



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

November 2025

Thank You, Class Volunteers!



We wrapped up our 2025 class season at the end of October and it was bittersweet. It is sad to see our students go for the winter, but it is nice to reflect on how successful each session was. This success would not be possible without each of our volunteers. From our barn assistants and team leads keeping our classes flowing behind the scenes to our side walkers keeping our riders safe, and horse leaders taking care of our horses throughout the class, and of course our instructors who dedicate five days a week to our programs and ensure the success of our students. Each volunteer has a vital role in making Miracles happen, and we are so lucky to have an incredible team of passionate, talented, and caring volunteers. As Volunteer Coordinator I am privileged to work with this team and it is a joy watching each volunteer shine at Miracles. Thank you all for your support of our mission, riders, and herd for yet another year. It was wonderful, and we can't wait to make Miracles again in the spring!

—Megan Conrad, Volunteer Coordinator



From The Director's Desk

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

Miracles in Motion has a new employee. Tess Bracher-Dorrington has taken her talents back east to Virginia. We are grateful for the impact that Tess had on Miracles during her time with us.

We now welcome Kristy Conrad-Woods, who has accepted the position of Income Development-Events Director. Kristy first became familiar with Miracles through her daughter Megan, our Volunteer Coordinator. Kristy volunteered with the chore team and was a side walker in our Adaptive Riding classes. This sparked her interest in continuing to help us with our mission. Kristy's past includes fundraising for many years for a nonprofit in the area, where she enjoyed connecting with businesses and organizations in the

community to work toward a common goal. Her love for horses comes from her childhood when she and her brothers had horses of their own. Kristy grew up here in Iowa and currently lives on a small farm in Ely with her husband Bill and daughter Megan. We know that Kristy will make an impact with Miracles!



Nora Loves Rainbows and Riding at Miracles



Meet Miracles rider Nora—her room is decorated with them, she has a huge rainbow above her bed. She also loves the rainbow reins at Miracles, because it means she is in her happy place on a therapy horse.

Nora was born with several challenging genetic conditions. She lacked core strength, balance and confidence. At 18 months she wasn't yet walking and started Hippotherapy at Miracles. Taking her first step was just one of the indications that Hippotherapy was making a difference. Over time her balance, core strength and confidence were improving.

She has become more comfortable and more confident on horses to the point where she tells the side walker volunteers that she doesn't need her ankles held anymore! In fact, coming to Miracles gave Nora the ability to learn to ride a bike without training wheels!

Her father says, *"Being here (at Miracles) brings out*

the light inside of her; she thrives at Miracles!"

Nora's mom says, *"She loves the sensory garden, it's such a peaceful place for her to ride her horse and be out in the elements."*

When we asked Nora's father what he wished people knew about Miracles, he said, *"Just how helpful and life-changing all of the therapies at Miracles can be."*

This is the time of year that you can make a difference for Nora's life and others like her. We are pleased to announce that the first \$40,000 of donations to Miracles "Nora Loves Rainbows" campaign will be matched. The impact of your donation will be doubled!

To learn more about Nora's story please visit

<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/261504-nora-loves-rainbows>



Aegon Transamerica Foundation Supports Adaptive Riding at Miracles

Miracles in Motion received a very generous grant from the Aegon Transamerica Foundation to support our Adaptive Riding program, which focuses on building strength and confidence for riders with physical, cognitive, social or other developmental challenges. Aegon Transamerica Foundation supports nonprofits nationally, and in Eastern Iowa through a combination of financial grants and the volunteer commitment of Transamerica employees. Their goal is to make a meaningful difference by supporting individuals and families, and encouraging creativity, education, and opportunity. We are deeply grateful for their support in helping us to continue to make Miracles!





Thank You, Giving Tree Theater

Miracles thanks Giving Tree Theater and its patrons for your generosity and support of our mission! We are so grateful for this partnership.



Miracles in Motion's

HORSE OF THE YEAR

*Congrats
Brett!*



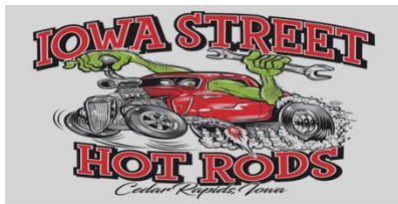
Brett is Your Horse of the Year!

Congrats to Brett and to all who voted for him. Thank you all for voting in this year's contest. With your support we raised over \$6,000 to help care for our herd! Until next year, Brett will be enjoying life as horse of the year! Make sure you give him an extra pat next time you see him!

Thank You, Iowa Street Hot Rods!

Miracles was presented with a generous donation from Terry Heldt, and Dan & Karen Knight from Iowa Street Hot Rods in Cedar Rapids!

We very much appreciate the help and support of businesses and organizations in our community that assist us in providing our programming, and in taking care of the herd and the farm!



Save the Date—Saturday December 13— for Holiday Cheer at Miracles!



myfsbonline.com | Member FDIC

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

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

maggiesfarmpizza.com/



Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center 2049 120th Street, NW Swisher, IA 52338
319-857-4141 (office) www.miraclesinmotion.com