

FROM THE DESK OF
Mary Rottschafer

October 26, 2022

Dear Friends of the Critter Barn,

You need to hear about the incredible impact you've made at the Critter Barn and our move to the new farm.

Your gift has made it possible to provide a new home for all the animals at Critter Barn. Every dollar contributed to our Capital Campaign has worked toward achieving the goal of taking the Critter Barn to a bigger and more accommodating location.



Here's the quick story.

Our three-acre educational working farm was experiencing both dangerous parking problems and overcrowding of our guests. We needed to move, and it is your generosity that is providing a new 36-acre farm that is spacious, safe, and is destined to be a delightful place for children and families to visit and learn.

In our moment of need, I'm so grateful you were there to step up and support the Critter Barn, the animals, and the people we serve of all ages and all abilities.

In fact, let me tell you about the kids and why your significant gift is going to impact so many girls and boys.

Because of you, children and youth in our community and beyond are now guaranteed an opportunity to come to our new educational, working farm. More kids will now build valuable friendships, learn an appreciation for the food they eat, and some may even become interested in a future career at a farm or in a related agricultural career.

2950 80th Ave, Zeeland MI • 616-748-1110

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Your gift made our new farm possible!

And rather than closing the farm while we built the new one, your gift kept the farm open and still gave kids a place to reconnect with the natural world, to learn, engage, and be inspired by the real, hands-on opportunities at our farm.

Here's just one example of how your gift to our new farm builds "more" than a building.



For Zeke, your gift brought about a change from his staying at home, in his room, isolating himself from every opportunity to being able to work with Xander, our employee, who has raised Zeke's self-esteem. Xander is a Barnyard Coach to Zeke, growing a valuable friendship. (Our Barnyard Crew program serves children and youth of all ages with diverse abilities and unique needs).

Now Zeke loves to come to the Critter Barn to volunteer. He has an open relationship with Xander and looks forward to the opportunity each week. That's an incredible difference – and you helped make it possible!

On behalf of all the kids in our community and the animals at the Critter Barn, thank you for your compassionate and caring gift! Thank you for believing in our future vision!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary L. Rottschafer".

Mary Rottschafer
Founder and Director

P.S. Please stay tuned for our announcement when Critter Barn's New Farm opens to the public. We will make the announcement via email and social media. If you are not on our email list, please call us at 616-748-1110 or by email: office@critterbarn.org.



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