

# Miracles in Motion



THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Miracles in Motion  
2049 120th St NW  
Swisher, Iowa  
52338

(319)857-4141

[www.miraclesinmotion.com](http://www.miraclesinmotion.com)



# ABOUT MIRACLES

**MISSION:** WE FOSTER PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR PERSONS FACING CHALLENGES BY PROVIDING DIVERSE EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES WITH THERAPEUTIC, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS.

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**VISION:** WE EMPOWER THOSE FACING CHALLENGES BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH THE ENERGY AND SPIRIT OF THE HORSE.

## **CORE VALUES:**

**COMPASSION.** WE PROVIDE SAFE AND ETHICAL SERVICES FOR OUR PARTICIPANTS AND HORSES. WE ARE COMPASSIONATE PARTNERS IN OUR PARTICIPANTS' JOURNEYS.

**INCLUSION.** WE ACCEPT THE DIGNITY OF OUR PARTICIPANTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND AND RESPECTIVE NEEDS. WE VALUE EACH OF THEM.

**RESPECT.** WE RESPECT PARTICIPANTS' NEEDS AND EMPOWER THEM TO REACH THEIR PERSONAL GOALS.

**ACHIEVEMENT.** WE ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND INCREASE CONFIDENCE, SKILLS, AND A SENSE OF PRIDE.

Miracles in Motion is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit as defined by the Internal Revenue Code.

Our organization is recognized as a Premier Center by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) and has been certified by PATH since 1988.

We are also a member of the American Hippotherapy Association.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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When I think about what makes Miracles in Motion the inspiring place it is, I think of each individual who has generously given their time, talents, and resources. Their contributions are the heart of our success. I see the changes and the happiness it brings to our participants each day. I see the difference being made by our instructors, therapists, horses, and volunteers; there is so much to be grateful for.

Miracles has an unwavering commitment to the well-being and development of our students and riders. Our programs have been instrumental in helping our riders overcome some of their challenges. Riders form a bond with their horse and friendships with the volunteers that enrich their lives in so many ways. During the riding season, we held hippotherapy with ChildServe (in Coralville) and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. We also held multiple sessions of Adaptive Horsemanship and Adaptive Riding. We added two sessions of the Veterans' Program — which was successful and will be back next year. The barn teams were very busy preparing tack as our horses were used over 700 times!

We hosted three events this year. In July, we celebrated the long-awaited new Busse Barn Complex at our Open House: celebrating the incredible donors, subcontractors, volunteers, staff, and work groups who made this project possible. In October we hosted our 7th annual Boo at the Barn! We had close to 500 people at the center. This is a free and accessible event thanks to our event sponsors. Our third event was a Volunteer Appreciation Event to show our gratitude to our volunteers who work so hard all year long to make Miracles happen.

This is just a small snapshot of the past year at Miracles. I am grateful for all the invaluable support, enthusiasm and generosity Miracles receives. With our strategic plan in place, Miracles is on to shared successes and new beginnings.

**DEB LEICHSENRING**

Executive Director





# VOLUNTEER IMPACT

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If you ask our volunteers what their favorite part of the year was, it is the difference they made in the lives of each of our riders and horses. However, I believe they would add one more wonderful addition that we have all been grateful to have: the brand-new Busse Barn complex.

Our volunteers have enjoyed the new facilities, designed to make our classes and chores run seamlessly, no matter the season. As Volunteer Coordinator, I have enjoyed watching each volunteer settle into our new space and create new miracles for our riders and horses. It has certainly been a highlight of the year and will continue to be loved by our volunteer community for years to come.

Our volunteer team of more than 100 gave nearly 12,000 hours in 2024. Each of them had a hand in every aspect of making miracles happen, from the volunteers who guide our riders' successes to those behind the scenes ensuring our therapy horses are well cared for. We truly could not fulfill our mission without every one of them. Miracles is so lucky to have an incredible volunteer team. I can't wait to see what miracles they continue to create this year and many more!

**MEGAN CONRAD**

Volunteer Coordinator



11,937 Total Hours Given



Over 60 New Volunteers



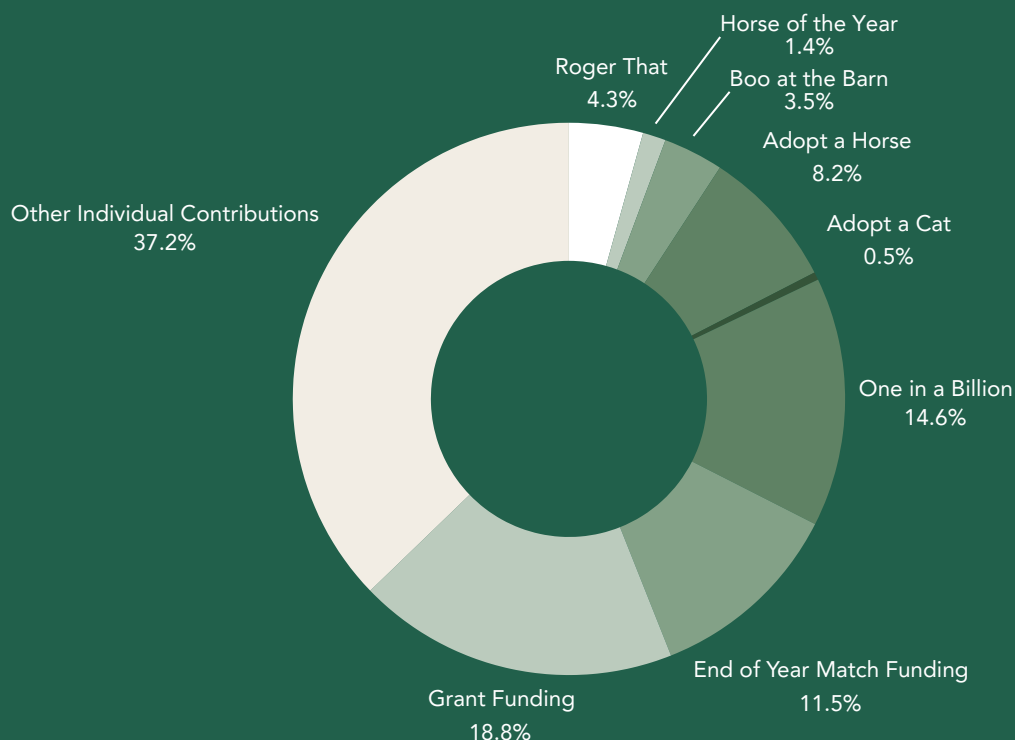
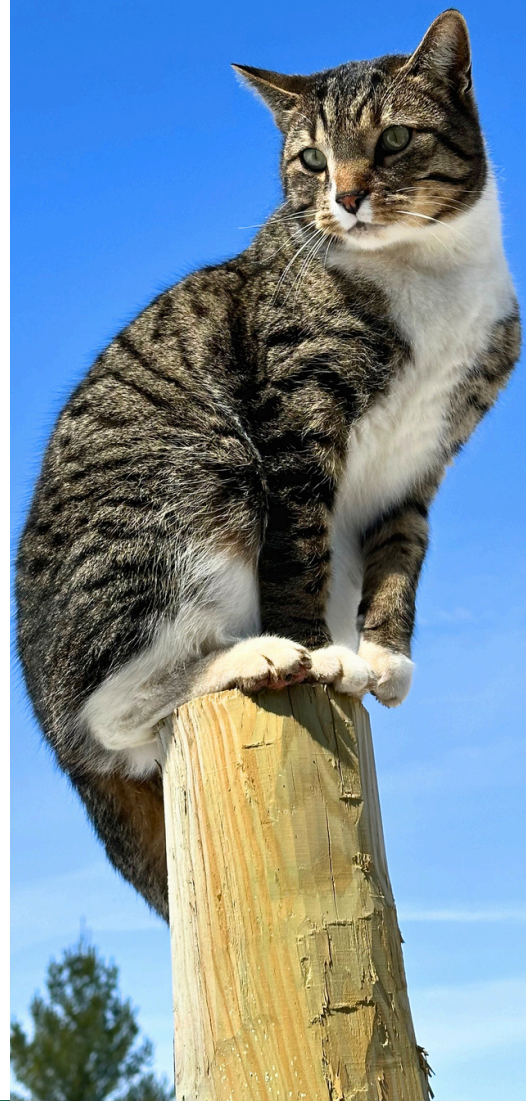
188 Total Volunteers

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As a nonprofit, we rely on generous financial support from our community. This past year, we were amazed by the commitment our donors showed Miracles: exceeding our goal for The Next InSTALLment *and* our operational goals for the year. We recognize that we will be facing rising costs in the coming years, and continued support is vital to keeping our organization afloat and costs for our programs at an absolute minimum - a necessity for financial accessibility. We are very grateful for the strong foundation upon which our organization has been built as we prepare to hurdle the challenges we will face in 2025 and beyond.

## TESS BRACHER-DORRINGTON

Director of Income Development



### INCOME

We raised \$479,013 in 2024. \$130,765 of this was restricted to our capital campaign. This chart shows how the remaining \$348,248 was raised.

All 19 horses in our herd have been adopted,  
some more than once, with an annual donor  
commitment of

**\$1,200**

3 out of 4 of our cats have been adopted at \$50  
per month or an annual commitment of

**\$600**

In total in 2024, our Adopt-a program brought in

**\$35,100**

in recurring donations: creating stability for our  
organization through the commitment and  
generosity of our Adopters.

If you would like to adopt a horse or cat, please  
contact Tess at [makemiraclesia@gmail.com](mailto:makemiraclesia@gmail.com).



#### NEW DONORS

*Out of 234 total individual donors in  
2024, 95 donated for the first time. This  
means just over 40% were new donors.*

*We look forward to them becoming  
loyal donors in the future!*

#### INCOME AND EXPENSES BY MONTH

Income Expenses

*2024 fundraising income  
and expenses by month.*





# HOW YOU CAN MAKE MIRACLES



**Attend our events and invite family and friends!** Join us on our beautiful, 77-acre farm in Swisher, Iowa for one of our free, accessible events like Boo at the Barn and bring guests! Help us share our mission through these vital community-building celebrations.

**Donor-Advised Giving:** Donor-advised funds are established to provide the timing of tax benefits to the donors. Grants to charitable organizations like Miracles in Motion can get distributed at any time.

**Monthly Giving:** Allow Miracles in Motion to provide our services while knowing your support sustains various aspects of our mission. Recurring giving can be set up on our website at any time in any denomination.

**Volunteer:** The gift of time! Your time and talents are a vital resource for our organization. No experience needed to create Miracles!

To learn more and to make a contribution, please visit our website at [www.miraclesinmotion.com](http://www.miraclesinmotion.com)

# 2024 HERD



AUSSIE



BLAZE



BRETT



BUBBA



DIAMOND



DON PECOS



ELVIS



FLASH



HANS



JAKE



LINKS



LITTLE GUY



LUCKY



MAX



MEMPHIS



MR. SEA



REBEL



SALSA



SHADOW



TAZ



# 2024 PROGRAMS

## ADAPTIVE RIDING

CLASSES FOCUS ON BUILDING STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, SOCIAL, OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES.

## HIPPOTHERAPY

IN HIPPO THERAPY, PHYSICAL, OCCUPATIONAL, AND/OR SPEECH THERAPISTS FROM CHILDSERVE AND THE STEAD FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DIRECT THERAPY SESSIONS FOR CLIENTS ON HORSEBACK.

## MVECS AND VETERANS

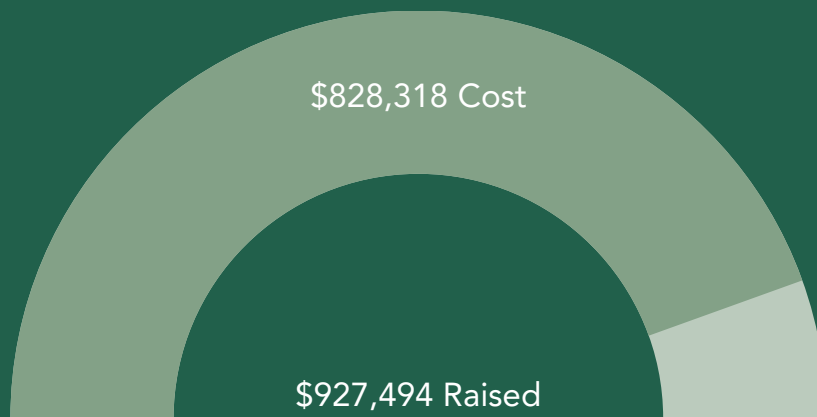
THE MVECS PROGRAM IS CREATED BY AND FOR VETERANS. PROGRAMMING IS FOCUSED ON STRESS AND ANXIETY REDUCTION, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, CREATING CONNECTIONS WITH FELLOW VETERANS, AND ENHANCING EACH PARTICIPANT'S CONFIDENCE.

## CONNECT WITH HORSES

THERAPEUTIC EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES FOR PARAMEDICS, FIRST RESPONDERS, NURSES, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS. CLIENTS WORK TO BROADEN SKILLS LINKED TO PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH.

# THE NEXT INSTALLMENT

In 2024 we completed fundraising and construction on our largest capital campaign to date: The Next InSTALLment. The Next InSTALLment addressed our immediate need to replace our aging barn, and adding the volunteer and activity center, maintenance and garage area, office, laundry, and additional ADA-accessible restroom sets Miracles up for today and the future. With the help of numerous donors, volunteers, contractors, and work groups, we celebrated the completion of our barn complex, The Busse Barn, in June 2024. If you are interested in touring, please schedule a visit with us. We would love to show you the culmination of all of the hard work and generosity that made this possible!



## TNI FUNDRAISING

*We raised \$927,494 and spent \$828,318 during construction. The remaining funds will be allocated to increased operational costs of the new Busse Barn complex.*

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**LAUREN CRIPPES**  
PRESIDENT

**KRISTIN BEATTY**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**TRACY KOLOSIK**  
TREASURER

**SUSAN STUMP**  
SECRETARY

**NOREEN O'CONNOR-ABEL**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PARENT REP

**ERIC ANDERSON**  
PROPERTY

**TINA KOEPNICK**  
EVENTS

**MICHAEL KRUGER**  
PROPERTY

## 2024 STAFF AND INSTRUCTORS

**DEB LEICHSENRING**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

**CARRIE DRUM**  
INSTRUCTOR

**TESS BRACHER-DORRINGTON**  
DIRECTOR OF INCOME DEVELOPMENT

**DIANA HARRIS**  
INSTRUCTOR

**NICK ANDEWAY**  
PROPERTY MANAGER

**MEGAN CONRAD**  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



# THANK YOU

We are incredibly grateful for the support our organization has received over the last 37 years that has made Miracles in Motion what it is today. It all started as “pony rides” for a young girl facing extreme challenges. Today we are the only Premier PATH-certified center in Iowa. It is all thanks to the community: who sees the value of our work and our mission - who gives their time, talents, and resources - who shows up in rain, snow, or shine to care for our herd.

From all of us at Miracles in Motion, both 2-legged and 4-legged, thank you.





*Miracles in Motion*

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