

# lambs tales

2022 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](http://www.lambsfarm.org)

## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

It was another eventful holiday season at Lambs Farm as Sugar Maple Country Store staff and Participants hit record-breaking sales.

Through our partnership with Packed with Purpose, a special gifting company with a social mission, we fulfilled one of our biggest orders ever: over 87,000 bags of several of our best-selling items.

We also had the opportunity to work with several corporations, one being our friends at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc (WJE).

We put together special customized gift boxes full of delicious Lambs Farm cookies and chocolates, as well several products from our social enterprise partners. As Participants baked, assembled and packaged all 700 boxes, the whole process was documented and made into a video. As WJE's recipients received their gifts, they got a behind-the-scenes look at our mission.

By the time the new year hit, staff and Participants had spent countless hours in the bakery and ended up producing over 9,900 pounds of cookies and 101,000 gifts that were sent all across the country.

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Astellas Kynd Kits

Our generous friends at Astellas sent Kynd Kits to Lambs Farm this winter.

Kynd Kits, also known as Cold Care kits, included items such as new hats, gloves, lip balm, hand warmers, cozy socks and sweet notes from the volunteers.

The Kynd Kits were made remotely in collaboration with the Abilities EIG and the CSR Teams from Astellas as part of their Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service.

Thank you, Astellas, for always thinking of the men and women of Lambs Farm!



## From the President and CEO's desk...

As most remarkable things in history, Lambs Farm started in 1961 as an idea: that there must be more for people with developmental disabilities than was being offered at the time. That, of course, was created out of need for those we serve, compassion by our Co-Founders, and hope from families everywhere with nowhere to turn.

Today, no one could have envisioned what that idea would mean to hundreds of people with developmental disabilities who are living happy, productive lives. Harder to imagine is what life would have been like for them had that idea never been spawned.

What better way is there to honor those who have meant so much to us throughout our history than with the promise of the future. It is a humbling experience, and in many ways, difficult even to articulate. So many have come and gone, all in some way leaving their mark - from our Co-Founders, to the families who helped start it all and those who worked to keep it going through the years, to our dedicated staff, our donors and volunteers, those who have supported our businesses, and our vendors. An eclectic group certainly, but one with a common bond forged from their belief in and support of the mission of Lambs Farm.

For years, Lambs Farm has served two different populations of people - long-time/older residents and those younger who have joined us more recently. We continue to help our older



Participants engage in interesting activities that match their diminishing abilities and, at the same time assure those younger a wide variety of available opportunities for work, recreational skill building, a long list of classroom topics, and a whole host of our activities both on and off campus.

As it always has been - the reward is in knowing that your investment in the people of Lambs Farm has made a significant difference in their lives. Much more than that, you have been part of something very special - the creation of a nurturing environment that continues to impact all people who come in contact with it.

Sincerely,

Dianne M. Yaconetti  
President and CEO

(Continued from cover)

Our busiest time of the year would not have been possible without teamwork from many departments. Staff and Participants on campus helped every step of the way, from labeling bags to loading boxes on the truck for shipping.

We also had volunteers from Astellas, Subaru and several individuals dedicate their time in the bakery, ready and willing to tackle any task that came their way. Their extra hands and positive attitudes made a huge difference, and Participants loved showing them the ropes.

Not only was our catalog season in full swing, but we also safely hosted our much-loved Breakfast with Santa event after having to cancel in 2020. The Magnolia Cafe & Bakery offered plated meal options and limited seatings to avoid large crowds. Once families finished up at the Cafe, they walked over to our Visitors Center which was transformed into Santa's workshop, thanks to the decorating expertise from our friends at LTD Commodities. Children were able to get a special goody bag, pick out a present, write a letter to Santa and meet their favorite big jolly guy in red.



Santa Claus ready to see guests

We had a great time celebrating with our guests and were so happy we were able to bring back a long-standing event that has been enjoyed for generations.

It may have been our busiest season yet, but we had plenty of fun, shared many laughs and learned just how much we can accomplish when we work together.



Seema packaging Lemon Butter cookies



Subaru volunteer poses with Participant Lauren while working in the bakery



Amazing volunteers at Breakfast with Santa



Participants sold holiday raffle tickets at Breakfast with Santa

## Special Holiday Celebrations

Every year, the Strohmayer family looks forward to bringing holiday joy to Lambs Farm.

Not only do they help the Cafe staff prepare for our Breakfast with Santa event, they also plan a special party for the residents who live in Green-Field, our intermediate care facility.

Working with our dedicated staff, the Strohmayers organize a celebration complete with a delicious holiday meal, beautiful decorations, photo props, goody bags and gifts.

Everyone had a wonderful time, and we can't thank them enough for helping us make such special memories year after year.



Green-Field residents having a great time at their party



So many fun props for photos!



## Farmyard News

Our Farmyard friends can't wait to greet guests again this spring, but for now they are enjoying a nice winter!

As permanent residents, the animals stay at Lambs Farm all winter long. The cold-intolerant animals move to more heated areas, and Animal Keepers wrap the Birdhouse in thick plastic to keep the wind out.

Barns are bedded with thick, warm straw and areas are fortified to keep the animals nice and toasty. Senior animals are brought to warmer barns and wear extra blankets to stay extra snuggly. Animal Keepers also feed the animals extra hay rations to stimulate digestion which keeps their body heat up. The breakdown of the fibrous hay ferments and creates heat in the animal's digestive system, warming them from the inside out!

Our Farmyard friends also received their annual Christmas tree donations and have been happily snacking on branches and using them as scratching posts. Our favorite camel, Joseph, even made his TikTok debut as he received the first donation of the season.



*Joseph enjoying his first tree of the season!*



*Lisa Parr shows volunteers the painting process*

## Carousel Renovation

Our carousel, a historic icon at Lambs Farm since 1996, is a source of great fun for our visitors and a special job opportunity for our residents. And now, it's getting a much-deserved restoration.

The beloved attraction features 16 "jumpers" – horses with all four hooves off the ground. As with anything enjoyed by so many, the horses had started to show their age. To breathe new life into them, Lambs Farm engaged Lisa Parr, a carousel-restoration expert known for her work on some of the most beautiful antique carousels in the country, to provide direction to Lambs Farm volunteers.

This past fall, horses from the carousel were removed and the project started. The restoration process is meticulous: old paint is removed, damages repaired, the body sanded to a usable surface and two coats of primer are applied. Then the special paint is applied in stages as work is done on the horse so that no two areas of wet paint ever touch. From start to finish, each unique horse takes a Lambs Farm volunteer over 60 hours to complete!

Our dedicated volunteers have put so much work into these beauties, and we look forward to showcasing the new and improved horses when the Farmyard opens this spring!



*Before shot of one of the carousel horses, lots of chipped paint and cracks to repair*



*Stunning after shot! A brand new horse that can be enjoyed this spring*



*Participants at the Cafe are so excited about the new equipment!*

## 2021 Giving Tuesday Results

The Magnolia Cafe & Bakery is one of the many wonderful places at Lambs Farm. All year long, guests come to the Cafe to enjoy a homemade meal at any time of day. They are welcomed and served by the men and women of Lambs Farm, who take great pride in their jobs and happily greet everyone who walks through the door.

When Giving Tuesday rolled around this year, we were excited to raise money for the Cafe to get new equipment. After years of wear and tear, many kitchen appliances were badly outdated.

Thanks to our generous donors, we exceeded our original goal of \$30,000 and raised \$43,225. We are so grateful for the support we received on this special day. The Cafe staff are currently in the process of ordering a brand new six burner stove, a char grill with refrigerator base, a flat grill, pizza oven, two commercial microwaves, a sandwich cart and a commercial toaster.

This new equipment will help them cook delicious meals with ease for guests who stop in for lunch or join us for a birthday party, wedding, family reunion, corporate picnic or a special event.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday. Your generosity truly makes a difference.



*Participant Tom starred in our 2021 Giving Tuesday video and looks forward to using the new kitchen equipment soon!*

## Harvesting the Spirit 2021

Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to keep Harvesting the Spirit virtual for 2021.

Though we wish we could have celebrated our 60th anniversary in-person, our virtual event on November 6 allowed guests from across the country to support Lambs Farm Participants in a variety of ways. They could tune into our program video, purchase raffle tickets for a Peloton Bike+, bid on over 100 items in our silent auction or donate to our paddle raiser to help us create an outdoor space on campus for Participants to enjoy.

The event was another big success thanks to our generous sponsors!

### Bountiful Harvest Sponsors:

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# Participant Happenings

Here's a look at what the men and women of Lambs Farm have been up to this winter!



**Green-Field residents love starting their days with a good stretch session**



**Patti has been busy working on crafts**



**Jerry is taking time to work on his writing skills**



**Participants in House 3 made adorable valentines**



**Denise & Mary Ann proudly pose with their 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. Congratulations to this quarter's Shining Stars!

Mary Ann received a Shining Star award for her willingness to help others. She took it upon herself to put supplies away for staff without being asked. Her thoughtfulness is always appreciated!

Denise was recognized for showing teamwork. Once she saw Mary Ann putting supplies away, she jumped at the opportunity to lend a helping hand. The two of them worked so well together, and their staff are incredibly proud of them.

Marc is a Shining Star for his hard work in the shipping department. Marc always stays on top of things — if he sees that something needs to be done such as assembling boxes, breaking down pallets or sorting gifts, he is always there to get the job done.

Scott is known for his good attitude and cooperation at work. Also a member of the shipping department, Scott continues to recognize what tasks need to be done without prompting. He consistently swept the warehouse throughout the busy season and pulled orders from the fulfillment bin to help his co-workers.

Marianne eagerly took on new tasks at her job in shipping this holiday season with a positive attitude. She did anything and everything she could to help her team. We are very proud of her!



**Marianne hard at work packaging gifts**



**Scott getting an order ready for shipping**



**Marc busy moving boxes for a large order**

## 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 September 2021 - December 2021.

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## 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 September 2021 - December 2021.



14245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville, IL 60048

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Change service requested

## Upcoming Events

*All events are subject to change*

### **Bunny Brunch**

*Friday, April 15*

*Saturday, April 16*

#### **Magnolia Cafe & Bakery/Visitors Center**

Join us for a delicious meal and a visit to the Bunny Patch! Kids can pick out a goody bag and take a photo with the Easter bunny.

Call 847.362.5050 for reservations

### **Easter Brunch**

*Sunday, April 17*

#### **Magnolia Cafe & Bakery**

Easter Brunch at Lambs Farm features a homemade meal and a great time with family and friends.

Call 847.362.5050 for reservations.

### **Model Train Day**

*Saturday, April 30 | 10am to 3pm*

#### **Magnolia Cafe & Bakery**

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 8*

#### **Magnolia Cafe & Bakery**

Treat Mom to a wonderful brunch for her special day!

Call 847.362.5050 for reservations.

### **Potting Party**

*Saturday, May 14 | 10am to 1pm*

*Sunday, May 22 | 10am to 1pm*

#### **Greenhouse**

Bring your container(s) and plant them here! From 10am to 1pm, staff will help you choose from our wide selection of sun or shade annuals, perennials and Proven Winners. The best part - you leave the mess with us!

### **Antiques Appraisal**

*Tuesday, May 24 | 9:30am to 11:30am*

#### **Magnolia Cafe & Bakery**

Gather your friends for a special event supporting Lambs Farm! Bring one of your favorite treasures to be evaluated by antique appraisers Debbie & Jim McArdie of Iron Horse Antiques & Appraisals.