



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

January 2024



Maxine Koepp's Miracles Moment

My name is Maxine Koepp, and I started volunteering with Miracles in Motion in April 2023. I became interested in Miracles through a fellow church member. Her autistic grandson took classes at Miracles, with miraculous results. He went from being nonverbal to starting to talk while taking classes. Hearing that story was enough to bring me to an orientation class, and I was hooked from there.

I grew up on a farm in northeast Iowa and have always enjoyed being around animals. Since I am now a city dweller in Coralville without horses of my own, volunteering at Miracles gives me my "farm fix" and meets the need I have to spend time with those lovable, funny, intelligent, and sometimes exasperating creatures! Since I go by Max for short, there are a lot of jokes when I am working with Max the horse ☺). Volunteering at Miracles has been a real joy, and I highly recommend the experience.

From the Director's Desk

I call it Spa Day for the herd when the Miracles' farrier, Cody Roller, arrives at the center each month. To become a farrier, it is necessary to complete an apprenticeship with an approved trainer, which can take 2 years. The farrier has the ability to clean, trim, and shape a horse's hoof to help maintain its health. A farrier has some veterinarian's skills, knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the lower limb to care for horses' hooves. The farrier also has sound knowledge of the craft, capable of shoeing all types of equine feet, whether normal or defective, of making shoes to suit all types of work and working conditions, and of devising corrective measures to compensate for faulty limb action. This is not easy work.



When you have a farrier who is knowledgeable in all of the above mentioned areas, you are fortunate. We have that in Cody Roller, who has been the farrier for the Miracles herd since 2018. Cody always had horses growing up, as his family would have 50-100 horses at times. With all those horses, at age 16 Cody decided to be trained by another farrier, Chad Henderson. From there Cody trained with Todd Harmes in Wisconsin. Todd suggested that Cody get into a farrier school in California, and off Cody went. There he trained with 120 horses. Next stop for Cody was Florida, as during winters in the Wellington, Florida, area there are up to 100,000 horses to work with. It was there that Cody met his mentor, Drew Golden. Drew taught Cody not only how to move metal and shoe horses, but also how to analyze situations and introduced Cody to many more well-known farriers in the industry.

Cody came back to Iowa to start his business, though he still goes back to Florida during the year to "hone in" his craft. When asked why he became a farrier, *(continued)*

From the Director's Desk *(continued)*

Cody said originally it was to shoe his own horses, then to start and grow his business. He stays connected to his farrier community and friends who taught and still teach him.

Here at Miracles most of our horses are "shoeless," due to the conditions and the work that they do. These horses still must have their hooves trimmed periodically to keep them healthy. We do have horses that need to have shoes on (due to a hoof illness) to correct and protect the hoof. Cody works with our veterinarian to make adjustments that are needed for those types of situations. Cody is a true ambassador for Miracles, as he is there to answer questions we might have on other aspects of horses while being the best at his craft. Some of our horses are perfect gentlemen (as we have all geldings) while having their hooves done, but some—not so much. Yet Cody takes his time with this herd. Cody Roller's expertise is another aspect of how Miracles keeps the herd healthy.

—*Deb Leichsenring*

2023: A Year of Milestones and Miracles

2023 was such an amazing year at Miracles! We had our 35th anniversary and marked it with a huge milestone--we ran our biggest capital campaign ever and began building our new stables. We had a successful riding season, and brought a few new horses into our herd. I am immensely proud of all that we accomplished as an organization and as a community this past year. I have had the pleasure of witnessing the impact made when so many of you come together to Make Miracles with your time, talents, and resources. I am happy to announce that we have raised over \$30,000 during our end-of-the-year campaign. Because of your contributions, we look forward to many more Miracles in the years ahead.

With gratitude,
Tess Bracher-Dorrington

Remembering Jet

We grieve the loss of our dear horse Jet, following a sudden health crisis in late December. We mourn the loss of such a beloved member of our herd. He will be incredibly missed by all who knew him and by our herd. For many of us, Jet was one of the most special Miracles' horses. "Jet was the type of horse that made you feel that he cared about you," said one of our volunteers. He was extremely hard-working, even-tempered, and patient. This made him an ideal horse in all of our programs and a favorite to many of our riders. The white blaze on his face in his characteristic "question mark" shape helped many identify him right away as they entered the arena. His gentle ways won over even the most timid riders. A regular in Adaptive Riding and Hippotherapy, Jet gave his all to each class and shared his heart with each rider. He knew how to connect, how to strengthen that rider, how to heal. Jet was a true ambassador to the mission of Miracles.

Donations made on behalf of Jet's memory will serve to acquire, train, and care for future therapy horses. Thank you.



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