



partners for progress

## Partners for Progress News for You! LET'S STAY CONNECTED during COVID-19! April, 2020



**RIDER SPOTLIGHT**.....If you have visited the barn on any given Saturday, you were likely greeted by **Sean McGowan!** Sean came to us in 2009, when his mother stopped out at our than home of Fields & Fences. A decade later, and Joanne McGowan says its hard to describe Sean's **unbelievable abilities** on horse back '(he) could not master shoe tying, but can perform amazing movements while atop a trotting horse; such as kick-backs and tabletop (pictured above). His **spatial awareness** and social understanding has improved and Joanne is amazed at his ability to now volunteer, working with others cohesively and while shifting his abilities to the changing environment, something his family struggled with in Sean's childhood. 'Sean use to laugh at his siblings anguish, simply because he was unable process emotions and respond in an appropriate manner.' At the barn while **participating** in treatment sessions, developmental vaulting, occupational life skills and

MEET our Equine Partners..

*Playful Pearl!*



**Pearl**....AKA Lazy Lovin...was born in 2010 and was anonymously donated to PFP in 2017, though she has been a part of the program for much longer. **Pearl** has extensive professional horsemen training, increasing her quality of movement, strength of motoric input and skills in the show ring! In addition to her value as a therapeutic partner, **Pearl** is a strong competitor on the PFP show team with many of our accomplished show team members! **Pearl** has won multiple titles over the past few

volunteering; Sean has not only learned how to handle these changing demands, but has made friends and met many other families working through some of the same struggles he once knew so well. Joanne 'knows that at the barn he is safe and surrounded by people who push him to his greatest potential and don't take no for an answer, sometimes as an overwhelmed mom, it is hard to do that.' Further, the 'skills Sean has developed will help him to **successfully live** in a CILA, with his peers and while holding down a job. PFP has given Sean the support he needed even on his worst days and it was a godsend to drop him off and know that no matter what he would be safe and leave happier and **more regulated.**'

We at PFP, are proud of the young man that Sean has become and know that we worked hard alongside his family, to help increase Sean's **quality of life** and greatest potential!

## INTRODUCING!!!!

### Life and Work Skills Program

Many of you may have heard of our newest program, Occupational **Like/Work Skills!** This program was piloted in 2015, targeting young adults and adolescents 14 year of age and older. The vision of the program is to provide opportunities for individuals that recognize abilities to develop out-of-the-home and societal experiences through work and volunteerism, promoting individual dignity and community participation and inclusion. PFP is working diligently in inquiring public and private funding allocations to continue to develop this new area on site and within our local communities. At this time a limited amount of spots are available for the summer season, see/contact a staff member for more information.

years competing at the AQHA Quarter Horse Congress and NSBA World Show in the Equestrians with Disabilities and Youth divisions. **Pearl** loves bananas and has a soft spot for Joe and Jerome, the PFP herd protectors. Many who have lead her in sessions would share that she has quite an expressive personality, sassy to say the least!!

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## VOLUNTEER LIMELIGHT....

Malea Thornton



I started volunteering in equine therapy 14 years ago when I was living in Colorado. My son Nicholas was born 4 months premature and passed away 7 months later. Afterwards I was looking for something I could do that would help other children that were dealing with the same issues that he might have gone through. I've always loved animals and especially horses so equine therapy was the perfect fit. I've been lucky enough to work with a lot of the same riders for long periods of time and it is so gratifying to see the progress they make. Partners for Progress is the 3rd organization that I've



volunteered for and is by far the best! I miss spending time with the horses but I especially miss seeing the instructors, volunteers and riders. I hope you are all staying healthy and safe and we'll get to see each other soon!

## A Note from the Treasurer..



Hi PFP Family,

I hope you are all doing well and are surviving this craziness!

I'm Greg Jansen and I've been around PFP for little more than seven years. Many of you know me, and Mandi even put me in the newsletter last month!

I know it might not be my place to make the request I'm going to make, but I hope you consider it!

Right now a lot of us are receiving a stimulus check from the government for \$1200. For some people it's money just in the nick of time and it's helping them get through a rough spot.

Others of us, myself included, appreciate the money but do not have the same need as others.

Here's what I'm going to do, and I hope some of you follow my lead!

PFP is a wonderful organization that has helped me immensely and has certainly helped many of you and your families!

I'm going to take \$200 of the money I receive from the government and make a donation to PFP. It's not a fortune out of my pocket, but that with many other \$200 donations could be a game changer for PFP!

While we are sheltering in place, PFP's horses are EATING in place! Animals don't know when there's a crisis going on, they just know they want their groceries



Coronavirus Update (IL and WI): We continue to keep up to date with the daily changes in the professional gathering of medical and social information involving COVID-19. PFP continues to make week to week decisions on resuming treatment sessions and will continue to keep you up to date. Please know that the horses are well cared for during this uncertain time! At this time PFP is closed to the public. Follow our Facebook page for daily updates!

\*\*\*PFP will keep everyone updated on event date changes as those decisions are made.

**STAY TUNED....PFP has a new and improved Website coming...Huge shout out to Donna Berg for her creative inspirations with the new website AND the PFP videos the last two years!**

Visit Donna's Newest PFP video  
HERE!

every day!

I'm sure Diane will manage to get through this crisis and she has many others in the past, and with a little luck will get some well needed help from the government, but in the meantime the horses keep eating, and pooping, and their care takes a lot of money!

I hope you all will consider what I'm saying here! A little from all of us will make a huge difference to PFP, just as PFP has made a huge difference in many of our lives! Hang in there everyone!

*Greg*

## Up and Coming....

- [Family Fest and Student Horse Show](#) - August 23, 2020 @ PFP's Therapeutic Riding Center
- [ThrowDown at the Hoe Down](#) - September 12, 2020 @ Canlan Sports Center in Lake Barrington
- [Summer Camp and Job Skills](#) - Spots are limited! Ask a PFP Staff member today!

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Connect with us

