March 6, 2021

Dear Friend,

*“Summer afternoon – to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language,”* writes one summer enthusiast. At Nature’s Edge we’re enthusiastic about summer, because summer days and afternoons bring priceless opportunities for our clients’ development and growth – out-of-doors, on the Nature’s Edge 65-acre ranch, our therapy clinic and classroom without walls.

During Summer 2021 we are offering several summer learning groups for children and youth from our communities. Each group program will teach essential life skills and creatively incorporate animals and nature into lesson plans for motivated, holistic learning. Summer groups this year will teach social skills, healthy and active life habits, preschool play and language skills, and respect and active listening. These essential skills will be expressed, modeled and practiced with the help of 25 resident animals at Nature’s Edge and in learning environments such as the barn, the arena, beside the river, in the garden, climbing a hill or walking a forest path!

We seek to engage children and youth from the surrounding communities, and it is our desire to not turn anyone away because of lack of funding. For this reason, we are inviting your support of our Summer Learning Out-of-Doors program. We also invite your financial support through sponsorship assistance either as a donation or as a scholarship. A scholarship of $150 would provide one child the opportunity to participate in one of these life-changing summer experiences at a very minimal cost.

It’s no secret that many children and youth today have very little connection with nature. Our plugged-in culture has inadvertently taught that “play” occurs in front of a computer screen, “social interaction” means playing video games, “reading” means reading a Facebook newsfeed, and “physical activity” means taking the stairs and not the elevator. The loss of connection with nature and with real people has contributed to problems such as diminished attention span, overstimulation that becomes aggression, obesity, anxiety and depression for children and youth. Providing learning opportunities that incorporate sun, wind, and earth with the assistance of companion animals unlocks development and growth in amazing ways.

For your consideration, I have enclosed a sponsorship form. Nature’s Edge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please feel free to call me at 715-859-6670 if you have questions. We truly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Becky PayneMATCCC/SLP/HPCS-Director, Nature’s Edge Therapy Center

*“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” – Albert Einstein*