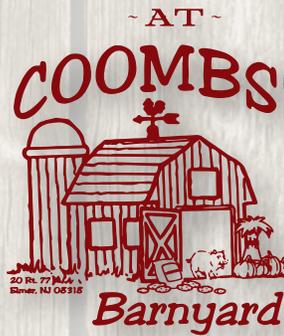


# THE FARMYARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## December 2016 Newsletter

The Holiday Season is a good time to reflect on the year and what a year it has been! The Farmyard Education Foundation at Coombs Barnyard was able to expand in 2016 and the goal is to continue that growth in 2017.



In early 2016 we hosted “Roots, Shoots and Blooms” which consisted of our first ever farm history museum, tractor parade, Earth Day Celebration (with tree planting), as well as the planting of our first community garden. From April through October, we hosted hundreds of children at the farm. These children had the opportunity to experience agriculture first hand through visits with our animals, time in our community garden, as well as our 6 acre pumpkin patch. In October, we hosted our first movie night and a Family Pumpkin Party, which included dinner on the farm. Both events were a huge success. We plan to repeat many of these events in 2017!

The Farmyard Education Foundation’s mission is to educate the community about agriculture through the eyes of our children, but our goal is to also create a space where adults can enjoy the ‘authentic farm experience.’ Our final event of the season was held the Sunday before Thanksgiving – “Pay it Forward Pumpkins”. We had an abundance of good, quality pumpkins so we teamed up with the Guarrera Family to turn the pumpkins into “vases” for floral arrangements. The idea of the event was to make an arrangement for yourself and then make one to give to someone that you are thankful for or just to lift someone’s spirits. A great group of creative ladies came out for this event and the arrangements were beautiful. It was nice to hear such positive feedback from the recipients of the “Pay it Forward Pumpkins”. We would love to do more events like this as we think random acts of kindness make our community an even nicer place to live.



We were able to do many of these activities thanks to grants from the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission, The Family Enrichment Network, The Salem Health and Wellness Foundation, Atlantic City Electric, our amazing volunteers, as well as private donations. It was truly a team effort and we gratefully appreciate everyone for their contributions!

In 2017, we plan to increase our garden field trips, add a corn maze to the Fall Fun, offer 2 weeks of Farm Camp for kids and provide more fun agricultural themed classes for children AND adults. We welcome any and all support from the community including ideas, volunteers and, of course, donations. (All donations are tax-deductible.) We are excited about the year ahead and hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Amanda Coombs-Shimp, President