

Laurie Kelley

I came across Sunnyside in 2007. I was out hiking at Turkey Swamp Park and found a flier. At the time I was looking for something to do since my youngest of four sons was nearly grown and off doing his own things.

I attended a volunteer workshop and was pulled right in. I had very little horse experience. I had a horse as a teenager but never had any training. I was self taught to ride and care for her, so needless to say, this was a little bit intimidating. I loved everything about the program; the people and of course the horses. Through the guidance and instruction from Liz and Cindy, I have learned more about horses and their needs. Their excitement is truly contagious.



I was lucky enough to be asked to become part of the instructor training program and started working towards certification. It was two years of fun and hard work. When I started the training program I was working full time with my husband in our auto repair shop. So I would start my days early in the morning then change out of the greasy shop clothes and into barn boots to go off to the Sunnyside in the evenings.

I have spend the last 28 years raising my sons and working all kinds of odd jobs. None of which really made me inspired or excited. I am so excited to continue learning all that I can about the children and the horses. The support given to me through this process has been overwhelming, not only my co-workers with their endless hours of training and patience, but also my husband who has afforded me the opportunity to follow a dream I never thought I would find.

I think my biggest joy is seeing the students as they transform into riders with confidence and to be fortunate enough to be a part of that journey. I have met so many children with more courage and ambition. It inspires me to work harder for them so that I can help them be all they can be. I feel truly blessed to have found Sunnyside and a special thanks to SPUR for making this all possible.