

## December 2016 Annual Appeal

Dear Friend of Freedom Farm,

Freedom Farm is a place where people come to learn, heal and be a part of a community. In 16 years, we have grown from 6 participants to over 100 participants, from 1 program to 5 programs;

- Therapeutic Riding
- Hope with Horses (Teens)
- Succeed with Horses (Teens)
- Healing with Horses (Veterans)
- Books in the Barn (kids summer mini day camp reading program)

### YOU made this growth happen!

Miranda is one of the awe-inspiring Riders YOU are helping.

### Here is the story of Miranda through her mom...

Miranda Wolf was diagnosed at six months old with a Dandy Walker Cyst on her cerebellum, abnormal chromosomes, and thus developmentally delayed. The doctor said she would not be able to sit, walk, or talk. Little did he know, Miranda is a very head strong girl. She sat independently on her first birthday and chose to walk without her walker at the age of ten. Her speech can be difficult to understand, but that doesn't stop her from talking to everyone.

Miranda does have balance, coordination, and fine & gross motor control issues due to her underdeveloped cerebellum. She loves animals and we found that there can be physical rewards with therapeutic horseback riding. Horseback riding rhythmically moves her body in a manner similar to a walking gait. Since riding, Miranda has increased her balance, muscle control and strength. Miranda gets on her horse from the mounting ramp and can now bring her leg all the way over the horse without any help! Riding has also increased her confidence and independence. Miranda loves to be challenged during her lessons and she is determined to



Miranda all smiles trotting on Liza.

one day ride without the help of her volunteers. With her increased confidence she is the first to encourage and cheer on the other Riders in her lesson. Her loving spirit fills the arena!

There are other therapeutic horseback riding programs that we interviewed before choosing Freedom Farm in the spring of 2009. The decision was easy. Susie radiates love! Her attitude is positive and peaceful. Love energy is contagious and we knew that it would spread to her staff, volunteers, and even the horses. And we wanted Miranda to be a part of this. Our instincts were correct and we love

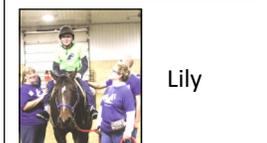
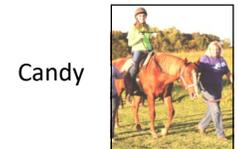
Freedom Farm! The benefits go beyond the physical improvements. Miranda loves it so much that she wants to live with Susie!

*by Helen, Miranda's mom.*

### Freedom Farm Staff

Susie Bjorklund  
 Sue Claussen  
 Stephanie Keim  
 Lisa Schabo  
 Corrie Stevens

### Equine Staff



Miranda loves riding Cassie outside on the Sensory Trail.



**Freedom Farm succeeds because of YOU, in giving of treasure, time and talent.**

This year it is necessary to raise \$50,000 during our Annual Appeal. That is a tremendous amount of money, but we know we can reach it with YOUR help!

Your gift is important and will be used for the following:

- **Provide horse care** ~ \$27,000 is needed for 2017.  
One stride at a time, these horses change lives.
- **Contribute to rider scholarship** ~ \$10,000 gives financial relief to our Rider families.  
It provides strength, confidence, independence and increased speech.
- **Help at-risk teens** ~ by giving teens hope.
- **Support our veterans** ~ on their path of healing.



Susie and Miranda at the  
Riding Celebration

Thank you for considering Freedom Farm for your year-end donation.  
Wishing you a season of hope, joy and love.

Susie Bjorklund

*It is Freedom Farm's mission to enrich lives by partnering with the unique attributes of the horse to improve mobility, build confidence and encourage personal growth in children and adults with physical, mental and emotional challenges.*

**P.S. Remember that every donation makes a difference, regardless of size.  
Your tax-deductible gift of any amount is greatly appreciated.**