



July, 2019

From the farm

It's summer! Our wet spring delayed some of the work on various projects around the farm, but we are delighted to have the sensory trail open and the grounds nicely mowed! The goldfish are pleased to be back in their outdoor summer home and the kids love to count how many they can spot from the back of a horse.

With our older wooden fence and the way some of our horses like to use it for scratching posts, keeping all the fencing intact is an ongoing challenge. We have been busy making repairs, setting new posts and boards, and fixing gates. This activity will continue throughout the summer. We particularly need help with fencing days – please email or call the office and we'll put you on the list.

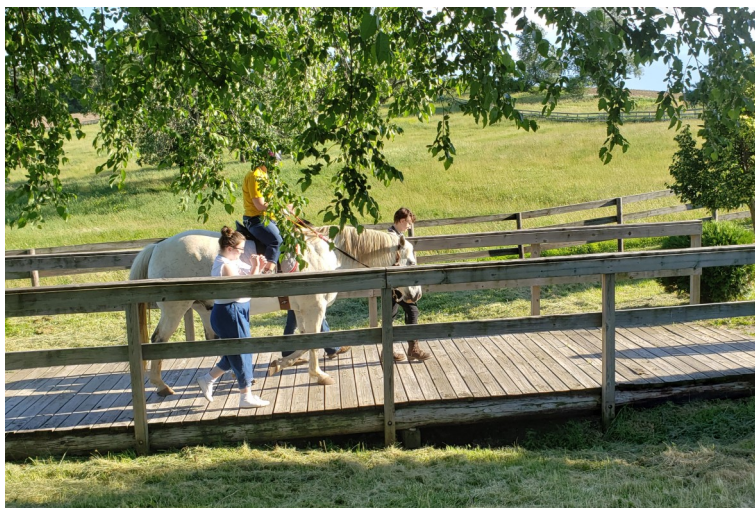
We will also be holding a painting party in the farmhouse soon – let me know if you would like an invite!

Most important, Therapeutic Riding classes are ongoing and the spring Hippotherapy session is complete. MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad) is wrapping up the first phase of its 2019 program.

Most of all, thanks to the staff, volunteers, instructors and board members for all your hard work in making the riding experience at Miracles so meaningful for our clients, veterans and students! See a couple of shots from our therapeutic riding classes below.

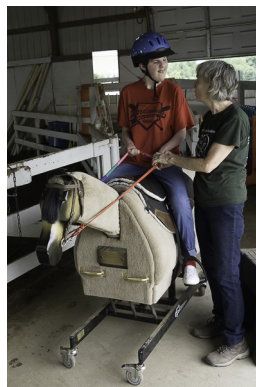
Lois James

President, Board of Directors



Rider Evaluations

There is so much that goes into preparing for classes at Miracles, including evaluating our participants to match the rider to the horse and determine the appropriate tack and saddle that will be used for each individual. Often, this happens on actual horseback, but it was so warm on the day of evaluations, Diana, our instructor-in-training, used our Equicizer, Spirit, to determine stirrup length and saddle size.



Mini Ambassadors on the road again

Our Small Horses Goodwill Ambassadors, Little Guy and Mr. Sea, did double duty on Saturday, June 22. Their first stop was the Old Creamery Theatre in Amana, where they greeted scores of youngsters who came to see Mo Willems' beloved children's book characters Elephant & Piggie in "We are in a Play!" The minis were outside the theater entrance between the play's two showings where kids and adults alike were able to meet the little horses up-close and personal. After some rest and food, it was off to the University of Iowa's Center for Conferences at the Marriott Hotel in Coralville for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's 2019 Conference on Dystroglycanopathies. Patients, families, and practitioners were able to have a hands-on experience with the minis. The Miracles' staff spoke to the attendees about our programs and how we use horses – both big and small – in Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding programs. It was a long day for our Little Ambassadors, but as always, they delighted all who had the chance to meet them.



"Make hay when the sun shines!"

We're happy to report that the first cutting of the hay is done – thanks to our neighboring farmer who between frequent rains managed to cut and bale quickly and stack it in the hay barn!



Our thanks to Natalie Knapp for a couple of shots from Therapeutic Riding classes