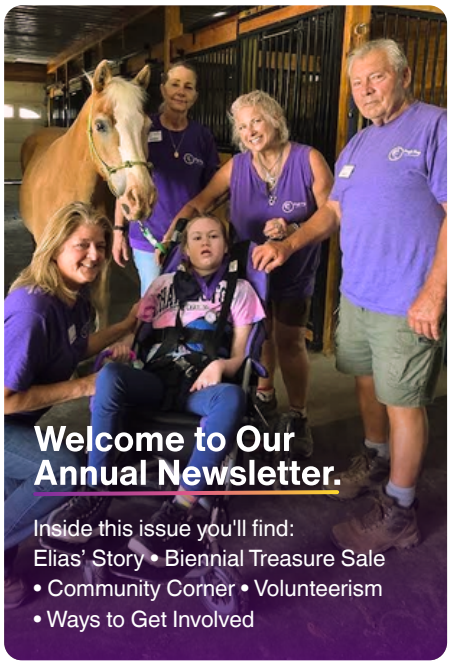




Welcome to Our Annual Newsletter.

Inside this issue you'll find:
Elias' Story • Biennial Treasure Sale • Community Corner • Volunteerism • Ways to Get Involved

Our Yearly Update from the Board President

Volunteerism is the practice of giving time, energy, skill, and resources freely to support a non profit cause, community , or individual without financial gain as the primary motivation.

Purple Pony is 100% volunteer. That includes everyone who supports the mission at Purple Pony. We provide a very unique and much needed service for the special needs community.

As I look back on the year it is very clear that Purple Pony has a very special and dedicated group of volunteers, this includes our financial volunteers, material volunteers who gave items to our Treasure sale, the sponsors , horse donors, our PATH certified instructors, side walkers, leaders, prayer partners and our crew of "frozen chosen" who keep our herd healthy all winter long.

Without all of your volunteerism the mission of providing this service does not happen!

On the last evening of this year's Fall Session a parent of a long time rider came to me as she was leaving and said thank you. Thank you for year after year being here and providing this opportunity for my daughter. She gets so much from this.

That THANK YOU was for all of you who are volunteers supporting Purple Pony and the mission. As you read this newsletter my hope and prayer is that you will feel a sense of pride and ownership for making this life changing service to the special needs community happen!

I thank God everyday for each and every one of you.



See you at the Barn!

Daniel J. Kilker

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

This Year at a Glance: Our Impact Together.

$20,000
Raised at Treasure Sale
Community coming together and raised over $20,000 during three day sale.

1,500
Hours of Fundraising
Our organization depends on donations

2,500
Volunteer Hours
Hours that our volunteers contribute to lessons.

650+
Training Hours
On site volunteer and leader training.

Together, every contribution makes a difference.





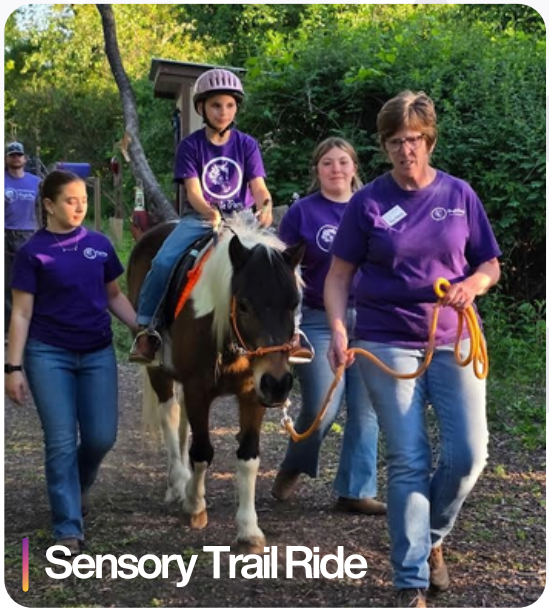
The Future Grows With Every Helping Hand.

PURPLE PONY HORSES ARE NOT HAYBURNERS OR PASTURE ORNAMENTS... THEY ARE LIFE CHANGERS

Elias' Story

Early last spring, Purple Pony had an opening in an upcoming Thursday evening class. It happened to be my class, so I contacted the next applicant from the Wait List. His name was Elias and he was 9 years old. The other gentlemen In the class were older, but I wanted to offer the spot to Elias' family to see if they were interested. Elias' mom, Stephanie, said that Elias was very interested. I set up an evaluation date for Elias to visit the barn to meet us. I needed to see if Purple Pony was a good fit for Elias and if we could safely meet Elias' needs. An email was received before his visit to inform me that Elias called everyone he knew to tell them that he was going to learn how to take care of horses. Well, his Evaluation Meeting went well, paperwork and payment completed. Elias was "good to go."


Elias and CJ


Sensory Trail Ride

Elias is a young man diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and anxiety. Academic activities can be difficult for him. He was looking forward to spending time in a place with horses and new experiences. He was excited! Before I knew it, Elias wanted a Purple Pony shirt. His mom told me that he counts down the days every week leading up to his Thursday lesson. Elias enters every week wearing his Purple Pony t-shirt, cowboy boots, and hat. Smiling from ear to ear, he sits next to his buddy, Derek, eager to hear about the day's lesson. At the conclusion of the nine-week session, I received an email from Stephanie stating that she was informed that Elias had significant improvement on his iReady computer assessment program at school. His progress was amazing. Elias improved by 88 points in English Language Arts. Mom was thrilled. She stated that since beginning lessons, Elias has been happier, sleeping better, more focused, and is doing better in class. Personally, I attribute his progress to the special relationship he has with his pony, CJ. They have a special bond. This fall session, Elias came strutting into the barn wearing his Purple Pony t-shirt. He spun around and on the back was an outline of a boy, pony, and a tree. On the tree was carved, "E.J. 💜 C.J." That says it all.

- Lynnette Short
Instructor and Board Member

PURPLE PONY THANK YOU CORNER

We would like to extend a very special thank you to our amazing donors:

- Passero Associates
- PNH Apparel
- Advantage Federal Credit Union
- Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel
- Five Star Bank (LeRoy)
- Liberty Pumps
- MD Brackets
- Rotary Club of Batavia
- Kiwanis Club of Batavia
- Kiwanis Club of Spencerport
- Batavia Downs Gaming
- Give716
- Vic Blood Foundation
- Genesee County Employees
- WNY Harness Horsemen's Association
- Howard Ouriel
- Lynne Belluscio
- Shandling Foundation
- Dr. Jim Meyer
- Rotary Club of LeRoy

COMMUNITY CORNER



2026 BIENNIAL TREASURE SALE

The 2026 Purple Pony Biennial Treasure Sale was an outstanding success, raising more than $20,000 in support of the Purple Pony Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. Held over three days in August, the event brought our community together in a shared commitment to supporting our mission and the individuals we serve. This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the enthusiastic support of our shoppers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Your support helps us continue providing meaningful, life-enriching experiences through therapeutic horsemanship.

ANNUAL DAY OF CARING AND OUR NEW RUN-IN SHED







In May, the Batavia and LeRoy Rotary Clubs generously devoted their Day of Caring to Purple Pony Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. Members shared their time, talents, and resources to help clean the barn, care for our sensory trail, and assisted with erecting the walls for a new run-in shed. Their hard work and generosity have made a lasting impact on our facility and the community we serve.

We are truly touched by the kindness and dedication both clubs have shown to Purple Pony year after year. Their willingness to roll up their sleeves and give so generously of themselves reflects the very best of community service. The work they do goes far beyond the tasks they complete—it helps us create a safe, welcoming, and enriching environment for our participants and horses. We are incredibly fortunate to have their support and cannot thank them enough for believing in our mission and helping us carry it forward. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being such meaningful partners in the Purple Pony family.



ROCKIN' THE DOWNS CONCERT

Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone who came out and supported us at an amazing evening at the Rockin' the Downs Concert Series featuring the headliner, Jump – The Van Halen Tribute Band.







That night we were able to raise $1,286! Thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, and everyone who helped make the night such a success. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

VOLUNTEERISM AT ITS BEST


Treasure Sale Volunteers

Volunteering at the Purple Pony Therapeutic Horsemanship program is a unique and fulfilling opportunity to make a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs. This fully volunteer-based organization is dedicated to providing therapeutic riding lessons that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being. We are actively seeking compassionate and dedicated volunteers to assist with our weekly evening lessons. As a volunteer, you can serve as a side walker, offering support and encouragement to riders, or as a leader, guiding the horses during lessons. Additionally, volunteers are needed to help with the care and maintenance of our beloved horses, ensuring they are healthy and ready for each session. Volunteering at Purple Pony not only enriches the lives of our participants but also offers volunteers a rewarding experience filled with learning, connection, and the joy of contributing to a supportive community. No prior experience with horses is necessary, as training will be provided. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, consider joining the Purple Pony family and help us continue to provide these life-enhancing services.

SIGN UP TODAY
TO VOLUNTEER
WWW.PURPLEPONY.ORG/VOLUNTEER


2026 Board Committee

BY THE NUMBERS FOR 2026.

Small Actions. Big Community Impact.

6,000
Volunteer Hours
Every year and every hour helps our program thrive.

2,500
Horse Care Hours
Hours helping our horses with daily needs and grooming

135
Hours Per Year of Lessons
Providing PATH Certified lessons

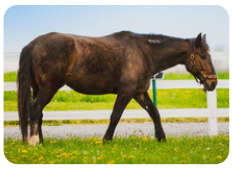
30+
Riders Supported
Riders learning and growing in their equine journey.

160
Pounds of Grain
Our horses get four 40 pound bags of grain each week.

BBQ Time


Together, We Care for Our Community.

This August, Purple Pony switched things up for our annual volunteer appreciation dinner and hosted our first Volunteer Appreciation BBQ to celebrate the amazing people who give their time, talents, and hearts to our mission. Filled with laughter, good food, and meaningful connections, the afternoon was a heartfelt thank-you to the volunteers who make everything we do possible. We are so grateful for our Purple Pony family and look forward to celebrating together for years to come!





Time Well Spent





A Volunteer's Perspective

When asked to write a short blurb on "Why do I volunteer at Purple Pony?", I asked myself just what is behind this life-changing experience??

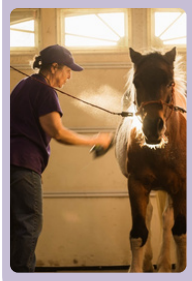
Is it because on a horse, therapeutic goals become as natural as the movement itself, enabling the rider, who only knows the world from the restrictions of a wheelchair, to sit high and proud, crossing mid-line, achieving postural support and spontaneous communication?

Is it because for an hour with a horse, my rider, wearing a Super Hero shirt or princess cape, gets to be just that, looking out over the arena from a place of height and power. Not just pretend, not just fabric. They are in it! Is it seeing the pride in the face of a parent/care-taker watching their loved one free, happy and fully present, forgetting the daily restrictions of their world? I've been there.

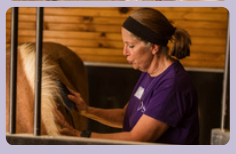
Or, is it working for hours in a hot dusty barn, sorting donations and setting up tables for the Treasure Sale, only to be overwhelmed by how generously the community showed up to keep the program going? Yup, it's this and so much more.

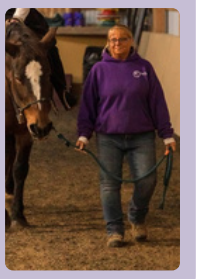
Volunteering keeps me grounded and gives my day's purpose. Working alongside fellow volunteers who share the same commitment, I am reminded by their actions, of the simple power of kindness and compassion. I leave each session feeling useful and grateful, knowing that what we offer at PP, builds real strength and lasting joy. So to answer the question, on Tuesdays to name a few, I do it for Taya, Julia, Aiden, Jose, Maylee, Mara, Colin, Riley, Anna, Kiara, Joshua, Adrian, Cookie, Bubba, Bailey, Kismet, CJ, Paint, Goldy and of course, Buttercup!

Debbie Harrison
Volunteer









Ways to Give

1 Website
www.purplepony.org/donate

2 Amazon Wishlist
https://tinyurl.com/purpleponyamazon

3 Mail-In
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 148,
Bergen, NY 14416