VALENTINE'S DAY, 2012

The morning chores are done, and down in the big barn, Jacob has been helped to his feet and set out to see the day. He is 11 today, a long life for a farm pig. Every day it’s a bit harder for him. His back is just worn out. He has been a very active pig all his life. I am sure its hard for him to accept some things are no longer possible without help.

Jacob was rescued by a dog rescue couple who saw him in a small pen with no shelter as they drove back and forth to Memphis. They weren’t “pig people” and had no idea what he needed but it sure didn’t look like he was getting it, lying there in the mud and cold. They contacted me and asked if I would take him if they rescued him and I said Yes! He was just a youngster, and what a happy boy he was to see all those acres of grass, ponds and other pigs. Chester, our giant Yorkshire, and Marilyn, our Hampshire welcomed him with a few oofs and nudges.

Jacob has never caused a moment of trouble for anyone. He never tore down a fence, dug up a tree or pulled off a barn door as most farm pigs do for fun. He never pushed a weaker pig or bit another one. He just enjoys life every day. And even with his bad back these last couple of years, once he is on his feet he goes about his day with a happy attitude.

Chester has passed on and Marilyn is deaf and starting to show signs of arthritis in both front legs. Age changes us all.

And Jacob, my funny Valentine, still waits patiently every morning for me to come and help him get up. As we build the new barn, a large, better equipped stall will help me help him and those other big pigs when they cannot do it alone any more.
About Shepherd’s Green

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Accredited by:
The American Sanctuary Association
Member since 2002

Shepherd’s Green is a 501C3 public charity
Recognized since 1996 by the IRS
State certified
Financial and program information about our organization can be found at GUIDESTAR.org, on GIVING MATTERS.org, a directory of certified Tennessee charities, and on our website at www.9sites.org

Director’s Corner

Hello and welcome to the Spring News. Although I am writing in what should still be deep winter (mid Feb), we already have new spring grass coming up, daffodils blooming and frogs singing their romantic duet after a rain. This relief from the recent harsh winters gave me some time to rethink where we need to be before another winter comes.

In a couple of our months’ time, a pig ages nearly a year in his life. By 20 years old they are 100 in our years. Today a third of our pigs are 16 and up and the rest are coming up quickly behind them. These older residents have many special needs.

In addition to the old pigs, we have a growing number of white and light colored pigs who have skin disorders that need intensive treatment not possible as we are currently equipped.

In 2011 we were fortunate to have many new donors join our “family”, adding their financial help. The timing couldn’t be better and with the conviction that our bigger family will be as steadfast as our smaller one has been, we are shortly starting the process of designing and building a health care building. (See page 4) It will house 60-70 pigs who need some level of special care, are being held for medical observation or who need a private space for recovery; all issues we face daily. This building will include a functional clinic for vetting and treatment.

We look to you to help us continue to give these pigs the best care possible as they travel through their lives. Thank you for being there for those who need you.

for the pigs,

Peggy J. Couey
In 2004 when we moved here our herd was one of young and energetic pigs with an average age of 8. They needed the freedom, the choices, the woods, meadows and creeks to make their lives rich and full. We placed their housing all over this big farm so they could spread out and create their own small social groups. Each area had its own ponds and streams and woods and pastures. They would go off into the woods hunting nuts and tubers and I would fret over their whereabouts until I found them, often in a grass and twig hideout high on the ridge. Just like something I would have built as a kid down near the brook below our home in the mountains of New Hampshire. I understood their need; a place to be young and free. A place to grow without restraint.

Today those same pigs are an average of 16, many over 20. With the kind of care they have had they are living long lives, much longer than we ever expected. I remember when a pig of 13 was OLD. Now we speak of a 13 year old as a mature pig, not an old one.

With these great ages come maladies and problems that are common to all old beings. Many have bad backs that require some help to rise in the morning, others need special diets for allergies and liver problems. Some have urinary problems requiring daily monitoring to be sure they aren’t blocked and of course many are arthritic. Their lives are much more sedate and their needs don’t include a splash party in the creek, but do include an antibacterial wash of a wound that 8 years ago would have vanished overnight on its own. The consequences of aging are apparent in our everyday life here. We bring in few young pigs now, mostly using our facilities, expertise and skilled veterinary care to help those who have reached their final years. Young pigs are channeled into homes where their care is less demanding. We will always have enough youngsters for all the woods and creeks to make a wondrous home for them but the focus has shifted to elder care because the need is so much greater there.

A Vision of a Better Way

Proposed Health Care Center

Benefits:
Treatment and vetting: Finished treatment & recovery rooms with climate control and water that doesn’t freeze up. Ability for one person to hold and treat a pig’s skin, eye or other needs. Exam table and recovery area for the vet to do diagnostics, cultures and biopsies on site.

Elder Care: As a step up from the current elder habitat for pigs who need additional daily care beyond the norm. Pigs who cannot rise on their own and pigs who have health problems requiring daily medication will move to this building. There are so many now, and the numbers will grow over the next few years.

Efficiency: Currently I manage nearly 300 pigs here by myself. They have 34 acres of houses and feed dishes and watering locations. All of which need daily checking and care. They have fences that need mending and posts that need resetting. All the gardens and orchards require time. It has come to a time when there are no more minutes to steal from one project to give to another. When these pigs were young and healthy this was a manageable chore, but today the 56 barns to keep bedded and checked daily for pigs who cannot get up, the endless feed and water dish cleaning, the growing number on medication, all have become more than can be done well. It is no longer possible to keep up with their needs. The efficiency of having those needing extra help all in one area with heat, water, electricity, feed, medication, produce and hay, everything at hand, will make it possible to continue to provide for the ever growing numbers needing that care.

A Major Task

A lot of barn.. and a lot of expense. Unlike most of the barns I have built, this one will have a far more finished interior. The treatment room will have a concrete floor and drains, a drop down shower head for scrubbing before treating skin problems and a recovery room with “baby bumper” walls down low for those who awake disoriented from sedation. The site will be developed specifically for its use, with gravel roads for deliveries and to transport pigs in and out to vets. Our project manager, Neal Zahn, has started coordinating activities with the heavy equipment people, electric company, barn movers, and other services. For once it won’t be me in the middle of every decision. Neal knows what is needed and he knows pigs. David, our site developer, knows land/erosion and how to oversee building progress. And so too with Bill, the backhoe owner/operator, who can wield the arm of his big backhoe like a paintbrush. We have the right people. We will be raising funds all year to pay them, and before long our old timers will be enjoying a new barn. We will keep you posted on progress.

Getting old ain’t for sissies
Bette Davis
Elsie’s story didn’t start well. At 10 months old she was taken to a local kill shelter, pregnant and unwanted. This sweet baby girl wanted nothing more than to be petted, run through the fields and maybe be fed a few cookies. Instead she was left in a concrete cell to be killed. When we picked her up, we were given the details of her surrender. One “story” after another came out of that conversation, each one more unbelievable than its predecessor. They had gotten the pig 3 months ago but she had been kept in the house so they couldn’t possibly be responsible for her early pregnancy? They took her to a kill shelter so “she would get a good home”? None of it made sense. We were shocked when told by the vet they had found her pregnant at spaying.

Elsie is part farm pig, giving her a very docile and affectionate nature.

She now lives with a friend of ours whose boys adore her, pet her, let her run in the fields and feed her the occasional cookie.

So what happens to Elsie 10 years from now when she develops some health problem, or when at 17 she becomes too arthritic to get up without help?

We expect her family will see to her needs as they have done with their other pigs. But if for some reason they cannot, we are here for her. Any pig who comes through our hands is given the Happy Ever After stamp. Return postage paid.

Last year saw 20 pigs come home, pigs who had been placed over the years and were now at an age that they needed the kind of specialized care we provide here.

Happy Ever After… it’s our promise.

Below: Frank, Opie, Helena and Wilbert; recent home-coming elders.
Santa Came to Shepherd’s Green for Pig Christmas
Bringing a sack full of goodies
2011 Annual Report

Income:
- Outreach $5956
- General $104207
- Foundation Grants $17275
- Affinity cards & other $4512

Expenses:
- Outreach $12392
- Sanctuary Expense $76460
- Business Expense $13566
- Debt payoff $11200

Get a Shepherd’s Green VISA card and watch this grow!
NURTURING OUR FINANCIAL GARDEN

Our donors are not wealthy, nor are we the only charity they want to support. There are many important causes, all reaching out a helping hand to somebody in need. While checks and credit cards are always the most popular way to donate, they are not the ONLY way!
We are continually delighted, amazed and grateful for the creativity, hard work and dedication to our mission that you provide.
Here are just a few samples of giving we didn’t see in our crystal ball.

The “checkless” gift
When money is tight and you want to do something anyway.
Here are the best of our free giving programs

- **Affinity card** from Capital One. Sign up at Cardlabconnect.com and we get $50 plus a percentage of everything you charge.
  Every quarter we get a check. A week ago I deposited $600! That supports 2 pigs for a year and costs no one a penny.

- **The Kroger card**. This one not only gets us a percentage of everything you spend, it saves you a ton of money on gas if your Kroger has gas pumps. Kroger has great prices and gives you credit for everything you spend there towards gas. And we get 4% of every purchase you make. Free money for us and for you!

- **Goodsearch**. If you download the Goodsearch.com search bar, it will give us a penny for every search you do. And if your search is for a store or product, it automatically shows you what donation we get if you make the purchase and it automatically sends it to us if you do. Magic money!

- **Volunteer online**. If you live in Montana or Maine, chances are you won’t be able to come by and help build a barn. But if you are computer savvy and want to take on a task, we have plenty of them to share!! Check out the volunteer information on the website. [www.9sites.org and click on About Shepherds Green](http://www.9sites.org)

In the past year we have seen sanctuary after sanctuary fail. What happens to those pigs, tigers, horses who had been promised protection? The answer is that many are destroyed and others go to overcrowded facilities who year after year try to absorb the second time homeless, until some of them fail as well. And always it’s the animals who suffer the most. Failure comes in many forms, from lack of business knowledge to lack of commitment and ultimately from too many animals for the funds to support.

We have endeavored to find ways to sustain ourselves with gardens, orchards and local donated foods, all of which help us along but it is our supporters that are the strong roots that keep our sanctuary healthy and strong. You may not feel like you make a difference in some places, but here at the Green, your generosity makes the wheels turn, every single day.

Imagine my surprise when I opened this holiday card from Theresa and found a check for $362!! Theresa works in an office and last winter set up a change jar to collect spare change from her fellow workers. As they deposited nickels and dimes they all got enthused about the jar filling. By pig christmas, it was a very rich treasure chest! Thank you all!!

**Theresa has braved about every hardship a girl can and never once thought about letting her pigs go. She moved with them, married and divorced with them, had a baby with them and is there for them now as they reach their elder years and need her more than ever. I am proud to know her as a friend and “mom” to a pig I rescued over a decade ago.**

At pig Christmas we got this note from Pat who said: “I told my husband there were to be NO presents this year, so here is $50 from me and $50 from him, for the pigs “

Kids in High school or college? Save on feeding those growing youngsters by getting 8 **free meals at Ryan’s Buffet**. (Also several other affiliated buffets) With 1300 buffets across the country you may have one in your town. If so, buy a Buffet card for $10 from us and you get a card with stickers for 8 free meals and we get $5 !

All the details and the purchase link is found on the website. Click on the Buffet card details in the Supporting the Sanctuary block. Or buy one by just writing “send buffet” on your remittance envelope. It’s the best fundraising card I have ever seen, a simple BOGO one-for-one card with no gimmicks.
For us, it’s warmer days, a little longer light to work in, and the overwhelming desire to rush out and plant the gardens!

But for the pigs, it’s so much more: Fresh green forage popping up in every sheltered spot; an all day buffet that is dependent on no one’s schedule but their own.

The time to seek out a special napping spot up in the woods for those warm days when the barn, and its many roommates, are just too much company!

If the day is agreeable, a long snooze in that warm spring sun.

And starting as early as March, pigs will start shedding their winter coats in exchange for a sleek summer look.