EquiCenter is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that exists to foster the personal growth and individual achievement of children and adults with disabilities, at-risk youth, veterans, and their families using a wide range of therapeutic equestrian and related programs.

**EQUICENTER FARM**

The Farm is the home of EquiCenter, Inc.'s therapeutic horticulture programs. These programs teach veterans, people with disabilities, and children who have few opportunities to learn outside about the benefits of growing your own food.

Through these programs, participants engage in hands-on planting, maintenance, and harvesting activities in an involved and empowering environment. Participants are able to hone their skills to help grow thousands of pounds of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers each year, which are used in Farm-to-Table cooking classes, sold to local restaurants, and donated to food security programs throughout the Rochester area.

**VETERAN FARMING PROGRAMS**

In partnership with the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and Cornell Small Farms, EquiCenter Farm hosts weekly classes and special interest workshops for veterans.

In the introductory Veteran Farming + Wellness program, veteran participants learn the foundations of growing food along with the farm seasons. Participants can continue their education in Advanced Vocational classes, which focus on group and individual extension projects around the farm.

**BEE-LIEVE IN HEROES**

EquiCenter’s apiary was started as an extension project by one of our veteran participants.

Air Force veteran Luann Van Peursem cares for our 3 bee hives, which pollinate the EC farm, and teaches workshops on the importance of these pollinators to our ecosystem to veterans, school groups, and community members.

**SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS + SUMMER CAMPS**

EC farm staff lead interactive lessons on life science, environmental conservation, nutrition, and functional garden art for school groups of all ages.

We work with teachers to tailor field trips and weekly education camps to reinforce what students are studying in the classroom and bring the topics to life through hands-on farm activities.

**VOLUNTEERING ON THE FARM**

EC farm staff host group volunteer events throughout the growing season in order to complete big farm projects and engage the community.

If you are a part of a company, community group, school, or church that would like to schedule your own volunteer work party, please contact our Farm Manager Tim at tbraley@equicenterny.org.

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