



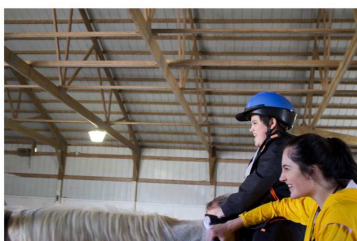
Premier sponsor for our 30<sup>th</sup> year

**SOUTH SLOPE**  
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## Spring Fling is a Fun Day for All!

On Sunday, April 29, we held our first Spring Fling Showcase, which was a rousing success by any measure! We wanted to introduce the programs and services we have available for children and adults with a wide range of physical and emotional challenges. The event drew 160 visitors who took part in a carnival-themed day at our farm in Swisher. Twenty-four youngsters participated in a 15-minute Try-A-Ride, for those considering taking adaptive therapeutic riding classes. Over the course of the day, 50 people attended Horse101 Demonstrations, which introduced the basics of a horse's body parts and how to approach and where to stand safely. During the day-long festivities, a Mix-n-Mingle provided an opportunity to meet with our hippo-therapy partners and staff while engaging in craft activities and participating in carnival-themed games. Along with our staff and board members, 25 volunteers helped make the day happen. Chuck Deisbeck, CEO, South Slope, our premiere sponsor, was on hand with his family to pitch in, and local basketball star Megan Gustafson became our tallest side-walker ever! Among our other sponsors were University of Iowa Credit Union, Witwer, ChildServ, Hills Bank, and Bloomsbury Farm.



Thanks to our photographers for  
the Spring Fling:  
Olivia Miller & Nancy Hauserman



**Thanks** to our Spring Fling Event Sponsor – University of Iowa Community Credit Union. If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring one of our upcoming events, please email us at [miraclesinmotion@gmail.com](mailto:miraclesinmotion@gmail.com).



**Your Community  
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## Miracles hosts two field trips in April

In April, Miracles in Motion had the pleasure of hosting two field trips: The Good Earth Nature-Based Education Center (Solon, Iowa) and Prairie Hill Elementary (Cedar Rapids, Iowa). The Good Earth brought 8 students, one teacher, one volunteer, and two parents. While students from Mrs. Rairden and Mrs. Olson's rooms totaled 15 students, 2 teachers, 8 paras, and 2 parents.

The typical field trip runs approximately 2 1/2 hours which includes a sack lunch (provided by student attending field trip). Our curriculum, as deemed age appropriate, for field trips include:

- How to be safe around horses.
- Horse behavior and anatomy.
- Horse breeds and colors.
- Horse keeping - diet, health, care, etc.
- Hands on grooming station
- Horse themed games and exploration inside the sensory trail
- Access to the picnic area and sensory trail.

If you are interested in scheduling a field trip please email us at [miraclesinmotion@gmail.com](mailto:miraclesinmotion@gmail.com)



## A great match!

She is almost 3, he is around 40, and their first ride at Miracles had the team enchanted.

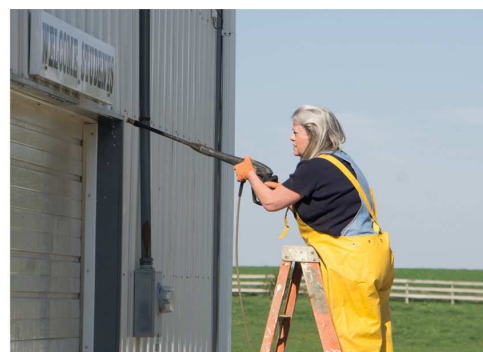
It seemed fitting that a Hippotherapy student who had never been on a horse before, would be riding Jasper, our oldest therapy horse for their session. We needed to use bolsters to help her sit upright on the horse and our smallest helmet seemed very large on her. She was quiet through the first half of the session – I don't know if she doesn't talk or was just in awe of the situation. But then Jasper snorted. There was a bit of a giggle. Then he kept snorting and snorting; the giggle turned to a full, melodic laugh. So contagious all of the team were laughing with her. To me it was the sound of pure joy. Just one more reason I am glad to have Miracles in my life! Lois James



Thanks to Leash on Life for sponsoring our newsletter. You can visit them on their website at [www.leashonlife.net](http://www.leashonlife.net)

## Three work teams help Miracles on United Way's Day of Caring

Teams from Destinations Unlimited, Cedar Rapids Community School District and Folience showed up at Miracles May 10<sup>th</sup> ready to work! Our gardens were weeded, plants added (donated from volunteer, Nancy Fisher) and mulched, the arena power-washed and painted, and fence lines and the Sensory Trail raked, trimmed and weeded! It was a beautiful day made more beautiful by the giving back of these hard-working volunteers! Seven Miracles board members were on hand to work along side the Day of Caring volunteers. Thanks to all volunteers, board members and staff that made the day such a success!

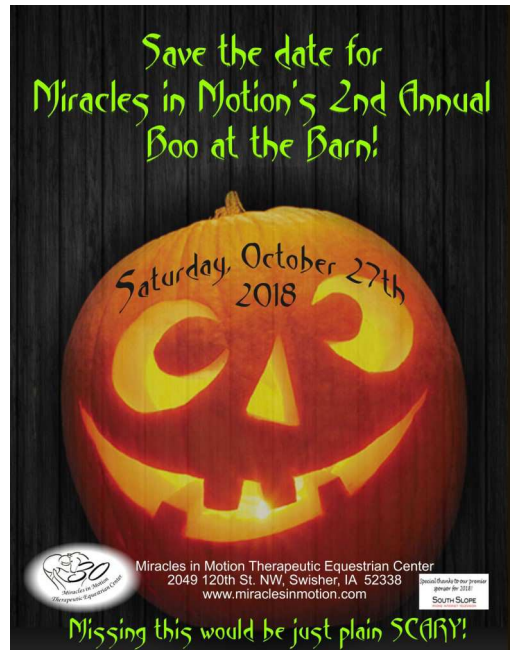


**United Way Day of Caring**  
Thanks to Folience,  
Destinations Unlimited and  
Cedar Rapids Community  
School District for choosing to  
help out Miracles.



**Save the date** – our 30<sup>th</sup> celebration will be held at the South Slope Community Center. September 13<sup>th</sup>. 2018

Premier sponsor for our 30<sup>th</sup> year  
**SOUTH SLOPE**  
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### Acting Executive Director's Report May 2018

Spring has simply burst onto the scene at Miracles with new growth, a flurry of activity, and horses (and people) practically frolicking in the fields!

Amy and Mary spearheaded Spring Fling and with their usual incredible creativity, rounding up volunteers to staff activities and give potential new students an opportunity to "Try a Ride". Painted faces and a carnival-like atmosphere made for a great day of fun, food, and getting a taste of life at Miracles.

The fish in the tank on the Sensory Trail woke up to be fed. The Miraculous Herd began casting off their winter coats to reveal their beautiful, sleek and muscular bodies. Classes fired up and our 76 acres of rich and rolling land is in its glory!

Whether horses are hanging out in their new loafing shed or rolling in the mud right after a vigorous grooming session (aargh!), they know the season has begun in earnest. Even the minis, Little Guy and Mr. Sea, are rearing up at each other like stallions and chasing around with mad purpose.

Our pest control department, Ace and Todd, have been busy prowling the perimeters of the property and letting us know they DO NOT APPRECIATE sharing their kibble with pushy-and kind of overwhelming-raccoons. They successfully demanded the immediate removal of the racoon family to their own domain and OFF THEIR PROPERTY!

The whole place has been spruced up and given a facelift, thanks to three groups from local corporations who joined Miracles' staff, board and volunteers on the annual Day of Caring for a long, but very successful day of weeding, trimming, fixing, clearing, painting and planting. And, for students who have ridden through the Noodle Forest, we now have a dense jungle of new noodles!

Volunteer teams are working like pit crews, instructors are teaching Therapeutic Riding right and left plus assisting Therapists in Hippo classes, and Miracles Veteran Equine Corps (MVECS) classes are rolling along-it's all happening out at Miracles in Motion as we complete our first round of classes and prepare for the Summer I Session full-steam ahead! We *NEVER* thought spring would come, but it finally did.

Karla S. Miller  
Acting Executive Director  
Miracles in Motion  
2049 120th Street NW  
Swisher, IA 52338

Send comments or ideas for the newsletter to:  
Lois James  
loisjames@gmail.com