

# Safe Haven Farms

A community of choice for adults with autism

*Being established in Southwest Ohio*



August 9, 2009

Dear Friends,

The first annual 5K run/walk to benefit Safe Haven Farms will be held on Sunday, September 20 in West Chester. This sanctioned event will start at 9:00 AM at the Lakota West High School athletic field, proceeding up Beckett Road to Mulhauser Barn and return to the finish line at the Lakota West stadium.

We are inviting you to become a part of this event by requesting your support. Would you be interested in being a race sponsor? For a contribution of \$250 we will print your corporate logo on the participants' Tee-shirts and for \$500 we will display the logo even more prominently on the shirts as well as on all race related signage. Donations will be used to defray event expenses such as police and time keeping, as well as direct contributions of items for age group winners and participant gift bags such as gift certificates, snacks and water for runners during the race.

Safe Haven Farms, Inc. is a non-profit agency so any contribution is tax deductible, and all monies, goods and services will go toward the opening and operation of the farm.

Safe Haven Farms is a planned farm community for adults with autism to be situated in Butler County. This facility will help fill a desperate need for residential and vocational services for adults with autism. Eight founding families have been working for four years to realize this dream. They have secured property, county zoning approval, and developed architectural plans for the farm. They will be breaking ground soon for the construction of the first four of the six houses that will be on the farm. This project is being launched with private funding and the expenses are considerable. We are hoping that the First Annual 5K Run/Walk for Safe Haven Farms will generate a significant amount.

The model for Safe Haven Farms is based upon Bittersweet Farm ([www.bittersweetfarms.org](http://www.bittersweetfarms.org)), which has been in existence for 25 years in Toledo, Ohio. Like Bittersweet, this farm will offer opportunities for activities not generally available for individuals with autism. These include flower and vegetable gardens and animal husbandry, as well as crafts and other social and work activities.

For further information about the run/walk, please contact me. For more information about the farm project see [www.safehavenfarms.org](http://www.safehavenfarms.org). (Do not forget the "s" in farms.) Thank you for considering this project. We hope you can help these parents and the persons who will live there fulfill their dream.

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