







Infinity Acres photos by Kenny Webster Photography.

## "Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."

– George Eliot

## **INFINITY ACRES**

## JOY IS.... being nose to nose with a llama.

Sounds like a slogan for a T-shirt, right? Well, here in Ridgeway, there is a gem of a place called Infinity Acres Ranch where exotic and domestic animals regularly bring the love to adults with disabilities, veterans, children and others.

The Ranch runs a variety of important and beneficial programs. In addition to its vital interactional support programs for the constituencies noted above, including its Enriching Nurturing Animal Based Learning Experiences (ENABLE) program, there are educational school field trips, Llama 4-H, a summer camp, a petting zoo, and numerous other programs for the entire community.

Some years ago, the nonprofit's founders wanted to open up their 62-acre farm and share their passion for connecting animals and humans. They have long known of the incredible healing that comes out of the special bond between a person who is hurting emotionally or has learning challenges and a calming, non-judgmental, loving animal. Studies have even shown that such bonds can play a role in reducing blood pressure, elevating our mood and even increasing serotonin levels.

But, trust me, you don't need to read any scientific treatises on the subject to be convinced. Just volunteer your time at or visit Infinity Acres and see firsthand the incredible success stories regularly playing out there. The Community Foundation did, and we immediately knew we had to support their work and all those incredible llamas, and alpacas, and the coatimundi and the sugar glider and... the whole menagerie. See you soon at the Ranch!

MORE THAN 500 COMMUNITY MEMBERS BENEFITTED FROM INFINITY ACRES' SPRING CARNIVAL THIS PAST YEAR.



THE E.N.A.B.L.E. PROGRAM (Enriching, Nurturing, Animal-Based, Learning, Experiences) SERVES INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES 260 DAYS A YEAR