

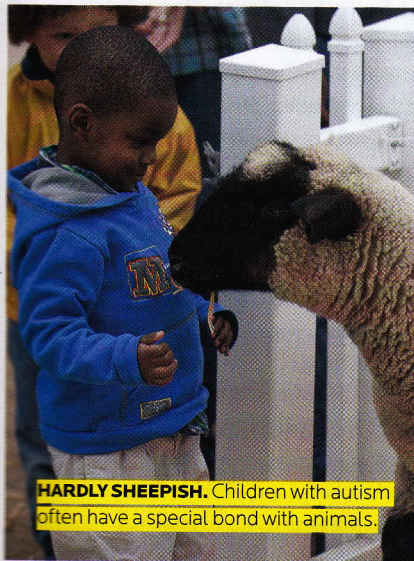
and the resources, so we partnered up," Sandelin said. After the zoning dispute, the petting zoo was able to move from Altadena to Cal Poly Pomona without stopping operations even for a day. After another round of fundraising, the Danny's Farm team purchased a truck and trailer, which Sandelin now uses to help transport the animals.

"We can go anywhere: parties, homeless shelters or children's hospitals. We have been places where kids are so impaired they can barely be transported—it's really amazing," Gott said.

The inspiration for the farm, Danny Gott, is now 19. The bespectacled young man has an aptitude for math equations and video games, and remains an animal lover. Excited to make some friends at Westmoreland Academy, he walked around the petting zoo introducing himself to new faces.

"I've liked animals since childhood," Danny said. "They're very gentle and I like anything that's not hostile or dangerous." He proudly handed out his business card. His mom asked him how it makes him feel to work at the farm. "It makes me feel great because I get to work with little kids," Danny said.

Richard Ash, a soft-spoken Altadena resident, regularly enrolls his son Lewis in Danny's Farm's activities. He watched as Lewis leaned down to pet Penelope, a pig with pink-painted toenails. "He has problems staying on task and communicating. They work with him on initiating dialogue with the other kids, as well as the staff, in a coherent manner," Ash said, adding, "he's totally improved." He looked at his son, who was beaming at a goat, and said, "he just always wants to be here with the animals." 🐾



HARDLY SHEEPISH. Children with autism often have a special bond with animals.