



Premier sponsor for our 30th year

SOUTH SLOPE
PHONE INTERNET TELEVISION

Miracles thanks students at Keystone Elementary for donating a therapeutic riding scholarship!

We are so grateful to Samantha Happel and students from Keystone Elementary in Keystone, Iowa for supporting Miracles in Motion. Here's Samantha's own words describing their "passion" project:

"I am a first grade teacher at Keystone Elementary, located in Keystone, Iowa. Throughout the first two weeks of February, students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade participated in passion projects in which teachers chose a passion to share with students. Students chose which passion they wanted to learn more about and participated in research and project-based learning with that teacher. My group's area of focus was horses.

"During our time together, the students in my group learned about basic horse anatomy, uses throughout history, different horse breeds, and famous horses. Through their research, they found more information about equine therapy. I shared with them my experiences with (Miracles in Motion) as a side walker for a short time while I was in college, and we checked out your website and read about what you do, your horses, and also watched the short video. The students were inspired to raise money to help your organization! We organized covered wagon rides for students and staff at Keystone Elementary to promote our fundraiser. We created a short commercial and shared it with students and staff. Each student brought \$1 (for rides), and staff brought \$5 to wear jeans for one day! (Teachers love their jeans!)"

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Covered wagon rides were provided by Harp Farms of Ladora, Iowa. The students dressed like cowboys and cowgirls. In addition to learning more about horses and seeing draft horses up close and personal, the students raised \$240 for Miracles! This is such an inspired project. Thanks to Ms. Happel, Harp Farms, Keystone Elementary (part of Benton Community) and most of all thanks to the students for providing a scholarship for a therapeutic riding student!

Miracles thanks Leash on Life for sponsoring our newsletter!

Our thanks go out to Laurie Smith and Julie Phye, owners of Leash on Life, for sponsoring our Miracles newsletter. Leash on Life pet supply store is known throughout the community for high-quality pet supplies and healthy pet food options. With locations in both Iowa City and North Liberty, Leash on Life is locally owned and has been in operation since 2006. What sets them apart is their educated staff. Their employees have been thoroughly trained, and the products they carry have been researched and tested.

Regarding the sponsorship of the Miracles newsletter, Julie said, "we owe a lot to our community. We like to give back to the folks who help us stay in business by working on community improvement projects with monetary donations, product donations or volunteer time." Laurie adds, "We know how important our (Leash on Life) newsletter is to keeping customers informed about what we are doing and what is going on in the pet community. We are excited to be a small part of that conversation for the Miracles community also."

Watch an upcoming newsletter for a photo of Laurie, Julie and their horse, Misty.





**Miracles in Motion
Therapeutic Equestrian
Center invites you to an
MVECS Open House.**

**Join us at the farm to learn more about
Miracles in Motion's program for military
veterans.**

Where: 2049 120th St NW, Swisher
When: Saturday, March 17th, 11am - 2pm
Lunch served at 11:30am

319-857-4141
www.miraclesinmotion.com

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Miracles MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad) Open House is scheduled for Saturday, March 17th, at the Miracles farm near Swisher. Plan on learning more about how we work with veterans and their spouses to learn about horses and their care, as well as riding opportunities. The program is in its second year under the leadership of Ken Manley, who in addition to being a veteran, has experience working with veterans groups as well as horses!

PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) has awarded Miracles a grant to help defray our costs so we can offer the program at no cost to vets. The 10-week program and will be held on Saturdays beginning March 24.

For more information, contact Ken at ken@miraclesinmotion.net. To hear from a past participant, head to our website and click on testimonials (under the "about" tab).

From the President:

March is "roaring in like a lion" for us at Miracles. We are holding a refresher course for our returning volunteers and a comprehensive training for new volunteers. We are finalizing class schedules and our certified instructors are preparing their class plans. And we're stepping up the training and exercise regimen, so the Miraculous Herd will be in great shape to perform its part.

We are offering even more classes than last year! We have increased the number of certified instructors and we are beefing up our volunteer pool to accommodate demand. Soon, we will be adding members to our Miraculous Herd as we bring along newer members and ready them for action.

We are so excited about our volunteers - seeing the old and meeting the new! I will be working on the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Team along with Jackie Wallace. She has served as a volunteer for some 29 years! Our training teams are finalizing our plans and will be ready to greet returning volunteers on March 3rd and new volunteers on March 10th.

We plan to introduce our volunteers to the horses, so they can become familiar with each other and learn the routines down before classes begin in full force. The exercise and training teams will be working with the horses (and themselves) to get in shape after a long, cold winter. We're all looking forward to when it is warm enough for everyone to get a bath, a thorough grooming, and clean, shiny hooves (equines, of course).

The Events Committee has been planning on what activities we will hold this year. Volunteering for events is yet another great way to become part of our Miracles' family. There are even more opportunities. Just ask!

This year, we will be building on successes of last year. We hope that our returning students are excited and ready to ride. We also hope that everyone reading this will pass it on to parents of kids with disabilities who may want to get their children involved.

Finally, our program for veterans (MVECS) is in its second year. We received a grant from PATH to make this project accessible to veterans. Graduates of this program have had high praise for what a difference MVECS has made in their lives.

We're at the ready! Sign up soon to be a program volunteer, class participant, event volunteer or donor. Just go to our webpage at www.miraclescanmoveyou.com to get involved.

Karla Miller



The story behind the photo


Ten years ago, when Miracles was celebrating 20 years, an idea was floated to dress horses up in “tuxes” to take a photo for a celebration poster. Enter Sheri Seggerman, a volunteer with both horse experience and a photographer’s eye. The day of the photo session was beautiful – blue skies, no wind and enthusiastic volunteers to help with the project. An area in the outdoor arena was defined with boxes, barrels and poles to attempt to corral the four horses for the shot. The goal was all four horses lined up together, with their bowtie/tuxes on and NO HALTERS (to which Sheri said “really”!!!) Anyone who has tried to take photos of animals knows how tricky this was going to be – one would back out of the box; one would try and chew the bowtie, requiring a run to the house for repairs; one would get annoyed with the next horse over and let him know “who was boss”. And, of course, seeking perfection, Sheri wanted all four to have their ears perked up for the classic horse look as well as the light from behind so there would be no shadows on the horses’ faces. It all came together when Sheri got down on the ground and someone used a “horse whinny” on their cell phone to get all four to swivel their ears forward in interest. Click – the shot was done. And a great shot it is, all without the use of Photoshop!

Jasper, the horse on the right is still being used in classes at 40 years old. Red, second from the right was with us til we lost him last year. Sheri has compiled several horse related books include 1001 Reasons to Love Horses, which includes a shot from Miracles in Motion. Our thanks to her for her past volunteerism at Miracles and for sharing the behind the scene story of making this photograph.

Therapeutic Riding Class schedule announced

This just out—please pass along to anyone you know that might be interested!

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Therapeutic Riding

@Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center

Miracles in Motion offers Therapeutic Riding classes focused on building strength and confidence for riders with social, motor, or other developmental challenges. Students will work on horseback to gain skills appropriate for their age and ability and to experience the joy of riding a horse! Lessons are taught by a PATH certified instructor, and each 50 minute class consists of three to four students, with volunteers present to assist. Multiple options are available to meet your schedule. **Cost per student is \$250 for a 5-week class.**

	Class Times	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
Spring	6:00 – 6:50	4/9/18 – 5/7/18	4/10/18 – 5/8/18	4/11/18 – 5/9/18	4/12/18 – 5/10/18
	7:00 – 7:50				
Summer I	6:00 – 6:50	5/21/18 – 6/25/18	5/22/18 – 6/26/18	5/23/18 – 6/27/18	5/24/18 – 6/28/18
	7:00 – 7:50				
Summer II	6:00 – 6:50	7/9/18 – 8/6/18	7/10/18 – 8/7/18	7/11/18 – 8/8/18	7/12/18 – 8/9/18
	7:00 – 7:50				
Fall I	6:00 – 6:50	8/27/18 – 10/1/18	8/28/18 – 9/25/18	8/29/18 – 9/26/18	8/30/18 – 9/27/18
	7:00 – 7:50				
Fall II	6:00 – 6:50	10/8/18 – 11/5/18	10/9/18 – 11/6/18	10/10/18 – 11/7/18	10/11/18 – 11/8/18
	7:00 – 7:50				

Advance registration is required. To learn more about Therapeutic Riding, visit our website at www.miraclesinmotion.com and click Services. To register for Therapeutic Riding, request registration forms from our website, or email us at classes@miraclesinmotion.net.

Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center
 2049 120th St NW, Swisher, IA 52338
 319-857-4141 www.miraclesinmotion.com

