



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2023



Alexis Hulett's Miracles Moment

What brought me to Miracles? It's simple. I was looking for an opportunity to be a part of something greater than myself.

It began by finding the Miracles in Motion website. I had been searching for horses and opportunities to be around horses. As a teen, I won a horse by writing an essay about the environment. I had spent wonderful years riding trails as well as hanging out in the pasture with him. It was a special bond, I treasured from my youth, that I wanted to recreate without owning a horse of my own.

On the Miracles website, I saw that there was an opportunity to sponsor a horse. I decided that would be a great way to enjoy the best of both worlds. I could sponsor a horse and help the organization at the same time. However, when I came to Miracles to meet the horse and have my picture taken with him, I met the people behind the horses. It was then I

saw that this was a much bigger opportunity to be a part of something special. I met Deb, the director, who passionately shared the Miracles in Motion mission while giving me a tour. I also met caring volunteers who were lovingly grooming horses in the barn. One flat-out asked me, "So are you going to volunteer?" I asked myself as I left that day. "Am I?"

I realized what I was looking for wasn't just the horses, but a connection to something that was making a difference in people's lives. I filled out the application to volunteer and began reading all about the Miracles in Motion programs on their website.

Since July, when I began volunteering, I have enjoyed going with the minis to brighten seniors' day at a care center, walked alongside a rider who was gaining confidence in herself, been hugged after an adaptive lesson, helped children ride a mechanical horse (Spirit), during Boo at the Barn, attended Oktoberfest with a jolly crew to fundraise for the program, been appreciated as a volunteer at an event, and done horse chores every Sunday night with a very special group of people. The dedication of this organization to the riding programs, horse herd, and use of volunteers is amazing to watch and even better to be a part of each week.

SAVE *the* DATE

GIVING
Tuesday

NOVEMBER 28TH, 2023

WWW.MIRACLESINMOTION.COM

Construction Updates



TRUCKS ARRIVED ON-SITE

Volunteers cleaned out the old barn structure of all tack, supplies, shelving and more. Dumpster trucks arrived on-site for debris removal.



THE BARN MEETS BULLDOZERS

The old barn met its match after many wonderful years of service. The remaining debris was cleared.



CONSTRUCTION SITE IS CLEARED

In days, the construction site was cleared, leveled and ready for building! Now to see if it can be built as quickly as the old barn was removed...

From the Director's Desk



“Veterinarians don’t just treat the animals, they treat the people who love them.”--Anonymous

An equine vet can see his patients at the vet’s farm, office, or where the horse resides, which is called an ambulatory office. We use the ambulatory office here at Miracles with our vet. Ambulatory vets carry all the equipment and medical supplies they will need to examine, diagnose, and treat their patients on site. Typical procedures include conducting exams, drawing blood, giving routine vaccinations, treating for parasites, evaluating lameness, treating colic, and taking x-rays. Our veterinarian does all of this and more. Dr. James (Jim) McNutt has a rare combination of vast experience and common sense, cutting-edge technology and a large network of vet colleagues. He has been the Miracles in Motion vet for 34 of the 35 years Miracles has been a center.

Jim is a graduate of Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine and has practiced since 1971. Jim is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. Jim served as vice president of the Catalpa Corner Charity Horse Trials, served as the committee chairman of Iowa Veterinarian Medical Association from 1993 to 2003, and served on the Miracles in Motion board from 2011 to 2013.

Jim is a life-long horseman who has bred and managed his own herd of foxhunters for decades. His natural empathy for both horses and their owners shows in everything he does. All of us at Miracles have the utmost respect for Dr. McNutt. Jim is not only our veterinarian but a friend of all of us and our herd. Jim takes his time with not only our horses but also explaining to us the diagnoses, even when it’s news we do not want to hear. Jim is respectful because he is a horse owner and knows the emotion attached to each horse. How Jim makes time for all his “clients” and their owners amazes me whether by the phone, text, or in person. All of us at Miracles are indebted for all that Jim has done and continues to do for our herd and for us.

The Miracles herd is the cornerstone of this program and keeping them healthy is incredibly important. Jim McNutt helps us just do that. Equine veterinarians are truly the unsung heroes of our society. Dr. Jim McNutt is one of those heroes. Thank you, Jim!

—Deb Leichsenring



Boo at the Barn 2023

More than 300 people came to Miracles in Motion on Saturday, October 14, to enjoy the annual Boo at the Barn event. Attendees enjoyed food, games, crafts, and the horse parade.

Thanks to Boo sponsors Hills Bank and Trust, James Investment Group, TrueNorth, Accel, South Slope, Servpro, HRT Building and Remodeling, and D& R Pest Control. Food was provided by Maggie's Farm Pizza, Barrett's, HyVee, and Freddy's. Crafts were provided by HADSA, ChildServe, D&R Pest Control, and Tanager.



Maggie's Farm Pizza, Barrett's, HyVee, and Freddy's. Crafts were provided by HADSA, ChildServe, D&R Pest Control, and Tanager.



Miracles Minis Join ChildServe Launch and Learn



In October Miracles in Motion sponsored a table at ChildServe's Launch and Learn Luncheon. Even two of our minis were invited! ChildServe is one of our amazing community partners with Hippotherapy here at Miracles. Together we work toward pediatric rehabilitation.

Birdies for Charity Supports Miracles



This month, Deb and Tess were presented a check from Birdies for Charity, an extension of the John Deere Classic annual golf tournament. Money donated from our community through the charity with Miracles in Motion as the beneficiary was matched by the organization at just over 7 percent. In total, Birdies for Charity distributed \$14.1 million to 478 charities, a record amount in the Birdies for Charity history. As Nate Clark, Global Director and Corporate Social Responsibility and President of the John Deere Foundation, said, "How people and how businesses give matters." We so appreciate our donors who contributed to this fund in our name. Your contributions are invaluable to our organization and mission! Thank you.



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Farmers State Bank Sponsors the Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2023