



Life is full of surprises. While things don't always work out the way we anticipate, things will always work out. And sometimes when things are going particularly wrong, it is nice to remember all the things that are in life that are right...

**Out with the old and in with the New!**

New barn - it appears at this point that we will not be moving to the barn in Eighty Four that we anticipated moving into. While this news is, quite frankly, heart breaking to me, I am hopeful that something better will come along. So, as they say, back to the drawing board.

Our newest pony, Cowboy arrived at the barn in early June. Cowboy is a 16 year old 14.3 hand quarterpony that was donated by Deb from Clinton, PA. He is wonderful. He is great with the kids and great in our new horsemanship classes. We are very fortunate to have him in our program.

Coming soon...

Granny is an older mare that is being donated by a family from Maryland.

Arnbro (donation pending) is a 15.3 hand older Standardbred that is being donated to us.

Oldies, but goodies...

Jack will be returning to the program once we secure a new facility.

Morning Star has given us some additional lesson times. Thursday night lessons are now available from 6-9 p.m. You can make up missed lessons at this time. We are accepting new students to fill this lesson time.



**Spotlight**

This edition's Spotlight is on....

Our family.....

In-Stride has been in operation since 2006. Since that time we have made many wonderful friends. There have been so many people that have made our program a success. People have been very generous to our program and this has greatly helped us to be able to continue to do the work we do.

First and foremost are our riders. Without you, we would have no

reason to give our lessons. Some of our riders have been with our program since the beginning. They have followed us from Washington, to Coal Center and currently South Park. When I advised the parents of our riders that we had plans to move, they all said “Just tell us where to go”. It is so wonderful to have such a wonderful group of riders and parents to work with.

Second is our volunteers, without every one of you, we couldn't do what we do. We have a very dedicated group of individuals and I am so thankful to each and every one of you.

Next is our Board of Directors. Our Board is comprised a diverse group of people who are always there when a decision needs to be made. They offer guidance, keep us on track, and give their expert opinions. We couldn't have the program that we have without their input. In addition to attending Board meetings, these people donate their skills to help us to be successful, from accounting to legal advice to vet questions, they donate their expertise to keep us running in the right direction.

There are also a few people who have been supportive of our program that I would like to mention.

Bill Carnegie – Bill is a massage therapist who has been truly a blessing to us. A few years ago, a horse was donated to us that had severe medical problems. To help keep this horse comfortable, we solicited the help of Bill through his

massages. Bill has greatly attributed to this horse's ability to continue to be alive. In addition to all the assistance Bill gives us with the massages, Bill has also become our horse transportation. Bill always makes time to move horses for us, whether it is taking them to a show, or picking up a new horse, Bill is there to help. Many times I have called him on a Thursday to move a horse on Saturday. I am so thankful to have Bill as a part of In-Stride's family.

Canon Hill Veterinary Clinic – I can't say enough about Canon Hill. They are very helpful, take our every concern to heart, give us very professional advice without berating our emotional attachment. Again, I can't imagine what we would do without the kindness and understanding we receive from the vets at Canon Hill.

We also have an individual who is providing support and care to two of our horses. One is severely ill and one is on the verge of retirement. This person stepped in and for over 2 years has provided full support for our ill horse. In addition to the great care this person has given, and the monetary support, this person also helps out with some of our volunteer training, my training and our horse training. Again, we would not be able to do what we do without this person's dedication and support.

There are also numerous other people who have contributed in many different ways. Mostly it is the support and understanding we get from these individuals that is so

helpful and necessary to be successful. I feel we are so blessed to have these people in our program's family.

If you would like more information about In-Stride, please contact [dflaherty@hotmail.com](mailto:dflaherty@hotmail.com) or (412) 302-5393.

As always, we can use volunteers, for interest in volunteering, please contact [instride@hotmail.com](mailto:instride@hotmail.com).

### **Fundraising News**

Ansys Tickets for Charity – we will again be participating in the Mylan Classic Tickets for Charity Program. You may order tickets from the fundraising tab of our website. We will receive the entire cost of your tickets. Every ticket sold and allocated to In-Stride is one more lesson for a child that may not otherwise have been able to afford to take one. What do you get for your \$25 ground pass ticket? Entrance into the Mylan Classic for the entire week, clinics, special events and the concerts (Country Star Craig Morgan is expected to perform – will confirm at a later time). If you would like access to the club house, you can purchase a clubhouse ticket for \$50, this gives you access to the above plus the clubhouse. There is a discount for purchasing a 10 pack of tickets.

Donations: We are always in need of donations. Your contribution can provide reduced cost lessons for students, health care for horses and much needed equipment. All

donations are tax deductible. You can also sponsor a horse and/or a student. We are also in need of tack and barn supplies. If you are interested in making a donation, please check our website wish list to see how you can help.



### **Reflections from the director....**

While I am very sad that our move did not work out, I have faith that there is something better in store for us. I have begun searching for a new location and I am very optimistic that the right barn will come along.

On a different note, we have begun Friday Night Horsemanship. This is a program I had hoped to start at the new barn, however, time's a wastin'. So I talked to Morning Star Stables and was able to get started. We started on June 24<sup>th</sup>. What is Friday night Horsemanship, you might ask? It's an opportunity for our volunteers to work with the program horses outside of the lessons and to develop better skills at horse handling. Through horsemanship, you build a relationship of respect and love with your horse. Our volunteers are learning to effectively communicate with horses, to be better horse handlers and to develop a wonderful relationship with our

equine partners. We are all learning and while some times it can be quite overwhelming, nothing beats the “aha” moment when horse and human truly understand one another.

As part of this learning program, volunteers have been paired up with lesson horses. We have volunteers who have no horse experience up to volunteers that have been exposed to horses for years. We also have horses who have some previous knowledge, as well as horses who have no idea what is going on. It makes a very interesting learning environment. At this point I am not sure who is learning more, the horses or the humans.

I personally am learning quite a bit. I have chosen to work with a horse, Casper, who actually is not a program horse and belongs to the owners of Morning Star. Casper is a very young, green horse. I am also trying to guide everyone and pass on what I have learned to the other participants. This has become quite the juggling act – young horse, blind leading the blind teacher, several other horses and distractions in the arena- it probably looks more like a mess most of the time. I can honestly say this has been an Equine Assisted Learning experience for me. I am also learning or relearning to connect with horses. (Which, by the way, is one of the greatest feelings in the world.) It is so amazing when you ask a horse to do something and you think “am I doing this right”, “why isn’t he getting this” and then you make a small adjustment and the horse says “ok, I get it now and he does what you

ask” The feeling of connectedness is so amazing.

I wish all horse owners realized how valuable this connection to your horse truly is. I also wish all horse owners could come to realize that horses will do what you ask without brute force, fancy gadgets, etc. if you learn how to ask them properly.

I hope to be able to share these experiences with others and hope that if you are reading this and you work with horses, that you will consider checking out some of the horsemanship information out there (assuming you haven’t already)

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, until next month...

*Dana Flaherty*

#### **Volunteer News:**

We have a very wonderful group of Volunteers and quite a few new faces this year. I am thankful for every one of you and hope you are enjoying the ride as much as I am.

As Always volunteers are needed for more information contact [instride@hotmail.com](mailto:instride@hotmail.com)

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Holly Stabile, Esquire  
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In-Stride is always in need of horse  
tack and supplies, donate today!  
Check our wish list for the items we  
need.

