

## Jane Nolan's "Maddie the Therapy Dog"

### Helps Gahanna Dreamcatchers Transition to Work

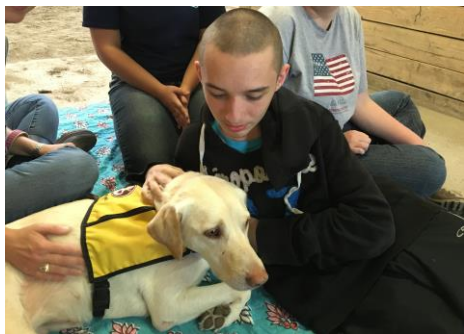
Jane Nolan worried she would have trouble making connections when she recently moved to New Albany with her family. With the help of Maddie, her yellow Labrador therapy dog, she is having no trouble connecting – especially with Gahanna Lincoln High School vocational training students.

These students come to the farm every afternoon of their school year to learn work and social skills that will help them transition to employment after high school. Jane and Maddie visit with the Gahanna students twice a week to help students make a smooth transition from school to work.

Instructor Becky King notes, "Jane and Maddie have a wonderfully calming effect on our students and help them begin their day ready to take on the demands of simulated employment. What a helpful addition they have been to our program this year!"

A DREAM YOU DREAM ALONE IS  
ONLY A DREAM. A DREAM YOU  
DREAM TOGETHER IS REALITY.

- JOHN LENNON



To Donate

CALL

614-864  
9500

Dreams on Horseback is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 46-0487078. It is to be noted for tax purposes that no benefit can be bestowed upon a donor in exchange for his contribution other than the joy of giving to people with special needs acting to improve their lives with the help of our incredible staff and equine partners.

## LIVING THE DREAM 2016

Advancing the Individual Growth of People Living  
with Challenges through Horse-Assisted Learning



### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dreams on Horseback succeeds because of you, our partners, and the gifts of treasure and talent you give to our riders and families.

With your help this year, Dreams on Horseback's student hours increased 20%, donations increased 10%, our annual fundraiser broke records, and our 155 volunteers logged over 2700 hours of service!

We are also thrilled to announce our 2017 launch of *Horses for Heroes* – a program developed in partnership with the National Guard and sponsored by Red Capital Group. *Horses for Heroes* will help veterans and active military to address issues like reintegration, self-regulation, requesting support, and family relationships.

We are privileged to make such a far-reaching difference in the lives of so many through the gifts you entrust to us. Your support makes our dream for a better world possible as we assist, challenge, and dream alongside those who need their neighbor's compassion most.

- Jennifer Hansen

### An Open Letter from a Parent of a Therapeutic Rider

To Anyone Thinking of Joining the Dreams on Horseback Program:

Please do! The benefits your child will gain from attending this program are invaluable.

My little girl Taylor is seven years old and has cerebral palsy. Taylor has been a part of the Dreams on Horseback family for a year and a half

and took part in their summer camp this past July. When Taylor started she could not stand in the stirrups. She now stands in them the length of the arena! Taylor's balance and gait have improved tremendously! The wonderful instructors and volunteers work on Taylor's occupational and physical therapy skills, as well as social and teamwork skills, and confidence building.

The staff and volunteers are professional, warm and caring. You will be greeted with smiles and made to feel like family. Thank you Dreams on Horseback!

Sincerely, Lydia and Taylor Fischer



14

Years  
Serving  
Central  
Ohio

## Works for Me!

Walt Matthews knew post-graduation that there must be a place where he could hone the work skills that his mom and dad had been instilling in him throughout his life. But he needed some confidence that others would value these skills as much as his family did. At 23, Walt found that confidence through Dreams on Horseback's Summer Vocational Program, sponsored by Anderson Family Dental.

Two summers after having begun the program, Walt's confidence was blossoming and others were taking notice of his strong work ethic and positive personality. Walt was hired by Jennifer Hansen that fall to begin working as a barn maintenance worker. "Walt has become an important part of the staff at Stepping Stone. His dedication and willing attitude is infectious," raves Hansen.



**WALT MATTHEWS**  
From Vocational Training  
to Paid Employment

## Good News!

Increase of  
**20%** participation  
In 2016 Therapeutic Lessons

Amy Jo Donohew  
Ron Kendle  
Cory Lacrosse  
Jennifer Salopek  
Carey Wallace  
Kevin Wallace, President

## Our Board Of Directors

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO GENEROUSLY  
SUPPORT DREAMS ON HORSEBACK'S MANY PROGRAMS!



## PATH Certified Instructors Lend Credibility to Our Mission

In 2012, Dreams on Horseback was well on its way to becoming the premier horse-assisted learning center in Central Ohio, but Jennifer Hansen desired more. She wanted a means of developing our dedicated team. She also sought a system of industry-approved standards for managing our horses' care and a public endorsement of the quality programming Dreams knew it was providing.

And so Dreams on Horseback embarked on a journey to challenge itself to be even better through an association with PATH International. This association with therapeutic horsemen from across the country has provided Dreams with the framework for validating the program and its mission that Hansen desired.

Since 2012, Becky Hickman, Marsha Krantz, and Dr. Veronica Lac have all received their certification as PATH instructors. These women along with several other staff members will be attending the 2016 Path Conference in Virginia this fall to learn even more about how to better serve Dreams' clients.

## Did you know?

**35%**

Of young adults with autism  
acquire no job or post-graduate  
education after leaving high school



## DOH Slated to Host 2017 Regional Special Olympics Competition

Dreams on Horseback, after an exceptional show of support by parents, volunteers and instructors at the 2016 State Special Olympics Equestrian Competition in Cincinnati this fall, was approached by Special Olympics Ohio to host the First Annual Regional Special Olympics Show at our own Dreams on Horseback Equestrian Center in 2017.

Hansen stated, "There is no doubt that our quality instruction, the resulting skill of our riders, our enthusiastic fans, and our incredible volunteers led to this decision by Special Olympics Ohio program director Marty Allen to seek out Dreams on Horseback as the logical host of an inaugural regional show. This show will accommodate the growing interest in equestrian Special Olympic competitions." Hansen went on to acknowledge that AEP Ohio's ongoing support of DOH's Special Olympic Equestrian Team has been key to its notable success.

## Want to be a part of the team?

You can be! Even if you have no horse experience, we can give you the training you need to join our volunteer brigade! As we grow, our volunteer needs grow as well. Did you know that every therapeutic rider requires three volunteers to assist them in their lesson? What better way to give back and get some exercise? Contact our volunteer coordinator, Kym Lewis, at [Kym@dreamsonhorseback.org](mailto:Kym@dreamsonhorseback.org) for more information.

## INFORMATION

Get details on how you can make  
a difference by donating at  
[www.dreamsonhorseback.com](http://www.dreamsonhorseback.com).

## American Council of the Blind of Ohio Dreams with Us!

Learning about Dreams on Horseback through our shared involvement in Community Shares, ACBO President Vicky Prahin asked Dreams on Horseback to provide a program for about twenty members of ACBO.

Never having worked with blind adults before, Dreams was thrilled to host ACBO. Prahin describes the staff as "eager and very competent" in their first experience teaching blind adults.

Instructors provided tactile experiences like feeling the depth and breadth of our stalls. Participants examined various grooming tools, horse shoes and other equine equipment, as well as the horses themselves.

Many participants chose to participate in the handler-led rides portion of the program. Several expressed that they had not ridden since childhood. Dreams on Horseback looks forward to the return of this enthusiastic group!