



Just Imagine - Dickens to Chickens: Christmas on the Farm

In the beginning...

In 2020 (during the height of the pandemic) Touch My Heart imagined an outdoor place for the special needs community that was welcoming, safe, healing, and therapeutic for ALL. That place would include interacting with therapy chickens, gardening, and embracing the beauty of nature while soothing feelings of isolation.

Christmases Past

Christmas 2020 - While continuing to imagine, we began learning, training therapy chickens, building a prototype, and setting ourselves up to be the first organized Chicken Therapy Farm in the United States (something other countries have been doing for 20+ years). Through international mentorship, we were creating the visions of what the future farm and programming would look like years down the road. While this planning was going on, TMH provided food and supplies and Christmas gifts to the community we serve, which at this time was needed more than EVER.

But then something WONDERFUL happened...

In addition to the much needed food & supplies for this community, something even greater was needed. The TMH Farm.

Christmas 2021 - During the 6 months leading up to Christmas, many organizations and individual families heard about what we were doing and began reaching out and asking to come and see what was being developed for this community. By that Christmas we had over 1,000 people come to experience The TMH Farm for themselves. TMH was able to provide food/supplies and Christmas gifts for 600 individuals that Christmas.

In 2022, the growth TMH experienced was exponential. This was nothing short of a miracle. We continued to learn, train therapy chickens, train volunteers, partner with 4H, increase in person visits, & introduce a virtual farm program.

Christmas 2022 - By Christmastime, the TMH Farm now had fully trained therapy chickens, a master gardening program, and volunteers being taught by a trained expert in chicken therapy. TMH had over 3,000 heartwarming in person farm experiences and over 4,000 virtual farm visits. In addition, TMH was able to provide food/supplies and Christmas gifts to 1,000 individuals during the holiday season.

Christmas Present

Christmas 2023 - Here we are quickly approaching this Christmas. This has truly become our favorite time of the year. As we reflect on this past year, we're beyond grateful. What started as an idea & a prototype exploded beyond our imaginations. We are humbled by the support of the people that have stepped forward to help make this vision a reality. Only because of them were we able to continue and grow this outreach through the TMH Farm. We were able to hire people with disabilities. We were able to create more volunteer opportunities. Most importantly, we were able to bring joy, happiness and peace by providing a place where people can interact with therapy chickens, experience the gardens, and fully embrace the beauty of nature.

Together we accomplished what TMH set out to do 3 very short years ago.

But now we are faced with a tremendously HUGE but wonderful problem. We have completely outgrown our space. In addition to who we already serve, we now have a waitlist for over 200 special needs organizations and families that we simply can not accommodate where we currently operate.

2300 Flambeau Drive, Naperville, IL 60564 Tel: (708) 417-4464



Christmas Future

Now Just Imagine what's next...

Christmas 2024, 2025, 2026 -

Everything we're doing now plus:

- The ability to grow and expand the program.
- More employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Food & Supply pantry - On-site/Mobile pantry for basic everyday food & supplies.
- Teaching Kitchen - Basic culinary training for a simple and healthy lifestyle.
- Barn- Beautiful rustic rentable meeting/event venue.
- Chicken Therapy Education- Learn how chickens can make great support animals due to their calming and therapeutic qualities.
- Backyard Chicken Training Program- Learn the lost art of keeping your own backyard chickens. We can teach you step by step and encourage you along the way.
- Baby Chick Nursery- Experience the growth stages of a baby chick in the brooder before they become backyard or therapy chickens.
- Urban gardening techniques- Learn simple at home gardening skills to grow your own fresh and healthy herbs.
- Composting education- Learn the simplicity of how & what to compost at your own home.
- Volunteer opportunities- Touch My Heart has a large variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages.

How will you help us get there? Our Future Christmases depend on it.
The Special Needs Community depends on you. We all depend on each other.

What's your part for the FUTURE Christmases at the TMH Farm? Is it financial support (monthly or one time gift)? Is it being part of the future farm campaign team? It's sometimes difficult to think about what each of us can do alone but just imagine what we can do together!

Together we can do more than just imagine, We Can Do!

God Bless Us, Everyone!

Be a Christmas Angel this Season!

Would you sponsor an individual or a group home so they too can feel loved and remembered this Christmas?

- ❖ \$50 helps provide gifts, holiday food and decorations, a visit to The Farm, and more!
- ❖ \$400 helps provide for a group home of eight people.

Help us bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors with disabilities!

Give online at www.TouchMyHeart.Gives/Christmas, or mail a check to the address below. For questions or additional information, please contact Rick Montalbano at rick@TouchMyHeart.Gives.

Serving from the heart,

Rick Montalbano, Jr.
CEO & President, Founder

Christopher DePodesta
VP, Board Member, Founder

Richard Montalbano, Sr.
Advisory Board Member

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