

## FEBRUARY / MARCH 2021



*Our Vision...For every child to experience redemption.  
Our Mission...LOVE the child, SAVE the horse, enable children  
and their families to realize the HOPE they can have in Jesus Christ*



### Finnegan.... begin again!



Finnegan is a 5-year-old Thoroughbred. He stands 17 hands high which may not seem that big but when you're standing next to him, most people CAN NOT see over his withers! Now, that's a tall horse! His size can be very intimidating, but Finn is a giant puppy! He was super shy, skittish and a little thin this winter when he first came. But as with every horse or human that comes to RYYR, Finn is starting to fill out. Our hope is that he may be ready to help ranch kids this summer! However, that may not be possible as he had a different job previously and thus, he must begin again. His previous job was to be a racehorse. His only job was to run, as fast as he could, in large loops and only to the left! But the good news is that Finny is young, so learning a new job and breaking old habits will be much easier. Since he's come to RYYR his demeanor has changed greatly. He is no longer shy and he has become accustomed to all the noises in our barn. If we don't have a barn full of volunteers, it's visitors and kids. He's discovered that these noisy people will feed him, scratch all his itches and just love on him. So instead of backing away from his stall door, his head is always out looking for attention. Finnegan belongs to one of our volunteers, Rose Sullivan. I met Rose several years ago through her daughter Rachel. Rachel produced that amazing video about our ranch. If you have not seen it, I would encourage you to watch it, you can find the link on our website. Rachel needed extra sets of hands to help record what she would later call a "mini documentary" so she recruited her brother and mom to help hold lighting and recording equipment. In reality, I think after spending all that time at the ranch, Rose was just sold for our cause and started

volunteering. But what makes Rose so special is that she wanted a horse that she could share with the kids that we serve. Most people are very possessive of their horse and don't like to allow others to ride them but having raised five children and homeschooling them, Rose has a special place in her heart for kids, right next to horses. I think the horse addiction maybe genetic as her daughter Rachel just purchased her own horse (Maeve) from the very same place that Finn came from. And Bekah (daughter #2) helps us by keeping Felix, our chubby draft pony, in shape. Sarah, Rose's third daughter, also volunteers weekly and even her son Josh has come to lend a hand. Rose's husband Dan comes to the ranch to help as much as he can and when he's there you can easily catch Dan at Finny's stall loving on him while Finny kisses his cheek! I think there's a "Bromance" brewing LOL!

Rose says, "Finn is a youthful old soul and hopes he is enjoying his new life as much as I am enjoying bonding with him. Our groundwork is coming along and as we get his physical issues dealt with, I am looking forward to hopping in the saddle (or climbing into the saddle may be more accurate lol). It has been a childhood dream just to be around these amazing creatures and I am over the moon blessed to have a chance to have one I can call my own. I love all the horses at the ranch and enjoy working with them - especially Felix and the mini sisters Scarlet and Sapphira but this gentle giant has captured my heart."

Interestingly enough, Rose had found her dream horse prior to seeing Finny. Rose had always wanted a bay-colored horse (brown with black mane and tail). The dream horse was a 9-year-old mare quarter horse named, Zoey. When I say she was a dream horse, I mean she was perfect in every way. She loaded on a trailer without hesitation, she stood still for the vet and farrier and bathing. She was well trained and well behaved. She walked, trotted and cantered at every cue. She was a pleasure to ride and be around. There was only one issue, but the vet said that one issue would cause her to be unsound in a few years. Which means this mare would not be rideable. Rose's heart was broken but she knew that God was in control and she had to trust that Zoey was not the horse for her. A few weeks later she met and fell in love with Finnegan.

*"You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail." – Proverbs 19:21*

## **My confession....**

I have a confession. We all have collections or things that draw us in. Mine is flowers. Perfect example....my husband, Matthew drops me off at the front door of Home Depot. I'm supposed to get **one** thing, a heat lightbulb. Fifteen minutes later I come out with the lightbulb but I've also picked up 3 potted plants and plant food. Seems like it's not a big deal, right? But every time I go to Walmart, Home Depot or Tractor Supply (and I go OFTEN), I just can't walk by flowers and trees! I HAAAAVE to buy some! It's a problem and sometimes I have to purposely go in a different store entrance to avoid even seeing the flowers. I don't know why that is. Is it the shape of the flowers or plants, is it the color or it's simple beauty? As a child, I hated weeding the garden. I always got stung by bees or bitten by bugs, however, did it for my mother but it was just torture! And now, I've become my mother. I have no idea when this happened, it just did. Matthew doesn't understand it, all that weeding, kneeling in the dirt and hard work. To him, it doesn't seem worth the effort but Matthew is a sweet soul though; he never gives me grief. I will spend hundreds of dollars a year and hundreds of hours on flowers and their maintenance. It could be worse, right? Oh well, if any of you are like me, you can kill 2 birds with 1 stone. You can help support the ranch and feed your love of plants! I've attached the flower order form at the end of this newsletter, you will need to print this form, fill it out and mail it with payment to us at RYYR, 115 Meehan Ln, New Brighton, PA 15066. and if you would like to see pictures of the selection that is available, just click on this link: [Fundrasier Programs Mussig Greenhouse Inc.](#)

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. -Matthew 5:4**

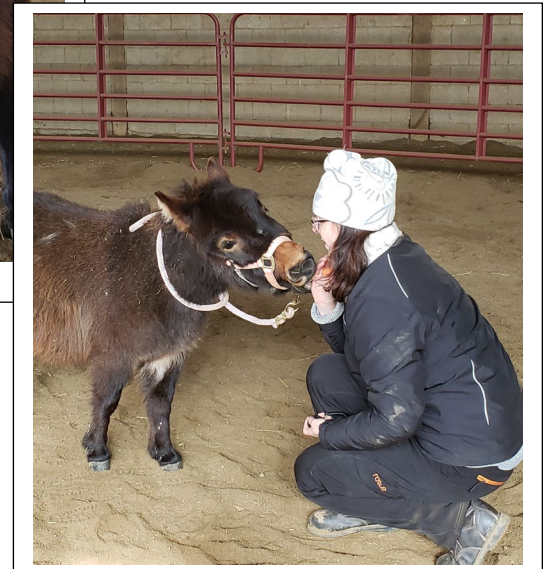
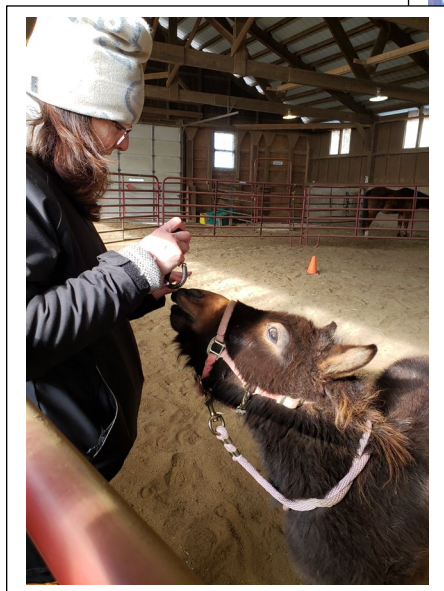
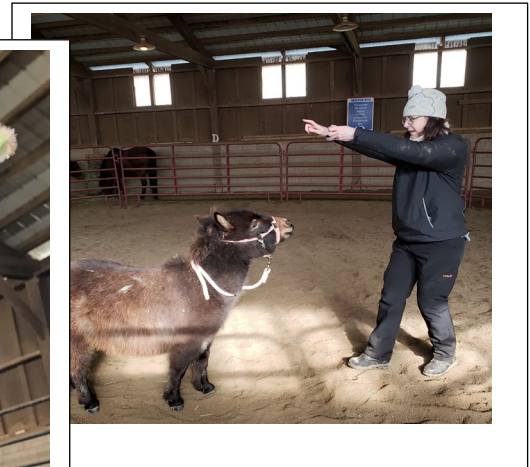
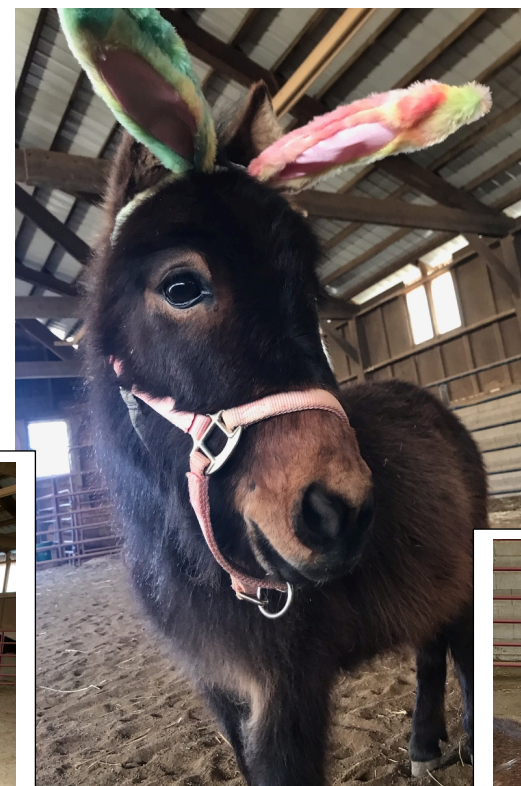
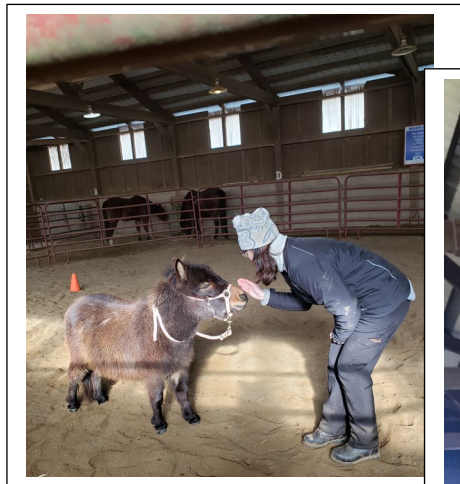
Our last newsletter included a short, heartwarming story about Willow, Abby & Judy Polachek. Shortly after I sent the newsletter, Willow died suddenly of a heart attack. Although Abby & Judy were simply heartbroken, God has blessed them with much comfort and healing. Willow's death reminds us all that everyday is a gift. We are not promised tomorrow.



## **NEW location for our Annual Golf Outing!**

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, RYYR will be hosting our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Golf at Fox Run Golf Course in Beaver Falls, PA. The fee is \$85 and includes hot dogs at the turn and dinner, cash bar and game prizes. Registration is 7:00am – 7:45am. Shotgun start at 8am. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the registration.

**“Oh, it smells like heaven! I Love it!”**

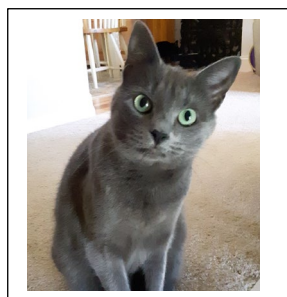


This was Anne Lehman's response to my comment about the smell at the barn. Matt & I had recently met her and her husband Jason for dinner to do the interview for this little article. Jason isn't as much of a fan of the "smell" when Anne comes home, but we've ALL experienced this, right? Anne proceeds to tell us the story of the yellow golf shirt. It was Jason's birthday, and she was on a mission to find him a yellow golfing shirt. Anne was pressed for time so she thought that she could run by Olde Stonewall Golf Course after the barn chores were done and see if they had any shirts. For those of you who don't know this golf course, it is a high-end golf course with a "castle" as a restaurant and event center. Anne parks her car and proceeds to walk to the Golf gift shop. Out of the corner of her eye, she sees a gentleman approaching and keeps her distance so he can go first because she didn't want him to have to smell her as she walks by him. She's trying to do this guy a favor but being so very polite, he opens the door and holds it open waiting for her to go first. She said, "No, no, you go ahead." Of course, the guy is adamant, so Anne has no choice but to walk right by him and give him a giant whiff of that wonderful "barn" smell. She was quite embarrassed, but the guy didn't say a word. Of course, the store did not have any yellow shirts. We laughed until we were in tears.

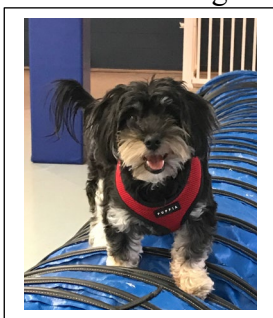
Matt & I had met Jason through our various circles of friends and family. But it wasn't until September of 2019 that we really connected. RYYR had taken some of our horses to Brady's Run Park to promote ranch awareness at a local "Pet Walk" event. Jason & Anne had come to check out the event. After we met and chatted a little bit. Anne said she felt that they should help the ranch in some way. This little tug on her heart is what I often call the Holy Spirit at work. Sometimes people just write it off and ignore it. But if we paid attention and acted on these promptings, who knows how much it could change our lives? Anne & Jason came back and told Matt that Anne would love to help us with any graphic design needs. And thus, began our beautiful relationship.

Anne first started volunteering by using her professional talents as a graphic designer. She graciously helped us create our marketing material. Shortly after that, she then asked if she could help with barn chores but has taken on even more responsibility. Last fall, we offered some "Liberty" training to our volunteers. The idea is to work with a horse to encourage certain behaviors in lieu of dominance/command type training. It was a big commitment of several additional hours & weekly visits. Anne chose to work with our mini mule Rolo, who was barely two at that time. When Rolo came to us, he was around a year old and he was feral, so he was a handful. He did not know how to walk on a lead line. You would never think that something so small was so strong. When we were teaching him how to "give into" the pressure of the tug of a lead line, he just wasn't having it. He planted his feet and there he stayed. He regularly showed us what a "mule" meant! In the first year we had him, we worked on putting a halter on his head and walking him on a leadline as well as touching his head and encouraging him to come to the front of the stall as opposed to always retreating to the back. Rolo has come a long way in just a few months, thanks to Anne's consistency and persistence. It was really cold this past winter, but Anne just bundled up and kept plugging away at the training (half frozen). Consistency is so important in horse training and Anne was definitely a trooper this year. Rolo is now so much more personable and social when you see him. He will greet you with two eyes and come to you whereas before, he would rather be anywhere else. He is willing to work and compliant when asked to do something. Anne's goal is to teach Rolo how to pull a cart this summer. Now we are on a mission to find a harness that fits him and hope that one of our 3 carts will be the proper height. Rolo is not 100% done growing but shouldn't grow a whole lot more.

Because Anne has a love for animals, she and Jason have opened their home for many rescued cats & dogs. This is how Anne was familiar with "clicker" training and chose to use this method to work with Rolo.

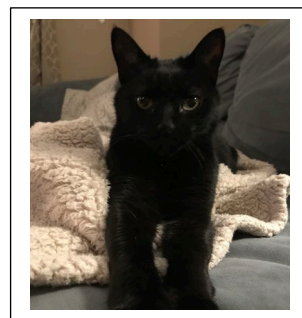


← Remy



Booberry ←

→ Lucas

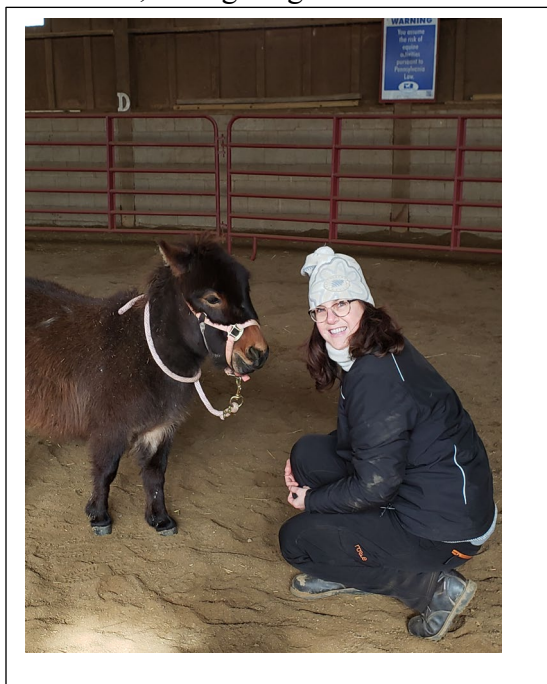


Now, Rolo has learned: Back, Stand, Touch, Kisses, Whoa, Head Down, Stand on Mat, Targeting, Walk, Stay, and smile. He has also learned how to wear bunny ears HAHHA. Anne told me this story when she was working with Rolo recently. She turned away from Rolo to adjust the treat pack that she had strapped to her waist. As she's struggling with the little pack, she hears some rustling behind her. When she turned around, she is eye to eye with Rolo! He had become impatient and wanted to see what Anne was doing so he decided he was going to stand up on his hind legs to see over her shoulder. After we started visualizing this in your heads, there was no way to stop the hysterical laughter. I wish I could have been there to see it. We now know that Rolo loves Anne. He recognizes her car so when she comes down the driveway, he runs up along the fence line to follow her and then stops at the gate and waits patiently for her to park and come get him to do some work.

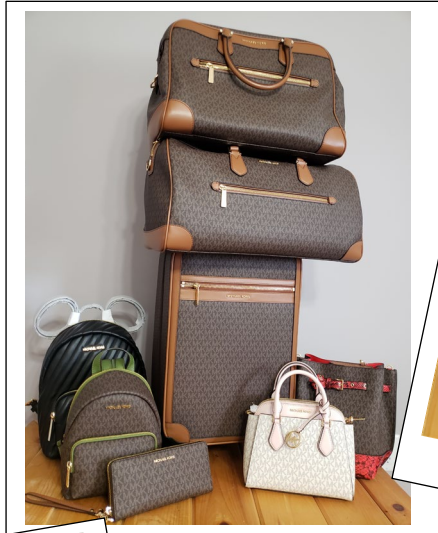
Jason and Anne met about 25 years ago when Jason was a bit of a wild young man. Three years later, he decided to settle down and so they married. Although he's "grown older", I don't think he'll ever "grow up." It's no wonder Matthew & Jason are friends. Jason has confessed to a prank or two with that little boy twinkle in his eyes. You can tell that he loves Anne so very much. He's not as big of an animal nut as Anne is but he sees how much she loves them, so Jason just goes along, most of the time. However, there was one incident that had Jason seriously worried. At the Butler farm show a few years ago, they stopped at a goat vendor's booth. Anne wanted a baby goat in the worst way. Jason thought they were going to bring home a goat that day! They live in a suburb in Cranberry so needless to say, this would not go over well with the neighbors. But to his great relief, she ended up taking home an unwanted dog that the vendor had brought to the show. They joke about it now but at the time, Jason was super stressed because he loves Anne and wanted to make her happy. Again, Jason tells us of one night when he came home from work (he works evenings) and Anne was in bed weighed down by the dog and both cats. He didn't want to move the dog because he would start to cry and possibly wake up Anne. He didn't want to traumatize the cats because they are both skittish, so he just slept on the floor! Now THAT'S love, what a sweetheart!

Jason likes to volunteer at the ranch by helping to stack hay (seriously). Crazy, right? But Jason's stronger talent is putting together Golf Fundraisers and let me tell ya, the boy has it down to a science! With his help last year, we netted our largest total in the 8 years we had done the golf outing. Many years ago, Jason started helping arrange an annual Golf Benefit for his Uncle Terry Miller. Terry had cancer so they did this fundraiser to benefit the Cancer Society. With his many years of experience Jason was kind enough to dive in and help us with our 2020 Golf Benefit and will be doing so again this year.

We are so grateful to Anne & Jason for their generous serving hearts! We praise God for ALL our wonderful volunteers, each giving whatever time and talent they have towards our goal of serving local kids.



# OUR 1<sup>st</sup> EVER PURSE BINGO!



Featuring purses by Coach, Kate Spade and Michael Kors. This is a new event for us, please share this information as much as possible. You must be present to play. Tickets will be available starting May 1<sup>st</sup>

**DATE/TIME:** July 10, 2021 1-5pm Doors open at 12 noon

**LOCATION:** RYYR – in the Ag Building on ranch premises

**COST:** \$40 per ticket – Only 250 available

**Ticket includes:** 10 bingo cards for one chance at each of the 10 Regular Designer Purses  
Light lunch - Meat & cheese appetizers, sandwiches, pasta salad, cookies, water, pop and iced tea.

**ADDITIONAL:** 5 Designer Specials – each includes multiple items in a matching set. For example: a 3-piece luggage set; or a backpack, overnight bag and cosmetic bag set; or a purse, matching wallet and wristlet, etc. Bingo cards for the specials can be purchased upon entry.

We will also have Chinese Auction Baskets and a 50/50 Raffle.

**FEELING GENEROUS? Check out our Amazon wish list:**

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND  
PRAYERS!**

Come and visit our website at [www.RYYR.org](http://www.RYYR.org), share our video <https://vimeo.com/392571914/5c6f4c7d20> and don't forget to follow our Facebook page for all our event updates!

9th Annual  
**RYYR**  
**GOLF**  
*Outing*  
 to benefit Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch



**JUNE 26, 2021**

**FOX RUN GOLF COURSE • 8:00 AM SHOTGUN START**

**4240 River Road, Beaver Falls**

**Skill Prizes • Team Prizes • Hole In One Prizes**



**\$85 PER GOLFER**

Includes 18 holes of golf, cart, hot dogs at the turn, dinner and prizes.



**Dinner Only - \$50 per person**

If you are unable to golf, please join us for the Social Hour and Dinner. It's a great way to support our organization while enjoying dinner and being eligible for the Chinese auction.



Event  
 Schedule

**7:00 am - 7:45 am**  
 Registration and warm-up

**8:00 am**  
 Shotgun Start  
 Beverages provided on the course

**1:30 pm**  
 Refreshments and cash bar

**2:00 pm**  
 Dinner, prizes and Chinese auction



**REGISTRATION**

Registration deadline June 20, 2020

For more information, please call  
 Matt at 724-321-5034 or Jason at 724-742-9887.



**CONTACT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**

- Individual Player \$ 85 each
- Dinner Only \$ 50 each
- Tee/Green Sponsor \$ 125 each
- I'm sorry I am unable to attend, but wish to make a donation

**List each of the golfers in your foursome:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Tear Here

REGISTER ONLINE AT: [RYYR.ORG](http://RYYR.ORG)

OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/RYYR.OFFICIAL](https://facebook.com/RYYR.OFFICIAL)

**MAIL CHECK AND THIS FORM TO:** Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch  
 115 Meehan Lane, New Brighton, PA 15066



# Ready Yourself Youth Ranch

## FLOWER FUNDRAISER

**Orders Due:** April 10

**Payment:** Make checks payable to RYYR

Paypal: note flower order

Email: Jennifer.wilds@ryyr.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:    Check (#   )    Cash    Paypal

Bedding Plants — \$17.00 per flat (32 plants)

Quantity	Variety		Color
	Ageratum	Sun	Blue
	Allysum	Sun	White
	Begonias	Part Sun	Mixed
	Begonias	Part Sun	Pink
	Begonias	Part Sun	Red
	Begonias	Part Sun	White
	Celosia	Sun	Mixed
	Coleus	Part Sun	Mixed
	Dahlias	Sun	Mixed
	Dusty Miller	Sun	Silver
	Impatiens	Shade	Mixed
	Impatiens	Shade	Pink
	Impatiens	Shade	Red
	Impatiens	Shade	Salmon
	Impatiens	Shade	Violet
	Impatiens	Shade	White
	Lobelia	Sun	Blue
	Marigolds - Dwarf	Sun	Mixed
	Marigolds - Dwarf	Sun	Orange
	Marigolds - Dwarf	Sun	Yellow
	Pansy	Sun	Mixed
	Petunias	Sun	Mixed
	Petunias	Sun	Pink
	Petunias	Sun	Purple
	Petunias	Sun	Red
	Petunias	Sun	White
	Salvias	Sun	Red
	Snapdragons - Dwarf	Sun	Mixed
	Snapdragons - Dwarf	Sun	Pink
	Snapdragons - Dwarf	Sun	White
	Snapdragons - Dwarf	Sun	Yellow
	Double Marigolds	Sun	Orange
	Double Marigolds	Sun	Yellow

4 1/2 " Potted Plants — \$4.00/each

Quantity	Variety		Color
	Dracena Spikes	Sun	Green
	Geraniums	Sun	Pink
	Geraniums	Sun	Red
	Geraniums	Sun	Salmon
	Geraniums	Sun	White
	New Guinea Impatiens	Part Sun	Assorted
	Vinca Vine	Sun	Green/White
	Wave Petunia	Sun	Pink
	Wave Petunia	Sun	Purple

10" Hanging Baskets — \$19.00/each

Quantity	Variety		Color
	Calibrachos	Sun	Assorted
	Fushias	Shade	Assorted
	Ivy Geraniums	Sun	Assorted
	New Guinea Impatiens	Part Sun	Assorted
	Non-Stop Begonias	Shade	Assorted
	Vining Petunias	Sun	Assorted

3 1/2" Potted Vegetable Plants — \$2.00/each

Quantity	Variety		
	Peppers - Green Bell (Lady Bell)	Sun	
	Tomato - Better Boy	Sun	