



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2021



BOO 2021

Boo at the Barn, held on October 23rd, was as *spooktacular* success, with nearly 400 people in attendance. The horse costume parade was a big hit, with the herd dressed in a wide array of outfits. New this year was a performance by the Studio 360 Dancers, who performed several different routines. **Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza** provided a menu of different artisan pizza, and **Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburger**, provided frozen custard with toppings. There were nine craft vendors helping kids decorate pumpkins, make arts and crafts, and play games. The bouncy castles in the arena gave the kids a place to work off some of the Halloween candy! There was a scavenger hunt, Spooky Stables, and the Swisher Fire Department brought a firetruck and allowed the kids to climb inside. Once again, the weather was beautiful, and a good time was had by all. The day would not have been possible with the hard work and dedication of the board, the staff, and most important, the 75 volunteers who helped set up, worked at the event, and then helped with the clean-up. Plans are already underway for BOO 2022!





Behind the scenes at Boo at the Barn

Over 75 volunteers helped out during our Boo at the Barn event. In addition, South Slope and Rapids Reproductions employees were instrumental in getting the stalls decorated, craft area and pavilion ready and setting a festive mood for everyone to enjoy.

The Johnson County Horse and Pony Club was on hand to help with cleanup. We couldn't do what we do without volunteers! Thank you.

For more photos – head over to our web-site: <https://miraclesinmotion.com/pages/news-events>

Photographers for the day were Jenny Maresh, Hannah Brecht, Megan Conrad and Nancy Hauserman.



Jenny Danner Miracles Moment

I have always loved horses. In college, I served at a horse therapy nonprofit similar to Miracles in Motion, which is what started my passion for volunteering in a horse therapy environment. When I moved to Cedar Rapids, I searched for opportunities to serve and found Miracles I was so excited to be able to serve again in a similar nonprofit as I did years ago.

It is always such a joy to meet the students and see how they grow and progress with each class. I love how the horses connect with the students. It is always so amazing to see the many benefits that come from riding. I have had the privilege over the years of seeing students open up more while they are on their horse; they become more talkative, smile, and their body language even changes. It is so great to see the growth each week as the students work through skills.

Not only do I have the privilege of helping the students, I get the chance to be around horses and witness the amazing connections they have with people. They truly are an amazing animal, and we can learn so much from them. Miracles is a great place to volunteer, and I am thankful for each opportunity to serve.



From the desk of Deb Leichsenring, Director of Operations...

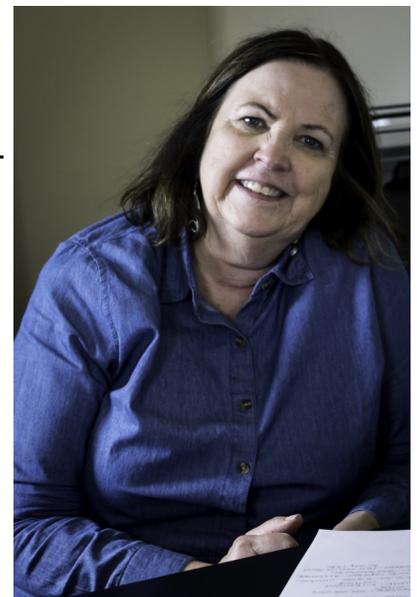
Miracles' purpose is to provide therapeutic horseback riding and activities for persons with differing needs and abilities. The goal of recreational therapeutic riding is to develop attainable goals achieved through developing riding skills. Those serve at Miracles include but are not limited to the physically, mentally, learning, hearing, and visually impaired. Some of the benefits obtained from riding are improved self-image and confidence, enhanced muscle tone, and improved balance and coordination.

Our riders can be timid at first. It is daunting either looking up at a horse, or down from a horse's back. Then, a connection happens as the riders begin to place their trust in the volunteers supporting them and the gentle nature of the horse. Through that connection, our students learn to ride to the best of their ability. From that come the benefits, which may seem minor to us but are milestones for our riders.

Our classes have come to close for 2021. It has been a year with so many fantastic moments. Moments that warmed our hearts and definitely made us smile after a long day.

Thank you to all who support Miracles. We could not do this without you! To our donors, our board, our work groups, our volunteers, our PATH instructors, our therapists, and to the families and caretakers of our students - Thank you! And of course, to our herd: without them we would not have a program.

Stay safe. Enjoy the coming Holidays and we will see everyone for classes in Spring of 2022!



Did You Know . . .

People who have been around horses for a while often describe them by their breed or their color. It started me thinking. What are they talking about? Many colors looked kind of the same to me, like a Sorrel and a Chestnut. These questions and others sent me off on one of my favorite missions: Research!

While there is a lot of information out there too lengthy for one newsletter, I thought I might share two or three things I learn every now and then. For example, Sorrel horses are lighter reds with a more copper color, where Chestnuts are a darker, richer red (horsefaqs.com). Other sources describe red horses as being the same. The description I liked the most was that Sorrel and Chestnut were used differently depending on geographic location. Out west on ranches, reddish horses were called Sorrels while out east, the same color horses were called Chestnuts. Could it be that simple?

Karla Miller

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A couple more shots from 2021 Boo at the Barn:



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