



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

January 2023

Justina Dunlap's Miracles Moment

I knew about Miracles for a number of years. I grew up on a farm in Iowa, but after marriage we moved away and lived in Oregon for 40 years. After my husband, Tom, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's we moved back to Iowa. Miracles was always on my mind to volunteer but because I was Tom's caretaker I found it impossible to find the time.

After Tom passed away it was my time to get involved with Miracles. I made a great choice in doing this. What a rewarding experience. I am involved with doing horse chores. I grew up with horses and I find their care is a healing therapy. Knowing that I am helping in a small way to keep the "herd" healthy and well cared for is wonderful.



The people who work for this organization are unbelievably dedicated. It takes so much time and energy to get things done, and all of the personnel involved do a great job.

The rewards for the children involved with this program are immeasurable and it is so great to see them smile and respond to the horses. The coordinated work with horses and the children really is a miracle. What an amazing organization!!! Like so many people who volunteer, I found a miracle at Miracles in helping me through my grief. What more can I say about this organization other than it truly is working miracles.

From the Director's Desk

There is a quote from Tom Allen, "Winter forms our character and brings out our best." I would say that was tested during the cold snap in December! Well knowing that the weather was coming, Diana, head of the horse committee, Nick, our property manager, and myself met to ensure we were prepared the best we could for the volunteers and the herd. Pasture changes were made, the indoor arena opened, checked that heat tape working, lined up snow removal, made sure enough feed was ordered, and not to mention having hand warmers in supply and hot chocolate in the new addition, as hot chocolate is like a hug from the inside. Ace, as much as he enjoys being in the office with me at times, was not a fan of being inside during that cold snap. During that time there was only one day due to the road conditions and wind that the volunteers could not get out to Miracles—that is when we are grateful that Nick is living in the house at the center. We have cameras where we can watch him head out for chores and come in safely.

(continued)



From the Director's Desk *(continued)*

Our herd has been through this before, well, all but our newest horse, Jake. All seventeen managed well, thanks to Nick and our dedicated volunteers, who made it out to Miracles on all the other bitterly cold days. It is not the best of times but in a way it is . . . as we all want to make sure that this herd is fed, checked, and groomed, hay given, and waterers not frozen. We pull together to make it work. This herd is what truly makes Miracles happen, as without them we would not have the ability to provide diverse equestrian activities to our riders. So taking care of them is of course a priority, and this herd appreciates all the kindness that we give them. The saying that what you give comes back to you tenfold—so true!

If you enjoy being with a dedicated group of volunteers who know how to make each day happen, think about volunteering at Miracles in Motion!! Classes will be starting in April. No matter what time of the year, we are always in need of volunteers!

As we know, every day of winter is one day closer to spring! Stay warm!

—*Deb Leichsenring*

Miracles supporters are so, so generous!!!

We asked, and you responded—our year-end campaign “Walk On” met its goal of over \$26,000 in donations. In addition, “Meet Jake, our newest therapy horse” raised over \$14,600. With match money of \$17,500, we have a total of over \$58,000 to give us a great start for 2023. Thank you so much!



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Farmers State Bank Sponsors Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2023

In addition to renewing their sponsorship of our website for 2023, Farmers State Bank is also sponsoring our monthly newsletter.

As a locally owned community bank, FSB takes pride in giving back to the communities where they live and work. FSB supports a variety of local community enrichment programs, donor-dependent charitable organizations, and numerous informational and educational programs with donations totaling more than \$200,000 each year.

In addition to their financial commitment, FSB employees volunteer more than 5,000 hours each year of their personal time in numerous ways for many different organizations, all with the sole purpose of improving the quality of life in the communities they serve. FSB is a consumer and business bank with offices in Marion, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Alburnett, and Tiffin. Miracles is incredibly thankful for their support.

Miracles in Motion seeks Volunteer Coordinator

Miracles in Motion is looking for a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, train, and staff volunteer positions needed for Adaptive Riding classes, Adaptive Horsemanship classes, other classes as scheduled, Hippotherapy sessions, and chores. This part-time (up to 20 hours a week) position reports to the Director of Operations. Contact Deb Leichsenring at 319-857-4141 or miraclesinmotion@gmail.com for further info.