



# NEWSLETTER

## Enjoy Every Moment

I don't know about you, but for me, this time of year can feel both uplifting and heavy. I find the Fall to be so beautiful and enchanting, however, in the back of my mind I know time is 'running out' and soon sunlight will be less, the wind more and the temperature challenging. There is a small voice that reminds me to "enjoy every minute because it...whatever it is...won't stay this way much longer."

We have experienced so much loss this season. It truly never gets easier. In the case of Chance, we were aware of his decline in health and made that difficult decision to schedule euthanasia, while we were 100% taken by surprise in the loss of Abijah less than 24 hours later. Again, it never gets easier. In our broader Acres family, we also said goodbye to Grandma Lu (my Mom) on October 18th, she was a huge supporter and an important part of the growth of Acres. On October 10th our family cat of 15 years, Figaro also passed away.

Our collective 'Acres Heart' is hurting and to say we've been through a lot doesn't quite seem to capture the past few weeks or challenges that our team, our clients, and the world is facing right now.

In all the heaviness of the past four weeks I'm amazed by the beautiful aspects of this same timeframe. The colors of the leaves were at their peak and with the sun glistening off them took our breath away.

The love and connection from friends and family across the world streaming into us provided a net that held all of us as we said our goodbyes...or as I prefer "see ya later". The love felt from the 'Family and Friends of Acres' has been powerful and healing.





Barn bash was a huge success with over 220 'Friends of Acres' joining together to experience and celebrate the place, space and connection that is found here. While this event is more of a 'Friend-raiser' you generously brought in over \$3,200 for our scholarship fund! We can't tell you how appreciated that is!.



We are grateful for launching our new Horse Sponsorship Program which directly aids in the care and feeding of our amazing furry therapy team members. If you're looking for a unique holiday gift this might just be it and it's tax deductible!

As we close out 2023 we are grateful and honored to be the boots on the ground here at Acres. To see and experience miracles each day. We are on track to close out the year at just over 3,000 sessions! This is an increase from 2,210 session provided in 2022. Thank you for your role in making this a reality – whether it be in thought, word, prayer, volunteering and/or donation we are thankful!

**Blessings to you and your family at this time,**

**and the Acres Herd (booted, hooved, pawed and clawed)**



# The Power of Connection

There are 1000's if not more definitions and schools of thought on what is a 'connection', what makes up a deep connection etc.

Here at Acres we receive the gift of connection personally and professionally every day. We are wrapped in a blanket of connection, or as I refer to it quite often, the 'Acres Bubble'.

As you drive onto the property it can be felt...a sense of peace, calmness, safety, acceptance and belonging...We see and hear each other – humans, furry and feathery team mates and all the beauty that surrounds us here.

Here is a story from two weeks ago about connection that specifically involves the two equine team members that passed, Chance and Abijah.

Since we knew about Chance's upcoming departure we were able to experience and hear the deep connection that existed between our team, Acres Clients and Chance's fellow herd mates over the two week period that preceded. It was bittersweet as stories were shared, tears shed and words of appreciation for all he meant to people were spoken. A beautiful demonstration of what embodies connection occurred on Chance's final day.

As we entered the pasture Chance was standing with his herd mates Rebel and Ozzie near the shed. They were near him, but both were eating, minding their own business and doing their own thing. We placed the halter on Chance and started to walk towards the gate headed towards the vet. At that moment both Rebel and Ozzie lifted their heads and began walking slowly, heads low, behind Chance in what felt like a tributary walk of connection.

As we paused at the gate, as we do, we asked Rebel and Ozzie if they wanted to join us as we continued toward where the veterinarians were waiting. Rebel and Ozzie both indicated that they did want to join us and we halted and followed Chance. There was no trying to eat the grass or stopping along the way for Rebel and Ozzie they walked with their friend Chance and joined Acres human team members who had joined for this last act of responsibility we promise each furry and feathery team member that joins us here at Acres. Ozzie stood and observed, Rebel shifted his hooves and seemed to need to keep moving as the procedure took place. It was a beautiful sight to see humans and horses holding space for their friend Chance as he took his final breath.

## Connection.





Another story of connection. On the day before saying goodbye to Chance, our amazing human team noticed that Abijah was not 'acting like herself'. That day was spent going through our health care protocol for possible colic and veterinary evaluation as her health continued to decline. We made comfortable space in a stall in the barn for Abijah where the veterinarian team and Acres team could continue to care for her throughout the day running blood tests and other procedures that carried into Friday where this mysterious illness had a hold on her.

While we all were experiencing connection, working together on this common goal, her herd mates were also demonstrating connection. Promise throughout the time Abijah was away from her herd in the stall would call out to her and at times Abijah would return her call. Sometimes connection shows up even when we're not able to return it's call...connection is still there. The knowing that you're not alone, you are part of something bigger and you are missed.

A powerful example of connection happened on Saturday morning when the decision had been made based on the declining test results and the matching decline in Abijah's physical wellbeing. As we awaited the veterinarians arrival we decided to take Abijah out of the stall into the fresh air that she loved so much.

She slowly walked toward her pasture and stood on the outside of the fence. One of our Acres teammates observed that the pasture was empty as the gate to the adjoining pastures were open. Abijah's herd mates were 'out in the far back'. Discussion about should we go get them and bring them up to Abijah occurred and the decision to trust the horses, trust their connection to be exactly where they need to be was made.

About 30 minutes passed as additional Acres team members arrived and we held space for goodbyes and thank yous. We began to feel the ground move and then heard the thundering of hooves that continued to build and as we looked toward the sound we witnessed connection. Abijah's three herd mates came galloping through the gate through the pasture and stopped just on the other side of the fence next to Abijah. Her eyes engaged, ears perked toward them and all their noses touched. Connection just at the right time. Three minutes later the veterinarian arrived.

Abijah was held in the strong web of connection that is Acres, human, animal and nature, as she took her final breath.

**Connection here at Acres is this -  
where all beings are held in capability,  
acceptance, love and respect as they  
are, never alone, always belonging....  
a space of being seen and heard.**





## Looking Ahead...

Closing out 2023 strong and looking ahead to 2024 we ask you to help us meet our goals for the end of the year by helping us raise funds to support the areas of focus below.

**An anonymous donator has graciously offered to match any donation up to \$10,000. Can you help us get the rest of the way?**

### Mental Health Scholarships

Sponsor services for 1 individual to experience transformational care through our Therapy and Wellness Program for adults or our HEY program for youth

**One Individual Therapy Session is \$200**

### Expanded Accessibility

Help us expand our services by supporting redesign fees to develop heated office and client service space.

**Goal Amount = \$3,000**

### Pasture Revitalization

Help support our beautiful property and the horses we love so much through funds that will be used to till, reseed, and maintain our pastures, along with investment in additional weather protective sheds.

**Goal Amount = \$10,000**

## Donate Today!



Scan the QR code to  
make a contribution







THE PERFECT UNIQUE GIFT FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS!

# SPONSOR A HORSE

We introduced Horse Sponsorships this quarter!

Sponsorships offer an opportunity to become involved with the community at Acres by making an impact on the lives of our animals who then help to transform the lives of our clients and further supports the sustainability that makes Acres all that it has become.

Sponsors are offered a unique opportunity to meet their sponsored horse and connect-given prior scheduling/confirmation (our horses have busy calendars!)

We are excited to launch this opportunity and have so much more to come for those that choose to sponsor!

**Find a Horse**

<https://www.acresforlife.org/horse-sponsorship/>

## SPONSORSHIP HELPS COVER THE COST OF:

- ✓ Hay
- ✓ Chiropractic Care
- ✓ Animal Food
- ✓ Farrier Costs
- ✓ Dental Care

