

lambs tales

2018 Volume 1

Winter



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our mission:

Helping people with developmental disabilities lead productive, happy lives and connecting with the human spirit in us all.

www.lambsfarm.org

Lambs Farm Annual Benefit *Harvesting the Spirit*

The gala affair displayed its own country flair as Harvesting the Spirit Downtown on the Farm 2017 returned for another year. The night was dedicated to providing life-enriching opportunities for the men and women of Lambs Farm.

Guests gathered at Venue SIX10 in Chicago to celebrate and support Lambs Farm's mission. The evening consisted of an elegant dinner, and silent and live auctions which offered incredible vacations, remarkable signed memorabilia, beautiful artwork

and more. Guests also had an opportunity to participate in a heads or tails game, partake in a wine toss or grub grab that left everyone a winner.

During the event, a Participant was honored with the Living Legacy Award. The award is presented to an individual who encompasses our Co-Founders beliefs that given the opportunity, people with developmental disabilities can be contributing members of society. Jane Wagner was this year's special honoree.

The Casanova Award, established in memory of Vince Casanova, a long-term Board Member and champion of Lambs Farm, was also a highlight of the evening.

(Continued on page 3)

In Memoriam: Anne Denton



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our dear friend and long-time Participant, Anne Denton.

Anne joined Lambs Farm as a commuter in our Vocational Program in 1967 and became a resident in 1977. Most recently, she lived in our Owen Residence in Mundelein, and worked as a Greeter at the Information Booth in the Farmyard. She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville.

Anne was very fortunate to have three brothers and sisters who were devoted to her, and she always looked forward to spending time with them. We are grateful to have shared 50 years full of memories with Anne, and we will miss her great personality and radiant smile.

From the President and CEO's desk...

In 2011, as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we established the Lambs Farm Living Legacy Award recognizing Participants who embody the vision of our Co-Founders. Among their beliefs was that, given the opportunity, people with developmental disabilities could learn, grow, and become contributing members of society.

Meet Jane Wagner. Today, Jane is a typical Lambs Farm resident. Unlike many, however, she was born with extensive brain damage and a total lack of muscle control, and was not expected to live. Although she survived, the prognosis was that she would live a life of total dependency. Her parents entered her into a program at a Chicago hospital called "patterning", an experimental procedure to determine if early cognitive development could be possible for brain-damaged children. Patterning required five people working together to move her head and limbs for five-minute intervals three times a day. The regimen went on 365 days a year for seven years - and it worked. Eventually, with the love and support of her family, she learned to crawl, walk, talk, read and write. At 21, she graduated from her Special Ed High School.

Jane joined Lambs Farm in 1982. Today, she is a high-functioning adult living in one of our campus group homes. She works on our Housekeeping Crew, attends our voluntary Quest enrichment classes, and is a long-time member of our Elvis Club. She is active in Special Olympics, participating in Basketball, Bocce Ball, Floor Hockey, Softball and Track & Field. This year, she traveled to Wyoming with other Lambs Farm residents on a trip sponsored by Camp Red Leaf. A sweet, thoughtful, loving person, she believes she "makes a good friend because she cares about everyone" - and she does. It is rare to see her without a smile on her




face. She has faced and conquered unbelievable challenges throughout her life and is proud of who she is.

She is the recipient of the 2017 Lambs Farm Living Legacy Award, established in 2011 to recognize Participants who embody the vision of our Co-Founders. There is no question that Jane far exceeds the personification of a productive, contributing member of her community.

For the men and women of Lambs Farm, the pursuit of a full life embodies a celebration of who they are, a sincere compassion for others, and the continuous desire to be treated with the respect and dignity they so richly deserve. Jane Wagner is a Living Legacy who personifies the vision that our Co-Founders created and fought so hard to achieve.

There is no question that Jane exceeds the personification of a productive member of her community. For all of the men and women of Lambs Farm, the pursuit of a full life is a celebration of who they are, a sincere compassion for others, and the continuous desire to be treated with the respect and dignity they so richly deserve. Your support has and will continue to assist us in assuring every possible opportunity for the men and women we serve to broaden their horizons, explore new interests and continue to grow. Please consider a gift to Lambs Farm today. It is an investment in the quality of their lives that could, as demonstrated by Jane, reap benefits for many.

Sincerely,


Dianne M. Yaconetti
President and CEO

(continued from cover)

The recipient of the award is chosen based upon their belief in the mission of Lambs Farm and commitment to its fulfillment in their own unique way.

This year's recipients were Carol Benvenuti and Carol Zarnow. Both women have spent more than two decades serving as caretakers of the Cedar Chest Thrift Shop, spending countless hours sorting, cleaning, arranging and bringing items home to make them look as good as new. They have formed remarkable bonds with the men and women of Lambs Farm as well as with our many regular customers in the Thrift Shop. Carol and Carol both expressed their gratefulness to be a part of a place like Lambs Farm.



Carol Zarnow and Carol Benvenuti accepting the Casanova Award from President and CEO Dianne Yaconetti



Lambs Farm staff and guests at dinner

They will forever cherish the wonderful memories from their many hours of volunteering. Both women believe that the world would be a better place if all people were like our Participants.

The evening also featured a paddle raiser where numerous donations were made to benefit Lambs Farm's quality of life programs.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Annual Benefit. The generous sponsors and donors play a vital role in the event, and make a huge impact on the lives of the men and women of Lambs Farm.



Guests on the dance floor



Jane with the Living Legacy Award

Thank you Annual Benefit Sponsors!

We are incredibly grateful for our generous sponsors of Harvesting the Spirit 2017, Downtown on the Farm. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the men and women of Lambs Farm.

Hay Baler — \$10,000

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Dianne Yaconetti
Arie & Shannon Zoller

New Rescue Adoption Partnership

In the fall, we started a new and exciting partnership with Wright Way Rescue, a rescue shelter located in Morton Grove. Wright Way is dedicated to evolving the focus on animal rescue into a deeper commitment of fostering the relationship between humans and animals.

Wright Way Rescue and Lambs Farm are working together to create a caring and supportive environment that contributes to the lives of rescue animals.

If you are interested in giving a puppy a forever home, visit our website to see our adoption list or stop by to see the adorable pups.



Kris and Andrea proudly holding their Shining Star awards

Our Shining Stars

Everyone likes to be recognized for their contributions. Lambs Farm's Shining Star Award program recognizes Participants who go above and beyond by demonstrating a good attitude, helping others, encouraging teamwork or promoting safety.

Andrea Agers and Kris Fox are Shining Stars for their excellent attitudes and all-star assistance. Both ladies are devoted to their jobs and have great organizational skills. They took time out of their daily duties to help staff members with a big filing project. They were also recognized for their hard work in helping organize nearly 4,000 invitations for the Annual Benefit. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Tara Kane, Linda Schuh and Sarah DeMoon were recognized for adjusting well to their job settings in housekeeping. They all exhibited remarkable teamwork and encouraged others.

Marc Nachtman was acknowledged for his willingness to help out, even on his day off. A large group came to learn more about Lambs Farm, and Marc volunteered his own time to assist staff in greeting the visitors. His love for talking to others and the confidence he has to tell his story and the history of Lambs Farm on any given day is truly admirable.

Congratulations to these Shining Stars! We are proud of each of their accomplishments.



Linda and Tara at work



Sarah DeMoon



Marc with his award hanging in the Visitors Center



The Floor Hockey Team with their trophy

Special Olympics Roundup

The hard work, determination and hours of practice by our Special Olympics athletes certainly has paid off.

61 athletes competed in bocce ball on September 22 at Vernon Hills High School. More than 20 athletes received gold medals, earning their place in the Summer State Games held at Illinois State University in June.

In October, floor hockey skills athletes took to the court and collected 23 medals and ribbons. The five gold medalists advanced

to state on November 18 and returned home victorious with four ribbons.

The Floor Hockey Team became state champions. It was a close, intense game, but their focus on teamwork resulted in a win.

Athletes also completed in Basketball Skills on December 12. They returned with 12 medals and a ribbon.

Congratulations to all athletes and their accomplishments!

New Year, New Wellness Theme

The Wellness Center continues to promote a healthy lifestyle with a new theme for 2018: The Good, The Bad & The Healthy.

Participants will be able to compare and contrast several health topics throughout the year to help recognize what are the good, better and best practices when it comes to food, activity and safety, as well as the negative effects unhealthy choices have on our bodies.

The new theme will employ different learning tactics through rhetorical questions and scenarios.

For example, Participants will be asked if they should eat all the candy, none of it or have some while being aware of limits.

These kind of comparisons are essential in learning how to lead a healthy lifestyle. A series of showdowns, presentations and interactive activities will give Participants the opportunity to grow and continue on their wellness path.



Wellness Department Receives Hero Award

Special Olympics is extremely popular among Participants, as many enjoy the competition, team camaraderie and opportunity to grow.

The Wellness Department works diligently to provide a positive and enriching experience for the more than 100 athletes who compete in the ten Special Olympics sports we offer.

This year their efforts were recognized by Special Olympics, and the department received a Hero Award at the 8th Annual Special Olympics Illinois Heroes banquet. This honor acknowledges Lambs Farm's exemplary commitment to strengthen communities and our dedication to improving the quality of life for Special Olympic athletes.

Special Olympics Athletic Director, Ginny Luptak, was highlighted at the event for all the work she does to ensure athletes have a fulfilling experience. She schedules games, organizes event logistics, completes every athlete's application process, handles stats and is a certified coach in five sports.

Congratulations to the Wellness Department for this outstanding award!



Elvis Club Celebrates 15 Years

In November, Participants enjoyed a live show by Elvis Tribute artist Travis Morris in honor of the Elvis Club's 15 year anniversary.

When Elvis entered the party and "Hound Dog" blared from the speakers, the gym was instantly transformed into a dance floor. Elvis took requests and gladly handed the microphone to club members for a chance to belt out their favorite songs. "It was really awesome," said Jerry, longtime club member.

Jeanne Curtin, who volunteered to start the club and has been the inspiration to keep it going, said the celebration was better than she ever imagined, and she can hardly believe it's been 15 years since the club's beginning. While she has been honored for her impressive efforts for the men and women of Lambs Farm, she believes that she needs to give credit where it's due.

"We would be nothing without our members," she said. "They make the biggest difference."



Jerry singing with Elvis



Volunteers from Astellas and Bakery Employees preparing Famous Butter Cookies

Volunteers Provide Holiday Assistance

The bakery produces top-notch treats for customers across the country throughout the holiday season. Given the many orders, we rely on the support of wonderful volunteers.

We were fortunate to have volunteers from MBX, Abbvie, Subaru, Discover, Astellas and many individuals help us during our busy time. Their tasks ranged anywhere from putting sprinkles on cookies to packaging tins for delivery. No matter the task, all volunteers donned their gloves and hair nets and went to work.

We were glad to hear they enjoyed their time with us as much as we did. "We had such a good time," said Christina Marr, Senior Manager, Finance, Astellas US LLC. "We always enjoy volunteering at Lambs Farm, and we agreed it was one of our favorite times this year."

In addition to our holiday catalog, volunteers supported our 37th Annual Lambs Farm Holiday Lights Gift & Craft Fair and our Breakfast with Santa event. We had a number of people from Westin O'Hare, Quill and Benefit Express help at the Craft Fair, restocking products, greeting and helping customers throughout the four day event.

Rosalind Franklin University and the U.S. Navy were a huge help at Breakfast with Santa. GCG Financial volunteers turned our Visitors Center and Café into Santa's Workshop and decorated our businesses to spread holiday cheer.

Thank you to all of our volunteers. We are so grateful for your time and year-round support!



Navy lead Courtney McClocksey with Santa

Donor Salute

Lambs Farm is grateful for the support we receive from our many friends. Listed below are the names of those especially generous individuals, foundations and corporations whose gifts of \$1,000 or more were received from August 2017 - December 2017.

\$50,000 and above

Ms. Margaret V. Denton
The Grainger Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Lyall

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous
Grace A. Bersted Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Wiegand, Jr.

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Dr. & Mrs. Marshall A. Lyall
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Mr. Thomas M. Mints III
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Mrs. Beverly Yusim
Mr. & Mrs. Andre L. Zafrani
Mr. Gregory L. Zaub
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Zils

Tributes and Memorials

We are always especially honored by the decision to honor and remember friends and loved ones with a gift to Lambs Farm. Below, we list the names of those individuals who have been honored or remembered with a gift received from August 2017 - December 2017.

In Honor Of

Ellen Allsteadt
Stephen Allsteadt
Ana Avalos
Sai Baba
Jim Baker
Barbara Barbakoff
Lee Barbakoff
Amy Barmann
The Bell Family
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Richard Bloom
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Robert Frank
Laura Frankiewicz
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Anders Gilchrist
Al Goodman
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Lambs Farm Volunteers
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Karen Lieberman
Jody Lindquist
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Larry O'Brien
Paul O'Halloran
Rhonda Oman
Kathleen O'Neill
Richard E. O'Neill
Roman Pacheco

Pat Parker
Amy Parsons
Judy Perotti
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Lianne Piccione
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Michelle Whitcomb
Joanna Willix
Frank Woidat
Marilyn Woidat
Kim Wolf
Dianne M. Yaconetti
Bob Youngen
Jeff Zemel
Jon Zils
Arie Zoller
Shannon Zoller

In Memory Of

George Alvary
Thomas Andress
Monte Arkus
George Bannos
Arlene Bauer
Christopher Bedore
Gloria Benham
Manny Bergart
Marshall Berkoff
Susan J. Berkun
L. Vaughn Blankenship
William Bock
Shari Boxerman
Karen Buron
John Gerald Callahan
Virginia Caraway
Amparo Carbo
Lucille E. Cerwin
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Tim Christie
Daniel Delson
Deborah Anne Denton
Robert Durrstein
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Sander M. Goodman
Kenneth Gordon
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Robert Grethe
Caesar J. Gridelli
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Tera L. Matthes
Antoinette Mazzoni
Josephine Mazzoni
Lisa McCormick
Marlene Mertes
Jake Messina
Keira Monson
Jill Moyer
Maureen Muller
Dorothy Murphy
John Murphy
John B. "Jay" Murphy,
Jr.
Katherine M. Murphy
James Neary
Doris Niemann
William Niemann
Azriel Nord
Joal Norris
Gloria Obremski
Robert Ottoson
Heidi Owens
Dennis Page

Bablo Patel
Frank Pearsall
Leo Petrick
Marjorie Petrick
Myrna D. Phillips
Gilbert Pomerance
Anthony Pontillo
Dora Pontillo
Anna Prestigiacommo
Gino Prestigiacommo
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Louis Reif
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Dean Rosset
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Ted Sanders
Nancy Sauseda
Ronald Schleiden
Jake Schuster
Henry Schwenk
Will Seberger
Bennett Sherman
William Siebers
William Silet
Janet Smith
Loretta Smith
Thomas W. Snyder
Aniceta Soledad
Cirilo Soledad
Teresita R. Soledad
Florence Solin
Scott Stacke
Jack Stein
Karen Sue Stenberg
Holly G. Stephenson
Ruth Stepien
Jack H. Stocker

David Sundheim
George M. Sundheim
Sally Sundheim
William P. Surdenik
Beatrice Tarrson
Irwin Tarrson
Bob Terese
Mary Ruth Terese
Eugene Tester
Helen Thomas
Blanche Thormina
Michael Tuhy
Marian Verhaeren
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Upcoming Events

Sweets for Sweetie

Saturday, February 10 | 10am-1pm

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery

Our cafe will be transformed into a boutique with delicious items that make perfect gifts for mom & dad, husband & wife and even friends and siblings for Valentine's Day!

From 10am to 1pm, you can beautifully package and decorate a sweet treat in addition to hand-crafting your own Valentine card.

Bunny Brunch

Friday & Saturday, March 30 & March 31

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery/Visitors Center

Join us for a delicious buffet and a visit to the Bunny Patch! Kids can enjoy spring crafts, activities, visit with some Farmyard friends and take a photo with the Easter bunny.

Seatings are at 9am, 10:30am and Noon.
Call 847.362.5050 for reservations.

Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 1

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery

Easter Brunch features hand carved meats, breakfast classics, fresh fruit, vegetables and a fabulous dessert table!

Seatings are at 10am, Noon & 2pm. Call
847.362.5050 for reservations.

Model Train Day

Saturday, April 21 | 10am-3pm

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery/Visitors Center

The Magnolia Cafe & Bakery will host the Valley Model Railroad Club's CTC computerized signal system for children of all ages to operate! Families can also purchase a Fun Pass and head over to the Visitors Center for train-related crafts and activities.

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 13

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery

Treat Mom to a wonderful brunch for her special day! Families can choose from a feast of tasty including breakfast classics, lunch/dinner entrees and a spread of desserts made fresh from our bakery.

Seatings are at 10am, Noon and 2pm. Call
847.362.5050 for reservations.

6th Annual Lambs Farm Champion Car Show

Sunday, June 3 | 10am-3pm

Lambs Farm Main Parking Lot

Families can view antique and classic cars, enjoy food and beverages and participate in a raffle at Lambs Farm's Champion Car Show. Free admission for visitors.

Father's Day Brunch

Sunday, June 17

Magnolia Cafe & Bakery

Dad can enjoy the day dedicated to him by choosing from hearty entrees or breakfast favorites. Don't forget about dessert - we have plenty of goodies prepared straight from our bakery!

Seatings are at 10am, Noon and 2pm. Call
847.362.5050 for reservations.

5th Annual Fun & Fit Family Day 5k Run/2 Mile Walk

Saturday, June 23 | 9am-Noon

Lambs Farm

Enjoy a brisk run or walk starting at Lambs Farm through the Old School Forest Preserve and help us to raise money for the men and women of Lambs Farm. Sponsor booths and family activities will be open during and after the event. Call 847.990.3749 for more information.

Easter Brunch

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