

3 Bluebirds Farm  
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL AUTISM NONPROFIT HOSTS VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER IN LIGHT OF COVID-19



RALEIGH, N.C., Nov. 12, 2020 – Raleigh nonprofit, 3 Bluebirds Farm, is hosting its sixth annual Bluebird Ball fundraiser virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Founded in 2012 by Erin O'Loughlin, the non-profit's unique location provides children and teens access to [track-out programs](#) and [social clubs](#) in a farm-based learning environment for individuals across the autism spectrum.

As a nonprofit, 3 Bluebirds Farm relies on donations and sponsorships as the main source of revenue to continue farm operations. With a recent land expansion moving the farm to a [new 28-acre property](#) in the midst of COVID-19, the farm's need for outside support is especially prevalent this year.

Each year, the farm hosts an annual [Bluebird Ball](#) celebrating and fundraising with donors in the community. The most recent Bluebird Ball in 2019 raised over \$125,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, and a live art auction. As the holiday season approaches, this year's annual fundraiser will be transformed into a virtual experience.

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“This took a long time to get where we are. And there were many days, many months, where I questioned myself ‘is this worth it?’ What pushed me and kept me going was the fact that we do have an amazing team, and we have these children and families who keep coming to us and believing in us,” said founder and president Erin O’Loughlin.

Despite COVID-19, 3 Bluebirds Farm has continued its operations under strict health advisory guidelines. Since reopening in June, the farm and its staff has continued to welcome returning students to newly adapted virtual-learning classrooms in hopes of aiding families in the Triangle with childcare specific to autistic individuals.

“Community matters. Erin and I are constantly in the community speaking about autism, the importance of services, and standing with parents to figure out how to fight for this cause and give a voice to a population who doesn’t have one,” said director of programs, Andrea Rasmussen. “That’s what this is about. Providing for our students who have overcome and persevered through so much, and letting them know they’re not alone.”

This year’s Bluebird Ball will feature a variety of ways for participants to donate, from attending a silent auction which includes artwork created by farm attendees, to [unique sponsorship opportunities](#) around the community’s new campus. For more information on how to get involved and support 3 Bluebirds Farm, visit the [website](#).

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### **ABOUT 3 BLUEBIRDS FARM**

3 Bluebirds Farm is a nonprofit organization located in Raleigh, North Carolina, with a long-term goal to create an environmentally sustainable agricultural community for individuals across the autism spectrum. Founded in 2012 by Erin O’Loughlin, 3 Bluebirds Farm currently provides individualized day camp and track-out programs to school-aged children and teens in various divisions of the farm. Camp Bluebird is supported by a professional staff that focuses on nurturing a child’s social, play and life skills through a safe and stimulating environment. For more information, call 919-629-7500 or visit the [website](#).