



DONATE



November 18, 2025

Dear Friend,

Imagine a place where you can find not only a trusted confidante and an inspiring role model but also a powerful way to engage your body and spirit. At Main Stay, that incredible combination becomes a reality.

Thanks to your support, two remarkable riders, Dan and Mike, alongside their moms, discovered all this at Main Stay.

For the past four years, Sue and her son Dan have made a dedicated journey of **2½ hours round trip** to Main Stay—a testament to the extraordinary impact it has had on their lives. **Dan**, who faces social and emotional challenges, has found not only joy in riding his horse Zeke but also a sense of self-awareness and confidence. He has shown dramatic improvement in his social skills which is a direct reflection of the nurturing environment Main Stay fosters.

Then there's **Mike**, who sustained a traumatic brain injury after a car accident. His healing journey to regain strength **began at Main Stay in 2007**. Every ride on his horse **King** helps him face his physical challenges and reclaim his independence. Each week, his contagious positive attitude shines through as he greets his instructor **Sarah** with a hug, proving that *resilience thrives in kindness*.

The real magic happens when Dan and Mike ride together every Thursday.

Their friendship grew through their unique experiences, demonstrating that Main Stay is more than just a riding spot—it's a supportive community. Mike has become a mentor for Dan, guiding him through new experiences and making a significant impact on his life.

Despite Dan's aversion to being touched, he shared, ***"Mike gives the best hugs!"*** Their mutual growth highlights the strength of friendship.

Their moms can't help but smile as they witness the strong bond that has formed between Mike and Dan, affirming that Main Stay has enriched their lives as much as it has for their sons. Each ride is a shared experience where they offer one another encouragement and understanding, illustrating how vital these connections can be.



When you donate to Main Stay, you're not just supporting an adaptive riding program; you're helping to create a community where individuals realize they are valued, they are not alone, and they can thrive.

Your generosity empowers not only Dan and Mike but also supports our animal-assisted learning program, which teaches essential life skills through meaningful interactions with our little animal herd of mini horses, donkeys, mules, sheep and goats.



This year, we hosted a day of fun at the farm for 70 individuals from Kids In Need McHenry County, offering foster families a break from their daily challenges. They had the opportunity to interact with our "littles" herd, play games and create craft projects.

One girl, who has been in nine foster homes in her short life, left the farm with a rock she painted bearing the empowering message ***"don't give up"***—a powerful reminder of the hope you inspire when you choose to send a gift to Main Stay.



We're excited to share we have a very special offer from one of our generous benefactors.

This year, they will match every dollar raised during our year-end fundraising drive up to \$50,000!

That means your gift will have double the impact! A \$100 gift will be like \$200, and a \$500 gift will be like \$1,000! ***Please note, this offer is for a limited time only, so consider making your gift today.***

Together, let's continue to create moments of joy, connection, and growth at Main Stay. Your contribution will not only have a *double impact*, but it will also make a lasting one, helping to transform lives and build a brighter future for all.

Please know how deeply grateful we are for the impact you've made and the lives you've touched, whether you are able to send a gift today or not. You are one of the many hearts that make up this special farm called Main Stay.

With Gratitude,

Loriann

Loriann Dowell
Executive Director

- P.S. -

*Remember, when you donate today,
your gift will be matched up to
\$50,000!*



*Scan the QR code to give today!
MainStayFarm.org/DoubleMyImpact*



Main Stay's mission is to enrich mind, body and spirit through powerful connections with horses, animals and nature.



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