



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2020

Update on construction projects at Miracles

On one of the windiest days of 2020 (aside from the Derecho!), Greg Thomann and his crew worked on enclosing the pavilion. One of the reasons for the projects is that it is always windier at the top of the hill where the pavilion is located, making it unusable on occasion. As you can see, it is now beautifully enclosed and ready to be used by volunteers, parents and caregivers to observe the riders on the sensory trail, community groups that want to visit Miracles, and service groups helping out around the farm. The view to the south is to an outdoor arena that will be getting a refresh and will also see more use also. If you have a group that would like to visit in 2021, conditions permitting, reach out to miraclesinmotion@gmail.com.



Miracles Moment from Savannah

I have found Miracles in Motion to be a place of therapy for myself, though I am not a student and have only recently participated in the MVECS mock classes. Just from going out and doing chores and being with and around the herd, I have found it to be a place to slow down, get out of my head, and be present in the moment. I could only imagine how much harder transitioning out of the Marine Corps last fall would have been for me had I not had a place like Miracles in Motion to go and volunteer at. Though there have indeed been very cold, not so pleasant days, different people with different personalities to learn and work with, it has been hands down one of the most rewarding things I have done and look forward to continue doing. - Savannah

Physical Therapy students help out at Miracles for Hawkeye Day of Caring

On a very windy October day, Miracles was fortunate to have seven physical therapy students from the University of Iowa volunteer for a workday as part of Hawkeye Day of Caring. Days like this mean so much to Miracles in Motion. With a 76-acre farm and a 16-horse herd, there are always projects that need to be done, especially with winter just around the corner. This group was incredibly hard working and completed the entire list of tasks that we had for them. They cleaned the indoor arena, added new mulch to the flower beds, took down the round pen, placed the stall fans in storage, and much more. They also asked to spend time meeting the herd, which the Miracles horses thoroughly enjoyed as much as the students did. If you have a group that would like to come to participate in a workday at Miracles, just call the office 319.857.4141. We just ask that your group wears a mask and social distance from each other.



Diana Harris adopts Don Pecos

All the horses at Miracles are special, but Don Pecos and I caught each other's eye when he first arrived at Miracles in late 2019. Every horse needs an adopter, and Don Pecos chose me.

Miracles in Motion Announces BSA Scouting Merit Badge Program

In an environment of pandemic setbacks, Miracles in Motion has launched a new program in cooperation with the Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, to provide differently abled Scouts with the opportunity to earn their Horsemanship Merit Badge.

"The Horsemanship Merit Badge is largely an independent program, driven by the Scouts themselves. Our program addresses the first nine requirements and checks the Scout's knowledge in a virtual setting" said Nikole Tutton, vice president and merit badge counselor at Miracles in Motion. "Then, we work on the hands-on and riding conditions until the scouts are proficient and have completed all the requirements to achieve the Merit Badge."

The Horsemanship Merit Badge requires Scouts to be tested on general equine knowledge, safety, horse care, and basic horse anatomy. For the hands-on part of the requirements, candidates learn to tack, groom, saddle, and bridle a horse, then lead, mount and dismount, and ride independently at a walk and trot.

Virtual classes are nothing new to Miracles. Many students have learned how to groom and tack horses in online classes offered during the pandemic. "It's a great way to keep students engaged and interested in horses during a tough time," said Lois James, president of Miracles board of directors. "It also keeps our volunteers engaged and motivated because seeing the students grow and flourish is what it is all about. Online classes also have the advantage of being offered year-round, which is something our students and families have expressed interested in."

If you are interested in this program, or would like to have someone come and speak to your scout troop, please email parentrepmiraclesinmotion@gmail.com.

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HEY SCOUT RIDERS!

GET YOUR
**HORSEMANSHIP
BADGE**

WITH MIRACLES IN MOTION

You can do this, with Miracles help. We are a Therapeutic Riding Center for differently-abled adults and kids and we just added the BSA Badge to our program.

With our individualized program schedule and helpful coaching, we can help motivate you to reach your goal. Want to learn more? Check out our website at www.miraclesinmotion.com or email parentrepmiraclesinmotion@gmail.com

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Dates and pricing vary according to skill level of rider.