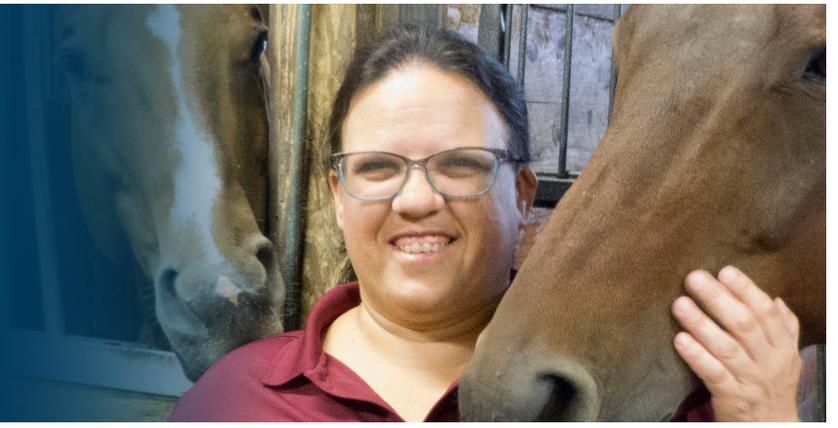


MELISSA KAPELA



MELISSA HAS ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR HORSES AND LOVES THAT SHE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SHE GETS TO HELP TAKE CARE OF THEM EVERY DAY.

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Chagrin Valley Farms (CVF) is located on 85 acres in Bainbridge Twp., Ohio and was built in 1982. The farm includes a 75,000-square-foot indoor facility with two indoor riding arenas. The Farm also has four outdoor rings, pastures and trails. Purchased by the Schneider family in 2017, the Farm has undergone major renovations, including the addition of its own CVF Tack Shop, and is a full service equestrian center. Chagrin Valley Farms has been instrumental in developing new horses and riders through riding lesson programs for all ages and abilities, summer camp programs for youth ages 4 to 16 and hosting horse shows for every level of competitor.

MELISSA'S STORY

Melissa started working for Chagrin Valley Farms (CVF) in August of 2018. With a great love of horses and many years of experience working with animals of all kinds, CVF proved to be a perfect fit for Melissa. As the saying goes, "If you love what you do, then it doesn't seem like work!" That is exactly what CVF is for Melissa—every time she works, she is able to combine her passion with her employment.

Melissa has learned many wonderful things at CVF, including how to drive and back up in a utility vehicle. Her regular duties include cleaning and bedding the horse stalls, as well as grooming and taking care of the horses. Melissa is enrolled in CVF's lesson program and enjoys riding in her off-time. When riding, she is always all-smiles and recently got to canter on "Duke."

The CVF staff says Melissa is a reliable and enthusiastic worker, willing to pitch in when extra help is needed. She always wears a smile and greets people in a friendly manner. Her coworkers deemed Melissa "a good soul," who's able to make the people around her laugh and feel welcome.

In her free time, Melissa enjoys watching TV and movies, doing counted cross-stitch and hanging out with her large family and many pets. She has two dogs, a bird, a fish and a turtle. Some of her favorite things are Italian food, reading (especially author Vince Flynn) and music—like Billy Joel!

GCBDD'S COMMITMENT

The Geauga County Board is committed to finding employment for the individuals we serve by partnering with private providers and local businesses. Over 34 area businesses have embraced this idea and currently employ individuals with disabilities.

If your business would like to partner with the board, call **440.729.9406**.

