

LOCAL FEATURE

# Holiday Hoedown



Above, wagon rides provided by Foxglove Farm, proved a favorite activity at the holiday market and hoedown. Photo by Holly Ridgway.

## With the horsey set at High Hopes

Cowboys and cowgirls came out to the country during the first High Hopes Hoedown & Holiday Market in November in Old Lyme.

The resident miniature horse, "Big Al," was a hit with the kids, in addition to wagon rides provided by Fox Glove Farm.

This event was a "friend-raiser" says marketing director Susan Shulman. Admission was free, but a non-perishable food donation was requested. Some 1,700 pounds of food was donated to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

Over 1,500 people attended the event which featured children's games – such as lasso the horse, a tour of the stables and paddocks at the riding facility and a holiday market with 50 vendors in the indoor arena. Food vendors – the Cheese Truck, plus a cart from Four Mile River Farm and Chester's Barbecue, were also on hand to feed those hungry from being out in all that fresh air in the countryside.

And you could pull up a hay bale to hear live music.

The event was supported by more than 20 Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and Yankee Gas employees. Lead sponsors were L&M Hospital, Connecticut Business Systems and Citizen's Bank. High Hopes works to improve the lives of people with cognitive, physical and emotional disabilities through the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding and other equine-assisted activities. To learn more, visit [www.high-hopestr.org](http://www.high-hopestr.org) or call 860-434-1974.

Other upcoming events include community carriage driving and riding lessons for the general public Dec. 27 through 30 and Jan. 3 through 6 (2012).

Also upcoming is a concert featuring Orchestra New England, June 9, which will also be held in the High Hopes indoor arena.



Above left: Sierra Sunshine (left) of Silver Hammer Band serenades High Hopes participant Andrea DeBernardo of Old Lyme (right).


Above right: Kevin Hogan, right, anchor at WFSB-TV 3, awards a door prize to Linda Zimmel, left, from Al Forno's Restaurant in Old Saybrook. Right, children take a moment to introduce themselves to a resident horse who moseys right on up to the fence at the High Hopes riding facility. Photos by Daisy Winkel.



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