MEDIA ADVISORY

THE GENTLE BARN VOTED BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER IN 2017

National Non-Profit Foundation Reaches Another Important Milestone

Santa Clarita, CA (November, 2017) – The Gentle Barn has been awarded The Best Place to Volunteer of 2017 by The Signal newspaper’s reader’s poll. The Gentle Barn just celebrated its 18th anniversary in August of this year and over that time has been committed to its mission of teaching people kindness and compassion to animals, each other and our planet. Currently located in CA, TN and MO, The Gentle Barn is more than just a sanctuary for animals, it’s a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to heal. Founder Ellie Laks and Co-Founder Jay Weiner are the first to admit they couldn’t have achieved so many milestones over the last two decades if not for the dedication of their volunteer staff.

“The Gentle Barn has been operating with volunteers since it began in 1999,” says Ellie. “Our volunteer program runs year-round. We have volunteers working every day of the week, including Sundays when we’re open to the public. We also have volunteers that assist us with running our events including our three largest events of the year - A Gentle Thanksgiving, Gentle CSR at Natural Products Expo West and The Gentle Barn Holiday Gift-Giving Event held in South Los Angeles. We have had over 2000 volunteers that have worked with us throughout the years and our team continues to grow.”

The Gentle Barn has evolved from being a small, local animal sanctuary into a national foundation with three locations in CA, TN and MO, based around the philosophy of adopting a more compassionate attitude towards all living beings. Of the many programs and milestones The Gentle Barn has achieved, the volunteer program has proven to be one of its most valuable and is essential to the organization.

“Volunteers do a number of things for us, like working barnyard shifts each day, cleaning up after the animals, grooming and giving them attention and love,” says Jay “We trust our volunteers to uphold the highest standards making sure the animals are in good care, monitoring their health and wellbeing, helping us run events, being an animal's docent to the public, tabling at festivals, and many more other ways. We could NOT do what we do without our cherished volunteers.”

The Gentle Barn also offers an intern program to students around the Southern California area who are studying administration and operations in the non-profit industry.

For more information about how to volunteer at any of The Gentle Barn sanctuaries, please visit: http://www.gentlebarn.org/get-involved/

The Gentle Barn CA is open every Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Private tours and events can be scheduled in advance by emailing: info@gentlebarn.org.
The Gentle Barn is a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1999 as a safe haven and place of recovery for severely abused animals. The Gentle Barn offers their unique philosophy of rehabilitating animals and connecting their stories of survival and healing to the personal experiences of inner city, at-risk and special needs children who have suffered physical, mental or emotional trauma. By interacting with The Gentle Barn’s approximate one hundred and fifty animals and taking a hands-on role in their welfare, those who participate in the programs at The Gentle Barn learn empathy, trust and forgiveness. The Gentle Barn is supported by Celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Kelly & David Backes, Daisy Fuentes & Richard Marx, Jenna & Channing Tatum, Steve-O, Rikki Rockett of Poison, Pamela Anderson and Hilary Swank.

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