

Program Update

2014



PEGASUS

Katie celebrates her Special Olympics medals with Pegasus staff members (l. to r.) Emily Wygod, Lynn Peters and Shelly Pope.



Your Annual Program Update

Welcome to our inaugural summary of all the **new and developing program activities** at Pegasus. We plan to bring this comprehensive update to you once a year to keep you in the know. Enjoy!

Program by the Numbers

Pegasus had a busy 2013. We had more than **300 participants** in our therapeutic riding and Horses & Me programs. Our programs operated at capacity, and we were inundated with **200 new inquiries**. Of those 200 inquiries, we welcomed **50 new participants** into our programs.

Our Experienced Clinical Leaders

The leaders of our program and instructor teams are **Shelly Pope, Ed.D.**, and PATH Intl. Master Instructor **Marny Mansfield, OTR**. Shelly and Marny continually evaluate our instructors' teaching and riding skills to make sure our participants receive the best equestrian experience we can provide. In 2013, Marny and Shelly focused on creating professional development opportunities for our staff, as well as establishing Pegasus as a continuing education destination for others in our industry. We have added the **EAGALA** model to our credentials and now offer **PATH Intl. approved workshops, training and certification**.

Program team representatives also have visited local schools, community organizations, and other not-for-profits to speak about our programs, methodology and how to support our mission.

New Programs Expand Our Mission

Pegasus launched several new program activities last year. In response to a great need for at-risk services in our community, **Wings** primarily serves disadvantaged youth, adults with developmental disabilities and abuse survivors. In 2013, **70 Wings participants** enjoyed **360 hours** of equine education and fun at Pegasus Farm.

Pegasus Patriots serves our brave military veterans. We were thrilled to work with our first participant this summer, but expanding this program has proved to be a challenge. If you know of any veterans who might be interested in Pegasus Patriots, please send them our way!

This summer, we offered two weeks of **Equine Experience**, camp-style activities that included riding, horse care, arts and crafts, and imaginative adventures. Our campers had a fantastic time, and we can't wait to do it again in August!

In December, we hosted our first **Family Day** to offer participants and their families an opportunity to share a holiday gift of riding and horsemanship together.

We also launched our **Helping Hands** program in 2013. Helping Hands volunteers come to Pegasus with their life skills coaches and assist us with gardening, paddock and barn maintenance, The Rider's Closet, landscaping and many other tasks that are part of life at a horse farm.

The new year brought **equine-assisted psychotherapy and learning** to Pegasus Farm. This mental health service is conducted in partnership with **James Casese**, a licensed clinical social worker and avid equestrian.

What's next? Our Pegasus instructors are working diligently on training our horses and completing a curriculum for a Pegasus **interactive vaulting** program! By late summer, we will be ready to instruct riders interested in adding vaulting to their complement of equestrian skills.



Wings participant Alice befriends therapeutic horse Minnie.

Our Caring and Dedicated Volunteers

We could not provide services to our hundreds of participants without the help of our irreplaceable volunteers. In 2013, **200 returning volunteers** and approximately **100 new volunteers** assisted us in making sure our programs ran safely and smoothly.

Each volunteer who comes on board participates in a comprehensive orientation program and receives a detailed Pegasus volunteer manual. The next step is to ensure our volunteers are correctly matched with our participants and always have access to new and additional information related to their responsibilities. Throughout the year, Pegasus offers periodic volunteer review sessions and hosts relevant training and educational seminars whenever possible.

Our Incredible Equine Partners

Ensuring we have the best possible therapeutic horses (and donkeys!) working at Pegasus is critical to the effective running of our programs. Some horses are only with us for a few semesters, and others take to this work like ducks to water and stay here for years.

In 2013, Pegasus Farm said goodbye to five wonderful horses that were ready to move on to new jobs or retire. This is a typical scenario, and we are constantly evaluating new horses to ensure we have a happy, healthy and diverse herd. Last year, we evaluated **60** potential horses, only **15** of which were brought in on trial. Of those 15, we accepted **10** into our program.

We currently have a herd of **18** horses at Pegasus Farm. The more horses we are able to train and retain, the more participants we are able to serve. Our horses are the heart of our organization, and we strive to provide the best care possible. To keep them safe, sound and loving their jobs, we **updated our paddock fencing, replaced our arena footing, and purchased new sheds complete with automatic waters.** At our **chapter locations**, our instructors evaluate all horses before the start of each session to decide if they are a good fit for the work and to determine the best horse size, gait and temperament for each participant.

Last, but certainly not least, our two miniature horses, Rosie and Violet, are now certified therapy animals and are ready to start our new program, **Minis on the Move.** They will hit the road to visit people and communities unable to travel to Pegasus. The mother/daughter duo are saving their pennies in the hopes of purchasing their very own "mini" van. Our farm truck is just too big for their dainty little hooves! If you want to help, contact Executive Director Todd Gibbs at (845) 669-8235 x102 or tgibbs@pegasustr.org.

New Lecture Series Coming in 2014

Keep an eye out for information on our new **Quarterly Lecture Series** for parents, caregivers and volunteers. We will host them in our **new classroom**, adjacent to the **renovated seating area** in the admin building.

Opportunities to Compete

This spring, we are adding classes for riders who would like to compete in equestrian events. We are developing programs for **Special Olympics** and **local horse show competition.** The response has been strong, and we are very excited about the classes. If you know a Pegasus rider who would like to join us, please contact Program Coordinator Emily Wygod at **(845) 669-8235 x104** or ewygod@pegasustr.org.

Helmet Reminder

Just a reminder that we have helmets available for purchase and can help with proper fitting. We highly recommend wearing your own helmet if possible.

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