

The Barn Bulletin



Meet The Board

Help The Barn welcome some of its newest Board Members!



Laura Woyak



Laura, a former marketing and advertising executive, has been a friend of The Barn for 2 years and just joined The Barn's Board of Directors. "I absolutely love my role as a Barn Hand helping Chris with any barn/animal related work that may be needed. Grooming the horses is my typical role. Although I also very much enjoy helping out with field trips on occasion. I love everything about The Barn! Outside of The Barn, Laura enjoys pottery, gardening, and baking bread."



Dinalynn Worley

Dinalynn, a child speech language pathologist, just joined The Barn Board of Directors. "I'm enjoying my time volunteering for IP and camp. I'm passionate about working with children, so getting to hang out in that setting is so much fun. I love that the 1:1 sessions are really child-led, giving the kids control and decision making opportunities. I've enjoyed working with the staff and other volunteers, it's so much fun meeting people from different walks of life that have the same passions. Also who doesn't want to hang out with some cute critters - Cricket's my girl!" If Dinalynn could be any animal in the world, she would be an owl! "I'm really afraid of heights and hopefully having wings would help with that, also they can literally turn their heads to look behind themselves, how cool is that?"

Program Updates

Thanks to the wonderful First Crew volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester. The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is excited to announce that we have new structures in the Elko Outdoor Learning Center! A fifth raised garden bed and a digger site are ready to engage Barn participants in building skills while having FUN! Make sure you check them out the next time you're here!



Fall 2023 IP Registration Opens July 10th!

Registration for Fall 2023 Individual Program (IP) will open Monday, July 10th via the Fall Individual Program Application on our website (link below)! Sign ups are on a first come, first served basis. Acceptance into the program is based on review of the IP application and an on-site visit at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm with our Program Manager.

Individual Program (IP) enables children with disabilities to participate in animal-assisted and nature-based activities, one hour a week during the fall and spring. While matched with a trained volunteer, children engage in a variety of hands on activities designed to match their interests and goals. Children gain confidence while performing traditional backyard tasks such as gardening, grooming, feeding, and exercising the animals. They also engage in activities designed to cultivate communication, socialization, safety awareness, and most importantly, FUN! The Fall 2023 Individual Program runs Monday through Friday, in one-hour sessions, from 2 to 6PM. The first Fall IP six-week session starts August 28th and the second Fall IP six-week session will start October 16th. Visit the link below to learn more!

www.springbrook-farm.org/programs/individual-program



"He found his place, he found his people. During his few weeks of camp, (my son) thrived - thrived in a way he never has before. He had something to look forward to and it seemed to be mutual with the camp. The Barn saved our summer. It saved our family, it maybe even saved his life."

Heather M., Participant Parent



Dr. Beata Nagy Visits The Barn

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm was lucky to have an international visitor this past month: Dr. Beata Nagy, the Director of Child Psychology at the University of Debrecen Medical Center, a 1,700-bed academic medical center and the second largest university in eastern Hungary.

Beata and her colleagues work with children with special needs, both Hungarian children, and also Ukrainian children with special needs who are now living in refugee camps close by. Their very first priority upon refugees arriving to Hungary, is to identify and assess children with special needs and provide their ongoing and necessary care. All of the children have been displaced by war and are now only with their mother, having left their fathers behind to fight for their country.

In addition to ongoing care, Beata and her team sponsor summer camps for children much like Camp Geronimo. The children have fun with physical activities, arts and crafts, and music therapy. Volunteers from the community also help with the camps. The Hungarian government sponsored a pilot program with animal therapy. This was a huge success and Beata and her team are advocating for animal therapy to become a permanent part of their programs for children in Hungary. Beata says a place like Spring Brook Farm would be "a dream come true."

Calling all New and Returning Volunteers

Enjoy working outdoors? Part of a corporate group or looking for a team-building opportunity for your employees? Do you have a passion for working with children or animals? Want to be a part of a meaningful experience working with individuals with disabilities? Become a volunteer for The Barn! To get started as a volunteer with us, visit the link below and click "2023 Volunteer Application." From garden help, socialization or fundraising events, large-scale projects, Camp Geronimo, or individual programming...there is something for everybody!

www.springbrook-farm.org/volunteer

Save the Date: Hoe Down 2023

Giddy Up for this year's Hoe Down, The Barn's largest fundraiser of the year, happening right here at The Barn on Saturday, October 21, 2023! Learn more about how you can be a part of the fun, including volunteer opportunities, silent and live auction donation and more, by contacting Executive Director, Nan Latona, via the email address below.



nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org



Check out out The Barn at Spring Brook Farm's Twitter page:

[@The_Barn_at_SBF](https://twitter.com/The_Barn_at_SBF)

& give us a follow!



Enriching the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities through nature-based and animal-assisted experiences.

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and is registered with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations.



Would you rather pay PA business tax OR make a donation to your favorite charity?

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is an eligible Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) under PA's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. What this means is that any business that pays PA taxes can register with the state NOW and apply for tax credits on or after July 3, 2023. Qualifying businesses then make a donation to The Barn at Spring Brook Farm.

Businesses may also be eligible to receive a charitable deduction on their federal tax returns! For more information, visit the PA Department of Community and Economic Development:

www.dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/

Goodbye AmazonSmile, Hello GoodShop

Unfortunately, Amazon discontinued the AmazonSmile program. Don't worry, you can still donate to our cause through GoodShop! GoodShop works with more than 110,000+ organizations, ranging from national charities to local schools and community groups. Shoppers looking to use GoodShop can get the latest coupons and offers at thousands of top retailers like Amazon, Macy's, Target and Best Buy. When you shop with Goodshop, a percentage of your purchases is donated to your chosen cause.

goodshop
You shop. We give.

Check out The Barn on GoodShop via the link below!

www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/barn-at-spring-brook-farm

Join Us For SUMMER SPLASH!

SATURDAY | JULY 15TH

A FUN activity-filled socialization event for children with disabilities and their families. A suggested donation of \$5 per child is GREATLY appreciated! No RSVP necessary. Scan the QR code below to donate now or at the event!



**12 to 3PM
RIGHT HERE
AT THE BARN!**

Or come and volunteer! We need help 11am to 4pm with set up, parking, crafts, games, clean up and more! Email volunteer@springbrook-farm.org



**Animal Activities.
Hayrides. Face
Painting. Crafts &
More!**

Get To Know: Sharon Cichocki



What is your profession/role outside of The Barn? My profession was in Human Resources but I retired years ago! I also tutored high school mathematics part-time and spent a couple of years running children's safety programs in pre-schools and elementary schools.

What is your role here at The Barn? [I've been] Board President for 5 years, in my sixth year on the board. Previous to board work I was co-chair of the Hoe Down Committee twice and volunteered working with kids in the Individual Program.

How long have you been a Friend of The Barn? I started volunteering with The Barn in 2015.

What about The Barn is your favorite/keeps you "coming back"? Knowing how much fun the children have with the animals and on the property. I've seen with my own eyes how the children benefit from a relaxed atmosphere and the non-judgmental animals encouraging children to take risks!

Name a fun fact about yourself? I'm the mother of two wonderful young women who both LOVE all animals and grew up with all types of animals! I also have two grand-pigs whose names are Pickle and Beans and weigh approximately 600 and 900 pounds. They are so sweet!

If you were an animal, what would you be and why? There are so many animals I love, but I guess I'd have to say MY dog! He is a spoiled, loved, really cute rescue dog who makes all his humans happy!

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www.springbrook-farm.org

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