

July 30, 2022



STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

www.stirrupcourage.org

This is called the BUSIEST SUMMER EDITION! I hardly know how to decide what from the past 2 months to fit into this update without making it 10 pages, but trust me when I say we hit June and have not stopped running since! I am completely exhausted, and also so completely satisfied when I look back at all we accomplished with our first FULLY scheduled summer!



The Stats on Summer Success

Since June, our team has been hosting classes (outside, in the direct sun and humidity that has characterized this summer!) every day Monday-Thursday, and often on Saturdays for catch up lessons with kids who missed during the week. It has taken a team of

23 amazing volunteers to pull off all those classes for a total of over 48 1-hour lesson timeslots taught so far between June and July! I recently passed on some stats to that team of volunteers to remind them of the mission they are serving and that together they are making a huge impact! The past two months of June and July, we have been able to come alongside:



- 26 total children
- 14 who were new this summer, 12 who were returning students
- 6 who needed full scholarships to attend
- 4 who requested partial (\$25-\$40) scholarship assistance to be able to attend
- 11 children who are adopted
- 5 children currently in foster or kinship care
- 6 struggling with emotions related to divorce and split time between parents
- 4 grieving the loss of a loved one
- 3 dealing with anxiety from a difficult medical diagnosis affecting daily life



I am so thankful for all the generous people who have come together to help me give these children a new positive experience to look forward to in their week, new happy memories to balance out some of the bad they have experienced, knowledge

that there are caring adults here who believe in them and accept them as they are, among so many other benefits! I hear so often from parents how much their children look forward to their lesson time each week and how they can see their child's self-confidence blossoming, and I want all of our supporters to hear it too! Thank you for helping to make this happen! We invite you to consider becoming a sponsor to help provide scholarships for children to attend (\$25 per lesson, \$100 for a child's 4-week session).



The Countdown to Move-in Day Continues...

Although it has taken much longer than we hoped for construction on all the parts of our new building to come together, we do have progress to report! Over the summer, framing has gone up for the main entrance gathering space/office/bathrooms, the stall walls and fronts have been installed (thanks to Rob Weaver (below right) and the crew from J&M Carpentry for their day of donated labor!), cement has all been poured for indoor areas and parking spaces/porch, and main inside walls are going up! We are still waiting on some move-in essentials like electricity and water to be completed in August.



Wishes GRANTED! Thanks to the Wayne County Community Foundation

Grant writing was a brand new personal challenge for me, but an important one to venture into as our Board looked at the projected costs of the facility we wanted to offer our families. So in January I began the process of learning about grants, and identifying local grant opportunities for which our project might qualify. I did not know what to expect when I sent off my most significant request for \$21,000 from the Wayne County Community Foundation for their Spring Competitive Grant Cycle, proposing a grant to cover costs related to putting up the 8 stalls to expand our horse team. The day I got the phone call from a WCCF Board Member that my grant proposal had been approved for the FULL amount, I cried (and then sent lot of happy texts to my own Board and family)! **We are all just so overwhelmed with gratitude to the Wayne County Community Foundation Board of Trustees for approval of our grant of \$21,000 from the Carl E. Congdon Jr. & Suzanna Congdon McIntyre Memorial Fund to aid in completing the 8 horse stalls in our new building!**

Stirrup Courage on Parade

I didn't have plans to add a parade into the already-cramped schedule this year, but when the chance was offered to be represented in the Orrville Independence Day Parade, I decided to take it and offer the opportunity for current participating families to walk with us. We ended up with an enthusiastic group of 6 adults and 10 children helping spread the word about Stirrup Courage to hundreds of people in the waiting crowds (along with spreading 1400 peppermint candies, which our exuberant candy throwers ran out of 3/4 of the way through our route, but continued to happily wave and pass out brochures). It was a HOT evening, and we spent over 2 hours waiting in a parking lot before our turn to walk even started, but our walking representatives kept great attitudes that I was proud to have representing what Stirrup Courage is all about!



The Summer of FUNdraising



With an ambitious construction project and ever-rising costs of building materials, our Board knew that this summer would have to be filled with as many fundraising opportunities as we could find and schedule in. We are grateful that our fundraising goals have not been something we've had to shoulder on our own, with so many of our committed volunteers and supporters who have stepped up to promote our cause, given their time and materials to our events, and even gone out on their own initiative to raise donations. Here are some of the fundraising events that have been completed this summer:

Balloon-Setting for the Northern Ohio Outlaws Cowboy Mounted Shooting Events at the Wayne County Fairgrounds



These unique horse competitions in which the rider guides their horse through a set pattern while shooting blanks at balloons (trying not to miss while also trying to get a fast time) require groups willing to keep filling hundreds of balloons throughout the night, attach them to poles, run tubs of new balloons out to the arena crew, run into the arena to replace popped balloons with new ones after each rider, pick up popped balloon pieces as quickly as possible between riders to keep the arena clear...everyone is constantly in motion! Our group made \$3 for each run, plus a \$25 bonus for



how well we kept balloon pieces cleaned up at the end, so we earned \$295 for our work that night. We also ran a bake sale table that made \$120. The hardworking group was made up of some Stirrup Courage students and their families, some

of our regular Stirrup Courage volunteers, and a large crew from the Hearts and Hooves 4-H club. Many of the volunteers got to experience an exciting event they had never heard of before, and we all got in some good exercise and social time! If that sounds like a good time and you'd like to join us, we are signed up to work another (longer, bigger) mounted shooting event on Sunday, October 9th, so mark your calendar and watch for details this fall!



Good Old Fashioned Lemonade Stand Entrepreneurs!



The very next day after a full night of helping with the balloon setting event (that these girls helped with the full 3+ hours!), I passed by this lemonade stand at their home and swung by to support their efforts...only to find out that they were fundraising FOR STIRRUP COURAGE, all on their own! In addition to lemonade, Marlea baked multiple varieties of delicious brownies, and put together posters about Stirrup Courage for the people who stopped to read. The Hofstetters made \$216 from their little business to donate to our building fund!

Concession Stand Eats



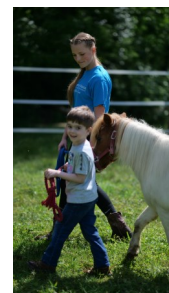
We have one more date scheduled to supply concession stand food for sale at the Wayne County Saddle Club Friday night fun show, August 12. If you have a food item or baked good you could make for us to add to our menu, or could donate items like soda to sell, contact Tara! (330) 749-6933

Summer fun isn't over yet!



After completing the first summer session in June, we have had 16 students continuing into their next riding levels during a second summer session running from July to the beginning of August. Most of these students will be on their 2nd or 3rd class of the session this coming week. And despite busier school schedules starting soon, we already have 21 students signed up to continue with school year sessions starting in August!

If you've been thinking about becoming a volunteer, now is the perfect time to get started as we will have classes of brand new Intro to Horse Care students starting in August, and you can learn about how we introduce the basics of horse handling to children in our program. Contact Director Tara Steiner if interested in getting started!



Horses need to eat—Thanks to our July feed sponsor

We want to recognize new sponsor Maysville Elevator Inc. in Apple Creek for donating 4 bags of Sentinel Senior horse feed to our program to keep our horse team well fueled through the many classes they have been teaching this month!

UPCOMING Event!

We have accepted an invitation to participate in the Hooves and Hounds Fundraiser event at Camp Tuscazoar in Dover, where we will have an informational booth with games and activities for children. We hope some supporters will bring their families out for a fun, pet-filled event, and stop and see us!



Camp Tuscazoar Hoofs and Hounds Fundraiser August 20th 11am-3pm

Bring your pup for a hike and scavenger hunt on the Sippo trail, browse the pet business vendors, vets and trainers. Meet rescue pups, buy a new bandanna, collar or treats. Visit the ponies and petting zoo (camel and tortoise included)! Pony and train rides, Sheriff K9 demo, and more! Photo shoots are available with the animals. Tickets are \$10 basic /\$20 package with sign in required per person/family

(Dogs get in free but must be leashed and well behaved.)

Extra Cash purchase for raffles, rides, snacks and food truck

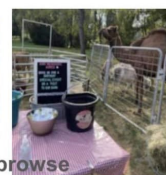
Funds will go to the NEW Camp Tuscazoar Trailhead and parking area.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/camp-tuscazoar-hoofs-and-hound/1596576644035557/>

ONLINE TICKETS SALES: <https://givebutter.com/HandH>

T Shirts:

<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/hoofs-and-hounds-camp-tuscazoar>. Online auction- keep posted!



As always, thank you all for your courageous giving and support!

Tara Steiner, Executive Director — stirrupsupport@gmail.com

