



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

October 2024

Miracles Moment

Jill Gerot



My name is Jill Gerot, and I'm a recently retired CPA. While exploring what I wanted my retirement to look like, I found Miracles in Motion. Spending time with horses as a child had given me a sense of well-being and connection that I wanted to rekindle. I hadn't been around horses for over 50 years, but I'd never forgotten how they made me feel. I began volunteering by doing chores and groundwork, then side walking, and recently I have been a horse lead in class.

Volunteers play a vital role in assisting with therapy sessions, caring for the horses, and helping participants experience the therapeutic benefits of human-horse interactions. In addition, working at Miracles offers opportunities to meet new people and form meaningful relationships with individuals who share similar values and passions. Without a doubt, Miracles has changed my life by expanding my social network and creating a sense of community.

Come Out to Boo at the Barn!

When: This Saturday October 19 from noon until 3:30
(sensory hour 12-1; event open to the public from 1-3:30)

Where: Miracles in Motion, 2049 120th Street NW, Swisher, IA

What: Craft activities, games, scavenger hunt, food,
costumed Horse Parade at 2:00

Costumes are welcome, provided they are family friendly
FREE thanks to our Spooktacular Sponsors and Craft Partners!



Roger That! Bike Ride Raises Generous Support for Miracles

Miracles in Motion was honored to be the partner charity this year for the Roger That! Memorial Bike Ride, which honors the life of Roger Oberfoell. Grateful thanks to the Oberfoell family and the ride participants and supporters for raising over \$15,000 to support programs at Miracles in Motion!



It takes an extremely special and patient horse to be a therapy horse. Blaze was that and so much more. Blaze was gentle with his riders, always willing. He was so handsome with the stunning coloring of his mane and tail and his deep brown eyes that you would look into and it would bring you a sense of peace. Blaze could be counted on to be strong, steady, and ready for any challenge. Blaze touched hundreds of lives during his 12 years at Miracles.



Blaze had his own sense of style and mannerisms. He was fine on his own, as he had his favorite locations in specific pastures. They were never close to the barn or indoor arena, so when you were getting Blaze for class or chores, you might be taking a rather long hike. But he enjoyed being with the herd. Recently his pasture mate was Aussie. The afternoon of Blaze's passing Aussie and Blaze were with the east pasture herd. There was a cool breeze, stunning white cumulus clouds, deep blue skies with the sun shining. Aussie was at the east gate looking to get someone's attention. When we got into the pasture I saw Lucky stand vigilantly over Blaze, guarding him. This act of kindness animal to animal reminded me what compassion horses have. Aussie knew he needed to get someone and he also knew that Lucky would not let anything happen to Blaze.

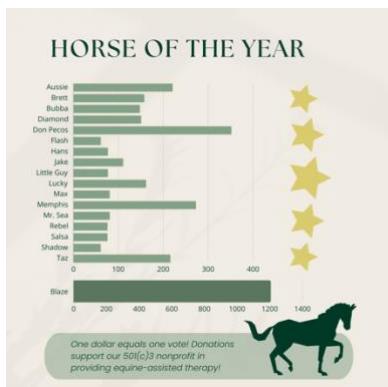
That night when I left Miracles I looked out into the east pasture to see that the herd had surrounded Aussie as the herd and Aussie grazed together. As I stood there not to interrupt them I thought, this day there was so many life lessons that this herd had taught us.

There is a sense of quiet with the east pasture herd. It will take some time to get our community through this loss. We know that Blaze's spirit is still with Miracles and guiding us. I smile when I think of him cantering now with his mane and tail in the breeze. We are grateful for our herd and the wonderful donors who have given Miracles the responsibility to give these horses a second career with us.

Vote for Miracles' Horse of the Year!

Our competition for the Miracles' 2024 Horse of the Year is live now! You can vote by donating: one dollar equals one vote! Donations benefit our nonprofit and help provide equine-assisted therapies.

(Graph shows totals as of October 11). The horse who raises the most funding will win the role as our Miracles in Motion Horse of the Year!



Miracles Thanks International Paper for Support

Miracles recently received a grant from International Paper, whose community engagement efforts address critical needs in the communities where employees live and work through volunteerism, product donations, and charitable giving.



Farmers State Bank is sponsoring the Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2024
 myfsbonline.com