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**Groundbreaking Held for
Dreams Go On's Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Barn Construction**

(Professional Courtesy Included on Last Page)

Hollidaysburg, PA - P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc., Consulting Engineers is pleased to announce that a groundbreaking ceremony for a new barn construction in Frankstown Township for the future permanent home of Dream's Go On, Inc.'s (DGO) therapeutic horseback riding program took place on **Thursday, Dec. 5 at 11:00 a.m.** at 206 Dream Road, just off Turkey Valley Road in Hollidaysburg, PA.

P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc. Consulting Engineers is providing overall project management including grantsmanship services, site design, and site inspection for the project. Bowman Excavation, Paving & Concrete Construction is performing all site work. The general contractor for the barn construction is Lawruk Builders. Inc. Joseph A. Oricko Architect & Associates, P.C. is providing barn design and inspection. Reliance Bank has provided financing for the unfunded liability.

A \$1 million PA state grant to support the Dreams Go On, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center was among several Blair County projects approved on March 16, 2023, for financing from the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). The CFA approved the Dreams Go On, Inc. grant from Local Share Account (LSA) funding, which uses gaming revenue, not tax dollars, to support projects in the public interest across the commonwealth. Through the LSA Program, grant sponsor Frankstown Township, of Blair County, PA was awarded \$1 million on behalf of Dreams Go On, Inc., for construction and engineering costs associated with building a new barn and indoor riding facility.

State Representative Jim Gregory of PA's 80th District has stated: "Thank you to the Lehman family, Frankstown Township Supervisors and the entire team of community professionals that gathered yesterday to break ground for the new Dreams Go On barn for intellectually challenged members of our community. Dreams Program Director Debbie Kelly will have a new million-dollar facilityIt can only happen with faith and belief God that wants this for our community. I am forever grateful to the voters of the 80th district that sent me to Harrisburg to do the job of bringing the one million dollar grant back home for this great cause."

Rep. Gregory also presented a big surprise to DGO Program Director, Debbie Kelly at the groundbreaking in the form of a \$7,500 check, depleting the rest of what was left in his Friends of Jim Gregory campaign funds to help Dreams Go On support an additional horse and stall. "Boarding a horse is expensive. This will help cover it. The only request I made is that the new horse and his stall be named after JAC," noted Gregory. Four-year-old Joseph Alan Carper passed tragically this year in a drowning accident. Gregory noted JAC would have loved to receive the services provided by Dreams Go On as a provider of equine therapy for intellectually challenged individuals like JAC. JAC was the son of Joe and Shannon Carper. Joe was Gregory's first hire as office manager and campaign manager. He first met JAC when his mom and dad brought him to our office when he was just a week old. Gregory encouraged others to join him in contributing to help provide others to Dreams Go On, Inc.'s Raise the Barn fund.

Dreams Go On, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization which provides therapeutic horseback riding lessons for adults and children who have autism, are physically challenged, or receive mental/behavioral health or family therapy services. Therapeutic horseback Riding builds self-esteem and stretches the mind and body of the rider. The therapeutic horseback riding program is currently housed at a nearby rented barn, also on Turkey Valley Road.

Dreams Go On, Inc. started a Barn building fund in 2019 when an anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to be earmarked for such a purpose. Later, the fund grew when the Fred & Patricia Young Memorial Trust donated \$188,000 to DGO for the purpose of helping children and helping DGO buy land. While various sites were reviewed, the lead therapeutic horseback riding instructor, Karen Kurtz, rode past the For Sale sign on Turkey Valley Road and immediately stopped to talk to the owners. Dreams Go On, Inc. then purchased the 14.5-acre parcel of land, also on Turkey Valley Road near their leased location, on December 2, 2020, from the Dietze family. Dietz sold the ground to DGO at a value price of \$72,000 to help the organization. The \$1 Million LSA grant funding has been the final wish needed to make their dream come true. The new barn will enable Dreams Go On, Inc. to expand therapeutic horseback riding services for its clients, increase the number of clients served, ride during inclement weather, and have more control over the use of the facility. The nonprofit group is looking forward to moving into the location upon completion this summer. The new site will feature a 12-stall barn with a 136' X 64' indoor ring, an observation seating area for families and visitors to watch the riders, a mezzanine level hayloft with storage over the stalls, an office and handicap accessible bathroom. The steel panel rib siding will barn will feature wooden doors and clear polycarbonate siding on both upper sides of the barn to let natural light into the facility. Each horse will have access to a private outdoor stall. There will also be a 150' X 70' outdoor ring and pastures for the horses.

Since the \$1 million LSA grant will not cover the entire cost of the new facility, Dreams Go On, Inc. has begun fundraising. The group hopes to raise multiyear commitments from local supporters for the

\$400,000 in unfunded liability through naming sponsorships and fundraisers. **Interested donors should contact the DGO Barn Fundraising Chairperson, Betsy Lehman at BLEhman@LehmanEngineers.com or 814-381-5527. Lehman will also meet with large and small groups interested in conducting fundraisers for Dreams GO On, Inc. Unfilled horse stall rental will also become a source of additional revenue.**

Donations to support the "Raise the Barn" fund can be made online at:

<https://www.dreamsgoon.com/donations>

**or mail checks payable to Dreams Go On, Inc. (Memo: Raise the Barn Fund), c/o Betsy Lehman/
Brenda Fix 311 Heather Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.**

Dreams Go On, Inc. currently serves riders with a season that runs from March to October, and private lessons that go on all year. The program currently operates with six horses with rides scheduled four days a week — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Individual riders participate in two six-week sessions per year. The proposed expansion will require adding staff, recruiting more volunteers and increasing the number of horses.

The program currently has eight paid employees — Deb Kelly, Program Manager, a lead instructor, Karen Kurtz, two instructors and four assistants. There are also interns and 20 to 25 volunteers. Among the many duties that volunteers handle, a favorite one is "side walking" beside the horse and rider to ensure riders are safe. To volunteer, please visit DreamsGoOn.com for more information and contact Deb Kelly at 814-312-2614.

Joe Lehman's sister, Sue Lehman, founded Dreams GO On, Inc 20 years ago and the organization was originally housed at the family barn on Scotch Valley Road. It was a family affair with all family members participating in the operations. The organization later merged with High Hopes and eventually was strong enough to move into their own leased location. Dreams Go On boasts Deb Kelly as the Program Manager with over 35 years' experience among the two organizations. Joe Lehman stated, "We are so pleased to be a part of this community project, it's very special to us personally and will be great for our community."

Established in 1969, P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc., Consulting Engineers maintains offices in Hollidaysburg and Bedford and is made up of a growing team of highly skilled professionals and experienced specialists in transportation design, structural engineering, site development, surveying, environmental science, environmental characterization and remediation, geology, utility engineering, GIS mapping, and construction services.



Partners in Dreams Go On Barn Groundbreaking Ceremony Dec 5, 2024 (From Left to Right): Joe Lehman, P.E., President of P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc. Consulting Engineers; Jim Frank, Client Services Director, P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc. Consulting Engineers; Rick Bowman, Owner of Bowman Excavation, Paving & Concrete; Joe Oricko, Joseph A. Oricko Architect & Associates, P.C.; Blair County Commissioner: Dave Kessler; Morey A. Lawruk, Vice President of Lawruk Builders, Inc.; Sarah Stanley, DGO Instructor; Senator Judy Ward of PA's 30th District; "Rocky" DGO Horse; State Representative Jim

Gregory of PA's 80th District; Cory Tubo, Senior Vice President of Reliance Bank; Deb Kelly, DGO Program Manager; Tracy Pellegrino, DGO Steering Committee Chairwoman; Dana Gority, DGO President of the Board of Directors; and representatives from Frankstown Township: Manager H.T Fownes, Board of Supervisors Chairman George Henry, and Vice Chairman James Callahan.