



Behind the Scenes from Volunteer to Barn Staff



Laurian Horowitz,
animal attendant

I began volunteering at SPUR during my freshman year of high school because I wanted to be near horses. I couldn't afford to take riding lessons anymore, but I couldn't abandon my need for being around them. During my years of assisting many different students in their lessons, I have always been amazed by how much the students improve muscle tone, speech, balance, and riding skills over the course of 10 weeks.

I have probably assisted over 30 students at SPUR, but there will always be one student who sticks out in my mind. Three years ago when I was volunteering late on Friday nights, almost always like clockwork (about 10 minutes into the lesson), this student would become tired and cranky, and throw temper tantrums. I managed to volunteer with this same student about two years later. The student was riding in a western saddle and had been told what the horn was. Of course, that was a big mistake because for the next half hour all we heard was "beep beep!" I will never forget those nights.

Two years after I started volunteering, I was asked to join Sunnyside's barn staff. I have to

say, it was a great honor and pleasure to work there until I left for college. I miss everyone (people included) at Sunnyside dearly. The people are incredible, and I managed to learn so much. Now, here at college, (the University of Denver) I have joined the Equestrian Team. Sure, the majority of my teammates are better riders than I am, but my coach said I know more about horsemanship, horse care, and horse handling than everyone else. And for that I have everyone at Sunnyside to thank, I am a biology major with the intention of heading to veterinary school and specializing in equine medicine.

Laurian will be back at the barn this December during her semester break.



Kyle Cassidy,
animal attendant

Having been involved with the care of horses for several years, I entered into the SPUR program hoping to combine my love of horses and my concern for others less fortunate. Then came the big surprise! The teacher became the student! I was the one who learned! I was the one who changed!

One young boy I worked with suffered from a severe illness that rendered him incapable of walking and caused many physical struggles for him. Weakness from constantly sitting in a wheelchair made sitting unaided virtually impossible. The day arrived, though, when he was able to support himself and sit upright on the back of the horse. Watching tears well up in his mother's eyes as she witnessed her son's incredible achievement, became a life altering moment for me. Life suddenly seemed so simple. Talents and gifts come in every shape and form. To recognize and appreciate my own and to be eternally grateful for those I possess was the message I learned that day and carry with me each and every day.

This was an excerpt from Kyle Cassidy's college essay. Kyle is a dedicated SPUR volunteer who also joined the Sunnyside barn staff this year.

*From all of us at
SPUR and the
Monmouth County
Park System
Season's Greeting
and
Happy New Year!*

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Tracy Boyle

President-Elect

Fran Stefanelli

Recording Secretary

Jane Meggitt

Treasurer

Doug Irwin

Member-at-Large

Donna Singer

Robert Beccarelli
Margot Goldberg
Kate Gotterup
Joanne Irwin
Jo Ann Lindemann
Elizabeth Shiftan
Chela St. Onge
Dina Parrello
Linda Irving Smith
Maria Takacs
Nancy Young

Alyssa's Angels

by Chela St. Onge



What a wonderful summer for SPUR. This past July we received a fabulous surprise. "Alyssa's Angels" from West Long Branch, NJ donated a *Surehands* motorized life & care system (valued at \$8,800). This lift helps students transition from wheelchair to the horse.

A Message from the President

Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions have left the building! And we can celebrate another successful fundraiser at Sunnyside. All three performances were very well attended. And, thanks to the efforts of the MCPS staff, the SPUR Board, and many volunteers, everything ran like clockwork. The money raised from this event will be put toward the much anticipated Phase II renovation.

As most of you are aware, the past year and a half has been spent raising the funds to begin this project. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the generous commitment from the MCPS, we will break ground for Phase II this coming winter. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, deadlines will be met, and we can celebrate next fall with a grand completion party!

Every year the SPUR board puts its nose to the grindstone to figure out new and innovative strategies to raise funds for our program. Every year we are amazed by the generosity that comes our way from these efforts. With the completion of Phase II it would be nice to say our work was complete but, as you know, this won't be the case.

In the future, the two primary goals of the Board will be to raise funds for student scholarships and to give financial assistance to those providing retirement opportunities for our horses. These two charitable endeavors will need monetary donations as long as our program exists. I hope we can count on you for ongoing support!

On a personal note, this is my last message as president of the SPUR Board. I would like to thank my fellow board members and everyone within the MCPS who have made my job such a pleasure. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the strong partnership develop between these two organizations. The SPUR program has fallen in to the most able and dedicated hands. We would not be where we are today without the leadership and guidance from the Monmouth County Park System.

I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's celebration. Thank you again for your support and for your interest in our wonderful SPUR program.

Tracy Boyle
SPUR Board President

"Alyssa's Angels" was founded in May 2004 in honor of Alyssa Cantaffa. Seven year ago Alyssa was born healthy. She developed a cough at three weeks of age called Pertussis or "*Whooping Cough*" which changed her life. Doctors gave her only a fifty percent chance of surviving. Miraculously, she recovered but the illness left Alyssa physically and mentally challenged.

Alyssa's parent are so grateful that Alyssa survived her illness that they started "Alyssa's Angels" to assist Monmouth County children with disabilities by purchasing durable medical or therapeutic recreation equipment.

We at SPUR are grateful to be the recipients of their generosity.



2005 Members and Supporters

The SPUR Board of Directors, the Sunnyside staff, and the student riders thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support over the past year.

John & Ellen Adams
 Air Warrior Courage Foundation
 Beverly Alexandre
 Alice Maria Allan
 Anne Andiorio
 Rich Arabia
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Axt
 Joseph Azzolina
 Ann Babeuf
 Laura A. Bach
 Warren & Joyce Bayless
 Robert & Lois Beccarelli
 Harry & Patricia Bernstein
 Patricia Bingham
 Robert & Tracy L. Boyle, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boyle, Sr.
 Mary Jane Carey
 Jessica Caruso
 Mark Castellano
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Kerry Chandler
 Stephen & Roseanne Chidylo
 Clearview Cinema
 Mr. & Mrs. John Cleary
 Joyce Cmiel
 William & Rosemary P. Collopy
 John & Jennifer Conklin
 Jean Conway
 Kate Coyne
 James & Gail Cullen
 Karin Curtis
 Anne Q. Delaney
 Geralyn DeMarco
 John & Liz Devlin
 Susan Dickenson
 Mr. & Mrs. William T. Durr
 Catherine A. Dyciewski
 Elvin R. Engel
 Josephine Esquivel
 Carol Monaci Fahad
 Carol Fallon
 Randy & Tricia Farina
 Anita Feldman
 Joanne Fenk
 Mitch Fennick
 David & Colleen C. Ferrell
 Jacqueline Ffrench
 Mae H. Fisher
 Mr. & Mrs. Denis Fitzgerald

Karen Flynn
 David & Susan Fowler
 Janet Fowler
 Jennifer & Holly Francis
 Denise C. Friedmann
 Futures & Options for Kids
 Joseph & Liz Gachko
 Joseph Gennaro
 Dorothee Gerberding
 Barbara J. Germinario
 Winfield & Jennie Giguere
 Frank A. Ginolfi
 Margot & Stuart Goldberg
 Michael & Diane Gooch
 Dr. & Mrs. Eric Gordon
 Kate & Morten Gotterup
 T. J. Goupeon
 Joyce C. Gulden
 Liz Haenchen
 Frederick R. Hartman
 Eileen High
 Jim & Elaine Hinckley
 Mr. & Mrs. John Horan
 Huber Woods Horsemen's Assoc.
 Caroline Huber
 Doris B. Hudak
 Douglas & Joanne Irwin
 John & Kim Irwin
 Therese Janwich c/o Shiloh
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Jones, Jr.
 Diane Jannone
 Michael & Ann Jordan
 Rebecca Kashdan
 Christopher & Etta Kelly
 Carleen Kierce
 Frederick C. Kniesler
 Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Kniesler, Jr.
 Knollwood Student Council
 Dianne Kumar
 Julia Kunkowski
 Ann D. Kurshan
 Joseph & Susan Kyrillos, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas T. Labrecque
 Sheila Labrecque
 Cristiina Labruzzo
 Brian & Dortha Laux
 Craig & Diane Lero
 Tom & Palma Lynn Liebert

Ken & Jo Ann Lindemann
 Edward J. Loud
 Adeline H. Lubkert
 John & Marie Lupco
 Claudette Lupton
 Mr. & Mrs. Doug Lurch
 Ms. Carolyn M. Luttkus
 Douglas & Lisa Mallach
 Diane H. Mannion
 Ms. Karen Martin
 Ms. Cathleen McCusker
 Virginia McDonald
 Tim & Laurene McEneny
 James & Marie McLean
 Peter & Jane Meggitt
 Paige Metzger
 Mr. & Mrs. John Millard
 Mindy & Daniel Minerva
 Greg & Jackie Mitsch
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Monaghan
 Monmouth Stereo Center
 Robert & Linda Morgan
 Pamela Morris
 Thomas Mullens
 Tammy & Philip Murphy
 Ted J. Narozanick
 Ms. Tricia Nelson
 Kathleen Noah

Jean W. Oakes
 Carol A. Oberle
 Blair & Elizabeth O'Connor
 Mr. Antonio V. Olivadoti
 Mr. & Mrs. Orsini & Family
 Ms. Francine Owitz
 Stephen & Kristen Padovano
 Argo & Dina Parrello
 Art & Rachel Pavluk
 Virginia Pellicci
 Violeta Peters
 Elise Pritchard
 Tyson & Lisa Pritchard
 Camille Quarto
 Red Bank Catholic Equestrian Club
 Red Bank Rotary Foundation
 Lynne Gutta Relles
 Rebecca Reniers
 Mark & Judith Reuter
 Rittenhouse Kerr Ford, Inc.
 Peg Roarty
 Kevin & Joann Roddy
 Seth & Melinda Rosen
 Cindy Ross
 Clarke & Susan Ryan
 Michele Santore
 Linda Schank, Hemlock Hill Farm

(Continued on page 4)

Memorial Donations

Phase II Building Fund in Memory of Bill Fortenbaugh from...

Harry & Patricia Arnold	Stephen & Barbara Gallo
Philip & Cynthia Auerbach	James L. Greenwald
Stephen & Nancy Burns	F. James & Daren Hutchinson
Karen M. Collopy	Katz Media Group, Inc.
William & Rosemary Collopy	John C. Reese
Jane M. Creamer	Joanna G. Roberts
Megan DeYoung	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rudkin
David & Margaret Fortenbaugh	Mr. & Mrs. M. Sternbach

Susan Hughes Scholarship Memorial Funds from...

Sr. Karen Duddy	James & Suzanne Pincus
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Durr	Peg & John Roarty
Gerald & Arleen Kynaston	Cindy Ross
Lynn Liebert	Sally S. Vaun
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Lindemann	Jeanne L. Vuyusevich

Thanks, Pete!

We at Sunnyside would like to express our gratitude to a volunteer who has spent many hours working behind the scenes to help our program run more smoothly. We are forever grateful to Susan Walsh, Coordinator of Volunteers for the Monmouth County Park System, for suggesting that we call upon Pete Brady to assist us in the transformation of our database. Pete has designed computer databases that are now in use in various Park System areas, including volunteer services, training, administration, and Friends of the Parks.

On his first visit to us, Pete asked us to give him a “wish list” of tasks we would like our database to perform. During subsequent visits and many hours spent working at home, he created a new database that does all those tasks and more. His enthusiasm is contagious, and his patience and clarity in teaching us how to navigate our new system are very much appreciated. We love working with Pete and hope he’s enjoyed our meetings as much as we’ve enjoyed having him here.



2005 Members & Supporters

(Continued from page 3)

Alyssa Scheffer	Tricia Talerico
Maria Schenker	Caitlynn Tobin
Tom & Colleen Schwartz	Jim & Ramona Truncer
Mark & Betsy Seckler	Barry & Susan Tudor
Andrew & Elizabeth Shiftan	United Way
Danielle Shugard	Tracy Van Brakle
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Siebert III	Jody A. Vanbrunt
Donna Singer	Molly Jo Vates
Ms. Wendy S. Smith	Melinda Vollmer
Neil & Wendy Spencer	Peter & Susan Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Starrs	Dr. Melinda L. Wagner
Carmella Stefanelli	Dr. & Mrs. William D. Warters
Fran & Gene Stefanelli	Jack & Pat Weakley
Marc & Michelle Stefanelli	Max & Rebecca Weinberg
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony C. Stone	Tracy Welch-Portmann
Sal & Amy Straniero	Spencer & Kathleen Wickham
Sandy Styzle	Deane B. Wolfe
Gordon & Kim Sweely	Joan Best Wyer
Thomas & Maria Takacs	Nancy Young

To those supporters who may have unintentionally been omitted from this list, we extend our most grateful thanks. Please contact us so that we may recognize your generosity in our upcoming Spring 2006 newsletter.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCROFT, NJ
PERMIT NO. 42

Just a note... Our next issue is Spring 2006. We publish our semi-annual newsletter to keep you informed about all the SPUR news, as well as upcoming events and fund raisers.