

student horseshow • • •

New Date!

Our annual student horseshow is moving to the Spring!

In order to allow students to be further along in their therapeutic lessons, we have opted to move our annual horseshow to April. The show has become such a huge success, with so many participants, that we are also considering a two day format so that all students will continue to have the individualized attention and time at this event that they so richly deserve.

We hope you will come and watch our young athletes in action!



40 Baker Bridge Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

Non-Profit
Postage Paid
Lincoln, MA
Permit #9

calendar of events

2009 • • •

Happy Birthday Lovelane!

Help us celebrate five years at our new state-of-the-art facility in Lincoln...

October 24, 2009

2010 • • •

Lovelane Student Horseshow

April 2010

Susan McDaniel Run 4 Love

June 13, 2010

Hoedown IV

September 2010





the Lovelane Post

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program, Inc. Fall 2009



a grand
slam!

The Susan
McDaniel Run
for Love is a
Grand Slam
with Support
from Kevin
Youkilis'
Hits for Kids!



inside • • •

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"As we approach the 5th anniversary of our "new" facility, I continue to marvel at the doors it has opened up." - Debby

about lovelane

Our mission is to provide high-quality therapeutic horseback riding in a fun, supportive environment to achieve occupational, physical, speech, cognitive and other therapeutic gains focusing on children with special needs.

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Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program, Inc.

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Lovelane is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Member of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA)

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a letter from debby

founder/program director



Recently, I was fortunate to work with a child from our waitlist. Both parents had heard that therapeutic riding could help their son increase his trunk control so he might someday sit independently, and eventually walk. They arrived with hopes of increasing the use of his hands, and encouraging his speech. As many of our parents do, they came with their hands literally and figuratively full: one held a camera, the other carried their child, and they both carried the weight of their hopes and fears. This was a first for them. After 20 years of teaching, it was hardly a first for me. Yet, as the lesson unfolded I felt as inspired as I did when I first started. I saw one child and how the horse, the environment and the therapy work together to create magic. I saw potential. I saw the hope and enthusiasm in his parents and knew we could help this boy meet goals and improve the quality of his life.

Our wonderful new barn and arena have enabled us to take children from our wait list, expand our programming with new initiatives and pursue partnerships with schools and organizations. Since moving here, we have doubled the number of people we serve.

Yet with all the growth, maturity and change, Lovelane's mission remains as clear as ever. We continue to be, in the moment, about one child and his/her family. It's about our goal to improve the lives of children with special needs – one child at a time. I thank everyone who has been a part of our team and helped us to build, sustain and nurture our permanent home. I encourage all of you to visit our barn and join us on our journey of hope.

a message from corinne grousbeck • • •



“Campbell exists in a world where, like his riding peers, it is a world of can't. He can't see. Another child can't hear and still another can't walk. They can't play soccer or baseball or dance in a ballet. It is so hard to build self-esteem in a child when the world sends him messages about all he can't do. Lovelane is the one place where Campbell discovered, he can!”



From Campbell's earliest riding days, we recognized how the horse liberated him; gave him a freedom of movement he couldn't get anywhere else. The therapy he received in those early years riding in Elsie's backyard barn was flawed by only one thing – the elements. Like many other riders, Campbell endured lessons in rain, blazing hot sun and freezing cold. Wyc and I shoveled snow, raked the ring and did what ever necessary to ensure that, as often as the weather allowed, he rode. This individualized and enormously freeing therapy gave him so much more than the tedious and repetitive therapies he received in the cramped rooms of schools and doctors offices.

Five years ago, our family supported a capital campaign to build Lovelane a permanent home and give special needs children a place to receive therapy unhindered by weather. The state of the art facility that was born is astounding. It represents a commitment by so many dedicated individuals to an often underserved population. It provides an opportunity for children to expand their potential, reach beyond their disabilities and confidently meet the challenges that lie ahead. The existence of this facility has immeasurably improved the therapeutic experience for Campbell and for hundreds of other children.

The facility turns five this year. As parents we know our responsibility to our children does not end when they become adults; particularly our responsibility to our special needs children. They, like Lovelane's facility, need a lifetime of tending. **As a donor to Lovelane, I recognize that it is my responsibility to continue to support the ongoing tending of this vital facility and ensure that my child, and many others, will reap the benefits of this building for many years to come.** I will honor this responsibility and, this year, as we celebrate the fifth birthday of this facility, I invite all of you to join me as I renew my commitment to Lovelane and help to maintain what we have built for future generations.

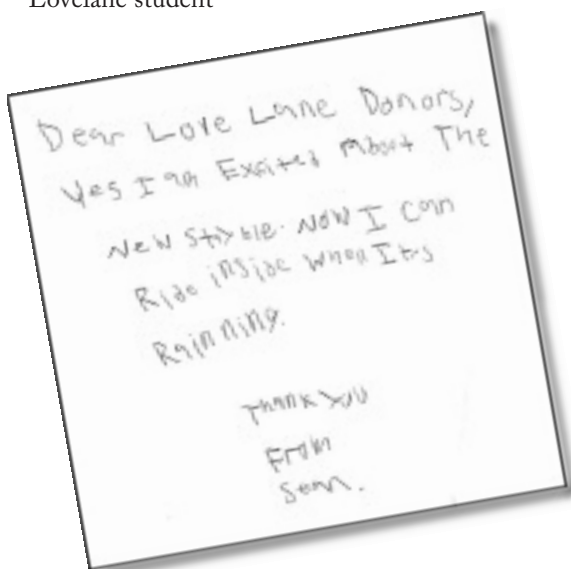
Happy 5th Birthday! • • •



“Time flies...,” it seems like only yesterday that Lovelane was awash with the excitement of land acquisition, a first capital campaign, construction and the thrill of the first lessons in our new home. The truth is that it has been five years since we opened the big green barn doors and ushered in a new phase for Lovelane. We have settled in to our new home, but we do not take it for granted and we are committed to our role as stewards of this magnificent building.

As we acknowledge this important milestone, we find ourselves remembering our past while we look forward to a bright future for Lovelane and for generations of special riders in years to come.

Nearly ten years ago, the grandparents of a Lovelane student



offered major funding for an indoor arena if we found the land and raised the money to build the rest of the facility. It was a dream come true. Our students had been braving the elements for years; riding in the cold, valiantly enduring the snow and rain, bearing the sweltering heat and facing the disappointment of cancelled lessons when inclement weather simply became too much to tolerate. This generous offer would change our lives.

In 2002, we found our site in Lincoln and launched a \$4 million capital campaign. We broke ground on a cold December day in 2003. Days later we received an anonymous challenge gift of \$250,000. As word of this challenge circulated, a \$50,000 match was quickly secured. In January 2004, the campaign received an extraordinarily generous \$1 million gift from the Pallotta family and the Tudor Investment Corporation enabling construction to begin in February.

In the fall of 2004 after the inaugural Hoedown and many donations big and small, the campaign had exceeded its goal and the building was finished. The first lessons were held in September and the children were thrilled. The building is designed expressly for our students and is fully wheelchair accessible. After 17 years of outdoor lessons, it felt miraculous to walk into the new 17,500 square foot, heated arena/barn and know that we



would never again have to disappoint our students with weather-related cancellations. The barn can house up to 12 horses so we were immediately able to expand programs and reduce our lengthy waiting list. We were truly home.

As with any facility, particularly one this large and specialized, maintenance is costly. We encourage our friends to invest in our future growth with a gift to help us maintain our home and keep it protected for years to come.

Today, five years later, we continue to appreciate the magnitude of this gift. As our program expands and interest grows, we become increasingly aware of the significance of this place and recognize how important it is for us to cherish the program, nurture our students and protect our home so that it can continue to

provide a safe place for the children of Lovelane well into the future.

Recently we commissioned a capital needs assessment so that we can responsibly care for our home. This assessment is underway and will provide us with a ten year plan of building needs and cost projections. We will have a list of imminent facility needs as well as those tasks that can be completed over time.

Happy Birthday and congratulations to all of you who have supported Lovelane and helped to make this dream a reality. Thank you and we look forward to making many more happy memories with all of you in our beautiful home.

Facility Needs and Facts

\$15,000/year
Maintain 5 acres of land

\$25,000
Replace footing in 2 rings

\$2,000/year
Repair paddock fencing

\$55,000
New roof in 2020



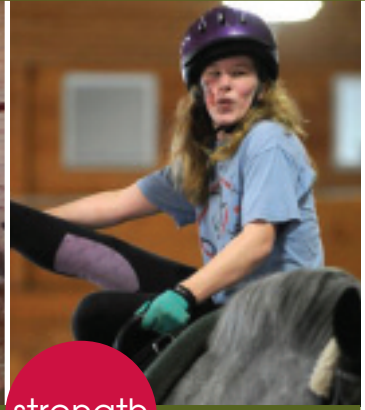
hope

*For our son Evan, Lovelane has become part of his personal story. It's a place that feels unique to him, an exciting adventure that he can share with his family, friends, and teachers. For Evan, his heartfelt answer to the question, "do you know where we're going today?" is almost always a **hopeful**, "Lovelane?!"*



pride

*Georgia refers to her time at class as her 'job'. Her **pride** is evident as she wipes her hand across her brow and tells her mom: "Whoo, hard day at the job today...I cleaned out the stalls, brushed the horses and I love Daisy Mae – she's such a good girl."*



strength

*Danielle is a big fan of our vaulting program. "Vaulting has made my arm and leg **strength** much better. My favorite exercise is the Arabesque. Vaulting is a whole different ballgame from just riding!"*

core program

Over 100 children benefit weekly from our individualized therapeutic riding lessons. The stride of the horse provides the same sensory input as the human gait, eliciting a neurological response that allows students to improve balance, tone, strength, reflexes and speech. In this partnership with a horse, students gain a sense of freedom that is often missing in their daily lives.

barn management

In our barn management classes students get hands-on instruction in basic horse care and barn chores. Students work both independently and as part of a team, following a schedule of tasks. The benefits are multifold as the students socialize with their peers, become more responsible, and learn how to manage their time and a "to do" list of chores.

vaulting

Like Pilates or Yoga, vaulting helps develop coordination, balance and core strength. Without the use of a saddle, students perform gymnastic-style exercises while maintaining their position on a moving horse. Vaulting requires the teamwork of the student, the horse, and an instructor, who longes the horse in a circle while the students ride.

summer workshops

This summer we held several 3-4 day workshops. In each, 4-6 students completed barn chores, groomed and tacked horses and received daily individualized riding lessons.

- Nearly 300 children are currently on our waitlist and to introduce them to Lovelane, we developed **Waitlist Workshops**. These workshops enable students and parents to experience a bit of what we have to offer. We also get to know some of the children who may become regular students.
- Over the years we have had many children express an interest in Lovelane. Whether they are siblings or friends of riders, staff's children or young philanthropists who have donated their birthday money, we recognize and encourage their commitment to Lovelane and the special needs population with a **Rider's Workshop**.
- Finding shared sibling activities can be challenging for our parents. With the goals of fostering communication and finding common interests, our **Siblings Together Workshop** partnered Lovelane students with a sibling or close friend. At this workshop, the Lovelane rider is the expert and teacher, demonstrating their riding expertise to their brother, sister or friend.

program outreach

- In May, we hosted a class of 6th grade girls from **Mother Caroline Academy** in Dorchester. Each girl had the chance to do a little bit of everything from riding and vaulting to mucking out a stall, grooming and tacking-up a horse.
- Students from the **Perkins School for the Blind** Summer Outreach Program joined us this July. Each group got a smattering of 'off-the-horse' experiences and an opportunity to ride.
- Since becoming neighbors on Baker Bridge Road, Lovelane's partnership with **The Carroll School** has been going strong. Many of their students take weekly lessons or participate in our Vaulting and Barn Management Classes.



fundraising at lovelane

At Lovelane, each lesson involves a therapy team made up of an instructor, a volunteer and a horse. This year, by partnering with other non-profits and businesses, Lovelane moved the team approach beyond the riding ring and into our fundraising and outreach efforts.



Susan McDaniel Run for Love is a Huge Success

Despite the cloudy weather, over 350 runners joined us for the race and the event raised over \$110,000 for our

Susan McDaniel Scholarship

Fund and the program. This event, first established in 1996, was dedicated in 2005 to the memory of Susan McDaniel, a former student at Lovelane. Participants have doubled and

dollars raised have quadrupled since 2007. Even with the exciting growth, it remains a strong, family-centered day. Susan's mother, Margaret Randle says, *"This year's Run for Love was a wonderful tribute to our Susan. We were delighted to see so many of Susan's friends, Lovelane students, staff, volunteers and families enjoying the Diaper Dash and the Kid's Run. We were also extremely excited to see the new faces of serious runners including Karen Smyers, new race sponsors and Kevin Youkilis' family."*



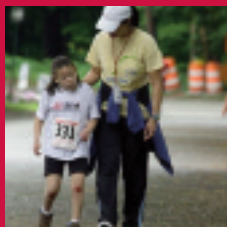
The financial success of the Run for Love was due in large part to a \$50,000 match from Youk's Kids Challenge. This match opportunity came to Lovelane as part of our partnership with Kevin Youkilis' Hits for Kids, a charitable organization that teams up with existing children's charities to help them raise money and awareness. Motivated by the match, many individuals saw the Run

for Love as an opportunity to expand Lovelane's support base by setting up online fundraising pages and collecting pledges, large and small, from friends, family and neighbors. Lovelane hopes to continue to grow this event and increase the impact it has on our program by hosting it annually and encouraging more individuals to actively seek support for their participation.



A Day at the DeCordova Sculpture Park & Museum

This year, the DeCordova Sculpture Park & Museum invited Lovelane and several other Lincoln non-profits to participate in Art in the Park, a day featuring over one hundred artisans exhibiting their work in the sculpture park. On June 14th a team of Lovelane volunteers manned a table and spoke to visitors about Lovelane, the services we provide to special needs children, volunteer opportunities, and our mission.



BBQ Cooks It Up for Lovelane



Blue Ribbon BBQ owner Geoff Janowski has been a long time supporter of Lovelane's Hoedown, donating food in both 2006 and 2008. After attending

our winter open house and seeing our program in action, Geoff knew he wanted to take his commitment to the next level. He partnered with us to create *Another Serving*; a donation of 5% of all individual, in-store purchases and 10% of all catering orders placed between April 14th and June 14th. Blue Ribbon also supported the Run for Love with a team prize and brought sunshine to race day with an All-American lemonade stand. About his involvement with Lovelane Geoff says, "Participating in the Hoedown is the thrill of a lifetime but it was seeing the riders and the dedicated staff at the open house that filled me with a real sense of pride about supporting Lovelane. I love kids and horses. What more needs to be said. I'm hooked!"



Lovelane Night at Fenway

On one of the few sunny days in June, five Lovelane students were invited by Kevin Youkilis *Hits for Kids* to a day at Fenway. Excited to see the Red Sox face off against the Marlins, the students and families were also treated to an on-the-field meet and greet with Kevin and his teammates. Cristina Castaneda, mother of rider Christian writes, "For me the best part of it was that it opened the door for him to the world of baseball. He used to watch baseball with his dad and didn't care. Now baseball makes sense to him and he pays so much attention when Kevin is at bat. The evening was just another example of how Lovelane has shown us the truth in the words: *If you tell me, I forget. If you show me, I see. If you involve me, I understand.*"

waste not . . . We call it manure, they call it fertilizer.

Lovelane and our neighbors, The Food Project, are working together to reduce costs. The Food Project will receive deliveries of our manure, saving Lovelane the expense of removing it, and providing them with the fertilizer needed to make their fields flourish.





one donor makes a difference • • •



It is particularly exciting when someone new discovers us and we receive an unexpected contribution.

Recently we had one such experience. We hope that his words will inspire others to join him and support us.

Our new friend has asked that he remain anonymous and we are happy to honor that request. He was, however, more than willing to talk to us about why he decided to contribute to Lovelane and how he found out about us.

Tell us a little bit about what made you interested in us?

I was first introduced by a friend whose child rides at Lovelane. I recently became a new parent and it was only after our child was born that I fully realized how it is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that children are provided with all the love, care, attention, guidance and teaching they need.

I suddenly found myself taking a greater interest in my nephews and nieces, and when given the opportunity to make a small difference for the kids at Lovelane, I was more than happy to help.

You've never been to our facility in Lincoln; never seen the riders. Can you tell us how you felt you could make a contribution without even seeing us in action?

For me, I didn't need to visit the facility in order to understand the positive impact that Lovelane has had on the lives of many children in the Boston area. I see it in my daughter's eyes every time I teach her something new, help her back up when she falls, or hug her when she cries.

Your first gift to Lovelane was to the 2008 Annual Appeal, and shortly afterwards you supported the Run for Love with a generous gift. What inspired you to do this?

Actually, I was inspired by Kevin Youkilis' Hits for Kids. His generous offer to match donations was the perfect opportunity for me to participate again.

50% of Lovelane's operating budget is provided through fundraising activities.

You also went the extra mile and got your company involved. Can you talk about that?

I am lucky to work at a firm that cares a lot

about giving back to the community. All of our employees are allowed to donate to a charity of their choice and the firm generously offers to match up to \$3,000. We also have a philanthropic committee that will make additional donations to worthy causes such as Lovelane. I submitted a proposal requesting that our firm take a long, hard look at the opportunity provided by the Youkilis match for the Run for Love. They came to the same conclusion that I did and made a donation on their own.

wish list

how you can help

email us at mail@lovelane.org
or call (781) 259-1177 x22

Operating a therapeutic horseback riding program facility is expensive. Tuition revenues represent less than half of our annual operating budget and nearly half of our students require some level of tuition assistance. We rely on grant funding, events, corporate and individual charitable gifts in order to meet our operating costs.

Your donation of money, property or goods and services can help secure Lovelane's success and ensure that our young athletes can continue to benefit from our programs.

Make a Donation

- \$50 provides one week of grain for all 12 horses
- \$100 provides one fully-funded lesson for one child
- \$250 provides one month of farrier (shoeing), veterinary and dental services for one horse
- \$750 provides average tuition assistance for one student for a semester
- \$1,500 provides one year of trail maintenance
- \$2500 provides one year of hay, grain and bedding for one horse
- \$5000 provides a full-year scholarship for one student

Volunteer

We also rely on the gift of time from our many supportive volunteers.

For more information about volunteering, call Lisa at 781.259.1177, ext. 26.

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

find us online • • •

Facebook

Lovelane has created a Facebook page! Search for "Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program" to become a fan of our page and get up-to-date information about upcoming events.

e-newsletter

Lovelane sends out a quarterly e-newsletter. If we don't have your email address...you are not "in the know" about barn happenings. Email chris@lovelane.org to get on our list.

class offerings

Our Core Program has a long waitlist but you or your child could experience Lovelane this spring through our Barn Management or Vaulting Classes. Please contact kevin@lovelane.org to find out about our adult vaulting, youth vaulting and barn management classes.