

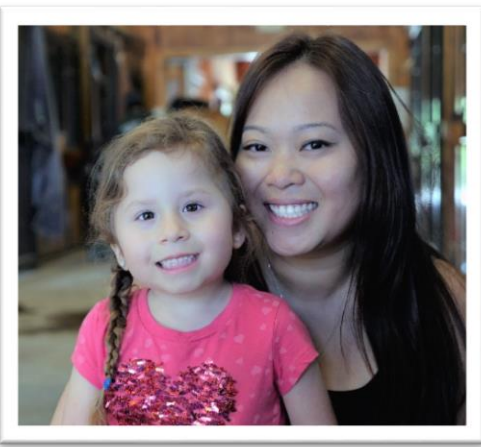


July 2017

Every horseshoes tell a story

Dear Friend of WindReach Farm,

In many ways, Kiera is like most children three-and-a-half years old. She is full of energy, loves colouring and playing in her toy kitchen, and, on the day I met her, picking dandelions in a field at WindReach Farm, offering them out with her winning smile.



But Kiera's childhood hasn't been a typical one. She was born with a rare genetic condition called Prader-Willi Syndrome that results in a range of symptoms including decreased muscle tone, speech difficulties, sensory processing challenges, cognitive impairment and an inability to feel full that can lead to crippling food compulsions. Much of her time is spent in speech and physical therapy. But Kiera's parents want what all of us want for our children – for her to experience a childhood full of laughter, acceptance and love. When Kiera's mother, Susan, thinks of her daughter's weekly therapeutic riding session at WindReach Farm, what stands out to her is how happy

her daughter is during it. Kiera is so absorbed in the joy of riding her horse that she doesn't realize how much she is benefiting from her hard work.

Through donations such as yours, WindReach Farm has been able to help many individuals with special needs, like Kiera, face the challenges before them in an environment that Susan describes as "magical."

Before starting at WindReach Farm, walking had alluded Kiera. She had been close for a while, but decreased muscle tone in her core seemed to be holding her back. A month after she first climbed onto her horse, Max, and experienced the thrill of therapeutic riding, she started walking independently, something her parents attribute directly to her riding. She now has the strength to run and, while riding Max, can hold a flag with both hands and trot! We all celebrate the milestones of our children, but they have been particularly meaningful to Susan and her husband, Mike, as they have witnessed how hard Kiera has worked to hit each one. Riding also impacts speech receptors and has dramatically improved Kiera's ability to communicate verbally. Knowing this, it is clear that the little moment when Kiera ran across the field with those dandelions and, with a big smile on her face, told her mother they were for her, was actually quite big. Her experiences at WindReach Farm have been life-changing.

Right now, WindReach Farm is reaching out to you in the hope you will support its annual **Horseshoes for Hope** campaign, where every horseshoe tells a story. The money raised will help keep programs and services open for adults with disabilities and children, like Kiera, who get so much out of them. There are four levels of donations - \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500 – that offer a special opportunity to have your name on a small, medium or large horseshoe that will be proudly displayed on the WindReach Farm Bridge.

In honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, this year's campaign features horses and riders from the Mounted Police Units across Canada as well as our own horses along with their stories. These special horseshoes with a story are \$1,500. When you choose this horseshoe you will receive a beautiful plaque of your horseshoe along with a photo of the horse and their story. Just as each user of the farm is unique, every horseshoe in the campaign truly does tell a story!

Kiera's parents would like donors to know that the magic of WindReach Farm goes beyond the tangible physical benefits. In Susan's words, "Being the parent of a child with special needs can be isolating, but not here. Here, there is a sense of acceptance. Here, people see Kiera for who she is, not what she has." That is something every person deserves and, with your support through the Horseshoes for Hope campaign, together we can help make it a reality.

Sincerely,



Hejsa Christensen  
Director, WindReach Farm Foundation Board of Directors



***Magical moments come in many forms and variations. Through WindReach Farm's programs, the Farm thrives on creating magical moments. The Annual Horseshoes for Hope campaign needs your support & commitment to allow us to continue to encourage magical moments, like Kiera's, for all who enter through our gates. Whether you are new to our H4H campaign or renewing for another year thank you for taking a moment.***



Jon Bowles  
Chair, WindReach Farm Board of Directors

**A CENTRE FOR INCLUSION AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES**

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