



April 2019

Miracles in Motion welcome new Director of Operations



We are so pleased to announce the hiring of Maddie Lebben as Miracle's new Director of Operations. Maddie, a long-time resident of Cedar Rapids, brings to the position a love of horses, administrative experience, and her work with the of special-needs community.

Maddie started riding at a young age, working at a stable in exchange for lessons. Eventually, she became an employee of the stable and participated on the show circuit in dressage and jumping. She has worked with several human-service agencies assisting at-risk families and youth, as well as individuals with physical and mental challenges.

Her degree in Art and Design from Iowa State University has given her a creative approach to her administrative positions in both business and government. It is easy to see why we are so lucky to have her, as this position combines all the things that she is passionate about!

From the Director's Desk

My first days as Director here at Miracles in Motion have filled my heart and head with so many new things. Yet, somehow, I already feel welcome and at home. This week I've learned that there are and have been many dedicated and talented people bringing a wide array of unique talents to Miracles. Everyone has a huge heart of caring and is dedicated to providing the best riding experience to everyone that enters our gate!

The amazing connection between horse and rider is something we can all benefit from and it's my passion to help make that experience available to everyone. One of my favorite quotes has always been, "No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle". Walking into the Director's office for the first time, I spotted a plaque with that saying on it and instantly knew I was in the right place at the right time. I hope, over time, you will all agree as we work together. It is so true that the connection and joy that occurs when working with horses in the beautiful countryside knows no limits.

I'm so fortunate to join the Mission here and work together to enrich our community by creating opportunities for people at all levels of ability to connect with the energy and spirit of the horse and landscape. Looking out over the pastures this morning, I took a deep breath and appreciated all that we have here. Miracles is not about us as individuals, it's about what we all can do, working together. I'm very grateful for the chance to join the Miracle Team at Miracles in Motion. Looking forward to meeting all of you! Feel free to stop by anytime or email me at miraclesinmotion@gmail.com

Johnson County 4-H Horse and Pony Club holds "work day" at Miracles

We were so pleased to have an enthusiastic crew from the Johnson County 4-H Horse and Pony Club help out at Miracles. In preparation for the 2019 season, they cleaned tack, painted cones and cleaned the lobby area of the arena. Thanks to Kate Dale and Jerry Mohwinkle for coordinating the day and a BIG THANK YOU to the 4-Hers for their hard work!



Miracles thanks...

Thanks to Welter Storage Equipment Company for helping us get our office outfitted with a new file cabinet. We are so grateful that they and so many other companies help Miracles out day in and day out! We couldn't do what we do without this support.

Maddie Lebben
Director of Operations

The 2019 Miracles in Motion Season Has Arrived!

We've finally arrived! So much activity at Miracles leading up to opening day! The new director of operations and volunteer coordinator are in place, volunteers are training and students are signing up.

The property is being spiffed up (most recently with help from the Horse and Pony Club), fences fixed and the Sensory Trail refreshed. Best of all, the herd is being gussied up and readied for action.

To watch the horses being groomed and bathed is to be reminded of the scene from the movie, Wizard of Oz in which the horse is groomed for the visit to the wizard Oz ("Scrub, scrub here, scrub, scrub there...") It won't be long now!

Karla Miller, Horse Leader, Board Member, Mini Ambassador Program



Minis attend College

On April 3rd, the Mini Ambassadors travelled to Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, accompanied by team members Jackie Wallace, Carlotta Antonelli & Karla Miller.

We participated in a Spring Pet Therapy Program to reduce the stress of students studying for tests.

So many of them were grateful to meet Mr. Sea, Li'l Guy and two baby goats (not with us). The minis were delighted to find that while on campus, grass was growing right into their mouths. It was a true cute fest that left students smiling. We were also able to recruit volunteers for training throughout the 2019 season.



**Thanks to Linn County REC
for supporting Miracles**

Teams of employees at Linn County REC recently participated in a 100-day Live Health Challenge. The winning team chose Miracles as the recipient of their cash "reward". In addition, Linn County REC matched their donation! Tammi Upah (left) and Robin Pospisil (middle) presented the check to Maddie Lebben, our Director of Operations. We very much appreciate their support!

Great turnout for first training of the 2019 season!

We had 30 new and returning volunteers turn out April 6th for the first training of the 2019 season! Maddie DeVore gave a short history of Miracles, board members and staff were introduced, horses were visited and a mock class was held to give everyone a hands-on experience in side-walking and horse leading. If you are interested in volunteering for any horse-related activity this year at Miracles, you must attend a training session. In addition to April 13 and 20th, additional training sessions will be held in May and beyond.

