

Lovelane is where hope begins...



Dear Lovelane friends and supporters,

We are writing to encourage you to contribute to the very special children who ride at Lovelane. We are writing because we believe in what happens there. We have seen it first hand. We are writing on behalf of our son, Eddie *and* the many other children of Lovelane.

Eddie came into our lives when our daughter volunteered at an orphanage in Guatemala. At age two, after being severely physically abused, Eddie was abandoned and left in the orphanage. He suffered a major brain injury which left him visually impaired and unable to walk or speak. As our daughter fell in love with him, we began to hear about this amazing little boy. Soon, our hearts were captured too and as a family, we welcomed him into our lives just before the holidays last year.

"From the start, Eddie loved to ride. He loved the motion and the exercise and began to learn to communicate with his hands. During his first few lessons, we were often moved to tears."

We had few expectations; we only knew that we needed to love him and give him the chance to begin to heal. Earlier this year Debby Sabin called to say that Eddie could move off of the waiting list and come for a lesson. We knew very little about Lovelane but when we drove up the driveway and saw the barn, we looked at each other and said "Wow."

We thought of the days, not long ago, when Eddie sat for hours on the floor of the orphanage chewing on his shoelaces.

Now he is sitting, straight and tall on a horse! He has learned to sign "more" and "go." Imagine the wonder of learning to balance and use muscles untouched for years. Imagine being surrounded by instructors and volunteers who let you know, in a multitude of ways, that you are great.



Lovelane is aptly named. It is a remarkable place that weaves great love with excellence in all that they do. Children, like our Eddie, flourish there because of the skilled therapy combined with the spirit of hope. Eddie has gone from pauper to prince, **Lovelane enables all of their students to feel like princes and princesses.** It is the place where they can feel capable and special.

We hope you will help us support this amazing place so that other children, like our dear Eddie, can continue to thrive and grow while bathed in love at Lovelane.

With thanks.

Steve and Ellen Nelson

As you make your giving plans this year, I ask you to consider the following:

- *Nearly half of the students who ride here require some level of tuition assistance in order to pay their fees.*
- *More than 50% of our operating budget must be raised through individual giving, foundation and corporate support.*
- *Since 2006, our horse care expenses have increased by 53% and we cannot do what we do without our horses.*

-Debby Sabin