Education

Hopeful Heroes
Onsite and Remote
Offering innovative and engaging educational opportunities for children and teens of all ages and abilities.

The Hopeful Heroes Initiative provides learning opportunities in 4 focus areas:

- **Academics Outside the Classroom.** STEAM learning in a fun and engaging setting helps children relax, acquire skills faster and improve academic performance.
- **Life Skills & Special Needs.** Many youth visitors have special needs and/or could benefit from additional support in developing life skills. We offer a variety of customizable opportunities for students who need a little extra care and a more personal approach to learning.
- **Emotional Support.** Partnering with child psychologists and emotional care organizations, this program offers therapists the opportunity to bring their clients to the sanctuary and spend time with the animals as part of the healing journey. Therapists report that children open up better and are able to begin healing more readily when they are around rescued animals with whom they often identify.
- **At-Risk Populations.** Hopeful Heroes presents opportunities to low income and at-risk teens, many of whom are homeless, in the areas of art, music, technology and physical activity—subjects that have been reduced or entirely removed from their schools. The inclusive setting also teaches compassion, kindness and self-awareness.

Literacy Initiative
Onsite and Remote

- **First Saturday of the month.** Participants bring a book to read to an animal or participate by listening to stories and/or bringing a book for someone else to read.
- **Second Saturday of the month.** Age- and reading level-appropriate activities, including practicing the alphabet, writing letters, poetry, self-reflection/journaling, story writing and storytelling.

Customized Programs, Sanctuary Tours, Virtual Field Trips
Onsite, Offsite and Remote
Certified teacher volunteers work with the Director of Education and parents of students—from elementary through college levels—and educators to create curricula that can be completed with the animals. For example, learning math by using formulas to calculate animals’ body weights.

- Particularly effective in reaching students with learning disabilities or other special needs and helping build their confidence.
- Student groups and clubs with members ranging from ages 12-17 work on volunteer projects with their ecology, animal welfare, girl scout, boy scout and other student clubs.
- Workshops for how to deal with bullying, nutrition, self-care, organic gardening, building self-esteem and more.

Indraloka Animal Sanctuary, 333 Oak Drive, Dalton, PA 18414
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● School visits to share sanctuary and animal stories and help teach about environmental issues are also available.
● Field Trips and Virtual Field Trips.

Indraloka’s Education Philosophy
● Relationships with rescued animals help students develop empathy and compassion.
● Reading with and to the animals reinforces literacy.
● Exploring creative writing, visual arts, singing and musical instruments, both alone and with peers, in a safe and nurturing environment promotes critical thinking and enhances creativity.
● Working with others at the sanctuary develops healthy forms of self-expression, creative outlets and coping strategies.
● Exploring STEAM-related subject matter in a relaxed environment develops better problem-solving skills, enhancing ingenuity and encouraging hands-on active learning.
● Physical activity and social sciences are imperative for a healthy child.
● Technology is a great gift when used appropriately and creatively.
● Students who take ownership of their academics experience greater learning satisfaction through opportunities for student-driven research.
● Hands-on cooperative learning teaches children how to work with others and negotiate differences with kindness and healthy boundaries.