



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

October 2021

Miracles moment with volunteer Katelyn

As an occupational therapist, I have the opportunity to help people rehabilitate their lives under a variety of circumstances every day. I can say with confidence that my weekly experiences with therapeutic riding through Miracles in Motion have an exceptionally positive impact on riders, instructors, and volunteers alike. In fact, in this seemingly never ending pandemic, this has been a place of refuge for me to provide service to others while also finding a peaceful escape for myself away from the day to day grind of work.

While I have only been a part of the Miracles tradition for less than a year, I can say I have been so blessed to witness the true magic that happens each time I am privileged to be a part of a class. Whether it's taking responsibility for getting a horse ready to start class, walking alongside a rider for therapeutic riding, or helping in the barn with chores, each and every aspect is so rewarding.

What, one might ask, is the magic? Being able to watch a child trade a wheelchair for a horseback; eyes lit up with a sense of freedom in the movement of a horse, the closest replication to human gait. A rider connecting with a horse on a deeper level. With laughs and smiles so big they can be seen through the mask, all when language just doesn't come as easily for some as it does others.

I have been fortunate enough to be a part of a variety of adaptive riding programs across the Midwest. Miracles' vision, mission, and dedication to all who seek opportunities on the farm are second to none, and I hope to continue making an impact as a volunteer for many years to come.

Miracles thanks MidWestOne Bank for their support of Boo

Opening the Miracles farm to the public for Boo at the Barn would not be possible without widespread community support. Our thanks go out to MidWestOne Bank for their longstanding partnership. Their sponsorship dollars help us keep this event as accessible as possible by allowing everyone to attend free of charge. Be sure and visit the Spooky Stables they sponsor when you attend Boo at the Barn October 23, 2021. And check out their website at <https://midwestone.com>



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Oktoberfest 2021 by Karla Miller

Miracles board members, staff and other volunteers headed to the Amanas on Friday, October 1st and for the next three days, we pitched in to help make Oktoberfest 2021 a success. Whether working admissions, serving libations or being cashiers, we were part of a massive effort to make festival visitors welcome and happy. As a result of our efforts, Miracles received money and tips for our programs. Several people commented on how important our program was as they contributed to the tip jar. It was a win-win! We had fun and Miracles received some welcome funds.

We would like to thank everyone at Miracles who pitched in and gave of their time, talent and energy. We also want to thank Becky Trantor who coordinated volunteer efforts and was our liaison. She has arranged this fundraising opportunity that benefits Miracles for several years. As usual, we thank all our donors who make it possible for Miracles to be what it is. We're looking forward to Oktoberfest 2022!

Oktoberfest Parade by Karla Miller



The Miracles Mini Ambassadors, volunteers and students were out in force in the Oktoberfest Parade on Saturday. Lucky, Little Guy and Mr. Sea were adorned in their new green fleece blankets with the Miracles logo on the side. The decorated truck carrying volunteers and students followed behind our little herd as we wound our way along a parade route lined with hundreds of parade watchers of all ages.

I was riding in the passenger seat of the truck, waving like the Queen Mum and taking pictures. I was prepared for people to be surprised and enamored by the minis. I was not, however, prepared by all the people who shouted what a good agency Miracles is and how important the mission. They loved the little horses and seemed to know about Miracles. One group even gave a huge cheer for Miracles!

Thanks to everyone from Miracles who made our parade entry such a good one. Special thanks go to Jackie and Jim Wallace for donating their truck for use in the parade. Donations come in many forms from many people. We couldn't do what we do without you!



From the Desk of Director of Operations

I could not imagine what it would be like if Miracles had not been started...if 33 years ago a wise man had not placed a young girl on a specific horse and saw the difference the connection between the rider and the horse.

Every day we have classes we hear from parents and caregivers on how their riders have made improvements, which may seem small, but to these riders are milestones. I hear from our volunteers how being at Miracles is their tranquil place. For all it is place that you can breathe. Whether you are leading the horse, at the side of the horse, tacking a horse or are one of the riders, the horse knows if you are anxious, sad, happy, or confident (often before we do). That horse is ready with the therapy that is needed for all.

It is hard to believe the 2021 class season will be coming to an end soon. What a fantastic season it has been! From the excitement of the first April day when we were once again able to have students, volunteers and horses back in classes to the feel of fall in the air this October...all of us, even the horses, are grateful we are back, in-person, at Miracles.

From me, thank you to all that make Miracles happen each and every day.

Deb Leichsenring



JAMES INVESTMENT GROUP INC.

Planning for tomorrow, together



In addition to supporting our newsletter and website, James Investment is also a sponsor of Boo at the Barn. Jeremy James has this to say about their ongoing support for Miracles, "I was introduced to Miracles in Motion by Lois, who has been a long-time volunteer and currently sits on their Board of Directors. I am honored to continue the James Investment Group tradition of supporting Miracles in Motion and all the work they do for their students."

"Family founded, future oriented...Iowa City's trusted financial advisors since 1984" – learn more about James Investment Group on their website: <https://www.raymondjames.com/jamesinvestmentgroup>.

Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center

2049 120th Street NW

Swisher, IA 52338

Website: www.miraclesinmotion.com

319 857-4141

MIRACLES IN MOTION BOO AT THE BARN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

**12 TO 1 PM EARLY ACCESS HOUR FOR OUR FRIENDS
WITH SENSORY SENSITIVITIES
1 TO 3:30 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

HORSE PARADE

FREE ADMISSION

VISIT THE MINIS

CRAFTS, GAMES & ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

THE GREAT PUMPKIN

**FROZEN
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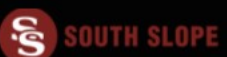
SPOOKY STABLES



Joseph & Lauren Crippes



Stan & Dawn Herkelman



Randy Kuehl



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Access 2 Independence of the Eastern Iowa Corridor, Inc. Advantage Autism and Therapy Services ChildServe
Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program Jefferson Monroe Fire Department Swisher Tanager Place Autism Social Skill Program



Face masks required unless medically exempt

2049 120th St NW Swisher, IA 52338