



# Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

January 2020

## Miracles moment with Chelsea

I have always been obsessed with horses. I begged my parents for lessons and a real horse all the time. So, when I got to ninth grade, my mom brought me to Miracles in Motion in hopes that it would fulfill my horsey desires. Since I had so little horse experience, I started out as a Sidewalker. It was actually the perfect fit for me at the time because I had a decent amount of experience and passion for people with disabilities. As time went on, the horse loving part of me EXPLODED. I came to classes early and stayed late to watch the horse leaders work, I asked a million questions, and eventually worked my way up to horse committee. I was part-time home-schooled in high school which meant I was able to spend time out at the farm during the day. I would go out multiple days a week and sometimes stay 14 hours. Miracles in Motion became a release from the stress of the world for me. When I went to college and became a working adult, I spent 10 years waiting to return to MIM. I'm so glad I was able to come back this fall and fill the MIM-shaped hole in my life!



## From The Director:

Finally, 2021, hard to believe! I do feel that we need to take a glimpse at the end of 2020 and some of the successes we had at Miracles In Motion. Support for Miracles was overwhelming, and we are grateful for that! We have raised the funds needed for our "Blaze A Path Forward" project. You can go to our website for construction updates.

In 2020 we needed to be creative and resourceful. We developed virtual programming to ensure we still could connect with some of our students. Through the continued support of our sponsors, Miracles adapted our special events, such as Boo at the Barn, to virtual productions.

2021 is here and we are busy reviewing our operations, planning our programs, and preparing Miracles to meet the challenges of re-opening. We know these challenges will continue for a while; however, we believe the ideas that are emerging from our various committee discussions will provide the solutions. We are moving forward in a collaborative spirit to be able to continue our equine-assisted services and events for 2021!

I look at the New Year as another new chapter for Miracles and an opportunity for a year of many memorable beginnings. I know all of us looking forward to that!

Deb Leichsenring, Director of Operations



### **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

Blaze a Path Forward was an ambitious project for Miracles in Motion, especially during a pandemic and derecho! Thanks to all of you who jumped on board, WE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL! And, that goal was an increasing one as construction costs rose. The last surprise donation taking us to goal was a philanthropic gift from the Jim and Jennie Ward Fund of the Mankato Area Foundation. The Wards join early funders – The Hall Perrine Foundation, Steve Hauser in memory of Verne Upmier, Mary & Jim Pratt, Hills Bank & Trust and Nancy Hauserman. Many, many more of you also donated for which we are most grateful! Check out photos of construction progress on our website. <https://miraclesinmotion.com/pages/construction>



### **A Christmas gift to remember!**

Thank you to Christina Slaton for adopting therapy horse, Raven. In her words, “We are adopting Raven to show our support of the wonderful services they offer at Miracles In Motion and our love for horses. A gift to our daughter”!

### **Do you remember me Aspen?**

So many of you were touched by Cooper’s story and gave generously at the end of 2020. In fact, throughout 2020, we have been surprised and grateful at the significant support we have received during a year when so many have been affected by the pandemic, the derecho, or both.

It is our sincere hope that 2021 will bring a return of classes and other events that align with our mission to improve lives through interaction with our wonderful therapy horses.



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