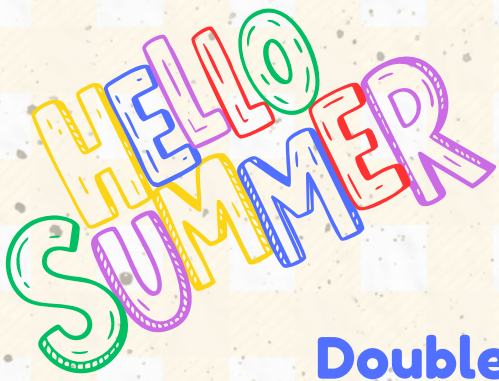




THE SAFE HAVEN WAY

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Double the “Fund” this Summer!

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you inspired and ready to make a difference. At Safe Haven Farms, we believe that every act of kindness has the power to spark a ripple of hope—and you are a vital part of that movement.

Over the past 16 years, we have seen firsthand how generosity transforms lives. Your gifts have assisted us in growing the day services program with more individuals working in the gardens, caring for our animals, making new friends, and finding meaningful purpose in everyday activities. Our “farmers” look forward to their time here at Safe Haven Farms.

But our work is far from over. Right now, we face an opportunity—and a challenge—that could shape the future for countless individuals: facility improvements with modifications to serve an aging population, program support, and additional outdoor enrichment possibilities.

With your support, we can make this vision a reality. Your contribution will directly fund these special projects. **Every dollar you give this summer will be matched up to \$40,000!** These matching funds are available this summer from a loyal, anonymous donor. When people give together, the results are nothing short of extraordinary. We have seen it happen before in 2008, when Safe Haven Farms was just a dream: a community of loving parents and friends coming together to achieve what once seemed impossible. And we believe we can continue to expand that dream, but we need your help.

Please take a moment today to join us in this mission. Let’s “Double the Fund” this Summer!

Your generosity does not just help—it inspires. It tells the world that compassion for individuals with developmental disabilities is strong and that together, we can turn hope into action and action into lasting impact for our residents and day program participants.

Thank you for believing in our work at Safe Haven Farms.

Janie Rattman
Executive Director



Please donate today by going to www.safehavenfarms.org/donate or <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-our-mission-and-change-lives>.
or by mailing your gift in the enclosed donation envelope.

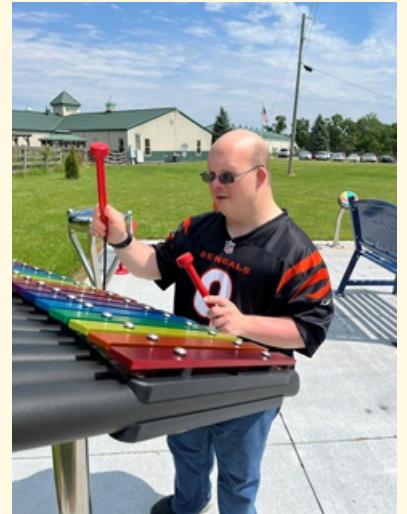
NEW MAILING ADDRESS: 125 SAFE HAVEN WAY, MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042

Outdoor Music Enrichment Area

We are happy to announce the installation and opening of our new onsite Outdoor Music Enrichment Area for day program and residential clients at Safe Haven Farms. Thank you to the following for making this project possible due to your generous grants and gifts:

Meijer Foundation Edelweiss Foundation
Jacob G Schmidlapp Trust Makino Foundation
Middletown Community Foundation Blevins Family
Walmart Spark Good Local Grants

Patrick O'Lenick Memorial Bench made possible by loving donations from family & friends of the O'Lenick Family & Safe Haven Farms



ViaQuest
Solutions for Independence

Day Services Program News

- Day program participation has increased by 30% since 2024
- 80% of community clients use onsite transportation services to and from the farm weekly.
- Average number of community outings, fulfilling our commitment to increase community integration - 5-6 outings per week!
- 94% of clients receive behavioral/sensory intervention and support.
- Current age range of day program clients youngest to oldest - 24-66 years of age.



Saddle Up



Summer has been full of fun at Safe Haven Farms' Therapeutic Riding Program! We've welcomed lots of new faces and riders of all ages while continuing to enjoy the enthusiasm of our wonderful community riders. Our small animal therapy program is also in full swing with our day program participants, bringing smiles and meaningful interactions every day. Safe Haven Farms' equestrian program offers therapeutic riding, as well as therapeutic equestrian interaction for individuals with developmental disabilities who are not yet ready to ride. The program is open to anyone age 6 and older, and participants do not need to be residents or enrolled in the farm's day program to take part.



Jelena's Story

Meet Jelena, one of our newest participants at the day program. With her extensive vocabulary and playful wit, Jelena brings a vibrant energy to Safe Haven Farms every day. She's fiercely motivated, always aiming to improve in every part of her life, and her dedication to her work is only matched by her deep love for the farm. Whether she's joking with staff, coming up with creative ways to stay late, or filling the air with beautiful piano music, Jelena is a truly positive presence for everyone around her.

A former honor student, Jelena is also an excellent pianist and loves her 'career' in agriculture at Safe Haven Farms! Born in Smolensk, Russia, she was adopted by her parents, Colin and Susan, at just one year old. She graduated from Milford High School with perfect attendance and participated in six summers at Camp Kohahna in Michigan, where she learned to ride horses and water ski.

Additionally, Jelena graduated from the Discovery Bound National Leadership Council, a program for students in grades 8 through 12 that develops leadership skills both locally and internationally. As part of this program, she earned the Congressional Award bronze medal, showcasing her dedication and drive.

Welcome to Safe Haven Farms, Jelena!



Thank you for supporting Share the Love 2026!

- 157 Guests
- 17 Sponsors
- Robust Raffle Sales & Donations
- Total net proceeds - \$46,197

Raffle Winners:

Prize A - \$500 Dining Package
Ann Ullman

Prize B - \$500 Dining Package
Marcia Cumberledge

Prize C - \$500 SHF Mystery Basket
Tim & Cathy Kinne

Prize D - Summer in the Rockies
Shannon Dowling

Share the Love Dinner Event

Entree Sponsors
Impact Autism Foundation
Todd & Karen Spidare
in honor of Nancy Spidare

Dessert Level Sponsors
Blevins Financial
McCloy Family Foundation

Cocktail Level Sponsors
Truepoint Wealth Counsel
Miami Valley Gaming
ViaQuest - Solutions for Independence

Raffle Level Sponsors
Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP
Energy Alliances
Simply Floors of West Chester
First Financial Bank

Sweetheart Sponsors
The Knolls of Oxford
Mike & Leslie Odioso
McGuire Family
Butler Rural Electric Cooperative
Insurance Associates of Middletown
John & Pat Gleeson

Benefitting Safe Haven Farms

STONECREEK
— DINING COMPANY —


Safe Haven Farms
A Community of Choice

2026 Heart of the Community Recipient



LODGE 501
MIDDLETOWN, OHIO
CHAPTER 183

Safe Haven Farms is honored to be selected as the 2026 Heart of the Community recipient by the Ohio State Moose Association.

This recognition reflects the shared commitment of the Ohio Moose community to supporting organizations that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Through the generosity of Moose Lodges across Ohio, donations have already reached an incredible **\$26,325**.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ohio State Moose Association and every participating Moose Lodge for their generosity, partnership, and belief in our mission. Together, we are creating opportunities, building inclusion, and changing lives.

Locally, our very own Moose Lodge 501 in Middletown, continues their wonderful generosity in supporting several projects at Safe Haven Farms, including new community center, barn, and residential doors, generator repairs/maintenance, supplies for the gardens, and new appliances.

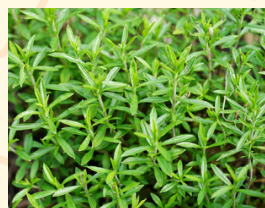
THANK YOU MOOSE MEMBERS!

What's growing in the Garden - Tomatoes & Herbs



Marjoram - Native to the Mediterranean and parts of Asia and Africa. The fuzzy green leaves form tiny clusters that slightly resemble knots. In fact, it is sometimes called "knotted marjoram." Marjoram has an earthy, woody flavor, with notes of pine and citrus. The taste is reminiscent of oregano and thyme. Dried marjoram is more potent than fresh.

Lemon Balm - is an easy to grow herb that not only attracts bees and pollinators to the garden but is also a great anti-viral with relaxing properties that are helpful for soothing frayed nerves and can be a natural sleep aid. Traditionally, it's been used to gently treat colic and upset stomach. A leaf can be chewed to freshen the breath or crushed and placed on a bug bite to help ease the itch.



Winter Savory - has a strong, peppery flavor. It pairs well with beans, meats, poultry, soups, stews, sauces, and stuffing. The leaves can be used fresh or dried, and the herb is sometimes added to breadcrumbs or liqueurs. Its flavor diminishes with prolonged cooking, so it is often added toward the end of preparation.

Black Cherry Tomato

The black cherry tomato is thought to have originated in Central & South America, and today is grown in a variety of regions with warm climates. Despite the name "Black," these tomatoes are actually a deep purplish-red or mahogany color. Small round tomatoes are about the size of a cherry. They are mildly sweet but have a hint of smokiness in their flavor.



Celebrity Tomato

This is a hybrid tomato developed in the 1980's. It is a bright red & medium-sized globe tomato with a mild, slightly sweet flavor. This tomato can be used in salads, salsas, and cooking. Given their bright red color, diced for use in a taco bar to show off their nice color. Also recommended as a great pizza topping.

White Currant Tomatoes

This super-sweet fruit has the highest sugar content of any tomato we know, about twice as sweet as many standard tomatoes. The plant produces a tiny, barely an inch across, and creamy colored tomato, with skins having a yellow tint. The fruit grows in clusters, and the yield is huge!



Pineapple Tomato

Developed in Kentucky, and known for their sweet, almost tropical-like flavor. This is a beefsteak variety that can grow to 1-2 pounds each. Pineapple tomatoes are great for slicing to use on sandwiches. Fantastic in your favorite salsa.

Recommended websites to purchase heirloom and hybrid seeds:

High Mowing Seeds - www.highmowingseeds.com

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds - www.rareseeds.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds - www.johnnyseeds.com



Safe Haven Farms

A Community of Choice

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

**SAFE HAVEN FARMS
125 SAFE HAVEN WAY
MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042**

WWW.SAFEHAVENFARMS.ORG



Give today to Double the “Fund” this Summer to support our growing programs at Safe Haven Farms!

**<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-our-mission-and-change-lives>
or www.safehavenfarms.org/donate**

