



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

September 2025

Miracles Moment: Susan Fleitman



When my husband, Mike, and I moved to Coralville in 2021 for the second time, I became aware of the work that Miracles was doing, and it immediately sparked my interest. I am an active equestrian currently training and showing my Irish Sport Horse, Declan (see photo), in Hunter/Jumpers and am personally aware of the healing that comes from being around horses. While working in an intense, high-stress job, I often would return from the barn completely rejuvenated. And as a grandmother to five, I have a passion for the health and welfare of children. My eldest granddaughter has a sensory processing disorder, and watching her experience complete joy and connection from pony rides just reinforced the healing nature of horses for me!

While my work travel schedule did not allow time for volunteering, as soon as I retired in January 2025 I jumped at the opportunity to get involved! In my first year of volunteering, I have primarily done side-walking and horse leading for the hippotherapy classes. What a joy to see the impact and progress with these kids! The people I have had the privilege to work around have been so kind and supportive—really good people. My time at Miracles has been truly inspirational thus far, and I look forward to getting to know the people and horses at an even deeper level going forward. The impact that Miracles is having on our community gives me pride and a sense of purpose and accomplishment in my next chapter of life.



From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

Many might think once classes are over at the end of October, it becomes quiet at Miracles. Not for the Property Manager, whose job responsibilities are year round, from the well-being of the horses to the upkeep of this 77-acre center. This includes checking that the pastures, stalls, barn, and arenas are maintained in safe, clean, and healthy conditions for the herd, staff, and volunteers. Also—as anyone who has horses knows—checking, repairing, and building fences is a full-time job in itself! The property manager checks the horses daily for cuts and general health, making an emergency call to the vet when a horse is sick or injured. They are responsible for chores, feed, supplements, medications, bedding, cleaning the barn, preparing the center for winter and then in turn for spring. Tasks include coordinating any outside maintenance that might be needed.

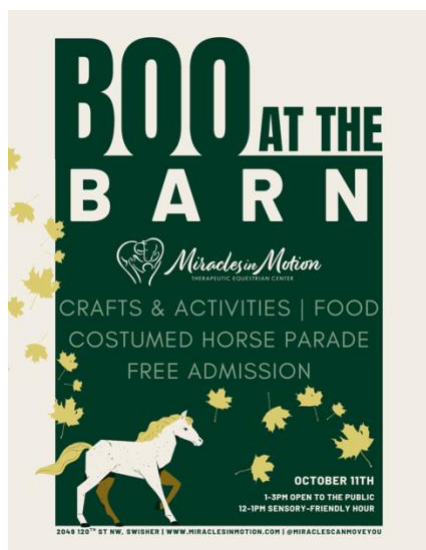
Nick Andeway has done all this for the past six years at Miracles, through many firsts. First was the COVID pandemic, learning the word “derecho,” seeing the new lobby to the indoor arena built, adding new shelters for the horses, enclosing the pavilion, redoing the lane to the center, tiling projects, planting new trees, the new Busse Barn complex, and so much more. At the end of August we said good-bye and a heartfelt thank-you to Nick as he embarks on a journey traveling the United States.

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From the Director *(continued)*

We welcome our new Property Manager, **Neal James**. Neal comes to Miracles with a vast knowledge of this industry and a strong work ethic, as we have seen already. Neal has worked in sales of landscaping products, as manager of warehouse operations, and as supervisor for a production line that was staffed with individuals with disabilities and differing needs. Nick and Neal worked together for 4 weeks prior to Nick's departure, which aided Neal in getting acquainted with the workings of this center.

When you visit Miracles, make sure you say hello to Neal!



No one will go hungry at Boo at the Barn!

There is so much to see and do at Miracles' Boo at the Barn event! When it comes time to take a break and grab a bite to eat, head to the pavilion. Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza will be available (including gluten and/or dairy free) and Freddy's Frozen Custard will be making their delicious sundaes! Miracles would like to thank both of these food vendors -- perennial favorites at Boo! See you October 11th!



It's Time to Vote for Horse of the Year!

Who will win? Brett is still pulling ahead, but Lucky, Mr. Sea, and Flash are neck-and-neck for second. The Horse of the Year contest is on until October 13. With 15 of our incredible therapy horses in the running, every dollar you donate equals one vote for your favorite horse. At the end of the campaign, the horse with the most votes will be crowned our 2025 Horse of the Year!

But that's not all—your votes help unlock exciting prizes along the way! As we reach fundraising milestones, we'll release special limited-edition merchandise celebrating this year's competition:

\$2,500 – Limited-edition poster featuring all the 2025 HOTY candidates

\$5,000 – Postcard release featuring the 2025 HOTY winner

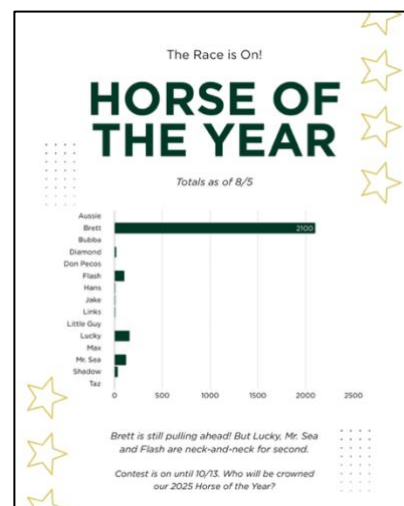
\$7,500 – Limited-edition iron-on patch featuring the HOTY winner

\$10,000 – Limited-edition T-shirt featuring the 2025 HOTY winner

Click here to cast your vote and help crown our next Horse of the Year:

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

And don't forget to share the fundraiser with your friends and family — the more support our herd receives, the stronger our entire program becomes. Thank you for showing love to the horses who give so much in return.



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