



2023 Summer to Fall Highlights

STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

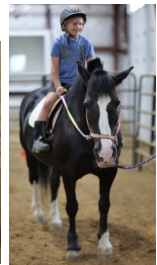
www.stirrupcourage.org

It is hard to believe that we really just completed our FIRST FULL YEAR of running the program in the new facility, and are coming up on the completion of our first 3 years in existence as an organization! The community response and support for what we have to offer has grown in amazing ways over the past year, and we couldn't have done that without all of you cheering us on!



Summer Session Highlights!

- ◆ 39 total kids were enrolled in sessions during the summer, for our biggest season yet!
- ◆ I was able to completely clear the waiting list that had grown over the spring, by getting 19 new kids started in Horse Care groups throughout the summer!
- ◆ We were able to give my first advanced rider the opportunity to complete a year of 4-H and participate in the Wayne County Fair—Go Paysence and Pisto! (shown at right)
- ◆ 19 summer sessions required scholarships, totaling \$1,290 in scholarships given for the summer!



Our BIGGEST THANKS to:



**Orrville Area
United Way**

This Spring I was excited to learn that the Orrville Area United Way would be giving out six Special Summer Grants of \$5,000 each to non-profit organizations that provide services to the Dalton, Marshallville, and Orrville area. Orrville Area United Way focuses funding in the impact areas of Nurturing Children and Youth, Developing Life Skills, Helping in Hard Times, and Promoting Health and Wellness. What we provide at Stirrup Courage could hit all of those target areas, so I jumped into completing the grant application. We were honored to be one of the applicants chosen by the committee, and the \$5,000 grant helped supply our scholarship fund for the many deserving kids this summer, and funded the development of our horse book library corner to encourage our students to read and learn more about a favorite topic outside of class!





A Short but Sweet Legacy

We knew our sweet, gentle Belle was an old girl, but we would have hoped to still have more good years with her. However, as spring moved toward summer, Belle began giving us signs that her old body was nearing the end of its long, full life. I knew it was time to retire Belle from classes and move her to the “retirement pasture” at my home to enjoy some quiet time of grazing and calm companionship with current retirees Glory and Boom-rang. I wanted to give Belle’s donor, Emma (pictured at left), and her mom, Demi, a chance to come spend time with their old girl for what we knew would likely be their last goodbye, before calling in the vet to confirm that the time had come to let Belle go peacefully.



Belle was the first horse donated to our program when we moved into the new barn. Belle was a petite, smooth-gaited mare who helped build confidence in so many of our students in the time she was with us, valued by children for being “just my size,” her ability to stand completely still for grooming, and her slow, calm demeanor that made her an easy first horse partner for any beginner rider. She was exactly what we needed to get our program started with so many new riders and younger children starting out through that first fall and winter indoors, and we are so thankful for all the fond memories so many children will have of her as the first horse they learned how to groom, lead, ride, and love! ❤️ Thank you for your service, sweet Belle!



A Fundraising Family

We are once again grateful to the Mary and Marvin Steiner Family cousins for including Stirrup Courage as one of the charities they chose to raise donations for with their “Steiner Camp” project. In June, the large group of cousins participated in many activities (including groups of cousins who came to participate in some horse care activities and learn what Stirrup Courage is all



about!) which led up to planning, serving, and performing for a Fundraiser Banquet meal to which they invited family, friends, and community members. The youth worked together to cook the meal, decorate the banquet space at Dutch Kitchen, and provide musical and other entertainment throughout the evening, all while highlighting various non-profit causes that are important to different members of the family. At the end of the evening, when the funds raised were divided between the different organizations, Stirrup Courage was gifted \$3,466 to put towards our final building projects! Thank you, Steiner cousins, and everyone who attended and donated towards their event!





Balloon-Filling-and-Setting Experts

It is a HARD day's work full of loud noise, dust, running, and hot sun with no shade, so we are extremely proud of the students, supporters, and volunteers who once again came together to raise money by working at the Northern Ohio Outlaws Cowboy Mounted Shooting event at the Wayne County fairgrounds. This year we did a full

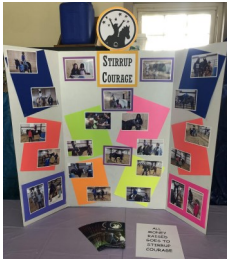
Saturday in June, and by sticking it out from 8am until after 6pm (for those of us who stayed the entire day—the EXTRA committed crew!), our exhausted and dirty group helped to earn \$853 this year! Despite any dragging feet and whining that may or may not happen by the end of the day, our group always receives high praise from the coordinators and competitors for how well they work together and keep the flow of the event moving. So thank you to all these volunteers for representing Stirrup Courage with grit and determination!



SPOTLIGHT on a STAR Youth Volunteer!

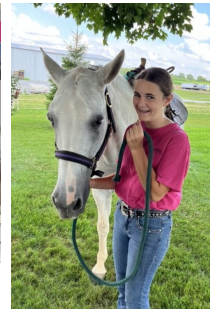
Ellie Shoup is one of the youngest youth volunteers who makes time regularly to assist in weekly classes, sometimes even coming to help with multiple classes in one day over the summer! This summer she went above and beyond when she decided to plan her own fundraiser garage sale and raffle, organizing the basket donation

items for the raffle, baked goods and sale items, plus donating a horse-themed kid's birthday party to the raffle that she would organize and provide for the lucky winner, which was a hot item for raffle ticket sales!



Through the combined creativity of the fundraiser Ellie put together, she raised \$2,315 to donate!

We're so proud to have you as a part of our team, Ellie!



Wrapping up a great year with our final Fall Sessions! 🍁

We finished up the last of our weekly fall sessions before Thanksgiving, and will take our winter break through January. During the break from regular riding classes, I fit in two new 4-week classes of Horse Care students to offer a spot in the program to as many children from our waiting list as I could before the end of the year. So in addition to the 33 students who continued riding lessons through the fall, we have been able to start a class of 4 new elementary age participants, and 4 new teen participants that will finish in December! We are also ending the year with an amazing count of over 50 names on my list of volunteers who made the program happen this year, from class mentors to stall cleaners! Thank you for continuing to spread the word about what we do!





An Outdoor Addition

He might not be a professional carpenter, but when I was wishing this summer for an outdoor run-in shelter so I wouldn't need to worry about the horses and ponies in the pasture when it starts to storm, my husband Denver decided he could come

up with the design himself. He drew it up, calculated the materials he would need, and built a great little shelter that meets our pasture turn-out needs perfectly! One section shelters the minis and ponies on the dry lot, and the other side opens to the large pasture. Thank you husband! :)

Come tour our facility and see what's new at our "DECK THE STALLS" CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE!

Stirrup Courage Equestrian Learning Center would like to again invite our supporters and the community to come see what we have completed over the past year!

**Stop in on Sunday, December 10th,
Anytime Between 1:00-4:00pm**

Tour the facility, meet our horses, enjoy a hot chocolate/coffee bar with homemade baked goods and Christmas sweets, and purchase some raffle tickets for some great prize packages to support our scholarship fund. Bring some kids along to enjoy games, craft projects, contests, prizes, and fun photo opportunities (including pictures with an elf pony or a reindeer horse!)

If you'd like to bring a "barn-warming" gift to earn some raffle tickets, helpful items that we go through on a regular basis include: toilet paper, boxes of tissues, hand soap refills, printer paper, craft paint, mane & tail detangling spray, halters, carabiner clips, water/feed buckets...



Please remember us as you think about end-of-year gifting to non-profit causes that are important to you!

You can find multiple ways to donate online through our GiveButter donation page:

<https://givebutter.com/OKgZHx>

Our PayPal donation link:

paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4463055

Or send a check by mail to: Stirrup Courage, 645 S Kohler Rd, Orrville OH 44667. Your gifts will help sustain our program through the winter months, and fund remaining construction on our heated viewing room for families!

Stirrup Courage, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible (EIN 86-2771772).

We are so THANKFUL for all your amazing support this year!

Tara Steiner, Executive Director — stirrupcourage@gmail.com