



Hoof Beat

2023

*Thank you for being part of the Freedom Farm story!
I am so grateful to be sharing what happened in the first half of 2023
with you.*

Freedom Academy

Our 15 Freedom Academy students had a successful year with their horse. So many accomplishments were made while mounted and unmounted: putting a halter on, learning how to lead, how to get their horse to and from their stall and paddock, how to lunge and free lunge, how to ride, hoof care, dental care, chiropractic, stretches, which blanket to put on for what temp, understanding horses need care every day even when its below zero, how to treat different conditions, and my favorite; learning and understanding free will.

We had dedicated volunteers in the arena with our students September through June 7th. These volunteers were so caring and understanding to each student. Their loving encouragement on the hard days helped our students feel understood. Their beautiful hearts filled the arena every day.



A thank you card from a Freedom Academy student...*"being with my horse has truly helped me in so many ways. They have healed me in ways I didn't know could ever be healed again. The barn has become one of my happy places where I can put the rest of the world on hold and have a break to be in the moment."*

Thanks to all of you who purchased MUFFERS and Pumpkin Bits! The students raised \$1,500 for a field trip to the Horse Expo where they each paid for their admission fee, had a big lunch and purchased needed items for their horse.



The second field trip was to Banner Engineering. This was a very unique opportunity and we thank Freedom Farm board member and Banner Engineering COO Andy Barnauskas for being so generous with his time. It exposed the students to high-tech electronics assembly and distribution operations and other jobs that go with the industry. The students were shown the skills and schooling required to fill these positions. They loved the hands-on learning. The students were able to interact with front line workers, technicians, analysts, engineers, and other support personnel.



Hope with Horses

Our Hope with Horses program for the Girls Group just completed our 12th group! Each girl comes with a past of significant trauma. The horses gently guide them as they learn the 'yuk' does not define them. They leave with a new understanding of hope and are so very grateful for their time with the horses.



Derby Day



Our 3rd Derby Day Fundraiser!

Thank you to each sponsor and each person who attended our Derby Day Fundraiser. Lara (pictured above) has shared how Freedom Farm has changed her brother, Mirs life. She wrote: "Not many people outside our immediate family have heard him speak, but wen we bring up Freedom Farm he starts chattering away about al; the work he does with pride." We've added the full story to our website Derby Day page. <https://www.freedomfarmmn.org/derby-day-2023/>

Summer at Freedom Farm

Summer School at Freedom Farm! Students from Phoenix school in Buffalo were able to spend days here learning all things horses to get their credit recovery hours in! This is an outstanding collaboration between Freedom Farm and Phoenix Learning Center. Instead of sitting at a desk staring at a computer, they came to Freedom Farm! They were hands on learning having fun from 9am-2:30pm. We celebrate with these students working to get back on track with the goal of graduating from high school.



The students so sweetly wrote a heartfelt thank you to their horse

FIVE teens enrolled in Central Minnesotas Jobs and Training Services are spending their summer working at Freedom Farm. This program assists individuals to acquire the skills needed to maintain employment. Each day we work on communication, integrity, showing up, and team work all while working on the farm. Congratulations to Gemma on completing the program! We are excited to find out where she will be using the skills she gained.



Bubba Louie, Dually, Hank & Oliver thanking Gemma for all her care.

Welcome our new arrivals!



Hank is a 13 year old BIG, super sweet QH gelding. From ranch work to English Pleasure he is ready to serve the variety of participants.

Gucci is a 13 year old small, but solid QH mare that has retired from her Cutting Horse show career. She comes with a strong work ethic, super sweet and sound! We are very thankful for the opportunity to lease her.





Meet our sweet bunnies Misty and Cocoa! They have been a great addition for all who come to Freedom Farm. They will be a “station” for the children/teens in foster care coming here for our new Stable Moments program. 1 Mentor with 1 foster child, 1 horse, 1 hour per week. Freedom Farm will be a healing place for these children that, no matter what’s going on, after years of trauma and multiple foster homes, come for a stable moment.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- Horse experienced for our Freedom Academy students starting September 5th. These are morning hours.
- Volunteer Mentors needed with and without horse experience for our Stable Moments Program.

Please email us and let us know if you can volunteer!

Info@freedomfarmMN.org 952-955-2505

Thank you for generously supporting Freedom Farm with your prayers, donations, and time. May each person that comes through the barn doors at Freedom Farm ride the path to freedom God is so good! Thank you for your part in the Freedom Farm story.

With much love, Susie.