

news release

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contact: Jackie Rachev, Communications Coordinator

847.990.3706

jrachev@lambsfarm.org

Lambs Farm's history on display in new Visitors Center

Libertyville, IL – The idea of a place like Lambs Farm was unheard of in 1961. There was no proof that people with developmental disabilities could contribute in a meaningful way to society, but Lambs Farm Co-Founders Bob Terese and Corinne Owen knew in their hearts and souls that the young people they taught could do more if just given the opportunity. They persevered, spoke to everyone they knew (and many people they didn't know), and against all odds opened a small pet shop on Chicago's State Street, employing 12 men and women with developmental disabilities. Just a few years later, with the help of philanthropist W. Clement Stone, the store moved to an abandoned dairy farm outside of Libertyville. It was then that the idea of a campus where young people with developmental disabilities could work, live and be with their friends was born. The simple, yet profound, story of Lambs Farm is on display at a new Visitors Center.



The museum-like space tells Lambs Farm's history through a pictorial timeline starting in 1961 when The Lambs, Inc. opened, through the move in 1965, and culminating with the 50th anniversary celebration in 2011. Four floor-to-ceiling banners give brief biographies of Terese and Owen, and provide interesting insight into the beginnings of this storied organization. There are also numerous display cases with letters and photos from well-known supporters, samples from the original Silk Screen Shop and Pet Store, various proclamations and so much more. Displays and exhibits will change regularly so visitors will always learn something new about Lambs Farm.

Participants will staff the Visitors Center greeting guests, sharing their unique stories, and answering questions about Lambs Farm. Merchandise will also be available for purchase. The Visitors Center, located among Lambs Farm's businesses, will be open to tour groups, field trips, and the general public daily, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information on Lambs Farm, please visit www.lambsfarm.org.

Lambs Farm is a premier nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people with developmental disabilities lead productive, happy lives and connecting with the human spirit in us all. Based near Libertyville, Illinois, Lambs Farm strives to maintain exemplary vocational, residential and recreational programs, and to operate our organization in a manner that will continue to help people grow.