

Summer 2024

FriendsNews



Friends of Deer Hollow Farm is a non-profit organization supporting Deer Hollow Farm and its environmental educational programs.

Environmental Education for All

By Lubab Sheet-Davis

It is hard to forget your first school field trip, or school bus ride, let alone one to Deer Hollow Farm for an immersive environmental education class. Many people who visit the farm often recall their first experience from a field trip or summer camp and the lasting impact it has made in their lives. It is clear that by connecting people with the natural world and helping them understand our interdependence, people's lives are enriched and in turn, they want to protect and preserve the land. And it is essential that we create these experiences for all, and that is the aim of the scholarship funding provided by Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

For the 2023-2024 school year, 4,136 pre-K thru 4th grade students from 41 Bay Area schools spent two to three hours in one of the Farm's experiential educational classes: Life Science, Ohlone Habitat, Farm & Garden or Fleece & Milk, and 63% of those students received scholarship funding totaling \$37,525. Since its founding, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm has provided scholarships for ~43,000 of the ~85,000 students that have taken classes at the farm.

These scholarships would not be possible without the generous support of Santa Clara County (SCC), The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, other grantors, and our wonderful individual donors. SCC provided an initial grant of \$25,000 for the 2015-2016 school year, and has provided consistent funding since then, totaling over \$181,000. They also recently approved funding for the 2024-2025 school year totaling \$35,780, including \$9,000 of carryover funding, and we remain incredibly grateful for their support. In addition to covering the cost of the classes, bussing the students to the farm is also funded,

and believe it or not, bussing is a larger expense than the class itself. Without bussing assistance, many classes would not be able to participate.

Ms. Alcazar (pictured on the right) and Ms. Hurd (pictured on the left) from Mariano Castro Elementary School in Mountain View brought their 3rd grade classes to Deer Hollow Farm for the Ohlone Habitat Class this

Spring. Ms. Alcazar shared, "The scholarship is essential for our students to go on this field trip because they would not have the opportunity to go otherwise. We love the Deer Hollow Farm programs because they are aligned to the curriculum, well-staffed, organized, and so fun! The students talk about the field trip every year."

Let us also celebrate the passion and dedication of Jessica Morgan, Farm Manager, Kim Farrell and Emma Enssel, the lead teachers this past school year, as well as the volunteer docents, all of whom work together to teach the classes and create life-changing experiences for the students. Thanks to the City of Mountain View for funding the Farm Manager and Lead Teachers. This past school year was Kim and Emma's first and reflecting on her experience, Kim shared, "Nature education is so valuable to all people as it connects us to the land and teaches us about the wider ecosystems we live in. I learned first hand the impact these trips can have when I was doing a hike at Arastradero one afternoon. I had come from the farm and was still wearing a Deer Hollow t-shirt. A mother and daughter approached me on the trail and tentatively asked, 'Are you Kim?' I was a bit surprised but nodded, and she continued, 'My daughter was in one of your field trips a couple weeks ago and she has been talking about it non-stop ever since.' I'm looking forward to the coming school year and a new batch of smiling faces!"



History - Education - Community

The Farm's Livestock Choices — It's Complicated

by Jaime Villarreal and Jennifer Estes

Pigs, chickens, cows, goats, sheep, rabbits, geese, and ducks! Have you ever wondered why Deer Hollow Farm has such a variety of animals?

Since the beginning of farming at the Deer Hollow site in the 1860s, records show the Grant family, and later the Perham family, kept beef cattle, pigs, chickens, and dairy cows to help provide a livelihood. Other families in the area kept sheep, goats, rabbits, and other animals for subsistence and business. Deer Hollow Farm continues the tradition of farming by demonstrating a working homestead with livestock, a garden, and an orchard.

The animals at Deer Hollow Farm are there to provide rich and meaningful experiences for young and old as they visit and learn about the importance of farms. One thing they learn is that each species has unique characteristics. For example, rabbits are small and friendly, sheep are shy and woolly, cows are big and impressive, and chickens have feathers and lay eggs. Students on a field trip learn the importance of farm animals as they see the connection to them and products they see in stores. Students who participate as summer campers and volunteers alike share in feeling a sense of ownership to the farm as they dedicate time and energy into caring for the animals.

When it comes to determining what types and how many of each breed of animal to live at the farm, it can become a little bit complicated. Balancing the right number of animals for visitor interaction, donations through Friends of Deer Hollow Farm to support animal feed and care (about \$3,800 monthly), number of available helpers for cleaning and feeding, the size of the barns, and what breeds are available on nearby farms all have to be taken into consideration.

For instance, when the farm had an offer to acquire two Mangalitsa woolly pigs from a nearby pig farm in 2021, it was recognized that they brought something unique and new to the farm experience. They are an uncommon breed of smaller hogs that are hardy – that means they eat less food than standard sized pigs and have fewer health issues. Now, volunteers and staff report endless questions from visitors curious about this rare kind of pig, sparking interest and discussion. A Mangalitsa's delightful demeanor allows summer campers or special events visitors to create special memories by getting up close to touch pigs during their nap time. Thus, by using careful consideration, looking forward, and planning carefully, this proved to be an excellent addition to our current critters, thereby enhancing the

opportunity to educate and cultivate interest in farm animals and all they have to offer.

So, choosing what types, how many, and what combination of babies and older farm animals are brought into the farm is a constant adjustment, with an eye to determining what works best for the educational program now and into the future.



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Scout Projects Support the Farm and Build Leadership Skills

by Esther Jeng, Jack Kay and Jaime Villarreal

The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm (FODHF) Volunteer Project Committee helped coordinate and offered partial funding for 6 farm projects fueled by Scouts and the groups of volunteers they recruited, under the guidance of the Farm's Maintenance Manager, Miguel Ojeda, over the past year. These projects were the last leg of the Scouts' journey to earning their Eagle Scout award and offered training and experience in leadership for these local high school students.

THANK YOU TO OUR SCOUTS!

- **Adam Graff of Troop 498:** Reconstruction of the Ohlone Village north side fence
- **Shrinjoy Chaudhuri of Troop 80:** Removal and replacement of a section of fence and a gate by the pig wallow
- **Srinand Mudunuri of Troop 75:** Rebuilt the historic fence in front of the white barn
- **Yanni Mihopoulos of Troop 31:** Installation of new fencing around a portion of the Duck Pond area
- **Ryan Wagner of Troop 498:** Replacement of the back fence line on the rear inclined border of the Ohlone Village
- **Edward Yu of Troop 75:** Built 2 new picnic benches/tables and refinished 6 existing benches/tables

Yanni Mihopoulos learned new skills in project and time management. "Even though I had carefully planned what tasks needed to be done, I realized there was also a lot of execution planning involved to make sure the volunteers weren't waiting around once they had completed a task." Even with the best laid plans the Scouts also flexed their skills of agility to address the unexpected, such as concrete chunks in the dirt that required a run to the hardware store to get special tools. Ryan Wagner also didn't know what his team would uncover as they tried to remove a crooked post. Finding the crooked post firmly affixed in the ground, they instead kept the post but made modifications to keep the fence line sturdy and neat. Of the experience, Ryan recounted, "My biggest learning from this project was getting a better idea of how a team should be run, and what the role of a leader looks like."

When asked what advice they would give to other interested scouts, they resoundingly encouraged others to go for it. The experienced Deer Hollow Farm staff were kind, helpful and patient guides during the sometimes months-long planning process and the project itself. Shrinjoy Chaudhuri advised, "Reach out to the staff who will help you plan well." FODHF is grateful to our donors who make opportunities like these possible for local youth while also improving the farm for visitors, educational programs, staff, and the animals. Like each of the donors and volunteers, the Scouts expressed a desire to give back to the farm that they have had the pleasure of visiting over the years and the community it serves. Edward Yu added, "Knowing that my efforts contribute to enhancing others' enjoyment brings me great satisfaction."

Do you know a scout who may be interested in doing their project at Deer Hollow Farm? If so, please contact our Volunteer Projects Committee Chair, Jack Kay at Jack@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.



Top left/clockwise: Shrinjoy Chaudhuri, Edward Yu, Srinand Mudunuri, Ryan Wagner, Adam Graff and Yannis Mihopoulos

History - Education - Community

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Goals

by Lubab Sheet-Davis

The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board approved our Fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) budget and goals at the May board meeting, with key revenue sources and expenditures highlighted in the graphic below.

Diversified Funding Sources

Just as Deer Hollow Farm has multiple funding partners to offer greater stability, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm also has diversified funding streams. Our goal for FY25 is to raise \$170,000, which is relatively consistent with our funding for FY24.

Donations are expected to continue to make up the majority of revenues. The donor relations and outreach committee is focused on increasing transparency and building stronger relationships with our incredible donor base as well as expanding our outreach efforts to identify new donors. Grants are the second largest source of revenues and with recent additions to this committee, we may be able to surpass our goal. Revenues from our three fundraising events as well as merchandise sales are consistent with years past, as parking capacity at Rancho San Antonio constrains attendance.

Farm Funding Support

The farm funding for FY25 of ~\$130,000 is consistent with our FY24 funding levels, and has three key areas.

Student Scholarships: Scholarship funding will largely be supported by the generous grant from Santa Clara County, as well as restricted individual donations designated for scholarships. This funding level will support scholarships and bussing for ~50% of the students that take classes at the farm.

Animal Care & Feed: The FY25 goal is to provide \$40,600 to the Animal Trust Fund which provides 100% of the support for animal care and feed. This funding consists of \$15,000 from the general fund, an increase of \$5,000, admissions from fundraising events, and restricted individual donations and grants designated for the Animal Fund.

Enhancements & Operations: Each year the farm staff submits a budget request for farm enhancement projects to improve the classroom experience, benefit the well-being of the animals and upgrade the functioning of the farm. For FY25, four enhancement projects were proposed and approved, totaling \$28,700, including continued funding for the village restroom and a new orchard path border, an Ohlone Village Tule House Shelter, a variety of improvements to the barnyard and pens including lighting, fencing, carts and wheelbarrows, and new barnyard display cases. In addition to the enhancement projects, Friends will provide \$20,500 in farm operations support and continue to offer partial reimbursements for Scout Projects.

The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm board is grateful to our individual donors, grantors and supporters for your generosity and trust. We are committed to following best practices established by the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits (CEN) in keeping administrative expenses at or below 20% of revenues.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Goals



Raise \$120,000 in individual donations.



Fund \$51,700 in farm enhancement projects, operations and Scout projects.



Secure \$35,000 in grants from Government Agencies and Foundations.



Grant \$40,600 to the Animal Trust Fund for Animal Care.



Raise \$15,000 from event admissions & merchandise sales.



Fund \$38,000 in scholarships & bussing.



Contribute \$25,000 to reserves.

History - Education - Community

Flashback and Celebrate 30 Years: Join us on YouTube

In celebration of the 30-year anniversary of Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, we are flashing back through the digitization of the award winning, 12-minute video about the community impact of Deer Hollow Farm, [Lessons from the Land](#), now viewable on our new [YouTube channel \(@friendsofdeerhollowfarm\)](#). The 1994 video was produced by Cynthia Fink and Jane Griffith, directed by Cynthia Fink, filmed by Keith Gutierrez, and scripted by Joy Desai; Jane and Joy were two of the founding board members of Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. It has been recognized with four awards: three Western Access Cable Excellence Awards and The California and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Award of Excellence in Media Communications.



We have also digitized [Deer Hollow Farm Days to Remember Volume III](#) by Keith Gutierrez, who served as lead teacher for many years. This film is heartwarming and funny, capturing his clear love and adoration of the farm, the docent volunteers, some of whom still volunteer regularly, the animals, the students and visitors. As in 1996, Keith's wonder of the Farm remains strong, sharing "Imagine a beautiful valley with wildlife generating cycles everyday, a small farm and garden where the animals make learning come alive for all who come to visit. Now, mix in the concrete children with amazing volunteers who share their love for farm and wilderness. You have Deer Hollow Farm!"

You can subscribe to our new [YouTube channel \(@friendsofdeerhollowfarm\)](#) and view both videos. You might notice some skips or damage due to age, but it's still worthwhile to grab some popcorn and some friends and watch them!

Board News



The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board is delighted to welcome our newest member, JoAnn Davis. JoAnn is the Executive Director of the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends and has extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and board service, including spending six years as Associate Director for Hidden Villa and serving on the board of Full Circle Farm in Sunnyvale (which is now The Farm, managed by Santa Clara Unified School District). She is passionate about food security, supporting local farms, organic produce and providing learning experiences for children and adults about the environment and sustainability. And she has a particular love of farm animals. JoAnn serves on the Audit and Finance, Donor Relations and Outreach and Grants committees. Welcome JoAnn!

JoAnn is the 52nd member of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board since our inception in 1994. Many past members served two, three-year terms. Our board size ranges from 5 to 13 members, and we are actively recruiting new board members with fundraising, graphic design, IT and legal skills along with a passion to preserve Deer Hollow Farm. To learn more, please contact lubab@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

History - Education - Community

Spring Event Recap

Spring Farm Tours were hosted in April with a total of 1,167 visitors raising \$7,980 for our animals! This is about 100 more visitors than 2023. A total of \$1,465 in merchandise was sold, also an increase over 2023. They were beautiful days with lots of happy attendees. We are grateful to everyone who came out to support the farm and the animals.

Special thanks to the Deer Hollow Farm staff for our collaboration on these events, to all members of the Friends board, especially for working double shifts, and to our volunteers: Brandy Batch, Susan Loop and Liz Montgomery for helping with registration and merchandise, Nancy Stuhr and Robin Blumenstein for promoting our events on social media (and working inside the barnyard at the events) and special thanks to Marie Roman Clifton for donating the beautiful flower bundles that graced our tables and were part of our merchandise sales.



Friends also participated in the Mountain View Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration with like minded environmental and community based organizations. The event had ~1,500 attendees and was a great opportunity to raise awareness about Deer Hollow Farm. Our educational activities were focused on the Great Horned Owl and the Red Winged Hawk, with specimens of each capturing attention at our table, courtesy of the Nature Center. We provided information cards for each species in both English and Spanish. Special thanks to Brandy Batch for supporting the event.

Upcoming Calendar of Events



July 13, Aug. 11, Sept. 7 & Nov. 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Deer Hollow Farm

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will be hosting outreach events at the Farm this Summer and Fall to help raise awareness about our work. Stop by and pick up some stickers and speak with knowledgeable board members and staff.



October 21, 2024, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Deer Hollow Farm

Mark your calendars for some spooktacular family fun at Spooky Times. Enjoy fun Halloween decorations and activities and support Deer Hollow Farm. Costumes are encouraged, and receive a discount admission of \$5, otherwise admission is \$7 per person, kids under 1 are free. All proceeds support the Animal Fund.

Wonderful Friends

Thank You to Our Wonderful Friends!

We are grateful to our grantors and individuals who made donations from February 1 through June 30, 2024! With your support, we raised ~\$34K. Approximately \$17K was designated for the General Fund, ~\$13K for Scholarships, ~\$2K for Farm Operations and ~\$2K for the Animal Fund. With your support we will preserve the farm for future generations, maintain accessibility to all members of our community, care for our beloved animals and continue to support impactful environmental educational programs. Thank you to all our wonderful friends for your support!

Donations

Golden Eagle - (\$10,000 and up)

Santa Clara County for Scholarships

Red-Shouldered Hawk - (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos

Red-Tailed Hawk - (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Iwamoto Family Fund - Rick & Karen Iwamoto

Nugi Jakobishvili

Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation for Farm Operations

California Quail - (\$1,000-\$1,999)

Larry & Donna Aronson, In Memory of their granddaughter, Kayla Freier

Julie Raymond & Neil Hunt

Stellar Jay - (\$500-\$999)

Eric Biggers with Google match via Benevity

Michael Hammes

Mary Anne Rohde, In Memory of Stephen Rohde

Coleman & Betsy Youngdahl with HP match via Benevity

Acorn Woodpecker - (\$250-\$499)

Chris & Amy Migdal

Darwin & Donna Poulos, In Honor of Sonja Marcus for decades of service to Deer Hollow Farm

Ron & Dorothy Schafer

Katrina SeCoy for Animals

Tim & Gail Sullivan, In Honor of Sue Gale

Dolores Wood, In Memory of Chris Wood

Yunqing (Charlotte) Xia for Animals

Betsy Young

Phoebe - (\$100-\$249)

James Chin & Silvia Cen

Frances & Stephen Conley

DeBuhr Family Trust, In Memory of Kermit Skromme and Claude DeBuhr

Noah Dietz

Carol Jossi

Donna Leacock, In Honor of Kim Farrell

Barbara Mein

James Sandstrom, In Memory of Andrea Sandstrom

Monty Simpson for Animals

Dixie Storkman

Darrell & Barbara Wilson

Kathleen & Lee Winchell, In Memory of Sierra, beloved cat of Kathleen

Kathleen & Lee Winchell, In Memory of Clover, our Ewe

Dolores Wood, In Memory of Andi Sandstrom for Animals

Junco - (\$50-\$99)

Tamara Casey for Animals

Henry & Mildred Goltz, In Honor of Susan Casner-Kay

Jane Kesselring

Liu Blitzer Charitable Fund, In Honor of

Peter, David and Amy Blitzer via Benevity

Julia O'Keefe

Hummingbird (to \$49)

Phyllis Brock, In Honor of Gloria Brock

for Scholarships for school field trips

Margaret Bruner, In Memory of my father, David Rich Bruner

Janice Soderberg

...and thanks to the many Farm visitors who leave their donations in the "Iron Ranger."

Thank you to Hassan Lashgari and his team at Pine Press, who have printed this color newsletter for the price of black & white.



Please join these wonderful Friends and donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

You can make a gift via credit card or PayPal at www.Deerhollowfarmfriends.org



Deer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre educational farm in Rancho San Antonio County Park & Open Space Preserve, 22500 Cristo Rey Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014. For information, call 650-903-6430.

FriendsNews is published by FODHF for donors who want to help preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. website www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org email info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org

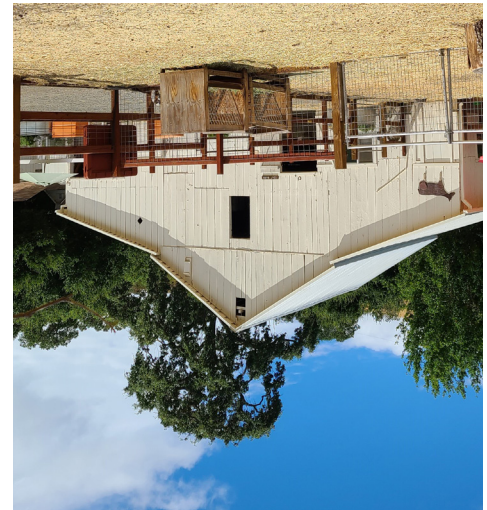


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Your next **FriendsNews** will be mailed in Winter 2024.

To Our Friends



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