



Cooper's Briefing

News from Cooper's Crossroad

Spring 2024

Neigh There, Dear Friends,

and a warm welcome to the blossoming Spring at Cooper's Crossroad! Elm Farm has been bustling with activity!

As your skilled equine correspondent, Cooper, I'm delighted to share that we're over the moon thanks to the incredible support from the Fenton Family Dealership and Keene Subaru's "Share the Love" holiday promotion, Cooper's Crossroad received a **generous award of \$22,000** to benefit our existing programs!



Such a happy moment when our friends from Keene Subaru presented us with a BIG check!

And now, for something you won't want to miss: mark your calendar for our first event of the year at Elm Farm - the **"Kentucky Derby Party!"** It promises to be an afternoon filled with festivities, frolics, and of course, a dash of Southern charm. Details await below, so saddle up and join us! With the scent of fresh hay in the air and the promise of new beginnings, let's make this a season to remember together!





Kentucky Derby Party



Saturday, May 4
5 - 7:30 pm at Elm Farm

Experience the thrill of the 2024 Kentucky Derby on May 4 as we stream the race festivities live for all to enjoy - rain or shine! The race kicks off at 6:24 pm.

\$25 per ticket online (or \$50 at the door), kids 5 and under are free. Your ticket includes an array of delectable hors d'oeuvres and two complimentary drink tickets for guests aged 21+. Indulge in our signature Mint Julep and an assortment of refreshing non-alcoholic beverages.

Join in the excitement with our **raffle, prizes, a spirited hat contest, and a whimsical photo booth** adorned with playful props! Best of all, every dollar spent goes directly to supporting Cooper's Crossroad, ensuring that our participants continue to thrive. Come join us for an unforgettable late afternoon of elegance, excitement, and charitable giving at its finest!

Get your tickets at cooperscrossroad.com/derby. We're excited to see you at Elm Farm!

Ready for NH Gives?

Let's come together and make a big impact during **NH Gives on June 11-12!**

Your support means everything to us, and we've made it easy for you to join the movement:

- 1. Spread the word:** Share this newsletter with your friends and family. Our collective networks are key to our success.
- 2. Get social:** Use your social media platforms to raise awareness about NH Gives and show your support for Cooper's Crossroad. Post on Facebook, tweet, and spread the love!
- 3. Save the date:** Mark June 11-12 on your calendar and visit nhgives.org to donate to Cooper's Crossroad and/or any other fantastic nonprofit in New Hampshire. Together, we can make a difference!



[NHGIVES.ORG](https://nhgives.org)
[#NHGIVES](https://twitter.com/nhgives)
[#TOGETHERWEGIVE](https://twitter.com/togetherwegive)

Our Programs Are Growing in Leaps & Bounds!

Cooper is happy to hoof it over to Elm Farm via the rail trails from Dusty Dog Farm on West Street to help support the Farming for Resilience program as a four-legged equine friend. We are looking forward to the return of students from the **Keene Middle School's** "Bridges Program" and **Keene High School's** "North Campus Program." Last fall the **Chesterfield Lion's Club** kindly funded participation from students at **Chesterfield School** in the Farming for Resilience program for the first time, and we are so excited that they are able to return for a spring session at Elm Farm!

Last spring Cooper's Crossroad piloted a Farming for Resilience After-School Program to six students, kindergarten through the 3rd grade from the Monadnock School District.



Sharon Arnone, who works for MRSD, stated:

"One lovely outcome was how this experience expanded communication between the children and their parents. They were saying that the children couldn't stop talking about everything they did at the farm." She also shared that one of the children told her "I can't wait to face my fear."

Spotlight on Dusty!

Hello I'm Dusty! I am retired from a long career as a fair pony all over New England. When I turned 38 years old I moved to Elm Farm. I am now 40 years old, the oldest equine at Elm. But don't let my age fool you, I am a very healthy pony and love being a part of all our programs.



Getting love, attention, and as many treats as I can is my daily goal. I'm also quite famous, with my own social media page!

Since being at Elm Farm, we have been able to get my age-related health issues under control with wonderful help from my caretakers. This has helped me blossom into a farm favorite.

Please be sure to come visit me, and bring snacks too!

The girl initially rode a pony, eventually a horse, and looked like she felt safe and proud while riding. Cooper is giving a **big shout out to Sharon Arnone and the MRSD team** for helping to facilitate six students coming back to Elm Farm this spring to participate in our Farming for Resilience After-School Program!



Now for the grand finale - Cooper is so excited to announce the **launch of the GLOWE Program** this spring. GLOWE stands for Growing, Learning, & Overcoming with Equines. Erin Ballard and Iria Doescher have been working hard behind the scenes to develop this 8-week program designed to prepare participants to safely volunteer or work at the barn, promoting opportunities for growth, employment, or future careers in the field of agriculture. One of our Farming for Resilience – North Campus students now has his intentions set on becoming a farrier!

We are piloting this program **thanks to Jan Barry**, who secured funding from the Keene Rotary Club, and Keene Subaru (Fenton Family Dealership) with funding we will be receiving from their “Share the Love” holiday 2023 promotion. Many thanks to the **Keene Rotary Club** and the **Fenton Family Dealership/Subaru of Keene** for their generous support! Cooper is giving a big NEIGH to **our volunteers** who help support our programs. None of this would be possible without you!

Have you read The Blog?

Cooper is eager to nudge you in the direction of Christina’s monthly blog posts where the Cooper’s Crossroad Founder shares her take on life’s twists and turns.

Whether it’s tales of laughter, tears, or moments of profound revelation, her writing has a way of resonating deeply with readers.

Get ready to be inspired, entertained, and moved at www.cooperscrossroad.com/blog.



Meet Iria!

We are thrilled to shine the spotlight on Iria, a cherished member of the Cooper's Crossroad family who embarked on her volunteering journey with us two years ago. Originally from Germany, Iria now resides in Walpole, where she raises her five children as a stay-at-home mom. Her presence at the barn is unmistakable, characterized by her approachable, fun-loving, and outgoing personality.



Iria's connection with Cooper's Crossroad was sparked by her profound understanding of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder, which one of her children experiences. Initially, she and her daughter Keira began their volunteering journey at Elm Farm, tending to the horses and ponies and assisting with training sessions. As Iria recalls, her involvement quickly blossomed, drawing her deeper into various aspects of barn life and our programs. She was quick to recognize and appreciate the transformative environment Elm Farm fosters, and the unique opportunities it provides for our participants to engage, learn, and thrive.

Reflecting on her volunteering experience, Iria emphasizes the significance of service in building community bonds. She has immense gratitude for the chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our program participants. She also feels the positive impact her involvement at Elm Farm has had on her own well-being, noting, "I am extremely happy volunteering at Elm Farm, and my focus there has improved my overall well-being."

It comes as no surprise that Iria recently earned HERD certification in equine-facilitated learning. Witnessing her create an inclusive and nurturing environment where participants flourish shows her strong commitment to supporting Cooper's Crossroad's equine-facilitated programs. Iria's dedication is an integral part of our community, and we simply cannot envision Cooper's Crossroad without her.

Thank you, Iria, for your boundless energy and unwavering support. You truly make a difference in the lives of all those you touch!

Next time, we will feature Allison Blaisdell and Nova Evans, two enthusiastic young volunteers who just started working with us at Elm Farm!

Gratitude Corner

603 Floristry
 Sharon Arnone & MRSD
 Jan Barry
 Chroma Technology Corp.
 Iria Doescher
 Fenton Family Dealership
 Jen Gardner
 Krista Gilbert
 Jarrod Houston
 Dorothy Hunt
 Keene Rotary Club
 Dave & Yesenia Major
 Beth Martin
 Carol & Joe Minichiello
 Eliza Murphy
 Network for Good
 Anonymous Donors
 Orchard Hill Breadworks
 Subaru of Keene -
 Share the Love
 Fred Schaaff
 Todd Silberstein
 Takeda Pharmaceuticals
 Sharon Tyndall
 All of our Volunteers
 The Cooper's Crossroad
 Board and Officers



Trust Us - You Need One!

Show your support for Cooper's Crossroad with our stylish new swag! These high quality hoodies are super soft and cozy on the inside and available in sizes S-XXL. Get yours directly at Elm Farm for \$50.



Pizza Night at Orchard Hill!



Come to Orchard Hill Breadworks on Tuesday, July 23 for our pizza night fundraiser! More info at www.cooperscrossroad.com/pizza

How Can YOU Get Involved?

- Sign up to receive our newsletters and announcements at www.cooperscrossroad.com/signup
- **Consider volunteering** on the farm during our program hours or for care of our animals (even a couple hours per week) or as a board member - email us at cooperscrossroad@gmail.com
- Help out financially by considering a **donation or sponsorship**, or take a look at our wishlist at www.cooperscrossroad.com/wishlist. We hope to hear from you!

Cooper's Crossroad - Creating Pathways to Wellness
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