



# Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

December 2024

## Miracles Moment

### Paul and Margaret Nye

It was just this past summer when Paul and I discovered Miracles in Motion. We were browsing our church's website for opportunities to volunteer locally and came across information about Miracles. We



we were very excited to learn about the Miracles mission and ways we might be able to combine our lifelong love of horses with service to local families. Little did we know at that time how quickly this place would capture our hearts and what joy, laughter, lessons, teamwork, and yes, beautiful little miracles we were about to experience through the staff, volunteers, horses, and community.

Fortunately, we were able to get plugged in right away and we were trained in both chores and side-walking just in time to participate in the final class sessions of 2024. Oh, what fun is that! During both Hippotherapy and Adaptive Riding classes I can honestly say, there is nothing quite like seeing the miracles that happen between our horses and riders. We get the pleasure of watching our intelligent and compassionate horses adapt to their riders' needs and level of readiness. To see a child replace fear with confidence, to change doubt into trust, and to watch timidity melt away into huge smiles and giggles is so heartwarming. It is an honor for us to learn from class instructors, barn assistants, and horse leaders, and to partner with families who entrust us with the gift of getting to know their loved ones. What a joy and treasure it is to give a high-five to a rider for a task well done, to see a little hand give their horse a reassuring pat or snuggle, to watch a child's core get stronger, reach get longer, or to hear a confident and clear "Walk-on" for the first time.

We've heard many say, "I came for the riders and fell in love with the horses," or "I came for horses and fell in love with the riders" ... yes to both! Getting to know each of the horses through chores has been equally rewarding! More times than not, Paul and I leave the barn cracking ourselves up with stories about the herd. You know they've found a special place in your heart when you can speak in their pretend voices or call them by a nickname and everyone knows who you're talking about! We love our boys and are so grateful they have welcomed us into their space. From Links to Mr. Sea and every size and shape in between, each one brings his own unique personality and teaches us so much every time we spend time with them. Patience, focus, staying in the moment, don't sweat the small stuff, be fearless, have confidence, enjoy the calm and peaceful, licorice is more divine than peppermints, and ninja moves are most definitely possible.

It's hard to believe that we connected with Miracles only four months ago as it feels, to us, like we've been part of the Miracles family for years. What a special place this is! Thank you, Miracles, for making us feel so welcome and letting us serve our families and herd (and cats) alongside you. We have been given so much more than we could ever give back and for that we will always be grateful!



MADELYN'S STORY



## One in a Billion



Madelyn is the only person in the world with her unique genetic condition. Her father says it was a lonely road seeking support for their family - until they came to Miracles. Click the button below to watch a short video about Madelyn's story and learn how you can make a difference for families like hers.



JOIN US IN MAKING MIRACLES

## One in a billion: Madelyn's story

Have you seen the video of Madelyn's story yet? This little joy-bringer has been riding at Miracles for five years now--making progress physically with increased core strength and control--but her father says it's the connection he sees as she bonds with her horse and the joy she gets from riding that are the true blessings. To see the video about Madelyn and learn how you can help make miracles, please visit <https://miraclesinmotion.com/pages/news-events#Madelyn> Our campaign will be running through the end of the year. We still have time to make our match! Every dollar counts, and **anything** you give will be doubled! We're halfway to our goal--help take us home.

## Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza: Newsletter Sponsor

Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza has been serving up happiness at Miracles' annual Boo at the Barn event for several years. Their Neapolitan-style pizza is always a huge hit, served up hot, straight from their traveling wood-fired oven! We are so grateful to the Maggie's team for their generous support over the years, and we are so excited to announce their restaurant as a newsletter sponsor for 2025. Thank you so much, Maggie's, for all the miracles you make!

## From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENIRING

When I think about this year, each person who has been a part of Miracles has made this truly inspiring center function every day. Your contributions in whichever form are the heart of our success. There is much to be grateful for.

Thanks to our instructors Diana and Carrie, we had 3 days of hippotherapy with ChildServe in Coralville and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, 1 evening of Adaptive Horsemanship, 3 evenings of Adaptive Riding, multiple times during the year. We also added 2 sessions of the Veterans' Program, which was successful and will be back next year. The barn teams were busy as horses were used over 700 times in classes, which is a lot of tack being prepared!

Miracles hosted 3 events this year. In July we celebrated the long-awaited new Busse Barn Complex, which is giving Miracles, the volunteers, and riders what has been needed for some time. This complex came together by incredible donors supporting us, subcontractors working tirelessly, volunteers and work groups filling in where needed. If you have not seen this new addition, reach out for a visit; we enjoy showing what so many made happen! Then in October we hosted our 7th annual Boo at the Barn! This year we had close to 500 people at the center! This is a free event for the public, solely due to the sponsors who host the event. To end our year we host **Cocoa, Cookies and Carols** at Miracles on **Saturday, December 14 from 1:00-2:30**. There is no charge! Come out to visit the herd, Santa will be here, carols will fill the air, and of course, there will be cookies and cocoa! That evening we take the minis to the Swisher lighted parade.

As for the equine herd, they are getting some much needed rest! Newer horses are getting ready for 2025. Without the herd we would not be able to provide the therapeutic services which are the reason that Miracles exists.

This was just a snapshot of the year at Miracles. To everyone, I thank you for your enthusiasm and generosity, for choosing to give your time, money, serving on our board, or adopting a horse at Miracles. Your support is invaluable--you make it possible to meet our daily needs and more. As the holidays approach, may your season be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments with your family and friends. On to 2025 with shared successes and new beginnings.



### Farmers State Bank

*is sponsoring the Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2024. Thank you for your support!*

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