



Submitted by: Suzanne Foss

Company/Organization: Wire Belt Company of America

### Challenge or Opportunity:

Wire Belt has a strong commitment to our community; community is right in our values. A few years ago, during a United Way “Day of Caring”, Wire Belt was sent to UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center located in Goffstown, NH. UpReach defines themselves as “a 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to inspiring hope, fostering independence and improving the physical, emotional, and psychological development of individuals with and without disabilities by partnering with the power of the horse.” However, after spending just a few minutes there you will realize they are so much more than that. Members of the volunteer group that day were so moved by what they saw that they came back chanting “we can do more”. So we did!

### Approach or Solution:

Part of the challenge of being a program focused on horses in NH is the harsh winter weather. Wire Belt partnered with UpReach to build their first walk-in shed in the summer of 2013. A walk-in shed is a three sided, covered, structure that allows the horses the freedom of longer stays outside during inclement weather. The materials were provided by Wire Belt as well as most of the labor. Some additional weekend time was added at the employee team’s discretion to get things done!

### Impact:

By providing such a structure, UpReach was able to have volunteers spend more hands-on time with the clients and less time shuffling the horses in and out. Not to mention the additional freedom provided the horses; they spend more time in open paddocks freely walking and running.

The walk-in shed has had such a positive impact on the day-to-day operations at UpReach that they approached us again about, perhaps, building an additional one. Planning began in the spring of this year to build a double size, back-to-back, shed that will actually provide walk-in shelter to two additional paddocks. We look forward to aiding an organization that we believe in and that does such amazing work with individuals with and without disabilities.