



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

July, 2020

From the Director's Desk

Unfortunate events can happen at a blink of an eye. How well a center has prepared for that possibility and the support from its community, has an enormous impact on how well recovery takes place.

No one could have predicted COVID-19 but it is here and seems not to want to let loose of its hold. Here at Miracles, we are fortunate for a strong board with strategic leadership that starts with our board president, Lois James. Each member of our board has his or her strengths and is woven into the daily aspects at Miracles. To round out the team here that makes Miracles continue to function daily is Nick Andeway our property manager, Maggie Elliott our volunteer coordinator and Diana Harris our PATH instructor. You could not find a stronger team.

Miracles also stays strong with dedicated volunteers who have such a caring and loving attitude for the herd, property and students, without which Miracles would not be the Premier PATH Therapeutic Equestrian Center that it has been for 32 years.

Then we have a community of donors that is the heartbeat of Miracles. They may not be with us each day but when we need them, they find a way to support the needs of continuing to allow Miracles to grow. Our donors have many different avenues: some are monetary, some donate a horse, some donate services, and some donate supplies. All aid in the needs of this center and we are sincerely grateful.

As some of you already know one of the unfortunate events of June was the passing of Jasper. Jasper was a force here at Miracles for 19 years. As much as we would have wanted Jasper here for eternity, we had to let him go. Our vet and all the volunteers here did everything we could for him. There comes a time in an animal's life when you know you must let go. We know that Jasper, Scooter and all the therapeutic horses have a special herd and are enjoying the next phase of their life together. These horses are family to us here at Miracles, we miss them every day but we do not need to look far for them as they are in our hearts.

July was Jasper's birthday month. If you wish you can go on the Miracles website and make a donation in Jasper's memory. Another way is to drop off some treats for the herd, as we will still have a birthday party this month in memory of Jasper!

We are prepared to start classes when we can but it is truly a wait and see. Until then we will continue with our readiness plan, keep the herd healthy and fit, and work to grow Miracles stronger.

Be safe and take care! Deb Leichsenring



Jenny Miller

Volunteer Miracles Moment

My favorite Miracles Moment this winter was playing with the horses in the snow as I had no idea these boys could frolic as they did that day. Bonding with my awesome co-volunteers around the heater was just as memorable, and welcoming. I know Miracles will have many more wonderful moments for us in the future.



New videos are available for you to check out!

Check out our farrier, Cody, in this newly available video: <https://vimeo.com/430866696>

Also see our Director of Operations introduce Don Pecos to what goes on at Miracles through reading a book to him: <https://vimeo.com/436175403>

Karla's thoughts on saying good-bye...

We said good-bye to yet another champion from the Miracles' herd. Jasper galloped over the Rainbow Bridge on July 1 to join his great friend, Scooter, who went before him just a couple of months ago.

Each horse at Miracles is superior in temperament, training, and soundness. Each is evaluated and tested for all the qualities necessary to be successful in class and be an integral part of the therapeutic team. Relationships their students develop with them result in lifelong fond memories. Two who have reigned supreme are Jasper and Scooter.

Jasper was born in 1989. In 2001, Cathy Mitchell of Shueyville donated him to Miracles. A Bay-colored Quarter Pony, he had a white bald face, three white socks, and a beautiful black mane and black/tan tail. Jasper stood 13 Hands tall with nice, easy movement. He was a perfect height for side-walkers and therapists in Hippotherapy.

Sometimes in the barn, he nipped if volunteers handled his face, so we learned not to handle his face and he quit nipping (for the most part). He liked to carry his own lead rope in class. Like many older gentlemen, Jasper was first in line at the gate for breakfast and supper. If you were late with either, he was not shy about reminding you.

His friend Scooter, a Bay Standardbred, was born in 1991. He came to Miracles in 2006, donated by Lisa and Aaron Wright. Prior to arriving at Miracles, Scooter was a racehorse and he worked in police riot control.

In the 24 years they shared at Miracles, they trained together, were in thousands of the same classes and delighted the children who rode them. Their stalls were across from each other in the barn. They were the first horses in for meals and often the last horses out.

We loved these guys. As hard as it is to grieve one without grieving the other, our sadness is softened by the memories they have given us. These magnificent boys increased the confidence, strength, and skills of all the students who rode them. They did the same for us.

They made us laugh, frustrated us on occasion, and amused us often with their antics. It is fitting they moved on so close in time together. Their work here was done. Their legacy as two icons at Miracles is cemented.

Karla Miller



Thank you to the Crescent-Janko Masonic Foundation

for their support of Miracles in Motion. Tom West presented a check to Director of Operations, Deb Leichsenring in early June. Crescent-Janko is a non-profit corporation established to benefit needy children.



Thanks to Twin Pine Farm

for sponsoring our newsletter! Check them out on their website: www.iowagoats.com as well as on Facebook. Contact them at io-wa1spanishgoats@yahoo.com.