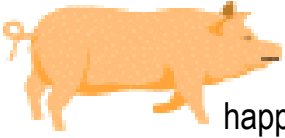


# *Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary*

**Holiday Edition 2014**



happytrailsfarm.org ♦ 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio ♦ 330-296-5914

*Believe...*



**...that together we are making a difference in the lives of many.**

## letter from the director

# Believe...

### Dear Friends of Happy Trails,

That one word pretty much sums up the way we operate at Happy Trails, and there are a lot of things I believe in.

**I believe you and Happy Trails working together to address animal abuse are making an amazing difference in bringing peace and healing to not only animals, but to people too.** Time after time our cases are so closely connected with other violent crimes that for the safety of our communities as well as the humane treatment of the animals, to address animal abuse is a must — no question about it.

**I believe good will persevere, and good things come out of bad situations.** The abused and neglected animals that come through the Happy Trails rescue program not only have the opportunity to receive healing in their own lives, they in turn bring healing to others in many ways — through our Farm Animal Visitation Program where they visit the residents of nursing homes, through the joy they bring to sanctuary visitors and to the volunteers and staff who work with them daily; through the wonderful adoptions that take place when an animal becomes part of a caring, loving family; and through the new support groups and educational programs that are in the works for 2015.

**I believe Happy Trails staff is dedicated.** Just look at the front cover. In the midst of a snowstorm and single-digit temperatures, our Animal Care Giver staff still comes to work on time, makes sure that all the animals receive their food, fresh water, medicine and dry bedding, and walk the horses out to the paddocks for their daily exercise. They take pride in their work and in knowing that lives hang in the balance. The animals are completely dependant on



people for their daily care, and it's our responsibility to take that care seriously.

**I believe when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade.** Though the 2014 February fire was a devastating loss, we continued on, stronger than ever. We not only survived, we thrived. **Life is about overcoming the odds, about believing in the mission, about believing you are meant to succeed.** I believe that the services provided by Happy Trails are absolutely crucial, and that creating an awareness of animal abuse and making sure that our counties address animal abuse is the right thing to do. There is a saying that goes, *"To say nothing, to do nothing, stops nothing."* Isn't that the truth?

**And I believe all of us together are doing amazing work.** Though back in 2000 Happy Trails focus was on rescuing animals, it really evolved to encompass people as well. Helping people connect with animals has brought so much peace and healing into so many lives on both sides of the equation. **I believe Happy Trails is bringing people and animals together in new and positive ways that promotes kindness, compassion and understanding for our furry and feathered friends. I believe together, we are making great things happen, and I am eternally grateful.** I wish for you and your families a kind and compassionate holiday season. Thank you for being a part of the incredible work of Happy Trails.

*With kindness and compassion for  
all animals,*

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Annette".

Annette Fisher  
Executive Director

*(Cover photo by volunteer, Cindy Dilley)*

## Meet Board President, Kevin Bragg

Happy Trails Board President, Kevin Bragg, has played an active role with Happy Trails for about 10 years. He has been involved in everything from animal rescues to community events to fostering horses to construction projects.

Kevin's personal goal is to see the sanctuary continue to grow in the services we provide and the number of animals we are able to rescue. Though he grew up with horses and they are one of his favorite animals, he surprised



*"Looking back over my years with Happy Trails, I am amazed at what our organization has accomplished," said Kevin.*

himself by developing a connection with the pigs. Having adopted an indoor pot belly pig of his own named Dozer, Kevin encourages people to consider pot belly pigs as pets. "Dozer is one of the coolest animals I have ever known," Kevin said. "I wish everyone could see what intelligent, amazing, clean animals they are."

One of the hardest things for Kevin to do is to go on a rescue. "It just kills me to see how people abuse farm animals. Animal abusers do need to be held accountable in court for the suffering they inflict."

Happy Trails is happy to have Kevin serving as President of the Board of Directors for the sanctuary. You can contact him at [kevinb@happytrailsfarm.org](mailto:kevinb@happytrailsfarm.org).



# Planning for a Bright Future — Happy Trails Adds 8 More Acres to the Sanctuary

Monday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup>, was the coldest night of the year so far here in Northeast Ohio. At least it felt like it. In the midst of swirling snow and bitter early-winter winds, the folks from Kiko Auctions set up a folding table in a field on the other side of the road down about 200 feet from Happy Trails. **There were 7.8 acres being auctioned off — a parcel of land that was a mixture of fields and woods, with no buildings on the property.** With it being so close in proximity to the sanctuary, it would be perfect for a number of uses. *Would we be lucky enough to win the bid at the auction?*

Volunteer Bentley Hudson, Board Member Walter Shields, and myself, stood in the semi-circle of people that had formed around the table seeming strangely out of place in the field of snow in the quickly-diminishing evening light. The auctioneer read aloud the legal statistics and facts about the property (which felt like it took forever), as our toes and fingers slowly went numb. **The bidding began, lasted for about fifteen minutes, and before we knew it, Happy Trails was the proud new owner of the land which was purchased for a fair market price of \$28,500 (plus the 10% auction fee added on top of that).**

An amazing and generous supporter has decided to donate the funds for this property purchase, and we are extremely grateful.

Happy Trails has many plans for expansion, and we are in the beginning stages of a series of steps we are taking to continue to become more self sustaining,



to provide additional educational programs, and to expand the sanctuary itself.

While we do have some creative ideas for the use of this property, we will share more details as plans become finalized.

**This is an exciting purchase for Happy Trails, as it marks the beginning of a new era** — a time of new growth, of positive change, of continual improvements in the services we provide and the welcoming of a new time for the sanctuary.

**We are most grateful to our friend and supporter for such an incredible gift — thank you, thank you, thank you!**

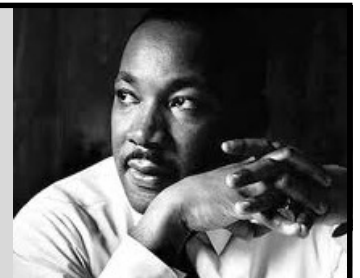
## Be Sure to Check Out:

- Giving Tree Program ... pg. 5
- Rescue and Adoptions pg. 6
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- Winter Animal Care .... pg. 8
- Save the Date for *A Night of Hope and Inspiration* .... pg. 10
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Why should you get involved in animal rescue?  
Consider the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

***“The ultimate tragedy is not the brutality of the bad people, but the silence of the good people.”***

Martin Luther King, Jr.

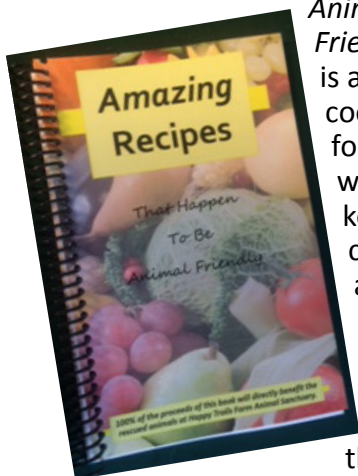


# Amazing Recipes Cook Book

Happy Trails Board Member and recent graduate of Youngstown State, Melissa DeSignore, created a fun, new cookbook for Happy Trails entitled "Amazing Recipes That Happen to be

*Animal Friendly*". This is a great cook book for anyone who likes to keep cooking and baking simple yet tasty.

You can purchase them in the

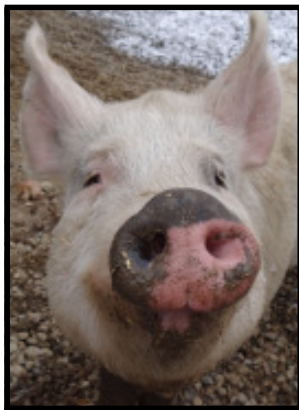


Happy Trails Gift Shop at 5623 New Milford Road in Ravenna, or call the office at 330-296-5914 to have one (or more!) shipped to you. Cost is only \$10 each, with all proceeds benefitting the rescued animals.

Whether you have a meat-based diet, or are a vegetarian or vegan, these recipes are, as the title says, *amazing!* AND, all recipes are animal-friendly — no animal products are used to create these tempting and easy-to-make dishes! What a great gift idea!

**"I highly recommend this cook book. It**

**even tells you ingredients you can use in place of animal products to make your own recipes animal-friendly."** — Willow the Farm Pig



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The car donation form is quick and easy. Simply donate your car, truck, boat, or RV *running or not*. They'll pick up your car donation and process the DMV paperwork at NO COST to you.

Donate your vehicle to the charity that has the ability to sell it for the highest price and generate the most money for charitable causes. At Cars 4 Causes®, they carefully review every donated vehicle and direct it to the best sale channel possible to achieve this goal.

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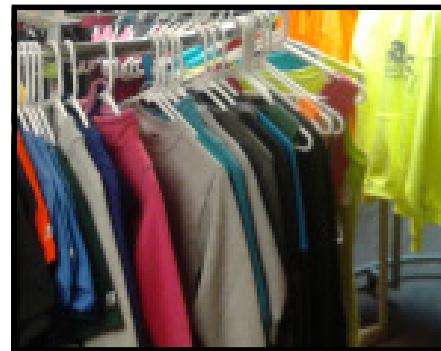


Fridays ..... 10pm - 5pm  
Saturdays ..... 10am - 5pm

Happy Trails Gift Shop, located at 5623 New Milford Road in Ravenna, is open seasonally, and will be open every Friday and Saturday until Christmas.

Happy Trails warm and welcoming gift shop features some great gift ideas just in time for the holidays, such as cozy winter jackets, stylish hoodies, long sleeve and short sleeve t's, women's fashions, polos, and more!

**100% of the proceeds from every purchase will go directly for the care of the rescued animals.**



Other great items such as animal memorial statuary, paintings, photography, and other donated goods are

also available in the gift shop.

For concrete memorials, choose from angel puppies, angel kitties, angel animals on pedestals, heart-shaped stones, and more.

# Happy Trails Giving Tree Program

**Happy Trails Giving Tree Program has expanded this year to 13 locations!**

**This program invites businesses to set up a Giving Tree on behalf of the rescued animals.**

You can either go directly to the store nearest you to participate, or you can choose a store to call and make your donation over the phone with a credit card. Here's how it works:

**1. Select an ornament** (that features a rescued Happy Trails animal) from the Giving Tree. On the back of the ornaments, items from that particular store are listed, such as grain, water buckets, medical supplies, wound care products, joint supplements, etc.

**2. Purchase the item listed on the ornament** and leave it at the store. A Happy Trails volunteer will pick up the donated items weekly throughout the holiday season.

**3. Take the ornament home and proudly hang it on your tree** to remind yourself that you made a huge difference in the life of a rescued animal!

**OR**, if you don't have the time to go to one of the Giving Tree stores, **you can simply choose a store from the list and give them a call.** Donations can be made over the phone with a credit card, which will allow Happy Trails to purchase the items and supplies that we need the most.

**NOTE: Don't forget that these donations are tax deductible.** Leave your contact info at the store and we will mail you a thank you and tax receipt.

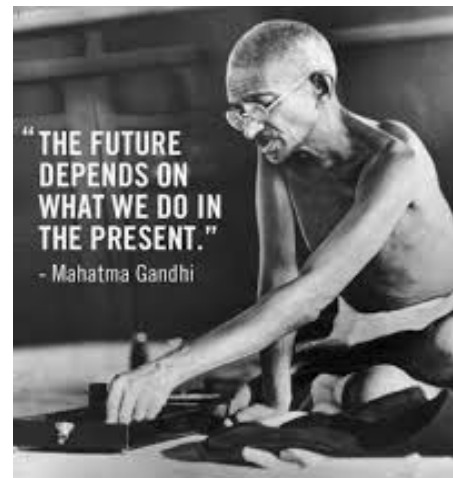
## Happy Trails Giving Tree Stores

- **Appalachian Outfitters**  
60 Kendall Park Rd.  
Peninsula, Oh  
330-655-5444
- **Big D's Tack Shop**  
9440 Rt. 43  
Streetsboro, Oh  
330-626-5000
- **Chagrin Pet, Garden and Power Equipment Supply**  
188 Solon Rd.  
Chagrin Falls, Oh  
440-247-3118
- **Copley Feed**  
1468 Cleveland-Massillon Rd.  
Copley, Oh  
330-666-4741
- **Discount Stable**  
41 S. Cleveland Ave.  
Mogadore, Oh  
330-628-0139
- **Dussell Farms**  
1109 Old Forge Road  
Kent, Ohio  
330-673-5957
- **Falls Feed Store**  
4111 State road  
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh  
330-923-3333
- **Geauga Feed and Grain**  
10418 Kinsman Rd.  
Newbury, Oh  
440-564-44065
- **Pettigrew Feed and Hardware**  
6773 Tallmadge Rd.  
Ravenna, Oh  
330-325-1500



- **Schneider's Saddlery**  
8255 E. Washington  
Chagrin Falls, Oh  
440-543-2700
- **Tree City Feed**  
107 Lake St.  
Kent, Oh  
330-678-3377
- **Western Reserve (Geauga County)**  
12285 Ravenna Rd.  
Chardon, Oh  
440-285-3143
- **Western Reserve (Portage County)**  
467 Cleveland Rd.  
Ravenna, Oh  
330-296-3424

*Many thanks to all of our Giving Tree stores for your support!*





## Recent Rescue

Happy Trails recently assisted the Portage APL with a mass removal of animals from a situation where approximately 80 birds, 7 horses, 28 dogs, and an assortment of cats and chickens were housed.

Many of the horses were severely underweight and in need of proper nutrition. The horses and poultry were placed in the care of Happy Trails, while the domestic birds such as parrots and parakeets were placed in the care of the rescue group called "The Bird Nerds" from Canton, Ohio. The horses have all been placed under proper veterinary care with a monitored nutritional program to help them gain weight.

Horse foster homes are always appreciated for situations such as this when a large group of horses are in need of removal. As a foster home, you can be a short-term foster or a long-term foster. For more information on becoming a foster home for horses or any other rescued farm animals, contact Happy Trails staff member Ashley Kloes at 330-296-5914.



## Caring Kids

One day toward the end of summer, a great-grandmother arrived at Happy Trails along with her three year old grand daughter. The beautiful little girl



proudly handed us this adorable ceramic piggy bank. She had managed to collect about \$5 that she wanted to give to help care for the animals, and she had thought of doing this all by herself. She wanted to do something to make a difference. Keep in mind she was three.

What an incredible world we would live in if all adults were as compassionate as this very serious, very matter-of-fact youngster. We were honored to give her and her great-grandmother a tour that day, and we were also humbled to accept this heart-felt gift from a child who chose to be a part of Happy Trails. What an amazing experience....not just for her, but for us. Talk about inspiring someone to do good. She most certainly inspired all of us with her visit, her generosity, and her already making a difference at such a young age. Thanks to ALL the amazing kids out there who have done something in their own way to help rescued animals!

## Recent Adoptions

**Animal adoptions have been going crazy! Crazy good that is!** Here are some of our furry and feathered friends that we said goodbye to recently. Often we do so with mixed emotions....happy to see them find a family that they can call their own and to know they have that someone special who will love and care for them....sad for ourselves to know that their time in our lives has come to an end and that our job is done. Our role in their life is changing — while they touched our hearts in a monumental way, it's time for them to bring happiness and companionship to their new families.

**Our very best wishes were sent along with: Bowie**, a 14-year-old Appaloosa gelding; **Renaissance**, a 24-year-old blind Appaloosa gelding; **Casino**, a 6-year-old mini pinto gelding; **Graciano**, a 21-year-old National Show Horse; **Calypso**, a 4-year-old female pygmy goat from the Indiana rescue; **Adam**, a cockfighting rooster; a group of **9 Rouen ducks**; **3 California white battery cage hens** adopted to a home in Indiana; and a **California hen** and a **brown hen** adopted together. **To all the people who adopt rescued farm animals — you are our heroes!**





## Euthanasia, the final gift of love

We've all been there. All of us, that is, who have loved and cared for that special animal in our life.

It's easy to get attached to someone who loves us unconditionally.

There's that old joke about putting your wife and your dog in the trunk of your car and opening the trunk an hour later and see which one is still happy to see you. The unconditional love that is showered upon us by our furry, feathered or hairy beasts is often undeserved.

And it seems so unfair that many of the animals who share our lives with us don't live as long as we'd like them to.

Though the hurt of losing someone you love is part of living, you might be able to soften the loss by slightly changing your perspective.

Since the time I started Happy Trails nearly fifteen years ago, I have had the unique privilege of being present with numerous animals as they have crossed the "Rainbow Bridge", as many animal-lovers have come to call the way animals cross over into the world of the spirit. I call it a privilege because being there for someone as they pass on in their journey is indeed an honor as well as a responsibility.

When you love an animal, you want to do what's best for them. Sometimes that decision is hard to make because our selfishness gets in the way. Of course we want them to be with us longer, to continue to be a part of our

lives. That's only natural.

I believe that they are here with us to teach us lessons that are unique to each and every life they touch. Those lessons might include patience or humility. By intently staring at the strange bug crawling across the sidewalk for an amazing length of time, your dog may be teaching you to pay attention to details or to not overlook the little things. As you are flying along at breakneck speed down a trail on a massive, muscled horse that weighs 1,200 lbs, he may be teaching you to trust, or he may be teaching you that it's OK to test your comfort zone. Since you have just obviously placed your life in the hands of a beast who should he choose to not listen to you at any given moment, he could easily launch you skyward like a rocket just for fun. If we're lucky and have done our homework, this lesson turns out well. Sometimes your contented, fluffy, napping cat is teaching you how to take time for yourself, not sweat the little stuff, and that it's OK to have a bit of an attitude now and then just to keep other people on their toes. My two house pigs and my foster pig are always very vocal. I call it singing. Especially in the mornings when the sun comes up and it's time to greet the new day. I have named their soulful rendition "the morning song". They teach me it's OK to break into song when you're happy, and that you never know what treasures you'll find

when rooting through the grass. They teach me to enjoy and appreciate the simple things in life, which in the big picture, may be the most important.

So if we take these lessons with us to help the next animal who crosses our path, what a beautiful tribute to their life they shared with us.

Sometimes we do have to love someone enough to let them go. When they have taught us all the lessons we need to learn, at least from them, then it's their turn to move on in their journey. They have completed their mission here on this earth. However, they continue to be a part of us through our memories and the lessons they taught us.

So, when those animals in our lives become older, overcome with terminal illness or health issues that prevent a comfortable existence and good quality of life, I consider it a final act of love when we come to the decision to help them cross into the world of the spirit with peace, comfort and dignity. It's the last gift we can offer them as our way of saying thank you for having been a part of our lives.

I believe that *all* animals have lessons to teach if we only choose to pay attention, to listen and learn. This includes not only the domestic animals we consider our pets, but the farm animals who are normally looked at only as food, the wild mustangs out west, the wildlife in our back yards, the exotic animals running free, and our feathered friends soaring on the winds.

So be assured that giving that final gift of love is very much appreciated when we help to end their suffering and help them peacefully move on. I believe that one day when it's our turn to cross, those very special animals will be there, happy to see us. They will welcome us and give us the same gifts of comfort, caring, and peace we once gave them when they left us, and they will then give us these back as a welcoming gift.

As an animal rescue worker, I believe there are things worse than death. I have seen them in my many years of witnessing animal abuse and neglect. To help a beloved animal cross, to help prevent suffering, and to be there with one last hug, a gentle pat on the head, a kiss on the cheek, I can assure you that it is very much appreciated. It is indeed, the final gift of love.

# Kudos to our Animal Care Givers who Care for the Animals During Blizzards and Freezing Winter Rains...

Winter came on with a vengeance already this year in early November. The bitter, single-digit temperatures hit us all like a ton of bricks. Weather that we usually don't experience until after the first of the year swooped in and turned North-east Ohio into a deep freeze. In a hurry, winter doors went up, heat lamps came on, and extra straw for warm bedding was delivered by the truckful.

It's hard enough caring for healthy animals that live outdoors. It's even more of a challenge caring for a large number of rescued animals who have special needs and have been abused. Many of the animals we receive are starvation cases. Others have health issues. Some have broken bones. Some have broken spirits. All are worth saving.



*Animal Care Givers fill the water buckets to carry to the shelters and break the ice in the bowls that are frozen, but here's an important note...be sure to not spill the bucket of cold water on the pig who is helping you.*

So I'd like to give kudos to our die-hard Animal Care Giver staff members who brave the elements, don't whine, don't call off work, and do what is necessary to care for those who rely totally on us for their well-being and daily care. Often all you can see of our Care Giver staff is a pair of eyes peering out from between layers of hats and scarves. Sometimes these same eyes are looking up at you after they've taken a good fall on the ice, or are open wide in dismay when they slish a bucket of icy water down the inside of their boot, or are filled with tears as they are carrying a sick animal to a heat source.

I did this job for the first ten years of the creation of Happy Trails, most often twice a day by myself, in weather just like this. I know first hand what these dedicated care givers go through and the self-motivation that it takes to keep going at the end of a shift when you can no longer feel your toes or your fingers and your gloves are hardened with icicles from getting your hands wet carrying water buckets. I know that the thought of any animal who is waiting for food or medicine or dry bedding is what keeps them going. It's not the pay - I can testify to that.

A great deal of physical strength and an emotional connection with the animals is a basic requirement for our crew.

The work required of our Animal Care Giver staff isn't for everyone. If you want to see what it's like to shadow a care giver during their shift in the



*Sometimes we have to get the ice balls off the fur of the draft horses' ankles without getting kicked.*

freezing rain or in the middle of a snow storm, call us at 330-296-5914. We'll make it happen for you. We'll also guess you won't be coming back.

If you truly want to help with feeding this winter, call us to make arrangements to help. Dress warm. Wear layers. Have anti-inflammatories ready for when you get home.

**However, if you don't want to work outside in these miserable conditions and care for rescued animals, remember someone has to! Please consider sponsoring an hour or more of animal care this winter.**

Farm animals live outside. That's all there is to it.

Our Animal Care Giver staff doesn't have a choice other than to suck it up and get prepared every day to battle bitter winds, icy conditions, and deep snow, all while juggling water buckets, feed containers, medications, and bales of hay and straw.

**To help us care for the animals this winter, \$10 will sponsor an hour of animal care.**

It normally takes eight hours per shift (two people *minimum*)



at four hours each) to get all the animals fed, watered, medicated, turned-out or brought in, stalls cleaned, and piggy blankets swapped out as needed. There are now about 200 to 250 rescued farm animals at Happy Trails at any given time.

**Just as \$10 will sponsor one hour of animal care, \$80 will sponsor an entire feeding shift.**

As much as we wish the rescued animals lived indoors where it's heated and comfortable, they don't.

**The dedication that it takes for care givers to arrive at the sanctuary every day, braving the single-digit temperatures while they work through their shifts with uplifting attitudes and friendly smiles for all the animals, is amazing. They do a great job for all of us.**

Thanks for considering sponsoring the care of the animals.



*(Left) Sometimes the only way to get the bale of straw there is to carry it. Our current bales are oversized bales, weighing in at about 75 to 80 lbs. each. To serve as an animal care giver or as an assistant, you definitely need to be strong!*



***"Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me."***

Steve Jobs

## If working outside in single-digit temps is not your cup of ...

**Don't care to get soaked to the skin during dropping temperatures, with fingers so numb you can't feel the feed scoops you are holding?** Not really excited about wading through snow deeper than your boots while carrying heavy water buckets? Not into slipping and falling on the ice with those same water buckets that splash the arctic water all down your leg and inside your boots? *All is not lost!* You can help us care for the animals in the warmth of your home under a cozy blanket with a cup of hot chocolate! Sponsor an hour of care for the animals and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!

**Yes, I would like to sponsor the care of the rescued animals!**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor one hour of animal care for \$10.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am choosing to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ hours of animal care @ \$10 per hour for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am choosing to sponsor an entire shift of animal care of 8 hours @ \$10 per hour for a total of \$80.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

Please charge my

\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_ Am Ex



Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CSC (3 digits on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**MAIL DONATION TO:**  
Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd.,  
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

DEC2014

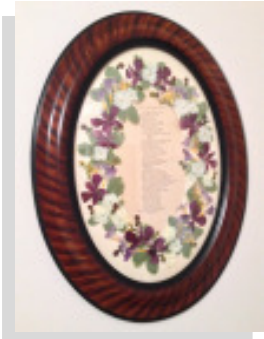
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*flpress@yahoo.com*  
*330-825-6367*

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*“Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected.”*

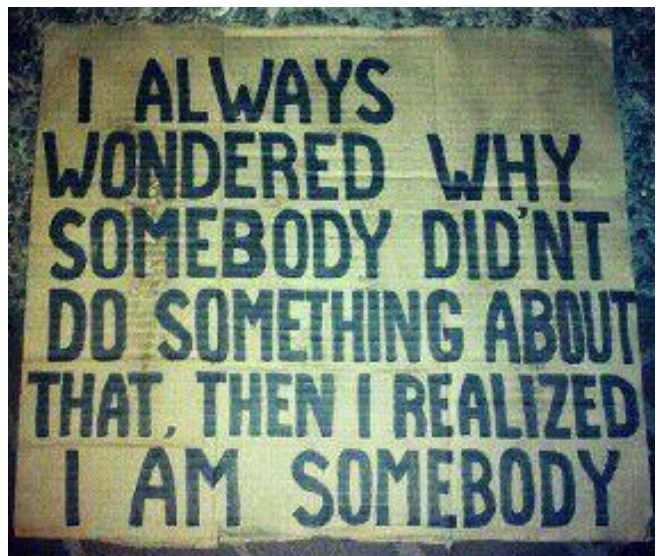
Steve Jobs

## Save the Date — Sat., March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Last year, after the February fire, Happy Trails hosted “A Night of Hope and Inspiration” in March. It was an amazing evening of heart-warming and inspiring stories, music, prizes and games, wine pulls, a Chinese auction, incredible food, and a camaraderie and special connection felt by over 300 guests. Little did we know that “A Night of Hope and Inspiration” would define us and become a yearly event for the sanctuary. It’s a night to not focus on all the bad, sad things that we see daily, but rather to focus on the good, the progress, the positive, the accomplishments, the victories, and the success stories.

Please plan to join us for an uplifting, enjoyable evening with your extended Happy Trails family. Bring friends, family and co-workers, and introduce them to a unique organization that they will definitely want to become a part of.

**Grab your new 2015 calendar now and save the date for Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. “A Night of Hope and Inspiration” will once again be held at Todaro’s Party Center in Akron. Watch the website and upcoming newsletters for details. Tickets will go on sale in December, as we expect the event to sell out quickly.**



**Visit Happy Trails website at  
[www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)**





## ***“It’s all about that bass...”***

**April, a beautiful, young Appaloosa pony, is our featured horse available for adoption.** She is sweet and pretty and a poster-child for the popular Meghan Trainor song that says, *“I’m all about that bass, ‘bout that bass, no treble...”*

April is, well, very solid and has a strong, well-endowed... base. *“Ya, my mama told me don’t worry about your size...”*

Her perfect human companion will love her for simply being the chubby pony that she is *“...cause every inch of you is perfect from the bottom to the top...”*

She was recently returned to Happy Trails after having lived with an absolutely wonderful adoptive home for quite a long time. She is once again seeking a loving, caring family where she can be a great backyard pet and

serve as a companion for another lucky horse.

Beautiful April is not rideable due to health issues from previous neglect, but she will bring joy to your family and would make a wonderful addition to your barn!

Call adoption counselor, Ashley Kloes, for more information at 330-296-5914.

# Thank You!

There is always SO very much for us to be thankful for, and I truly wish we could list every single act of kindness and thoughtful gift that we receive at Happy Trails. We are grateful for the opportunity to work together with so many good and caring people and for the support of thousands of folks who want to make a difference. Here are just a few thank yous to share.

## Thank you to...

- ...the folks at Joan of Arc Church

in Streetsboro for inviting Happy Trails to give a presentation to a very large youth group.

- ...Keith Lepley for donating his time and talents as a professional carpenter to lead a volunteer roofing crew. Keith coordinated the project of putting a new metal roof on the old leaky roof of the horse barn. Also thanks to Keith's volunteers, **Jennifer Smith, James Cooper, and Kevin Bragg**. Keith also constructed overhead beams in one of the horse stalls so we can use our new recovery slings for horses who may be too weak to stand on their own. Keith has been a true guardian angel to the sanctuary!



The beautiful new arena lights were installed thanks to volunteer electrician, Bentley Hudson.

passed away this past year and were so kind and generous to remember us in their wills and estates. We are beyond grateful to these folks for leaving a legacy of compassion: **Margaret Stowoff; Robert Bencin; Edna Carlson** - may we be good stewards of your funds and make you proud!

- ...everyone who attended the **2014 Compassionate Thanksgiving!** We appreciate your friendship and support and are thrilled to say that we had well over 300 people start their holidays this year with a buffet dinner that promoted kindness and compassion for animals.

- ...volunteer retired electrician, **Bentley Hudson**, for doing an amazing job of installing the commercial lighting for our incredible new covered arena.

- ...volunteer **Sandi Tarrant** for doing an equally amazing job keeping the rest rooms and office clean and sanitary.

- ...generous supporter **Ed Reese** for making it possible for Happy Trails to custom design and order a new livestock rescue trailer! This is a huge blessing for Happy Trails, and we are waiting for it to be delivered. The trailer will be 20 feet long, with two front escape doors, additional lighting for night rescues, mats on the floor to prevent slipping, padded walls for safety, three compartments to transport multiple groups of animals, a sliding door in the back, and more. When the new trailer is delivered, we will share all the details and photos with everyone in the next newsletter!

- ...all the golfers who joined us for the August golf outing and to our golf outing event sponsors: **Triangle Pharmacy and Holland Muirden Law Offices. And to the hole sponsors: Novus Eye Clinic, Memorial Animal Hospital, Portage Community Bank, Todaro's Party Center, Jim and Hope Evans, and Jan Valenti.**
- ...our friends and supporters who

Thanks to our friends at

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[www.trianglepharmacygroup.com](http://www.trianglepharmacygroup.com)



## Community Partners Distribute Newsletters

Happy Trails Community Partners Program is simple and is a great way for you to get involved with little effort on your part.

Here's how it works...Whenever a new edition of the newsletter is printed, you agree to have a small quantity of newsletters (maybe ten or so) delivered to your business to be set out in your lobby or waiting room for your clients, customers and patients to read (and take home). If you are part of an organization, we mail a group of newsletters to you to distribute to your members at your next group meeting, That's it! Period! No muss, no fuss.

Happy Trails Community Partners simply help us get our newsletters in the hands of your community.

If you are a business owner, connected to a school, or are part of an organization or group that meets regularly, contact us to get signed up for the Community Partners Program. Call staff member, Hope Evans, at 330-296-5914.

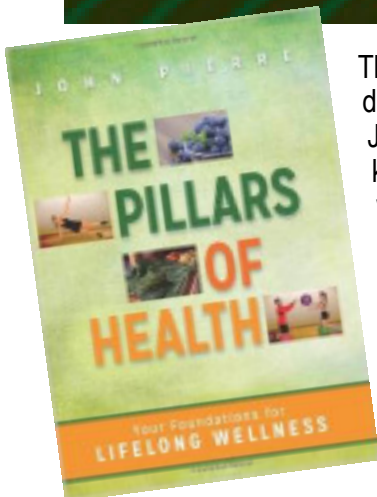


## Board of Directors

There is currently one general spot available on the Happy Trails Board of Directors, and we are now accepting board applications as we search for qualified candidates who may be interested in filling this important role with the sanctuary.

For this general board position, the ideal candidate will possess the eclectic mix of credentials that defines Happy Trails board members, such as being career professionals with corporate awareness while still enjoying the relaxing atmosphere of occasionally meeting under a shade tree with pot belly pigs and mini horses hanging out next to you while chickens run across the picnic table and ducks sit underneath it. This candidate would have experience serving on a non-profit board and be able to bring to the table experience with fundraising and development and the ability to network. Contact Board President, Kevin Bragg, at kevinb@happytrailsfarm.org or call 330-296-5914 for more information if that scene described above made you smile!

## Recommended Reading



The Pillars of Health: Your Foundation for Lifelong Wellness, is John Pierre's latest book. John, known as "Trainer to the Stars", was our guest speaker at the 2012 Compassionate Thanksgiving. He loves Happy Trails, the work we do, and is a great advocate against animal abuse.

Check out his

latest

book on his website at [www.johnpierre.com](http://www.johnpierre.com).

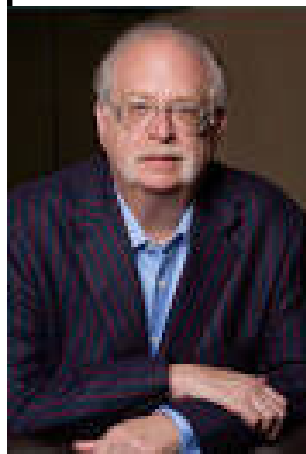
John Pierre

*"Think good thoughts...  
do good deeds."*

[www.johnpierre.com](http://www.johnpierre.com)



[www.gkic.com](http://www.gkic.com)



**GKIC (Glazer-Kennedy Insiders Circle) Provides Information, Training, and Coaching to Help Entrepreneurs Rapidly Grow Their Businesses Through Direct Response Marketing.**

**Dan Kennedy**

**Best business advice ever.** Happy Trails Director, Annette Fisher, is a friend, fan and follower. **Want to succeed in business?**

Check out Dan's marketing books at [www.gkic.com](http://www.gkic.com)

# Attention Seniors — Volunteer with Happy Trails

At Happy Trails we welcome seniors who want to make a difference! Maybe shoveling heavy poo out of horse stalls isn't your idea of the best way to get involved in animal rescue. Never fear — there are a million other very important volunteer opportunities that just might fit the bill!

If you have your own transportation, there are always errands to run — medications to pick up, small animals in pet porters needing transported to their vet appointments, office supplies to buy, going to the printer, dropping off paperwork, etc.

Want to have fun planning some really cool and amazing events? Join in the festivities to help plan our upcoming fundraisers

together with other friendly, outgoing animal-lovers.

Are you a social butterfly and enjoy working with people? Become an assistant tour guide from May through October or volunteer to assist with the new animal-education programs for kids or the new animal assisted support groups for veterans families that are scheduled for this next year.

Write your own ticket! There are so many ways to get involved as a senior volunteer. Let us know your area of interest and expertise, and you can begin working together with Happy Trails to address animal abuse in our communities. Go to [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org) or call us at 330-296-5914.



Bentley Hudson, retired commercial electrician, donates his time and talents not only for electrical needs, but he drives and takes great care of Ol' Blue, Happy Trails dump truck.



**"Pip At The Plate" is a truly wonderful children's book, created exclusively for Happy Trails.**

At only \$5 it's a great stocking stuffer. *Can't make it to the Happy Trails gift shop?* Call us at 330-296-5914 and we'll mail one out to you.

Visit Happy Trails website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org) for info on leaving a legacy of compassion through wills, estates and trusts.



***"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man."***

Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)



We have partnered with **Goodshop** so that now you can feel great about your online shopping! **Goodshop** gives you the best coupons for thousands of stores like Target, Apple, Amazon, Petco and more AND a percentage of what you spend on virtually every purchase is donated to our cause! Plus, with the **Goodshop** app for iPhone and iPad, you can shop, save, and give on the go.

**Save money and help a good cause every time you shop! Check it out:**

[www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com).

*Many thanks to our friends at Cintas for donating hundreds of pairs of gloves for our staff and volunteers.*



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- Flame Resistant Clothing
- Promotional Products



# Ad Space in the Newsletter Now Available

Promote your business or organization while showing your support for the rescued animals and the services provided by Happy Trails!

Happy Trails outreach with our newsletters has grown to nothing short of amazing.

By offering ad space, this is a great opportunity for us to expand the volume of our newsletters and the content. There is SO much more that we can share with you if we were able to send out either larger newsletters or more frequent newsletters — many more animal rescue stories, more sanctuary updates, more examples of people showing kindness and compassion for all animals, more up-to-date information about special events, and more animal-related info in general. Our goal is to turn the newsletter into the Happy Trails magazine!

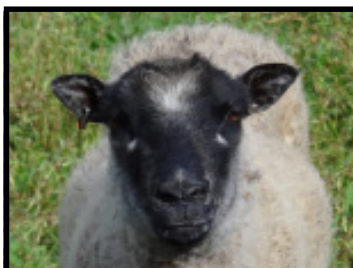
You can either provide art for the ad, or we can put together an ad for you at no additional charge.

We reserve the right to refuse any ad that promotes animal cruelty through the use of fur, leather, animal products, animal testing, or animals used in food production.

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"*



Martin Luther King, Jr.



*"I highly recommend you like us on Facebook! I would also like to encourage folks to take out an ad in the Happy Trails newsletter so we can send you a bigger publication. The more you know, the more you care. And that's no so baaaaaaad."*  
— Blanche the sheep

## Newsletter Statistics and Facts

Currently newsletters are published bi-monthly. For each issue there are:

- Approximately 5,000 hard copies direct mailed to supporters
- 1,000 hard copies distributed via lobbies, waiting rooms, organizations, community events
- Every issue of the newsletter is posted on the Happy Trails website and kept on the website for archives. You can check out issues going back to 2004, so your ad has longevity.
- The newsletter is always posted on Happy Trails Facebook page and our friends in turn post it on theirs. We currently have well over 5,200 likes.
- There are over 7,000 people on our email list who receive a direct notice when the newsletter is posted on the website.
- If you were to purchase a quarter page ad and reach *only* the 4,500 people who receive the hard copy of the newsletter, you would be reaching each of those people at almost three cents per person. And that doesn't include all the other people you reach electronically via our internet and social media.
- Though the newsletters are printed in black ink on either white or a colored paper, the newsletters on the website and on social media are posted in color at no additional charge. So you are welcome to submit a color ad if you feel it will reproduce well in black ink only also.

## Ad Sizes/Costs

We are offering three sizes of advertising spaces.

¼ page — \$125

½ page — \$225

full page — \$425

*A 10% discount is given for prepayment of 3 issues.*

## Ad Dimensions

¼ pg = 3½" x 4 7/8"

½ pg = 4 7/8" x 7 3/8"

full page = 7 3/8" x 10"

## How to Place an Ad

It's simple!

- Grab your cell and call the Happy Trails office at 330-296-5914 to request an ad order form be emailed or faxed to you.



- You can also email us at [info@happytrailsfarm.org](mailto:info@happytrailsfarm.org) and request a form. Or you can fill out an order form from the website at [happytrailsfarm.org](http://happytrailsfarm.org)

- Fill out the form and send it in along with your payment and any artwork you want included in your ad.
- You can provide artwork or we can design an ad for you at no additional charge.

**Have more questions?**

**Call the Happy Trails office at 330-296-5914.**

# A Tribute to Peaches, Gaia and Willis, Pot Belly Pigs

**Sometimes an animal touches your life, sometimes for only a fleeting moment, others for a long extended season. Recently we lost three beautiful souls who passed on for various reasons. We'd like you to know them as we did.**

**Peaches** came to Happy Trails many years ago as one of nine babies who had born to a mother pig who passed away. Happy Trails was asked to take in the new babies, and we did, bottle feeding constantly. Peaches was adopted by a family who returned her to the sanctuary when she was about a year old, and she lived at Happy Trails ever since. Peaches, a big, beautiful, chubby black piggy was known for her easy going and laid-back personality. She was friendly and kind to everyone she met. While she didn't have the good fortune to have been adopted a second time, we had the good fortune of having her in our lives. She began to have some serious health issues, and was sent to OSU in



Columbus for diagnosis and treatment. While coming out of anesthesia, the unthinkable happened and her trachea collapsed. Everything happened in a matter of seconds, and though the OSU vets worked quickly to try to save her, the piggy unexpectedly passed away. The news was devastating to all who knew her, and she will always hold a special place in many hearts.

*page 16*

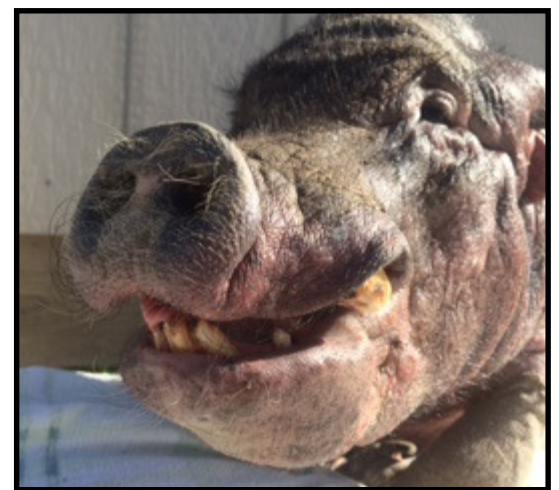
**Gaia** (the name meaning goddess of the earth, for her favorite thing in life was to lay in muddy dirt and puddles) was a very sweet, pink pot belly pig who came to Happy Trails from a rescue



situation in Indiana. We were thrilled to have her with us, as she was friendly, curious, inquisitive and loved traveling in the back seat of the logo truck with Ashley Ehmann and myself as we drove back from the Elkhart, Indiana humane society. Though she seemed to be settling in well, in a short period of time she began to not be able to move about. Moving seemed to be very painful, and she, too, was taken to the vet hospital at OSU in Columbus for radiographs. X-rays showed a great deal of arthritis that was now affecting her spine and pressing on her spinal cord. Sadly, there was no realistic surgery to eliminate the condition and no amount of pain killers seemed to bring her any comfort. The tough decision was made to let her go. It didn't seem fair that this wonderful little pig was finally rescued from a horrible situation, only to not be able to enjoy a life of care and love for very long. We decided to look at the positive, and

focused on the fact that we loved her and she knew it. Though she wasn't at the sanctuary more than a matter of weeks, she touched many lives and brought people together from two states as we cooperated with each other to coordinate her rescue.

**And then there's Willis.** Ah, Master Willis. We had taken to calling him Master Willis because he seemed to command respect. Willis came to Happy Trails way back in the beginning when we still accepted owner surrenders. Some caring people helped some un-caring owners agree to give up the little guy, and with great dignity he walked down a horse trailer ramp in the driveway and smack into our hearts. I had tried for the longest time to get Willis to grow hair, until finally the vet pointed out to me that Willis was a breed of hairless pig. I am saying this with all due respect - he looked like a little miniature hippopotamus. He was never chosen by a family to be adopted, so all of us were his family. 90% of the people connected to Happy Trails knew Willis, and most of them sat with him and gave him the obligatory belly rubs at one time or another. In his earlier days he would often bite people just for fun. For some reason, I wasn't one of those people. Not being intimidated by the pigs I dearly love, Willis probably

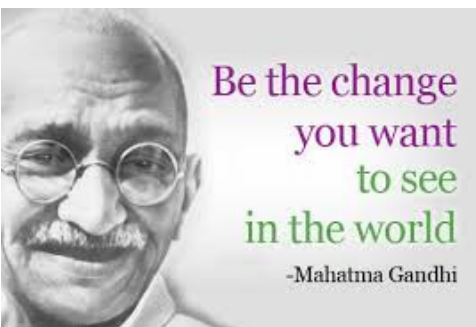


thought I was just too dumb to be afraid of him, so what was the use? At nearly 17-years-old, Willis finally had something take a hold of him that none of us could fix...old age. His legs were extremely bowed with arthritis, his one leg swelled up horribly and he



underwent leg surgery at the vet hospital. He continued to go downhill after the surgery and it became increasingly difficult for him to stand on his own. On his last day on this earth the weather warmed up and it was a gorgeous day. That afternoon he motored his way outside into the bright sunshine and laid on a blanket, surrounded by several of his human friends. He scooted around so he was facing the sun, and we spent precious time together. Opinionated. Grumpy. Adorable. All words to describe Master Willis. That day and the next day, before the vet arrived to perform the euthanasia, a multitude of people brought Willis his favorite treats — pumpkin, Oreo cookies, apples, pie, you name it — if he ever liked it, it was there for him. Eight of us took turns hugging the little man and professing our love and appreciation for him before he crossed into the world of the spirit. If only every animal in this world could be so loved. During his 13 or so years at Happy Trails, Willis touched many lives, bit many staff members, and brought smiles to many faces. You couldn't help but love him.

So while we are sad to say our final goodbyes to these amazing little creatures, we are also grateful that they touched our lives in such big ways. They were all great teachers, and the lessons we needed to learn were there for us should we choose to open our eyes and accept them. So to Peaches, Gaia and Willis, hopefully some day when it's my turn to cross, I hope you'll all be running up to greet me and take that walk with me across the Rainbow Bridge too. Thank you all for having been a part of the Happy Trails family and for having touched so many lives. May you now be rooting up treasures that only you will find!



## Happy Trails Secret to Success — Use Real Talent Hiring

One of the challenges that faces every business or organization, but is especially challenging in the combined world of non-profit organizations and animal rescue, is hiring the right people for the job. There are so many people out there with hearts of gold who want to make a difference, but it still takes skill, expertise, and the right fit to bring every individual together as a team that represents your organization in the most professional and effective way possible.



*“Understanding how your potential hire thinks and makes decisions is THE key difference in hiring accuracy, training and team development... ultimately, your success.”* Jay Henderson

Happy Trails secret to finding the right folks is our connection with Real Talent Hiring, and the guidance and direction provided to us by Jay Henderson, Founder.

Not only do we use Real Talent Hiring to help us assess potential new hires, we also had an amazing experience with Jay and team building exercises for our current key staff members. Understanding each person's individual dynamics, how they think, how they reason, and how they give and receive information, is crucial to a synchronized and cohesive management team.

As Happy Trails continues to grow and develop, one of our goals is to continue to bring the best people on board to serve you, our community partners who are donors and supporters. We don't

want to hire good people. We want to hire the *best* people. We want Happy Trails to continue to succeed, and to provide the best and most professional animal rescue services and community outreach programs possible. We are confident that with Real Talent Hiring and Jay as our guide, we will excel in doing exactly that.

Whether you are a business owner, a leader in a non-profit organization, or are in charge of hiring and firing for your company, take five minutes of your time and check out the Real Talent website. Jay can help you identify potential candidates that will fit your needs as well as create a dynamic team building exercise so that your current staff can communicate and operate more effectively.

At Happy Trails we try our very best to be excellent stewards of our precious funds. We are very protective of our donations and how they are spent. Real Talent has saved us both time and money with our hiring practices. Budgeting to use the services of Real Talent Hiring has saved us thousands of dollars. Check them out and then give Jay a call. Tell him you'd like his help with hiring the right staff or that you want to work on team building for your current staff. You won't find any staff assessment programs better than Jay's.

*Real Talent* is dedicated to helping you take the guesswork out of people performance using the Real Talent System — the only objective metric system of its kind in the world.

**The Real Talent “No Risk” Guarantee**

We guarantee this amazing system will block over 80% of your risky hires — or it's FREE.

**Jay Henderson, Founder**

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## HOLIDAY GIFT SPONSORSHIPS — Give The Gift of Life!

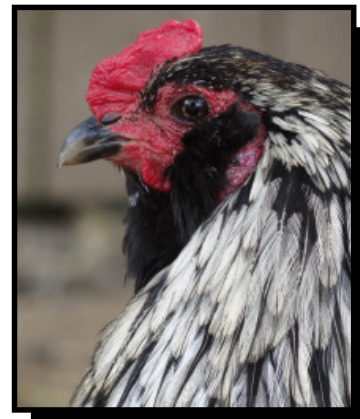
### Solving the “What do we get them?” Dilemma!

#### Put some fun into your gift-giving!

*Farm animal sponsorships can be a fun way of giving something very unique to that special or hard-to-buy-for someone and at the same time, show your compassion for rescued animals!*

- Select the type of rescued animal that you would like to “give as a gift”.
- Fill out this form and mail it as directed (or call us at 330-296-5914).

The gift-recipient will receive a gift-sponsorship package, including a full-color photo, and facts about the rescued farm animal. Details include feed, bedding, shelter, medical, and other items associated with the special needs of that particular rescued animal.



*And, your gift-recipient will also be invited to the sanctuary to meet their sponsored animal in person!*



### FARM ANIMAL GIFT SPONSORSHIP

My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (home/cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 email address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor a rescued animal as a gift for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 email address \_\_\_\_\_



#### Want To Charge It?

Use PayPal on our website at [happytrailsfarm.org](http://happytrailsfarm.org), charge by phone at 330-296-5914, or include the coupon below!

Please charge my \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard

TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC (3 digits on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to send a gift sponsorship for the following type of rescued animal(s). Please send their name, story, information sheet, and a special invitation to visit them to the person above!*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Horse \$75   | <input type="checkbox"/> Goat \$40                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse or Mini \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pot Belly Pig \$35            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Pig \$40      | <input type="checkbox"/> Goose/Duck \$30               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep \$40         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken (Hen or Rooster) \$20 |

Please return sponsor form and donation to:  
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary  
5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary • [happytrailsfarm.org](http://happytrailsfarm.org) • 330-296-5914



# Acme Community Cash Back

Be sure to save your Acme receipts and mail them to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266.



The Acme Community Cash Back program allows non-profit organizations to save and turn in Acme receipts in bulk at certain times throughout the year. Acme Fresh Market then issues a rebate check equal to 5% of the Cash Back amount printed at the bottom of the receipt. **For this session, they will accept receipts dated from Sept. 18, 2014 through Feb. 4, 2015.**

# Happy Trails Recycles Aluminum Cans

Cans, cans, cans, and more cans, are what brings extra \$\$\$ to the sanctuary for the rescued



animals. Save your pop cans, beer cans, and anything else that is aluminum, and drop them off at the Happy Trails office. The heaping mound of bags of aluminum cans and other misc. items are taken to a recycle plant and while we are helping to save the environment, we are also bringing in some additional income for the sanctuary!

## DONATION INFORMATION

12-2014

### I am enclosing.....

\$10    \$25   \$55    \$75    \$125    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Please accept this donation:

- To be used where needed most
- For the follow specific needs:



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed
- Please charge my \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC (3 digits on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

- Donate on-line via PayPal at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)
- Call in your charge card information to Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

12-2014

Return to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary  
5623 New Milford Rd. Ravenna, OH 44266

### Want to become a *monthly* donor?

Simply fill out the donation form above and include this coupon!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to support the work of Happy Trails on a monthly basis.

Please charge my credit card each month in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me pre-addressed envelopes so I can send in a monthly check.



*“People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.”*

- Apple Computers



(left) High school student, Zach Jones, volunteers because he wants to make a difference.

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[happytrailsfarm.org](http://happytrailsfarm.org)



*Chapman, a handsome retired Amish Standardbred, just arrived at Happy Trails and needs a home for the holidays. Call 330-296-5914 for adoption information.*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## *Ivy Gives Rescued Animals a Home in Time for the Holidays*

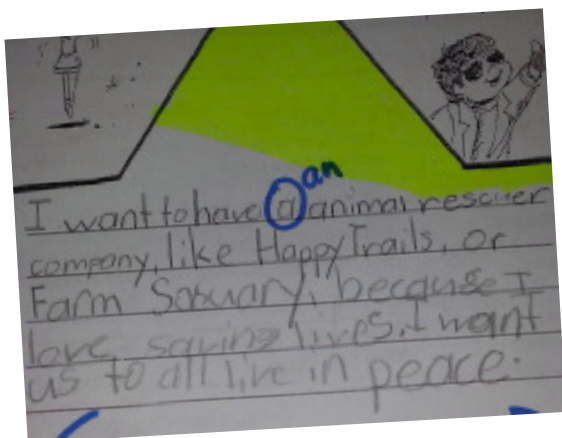
Maribeth Cunningham Kalbach, mom of 8-year-old animal-lover, Ivy, together with her daughter adopted several rescued hens from Happy Trails, just in time to give them a wonderful, loving home for the holidays. Ivy simply adores her feathered friends, and her hen, Hoot, who she is holding in the photo, needed some buddies. Maribeth and Ivy picked out a copper-color hen they named Penny, and a white hen they named Liberty. At such a young age, Ivy is already making a difference in the lives of rescued animals. Her heart-



felt letter (left) that she gave to Happy Trails says it all. We just had to share...

*"I want to have an animal rescuer company, like Happy Trails, or Farm Sanctuary, because I love saving lives. I want us all to live in peace."*

If only adults could sometimes think with the insight of a child. Well said Ivy...well said.



## Our Mission

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and provides an adoption program for abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals such as horses, ponies, potbelly pigs, farm pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, sheep, goats, and cows. Happy Trails serves the entire state of Ohio and any other state requesting our help, and works in cooperation with county humane societies, animal protective leagues, and local and state law enforcement officers. Animals in our program must have been removed from a situation of abuse, neglect or abandonment by law officials, and cruelty charges must be filed against the person(s) responsible for the crime.