program, finalizing building plans...it's coming together!

Tack Swap Fundraiser Friday May 7

Our amazing superwoman friend Jamie Leach initiated the first fundraiser to support Stirrup Courage, hosted by their 4-H Club, the Kova Riders! The Tack Swap event, which will be held at "The Dusty Boot," 4030 Back Orrville Road in Wooster, allows 4-H clubs and others with used horse supplies, tack, show clothes, and crafty items for sale to rent a table at the event to display their items, with rental fees being donated. They are also selling tickets for a prize raffle, inviting a special guest speaker, and will offer food for sale as part of the event.



Because this is my first opportunity to set up an information booth at an event, I got to work with my graphic-designer husband to create designs for a beautiful stand-up display banner, flyers, business cards, logo pens, and logo drink cups to give out at the event, along with other prize giveaways. I should have some fun pics to share next newsletter of what it looks like all put together in our booth!

New Facebook Page!

Social media presence is important for getting word of our project out to as many people as possible, so now that we have enough fun things going on to have updates to post, our official Facebook page is up and running! If you haven't already, you can take a look and click "follow" to keep seeing updates from our page in your newsfeed! Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/stirrupcourage>.

The main event going on with our Facebook page right now is an Art Silent Auction as part of the Tack Swap Fundraiser. Bidding started this week and will end at 6:30pm during the Tack Swap, but I can work out local delivery/pickup or even shipping for bidders who will not be at the event. Take a look at the donated artwork and handmade items in the Art Fundraiser photo album posted on the page, and place bids by sending a private message (current top bids can be seen in the comments section for each piece of art). Special thanks to Sue Steiner of Free Rein Art Studio, and Delight Howells of Simple Wholesome Delights, for sharing their talents with us for these silent auction items!



All the necessary official stuff: ☒

There is a long to-do list of steps for legally establishing a non-profit entity in Ohio/the U.S., and for being able to run the business end correctly and efficiently. There are also a lot of fees and costs involved just to put these steps in motion! But as of this week, most all of those necessary boxes have been checked off to make us officially ready to conduct business as a non-profit including:

- Approved Corporation status with the Ohio Secretary of State—\$99 filing fee
- Registered with IRS for an EIN/taxpayer ID number—\$245 filing fee
- Form 1023 Filed with the IRS by our lawyer (the paperwork necessary to receive 501c3 status to be a tax-exempt charitable organization (which can take up to 6 months for the IRS to process)—\$600 filing fee (along with the bill for the lawyer's time putting everything together which we haven't received yet...whew!)
- On file with the Ohio Attorney General as a registered charitable organization in Ohio (no fee since we currently don't own any large assets)
- Opened a business checking account with Everence Federal Credit Union in Kidron—\$150 deposited to fund account

All of that to show that even before we have a building to pay for or horses to feed and a program to run, there are a lot of costs just to get off the ground as a recognized non-profit organization, and these startup costs are what we hope to have completely covered by our first fundraiser!

BUILDING PLANS!

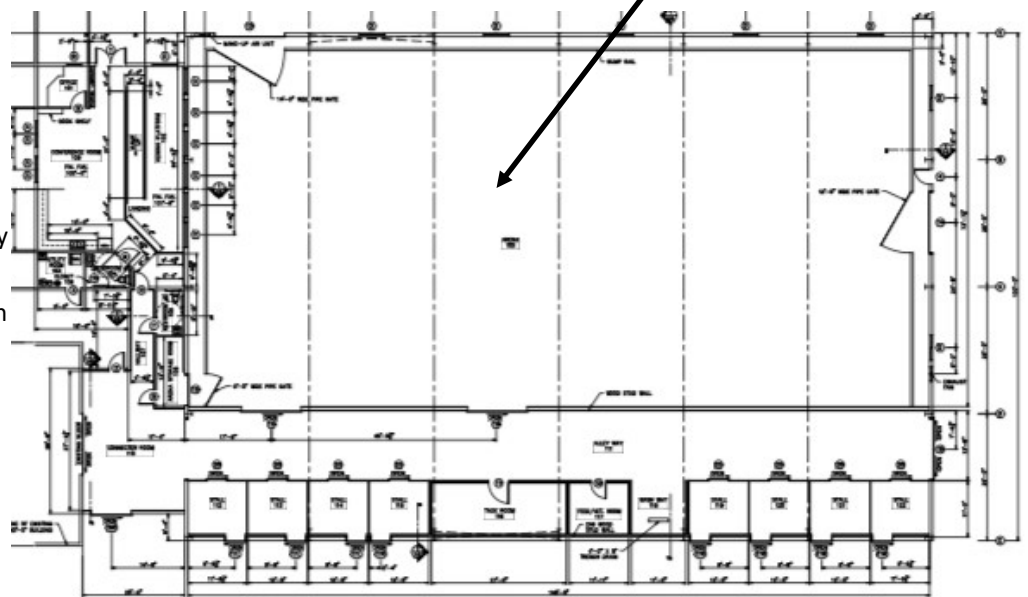
We are getting very close to finalizing our building plans with Weaver Commercial Contractors. Ron Wenger, who is a horseman himself, has been very helpful in these beginning stages helping me put all our ideas and needs into the design to be the best fit for how we want to serve our families! Below is a sneak peak of some of the floor plans and views of different sides of the planned indoor arena and stable combination, along with an indoor meeting area, office, bathrooms, and raised viewing area with a large window to the arena to make the experience as safe, comfortable and

inviting for families as possible! We can't wait to see it all start to take shape this summer!



View from the driveway of building main entrance

Indoor meeting area with viewing window, toddler area, office, library and bathrooms, wraparound porch



Indoor Riding Arena

Thanks again for all the ways you have supported and encouraged us in getting this far!

Tara Steiner

Executive Director

stirrupcourage@gmail.com

Stable area side with 8 stalls, tack room, feed room, wash stall, and individual outdoor runs