



Letters  
page 2



County  
grants  
page 4



A great  
chicken  
story  
page 5



Spring  
tour  
page 8

# Friends News

A non-profit organization supporting  
Deer Hollow Farm and its educational programs



## Santa Clara County Increases Farm Support

**S**anta Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, a Deer Hollow Farm funding partner for nearly 20 years, has agreed to increase its support from \$50,000 annually to \$75,000. The Farm's other funding partners, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the City of Mountain View, have more than doubled their original commitments of \$50,000.

"We are grateful to Santa Clara County, particularly to Supervisor Joe Simitian, whose district encompasses the Farm," said John McAlister, Mayor of Mountain View. "This means greater funding sustainability long-term for this outstanding regional environmental education center."



Mayor McAlister

Supervisor Simitian has been a Farm champion for many years, beginning in the late nineties when he was a Supervisor and first recognized the Farm as an outstanding educational center. "The increased support is long overdue," said Supervisor Simitian.



Supervisor Simitian

"I'm delighted the County was able to step up with additional funding for Deer Hollow Farm. It's one of our County's premier outdoor environmental education facilities."

Other Farm funders are Friends of Deer Hollow Farm donors with nearly \$50,000 support last year, and the cities of Cupertino and Los Altos Hills, who gave \$10,000 and \$9,950 last year.

This spring, Friends submitted its request to the county for increased funding. "It's critical that we have regional support of this environmental education center," said Friends President Sue Gale. "Recent Farm visitor surveys show that more than 100,000 visitors come from all Silicon Valley cities annually for free. We believe sharing the Farm's operational costs (more than \$430,000 annually) ensures this historic Farm remains open to the public and continues to provide top-notch education opportunities to Santa Clara County families and school children."

## Fall 2015 Events

**M**ark your **October** calendars for two **Saturdays**, the **10th** and **24th** and experience Deer Hollow Farm at two annual fundraising events.

**October 10 is Ohlone Day, 12 to 3 pm.** Don't miss the only time our replica Ohlone village is open to the public. Trained docents will help you learn about the Native American culture of this area. You and your kids will have fun doing acorn grinding, shell drilling, dancing, cording, and so much more. This is a great event for families with children in elementary school.

**October 24: Spooky Times, 10 am to 3 pm,** is a chance to experience the Farm when it is all dressed up for Halloween. As you follow the story of the scarecrow, trained docents will be there to help you experience the Farm animals and participate in games and crafts. If you come in a costume, you will save two dollars off admission.

The \$7.00 admission fee for those one year old and older for these events will raise money for the Farm. Friends will use profits from Ohlone Day for Farm improvements such as the recent duck pond and the new pig enclosure. Spooky Times is run by Farm staff to benefit the care and feeding of the animals.

For directions and up-to-date information go to [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org) or visit us on Facebook.



Cording together at Ohlone Day 2014

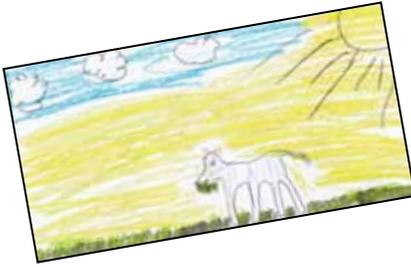


Farm staff at Spooky Times 2014

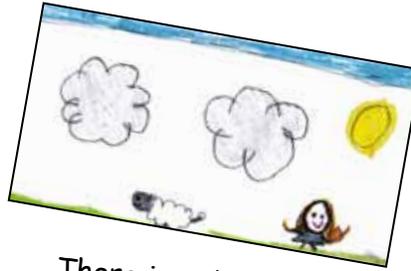
# Letters

After a trip to the Farm, Bubbs room 7 first graders drew pictures. They completed the sentence that began "I learned . . ." and wrote sentences of their own.

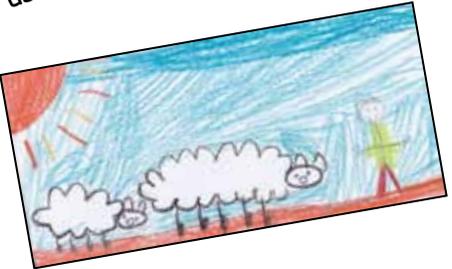
Goats and sheep make milk.



Wool on the sheep is soft.



Sheep's wool is used to make cloth. Sheep's wool has a special kind of oil called lanolin.



There is a different type of sheep, a hair sheep.

Goats can nibble on our clothes.



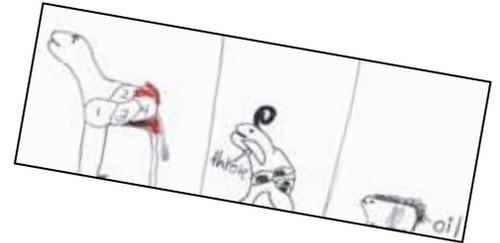
Goats chew their food about 20,000 times a day.

I liked when we got to drink the milk.

Cows, goats, and sheep have four compartments in their stomachs.



The most interesting fact I learned was that most people in the world drink goat's milk.



Thank you for the wonderful field trip.

## These letters to Supervisor Simitian show the value of the Farm's educational programs.

Dear Supervisor Simitian,

Our kindergarten and first grade classes visit Deer Hollow Farm every year and benefit greatly from this experience. Many of our students come from homes with very low income, some with no cars to leave the neighborhood and explore surrounding natural settings, and many with English as a second language. Our trips to Deer Hollow Farm give our kids an amazing immersion in the natural world, connect them to sources of our food, and the needs of animals and plants. This connects directly to our academic standards, and is invaluable experience for our students, expanding their knowledge of the world around them. They make cross-curricular connections back to our field trips throughout the year. We are so thankful to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm for the scholarships that allow our students this experience, and we hope this can continue for years to come.

Mrs. Kerri Fox, kindergarten teacher  
Monta Loma School, Mountain View

Dear Supervisor Simitian,

I am writing in support of the grant request for field trip scholarships to Deer Hollow Farm. My class of first graders were recipients this year of a scholarship, and I can tell you that the impact it made on my students was immense. Because we are a Title 1 school with over 80% of our students on free or reduced lunches, it becomes very difficult to fund field trips.

Many of our students have not been outside of their east side community, so the trip to the Farm to interact with animals and nature was a first for many. This field trip was the inspiration for a project on nutrition and healthy eating for first graders. They learned about where their food comes from and culminated their project by designing a healthy lunch menu that was served to the students at our school.

These field trips are so well organized with curriculum that meets the needs of many grade levels. I have always enjoyed and look forward to field trips at Deer Hollow.

Please continue to support this program and the experience it provides to many children who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

Jill Leipelt, first grade teacher,  
Katherine Smith Elementary School, San Jose

# Familiar Face at the Farm

## Long-Time Farm Volunteer Honored at Gardner Dinner

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

**M**ike Hammes, the longest-serving Deer Hollow Farm volunteer, with 36 years and 1000 hours, remembers the exact date he started his long volunteer career at the Farm!



Mike was in transition to a job that would give him weekends free when he contacted Midpeninsula Open Space District about volunteering. When they called him with an opportunity to be a weekend docent at Deer Hollow Farm, he accepted. He knew about the DHF program from an article in the *Palo Alto Times* a few days earlier. Though he had no experience with farms or volunteering, the job was engaging and fun from the start.



It was March 4, 1979, when he started his first shift. Now every fourth Saturday from 1 to 4 in the afternoon, Mike is at the Farm, welcoming visitors and enthusiastically sharing information about the Farm, answering questions about our animals, and keeping the animals and visitors safe. His love for the Farm, the animals, and his

passion for sharing his knowledge comes through his warm smile, his gentle voice, and his eagerness to share stories about the Farm, its animals, and the plants of the area.

As a weekend docent, he has met people from all over the Bay Area and beyond. Mike recalls a woman from India showing him the photo of a plant with a spiky seed pod that she had seen while hiking. When she asked what the plant was, Mike said that it was a wild cucumber. The woman said that in India there was a plant that looked like wild cucumber, and that the seed pod was edible. Mike replied that the wild cucumber seed pod is mildly toxic, and commented on two similar looking plants, half a world apart.

Mike remembers the Farm's resident peacock. "The peacock would often follow me around. I had to perform some 'dance moves' and fakes to keep the peacock from jumping at me as I talked to people. One day when I was tired of being pursued, I went into the office and closed the door. The peacock then did a great feather display outside, which attracted a crowd of people. The peacock was given to the Oakland Zoo in 1980, and when I later visited him there, he came right over to me. I think he remembered me."

Mike enjoys volunteering at Deer Hollow because it gives him an opportunity to be outdoors with farm animals and to learn about animal care. He also loves meeting and chatting with visitors.

For six years (1998–2004) Mike served

on Friends Board of Directors. He has worn many hats for Friends, including serving as president, managing t-shirt and mug sales, writing for the newsletter, managing



the webpage and mailing lists, and leading Farm tours. He is a seasoned salesperson running the merchandise booth for Friends at Farm events.

Mike often helps visitors with the pump drills at Ohlone Day.

Mike, a Cupertino resident, also finds time to volunteer for Guadalupe River Park helping with river cleanups, at Full Circle Farm, and at POST helping with removal of invasive plants along the coast. When he is not volunteering, he enjoys hiking and following sports.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board nominated Mike for the prestigious John W. Gardner Award, given by the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF), for his tremendous contributions to both Deer Hollow Farm and Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Mike was honored at the awards dinner held each year to recognize outstanding volunteers at local non-profits. Friends board members past and present attended the dinner to acknowledge and celebrate Mike's dedication to the Farm.



Friends board members past and present turned out to see Mike Hammes honored at the Gardner Award dinner.

## Santa Clara County Sponsors Farm Field Trip Scholarships

**S**anta Clara County has provided a three-year \$25,000 annual grant to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm for bus transportation and tuition for 2015 to 2017.

The grant was sponsored by Supervisor Joe Simitian, whose district contains the Farm. This Outdoor/Environmental Education Program will also provide \$25,000 grants to Environmental Volunteers and to Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

Schools will qualify for Deer Hollow Farm tuition and bus scholarships if at least one-third of the students qualify for the federal lunch program, an indicator of economic need. This is the same eligibility requirement Friends has used for scholarships for many years. The grant funding will be applied during the registration lottery held in September.

Jessica Morgan, the Farm's Senior Recreation Coordinator and manager of the Farm's environmental-education programs, said "This grant provides access to our field trips for students whose schools don't have funding for buses or tuition. We are thankful to the county for this wonderful opportunity."

Sue Gale, President of Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, noted how important Supervisor Simitian's outdoor education grant is to Deer Hollow Farm. "How gratifying it is to know that lack of funding will not be an impediment for kids to have access to the high-quality education at

Deer Hollow Farm. These classes let kids, many of whom have never been to a park or seen a farm or wild animal, go nose-to-nose with farm animals, learn how to milk a goat or cow, walk the trails in the Preserve, enjoy the Nature Center, and see classroom lessons brought to life with hands-on outdoor learning."

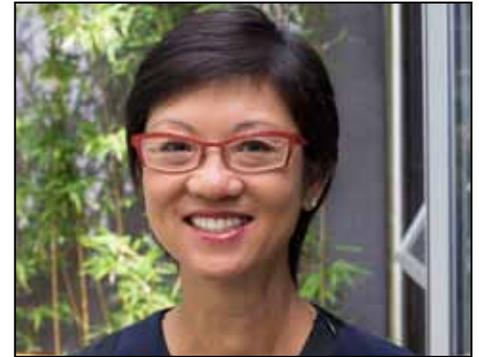
Each school year, 5,300 students participate in the Farm's outdoor education programs. About half of the students are from low-income areas in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and San Jose. Classes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students offer a wide range of subjects: touring Farm and garden, exploring the surrounding wilderness, learning about Ohlone life in a replica village.

What all the lessons have in common is they offer outdoor, hands-on, standards-based learning. The lessons are led by trained volunteers and are updated regularly to ensure they relate to the learning taking place in the classroom. The small-group setting where student to teacher ratios are 10:1 ensures plenty of time for individual interactions and questions.

The majority of this grant's funds, \$25,000, will be used for bus transportation. The remainder of the grant will fund tuition for the students. On page two you can read two of the letters from Deer Hollow Farm field-trip teachers that supported this grant.

## Friends Board Adds Member

**T**he Friends Board of Directors welcomes its newest member: **Wai Mo**. Besides her enthusiastic support of the Farm, she brings a wealth of important fund-raising experience to the board.



Wai has always enjoyed hiking at Rancho with friends and visiting the Farm to check on the animals and the vegetable beds. "I feel nourished and restored by each visit," said Wai. On a recent hike, she met the Farm staff and learned about volunteering both at the Farm and on the Friends Board. "I immediately felt welcomed and wanted to offer my skills to help the Farm and Friends, so children and adults can continue to enjoy this special place in Silicon Valley."

Wai has served on the Board of Directors for the distinguished Waldorf Peninsula School in Los Altos where she led the strategic marketing and Parent Education committees. She also co-chaired the Woodside Priory School's annual fundraising gala, and helped launch the Bay Area's Children in Nature movement.

"I'm passionate about connecting children to gardens and nature," said Wai, who volunteers in the Farm's organic garden.

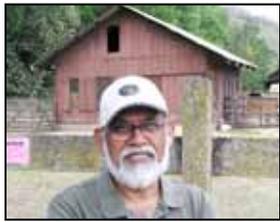
Born in Hong Kong, Wai lived in New York before moving to Menlo Park. She holds a degree in Industrial Engineering from Columbia University and an MBA in Marketing from the Wharton School. She was a Senior Consultant for Anderson Consulting (now Accenture) and a Senior Marketing Director with Merck-Medco (now Express Script) developing clinical education programs and partnership tools for optimal healthcare decision-making.



Members of the Rotary Club of Cupertino and their families visited our newly rebuilt duck pond and duck house in June to see the results of their challenge grant. Farm staff answered questions from the group as they toured the animal pens.

# Friendly Inquiries

Visitors were asked why they like Deer Hollow Farm.



**Rao from India**

I am here spending time with my grandson. This is a nice place for children to visit. All of the animals are interesting. It is a pleasant, shady walk from the parking lot. I am an engineer in India who graduated from the University of Minnesota a long time ago.



**Monica from Cupertino**

I bring my kids for weekend activity and exercise. This is a place where my children can really get close to farm animals. When I was very young, my relatives raised chickens. There are books and videos on farms, but there is nothing like seeing the actual thing.



**Rajeev from Los Gatos**

This is our first time at the Farm. We found it online. This is very good. It's lovely. Especially with a 3-year-old son, it's very nice. And it's good exercise getting here.



**Scott from Campbell**

I originally came to Rancho to hike; I did not even know that the Farm was here.

Now we have the little guy to bring to the farm. It's good for city kids to see and learn about the Farm animals. For me, it brings back memories of my grandparents' family farm in the Midwest.



**Max, Mila, and Eva from St. Petersburg, Russia**

Yesterday was our first day to the Farm, but it was closed (Recognition Event), so we came back today. We learned about the Farm on the Internet. We love that pig Wilbur. He is huge. This is a lovely place for parents and children. The baby will definitely be making more trips up here. Also, it was interesting to read the plaque about the history of this place.



**Wesley, Hiro, and Sora from San Jose**

Look, there's a hawk up in the sky! We came here to explore and expose our baby to Farm animals, especially the cow. We got good exercise because we parked in the wrong place. We used Google Maps. It took us to Mora Avenue and we had to hike up the steep hill to the water tank and down to the valley.



**Sprite from the White Barn**

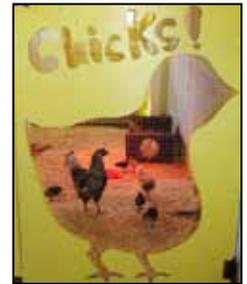
I keep track of gophers in the day and mice at night. In the evening, I go around to each of the animals and check on them at bedtime. You can read about me in the storybook *Sprite at Night* found in the Nature Center. When off duty, you can find me in the White Barn curled up in bed on top of a bale of straw.

# Ask the Farmer

About a Broody Chicken

by Sue Gale

Deer Hollow Farm staff built a new chick doorway to view a crafty hen and her chicks. This independent hen made herself a roost in the far



corner of the Farm garage. From there she made nine trips to the chicken coop/yard (flying over the fence) each day to visit a rooster, then return to her secret roost where she laid another egg and sat on her eggs ... until one by one they all hatched within nine days of each other. (It takes about 21 days for an egg to hatch.) The loud peeps drew the staff, who moved the family into the new Egg Washing Room. This new door allows kids of all ages to



view the family. You can see she is very defensive of her chicks, putting herself between me

and her chicks, and spreading her tail like a turkey who's confronted.

Chickens lay at most one egg a day in their prime. The Farm staff collects the eggs for sale, so they don't get a chance to hatch. A chicken is described as getting "broody" when she wants to roost on her eggs and have chicks.

The Farm buys chicks each spring and raises them separated from the flock, integrating them when they are older. The chicks arrive via a "noisy" special USPS delivery box from a hatchery located in Iowa called Murray McMurray. This hatchery is one of the few places that will sex the chicks so that the Farm ideally ends up with all females (although they are not always 100% accurate, hence the couple of roosters we have).

# Wonderful Friends We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who donated to Friends between February 1 and July 31, 2015. \* indicates SVGives donors.

## Red-Shouldered Hawk (\$10,000)

City of Cupertino  
Kevin and Jenise Henrikson\*, the  
match for SV Gives

## California Thresher (\$2,000 to \$5,000)

Dewey and Doris Halligan  
Merrimac Fund, an advised fund  
of Silicon Valley Community  
Foundation\*, the match for  
SV Gives

Timothy Dylan Wood, with Apple  
Mountain View Kiwanis  
Foundation

## Stellar Jay (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Catherine Gordon\*, to Mary  
Yurchenco, the best Mom ever!

Los Altos Rotary  
Endowment Fund  
Silicon Valley Realtors  
Charitable Foundation  
Stan and Jackie Hall\*

## California Quail (\$500 to \$999)

Tom and Susan Kempe\*, in memory  
of our son Matt Kempe  
Anna Tang\* with Google match  
Cindy Castillo\*  
Don Weden\*, in memory of Kim  
Weden  
Judith and Joe Stewart\*  
Kurt Henrikson\*  
Mingzhe Zhuang\*  
Mountain View Rotary Club  
Radar Foundation upon advise of  
Karen Seale  
Anonymous  
Anonymous\*

## Acorn Woodpecker (\$250 to \$499)

Fen Choi\*  
Larry and Donna Aronson\*  
O. B. Whaley School third  
graders, to give back for  
scholarships  
Carol Jossi  
Mike Hammes  
David Fung\*  
Carla Dorow\*  
Sue Gale\*  
Ivars and Marion Blukis  
Jerry and Sandy Juracich  
George Stanley  
Javier Soltero\*  
Joan Ferguson  
Ron and Dorothy Schafer\*  
Zulah Eckert and Carl Maltzahn\*  
Anonymous

## Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)

Shannon Hegg  
Betsy and George Young\*  
Ed and Jean Aiken\*  
Micah Alpern  
Sedgwick CDC #509, money  
raised by children for  
Penny, the goat  
Ulf and Marcella Stauber\*  
Dee Wood\*, in memory of  
Chris Wood  
Erica and Denis Baylor\*  
Richard and Diane Horn\*  
Darwin and Donna Poulos  
Alan Huwe\*  
Everett and Rebecca Palmer\*  
Andy Drexler\*  
Barbara Taylor\*  
Cathleen Gale\*

## Phoebe (\$100 to \$249) continued

Charlene Hayse\*, in honor of  
Carla Dorow  
Cherle Stephenson\*  
Christine Burns  
Daniel and Nina Dobkin\*, in loving  
memory of Pauline Wong  
David Levitt\*  
Diane Westgate\*  
Dwain and Susan Aidala\*  
James Morales\*  
Jane Sanders and family\*  
Jeffrey Hungerford\*  
David and Karen Jessen  
Leigh Durlacher\*  
Leslie C. and Anita N. Nichols  
Linda Rodamaker\* in memory of  
Terri Heidt  
Matthew Skinner\*  
Melissa Works\*, We love  
Deer Hollow Farm!  
Patricia Briggs  
Robert Tobias\*  
Sandra Uehara\* for Brooke  
Tim Coogan and Alendra Hua\*  
Yvonne Edler-Guettaf\*, for Sarah  
and Lyna  
Anonymous, with Google match  
Anonymous\*

## Junco (\$50 to \$99)

David and Theresa Mathiasmeier  
Paresh and Debra Maniar  
Tracy Hughes, in honor of Eleanor  
Jensen's 80th Birthday!  
Cathy and Stephen Lazarus\*  
Sylvia Weiser\*  
Lauren Merriman  
Sandi Spires\*  
(continued on page 7)

# WonderfulFriends (continued)

## Junco (\$50 to \$99) continued

Amber Johnsen\*  
Bruce England\*  
Catherine Mack\*  
Christelle Couturier\*  
Dale Lohman\*  
David Kaskowitz and Susan Kahn\*  
Debra Hiraki\*  
Diana Gutierrez\*, to all the animals  
Edward and Janet Anderson  
Eileen Melton\*, for the great work done by Jessica Morgan  
Jaclyn Zevenbergen\*  
Jaime Villarreal\*, to Bernie, the poor scarecrow  
James Chin and Silvia Cen  
James Davidson\*  
James Kermode and Carla Bottenfield\*  
Joan Lewis\*  
Joseph and Susan Mingione\*  
Tara Sreekrishnan and Anita Krishnan\*  
Maria Kettman\*, an O.B. Whaley teacher showing her appreciation  
Marion Sotcher\*  
Martha Young\*  
Meredith Wu  
Robert Chansler\*  
Robert Friedman, match from IBM  
Stephen Salveter, match from IBM  
Susan Berman, in memory of Philip Berman  
Suzanne Abel, thanks to Debbie for a great visit  
Virginia Gelczis\*  
Wayne and Judith Hooper\*

## Junco (\$50 to \$99) continued

William "Buzz" McClain\*  
Anonymous (2)\*  
Hummingbird (up to \$49)  
Annie Hart  
Cheryl and Carl Bohley\*, in honor of Mary Gilman, who gave so many years of her life to DHF  
Haley Dorow\*  
Janet Dombro\*  
Nancy Stuhr\*  
Naomi McKee\*  
Ray, Sarah, Lyla, and Ben Carroll\*  
Anne Hanson\*  
John Marchant\*  
Julie Dewey\*  
Stephanie Channing\*, in honor of my favorite cow milker, Nancy  
Ann Schmitt\*  
Barbara Weinstein\*  
Elaine Levenson\*  
Joan Meyer\*, for Lee Winchell  
Josephine Vincent  
Margaret Lanphier  
Martin and Roberta Schwartz\*, for Sy and Camelia Schwartz  
Patricia Biscay\*, for Nina Wong-Dobkin—a friend with a big heart  
Richard and Anna Johnson\*  
Sandy Maibes\*  
Susan Staley\*, dedicated to Roslyn Braun!  
Barina Lucero\*, to Helen the cat at the Farm  
Catherine Rebecchi\*  
Dianne Ball  
Erica Hironimus and family\*, in support of our neighbors the Henrikson family  
Helen Wolter\*

## Hummingbird (up to \$49) continued

Kathryn Williams  
Lesli Joy Erf\*  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Christine Case\*  
Christopher Drysdale\*  
Elizabeth Moore\*  
Eve Voydat  
Helen Johnson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous\* (3)

\* SVGives donors are listed in the **WonderfulFriends** with an asterisk.



**We are thankful for the visitors who donated \$1,333 during their Farm visits.**

## Silicon Valley Gives

by David Fung

**O**n May 5, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm participated in our first Silicon Valley Gives Day. SVGives is an online day of giving organized by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

We weren't sure what to expect and were dazzled by the results! We raised \$15,145 from 108 donors, which placed us at 7th place among 305 small non-profits participating in the event. This outpouring of generosity allowed us to fully utilize a \$12,500 dollar-for-dollar match established by the Henrikson Family Foundation and Merrimac Fund for a VERY grand total of \$27,645! This money will support everything we do, from food and vet care for the animals to Farm enhancements to daily operations.

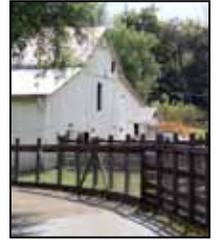
Thank you to everyone who donated!

# Spring Tour Record Breaker

**O**ur spring tour broke records both financially and in number of attendees. We raised 3,500 dollars to support Farm improvements. The animals were visited by 288 adults and 237 kids. Spring babies caught everyone's interest and provided lots of photo opportunities. Friendly volunteers shared information about the animals and the Farm. Some of those amazing volunteers are pictured at the bottom of the page. Congratulations to all the people who made this a record-breaking Spring Tour.



**D**eer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre working farm in the Los Altos foothills. The Farm is part of the 3800-acre Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, 94024. For Deer Hollow Farm information, call 650.903.6430.



**T**he 36th Annual Deer Hollow Farm Volunteer Recognition Event honored the Farm's 70 volunteers, who gathered in the Hay Barn to enjoy live music, good food, and an awards program. The Farm volunteers gave an amazing 8,000 hours to the Farm last year under the guidance of just 2.5 staff. That's equal to four full-time staff members.



**F***riendsNews* This newsletter is published for the community of over 400 people and organizations who want to preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm and its outstanding environmental-education program. The Farm is one of the last working homestead farms in California. Contributions to the newsletter and suggestion are welcome. contact: [info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org](mailto:info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org) by mail: P.O. Box 4282, Mountain View, CA 94040

### Editing and Production:

Joan Lewis

Staff: Carla Dorow, Dan Fillin, David Fung, Sue Gale, Carol Jossi, Tom Lustig, and Gail Nyhan

### Development Editor:

Nina Wong-Dobkin

Your next *F*riendsNews will be mailed on December 1, 2015

