



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2024



Bringing joy: Madelyn's story

A rider with a one-in-a-billion diagnosis

Miracles in Motion rider Madelyn and her family have traveled the country seeking a diagnosis, visiting some of the top medical and research facilities in the world and undergoing testing provided to only a handful of select children. Yet to date, Madelyn has proven to be unique—so unique that her condition is yet to be matched with anyone else in the world.

As Madelyn's father puts it, it is a very lonely road to walk as a parent of any child with disabilities, even more so it seems when your child remains undiagnosed, but "there are people at Miracles who love and only want the best for the success and growth of those with

disabilities."

Madelyn has just completed her fifth year riding at Miracles in Motion. In that time, we have seen her come out of her shell, and as her father puts it, therapy at Miracles is the best time of her week, the thing she looks forward to most. Madelyn has seen some incredible changes during her time at Miracles, physical and cognitive improvements that make her life and her family's lives better, but her father says the thing that has changed the most is her attitude. "It gives her joy and she brings that joy home."

We get to see that joy in the way Madelyn lights up during sessions, engaging with the volunteers and the environment, but most of all in the connection she has with her horse, Don Pecos. To put it more simply, as her father said, "Miracles in Motion is a place where kids with disabilities can just be kids."

When asked what message he'd like to share with Miracles' community, he said: "This is a very hard road to ask for support. We are very humbled and blessed to have support from the community. [For families like ours] the medical needs and costs are through the roof—it's hard. Anything you can do—knowing the support is there—we're so thankful for anything you can do."

We are happy to announce that any donation to Miracles in Motion given to this campaign will be matched, up to a total of \$40,000. Your generosity will be doubled! To learn more about Madelyn's story and to make an impact on her life and the lives of individuals like her, please visit

<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/236710-one-in-a-billion>





2024 Boo at the Barn

We had an AMAZING turnout at Boo this year! The weather could not have been nicer for the middle of October! Guests were entertained by our wonderful craft partners, enjoyed many games and activities, and no one went home hungry with Maggie's Pizza and Freddy's Frozen Custard and Hy-Vee water! The Horse Parade was a huge hit – everyone loved the costumes, and the surprise “mini-me” was met with laughs and cheers. We are so blessed by the outpouring of support that makes all of this possible.



We had nearly 500 attendees this year - the highest we've ever recorded!



75 volunteers staffed this event for set up, day-of and clean up!



Seven horses participated in the parade while three donned a group costume as storybook characters.

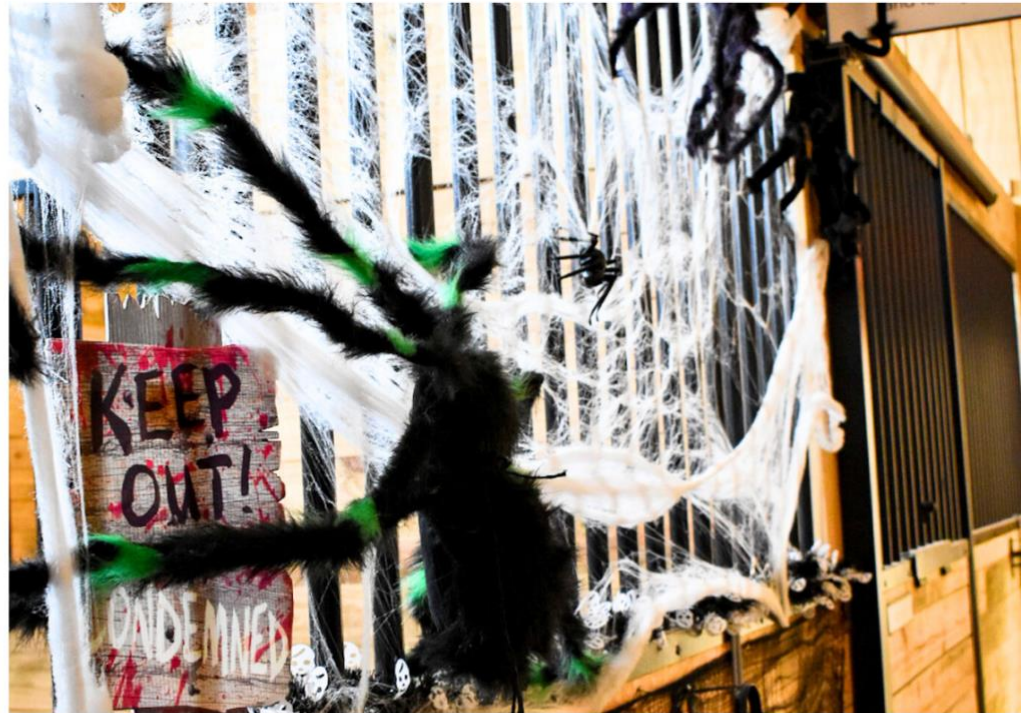
Gratitude for our event sponsors!



Crafts provided by:



Food provided by:



From The *Director's Desk*
WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

At Miracles the herd, volunteers, instructors, and therapists provide equine-assisted activities to improve physical, cognitive, and/or social well-being of individuals with

disabilities or differing needs. In 2024, there were 721 times our horses were prepared to be brought into the arena for classes. For each time there was a rider mounted, 3 volunteers were with that rider. For our ground classes, each horse had a horse leader. Don't forget Diana Harris and Carrie Drum, our PATH instructors, one of whom is with each session. Then there is a small army in the barn getting the horses groomed and saddled for the next class. Miracles has classes 5 days a week. We leave one day to schedule on-site visits with organizations or take our miniature horses out for visits.

Our 2024 season ended in October. You might think that it is quiet here at Miracles now that classes are over, but there is always something going on . . . In the past 7 days, there was a farrier visit, fall vetting for two days, 3 days of ground work with various activities for existing horses and new horses to ensure they are prepared for the 2025 season, donor visits, committee activities, Horse Committee meeting, and prep work for the Volunteer Appreciation Event. Teams of volunteers come out for chores every morning and late afternoon to groom, check, feed the herd, clean our shelters, fill hay bags, check the waterers for the herd, and feed our feline herd (4 cats that have the best life and are not much for fulfilling their actual job of catching mice). Much more besides all of these activities is needed to maintain this 77-acre farm. So many times I am in awe of how the staff, instructors, and volunteers step up and make it happen every day.

With all that goes on during any given day, there is such a rewarding feeling when you are at Miracles. We are always looking for volunteers! If this is something that is of interest to you, head to our website: miraclesinmotion.com and fill out the application under the volunteer tab. For the volunteers we have, thank you!

Thank You Class Volunteers

Our classes have officially come to an end for 2024! We could not have had such a successful year making Miracles without our fantastic team of volunteers. Our volunteers are a vital part of our mission. The average class has a team of 12 volunteers, each having an integral part of the day. From our barn assistants helping behind the scenes to our side walkers, guiding our riders and keeping them safe for the entire class. We are so appreciative of all of you! We can't wait to continue making Miracles happen in the spring!



A Special Shoutout to Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza

Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza has been a phenomenal sponsor for our annual Boo at the Barn event. We are always so appreciative of their support when they drive up to our farm with a wood-fire oven in tow! Their food is always top-notch and a HUGE hit at the event, and their staff is so kind and attentive to the needs of our guests. This year while they were serving up these gourmet pizzas (YUM), a family joined the line. One of the family members was an individual with disabilities who was looking for a plain cheese pizza in this sea of gourmet pizzas. Once the Maggie's staff heard her request, they dropped everything to crank out a line of cheese pizzas for her and other guests who might have the same request. It is moments like this where Maggie's truly shines as the right choice for our event. Maggie's served up well over 100 pizzas at this year's Boo!! Thank you so much to the Maggie's team for all your hard work this and every year! We are so blessed to have you as a food partner.



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*Farmers State Bank is sponsoring
the Miracles in Motion website
and newsletter for 2024*

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