



MEDICAL MISSION
SISTERS

Ray of Light



A special bond with horses led Associate Bonnie Buongiorno to found Ray of Light farm, which serves as an animal-assisted therapy center and large animal rescue farm in East Haddam,

Connecticut. Ray of Light, founded in 2000, offers people a way to make a positive connection with life through the healing presence of animals. The idea for the farm came when Bonnie was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer at the age of 39. "I made a promise to the universe, that if I survived, I'd do something good with the rest of my life."

In addition to animal-assisted therapy and programs for riding and animal care, the farm rescues neglected or injured animals and hosts community events. "I didn't know what it was about horses; I simply knew that I felt good when I was in their presence. Not so many years ago, I discovered that when I stood in their presence my soul opened wide."

While attending Hartford Seminary's Women's Leadership Institute in 2001, Bonnie's first class was taught by our Sister Miriam Therese (MT) Winter. "I hadn't been in a classroom in almost 25 years, and I didn't know what to expect. Because of that class, I started learning how to speak with others about spirit. I did not know that I was going to be led into a new life."

After speaking with a classmate and MMS Associate, Bonnie was eager to learn more about our community, and was given a copy of our Constitution by Sister MT. The words resonated with Bonnie. "It pretty much described me. It pretty much captured what was growing at the farm as well," she shares. "The day I learned of the MMS charism of healing presence; I bought the farm!" Bonnie has been an Associate since 2004.

Bonnie was interviewed by Today CT Live about the farm, and a resident donkey, Mr. Bean. We hope you enjoy the story: [Bonnie Buongiorno Interview](#)

We also encourage you to visit the Ray of Light website at www.rayoflightfarm.org and stop by in person if you are ever passing through Connecticut!

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