



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2022

Michel Pontarelli's Miracles Moment



In my opinion, for a volunteer, there is no better organization than Miracles in Motion. If you like seeing kids transformed – this is the place for you. If you are motivated by working with an exceptional group of volunteers (who are truly appreciated and valued) – this is the place for you. If you like taking our mini horses on field trips to meet members of our community – this is the place for you. If you love animals and want to create deep bonds with horses – this is the place for you.

I suppose I am a combination of the above. I genuinely appreciate the impact Miracles has on the kids and adults who join our classes, but getting to know and work with horses has become my passion in retirement. Unlike many volunteers, I had very limited exposure to horses until I joined Miracles a little over a year ago. Right from the start the more experienced volunteers welcomed me into the herd (pun intended) and began teaching me what I needed to know to be helpful to the work and the horses. Spending my afternoons on the beautiful Miracles grounds is revitalizing. Throw in 17 or so horses, a manure fork, a grooming brush, a hoof pick, and a couple of horse treats, and I am a happy girl. I am grateful to the team at Miracles for being so

generous with their time, expertise, and friendship. This is a one-of-a-kind organization and I love being a part of it.

From the Desk of the Director

Fall seems to be fading. Classes have ended for 2022. Heating elements are in the water tanks. Pasture changes for the herd and hay feeding plans are being made for winter. Heaters are in the barn to keep volunteers and staff warm while doing chores and working with the herd. As always, Miracles is ready for what will come.

A highlight of our year at Miracles was Boo at the Barn 2022 on October 15! We look forward to hosting this event for adults and children to enjoy Fall at the center. We had 434 visitors, and 91 volunteers helped out. 8 horses dressed in costume, led by their horse leader in matching attire. The 3 mini horses dressed as circus ponies with their ring leader in an area where people could see them up close. The pavilion was filled with goodies to snack on: pizza from Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza, cookies from Big Grove, custard from Freddy's Custard, and water from Hy-Vee--all were tasty!

There were so many activities it is hard to name them all! The stable stalls were decorated with fright in mind, and a Cat in the Hat greeted everyone with a prize basket to pick from. Amy's Scavenger Hunt took visitors around the property to find the witches! Craft partners kept everyone's creativity on high. A real knight in metal armor posed for pictures. In the Upmier Arena 2 bouncy houses and indoor games kept the active engaged, as did outdoor games up the hill. We were entertained by dancers from 360 Dance Studio that could not have been any cuter!! Jefferson-Monroe Swisher Fire Department brought a fire engine to tour.

All of this would not have been possible without the vision of the Boo Committee, who worked hard to organize the event. We are fortunate to have our generous donors. Miracles' amazing and friendly volunteers greeted and helped the visitors navigate the event. To everyone I cannot say enough about the dedication and support that happens here at Miracles! Kudos to all and see you again at Boo at the Barn 2023!

--Deb Leichsenring



Boo at the Barn 2022

For more photos, see the news and events section on the Miracles website.

<https://miraclesinmotion.com/pages/news-events>.

Miracles Thanks the Cedar Rapids Corvette Club

The Cedar Rapids Corvette Club recently presented a generous donation to Miracles in Motion.

We are so grateful for the Club's support of our programs. Thank you!

Thank you to our newsletter sponsor **James Investment Group!**

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