



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

From the President's desk

October, 2019

As our season winds down at Miracles, we are more than grateful for all the support from our parents, therapists, volunteers, board, instructors, and donors. So many people have put in so much time and resources to bring a safe, therapeutic equine experience to our clients and riders with special needs. Thank you all so much!

The last month has been a very enjoyable one for me as I have gotten to know Deb Leichsenring, our new Director of Operations! She has jumped in with both feet – and is not afraid to do every aspect of the position – from laundry to chores to helping with workdays to learning about the volunteer roles by being trained herself. Her significant managerial experience has trained her well to oversee all the “moving parts” of Miracles!

Deb's parents met at a Cubs game – her dad was from Amana and her mom from inner city Chicago! Growing up in Chicago, Deb's love of horses began by spending time with the Palominos her cousin raised. Deb later moved to Amana and lived on a farm very close to the Miracles farm for 20 years. She currently lives in Cedar Rapids and often says “something about Iowa people, friends, and family is truly unique. It's what brings me back”.



Deb started her work career as a merchant and buyer for a business in Amana; then owned her own Amana business. She spent 20 years as a district manager and project manager for stores of several corporations in the United States and Canada. She also had time to volunteer and organize events for several nonprofits – Habitat for Humanity (including helping after Katrina), Cedar Valley Humane Society, Gap Inc. Foundation, Chicago Teen Living, Chicago KIPPS, and AIDS Foundation among them.

Deb says she really enjoys the positive change she feels in coming to work at Miracles. It may be the sheer beauty of the 76-acre rolling hills farm - landscaped with 14 horses in the fields and 2 barn cats strolling the property. Or the hard working, positive volunteers who show up every day to make a difference – and that's every single day Sunday through Saturday! Or the amazing horses that greet you each day – unless you are calling them and then you may be completely ignored because the grass is more important. And then there is the trust of the clients and students who come to the sessions and classes and work so hard to learn and grow through their experience with our therapy horses.

When Deb is not at work, she enjoys spending time with her two children, a daughter near Amana and a son in Chicago; her five grandchildren and their activities; and friends. She is an avid sports fan – all that is Chicago – Cubs, Bears, Blackhawks as well as University of Michigan sports.

We are most fortunate that Deb has joined Miracles and know all will make her feel welcome.

Lois James, President, Miracles Board of Directors

Thanks to Twin Pine Farm for sponsoring our newsletter! Check them out on their website: www.iowagoats.com as well as on Facebook. Contact them at iowa1spanishgoats@yahoo.com.



Hills Bank is again the “Great Pumpkin” sponsor for Boo at the Barn

Hills Bank is continuing its support for Miracles in Motion by again sponsoring Boo at the Barn at the “Great Pumpkin” level. We very much appreciate this continued partnership with Hills. Hills Bank employee, Amy McClure, was a MIM board member and the creative genius behind many of our events and publications. We were sorry to lose her in 2018 - . (Halloween was her favorite holiday.) In her memory, we have continued an event at Boo at the Barn that the kids really enjoy – Amy’s Walking Witches. Over a dozen gnomes are hidden around the property and with a sheet of questions to answer, kids go on a hunt to find the gnomes and answer the questions. Of course, there will be prizes!



HILLS BANK

Hills Bank began in 1904 and today has grown to become one of Iowa’s largest independent banks. It is a bank that truly cares about the people they serve and provides ways to help them prosper. In their words: “We believe in caring for our customers and employees as well as the communities in which we serve, measuring our performance by the high standards of our founders. That belief is the basis for our success over the past century and the roadmap for our future performance.”

We are so grateful for their support.

Highlights of Kirkwood’s Horse Spectacular

Colossal Clydesdales, Luscious Lipizzaners, and a drill team from Greenbriar. A young woman who rode amazingly upside down and then rode on the backs of two horses at once! And there was so much more!

And Miracles’ Mighty Minis were there in the mix! Lucky and Mr. Sea, accompanied by Jackie, Karla, Carlotta, Deb, and Alec spent the day at the Miracles in Motion information tables and stalls.

We provided two presentations and demonstrations (of sorts) with Lucky and Mr. Sea in a very large arena. I spoke about Miracles in Motion, its mission, and our herd. Jackie and Carlotta accompanied the little guys for the first program and Jackie and Alec brought them in for the second. I had some vocal assistance from Mr. Sea punctuating my comments. In retrospect, I think he was calling to some little filly in the next arena.

Our most popular feature of the day was Spirit, the “Equicizer.” Spirit was originally developed by a jockey to help recover from a bad accident. He is now used in many programs and is especially useful to Miracles for measuring students for tack and getting them used to the idea of riding a horse. We estimate that at least 60 kids “rode” Spirit. Energy to move him was provided by us.

Finally, our real boys got some time in the mini photo booth set up by Greenbriar. They gave Greenbriar’s mini, Bella, a couple breaks. Kids loved posing with our boys! All in all, it was a great day for us all!

Karla Miller, Coordinator of the Mini Ambassador Program



Road construction on 120th Street

Please know that you might face road-construction delays of up to 20 minutes on 120th Street NW when you are headed to Miracles in Motion. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please allow some extra time when coming for sessions and classes.

Get your order in soon!

Online ordering of Miracles-branded items is available until October 13th for pickup at Boo at the Barn (or later at the farm if you can't make the Boo event).

Here's the link:

https://www.agpestores.com/oldcapitolscreenprint/groupproducts.php?prodgroup_id=27920&prodgroupbypass=

Tracy Kolosik "adopts" Scooter

You'll see Tracy often in class as a horse lead or sidewalker, doing chores, helping with events, and now hanging out with Scooter. Tracy bonded with Scooter right away and decided to spend more time with him through our Adopt a Horse program. We know Scooter will love the extra attention! Our thanks go out to Tracy for supporting Scooter and Miracles in this way.



Miracles in Motion thanks MidwestOne Bank for their support of Boo at the Barn

Putting on an event for the public at the farm is no small feat! In addition to getting the property in tip-top shape, we have decorations to buy or reuse, gnomes to hide, stables to decorate and craft partners to coordinate with! Our primary goal is to have a safe, fun event for everyone to enjoy. It has been our goal to have the event accessible by all in every way – we don't charge admission and seek sponsorships to make that possible. MidwestOne Bank is helping again this year and we are so appreciative!

MidwestOne Bank has supported their community since 1934 when Ben S. Summerwill founded Iowa State Bank & Trust. Their mission statement is "Take care of our customers and those who should be" – it's not only their mission, it's who they are! We thank them for helping us make Boo at the Barn a success!

Long-time volunteer Carlotta Antonelli will be doing a fundraiser for Miracles

Here's the link to a Pampered Chef Party with 30 percent of the sales coming back to Miracles. <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/miraclesinmotion>.

Ordering starts October 16th and products will be shipped after the close of online ordering October 30th.

If you have questions, reach out to Carlotta at 319-389-4971.



Miracles thanks Jacob Van Zante and his family for our beautiful new sign!

Miracles was pleased to host Jacob Van Zante, his family, scout troop and friends to a Sign Dedication, September 23rd. Jacob presented us with the concept, design, funding, execution and installation of a new sign as part of his Eagle Scout service project. It is a much larger and more distinctive marker to guide visitors to the farm. We are most appreciative of all the work he put in and the sign looks great!

Thanks also to Nikole Tutton for organizing the Sign Dedication event. Although we couldn't have the actual dedication by the sign because of weather, we were able to gather in the arena for the dedication. Karla Miller provided background music. Next spring, the efforts of Jackie Wallace and her sister, Sherry Moffit, will be in evidence – they planted grasses and prairie flowers at the base of the sign.

Jacob, his parents, Joel and Julie, as well as his grandmother, Loretta Vogt, have been wonderful supporters of Miracles, helping with programs, property management and now this striking new sign.