



# Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER



Happy Holidays from Lucky and all of us at Miracles in Motion!

As 2019 winds down, our thoughts turn to what the past year has meant to us. For Jessie, one of the therapeutic riding students at Miracles in Motion, it means honing her riding skills and gaining independence.

Here's the milestones in 2019 as relayed by her mom:

June 4 – Time to ride again at Miracles in Motion! Jessie has been reunited with her favorite horse, Brett.

August 7 – Jessie rode so beautifully at Miracles in Motion last night. She has come such a long way since the beginning of this session. She and her horse Brett make a perfect team. I love watching her ride.

September, – Jessie had her last ride tonight at Miracles in Motion for the fall session. Now we wait until Spring. Jessie no longer needs two sidewalkers because she controls the horse so well. She was able to get her horse to behave when he started not listening or following directions. Jessie is a FREAKIN Rockstar!



As Jessie would say, "Riding is serious business"! We hope you can help us continue to provide equine experiences to children and adults with special needs.

For more information on Jessie and a video, head to our website: [www.miraclesinmotion.com](http://www.miraclesinmotion.com)



Donations through the end of 2019 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by two loyal supporters:

Jim and Mary Pratt will again match \$5,000 in end-of-the-year contributions to honor the memory of Ethan, Seth, Mira and Eleanor Sueppel.

Lois James will match the remaining contributions in memory of Sanchez the horse that taught her about horses, riding and life!

Thank you for your support – and I hope your year was filled with as many good experiences as Jessie's!

## Thanks to Twin Pine Farm for sponsoring our newsletter

One of my favorite 2019 memories at Miracles was the horse's reaction to a couple dozen goats and sheep being unloaded in the pasture next to them! They were curious, nervous and ultimately bored with the new arrivals in the neighborhood!



## From the Director's desk

Well, I have been at Miracles almost three months and I can honestly say they have been the best! So much has happened during that time with Boo in The Barn - amazing how it all comes together and how much fun everyone has from exploring the stalls in the barn to everything that the arena has to offer. Then there were mini ambassador visits. Truly the public loves horses big or small and enjoys to be able to get close to one! Miracles was asked to participate in the Veteran's Expo in Cedar Rapids, where the veterans were able to ask questions about our MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad) program at Miracles. Then there is the "why" behind what we do: our Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding classes and sessions. When I witness the patience of our horses and the courageous students, the emotions are hard to express. Our classes have ended, but we are working with our horses to keep them in shape for when Spring Classes start up. Seems far away, but it will be here before we know it!

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate and am truly grateful for so much at Miracles. Just to name a few; There is Nick, our property manager who ensures that everything is taken care of on the 76-acre farm. To the unbelievable volunteers who come to Miracles with such a positive and giving attitude every day, no matter what. To our new volunteer coordinator, Maggie, who I know will do great at that position. To Diana who keeps our now 15-member herd healthy and leads the Horse Committee. To our board members led by our board president, Lois, which defines the term "working board" as the members are out at Miracles helping in every way. To our dedicated and incredible students, clients, instructors, and therapists. To our donors who assist making Miracles happen!

Miracles thrived this past year because of hard work, creativity, and dedication. There was teamwork, respect, willingness to help each other, and to represent Miracles in various ways. I am thankful for everyone's tremendous efforts and wishing all of you a joyous Holiday Season! Deb Leichsenring, Director of Operations



### Thanks to our 2019 volunteers!

A want to thank everyone for sharing your time and talents with Miracles this year. I'm new to Miracles but I've been on the tour and have met a few of you as you do your chores. What an amazing place – students, horses, pastures, lessons, and volunteers -- making Miracles happen! I'm honored to be joining you.

And, to make Miracles happen even better, I would appreciate any suggestions you have to make your volunteer experience more satisfying. Now or anytime – please let me know how I can be of help.

Miracles needs your volunteer hours! Please document the hours you've worked in 2019 – before the end of 2019. You can do this in Volgistics on your phone. Volunteer hours help Miracles tell our donors and the community the value and commitment you all give to the cause. We can leverage your commitment to encourage even more giving!

Through the snow, rain, heat, and wind, you all show up to make Miracles happen. That alone tells me what a special group of people you are. I am looking forward to meeting all of you! Until that time, I can be reached at [volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com) Maggie Elliott, Volunteer Coordinator

### 100+ Women Who Care: Hawkeye Chapter selects Miracles!

Each quarter, women committed to the nonprofit sector in our area meet to select a nonprofit to support. Miracles in Motion is delighted to have been selected at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as the 2019 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter donation recipient. Attendees nominate a favorite nonprofit and then three are selected at random. After a short presentation about the nonprofit, the group in attendance votes on which nonprofit to support. Each member of the 100+ Women Who Care donates \$100 that quarter to the selected nonprofit.

Lois James, a longtime member of the group, nominated and presented on Miracles. To her delight, Miracles was selected! For more information on 100+ Women Who Care – Hawkeye Chapter, checkout their Facebook page.

