

My wife and I have been sending one of our children to the Chagrin Valley School for the past two and a half years.

Our oldest son is a bright, quirky independent learner. His previous learning environment was not an ideal fit for him. When we started homeschooling him, I was nervous about the social aspects of relative isolation. I was concerned about the lack of experiences he might suffer and of failures to learn other life skills like cooking, practical problem solving, project work and how or when he would get outdoors.

Kelly's Working Well Farm in Bainbridge Township has been a critical piece of the solution for our family.

The skills the kids learn on the farm are incredible. They are learning advanced lessons in independence, critical thinking and time management. They learn non-judgementalism and acceptance are the purest senses. We couldn't have been more pleased.

So when I heard the Bainbridge fire and police departments showed up suddenly with a warrant and sequestered our children on an ambulance while they inspected the site I was appalled. We understand that Kelly's place isn't a school as much as it is a special place for our children to find themselves and blossom into respectful, conscientious citizens.

I hope that you and your publication are able to give voice to the story of the good that Kelly's Working Well Farm has done to this point and how its precious mission is being threatened by the recent actions of the Bainbridge Township Zoning Commission.

Nate Bergman