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Sunny Day Farms Brings a Smile to Your Face

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As I walked on the farm, I was welcomed by a beautiful mural and a troop of dogs and cats that were so excited to see me. I instantly felt happy and knew I was in a good place!

If you are looking for something both fun and educational, or maybe want an interesting place to have your next birthday party or event, then look no further than to Sunny Day Farms Animal Sanctuary located just minutes from Castroville in La Coste, Texas.

Sunny Day Farms is the brain child of Brooke Chavez who has been caring for abused and neglected farm animals for the past ten years. She wanted a place where both animals and children could feel comfortable and interact in a natural environment.

On the farm she has over 200 animals which include 2 blind horses, 3 miniature cows, 30 goats, 70+ chickens, 8 donkeys, 4 large pigs, ducks, pigeons, rabbits, guinea pigs, turkeys and much more. As I received a tour of the farm I was amazed at how many animals she cares for on a daily basis. With just herself and one worker, she sure does have her hands full.

Brooke and her family, including her husband David and 2 beautiful daughters, have recently opened the farm to the public and every Thursday and Saturday you

are invited to head on out to the farm and interact with the animals. For a small donation children and parents have the chance to meet the animals and take a tour of the farm. They also get to participate in an arts and crafts project in the educational barn which was built out of recycled materials.

The Farm also hosts School Field Trips, Summer Tours, Mommy and Me days as well as Birthday Parties! If you're looking for a great place to have your child's next party, then you should check out the Farm. Children will receive a fun and educational tour, a visit from several sanctuary guests, a "farm theme" birthday cake and goodie bags. It is one party your child and their friends will surely never forget.

How does this farm operate you might ask? Up until now, the farm has solely existed on Brooke's own funds. Being the only farm animal sanctuary in Texas, she receives animals from all over Texas as well as the entire United States. That is a lot of mouths to feed, and her feed bill alone can cost over \$2,000 per month! With the help of donations, Brooke hopes to be able to open the farm doors to many more neglected animals.

With generous donations and fees from tours and field trips, Brooke can continue to not

only help the animals, but can help educate children by letting the animals be the teachers.

She is very passionate about helping those with special needs and has a program set up where special needs children can come to the farm and work with the animals one on one and "help" out at the farm. It is a great experience for everyone involved. Being a life coach, she knows just how to help these children.

If you would love to have a farm animal, but just don't have the space, you can sponsor an animal which will help feed, shelter and provide medical care for that animal. It is a great way to teach children responsibility and it makes a great gift. Sponsors will receive a certificate of care, a photo and bio of the animal and unlimited visits to their animal at the farm.

I encourage you to head on over to Sunny Day Farms and see what it is all about. It is both an educational and a compassionate experience that lets you understand what unconditional love really is. For more information on all they have to offer, and to read stories about some of the wonderful animals, visit their website at

www.sunnydayfarms.com
 540 CR 5711, La Coste TX
 (830) 772-9000

Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon— September 7, 2010, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Purchase an ad in the Newsletter, just \$40 per month or \$400 for an entire year!
- Congratulations to those celebrating their anniversary this month:
 1201 Fiorella, LP - 1 yr.
 Cambridge Realty - 1 yr.
 Tim & Teri Barrow - 5 yrs.



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Fundraiser Set for Moye Retreat Center Improvements

The Moye Retreat Center and the Sisters of Divine Providence are sponsoring a fundraiser on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Josabi's Acres in Helotes, Texas.

The funds raised will benefit their Sharing Sacred Spaces Capital Campaign which helps protect and preserve the Moye Retreat Center.

The improvement needs include installing a state of the art smoke and fire alarm system in all the

historic buildings, repairs to the historic first St. Louis Church and Lourdes Grotto, upgrades to the dining room, kitchen and main building.

Tickets for the event can be purchased for \$40 per person which includes dinner, dancing, raffles, door prizes and more! You must be 18 or older to attend.

Josabi's Acres is located at 17200 Hwy 16 North in Helotes. Josabi's is a live music and event center

which sits on approximately seven acres of land and makes a perfect venue for this fundraiser.

Tickets can be purchased at the Moye Retreat Center located at 600 London Street in Castroville or at Josabi's.

For more information on this event, please contact Linda Follis, Director of Moye Retreat Center at (830) 931-2233 or email moyecenter@aol.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting at Castroville Library

Are you or someone you know caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's Disease or a form of Dementia? Are you in need of some support from others that are dealing with the same struggles you have from day to day?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you should attend the monthly Alzheimer's support group meeting taking place at the Castroville Public Library on the third Saturday of

every month from 10:30am to 12 noon.

It doesn't matter if you are a full time, part time or long distance caregiver, getting help and support is essential in order to keep your own health in tact so you can continue to give care and support to your loved one.

This new group is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Star Chapter in San Antonio. Each participant will be able to discuss their individual concerns and receive helpful information from the

Alzheimer's Association about this disease.

Anyone in this situation knows that they have a long road ahead and there is no way you can do it alone. Don't be afraid to ask for some help. This new group is here to help in whatever way they can.

For more information about the newly formed group, please call Ruth Pollard at 830-931-9039 or just show up at the Castroville Library at 10:30am on the third Saturday of the month.

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Newsletter Information

Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates
Asst. Editors: Pat Davila & Kimberly Frangesh

New Member since August 1, 2010

Antiques & More, Deborah Jones & Phyllis Santleben
Nora Leza, MVISD Teacher
Sunny Day Farms, Brooke Chavez
Heidi White Fine Wire Wrapped Jewelry

September Calendar of Events

Here's what's happening in Castroville in September. All details can be found on the calendar of events at www.castroville.com. If you have an event to add, please email all the information to the web mistress at ashlee@castroville.com.

Every Thursday: Live Music at Cora's by Greg Walden, 6 - 9pm

Every Wed: Rotary Club of Medina Valley, 11:45am, Old Alsatian Steakhouse

Every Monday & Thursday: Free Computer Class at the Library, courtesy of American Legion

- 03: Antiques & More Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting, 5pm, 410 Paris, 538-9721
- 03: Fiorella Friday, live music, artisans, wine tasting and much more, 6-9pm.
- 03: American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-7pm, American Legion Hall, 538-6483
- 04: Volksmarch, 8am, Castroville Regional Park. Everyone is invited
- 07: **Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. All Members invited!**
- 08: Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 12 noon, Hotel Alsace & Spa
- 08: Adult Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
- 08: Breast Cancer Support Group, 6pm, United Methodist Church of Hondo
- 10: Friday Night Fever, Wommack Chevrolet, 6-10pm, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, (830) 931-2479
- 11: Market Trail Days, Houston Square, 9am-4pm, (830) 741-2313
- 12: Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! (830) 931-3837
- 17-19: Medina County Fair, Fair Grounds, Hondo TX
- 18: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 10:30am, Castroville Public Library
- 18: "A Night Under the Stars", 6pm-midnight, Josabi's Acres in Helotes, 830-931-2233
- 22: Adult Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
- 23: HANK, Inc. Fundraiser Dinner, 6:30pm, Medina Valley Café, 830-741-1205
- 25: Medina County Crimestoppers Golf Tournament, 12 noon, Devine Golf Course
- 26: Fajita Dinner, 11am-1pm, MV United Methodist Church, 931-3533



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Benefit Dinner to Raise Funds for Neglected Children

Over 250 children in Medina, Uvalde and Real counties are removed from their homes each year due to abuse and neglect. These children have basic needs that are not met and that is where HANK, Inc. steps in.

HANK, Inc - Helping Abused and Neglected Kids, will hold their first fundraiser dinner on Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Medina Valley Café located at 1302 Fiorella St. in

Castroville, Texas.

All funds raised will go directly to meet the needs of the children in these three counties who are helped by HANK.

Tickets for the fundraiser will be \$40 per person and a maximum of 50 tickets will be sold. Tickets are available at Medina Valley Café and Castroville Chamber of Commerce.

The theme for the evening is Thanksgiving and the menu will feature turkey

and dressing.

HANK is very thankful for all of the support they have received so far and look forward to being able to help these children for years to come.

Along with the dinner, there will also be a silent auction and door prizes will be awarded. If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction or door prize, please contact John or Debbie Southwell at (830) 741-1205 or email them at hankforkids@gmail.com.

SEE YOUR AD HERE

**NEWSLETTER BEING
INSERTED IN
CASTROVILLE NEWS
BULLETIN EVERY
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We're on the web

www.castroville.com



Chamber Welcomes New Teachers to Castroville

For the fourth year in a row, the Chamber sponsored a New Teacher Luncheon to welcome new teachers at Medina Valley ISD and St. Louis Catholic School. This year's luncheon was held on August 13th at the Medina Valley Middle School cafeteria.

Twenty-five new teachers attended the luncheon and were very grateful for all the Chamber and our members did to welcome them to Castroville and the schools.

A lunch of chicken cacciatore, Caesar salad, bread and tea was catered by the Alsatian Restaurant and everyone agreed that it was delicious.

The teachers were welcomed by Education Committee Chair Myra Schneider who explained that the Chamber puts on this luncheon to show how much the teachers in our community are appreciated. She also introduced all the teacher

sponsors and let them tell a little about their businesses.

The teachers were sponsored by local individuals and businesses who helped pay the cost of their lunch and a new polo shirt with their school name embroidered on it.

Many local businesses also provided items for goody bags and door prizes that were given to the teachers in attendance.

MVISD Superintendent James Stansberry and Assistant Superintendent Chris Martinez also welcomed the new teachers and let them know they were there to help out in any way they can.

This luncheon was started four years ago by then Board Director Sallie Harborth who felt the Chamber needed to give back to the community by welcoming the teachers who would be molding and teaching the children in our community.

With such a wonderful outpouring of support from our members, we plan to continue holding this luncheon for many years to come.

The Chamber staff spends many hours getting ready for this event, but it is also thanks to our wonderful sponsors that we are able to have such a successful luncheon.

Sponsors for this year were: Alamo Credit Recovery, Bertha Benedetti & Diana Bush with ATPE, Broadway Bank, Dr. William Burges, Calvary Chapel, Community National Bank, Camile DuBose, Haby's Alsatian Bakery, Larry's C & L Food Service, Medina Healthcare System, Medina Valley Café, Royce Groff Oil Company, Sammy's Restaurant, State Farm Ins. – Hazel Russell, Stein Insurance Company, Stewart Title, J H Storey Construction, The Income Solutions Group, Alex & Marian Tschirhart, Dr. Lloyd VanWinkle, Valley Marts Inc.,

Valley Mobile Home Properties and Wommack Chevrolet.

We also want to thank everyone who donated items for the goody bags or door prizes including: Albros Casa Y Garden, ATPE- Assoc. of Texas Professional Educators, Ashlee Bates-Avon Rep, Bourquin Automotive, Broadway Bank, Dr. William Burges, Castroville News Bulletin, Castroville State Bank, Community National Bank, Farmers Insurance –Sallie Harborth, Haby's Alsatian Bakery, Hardt Realty, H & R Block, Landmark Inn, Medina County Farm Bureau Ins. - Minna Rothe, McDonalds Restaurant, Medina Regional Hospital, Stephanie Melton, Royce Groff Oil Co., Sammy's Restaurant, Shirts 'N Stuff, State Farm Ins. – Hazel Russell, The UPS Store, Valley Marts, Inc. and Wommack Chevrolet.

Check out pictures on the Chamber website photo gallery.