



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

April 2024



Isabella Stenzel's Miracles Moment

I have loved horses my entire life, and after I began volunteering with an equine therapy ranch in Arizona throughout high school, I knew I found what I would do for the rest of my life. I have been fortunate enough to be employed there remotely throughout college, but still being involved online did not fill the hole in my heart that was left from being away from the farm. I found Miracles my freshman year of college and once I had access to my car sophomore year, I went to Miracles right away. I began volunteering in October 2022 with morning chores on Sundays, where I grew close with the Sunday morning chores team. I also began volunteering in adaptive riding and hippotherapy classes, where my knowledge of equine therapy grew even further. The volunteers and instructors are so kind and were extremely helpful in teaching me the exercises they do in classes to help use horseback riding as physical therapy. My background is in counseling-based equine therapy, so I was very interested to learn more about a different area of equine therapy.

Volunteering at Miracles quickly became my refuge away from the stressors of college and applying for graduate school. No matter how cold it is outside, there is always an army of volunteers ready to support Miracles and other volunteers whenever help is needed. Everyone at Miracles is incredibly kind, supporting, and welcoming. Never once have I felt judged or demeaned because I am still a young college student, and Deb, Carrie, and Diana have been incredibly supportive as I work towards my PATH certification to become a therapeutic riding instructor. Watching the staff and volunteers' dedication to the Miracles herd and the success of the program is inspiring. I have volunteered with many nonprofits, but I have never seen a staff so engaged in communicating with their volunteer base to receive input and work every day to make Miracles an even better place.

From the Director's Desk

I love the signs of Spring; morning chorus from the songbirds, small buds that transform into leaves, and of course the flowers beginning to bloom, all trying to break free from the strong grip of Winter. Soon we will feel the constant warmth of the sun!

Here at Miracles we have other signs of Spring, and one of them is Spring vetting. This is where our veterinarian, Dr. McNutt, examines our entire herd and gives them their Spring vaccinations, which are Eastern and Western encephalitis, rabies, rhino flu, and West Nile.

Next up in Spring is a visit from the saddle fitter, Emma Frimml. Emma and our team go through all of the equipment to ensure each individual horse's saddle fits them correctly for the rider. In time horses' bodies can slightly change. Each horse is fitted for Western and English saddles. We work hard to ensure that the saddles are comfortable for our amazing herd and our diverse riders. This process is done each Spring and Fall, before the start of those sessions.

Then we need to ensure that our volunteers are trained each year prior to sessions starting. We conducted two training sessions for side walkers, barn assistants, and team leads. During those sessions this March, 40 returning volunteers and 31 new volunteers were trained. The next training session will be Saturday, April 20 at 12:30.

Now we know the condition of our horses, the saddles are fitted, and the volunteers are trained. No matter if Spring is not quite here, our riders are ready and so are we! For 36 years Miracles has made a difference in these riders' lives. Thank you to all who are part of making this happen!

—Deb Leichsenring

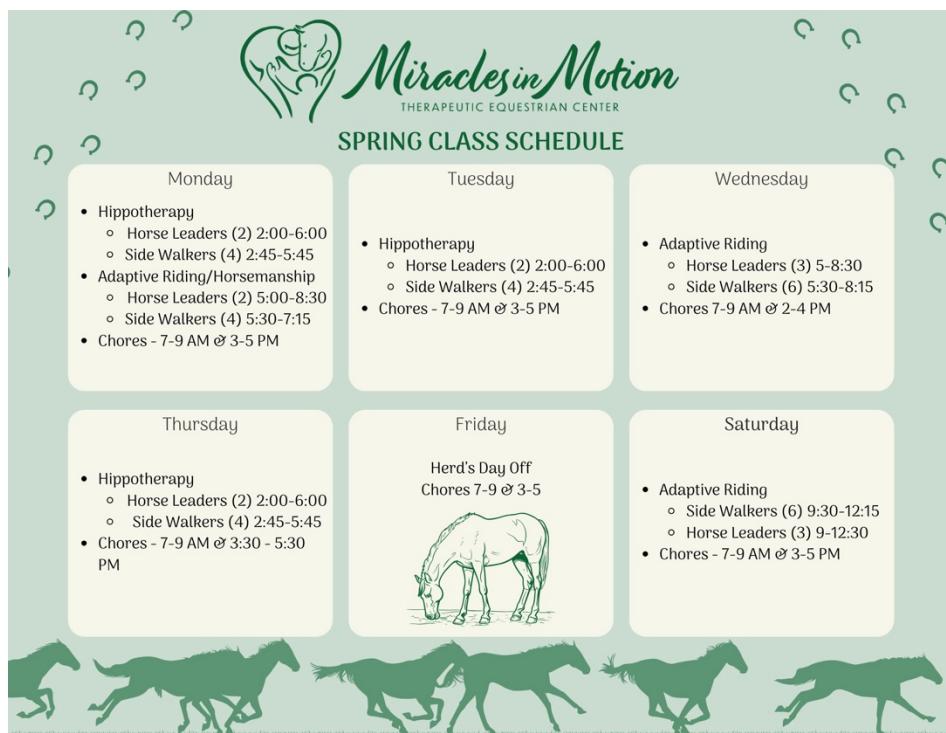
Join the Miracles Minis at Roots in Bloom, May 2

Roots in Bloom Florist, 524 10th Street, Marion

Flower Hat Bar: From 4:00 - 7:00pm, indulge in the elegance of the Kentucky Derby with the pre-party flower hat bar, where you can adorn your favorite hat in floral finery while sipping on a refreshing mint julep mocktail on the Roots in Bloom Porch. \$35 includes mocktail and hat embellishments! Additional accents and flowers available for purchase. B.Y.O.H. (Bring Your Own Hat!). Tickets on sale 4/15. <https://www.facebook.com/rootsinbloom>

Minis with Minis: From 4:30 - 6:00pm

Capture the moment with a miniature photo session alongside the adorable miniature horses from Miracles in Motion! Little Guy, Lucky, and Mr. Sea are excited to join in the Kentucky Derby fun. For a cash donation of \$5-10, you can enjoy a photo session with the minis in the Roots in Bloom yard and receive a digital copy of your photos. Proceeds from the photo sessions benefit Miracles in Motion.



What Miracles Are Made in a Day?

This is a sneak peek at our regular schedule for the spring season at Miracles. This only includes our classes five days per week and chores that take place twice daily. Behind the scenes we have so many Miracles happening. Our talented farrier, vet, and saddle fitter care for our herd and prepare them for classes. Hard-working teams come and work on the property—painting, building fences, and more. Our groundwork teams diligently prepare new horses for classes. With 24 hours in a day, many Miracles can be made! If you are ready to make Miracles happen, email Megan at volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com.



myfsbonline.com | Member FDIC

Farmers State Bank is sponsoring the Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2024

Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center 2049 120th St Swisher, IA 52338 319-857-4141 (office)

www.miraclesinmotion.com