



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

October 2020

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you to all who have supported our Blaze a Path Forward campaign! We are very close to our goal and construction is underway – really just “destruction” at this point! The old cement has been removed enable pouring the footings and floor for the new addition and in front of the addition to Upmier Arena. The ground-breaking” was done by property manager, Nick Andeway, and volunteer, Bruce Guyer. Bruce commented later that he will never get into a Bobcat again!

The subcontractors doing the preparation of the site, cement pouring, and plumbing have met to talk about schedules and we expect construction to start in the next couple of weeks. We will be posting updates on our website as things progress (under News and Events). www.miraclesinmotion.com.



There is still time to support the improvement projects – just follow this link or click on the link in the story on the website.

Hills Bank sponsors Boo at the Barn AND Blaze a Path Forward

In a year when assistance is critical for Miracles in Motion, Hills Bank is making a huge difference! As in the past, they will be supporting Boo at the Barn at the “Great Pumpkin” level! Our event this year will be a virtual horse parade with our wonderful therapy horses in costume. Watch for a link to the video around the 17th of October. Our late board member and Hills Bank employee, Amy McClure, was the creative genius behind many of our events and I think she would have particularly enjoyed the virtual parade – Halloween was her favorite holiday!

We are also grateful that Hills Bank is making a significant donation to Blaze a Path Forward, our campaign to expand the Upmier Arena. Construction is just getting underway and we are so looking forward to this enhancement that will provide our clients with the best “Miracles experience” possible!

Hills Bank began in 1904 and today has grown to become one of Iowa’s largest independent banks. It is a bank that truly cares about the people they serve and provides ways to help them prosper. In their words: “We believe in caring for our customers and employees as well as the communities in which we serve, measuring our performance by the high standards of our founders. That belief is the basis for our success over the past century and the roadmap for our future performance.”



HILLS BANK

How did Ace and Todd come to live at Miracles?

Stefani Vikotra Zabala, a former volunteer and PATH instructor, shared Ace's history: "I was driving on 120th at night and saw a pair of eyes in the road so I slowed down and stopped when I saw it was a kitten. I opened my door to move him off the road and he jumped in the car! So he came home with me. Once home, he promptly fell off the windowsill into a bag of dog food, and I said "way to go, ace". He was a clumsy kitten, so that phrase stuck with him and he became "Ace". He was a very naughty indoor cat, and always wanted outside. So, he chose to be a barn cat and thrived outside. We had two other cats, Arthur and Traveler, at the time in the barn and they were all good friends."

Nancy Kempke, former director, shared this about Todd: "And truth be known "Todd's" original name Buddy (named by me). He came from the miniature horse farm that is behind Miracles property. My dog used to find his way back to the farm and one day while retrieving him, I asked owner if she had lost a cat because there was a kitten who was identical to buddy. Long story short, after putting a few clues together, we realized it was their cat who had decided he'd rather live at Miracles. Somehow or other when Ken came he decided that he couldn't be Buddy anymore and named him Todd. But he'll always be my buddy because he's such a cool cat."

Karla Miller, volunteer and board member, shares this: "Right after Todd came, Ace and he fought a lot (not surprising). Todd had one nasty neck injury. After that, they came to some understanding."

Do you have a story about Ace and/or Todd you would like to share? Just email miraclesinmotion@gmail.com.



Ace, left, and Todd, right, are Miracle's resident barn cats



Deb Leichsenring adopts Zip

It is said that horses teach us life lessons. Zip shows me every day how to be a better person by just watching him. Zip listens, is kind hearted, waits his turn at the gate, and so much more. I had just started at Miracles and Zip and I had an incident in the barn. It was totally an accident. Zip was truly worried about me by the kind look in his eyes. Let me tell you, when you look into Zip's eyes and they are mesmerizing and so reassuring. This Spring Zip was ill. For him to become healthy again, he had a long road. Zip again showed us all how to carry on day by day as he slowly improved. Horses come into our lives for a reason: Zip is in my life to help me over those speed bumps and to relish in the smooth roads! Zip was an easy choice for me to adopt!



Miracles Moment from Tracy Kolosik

While looking for volunteer opportunities in 2019 prior to my retirement in 2020, I saw a news clip about Miracles in Motion that featured a long-time volunteer, Jackie Wallace, who happened to be from my hometown! The next month, April 2019, I signed up for training to be a side-walker for Therapeutic Riding classes. During training and walking across the pasture to meet the horses, I felt right at home, having grown up on a farm. The staff conducting the training and the other volunteers being trained all seemed dedicated to supporting the Miracles in Motion mission of providing outstanding horse-assisted therapy classes and sessions.



The first time I served as a side-walker, I saw how excited the students were to meet their horse, to ride during the class, and to interact with the instructor and volunteers. The students really appeared to benefit, both physically and emotionally, from all the interactions during the class. The families that were there supporting their student, were also a part of the activities.

After that first class, I was hooked and I knew I had found a great way to spend my time then and during my retirement in 2020. In addition to being a side-walker, I received further training to serve as a horse leader, a barn assistant, and in doing chores and taking care of the horses. I was also able to participate with the Hippotherapy sessions along with the Therapeutic Riding classes.

Being a volunteer in support of such an excellent organization that provides important services to children and adults with physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges is not only very fulfilling, but I feel it also provides a sense of wellbeing and belonging to all who become involved. I am also now a member of the board of Miracles in Motion and am happy to contribute in any way possible. There are so many opportunities to assist in this great mission!

The link to Boo at the Barn video will be available on our website soon!

www.miraclesinmotion.com

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**MIRACLES IN MOTION
BOO AT THE BARN
VIRTUAL HORSE PARADE**

BEGINS OCTOBER 17TH
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