



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

September 2022

Joe Petta's Miracles Moment

After having passed the Miracles driveway countless times on my way to the Interstate, my curiosity finally got the better of me and I pulled up the driveway to see what it was all about. I spoke with the staff and knew immediately Miracles was something I wanted to be part of. It was a decision that would turn out to have an unexpectedly profound impact on my life.

Like most volunteers, I began as a side-walker and horse leader. I had never had much contact with children who faced the challenges of our young riders but immediately felt comfortable with these brave,

determined, enthusiastic kids. Most of them light up with joyful anticipation when they enter the arena and see their horse saddled and waiting for them. The kids regularly bring pictures they have drawn of their favorite horse, or write stories, which they leave in the mailboxes on the Sensory Trail.

Being an early-rising retiree living only seven miles from Miracles, I began to volunteer for morning chores, which has continued to this day. Although mornings at the farm are generally very routine, it never grows old for me. I feel privileged to be able to see the sun rise over the pasture and watch the herd begin to mosey toward the barn knowing there is grain, sometimes treats, and always lots of love and attention waiting for them. For anyone whose schedule allows, morning chores is the best way I can think of to start the day. Although winters can be challenging – on our knees chopping ice to free the barn door on a minus 20-degree January morning – it's a labor of love. The boys need to eat every day!

Six years ago, I was invited to join the board of directors, where I served one term as president and two as secretary. As my final term draws to a close this month, I am proud to have been part of such a dedicated, competent, and professional team of people, all working tirelessly to build a solid organization with a fine reputation in its field. Never having been part of a nonprofit organization before, I learned quickly what it takes to make miracles happen. The board is like a duck gliding smoothly across the surface of the pond: no one sees the furious paddling beneath the surface.

While my time on the board is ending, I don't expect to be spending any less time at Miracles (just fewer meetings). It has become a part of my life that I never could have foreseen, and that now can't imagine being without.



Save the date!

Saturday October 15, 2022

Miracles thanks

Crescent-Janko Masonic Foundation

The Crescent-Janko Masonic Foundation has continued their significant support for our programs. We are so grateful for their consistent support!

Volunteers needed for Boo at the Barn!

Please consider helping with Boo at the Barn on **Saturday October 15**. We need over 70 volunteers, so all help will be appreciated. South Slope will again be lending us some of their talented employees on Friday. We rely on volunteers to help get the stable, arena, and pavilion ready to welcome guests. If you're interested in prep or clean-up, we can use your assistance before, during, and after the event (Event hours are Saturday noon to 3:30.)

Let us know if you can help out by emailing miraclesinmotion@gmail.com or laurencrippes@gmail.com. Thank you in advance!

"Miracles Day" at Amana Oktoberfest!

Miracles is volunteering for Oktoberfest all day Saturday, October 1. This fun event needs lots of volunteers--we have committed to filling all the slots in the Amana Festhalle on Saturday. Volunteer shifts are 4-5 hours starting at 9 am and ending at midnight. If you are in the volunteer database, Volgistics, you can sign up for a shift through the program. Friends and family are welcome, no training necessary! If you know of others who are willing to volunteer, send their names and contact info to miraclesinmotion@gmail.com or colleen.brems@gmail.com. Thanks for considering this!

From the Desk of the Director of Operations

Not all horses can be therapy horses. It takes the right mix of personality and physicality, a blend of patience, sensitivity, and steadiness. At Miracles we are fortunate to have 16 therapy horses.

When a new horse arrives at Miracles, a team of volunteers work with the horse for a 90-day lease agreement. During that time there is a training list of steps to slowly accustom a horse to a new routine at Miracles. Just like when a student starts at a new school – getting used to where the classrooms are, what the teachers are like, making new friends – it is not that different for a horse. Even after the 90-day assessment is complete, it still takes time to get a horse ready to actually participate in a class. This is not an easy task, and there's a lot for a new horse to learn. Miracles follows strict safety standards to ensure that volunteers in class and in the barn or property and horses are kept safe. Luckily, the teams at Miracles – whether human or equine – are some of the best.



We are grateful to the donors who donate their horses to Miracles. In return, we ensure that the horse has training, vet and farrier care, constant care, freedom being in a pasture with good friends, and plenty to forage on! Thank you to our therapy horses, donors, staff, and volunteers who make it all happen every day at Miracles!

– Deb Leichsenring

James Investment Group will again be a "Spooky Stable" supporter for Boo at the Barn! In addition to consistent Boo sponsorship, James Investment Group is also a sponsor of the Miracle's newsletter. You can learn more about the organization by visiting their website: <https://www.raymondjames.com/james-investment-group.com>



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