



Premier sponsor for our 30<sup>th</sup> year

**SOUTH SLOPE**  
PHONE INTERNET TELEVISION

## South Slope sponsors Miracles in Motion at milestone anniversary

The idea started, as many good ideas do, with two people talking about a common interest. Before too long, more discussions ensued, visits to the Miracles farm were arranged and a partnership was born.

Miracles in Motion is so pleased to have South Slope as our premier sponsor for our 30<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Chuck Desibeck, CEO of South Slope, talked about the commonalities at the kick-off celebration January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hills Bank in North Liberty. "Miracles in Motion demonstrates the highest levels of commitment, dedication and service, which are at the core of South Slope's values, mission and goals. We are proud to support an organization with such a long history of excellence, and we look forward to being a part of their 30th year."

Karla Miller, president of the Board of Directors of Miracles in Motion, said "We are grateful to South Slope not only for its financial support, but for its recognition of our mission to improve lives in the communities we both serve.

Through the dedication of our volunteers, donors and partners such as South Slope, we are now able to make miracles happen for more students."

South Slope Cooperative Communications provides high speed Rocket Internet, phone service, and television to residential and business customers. South Slope is recognized by the NTCA – The National Broadband Association as a Smart Rural Community leader and a Certified Gigabit-Capable Provider. Since 1958, the cooperative has been committed to delivering cutting edge telecommunications services. South Slope is currently in the process of a multiyear fiber optic overbuild to deliver the fastest internet speeds available. South Slope serves the following communities: Amana, Ely, Fairfax, Newhall, North Liberty, Norway, Oxford, Solon, Shueyville, Swisher, Tiffin, Watkins, Walford, West and South Cedar Rapids and parts of Coralville. For more information, visit [www.southslope.com](http://www.southslope.com) or call 319-626-2211.



**Miracles in Motion is looking forward to a year-long celebration of 30 years with premier sponsor, South Slope.**

*Holding a banner celebrating the partnership, left to right: Miracles in Motion volunteer Jackie Wallace, board President Karla Miller, South Slope CEO Chuck Desibeck and Marketing Manager Shane Von Holten*



## Celebrating 30 years of Miracles!

From humble beginnings, Miracles in Motion celebrates 30 years in 2018! It all started at Upmier Stables near Ely.

Verne Upmier was the consummate horseman and thought every kid should have a pony. In the early 80's he started giving pony rides to a child with a disability at his stable. The informal rides led to regular rides. Pretty soon, others around the stable started taking note and thinking interactions with horses could help other children. It was an idea whose time had come.

Sandy Greear, a horsewoman who grew upon a pony at Upmier Stables, took a leap of faith and established Miracles in Motion as a nonprofit organization in 1988. She organized the people, horses and became the first Miracles instructor. She convinced her employer, Quaker Oats, to provide a grant for the startup.

As volunteers and students joined in, more horses were needed. Verne would mention a horse he thought would be a good therapy horse and a volunteer would call the owner and see if they could borrow the horse. They also borrowed Verne's trailer, the tack and other locations around the area including Mosica and the Cedar Rapids Horseman's Club.

Fast forward 30 years and Miracles has a home to call its own on 76 acres east of Swisher! In addition, the herd of 14 horses lives there year-round. Much has not changed, however, it's still a lot about a child and a horse. And there is still a need for lots and lots of volunteers to keep the miracles coming!



*Long time volunteer, Jackie Wallace, shows off the Miracles blazer she used to wear when she would do speaking engagements for Miracles in Motion. She still does the speaking engagements, but the blazer has been retired!*

## Pilot Club of Iowa City donates \$850 for Miracles to replace an aged defibrillator

Our thanks to the Pilot Club of Iowa City for awarding us a grant to replace our defibrillator. Our primary concern with the programs we run is to keep everyone safe. That goes for our volunteers as well as our students. We know we have board members and volunteers that are at a higher risk for a cardiac event. We believe that some of the students we serve may well be at a higher risk also. The updated equipment is a step we can take to keep everyone safe. Thank you, Pilot Club of Iowa City, for this generous grant award!