



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

July 2025

Miracles Moment

Alannah Long



When thinking about what brought me to Miracles, there are quite a few reasons. After going through some really traumatic health issues, I felt like I lost a part of myself. One day after a therapy session, I decided it was time to do something for myself and do something I love, which is working with horses. So when I learned about Miracles I knew it was something I wanted to do.

Volunteering with the riders was something I was nervous to do, but on day one I knew I made the right choice. Watching our riders and their families grow and thrive through their own struggles, healed a part of me I never knew was broken. Helping our riders, taking care of the horses, and working with the volunteers is something I will always cherish.

Miracles truly made a miracle for me and I cannot thank our riders, horses, and volunteers enough.

From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

Miracles in Motion is a PATH **Premier** Accredited Center. PATH stands for Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship. Why does that matter? It comes down to three reasons: safety, high standards, and quality of program.

Every year our center signs a compliance statement stating that the center is operating in compliance with all the mandatory and applicable standards that are required. Every 5 years, Miracles goes through an extremely rigorous audit of all the standards. That audit was just conducted, and Miracles once again passed! It takes the entire staff and volunteers to ensure that Miracles adheres to the guidelines and standards. To everyone, kudos!

Since this organization's inception in 1988, Miracles has been a PATH Premier Center. As of now we are the only PATH Premier Center in the state of Iowa. Being under the PATH umbrella, we focus on specific guidelines to ensure that participants in our programs receive the best possible instruction and that Miracles adheres to the highest quality standards. These standards are best practices for our classes, emphasizing safety of participants, instructors, therapists, volunteers, and equines, and providing the basis for quality equine-assisted services. Our instructors implement the many standards daily and so are the integral part of ensuring quality

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From the Director's Desk *(continued)*

equine-assisted programs to their participants.

For any rider at Miracles, we know that equine activities hold inherent risks. Guidelines have been developed to identify the risk of mounted equine activities, yet the concepts Miracles adheres to may also help in the decision-making process for other activities and services that Miracles may provide.

Thank you to all who support this unique program. It takes many, but it is well worth the "ride"!

Who Will Be Crowned Horse of the Year?

It's time for one of our newest but quickly-beloved traditions—crowning the Horse of the Year! This special event celebrates the incredible horses who make our therapeutic riding programs possible and honors the powerful bond they share with every rider they carry.

Here's how it works: every dollar you donate counts as one vote for your favorite horse. Not only will your votes help decide who earns the title, but every dollar goes directly toward providing the best care, feed, and well-deserved treats for our herd. Every ride in our arena begins with trust—a quiet moment when horse and rider connect in a way that builds confidence, strength, and hope. By casting your vote, you're helping us care for these patient partners who make those moments possible every single day.

In this and the next two newsletters, we'll introduce you to our herd of amazing nominees. You can also check our website and Facebook page to learn more about the horses. Each horse has a story, a spirit, and a heart for helping riders reach new heights—and they can't wait to win your heart (and your vote!).

Donate now to cast your vote, honor the horses who inspire so much courage and joy, and help us make this our biggest Horse of the Year yet!

Here is the QR code to scan for the donation link, or visit

<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/254851-2025-horse-of-the-year>



First up are our minis:

Little Guy: Although he is named Little Guy, he is only the second-smallest member of the Miracles herd. To some he looks like a youngster, but he is over 20 years old. Little Guy is half miniature horse and half Shetland pony.

Mr. Sea is a Falabella miniature horse born in 1995 and, standing only 29 inches tall, is the littlest in Miracles' herd. Too small for riding, he is used in the ground program to

help train volunteers how to groom. Mr. Sea is also a Miracles ambassador who attends community events to promote our programs.

Lucky: A miniature paint, Lucky was bred to be a show horse. However, because of a slight outward angling of his front feet, he was not wanted by his original owner. Lucky has an extremely friendly personality and is in the pasture with the full-sized horses when he is not out being a Miracles ambassador in the community.



Little Guy



Mr. Sea



Lucky



Spotlight on Community Partnership: The Giving Tree Theater & Miracles in Motion

We're thrilled to announce a special partnership between The Giving Tree Theater and Miracles in Motion! The Giving Tree Theater, known for its heartfelt productions and commitment to giving back, has chosen Miracles in Motion as one of its featured nonprofit partners. When you attend a performance at this charming local theater in Marion from now through September, a portion of every ticket sold helps support our mission to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities through equine-assisted therapy. Enjoy a night of great storytelling and community spirit—and know that your trip to the theater helps Make Miracles for our riders and families. Visit The Giving Tree Theater's website to see what's playing and plan your night out for a great cause! <https://www.givingtreetheater.com>



Join “Roger That” and Miracles in Motion at the Cedar Rapids Kernels

Step up to the plate and reserve your tickets now for the Roger That Baseball Game! Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and baseball with the Cedar Rapids Kernels!

Tickets: \$40 (includes entry and unlimited food/drinks!)

There will be baseball, a silent auction, great company, and plenty of fun—all in memory of Roger Oberfoell and in support of Miracles in Motion.

RSVP Tickets using the link below and pay for them day of!

We can't wait to see you at the ballpark!

Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HZGWPX>

Be a Miracle Maker — Sponsor a 2025 Event!

Miracles in Motion

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

BE A MIRACLE MAKER - BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

BOO AT THE BARN

A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND FUN EVENT FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

- ADA-accessible plus we offer a sensory-sensitivity hour before and sensory sensitive room during the event
- Our horses don costumes and participate in a parade
- Free snacks, drinks and entertainment



2025 EVENT TIERS

WE ARE HOSTING 2 MORE EVENTS THIS YEAR

- A Volunteer Appreciation event
- Cocoa, Cookies & Carols - a free, winter holiday celebration for the community

TIER 1

\$500

Your logo on the event poster on our website, newsletter and social media.

TIER 2

\$1000

All Tier 1 benefits plus your business highlighted on a table sign at the event.

BOO AT THE BARN TIERS

\$3000 - All lower tier perks plus you or your company will be a horse sponsor in the costumed horse parade

\$2000 - All lower tier perks plus you or your company will be a decorated stall sponsor in the haunted barn

\$1000 - All lower tier perks plus you or your company will have a sponsorship sign at a designated area or activity

\$500 - Your logo/name in the event poster posted on our website, newsletter, and social media. Your logo/name included on the event banner at the event. Your name/company name in event press release.

MiraclesInMotion.com | (319)857-4141 | MakeMiraclesIA@gmail.com

Miracles in Motion invites you to become a community partner by sponsoring one of our beloved events! From **Boo at the Barn**—a free, inclusive, sensory-friendly Halloween celebration for kids of all ages and abilities, set for Saturday October 11, this year—to our **Volunteer Appreciation event** and festive **Cocoa, Cookies & Carols** gathering, your sponsorship helps us create safe, joyful experiences for our community. Sponsorship tiers start at just \$500 and include valuable perks like logo placement on our website, newsletters, and event materials—plus unique opportunities like being part of our costumed horse parade! Make a difference while showcasing your business—join us as an event sponsor today! (319) 857-4141 | MakeMiraclesIA@gmail.com | MiraclesInMotion.com

Farmers State Bank is sponsoring the Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2025



Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza is a sponsor of the Miracles in Motion newsletter for 2025.

<https://maggiesfarmpizza.com/>