

Community Through Connection

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HONORABLE MENTION

Slowly driving down the long driveway to The Farley Center, the trees that line the road softly hugged the car as I entered. At that time, the apple trees were in full bloom and many of the farmers were tying up the last of the season's harvest. As the car winded down the gravel driveway I was met with friendly nods and waves as I parked. I got out and took a deep breath of fresh air and immediately felt welcomed. From that first moment I set foot on The Farley Center land, I felt a sense of comfort, community, and connectedness that I am so grateful to be a part of to this day.

I first became aware of The Farley Center after getting to know the wonderful Caroline Farley in my salon chair some years ago. Little to my knowledge at the time, I would still be involved with the center in some capacity to this day without realizing how much that would impact my life. The Farley Center and its community of amazing people have been influential in my life for so many reasons.

Every person I have encountered and have had the pleasure of meeting have always been the most genuinely caring and thought provoking. Each connection has motivated me to be more involved in working towards the Farley Center's mission of peace, justice, and sustainability not only there but in my own life as well.

From the people I've met through various events such as the Fall Festival and concerts under the bur oak, to the time I've spent just walking around the land, each time I'm at the Farley Center I am inspired more and more. Not only has the Farley Center provided a space to express my creativity and passion through environmental art, but it has provided the opportunity to create lasting relationships that inspire me to be more conscious and generous. Being involved in things such as Purses For A Purpose, has given me the opportunity to execute my desire to help and give back to our community more. In doing so, it has inspired me to be a more active participant in the betterment of our overall community in the greater area.

Knowing the history and love that has been put into the land has encouraged me to continue my involvement. I am grateful to participate in the Land Art Exhibit for the third time this year with my boyfriend Billy Morgan. As I work, I can feel the serenity and sanctuary that exists around me. I can feel it surround me as I create, using the land as my medium and seeking my materials from within. Being a part of this exhibit has been greatly rewarding and also reminds me more and more of our connection and responsibility to this planet and each other. I am forever grateful to have the opportunity to create on such a sacred space.

It has been a pleasure watching the Farley Center grow and flourish and it is so exciting to see how it is expanding over the coming years. The impact the Farley Center has on our community and its well-being is monumental and will be lasting for generations to come. It is truly a space that welcomes all and empowers all of us to create a community and globe that nourishes, uplifts, and sustains us all!