

Millbrook Horse Trials donates \$2,500 to the Pine Plains Community Food Locker

The Millbrook Horse Trials, a nonprofit organization which runs one of the largest equestrian competitions on the East Coast, once again donated \$2,500 to the Pine Plains Community Food Locker (PPCFL). Founded in 1951 and operating out of the basement of the United Methodist Church on East Church Street, PPCFL depends on volunteer energy and local community support and donations.

The PPCFL is a critical community initiative, which once a month supplies more than 35 families in the Pine Plains school district with groceries. These families rely on community initiatives such as the PPCFL to have access to food and other basic necessities that are otherwise not available to them.

Ted Mallozzi, the treasurer of the PPCFL, expressed the importance of local community involvement and generosity in donating to the PPCFL. Beyond monthly groceries, donations from The Millbrook Horse Trials, The Northeast Community Center, and a few key individuals in the community allow the PPCFL “to provide local residents in need with more than just the bare minimum,” according to Mallozzi.

“In addition to our yearly budget, these key donations help build the safety net we require to ensure that we can help beyond basic monthly groceries, and provide necessities such as medication, clothing, heat and other utilities, to those most in need,” Mallozzi said. “We rely heavily on the donations of the local Pine Plains and Stanford residents each year to fund our annual budget, but it is the donations from organizations such as the Millbrook Horse

Trials that allow us to extend assistance beyond the bare minimum, to the most needy in the community.”

The PPCFL also provides additional support to the families and individuals using their services, by helping them access resources such as Dutchess County Social Services and the Community Action Agency. The Methodist Church in Pine Plains permits them to run their program out of their building rent-free. Food is purchased from the Regional Food Bank and locally from Peck’s Market. Eggs, milk, some holiday turkeys and fresh vegetables in season are donated locally from places like the Pine Plains Community Garden, Northeast Community Center, Fat Apple Farm and Black Sheep Farm when available. The PPCFL is a true community effort.

Since 2014, the Horse Trials have donated at least \$2,500 each year to the PPCFL. The donations have been made possible with proceeds from the Millbrook Horse Trials (MHT), the four-day equestrian event, held every August, attracting approximately 500 horses, top-level competitors from around the nation and thousands of spectators.

“We are pleased to be able to give back to the community in which we live and which has been consistently unwavering in its support of the Millbrook Horse Trials,” said MHT Organizer Louise Meryman, who co-founded the event 20 years ago. “Although the Millbrook Horse Trials is a nationally recognized event of the highest caliber, our roots have always been local, and the success of the Horse Trials is in



Louise Meryman (center), organizer of the Millbrook Horse Trials (MHT), presents a donation to the Pine Plains Community Food Locker (PPCFL) on behalf of MHT. Pat Nannetti (left) and Ted Mallozzi (right) volunteer with PPCFL. *Courtesy photo*

large part due to the mutual support that exists between the community and the Horse Trials.”

Food and shelter are “the most basic of human necessities, and we want to help ensure that no one in our community is hungry or going without heat in the winter months,” Meryman added, “and we are glad to be able to be part of the PPCFL’s efforts.”

The Millbrook Horse Trials have grown significantly since the first event was held in 2001. It now features activities for equestrians and non-equestrians alike, including tours of the Millbrook School Zoo through a partnership with the school, on whose property most of the event is held. The Millbrook Horse Trials is an important event on the competition calendars of top riders looking to get their horses fit and

ready for International and Team Competitions that take place during the fall. The competition is one of only a handful of events in the country offering all six levels of competition and is a favorite to many local and north-east based junior and amateur riders who compete at the lower levels.

The Millbrook Horse Trials site is on Bangall-Amenia Road in Millbrook. This year’s event will take place from July 30 to Aug. 2. For more information regarding Millbrook Horse Trials, visit www.millbrookhorsetrials.com.

For more information regarding the Pine Plains Community Food Locker, call Pat Nannetti at (518) 398-7692. Donations may be mailed to: The Pine Plains Community Food Locker, 2852 Church Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567.