



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November, 2019

Record attendance at Boo at the Barn!

Miracles in Motion held its 3rd annual Boo at the Barn event on October 26th. Spark (Simons Powering Autism Research) joined Miracles in hosting an "Early Access" hour for those with sensory sensitivities. The event then opened to the public from 1 to 3 p.m.

The 390 guests attending found a variety of games, crafts and activities to celebrate Halloween and the end of the Miracles season. Amy's Walking Witches (a treasure hunt for "witches" hidden around the property) and "trick-or-treat through the stables" were very popular, along with exercising on the inflatables and the outdoor games. Thanks to Maggie's Farm Wood Fired Pizza and Moo Moo's Ice Cream truck, no one went hungry!

Great deals were found at the silent auction and one lucky person won a rocking horse that was raffled off.

Thanks go to Mary Chadwick for organizing a great event; Nikole Tutton for spearheading the silent auction; Sam Rand (Hills Bank) for taking the lead on stall decorations plus a host of volunteers and craft partners who made sure everyone had a great time.

For more pictures—head over to our Facebook page.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**THE GREAT
PUMPKIN**



**MIRACLES
MONSTER**



Jeff & Mary
Chadwick

**EARLY ACCESS
HOUR**



SPOOKY STABLES
Chris & Kiley Graw



**TRICK-OR-
TREAT**



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

A5~ChildServe~Covenant Family Solutions~Enrichment Therapies~Girl Scouts Troop #1957~Girls Under the Umbrella~HADSA~Iowa City Autism Community~Jefferson Monroe Fire Department Swisher~LearningRx~MiMi's Nail Salon~Mosaic Haven~Pampered Chef~Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP)~SouthSlope~Spacewalk Cedar Rapids~Spectrum Project~Spectrum Steam~Tanager Place Autism Social Skills~The Good Earth~UnityPoint Health TIES~UnityPoint Health Witwer Children's Therapy~University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Center for Disabilities and Development.



GreenState sponsors Miracles in Motion for a Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance membership

Noting the transformative services Miracles provides to disabled children, adults and veterans, GreenState Credit Union awarded Miracles with a special type of donation – annual membership in the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. GreenState believes in the economic growth of this region and in partnerships that strengthen community bonds and provides opportunities for all involved. “We love the way Miracles in Motion empowers children and adults. With their many specialty programs, we hope more people can see how they truly are one-of-a-kind and are continuing to help people in ways that no other non-profit has,” stated Tara Wachendorf, Public Relations Director from GreenState Credit Union.

Doug Neumann, Jody Josten and several Economic Alliance ambassadors, as well as Tara Wachendorf from GreenState were given a tour of the farm and enjoyed meeting several of the therapy horses.

Miracles truly appreciates the opportunity this membership will give us to access valuable business- building resources and allow us to grow our network and connections throughout the region.



From the President’s desk

It’s bittersweet to finish out the Miracles 2019 season – a bit of sadness and a bit of relief! The November weather turned cold a bit sooner than we were hoping, but that’s Iowa! We could never do what we do at Miracles without so, so many people pitching in! My heartfelt appreciation goes out to the therapists, instructors, volunteers, parents, students, clients, veterans, board, staff, donors, corporate sponsors, and, of course, our wonderful therapy horses! So many moving parts to providing our services!

In addition to our classes and sessions, 2019 saw a record number of visitors to the farm – most recently for Boo at the Barn. We have a few photos in this newsletter – many more are available on our Facebook page.

November officially starts the “Giving Season” – and there will be several opportunities for donors to Miracles to have their donations matched!

Our donors have had such an impact this year – funding a new porch, new fencing for a section of pasture, a new sign (thanks to Eagle Scout, Jacob Van Zante), and the day-to-day operation of our 76-acre farm and care and feeding of 14 (soon to be 15) horses. Thank you so much!

The Board, Staff and I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Lois James, President
Miracles in Motion Board



Miracles receives a grant from Cedar Rapids Sunrise Rotary

Many thanks go out to the Cedar Rapids Sunrise Rotary for their very generous grant to pay for installing security cameras around the Miracles property. This is such a big safety issue for us – we will now be able to see horses that are in the fields from the house and even from our phones. In addition, we will be able to make sure our staff and volunteers are safe even if out of our eyesight!

Club co-president, Rebecca Feireisen, presented a check to Lois James, president of the Miracles board at their weekly meeting Thursday the 7th of November. Miracles also thanks board member, Jerry Mohwinkle for facilitating this grant.



Behind the Scenes for Boo at the Barn

The transformation is amazing! One day horses are being used in class, the next day the arena, stable, and surrounding areas are being decked out for Boo at the Barn! Of course, this doesn't happen without lots of planning and volunteers.

Mary Chadwick heads up the Boo effort and the minute the event is over she starts preparing for next year! This year she was helped by team leads – Nikole Tutton – Silent Auction; Sam Rand from Hills Bank – stable decorations; Lee Smith from Alliant– outdoor games; Lois James – food; Nick Andeway – facilities; Deb Leichsenring – transportation and Joe Petta – public relations.

Early on, craft partners are identified – this year there were 18, each coming up with their own idea of what kids might enjoy – decorating pumpkins, face painting, interactive musical activities, cotton ball ghosts, bean bag pumpkin toss and many others. Corporate sponsors are contacted to see if they can help support the event and keep it free to the public.

The day before, South Slope and Rapids Reproduction employees help out with all kinds of maintenance, decorating and moving chairs, tables, tents, and props into position. The Walking Witches are hidden and question sheets prepared. Silent auction items are packaged, priced and divided into groups

The day of the event, in addition to 30 craft partner volunteers, 35 Miracles volunteers show up to set up, park cars, hand out candy, supervise the bouncy house area, work with the minis, help with games, sign-in, take photos, help with the silent auction and do anything they can to make sure everyone has a great time.



None of this would be possible without our sponsors and craft partners. We also want to give a shout out to Maggie's Farm Wood Fired Pizza, who donates a ton of pizza! Moo Moo Ice Cream truck was also on hand along with Carlotta Antonelli of Pampered Chef both donating some of their profit back to the organization. Thank you also to Herr Karl – the Knight in Shining Armor who posed for photos with kids on Spirit, our mechanical horse.

Your support has made a difference!

Our 2019 Therapeutic Riding classes and Hippotherapy sessions are done for the year! It's always bittersweet, but we are so grateful for all the support from our donors, volunteers, therapists, instructors, parents, staff and corporate sponsors! Most of all we're grateful for the students and clients with special needs as well as our veterans who find such benefit in working with our therapy horses!



Thanks to Twin Pine Farm for sponsoring our newsletter! Check them out on their website: www.iowagoats.com as well as on Facebook. Contact them at iowa1spanish-goats@yahoo.com.

Some random shots from the 2019 Season



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