

July 19, 2021



STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

www.stirrupcourage.org

There has been SO MUCH happening this summer, I don't know if I can fit it all in a two-page newsletter! Groups and individuals doing fundraisers for us, our first Volunteer Team training day, and—what we are here for—getting groups of children and teens enrolled in our first summer learning sessions!

High Fives For All the Groups Who Put the “FUN” in FUNDRAISING!!!



At the Kova Rider's Tack Swap fundraiser in May, their 4-H club rented tables to vendors, sold tickets for raffle prizes, and took donations for food and drinks.

I set up an information booth with a silent auction and door-prize drawings, and an awesome

group of youth volunteers sold drinks in our special logo cups. In all, that event raised over \$600 which helped cover start-up costs of applying to become a non-profit! Thank you Kova Riders 4-H club!



For the months of April, May, and June, Dayspring Christian Fellowship in Massillon chose to dedicate their children's offering collection to Stirrup Courage. At the end of those 3 months we received a check for \$665.53 from what the children came up to put into their offering jug! Thank you Dayspring!

In June a group of 30+ cousins in the Steiner family used part of their "Steiner Camp" time to create their own small businesses that donated part of their profits to Stirrup Courage! Between these 30+ kids and youth they planned a family fun fair, cooked foods like



homemade quesadillas and ice cream to sell, made unique handmade soaps, and built picnic tables to auction at the fair. The Family Fair at the Farm had guests buy tickets to pay for food and drinks, carnival games, a petting zoo, and pony rides, and altogether these groups of kids donated \$1,059 to Stirrup Courage from their sales, plus a donated picnic table to use in our future outdoor gathering space!



Visit and follow our Facebook Page for more pictures! www.facebook.com/stirrupcourage.

Coming Home



In April our family took a leap of faith when a beautiful home and property came up for sale just up the road from the future home of Stirrup Courage. Though we had not planned for a move, the potential benefits of living so close to where I would be working and taking care of the horses made it an opportunity too perfect not to at least try! It was an intense 5-day process from our first showing, to forming and reforming our offers and anxiously awaiting news of which offer out of 5 the seller would choose, and then the phone call from our realtor that made me cry—"He chose your family!" Moving a family of 6 (plus the menagerie of animals!) has been no small task, and we are far from finished unpacking a month and a half after

move-in weekend, but we are so thankful to call this new little 8-acre farmstead our home! I look forward to when I will be able to WALK to my work at the Stirrup Courage barn, and will be able to look right out my windows across our property and see Stirrup Courage horses grazing out in their pasture!

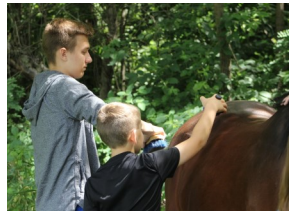
The Dream Team!

I didn't want the fact that we are waiting for our barn and arena to keep us from starting in on the mission while we have warm summer weather and kids available on summer break! So I started making contacts with families I knew who might be interested for their children, and checking in with potential volunteers. It wasn't hard to get sign-ups filled for 2 classes of 6 children each for summer sessions that will run from July-August, and volunteers to fill the slots to make that happen!



On Saturday July 10th our first amazing team of enthusiastic volunteers showed up at my home ready for a morning of training! We reflected on the mission and goals for our program, went over their roles and expectations, ran through the planned schedule of activities they will be guiding children through, and had time to get to know and practice skills with the horses we will use for the program. We finished our morning with lunch together while hearing from guest speaker Katrina Burkhardt, who is a counselor at Springhaven in Mt. Eaton, with information on the unique benefits horses bring to the healing process, and helpful advice for interacting with children from a trauma background.

The most meaningful part of the day for me was in the beginning when we had personal introductions, I asked each person to briefly tell why they want to be a part of Stirrup Courage. It was so inspiring for me to hear each of those 8 adults and 9 youth who participated share from their hearts such sincere reasons for wanting to join me in this journey, especially hearing the youth share so openly in the group of their desire to help give back to other kids the gift of horses that has meant so much in their own lives. I am SO BLESSED to have this group of people to work with, and I CAN'T WAIT to see all of them in action as a team with children and horses in my backyard in the coming weeks!



I am super excited to fill the next newsletter with amazingly adorable pictures of kids and horses!

Tara Steiner

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