

MAY 2022

GROUNDED IN HOPE

Newsletter from Memory Lane Farm, Inc.

Cultivating Hope

BETH ZARNKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The concept of mentoring at the farm has been in the Wolf family since Mike and Mae Wolf (my grandparents) entered the scene in the late 1920's. Little did they know the impact for future generations of being the safe place of refuge, support and encouragement. They were treasure hunters, looking to find the little nugget of hope and strength within the children and adults who came to stay at their farm.

Years later, their son (Martin Wolf) would again speak of the impact that mentoring at the farm brought to those who were down trodden. Our initial plans to host a farm-based after school mentoring program was dashed due to the pandemic, God opened new doors. We could invite hurting children, teens, adults and families to the farm to provide individual support, encouragement and direction.

July 2020, "Cultivating Hope" was born (again) While this new model, children wouldn't live at the farm, the concept remained the same as nearly 100 hundred years before. Listen, love, teach, guide, problem solve, encourage, laugh and look for the inner treasures of each person, became our informal guide.

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Cultivating Hope, Cont.

Little did we know that in less than two years, Cultivating Hope Mentoring program would become one of our most sought after programs at the farm. During the spring, summer and fall, we host individual mentoring sessions using all aspects of the farm. As a holistic approach to healing and growth, parents of minors are required to participate as well. We had no idea when we implemented this, how impactful their presence would become.

Twelve weekly sessions are held for 90 minutes consisting of recapping the high and low lights of their week, chores, projects, nature walks, crafts, and the most impactful element of the program, working with the horses and other farm animals. Our "Wranglers", as our clients are affectionately called, generally have struggles with confidence, anxiety, depression, relationships or social skills. We tailor individual sessions around their specific goals to work toward success.

Although we are not professional therapists or counselors, the horses and farm animals, along with the peaceful environment, focusing on strengths, hope and the future are all therapeutic in nature.

Our Wranglers come to us through referrals through local therapists, Wood County Human Services, pastors and other professional sources. This summer we are expanding the reach to also include private individuals, who are not yet connected with other formal services.

At the end of our 12-weeks, many of our Wranglers graduate, however we are looking at the next level in programming to continue their growth. One aspect of their success is identified when they are ready to serve/volunteer in their community. Many of our Wranglers return to the farm to assist in special events, mentoring and other projects. We feel blessed to know that the treasures they hold within themselves are now shared with us and the community!

Hope
anchors
the
SOUL

Hebrews 6:19





TESTIMONY

Hi, I'm Becky! I'm 19 years old and was introduced to Memory Lane Farm's Cultivating Hope Mentoring program last summer. I was struggling with self-confidence and had a lot of social anxiety, which included difficulty in making eye contact and being nervous in groups.

The staff at Memory Lane Farm were so interested in me and viewed me as a person, a daughter, sister, artist, writer, ferocious reader, animal lover... not a person with Autism. Spending time at the farm helped me learn more about body language, (both human and horse!) and grow my confidence in social situations. I was challenged to step out of my comfort zone when meeting new people, and working on making intentional eye contact. The staff encouraged me to dream of my future, talk about my hopes and helped me make tangible goals. They also helped me to see that we all have setbacks in life and how to rise above them.

I felt so welcome at the farm and it helped me grow my confidence. With my newfound confidence, I was able to begin volunteering at the farm which helped me build a sense of belonging in the community, and gave me more opportunities to prove myself in ways I never would have imagined.

I have met many wonderful people through Memory Lane Farm and I am so grateful to have been part of the Cultivating Hope Program. I graduated from the program and am now a regular farm volunteer and also volunteer in the community!

- Becky



Aspiration

**Great
accomplishments
start with great
aspirations!**



Meet Our New Board of Directors

John Draxler, President

John and his wife, Joy, have been involved with MLF since AgriVenture Farm Camp was just a dream in 2017, participating on the original planning team. John is retired from the Army and is currently self-employed restoring automotive and other antique restoration work. While in the army, John served as a Military Police Officer for 9 years and a Paralegal for 12 years. He was a firefighter, First Responder, and EMT for 15 years with the Hewitt Area Volunteer Fire Dept.. John currently volunteers with the Red Cross and Salvation Army. John enjoys blacksmithing and amateur radio. At AgriVenture, John is the woodworking leader, enjoys helping kids learn new skills and looks forward to camp every year!



Teresa Derfus, Vice President

Teresa attended UW-Eau Claire and earned a bachelor's degree with majors in journalism and psychology. She spent 14 years working for newspapers and was employed at Marshfield Clinic for 30 years, her whole career in Marketing/Communications. She is a member of Marshfield Rotary Club, serving on various committees including Rotary Winter Wonderland. Teresa has part-time job at Soup or Socks, a food and clothing pantry in Marshfield. She is also active at St. Andrew's Church in Rozellville in choir, lector, parish council, and assisting in finance. She volunteers at the VFW in Stratford. Teresa has two adult children, Josh and Kathryn, and two wonderful grandchildren, Abram and Abigail. She is honored to be a part of this board of people, all who are very knowledgeable, compassionate and dedicated to helping people.



Paula Hensel, Secretary/Treasurer

Paula Hensel is a DNP for Family Health Center Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centers in Central and Northern WI. Prior to becoming a nurse practitioner, she was a staff nurse in the settings of the emergency department and public health. She also has over 25 years of prehospital EMS, fire and rescue experience. Paula has been volunteering at MLF since 2018 alongside her daughters; Hannah (18), Maddy (16) and Grace (13). Her daughters bring the rabbits often seen at MLF events. She loves the spirit of AgriVenture Farm Camp and is looking forward to helping with this summer's camp!



Lookin' Back, Mooovin' Forward

DAIRYFEST CELEBRATION 2022

We hope you are as excited as we are for summer to arrive! This year, Memory Lane Farm has a new opportunity to participate in a community event: Marshfield's Dairyfest Parade! We'd love for you to help us celebrate on Saturday, June 4th. The parade begins at 11 AM. It's been a couple years since the parade has been held, plus it's the 150th centennial to celebrate too! If you attend, be sure to watch for our red wagon and our mini horses, Coco and Cricket! We are looking forward to this new experience. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Fun:

- Saturday, June 4 - Marshfield's June Dairyfest Parade Participant
- Tuesday-Thursday, June 7-16 - AgriVenture Farm Camp
- Thursday, June 24 - Wood County Foster Care Event

AgriVenture Farm Camp 2022

We are so excited to welcome campers back for the 5th Anniversary of AgriVenture! With new additions to the gardening and animal stations, it is sure to be a fun-filled 6 days. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and next month's newsletter for an update!



**Yes! I believe in the mission of
Memory Lane Farm, Inc.
Here is how I can help:**

Sign me up to volunteer:

- Mentor (Cultivating Hope Program)
- Horse Handler (Cultivating Hope Program)
- Camp Volunteer
- Special Events
- Other (please list): _____

Please mark above, then complete the name & address portion below or visit www.memorylanefarm.org/volunteer

I'm happy to donate - use my donation for:

- Use it where it is needed the most
- Scholarships for programs

Payment Method:

- A check payable to Memory Lane Farm Inc. or MLF for \$ _____

Donations may be sent to: Memory Lane Farm, Inc.,
8640 Heritage Drive, Marshfield WI 54449

- Donations may also be made online at www.memorylanefarm.org

Please make my donation a gift:

- In honor of: _____
- In memory of: _____

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Partner Program

Email: Memorylanefarm86@gmail.com
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