



November 25, 2022

Dear Friend,

***It all started with a vision...***

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Way back in 2004, a woman named Mary Beth Drobish found herself in a difficult situation. Her husband had passed away unexpectedly, her children were grown, and she was left to tend Spring Brook Farm, her 17 ½ acre property in West Chester, PA, alone. Her future upended, Mary Beth consulted her horse, Aziza, about what she should do with her life. Suddenly, a vision came to Mary Beth: she would combine her passion for farm animals with her love of children. She understood the healing power and nonjudgmental nature of animals, and had no doubt that children with disabilities would benefit from interactions with them. In 2005, Mary Beth's vision began to take root, and The Barn at Spring Brook Farm was born.

Under Mary Beth's guidance, with the support of her many friends and commitment from cadres of volunteers, The Barn thrived. Children with disabilities found - and continue to find - The Barn's peaceful, bucolic setting and good natured, furry and feathered occupants wonderfully comforting and unassuming. The Barn really is a magical place where special children can be themselves and flourish.

***Fast forward to today...***

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2022 has been a very eventful year for The Barn. All of our programs for children with disabilities ran in-person and were at capacity by the summer; our Spring Fundraiser and fall Hoe Down were both very successful; children already involved in Barn programming, as well as new families, enjoyed our no-cost seasonal Socialization Events; we welcomed Miss Raichel as our new Program Manager and Miss Kelsey as our Administrative Assistant. We also developed and deepened relationships with area colleges and universities so we now benefit from a steady stream of committed, quality clinical students to help with all aspects of The Barn's programming.

Mary Beth Drobish †

*Founder*



**Animal-Assisted and Nature-Based Experiences for Children with Disabilities**

360 Locust Grove Road, West Chester, PA 19382 | 610-793-1037 | [www.springbrook-farm.org](http://www.springbrook-farm.org)

The official registration and financial information of The Barn at Spring Brook Farm, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



2022 also yielded a very sad event with the passing of Mary Beth Drobish early in the year. Mary Beth's absence continues to be difficult to acknowledge and she will always be the heart and soul of The Barn. She made one thing clear while she was alive, however. She dreamed of helping even more children with disabilities through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences, and knew that the nurturing environment which she created on her property could be duplicated on other farm properties. Today, we are committed to keeping Mary Beth's vision alive and we need your help to do so.

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is currently operating at capacity and we are planning to expand our programs onto a second property. Our broader goal is to create a model of The Barn's services, programs and operations which can be reproduced on other under/unused or generationally-threatened farm properties - not just to serve more children with disabilities, but as a means of protecting farmland from development.

We've already begun researching the availability of properties. We are hoping for a property donation but would also consider a lease or share arrangement.

Your donation today will impact our immediate programmatic and operational needs, including year-end expenses, such as animal care and feeding and building maintenance. It will help position The Barn for a great start to 2023, which will enable further progress of The Barn's expansion plan.

Thank you so much for being such a good friend to The Barn, for your consideration of a year-end donation, and for supporting a vision that has improved the lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences for over 17 years!

*Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday season,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Nan Latona".

Nan Latona  
*Executive Director*

P.S. If you would like to help us with our plan for expansion or have any questions about it, please contact me at 610-793-1037 or [nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org](mailto:nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org).

