



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

August 2023

Rebecca Stanley's Miracles Moment

I was an intern through the Kirkwood WLC (Workplace Learning Connection) program at Miracles for the summer and I absolutely loved it. When I was asked to take on this specific internship, I was a bit nervous because I had never been around therapy riders before. I had no idea what to expect because I was looking for something in the equine world. I had never even thought about working with kids on horses, so it was something new to me. I grew up around horses and I thought that I wanted to work with them in the future, but being at Miracles made me realize that I love working with kids.

Miracles impacted me so much in good and unexpected ways. I learned very valuable things from the team at Miracles. I learned how I can start a career in a job like that. I learned something even greater, though, the greatness of teaching and seeing a child have the biggest smile on their face when they are having fun and learning new things. I am so grateful for my time that I had this summer at Miracles in Motion--it was such a powerful and inspiring experience.



From the Director's Desk

To the Horse Care Team Volunteers--

I know that the past 30 days have not been easy, nor is what has been asked of you. I have been there with many of you, and I see the time you put in and your dedication.

We had air quality issues--who would have imagined cancelling classes due to the wildfire smoke?--but still, chores happened. Then we had extreme heat ... and for Iowa, it was extreme. Again we had to cancel classes, but not chores.

Chores are in the early morning and the mid-afternoon. You arrive at the barn, focused on taking care of the herd, giving them fresh hay and grain, making sure the waterers are cleaned, the horses groomed, fly spray and fly boots and fly masks back on. If there is anything remotely wrong with any horse, you tend to that horse's need. If you have to stay longer, you do, even if it takes time away from your own day. Each of you ensures that the horse heads back to the pasture well taken care of. You know that the horse is the core of the Miracles' program. Without the horses, Miracles does not happen.

Each of you--whether it is doing chores or ground work, exercise riding, being there for the saddle fitter, helping with the farrier, aiding when the vet arrives, repairing fences--all of this matters to keeping the Miracles herd safe and healthy. You are always there for the love of the herd and for the love of Miracles.

To each of you, thank you. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate each and every one of you!

—Deb Leichsenring



Military Veterans Equine Care Squad (MVECS) Program Resumes at Miracles in Motion!

Due to COVID-19 and other variables, we had not been able to offer the MVECS program for several years; however, we were able to hold a session this year! Two veterans completed the program, and they enjoyed their time working with the horses. From grooming, to groundwork, to riding, everyone involved appreciated the positive benefits of spending time with our therapy horses and the interaction with the group of participants. Pictured are Sonya McMurry with Diamond and Michael Coconate with Blaze. We are very

grateful to have had these two veterans participate in the 2023 MVECS program! One of our PATH certified instructors, Carrie Drum, along with two other volunteers, Tracy Kolosik, who is also a veteran, and Nadia Doubiany, assisted with the program.

Miracles in Motion
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