



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

January 2025

Miracles Moment

Kristen Lucas



I worked for 40+ years with people with disabilities, as a recreation and swim therapist and special education teacher, and had a horse and pony while growing up. I came to Miracles to see very proud, former students ride here, so I was familiar with Miracles. I was excited to find a place to volunteer, and I enjoyed side walking last summer.

I wanted to help in another way and began doing chores in August. The expert chore leaders taught me so much about caring for horses.

Grooming the horses has been a wonderful way to get to know them. I have a new favorite every week! I will be back next summer to continue being a horse person!

From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

When someone asks me where I work and I tell them Miracles in Motion, sometimes they look puzzled. As Miracles embarks on our 37th year, I feel everyone in the Corridor should know about Miracles. Not always the case... I am grateful for those who do know. I try to explain Miracles with my "elevator pitch," but it is hard to describe Miracles in a few sentences. We have 18 horses—the best horses anyone could ask for, and yes I am biased! We are located on a 77-acre farm outside of Swisher, Iowa (some ask, "where?"). We are a Therapeutic Equestrian Center ("what's that?").

Our mission is to foster personal achievement by providing diverse equestrian activities with therapeutic, educational, and recreational benefits for persons with disabilities. We believe in the joy of bringing people and horses together by nurturing strengths and celebrating success. Many achievements may be small, but for our riders they may be major milestones—and what a feeling to be a part of that.

We are always looking for volunteers to join in this experience. Volunteers' hard work every day allows Miracles to fulfill our mission each year. It is said volunteering can provide a healthy boost to a person's satisfaction. Here you can make that difference in the lives of our riders and our horses. Not to mention being part of a caring and dedicated team.

We will be starting classes in April. To assist in classes, every volunteer must attend training, which we start in March. If you would like to start volunteering now, we have other opportunities working with the herd: doing chores, grooming, and getting them ready for class in April. In the Spring we also have non-horse opportunities—property work, gardening, and much more—as there is always something to be accomplished on a 77-acre farm!

I like Albert Einstein's quote: "a life lived for others is a life worth living." If you would like to be a part of the Miracles volunteer team you can reach out to me: 319.857.4141 or miraclesinmotion@gmail.com. You can also go to our website: miraclesinmotion.com under Volunteers.



Meet New Herd Members: Taz, Salsa, and Flash

Throughout 2023 and 2024 many new members joined our therapy horse team. To start 2025 we are formally introducing each of them. Miracles is always looking for horses to add to our herd. They must be over 10 years old, geldings, with calm and willing temperaments, and no soundness issues. Have a horse in mind? Please reach out!



Taz is the tallest red and white paint horse at Miracles. He was a 4-H horse showed in many events before joining the Miracles herd in fall 2023. Taz, born in 2006, is a medicine hat paint with one blue and one brown eye. He is a kind and patient horse. He is in many different classes at Miracles and is beloved by his riders.

(Photographs by Megan Conrad)



Salsa is the middle-sized red and white paint horse who came to Miracles in late 2023. He was born in 2009 and is one of our younger horses. His flashy coat and kind demeanor make him a class favorite in both adaptive riding and hippotherapy. He is a wonderful addition to the team.



Flash is a POA (Pony of America), 13 hands high, with a snowflake pattern on his rump, who was a trail horse before he came to Miracles in the summer of 2023. He was born in 2010, a young horse for Miracles, and was part of Miracles classes shortly after he joined the herd.

Thanks to YOU, Miracles Met Our End-of-Year Goal!

Our end-of-the-year campaign has come to a close, and WOW are we blown away by the generosity of our community! With a total of \$48,730 raised, we have exceeded our \$40,000 match goal. We are deeply humbled and incredibly grateful for the support of our donors. Because of your kindness, we can continue our mission and look forward to providing hundreds of therapy hours in 2025!

The work is never done! Not only are we looking forward to a productive riding season this year, we are planning ahead for mini horse visits across the community, hosting public events on our farm, numerous field trips, work days, and more! The therapeutic services we provide are invaluable to creating equity and inclusion and empowering our community. With your support, we can continue this mission for many years to come! If you were thinking about donating and haven't had a chance yet, it is not too late to make Miracles. We have many opportunities to sponsor our nonprofit or make a donation of any level. Every dollar makes a difference! Thank you in advance for your kindness.



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