

STEADFAST
 -Family Farm-
 564 N Broad River Road
 Eastanollee, Georgia 30538

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THE STEADFAST GAIT

MARCH 2023



A Happy Time ~ Deana Bethea

On New Year's Eve I came across a resolution challenging me to ground myself in the joyful parts of life. It went like this: Stop and recognize happy moments when you're in the middle of them. Literally stop and say out loud, "This is a happy time!" Well, it is time to recognize some happy moments at Steadfast. At the recent dedication ceremony for Peace Pavilion we were joined by an abundantly joyful crowd of visitors. In addition to prayers of dedication, we celebrated the hundreds of volunteer hours given to the building of this beautiful facility. It is now very near completion.

A great highlight of Sunday's dedication ceremony was the words given by two of our Storytellers. These kids are previous apprentices who are now growing into a place of leadership and learning to tell their stories. They told their stories beautifully in front of our crowd of over 120 visitors. One of the kids explained this perfectly saying, "This is Jesus' story showing up in me." She went on to say, "I use to have anxiety but through what I have learned at Steadfast I don't have anxiety that much anymore. Look, I'm up here speaking to you!" The other Storyteller who spoke told of his struggles with self-hate, self-harm, and attempts at taking his own life. Then he said, "Steadfast saved my life because here I found some peace."

Indeed, these are strong words. They are words bearing proof of the power of Jesus. My heart overflows with gratitude for all that has transpired in providing this farm as a place for Jesus and his healing power to be made known.

This is a happy time!

In this Issue:

PAVILION PROGRESS

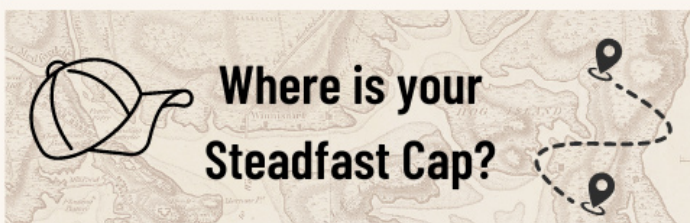
PEACE IN THE CHAOS SESSIONS

HABITAT VOLUNTEER DAVE SCHREIBER

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH RQUINE COURSE

AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP

"CAP"ITAL UPDATE



We would love to know! Post on social media and tag Steadfast Family Farm or text (706-599-7950) us your photo so we can share with everyone how far Steadfast is traveling!

#WHEREYOURCAP?



Contact Info
 Steadfast Family Farm
 564 N Broad River Rd
 Eastanollee, GA 30538
 706-599-7950
 SteadfastFamilyFarm.com



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“
 At Steadfast, they have helped me deeply. In my life I really had anxiety really bad before I started going there. When I started going there they helped me understand that God was with me and I didn't have to worry about anything because God was always with me.
 ~ Apprentice Gracie

“
 Steadfast brings peace to me inside. It's similar to being in God's house.
 ~Volunteer Ken

“
 (My son) is the embodiment of peace when he is at Steadfast. I can just see the constant anxiety and stress melt away and it is just a boy and his horse working together and focusing on the task at hand.
 ~Parent Misty

Peace in the Chaos - Spring Sessions ~ Tod Bethea

In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Have you ever found yourself saying when “blank” is over my life will get better? Whether it is school or a job, health or financial crisis, broken cars or hearts, many of us have said this. I have; 1744 times to be exact! We feel that once over this hump there will be smooth sailing. But the truth is, as noted in the verse above, life in a broken world is chaotic. In the last few years with our deeply divided world it has been hard to find peace. I keep waiting for the storm to calm but what I really need is calm in the storm, peace in the chaos. The verse here gives us the answer. Stop looking to the world for peace and realize only in Christ do we have true peace.

This spring in our sessions we will be using the metaphors that arise working with our horses to learn how we can put this into practice in our own lives. The steps we will be working through to find peace the chaos are C.H.A.O.S.

- Choose God
- Hold fast to God and one another
- Act on the opportunities we are given
- Overcome and see peace
- Share the peace

By leading our horses through new and sometimes chaotic circumstances we will learn to be led by Him through the same.



STEADFAST FAMILY FARM INVITES YOU

SUNRISE AT STEADFAST

CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP WITH US
BRING A CHAIR IF YOU ARE ABLE.

April 9, 2023 | 556 N Broad River Rd,
7 AM | Eastanollee, GA 30538

From the Toccoa By-pass/Hwy 106 intersection follow Hwy 106 south for 1.5 miles. Turn left on Broad River Road and travel half a mile. The farm is on the left.

Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Schreiber

I had the opportunity to catch up with Dave Schreiber who has been our primary support and contact person with Habitat for Humanity. Here are the highlights from our conversation.

Deana: You're retired. You could do anything you want to do. Why do you spend so much time volunteering?

Dave: *I've been very fortunate, in my career, in my life, and it's just time to give some of that back. I would just assume do something for someone else that do everything for me just because I have retired.*

Deana: Much of what you do is through Habitat for Humanity? Why do you believe in Habitat?

Dave: *Habitat for Humanity helps the disadvantaged. Through Habitat these families can afford a house. We can give them a hand-up but not a hand-out. A lot of our families are single mothers with 2-3 children, some with disabilities. If we can give them a secure safe place to live at a reasonable cost then it's a benefit to the community and the family. We have a tremendous volunteer base at Habitat and we all come out of the same cloth, pretty much. We're all retired and all looking to give back and help the community.*

Deana: You have been an amazing support to Steadfast. What have you observed that has made you want to be here and help?

Dave: *When I first met you and Tod I knew that you had a plan and that you were passionate about helping people through the horse ministry. The more I talked with you the more I saw that you love what you do. So I decided to talk to the Habitat Board and we decided it would be a good thing to do. We would just come and help you folks!*

Empowerment through Equines ~ Taylor Keene

An 18 hour course on partnering horsemanship skills with Biblical and life parallels.

Have you ever had an interest in working with horses? Have you worked with horses before and are interested in how you can partner with them in ministry? This course will equip you with basic horsemanship skills to empower yourself and to empower others through the unique and beautiful experience of working with equines. Horses have a special way of connecting with us and through that, revealing how we can connect with our creator. The many parallels found in working with horses to heal and grow in our faith is endless. This course is a perfect opportunity to empower yourself to serve as a Steadfast Journeyman or Care Team member. If you are considering, please reach out to Taylor Keene for tuition and registration information. 762-769-0854.

- This is an adult leadership course
- Limited spots available
- Must be at least 16 years old
- Meeting two consecutive weekends: May 26 & 27, June 2 - 4



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Willow and Jeffrey: Purpose and Empowerment ~Hannah Godwin

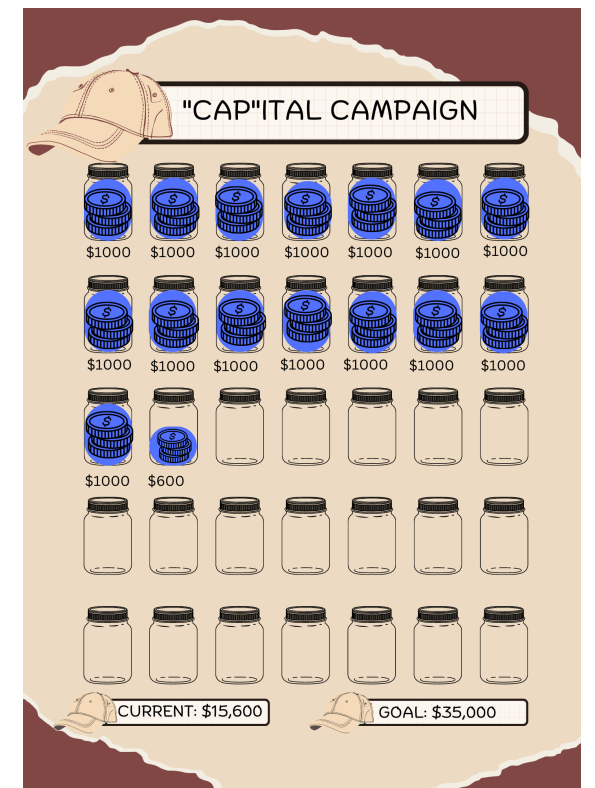
“God can do anything, you know- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” Ephesians 3:20 MSG

As we all know, going to a new place can be difficult. Whether it be a new job, a new school, or a new home, it can feel a bit intimidating. Our newest ministry horse, Willow, found herself in a new environment here on the farm, and I'm sure she felt those same intimidating feelings. The farm is so big, how was she going to fit into it all? Into her new herd? As she spent some time in the beginning getting used to her new herd and learning the pecking order and where she would fall in line, she ran across an unlikely friend- our donkey Jeffrey. Since Jeffrey joined us at the farm she has always been an underdog. She is old, a bit lame from years of hard living, and stays to herself. While she has never

had any issues within the herd, she also has never had any friends. But, when she and Willow met there was an instant friendship formed and the result has been beautiful to watch. Because of this friendship, Willow has found purpose. She is now the self-appointed protector of sweet Jeffrey. In turn, Jeffrey has experienced, perhaps for the first time in a very long time, her worthiness and value to the herd. They have provided each other with a joy that goes beyond words. We can look at this unusual friendship and are reminded of the importance of community in our own lives. Just like Jeffrey we all need to be reminded that our lives have value, and like Willow we must know that we were created to have a purpose. The Lord made us relational beings- we should be seeking Him every day so we can grow in a relationship with Him and with each other. We can look at this unlikely duo and not only see great purpose, but also God's grace, mercy, and the reminder that he loves and values us all.

Programming for Wellness and Recovery

Exciting new group programming will begin this spring at Steadfast. Clientele from the Center for Wellness and Recovery will be coming out weekly to work with the horses while reflecting on the “Faces of Fear.” Fear can be a gift that protects us, but much of the time it is rooted in the irrational and leads to harm rather than preservation. Unfortunately, unhealthy responses to life challenges commonly take on a pattern. These negative patterns of behavior are then repeated over and over again in our lives. Fortunately, however, God gives us the ability to recognize our behavior patterns, relearn healthier responses, and grow in the grace He offers us. We're looking forward to all the ways we will grow together as a Steadfast Family in the upcoming months.

"CAP"ITAL CAMPAIGN

CURRENT: \$15,600 GOAL: \$35,000

Serving the Servants: “Cap”ital Campaign Update

- Joy instead of Sadness
- Peace amidst Chaos
- Empowerment overcoming Defeat
- Belonging redeeming Loneliness

Every step of our Steadfast journey is designed to combat feelings of sadness, chaos, defeat and loneliness and replace them with Joy, Peace, Empowerment, and Belonging. Please join us as we work to provide for needs of our horses, the steadfast servants who partner with us in this task. Additional capital needs for 2023 were announced in the November “Gait.” In addition to our regular operating expenses we have a \$35,000 need for the installation of automatic waterers, rubber horse footing in the new pavilion, and construction of run-in shelters and covered hay feeders. We are thrilled that funding for the waterers and pavilion footing has been satisfied. Fifteen thousand, six hundred dollars of the total need has been met! Thankyou, Steadfast Family!

If you are led and able, please consider helping us travel further on this journey. Your tax-deductible donation can be given online at www.steadfastfamilyfarm.com or be mailed to: Steadfast Family Farm, PO Box 322, Toccoa, GA 30538. A Steadfast Cap will be mailed in thanks for your gift of \$35 or more.

STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH BE COURAGEOUS

BE STRONG REJOICE ALWAYS 1 Cor. 16:13, 1 Th. 5:16