

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OHIO COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: OHIO COUNTY EQUESTRIAN, INC.**

We were given full permission by the family to use real name for our story.

Joann had been a rider and a volunteer at Ohio County Equestrian for 10 years. It was without much warning she was called home to be with the Lord on June 28th, 2015. Joann had ridden many horses over the years at OCE and always willing to ride whichever horse she was placed on but her favorite was ole Scooter. She had traveled with our program to participate in competitions for challenged riders they had won a shoe box full of awards in everything: Stock Seat Equitation, Futures and the Trail Class. Joann and Scooter carefully navigated the show rings of KY, TN and he faithfully carried her to the depths of THE GAP TRAIL at Shawnee Forest all safe and sound during OCE's many Campouts and trail rides at New Hope Hill, Herod, IL. MS had taken its toll on her eyesight and her ability to play softball but it was replaced with her lifelong dream of learning to ride a horse. United Way dollars helped make this possible. Just days before her passing she was riding and preparing for her next event. Many times she had to wear a cooling vest at events but she never complained! She was more worried about her horse and did the hot weather bother him? She had the patience of a saint. Many times as instructors we often forget the impact this facility has on those who partake of it until you get the phone call that no one wants to get! You are not only informed of the passing, but that some of the last words were about "Scooter"! She told her husband (a volunteer and Director of Operations at OCE) it would be ok for him to ride Scooter - she would not mind! The family requested OCE receive donations in lieu of flowers. Scooter is very well taken care of thanks to Joann. For many years now, United Way has paid for the insurance that allows us to not only travel to shows and events for challenged individuals but to host them as well. Moments so precious as this would not be possible without funding.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 the **Ohio County Equestrian** can:

- Shoe four horses or buy enough wormer medicine for 10 horses
- Purchase 10 bags of sawdust or 10 bags of 12% horse feed
- Assist in paying for most of the food for the school show

