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A busy time at Miracles

Spring (despite what the weather looks like!) is a busy time at Miracles. In addition to getting the horses ready for classes, volunteers need to be trained and scheduled as classes get underway. Thanks to all of you who have filled out an application and made time to be trained (either for the first time, or as a returning volunteer). Here Karla Miller, Interim Executive Director, helps Beth Lesh sign in for her training while Kaitlyn Anderson looks on. There is still time – another training session will be held Saturday April 14th. The first step is to fill out a volunteer application on the Miracles in Motion website.

Spring Fling Showcase – April 29th

Mark your Calendars for Sunday, April 29th from 1-4 pm for our Spring Showcase. We invite children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities and their families to attend. Events will include:

Horse101 Demonstrations, which will take place every 30 minutes and will include interactive participation! To ensure we can accommodate everyone interested, we have a sign-up for this event. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b48aba62ea1ff2-miracles1>

Try-A-Ride is for those considering taking adaptive therapeutic riding class. For either \$10 or a donation of crafts items, coloring books and crayons or games, you may sign up for one of our 15-minute sessions! (See the Facebook for needed donations.) <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b48aba62ea1ff2-miracles>

Mix-In-Mingle while engaging in craft activities with our Hippo-therapy partners.

Carnival-themed Games that are fun for children of all ages.



Miracles thanks Leash on Life for sponsoring our newsletter—visit their website at www.leashonlife.net.

Spring Showcase

Visit the Farm

Try a Ride

Meet the Horses

Games & Activities

Horse 101 Program Demos

Special thanks to our premier sponsor for 2018!
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Help us kick off the 2018 season at Miracles in Motion!

Spring Showcase

Enjoy family fun and learn about our programs:
Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Location: At the farm

Event sponsor - University of Iowa Community Credit Union
Craft partners - ChildServe, St Luke's Witwer, and University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development

Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center
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Johnson County 4-H Horse & Pony Club helps Miracles get the farm ready for classes!

Our thanks to 30 4-Hers, parents and four 4-H leaders for spending a work day at Miracles. They worked on the sensory trail, arena floor and lobby, landscaping as well as grooming some of our therapy horses & fitting and cleaning tack. If your organization is interested in a day of fresh air and hard work, just give us a call!

MVECS Open House

The gloomy St. Patrick's Day weather wasn't enough to deter us from holding an open-house information session for military veterans and their families about our MVECS program - Military Veterans Equine Care Squad. MVECS is designed not only with the veteran in mind, but also the family or partners who provide support and are also experiencing challenges and changes. We offer sessions for couples to work side by side in our program, as well as events in which the entire family can participate to reduce the sense of isolation and create a shared experience. Squad members learn the basics of horse care, grooming, and feeding. The event was covered by KGAN channel 2, and also KCRG channel 9, which ran the story on its evening news program. You can view it at the following link: <http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/Miracles-in-Motion-holds--477183853.html>.

CARE Expo

On Saturday, April 7th Mary Chadwick & Amy McClure from our Communications Outreach Committee represented Miracles in Motion at the 5th annual Corridor Area Resource Expo (CARE). CARE brings together dozens of goods and service providers from a variety of areas including therapy, legal, post-secondary education, and simply fun day! This year the event had two therapy dogs, plus McGruff the Crime Dog, in attendance. Amy & Mary enjoyed meeting educators along with past, present, and future students. We look forward to many of them attending our Miracles in Motion Spring Showcase on April 29th!



Interim Executive Director's Corner

Spring is here, and classes have started! What we have been preparing for is upon us. Hippotherapy (HPOT) sessions, Therapeutic Riding classes and MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad) sessions are all underway. We are welcoming returning students and volunteers as well as getting to know new ones.

The herd here at Miracles weathered the winter well due to the diligence of staff and volunteers. Since our herd is older (horses must be 10 years or older to join the herd), good nutrition, exercise, hoof and healthcare plus kindness and attention are critical. The farrier and the vet make regular visits and, just like people, the horses have checkups, vaccines, special diets, and exercise.

We are forever grateful for our John Deere tractor (a donation) and the Gravelly utility vehicle (still paying on that) to deliver hay to the pastures for the herd of 16 (14 big guys and two miniature horses). The horses appreciate the brand new, large loafing shed (made possible by a beloved donor and contributions from the construction company) that runs the length of the hay barn. This loafing shed provides shelter and protection from the weather and, I believe, is their equivalent to the office water cooler. At least it looks like they are hanging out and catching up. It's also proven to be a good place to take a snooze in the afternoon.

Maintaining the fences is a constant, almost daily task. From the mischievous Raven trying to open a gateway to Diamond, Jasper, Little Guy and Mr. Sea's lot and pasture to big, old Blaze, a Belgian/Morgan draft horse looking for boards and posts to itch his skin beneath his thick winter coat, the staff are kept busy trying to keep up with repairs.

I had the privilege of being a Horse Leader in the Monday Therapeutic Riding classes. It was good to be "in the saddle" again-well, at least leading the horse. Since I have been at Miracles, I have been collecting sayings related to horses and riding. I never tire of discovering new ones to add to my list or spouting the old ones to whomever crosses my path. There are an amazing number of them. In fact, I think sometimes that they are a significant part of the English language-maybe even a couple of blocks in the foundation. Oh, yeah, Blaze knocked some of those off the arena periphery, too. Just scratching.

We are looking forward to this season for so many reasons - classes, special events, horse training, volunteering to help others, it's all so rewarding. There literally is something for everyone. As I've said many times before, I love this organization. And, mostly, I love to see what riding and relationships with horses does for our students, staff and volunteers.

Karla S. Miller

Interim Executive Director

Newspaper coverage from MVECS presentation

On March 26, Ken Manley, Miracles In Motion Barn Manager and Veteran Coordinator, and Mary Chadwick, Miracles In Motion Board Parent Advisor, presented a program to the Conrad American Legion Auxiliary Unit #681 and their guests. Mary spoke on the history of Miracles and the programs we have to offer for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities. Ken, a veteran himself, presented on the MVECS Heroes in Motion program and shared with the audience the vision behind the MVECS program. "The horse is a mirror to what is going on around them. A soldier who returns is just like that horse - not always trusting people, but instead, responding to emotions. That's why this program is such a great fit for returning veterans."

Our Miracles in Motion MVECS first session has begun. This 10-week program focuses on communication, anxiety reduction, impulse modulation, assertiveness, and creative freedom. Veterans work with our program leaders to learn about, interact, bond with, and care for horses in the Miracles herd. It is designed for U.S. Military Veterans and is grant funded. Each class is limited to six students.



Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center

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