



# Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

February 2026

## Thank You, Winter Chore Teams!

At Miracles, our horses receive remarkable care twice daily, 365 days per year, from dedicated groups of volunteers. These volunteers are doing an invaluable, sometimes challenging job, especially during the winter. Our herd is being cared for through the arctic blasts, whiteout conditions, ice, and so much more. Our chore volunteers bundle up and work as a team through it all, often before the sun rises and long after sunset. Watching their dedication, kindness, and love for our herd is truly inspiring. Thank you, chore teams, for all you do for our herd each season. Spring will be here soon!

—Megan Conrad, Volunteer Coordinator

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From The *Director's Desk*  
WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

### Aussie



In late January, we said goodbye to a dear friend, Aussie. He was a truly iconic horse, known for the unique mark on his barrel that resembled Australia and his branding from his first five years in the wild as part of the Nokota herd. After his time with the Nokota Horse Conservancy, Aussie trained as a police horse, later competed in dressage with a young girl and became her first love. Aussie's next adventure involved becoming a jumping partner for our former board president's daughter and supporting equine-assisted leadership programs for local high school sports and non-profit groups before finding his permanent home at Miracles In Motion, where he spent the last 12 years.

For anyone who has loved a horse, we celebrate the time we have together, though it always feels too short. Aussie was a true guardian—a friend and protector defined by heart, awareness, and connection. He always sensed when a storm was approaching and would lead the herd to safety. His soft, caring eyes brought a sense of calm to everyone he met, and he always knew when someone needed a “neck hug.”

Horses are meant to heal the soul, and Aussie did exactly that at Miracles. He gave our riders confidence and self-esteem, providing peace whether they were on his back or by his side. While grief shapes us, it never ends us. We take comfort in knowing that Aussie will always be a part of us. We are glad to know he is now restored to health and vigor, oh how he loved to run.

Aussie made a difference every day he was at Miracles In Motion. It is often said that if we listen, we can learn much from a horse; Aussie taught us to live each day to the fullest and to always bring friends along for the ride.

If you would like to donate to Aussie's memorial fund, you may designate your contribution toward horse care or a fund for new horses. To donate, please visit our website at the link below or mail a check to:  
2049 120th St NW, Swisher, IA 52338

<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/295362-in-memory-of-aussie>

# Help Us Make Miracles in 2026!

Join our volunteer team to make Miracles happen for our riders this year! This year, all new volunteers must attend an Orientation session prior to training. The orientation dates are as follows: February 21 & 28, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8. Training for side walkers will be on the Saturday after each orientation session. More information on training will be discussed in orientation. The time for orientation is 10 a.m.-noon.

Returning volunteers who participated in classes in 2025 must attend a Returning Volunteer Refresher on March 21 or 28 from 9-10:30 a.m.

Classes are starting soon, so please contact Megan at [volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermiraclesinmotion@gmail.com) or apply to volunteer today at <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1200170319> to get signed up for orientation and training!

## Class Schedule for Adaptive Riding and Adaptive Horsemanship

Here are the dates for our three class sessions in 2026. Information on applications will be coming soon!

### Spring

Monday April 6–June 1  
Wednesday April 8–May 27  
Saturday–April 11–May 30

### Summer

Monday June 15–August 3  
Wednesday June 17–August 5  
Saturday June 13–August 8

### Fall

Monday–August 24–October 19  
Wednesday–August 26–October 14  
Saturday–August 29–October 31

## “Allies in Healing: Advancing Animal-Assisted Therapies”

Katy Schroeder “is at the forefront of advancing animal-assisted therapy, shaping the next generation of counselors through research and mentoring,” according to a recent feature titled “Allies in Healing: Advancing Animal-Assisted Therapies” in the University of Iowa College of Education publication. Schroeder (shown here, at Miracles with therapy horse Memphis) is an associate professor in the College of Education's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program in the Department of Counselor Education. One of her projects is developing an equine-assisted program for veterans in partnership with Miracles in Motion.



For the entire article and photo gallery, follow this link <https://education.uiowa.edu/news/2025/09/allies-healing>.



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