





MARYLAND CERTIFIED FARM BASED EDUCATION

"Where Freedom Is Just A Ride Over The Hill"

P.O. Box 222, Port Deposit, MD 21904 410.378.3817 | freedomhills.org

TOUGH TIMES, GREAT TIMES

I am sure many of you remember from our annual campaign letter that Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program went through a very long Summer and Fall with some very sick horses. They contracted a very contagious disease called strangles. Despite all of the excellent care we gave them as well as our bio security measures our Veterinary bills were well over \$15,000. Additionally, because we could not allow people to come to the farm to ride the horses, we also experienced a significant loss of income. We are slowly getting back on our feet. Thank you to everyone who donated to our 2019 Annual Giving Campaign. At this point, we still have a \$10,000 balance on our credit card due to veterinary expenses. Not to mention our usual expenses from the day to day operation.

With the strangles pretty much behind us I want to tell you about some of the wonderful things that have happened this year. We offered equine facilitated learning and therapy to over 200 individuals who happen to have disabilities. Within that number were three groups of Military Veterans as well as numerous Military Veterans who came on their own. We started two new kids at risk programs – one with Perryville Outreach and one with Cherry Hill Middle School. Of course, we continue to teach students who come individually who happen to have numerous types of disabilities.

GREAT TIMES!

We are excited to announce that Miss Renee received her Bronze Certification as a United States Equestrian Federation Para-Olympics Dressage Instructor. We have wonderful testimonies from so many of our students, parents and teachers. Wendy Allen, the Special Education Instructor, from Cherry Hill Middle School says the program has brought the students together, they have been more kind, more helpful and more lovable toward each other. We have also seen those transformations trickle over into the classroom.

"After being at Freedom Hills, I have found that I feel everything is just as it should be when I am with the horses. It is a safe environment where the presence of the horses is healing for me. Horses are straightforward without lying or manipulating, they are soothing and gentle animals. The work can be hard mentally or easy as just talking to other people. I find it all very rewarding and a worthwhile experience, between the animals and staff it is a great place to spend time." – Michael one of our Military Veterans

"Para-dressage allows me the freedom to forget my disability and pushes me to be stronger physically and mentally. Every second in the saddle is a gift." – Chandra Kerns, one of our riders who has significant physical disabilities.

February 1, 2020 we will be holding our Annual Auction/Gala. I invite you to team up with Freedom Hills TRP to assist us in helping wonderful people like Chanda, Michael and Wendy Allen's Class. We look forward to hearing from you by January 20, to let us know how you will help.

Sincerely,

Venee S. Vixon

Renee S. Dixon Executive Director

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EQUINE SPECIALIST

Renée S. Dixon, B.S.E.S. PATH Advanced Instructor American Riding Instructor, Certified Level II Centered Riding, Certified Level III Parelli Certified

PATH REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS Katherine Intano, RN, BSN

Katherine Intano, RN, BSN Virginia Mentrack BSES





Freedom Hills is an equal opportunity system. The system's policies, programs and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and Statelaws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and handicap.

freedomhills.org

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2020 FREEDOM HILLS GALA AUCTION



TEAM FREEDOM HILLS

Olympian-Themed Live & Silent Auction

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 5:30pm

The Wellwood 523 Water Street, Charlestown, MD 21914

Equine Facilitated Therapy is recognized as one of the most beneficial forms of therapy for people with disabilities. Since 1982, Freedom Hills TRP has offered this unique therapy to both adults and children. Their lives have been enriched in such ways as but not limited to: increase muscle tone, increase confidence, over all exercise and much more. Therapy is provided at low or no cost. Please Open Your Hearts by a donation of services, items, and or gift certificates. Guests at the auction receive a program of the evening's events which includes item description and donor information. Please send donation/item(s) along with this completed form by **January 25, 2020** Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program, PO Box, Port Deposit, MD 21904

DONOR NAME:		DATE:		
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ITEM(S)

VALUE:

DONOR NAME:_