



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER



Weather, horses, and classes . . .

Usually, our arena is reserved for classes, but when the temperatures soar, we open the gate to allow the horses in to find refuge in the large, open, covered space. You will often find them near the big fan taking full advantage of the air movement. They often pair off and stand head to rump and use their tails to swish flies off each other's faces. They are noticeably quiet and mostly still, all to stay as cool as possible in these hot and humid conditions.

When the heat index is 90 or above, we will cancel Adaptive Riding classes or Hippotherapy sessions. If you are a parent and are wondering if classes are cancelled, check with the Miracles office. If you are a volunteer, check with your team lead.



KCRG Visits Miracles

On May 17th, KCRG reporter Phil Reed and a cameraman visited Miracles to film a story about restarting our classes. Deb Leichsenring, director of operations, was interviewed and the cameraman got good footage of our horses and volunteers. Check out the story on their website :

<https://www.kcrg.com/2021/05/17/miracles-in-motion-resumes-classes/>



Thanks to Crescent Janko Masonic Foundation

Tom West presented a check to Director of Operations, Deb Leichsenring on Monday, June 7th. We very much appreciate their continued support!



Miracles Volunteer Moment

As a recent graduate from the University of Iowa, I have been on the lookout for ways to give back to and engage in my community. During the past few months, I have been proud to be involved in the COVID-19 vaccination process, working with the Free Medical Clinic in Iowa City to increase confidence and access to the COVID-19 vaccine - specifically for populations that face unique barriers and lack easy access to the vaccine. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me, and it is humbling to have opportunities like this where I feel I can make a real difference. For this reason, when I learned about Miracles in Motion, I was eager to get involved and grow my circle of care. I must admit, I had not spent much time around horses prior to joining the wonderful team at Miracles. However, I have always known the value of animals, nature, and movement. These things are close to my heart, and have helped shape who I am. This, combined with an intense passion for helping and supporting others, made Miracles the perfect fit. Since joining Miracles a few months back, I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the students and the compassion of the volunteers. I have quickly fallen in love with the horses as well. My time at Miracles is just beginning, but I have already seen some amazing growth in both the students as well as myself, and I am so full of joy to be a part of something so incredible. Thanks, Helena Fantz

Construction update

We're close!!! The pavilion enclosure project is done and the Upmier arena addition is functional. We are still finishing up on the trim around windows and doors, as well as installing a shelf in the viewing area. On these hot days, volunteers, parents, and students appreciate the air conditioning as well as filtered water to fill a water bottle. Thank you to all who have helped make this possible – donors, volunteers, contractors, and our staff. It's been a huge effort, but the results will have a positive impact on Miracles for years to come.



Remarks on the New Addition

After having an opportunity to use our new space adjacent to the arena, we are hearing rave reviews. Everyone from instructors to volunteers to families of students is enjoying the amenities this multipurpose area offers.

The space offers a viewing window for parents to watch their kids in class in air conditioned comfort.

The kitchen area provides everyone with a place for refreshments for volunteers and guests provided by Maggie Elliott, Volunteer Coordinator and expert in the care and nurturing of volunteers. Volunteers have a central check-in area. There are even some apples and carrots brought by students as special treats for the horses.

Special care was taken in choosing the flooring. Besides looking fantastic, the volunteers and staff love the easy care it takes when cleaning up after classes at the end of the evening. The bathroom is convenient and there is a closet for storage of adaptive equipment.

The instructors have a place to keep their records and class materials and there is quiet space for students who may need a break.

Overall, the new construction has provided us with a hub for so many activities that occur at Miracles. It is welcoming, bright and pleasant. In short, this project turned out to be even better than we planned. Thanks again to everyone who has made this possible. We feel fortunate and grateful.

Karla Miller



Dragging the arena before class



Adaptive Riding Class



From the Director's Desk

I must have missed two months of the year somehow and all of sudden it is August!!! Neither man nor equine are truly ready for this, but living in Iowa, the weather is never what you expect or can predict! As we are doing our best to stay cool so is our herd with the help of our volunteers, the indoor arena, and fans!

We are completing our sessions with ChildServe for the summer and will resume those HPOT classes at the end of August. We will still have Adaptive Riding classes through the summer into the Fall. If you are interested in our classes you can sign up on our website.

Thank you to everyone who supports Miracles in Motion, whether through a monetary donation, tack for the horses, those who have donated a horse, and especially those who have given of their time. We could not continue our mission without you!

Enjoy the summer! Deb Leichsenring

Thank you to the McIntyre Foundation

Miracles would like to thank The McIntyre Foundation for their continued support of our adaptive riding programs. The McIntyre Foundation is a private foundation started by the former chairman and son of the founder of United Fire Group, Scotty McIntyre. Their significant annual donation makes such a difference in our ability to provide classes to those with special needs.



Thank you to our newsletter sponsor:

James Investment Group, Inc.

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Iowa City, IA 52245



Did you know...?

Over the years, we have been impressed with just how many everyday words and phrases from horses and everything horse-related. We're still coming across them.

As promised in our last newsletter, I am sharing more information about horses from the book Amazing Horse Facts and Trivia by Gary Mullen. Here is a list of "Horsey Terms," common words or phrases centered around horses:

- Horseplay (boisterous play)
- Horsing around (boisterous play)
- Horselaugh (loud laugh)
- Horseless carriage (car)
- Iron Horse (train)
- Nightmare (bad dream)
- Horse sense (common sense)
- Horse power (unit of power)
- Wild goose chase (Irish equestrian sport)
- Dark horse (long shot)
- Workhorse (hard worker)
- Horse feathers (nonsense)

I can think of a more.

- A horse of a different color (something different)
- Going the long way around the barn (telling a long, indirect story or taking an indirect route)
- Making hay while the sun shines (taking advantage of the timing of an opportunity)

Send us ones that you can think of or have heard to miraclesinmotion@gmail.com. We will include them in our next newsletter. Karla Miller

YOU can be part of the Miracles Volunteer Team

Next trainings are scheduled **Saturday, June 26th** or **Sunday, August 22nd**

A mock class is scheduled for July 11th

Everyone -- both new and returning volunteers -- needs to go through the training if you are interested in working with horses.

Side-walkers will only need to be there for the morning session, 8:30 a.m. until lunch break. Horse leads and barn assistants will need to attend both the morning and afternoon session, which lasts until 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

If you will be attending, indicate if you will be staying for the afternoon, and email Maggie Elliott, Volunteer Coordinator, volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com.

Thank you! Volunteers make Miracles happen!