



Winter 2008/2009

We're on the Web!
www.farmsteads-ne.org



From the Executive Director



2009 has been another exciting year of growth. We started providing day services to 5 individuals at Verdant Pastures in Epping and welcomed 3 more people for both day and residential services in Epping and welcomed 3 more people for both day and residential services at Rosewald Farm in Hillsborough. 2010 looks to be another exciting year of growth. We started providing day services to 5 individuals at Verdant Pastures in Epping and welcomed 3 more people for both day and residential services at Rosewald Farm in Hillsborough. 2010 looks to be another exciting year.

For those who are not familiar with our expansion plans in Hillsborough, we designed a complex of 6 apartment buildings which were to be built in three phases. Each building has 4 one-bedroom apartments surrounding a common room. We expect that in five of the buildings one of those apartments will be used by a non-disabled mentor while the other 3 will be used

for people with developmental disabilities. If you've followed our progress, you will remember that we finished construction of Phase I of WoodsEdge Apartments in February 2008. We had hoped to have Phase II built in 2009 and Phase III in 2011. Instead both phases will be built simultaneously in 2010 using a combination of funds from NH Housing Finance Authority and a Community Development Block Grant. In addition to the construction of the residences, we expect to finally have sufficient funds to finish off the activity rooms in the lower levels of four of these buildings. We will have rooms for a variety of traditional crafts such as Fiber Arts & Weaving, Ceramics & Pottery, Candle Making, and Fabric Arts. Additionally we'll have rooms for Art, Yoga & Dance, Sensory Integration activities, Exercise equipment, and Recreation equipment such as a pool table and air hockey. Finally we'll have a large meeting room for in-service training, and storage closets for each person's out-of-season belongings. We plan to make the meeting room and activity rooms available to community groups.

We expect to also start providing residential services in Epping in 2010. We have a waiting list of people anxious for services from Farmsteads of New England.

Another rather exciting development for us has been the announcement that **Farmsteads of New England has been voted by the Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce as the 2009 Business of the Year.** Among the criteria for being chosen is that a business "must show a dedication to making our community a better place by giving back to our community in some manner." We have contributed to the Hillsborough community by growing food for the community, by accepting Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons (sponsored by the Dept. of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the Dept. of Agriculture to provide free fresh produce to low-income families and senior citizens), by delivering food to the Food Pantry, by donating food to those who live in the senior housing complex, by sponsoring planters downtown, by participating in the annual pa-

AUTUMN COLORS BLEND INTO WINTER WHITES

Leaves were swirling along the drive as our farmers at FNE's, Rosewald Farm in Hillsboro, raked and made piles and fell headlong into what represented a morning's work! Laughter filled the air and leaves returned to their original placement on the lawn! A similar scene was taking place at FNE at Verdant Pastures in Epping. This yard work was a harbinger of what happened two days later when the first flakes fluttered to the ground. Shovels replaced rakes and soon snowmen will replace the stacks of leaves & corn stalks! The joys of putting on snowshoes and cross country skis replace the bowling shoes and bathing

FNE at Verdant Pastures

The excitement of opening the second day program has not lessened with time. Instead those who make up the group who attend day sessions are still bubbling and adding to the joy of having new friends and fun activities to give them the satisfaction of jobs well done. Marion Cobban is Program Director but also doubles as a mentor much of the time along with Penny Weaver who is one of our direct care personnel. FNE in Epping operates much the same as the

8th Annual Benefit Auction & Clambake!

The format for the 8th Annual Auction and Clambake was altered this year by holding our annual event at our new facility at Verdant Pastures, 38 Ladd's Lane, Epping, NH.

Mother Nature threw several curves our way but a luxurious tent lent an Arabian air to the festivities. Check-Pastures beautiful took place. The around 20 white-with Foster's ac-The landscape guests scampered bids. Those in the jewelry, R&R get-static as always. We have thanked all donors individually but once again thanks go out to all who participated to make this one of our best auctions, raising over \$29,000 for Farmsteads of



in was held in the lobby of Verdant auditorium where the live auction silent auction was set in a semi-circle draped dinner tables and crowned claimed Lobster/Clambake buffet! shimmered in reflective raindrops as between the drops to place their final market for arts & crafts, giftware, always and sports packages were ec-

Wish List:

- Hay, Shavings & Feed
- Snow Shovels
- Rear-tine Walk Behind
- Rototiller-lightly used-OK
- Commercial Weight-
- Stainless Steel
- Stock Pans
- Frying Pans
- Cookie Sheets
- Craft Room Supplies
- LCD Projector

My Corner of the Barnyard!

My name is Henrietta and I have large shoes to fill! Nykur, the handsome horse who used to write this column, had been adopted by two mentors after our last newsletter. He has enjoyed his new pasture but last week he left to be with his old buddy, Argus, in horse heaven. The rest of the barnyard misses him but we know he is having a great time with his old friend. I

have a rep for being vocal as well as knowing how to scratch around for news from



the barnyard so here is our update! We are a free range flock and number in the dozens! We are producing enough eggs for the farm as

well as farm fresh eggs for sale on the farm stand. We are raising 8 pigs thru the winter and of course, the 20 goats keep everyone jumping. Cinnamon & Gerry have their own rabbit hutch and get lots of attention. We chicks sometimes get our feathers ruffled but have to content ourselves with the pleasure of giving more than getting! Eight of our sisters went to

Verdant Pastures last summer where they delight the farmers in Epping with daily eggs as well! Their neighbors include 2 mules, Buster & Jasper, a rabbit and 2 newly adopted barn cats. Guess I've scratched about long enough. Nykur used to close with "thanks for contributing to Barnyard Friends". I will say the same and add,



Sheep and Goats
\$15 per month or \$180 annually

Rabbits
\$5 per month or \$60 annually

Flock of 50 Hens
\$65 per month or \$700 annually

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

In this issue we decided to spotlight several staff members whose jobs include not only backup for mentoring but those who make many of the daily & residential decisions that keep Farmsteads of New England running smoothly. Curtis Phelps is our new Program Director who develops our programs and regulates activities proposed by the staff. He is on call for day and residential consult and oversees our certification requirements. Working under his direction are



the day and residential coordinators. Robin Nelson is the Day Services Coordinator who coordinates the activities of the farmers and their mentors for the day program which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special activities, tours and trips are also under her jurisdiction. Deana Martone, Residential Coordinator is in charge of residential support evenings and week-ends. Deana arranges for scheduling mentors for after



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

If you should call the office you would likely speak with volunteer Shirley DeScenza, Secretary/Fundraiser, who would then direct your call. You might wish to speak with Linda Winters, Office Manager/Bookkeeper, but more than likely the call would go to Deborah DeScenza, Executive Director, who handles the overall running of Farmsteads of New England and is a source of an incredible amount of information concerning the care of those who have developmental disabilities and her vision for

Pumpkin Head Scarecrow Contest

Children locally are beginning to look forward to Farmsteads of New England's autumn festivity, the Pumpkin Head Scarecrow Contest. Farmer Jessie once again spearheaded the contest along with mentors, Jennifer, Heidi and Courtney. First prize was awarded to Molly Wilson of Hillsboro who created a George Washington look-a-like that was a true eye-catcher. Games, face-painting & treasure hunts were organized and enjoyed by our enthusiastic guests. Pizza from Hillsboro's House of Pizza, orange punch, thanks to McDonalds, along with Steve's famous apple cider and Halloween cupcake sensations were available to the hungry folks thanks to donations baked by everyone involved. We are becoming known for our farmstead baked goods! Looks like a third Pumpkin Head Contest will be held next year when autumn leaves begin



George
Washington

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE!

The athletes participated in bowling this fall in Concord. Everyone who participated loved it and want to participate again. It is interesting how each event allows the athletes to form relationships with others and develop confidence to be themselves. Isn't it wonderful to feel accepted in your life? That is how they feel at Olympic events! Next events are the Winter Games in Feb 2010! Do you want to help? Contact Chris@farmsteads-ne.org

or at 769-1483! (Chris Bober)

Thank you so much to all the parents, guardians, family members, mentors and volunteers for donating their time, effort and support to our local Special Olympics Team!

It may not seem like organizing Special Olympics is a lot but as Farmsteads grows, the budget and logistics of the team increase and become more challenging. In addition to helping the athletes train, register and attend the events throughout the year, I am

responsible for raising money for our team. This allows the athletes to participate now and in the future. I do not want to say no for an athlete because we cannot afford for them to go. It costs about \$500 to sponsor one athlete in Special Olympics events each year. We now have over 14 athletes and staff that attend the events and that brings the budget to \$10,000! My goal is to have a total budget of \$15,000, so we have money

rolling over from year to year. These funds are marked exclusively for Olympic events. Chris, Heather, Angeliq, Miranda are planning to participate in the penguin plunge on Feb 7, 2010 to raise a portion of these funds. If you can spare an amount no matter what it is, visit our fundraising page at firstgiving.com/chrisbober to make a donation. Thank you for all your support!

—Happy Holidays!

To Our Contributors:

Whether you have contributed to FNE by purchasing produce, by sending a donation because you care, or have attended gala events, *you have invested in the mission of FNE.* We thank you for this and for your continued support. *It does matter!* It does make a difference in the lives of people who need extra support!

FNE Year in Review 2009!



Mission Statement

Farmsteads of New England, Inc. (FNE) was created to provide a farming environment that is conducive to a meaningful and satisfying life for people who have autism and other developmental disabilities and who are seeking a holistic lifestyle that supports their vocational, recreational, and residential needs.

FNE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Farmsteads of New England
 We provide day, residential & respite services
 in a farming environment for adults
 who have developmental disabilities.

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 PLEASE VISIT WWW.FARMSTEADS-NE.ORG

Stop By Our Farmstand
 for fresh produce
 in season
 as well as baked
 goods & handcrafts.

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