



The final issue of Li'l Farm Bits of News is in your hands. Last November we shared our plans to retire. Still, we did not know this day would come so quickly. Our sign to welcome guests at the driveway entrance has been removed. We had hoped that our final mailing would be an invitation to join us in "Celebrating the Life of Li'l Farm". This grand event was to be held on June 14th here at the farm, in our home where it all began as a little sapling which was nurtured and nourished by you, our supporters and volunteers.

Because of your generosity, love and care for us, and your concern for God's children, Li'l Farm has flourished for

nearly twenty-five years with over four hundred children experiencing time at a safe, beautiful haven. You must understand how our hearts are saddened, because of the coronavirus, we will not be able to personally express our gratitude to you, or give you a final hug as we say goodbye.

As we think of our future, we are peaceful; we are happy; we are going back home for retirement. We will be with our School Sisters of Notre Dame family in Mankato at the provincial house. You can always reach us at:

Our Lady of Good Counsel
170 Good Counsel Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

Our new phone number is: 507-389-4200



The final months at Li'l Farm, like all the others, have been busy. But it's been a different kind of busy. In early March, just before the pandemic exploded, a three-child sibling group joined us. The oldest was a young five-year-old. We thank God this child was too young for kindergarten. The second child had just turned two. And Baby was almost four months old. The stay-at-home restrictions needed for coronavirus protection were not a burden with three children to entertain us. Perhaps it is more truthful to say that they kept us busy. Playrooms full of 'new' toys and our large backyard were a bit of heaven to the older ones. Soon Baby managed to roll over for the first time. Then this gymnastics feat was often repeated while getting applause from the siblings.

In mid-April the older children left Li'l Farm to return to their mother's care. To our great joy, Baby remained for a bit longer. We marveled at how quickly an infant grows; how often something new is mastered. Each skill was always shown to us with pride and a charming giggle. By the time Baby was leaving, the newest skill was travelling and exploring our rooms – frequently accompanied by sounds of glee. Baby was concentrating on getting up to a sitting position without falling over, yet another important skill and always fun to observe. This precious infant was the last child we were privileged and blessed to love and nurture in our Li'l Farm foster home.

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” – Winnie The Pooh

For years Gizmo, a Shih Tzu dog, has been a joy and therapist for Li'l Farm's children. Recently it was quite apparent that he terribly missed Baby. It was as if his work had come to an end;



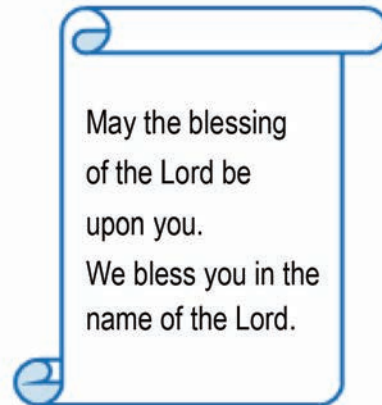
there would be no more entertaining, no more informing us when Baby had awakened or was needing to be fed. He has not been his former active and playful self. We are certain that he knows that we are moving; and this has affected him greatly. Gizmo's health and abilities has been declining for years, but now it seemed ever more apparent that his energy level has diminished. A trip to his vet forced us to make a difficult decision. To be fair to Gizmo, and to us, he is going to be put down and cremated. We are

all one with creation. Every farm animal and pet are, and has been, God's gift to us. So, with great respect we are caring for God's own.

The Li'l Farm community recently lost a long-time friend. Freda Andrieni, with her beloved British Mary Poppins voice, was a special person in the lives of Li'l Farm's children. She was called to be with her Maker in eternal life after accidentally suffering serious life-threatening burns over much of her body. She always managed to set aside her pains, and typically while in the burn unit, Freda set aside her own excessive pain to walk, by her own efforts, to the children's area and bring them cheer. She is smiling on us now.

We are most grateful to our board members for so expertly and responsibility taking on the multitude of tasks relating to the closing of Li'l Farm Children's Home. We are deeply touched by their sensitivity to us and the tender concern they have expressed as we transition into retirement. We express our deep appreciation to each board member:

Shirley Basta
Joe Foerster
Clark Joslin
Christine Landherr
Donna McNear
Larry Nelson
Naomi Plenum



INTRODUCING THE NEW OWNERS

Li'l Farm Children's home property has been purchased by Residential Services, Inc. (RSI). RSI supports people affected by physical and cognitive disabilities and mental health issues. The current RSI home in Cambridge will be relocated to the new farm location. This makes us so happy. Li'l Farm's Home for Children will now become a little farm.



Our wall of children's handprints, once a physical reminder of the presence of each child, will be forever imprinted on our hearts.



Crisis Foster Care Home for Children

**34075 Jefferson Street NE
Cambridge, MN 55008-7735**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Cambridge, MN
55008
Permit No. 9



Li'l Farm - built, loved, blessed, and sustained by friends.

1995 - 2020