



# Miracles in Motion

## THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

### From the Director of Operations Desk:

December 2021

As 2021 comes to an end I want to take a moment to say thank you for all the support from the volunteers, donors and sponsors, our PATH instructors, the board of directors and staff, our work groups and the rest of the community who is there for Miracles in Motion and me.

This has been quite a year!! Because of you, we were able to have in-person classes again with COVID protocols in place to ensure we were keeping everyone as safe as we could. Miracles held classes 5 days a week. This allow us to help fulfill our mission of teaching children and adults with differing needs how to ride a horse to the best of their ability. As we know that looks different for each rider so we are grateful our PATH instructors know how to pivot their instructions to the needs of the riders. To see the courage of these riders and the connection they have with their horse is remarkable. I encourage you to come a visit during one of our classes to see for yourself

We enjoyed having visitors and groups again at Miracles to showcase our property, the improvements and the herd. We are proud of the work that was accomplished with the new addition and enclosing the pavilion. We had three events at Miracles in 2021: the dedication of the Upmier Arena, Boo At The Barn and just last Saturday, Cocoa, Cookies and Carols. These events allowed the public, along with our donors, volunteers, students and their families or caregivers to enjoy the event activities, walk the property and see the horses up close and at times in costume!!!

The Miracles Mini Community Ambassadors hit the road this year! Our mini group went anywhere they were asked to attend including two parades, Oktoberfest and Swisher Lighted Holiday Parade. I am not sure who likes the parade more the minis or the parade goers who enjoy getting close to a miniature horse!

We had numerous work groups out to help finish our reconstruction from derecho damage and other property needs. It is not easy to maintain a 76-acre farm. Nick, our property manager does a fantastic job, but is it more than a one-person job. If you have group that would like to come out, it is a great team building event and helps Miracles.

As I think back on the year so much was accomplished, too much to add here. I am reminded of the quote, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."-Mother Teresa. That is the foundation at Miracles, love.

Happy Holidays-Deb Leichsenring

### Mini's on parade!

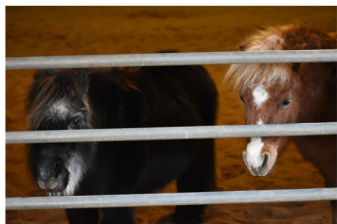
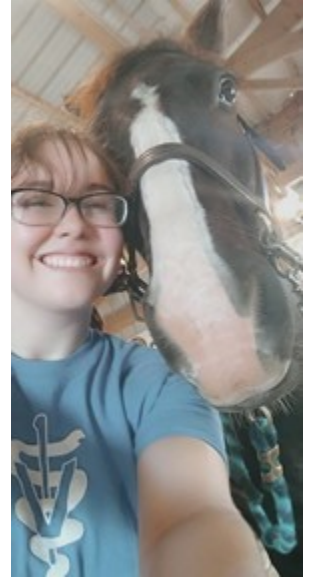


## Miracles Moment by Haley Peters

I came to Miracles in March 2021. I am a pre-veterinary student at the University of Iowa and was looking for some large animal experience. At the time, I saw it as a hoop I needed to jump through to get to vet school. I had no idea that I would end up as involved with Miracles as I have been or as passionate about the horses and the mission of the organization.

Having no horse experience when I came in, my first couple months with Miracles presented some challenges. Learning to work with the horses in a way that provided them the respect they deserved and the consistency they required was a learning curve; so many details to remember! Now, as I have gotten to know the horses and their personalities, interacting with them has become intuitive to me. It is a relationship of mutual trust with these beautiful animals, and it is like nothing I've experienced before.

The staff and volunteers at Miracles are unlike others I've met at nonprofit organizations in that they allow Miracles to be part of their identity. They believe so strongly in the organization and the benefits it provides to its students, and it shows in the way that they interact with each other, the students, and their families. I am proud to be part of something so special and looking forward to the year to come.



**Cocoa,  
Cookies &  
Carols**



### **There is still time to double the impact of your donation to Miracles!**

Our year-end campaign focuses on the idea that “when you have met one student at Miracles, you have met one student at Miracles”. In other words, each of the students that takes adaptive riding classes at Miracles brings their own unique set of abilities to the challenge of learning to ride a horse.

All donations prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> will be doubled thanks to the generosity of Nancy Hauserman. To donate head to [www.miraclesinmotion.com](http://www.miraclesinmotion.com) or mail a check to Miracles in Motion, 2049 120<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Swisher, IA 52338.