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John Haines  
*Vice-President*

Deb Treon  
*Secretary*

Charna Moore  
*Treasurer*

Barb Berman  
Ann Fasnacht  
Kim Giustini

## Staff

Bob Kessler  
*Executive Director*

Stephanie Corum  
*Program Director*

Susan Rotz  
*Autism Program*

Patience Groomes  
*Barn Manager*

Carol Hoover  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

Kristen Coover  
*Office Support*

## Instructors

George Fries  
Leah Good  
Patience Groomes  
Susan McClean  
Ann Newburger  
Valerie Powell  
Susan Rotz  
Marcella Sheffler

## Operations Committee

Melanie Bays  
Leslie Bennett  
George Fries  
Richard Fusting  
Sara Geisinger  
Linda Golden  
Nina Hill

Carol Hoover  
Susan McClean  
Ann Newburger  
Marcella Sheffler  
Sharon Streck  
Linda Wagner

## Franklin County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Center

# Where Horses Do the Healing



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### FRANKLIN COUNTY 4-H THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2010



A program of the Franklin County 4-H and sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension College of Agricultural Science, the Penn State University

# From the Center

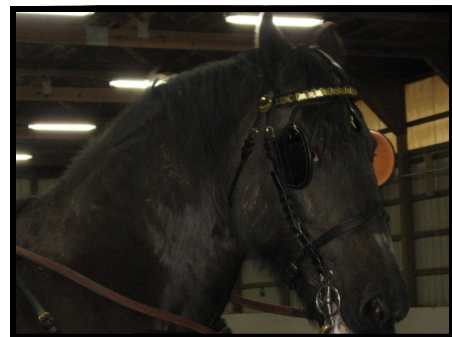
In 2009, we listed several goals for 2010. They were: to increase the number of riders in both our program for children with Autism as well as our regular sessions; to start our carriage driving program again; to bring back the Art from the Heart fundraiser; and to work towards a new and improved organizational structure. So how did we do? Well, our rider numbers held pretty steady from the previous year. George Fries took the reins of our driving program and conducted lessons on Tuesday evenings. Art from the Heart was very well attended and profited about \$7,000. Lastly we were successful in starting a new Council, which is supported by the Operations Committee. In addition, finance and fundraising committees were created to help focus on our financial future.

These were excellent accomplishments especially given circumstances we endured. We knew there would be bumps in the road, but we didn't expect so many in such a short period of time. We retired three of our faithful horses and then wonderful Watson passed away cutting our horse herd basically in half. We had a complete staff turnover. Bob Kessler retired after more than 40 years with Penn State and Stephanie Corum started to take some of his responsibilities. Patience Groomes was hired as the new barn manager in the spring and Susan Rotz came in as the new instructor for the Autism Program in October.

So what about goals for 2010? We would like to continue to develop the new roles of the Council and other committees to have a smoothly running operation. We have a number of fundraisers planned, including our first golf tournament in July. The Autism program will finish data collection in June so we will be able to analyze and publish our results. We also have the continued goal of increasing our numbers served 100 individuals, and with the addition of three new horses, we should be able to expand our services.

Bob Kessler  
Executive Director

Stephanie J. Corum  
Program Director



Susie, our lovely carriage driving horse, along with instructor George Fries, helped participants learn a new skill.



Bob Kessler retired from Penn State after more than 40 years of dedicated service to 4-H, extension and the therapeutic riding center.

# Financial Statement

## YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

### Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$ 36,295
Fundraising	5,347
Grants	56,721
Investment Gain/Loss	11,546
Lesson Fees	8,770
Miscellaneous	45
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$ 118,724</b>

### Expenses Paid

Program	
Supplies	
Equipment	\$ 551
Facility Improvements	2,926
Feed	1,393
Hay	5,175
Manure Disposal	3,600
Miscellaneous	791
Shavings	4,987
Autism program	41,652
Farrier	2,837
Insurance	2,758
Maintenance	4,725
Miscellaneous	1,821
Salaries and Wages	5,598
Training	894
Utilities	1,550
Veterinarian	2,753
General and Administrative	
Professional Fees	1,895
Feasibility Study	3,700
Fundraising	1,302
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$90,908</b>

**Support over Expenses \$27,816**

### Net Assets

Beginning	\$154,687
Ending	\$182,503



Stephanie Corum accepts the \$7,500 check as the proceeds from Chicken N' Stuff. Many thanks to the Chambersburg Rotary, Knights of Columbus and the Masonic Lodge for their hard work and support!



The program for children with Autism, funded by a grant through Summit Endowment, finished its second year of data collection.



# Program Highlights

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We held two different horse shows, one for our spring session and one for the fall session riders. Both were greeted with great turnouts. It's always fun to see all the riders, instructors and volunteers come together. Our carriage driving students, Trudy Baker, Matt Shoap and Jenny George, started us off with driving demonstrations. For this year, the shows were timed game events such as barrel racing and a cup race. A big thank you goes out to the instructors and many volunteers that make these shows a success.

## Spring Session

Barrel Race Walk  
1st—Kevin Brobst  
2nd—Dillan Wagaman  
3rd—Sophia Giustini

Barrel Race Trot  
1st—Kelly Thomas  
2nd—Diana Umbrell

Keyhole Race Trot  
1st—Skylar Johnson  
2nd—Steve Ebersole

Keyhole Race Walk  
1st—Courtney Patterson  
2nd—Michael Hoffman  
3rd—Ryan McDannell

Cup Race Walk  
1st—Kayla Kauffman  
2nd—David Dresser  
3rd—Diana Umbrell

Cup Race Trot  
1st—Steve Ebersole  
2nd—Skylar Johnson

Cone Weaving Walk  
1st—Ryan McDannell  
2nd—Dillan Wagaman  
3rd—Kevin Brobst

Cone Weaving Trot  
1st—David Dresser  
2nd—Kelly Thomas

## Fall Session

For the fall show, everyone received a ribbon for participation. Then the fastest times in each class got special recognition and a blue ribbon.

Cup race—walk only  
1st place tie—Matthew Miller on Chief and William Rice on Chief

Cup race—walk/trot  
1st place—G.W. Turner on Bridgette

Barrel race—walk only  
1st place—Erin Karcher on Bill

Barrel race—walk/trot  
1st place—Mike Jones on Bridgette



*Riders receive ribbons for their accomplishments in the Fall Horse Show.*



## Mission Statement

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**“To provide recreation and therapy through horsemanship to persons with special needs.”**

## Introduction

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The riding center was established in 1982 and is situated on 25 acres of county property on Franklin Farm Lane in Chambersburg, PA. The facility includes an 11-stall barn, one indoor and two outdoor riding arenas, pastures and trails. Weekly therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving lessons are offered to children and adults with special needs, and we have a specific focus on children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The program serves 75-80 students during the riding season and receives help from about 70 volunteers.

Activities offered include therapeutic horseback riding or driving where participants learn the actual skills of riding/driving a horse. Weekly lessons are also available for riders with Autism. Here participants have specialized sessions to address their specific needs through mounted and unmounted activities.

Along with the physical benefits our students gain, they also enjoy the social interaction with other participants and the volunteers that assist them each week.

## Vision

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**Our Center's goal is to offer year round therapeutic horsemanship activities, be financially stable, and have sufficient paid staff and volunteers to support its expanded services and programs.**

## Program Highlights



*Program Director Stephanie Corum scoops green beans at the annual Chicken N' Stuff event. Photo by Ric Dugan.*

In 12 months, the riding center had a total of 3,800 volunteer hours that were given helping riders. This translates into a value of \$27,550 to our program. In keeping with our vision above, this past year was the second full year of our program targeted towards children on the Autism Spectrum. We will continue to collect data through June, 2011 in an attempt to show how riding a horse positively benefits young people. While the effects are difficult to quantify, the results are promising.

As stated previously, this was a significant year of change for the Center, but everyone is settling into their new roles. Bob Kessler, who has managed the program since its inception

nearly 30 years ago, officially retired. Fortunately he continues as a volunteer with us since he has so much knowledge and experience. Stephanie Corum, who was with the program for 10 years as a volunteer instructor, has taken over many of the administrative duties and generally coordinates the program. Diana Ferrell, our faithful barn manager, fully retired to spend more well-deserved time with her family. Patience Groomes stepped in as barn manager and has also been a volunteer instructor. In addition, she is developing programs for assisting at-risk youth. Leah Good, who started our program for children on the Autism Spectrum, moved on to a position in special education with the Chambersburg schools, and Susan Rotz, a long-time volunteer instructor, was hired so this program wouldn't miss a step.

Finally, a newly formed Council took shape which will provide proper financial oversight as well as ensure that everyone is working towards our mission and vision. The Operations Committee is now an active group that focuses on the overall maintenance and management of the facility. With everyone working together, we can continue to hold lessons and programs that help others in our community.



*Bidders keep an eye on their favorite art pieces.*

On May 22, the second Art from the Heart was held at the Trellis Terrace at Penn National Golf Course in Fayetteville, PA. The event, which included all types of artwork donated by local artists, profited about \$7,000 for our organization, and there were many people who helped make it possible, including our headline supporter, Franklin County Visitors' Bureau. We look forward to holding Art from the Heart again in the spring of 2012.

## Program Highlights

May 22 was a busy day as it was also the United Way's May Day of Caring at the Riding Center. About 20 people from the Chambersburg Hospital and Fetterhoff Chapel Church spent the day at the Riding Center getting it spruced up for the season. They painted the entrance door and door frame as well as the tack room door. They cleaned the entryway, laundry room, tack room and office, even washing and waxing the floors. They also cleared out dust and cobwebs in the barn by wiping down the bars on the stalls. Outside, individuals built fence behind the indoor arena and mowed weeds around the holding pond.



*Two members of the Chambersburg Rotary volunteers work to install the herb garden portion of the new sensory trail.*

Then on July 24, one of the hottest days of the year, brave Rotary souls helped start construction on our sensory trail. Volunteer Leslie Bennett has been the force behind this new program activity, which is being supported by grants from Summit Endowment and The Franklin County Foundation. A sensory trail is a rich learning environment along a path that consists of slopes, turns, varied footing, natural sights and sounds, and man-made sensory experiences. For example, an herb garden will have aromas and textures that engage the riders' senses of vision, smell, touch and even taste. A musical station will have instruments riders can listen to, play and discuss.

We had other groups, including kids from Manito and Greencastle School, come and do additional cleanup at the farm. There are always projects to do, and we are grateful to those who come and help.



*Susan Rotz, left accepts the Cindy Hawbaker Memorial Award from Amy Hicks, right, the executive director at the United Way of Franklin County.*

Over the summer, in recognition of her 26 years as a volunteer with FCTRC, Susan Rotz received the Cindy Hawbaker memorial award from the United Way of Franklin County. This award was named in honor of long time director of UWFC, Cindy Hawbaker, who died in 2006. Hawbaker believed strongly in community service and the award was a way to honor her and to honor volunteer excellence in the community. Towards the end of the year, Susan was hired as the instructor for the Autism program.