



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

February 2025

Miracles Moment

Doug Blair



My wife Carol and I volunteered as sidewalkers many years ago. Life changed and we were unable to continue. However, I retired this past October and I knew where I wanted to spend my time! I had spent some time around horses as a kid growing up with family and friends who owned horses. I have always considered them very special animals, but it was my first time with Miracles that I truly saw the magic! Seeing the impact the horses have on people's lives is a blessing to be a part of for sure. I am truly honored to be able to help take care of this special herd and their home! I hope to have time to be able to expand my support, beyond chores and maintenance, to get back in the arena in some capacity for classes this summer. I have been very blessed in my life with a long career and good health—I now have my time to spend with very special people and horses!

From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

The heart of our organization is our herd. There are so many interesting facts about a horse's heart. Maybe that is why they are amazing partners for a therapeutic center like Miracles.

Did you know that a horse's heart weighs 8 to 10 pounds, making it one of the largest hearts of any land mammal. The heart of a horse beats 30-40 times a minute at rest, and can increase to over 200 beats a minute during exercise. The heart rate of a horse can be influenced by excitement, fear, and pain. Horses generally have excellent heart health due to their herbivorous diet. It is said horses have five hearts, meaning their main heart and a "frog" in each hoof that acts like a pump to push blood back up the leg with each step a horse takes. Hence each hoof is a "heart," giving a horse five hearts! Horses can hear the heartbeat of their nearby companions, up to several feet away. In the wild, horses will synchronize their heartbeats to the other horses in the herd in order to sense danger more quickly. Recent studies have shown that horses use those tactics in domesticated life as well.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I think about our herd, and what they give all of us in the Miracles community each day. Just watch a rider with a horse, the trust and love that is in each stride, maybe it is because that horse has five hearts? If you have time and you have been thinking about volunteering at Miracles to witness this, we have volunteer training coming up on March 22 and 29. You can go to our website to sign up: miraclesinmotion.com

Happy Valentine's Day! "Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it."—Nicholas Sparks

Make Miracles in 2025!

Join our volunteer team to help make Miracles happen for our riders this year! We have various training dates throughout the year, but our first two sessions are **March 22 & 29**. Attend one of these sessions to help with classes starting in April! Feel free to sign up on Volgistics or email Megan at volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com.

Volunteer Training Dates: March 22nd; March 29th; April 12th; May 17th; June 21st; July 19th; August 23rd

Meet New Herd Members: Elvis, Hans, Links, Rebel

Throughout 2023 and 2024 many new members joined our therapy horse team. To start 2025 we are 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!



Elvis, a 17-year-old sorrel paint gelding, arrived at Miracles in September 2024. He has a stunning almost bald face and one blue eye. His registered name is Hunk A Hunk A Burning Love and we do love him so!

Photographs by Megan Conrad



Hans is a Haflinger born in the early 2000s. He is gentle and well trained and is about 14 hands high. Before coming to Miracles Hans made young riders feel safe and confident, as he will do here.



Kufflinks, whose barn name is **Links**, is a 17-year-old registered quarter horse. This bay gelding arrived in September 2024. He is our tallest horse at 16.2 hands high. Before coming to Miracles he was a dressage and jumper horse. Links is very gentle.



Rebel came to Miracles in 2024 and was happy to be with horses again. He is a red and white paint who is blind in the right eye, but you would not know that to see him in the pasture. Rebel took to being part of the Miracles herd and went to work as a therapy horse quickly.

2025 Session Calendar and Registration

Our riding sessions for 2025 will start up again in April. The online application and other forms are on the [Miracles in Motion website](#). Please complete and return at your earliest convenience. Here is the calendar for 2025:

Adaptive Riding/Adaptive Horsemanship – 8-week sessions

- Spring: Mondays - April 7-June 2 (no class May 26 Memorial Day)
Wednesdays - April 9-May 28
Saturdays – April 5-May 31 (no class May 24, Memorial Day weekend)
- Summer Mondays – June 16-August 4
Wednesdays – June 18-August 6
Saturdays – June 14-August 9 (no class July 5)
- Fall Mondays – Sept 8-October 27
Wednesdays – Sept 3-October 22
Saturdays – August 30-October 25 (Boo at the Barn October 11—no class)

Classes will be filled on a first-come/first-served basis. We schedule classes based on age, ability, experience, and need for assistance, as space becomes available. We have a rider weight limit of 200 lbs.



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