



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

July 2023



Sarah Barnett's Miracles Moment

After Covid, working from home as an IT project manager, and becoming an empty nester, I needed to get out of the house and do something active to "fill up my cup." I had never heard of Miracles in Motion when my family and I happened to drive past last winter, but I'm so thankful I found them! I read all about the great things going on at Miracles and applied to volunteer immediately!

In high school, I had a couple of horses and really missed that bond. I also interacted with special needs students when I stayed at my aunt's home in the summer. She was a special education teacher and introduced me to her students, and we worked through everyday activities like doing laundry and baking cookies. Two very fond memories from my youth!

I went through volunteer training this past spring and was so excited to sign up to lead horses! It is such a joy working with the riding instructor and side walkers to improve the lives of these students. I've been able to see their growth, from the first

class to the last, and it's amazing! They interact more while they are on their horse, become more talkative, and even increase their flexibility! I feel so blessed to be around the horses and witness the amazing connections they have with people. They truly are amazing animals!

I love being involved in the Miracles in Motion community and have even included my husband and our young adult son. Miracles has become an outlet for me--a place to come to relieve stress and enjoy time with the other volunteers and the beautiful horses. I think it's important for everyone to spend time giving back to their community in some way and find something that will "fill up your cup"! We'd love to have you join us here!

From the Director's Desk

The Cedar Rapids Horsemen's Club and Miracles in Motion celebrated their long history with a gathering in the Pavilion at the Miracles farm, July 8. It was great to have members of the Horsemen's Club here at Miracles. The dinner was hosted by the Horsemen's Club and Miracles jointly. Early in Miracles' history, the Horsemen's Club was instrumental in supporting the organization, with members participating on the Miracles' board, lending horses, and providing a site to hold classes.

Horsemen's Club President Aimee Clemmons presented a check to Miracles for \$10,000, a significant donation that will continue to support the mission of Miracles.

—*Deb Leichsenring*

Grow with Miracles: The Next InSTALLment — Update

It's time to take Miracles to the next level! For 35 years, we have been improving the quality of lives of those with special needs in Eastern Iowa. Starting with borrowed horses, moving to our 77-acre farm, building a hay barn, enclosing the pavilion, adding a new "front door" to the arena--each of these projects allows us to better serve our riders, horses, and volunteers.



We are embarking on The Next InSTALLment--replacing our stables and incorporating a volunteer center and maintenance shed. It's a big undertaking, and we are asking for your help to take us over the top! Many have stepped up with significant donations--in fact, we are over 75% of the way toward our goal of \$750,000.

We are planning on construction starting right after our annual fall event, Boo at the Barn. (Mark your calendars for October 14th!) In preparation, the area north of our existing stable has been leveled and compacted for the new building. The existing stable will be demolished and a new wider and longer structure will be built in that location and extending to the north. It is all starting to come into focus--contracts have been signed, grants written, and accommodations for the herd during construction have been made.

We hope you can help us with a donation to bring the fundraising to a close. If you would like more information, head over to our website miraclesinmotion.com/ or contact Tess Bracher-Dorrington, or Lois James (MakeMiraclesIA@gmail.com, loisjames@gmail.com). Thank you so much for all you do to support our mission!

“Taking the reins: Miracles in Motion gives those with disabilities a new sense of mobility”

On July 8 the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* featured an article titled "Miracles in Motion gives those with disabilities a new sense of mobility." You can read a bit about what participants and parents say about adaptive riding classes at Miracles. Check out the entire article at www.thegazette.com/people-places/miracles-in-motion-gives-those-with-disabilities-a-new-sense-of-mobility/.

The *Gazette* link is also available on the Miracles website miraclesinmotion.com/pages/news-events.

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