



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

March 2026

Miracles Moment: Sydney Parker



My name is Sydney Parker, and I am currently a senior at Prairie High School. My journey to Miracles started with my Ag in Industry class. This is a capstone class for my Animal Science Pathway at Prairie High School. For my class, I had to complete a 90-hour internship at a business. I wasn't sure where to go at first. I knew I wanted to work with large animals. Then my Mom told me about Miracles in Motion. After looking it up online, I was inspired by their mission and wanted to intern there. My first day at Miracles was at the beginning of February. I was nervous because I didn't have any experience working around horses. But all of the volunteers are amazing and helped me by explaining how to do things the Miracles way. So far, I have completed 49 hours at Miracles in Motion.

Miracles in Motion has impacted me in many ways. I have learned something new almost every day I have spent at Miracles. From handling techniques to distributing hay, I have learned so much. I have built connections with the horses and the volunteers. The community at Miracles is truly wonderful. Through Miracles in Motion, I have learned that getting out of your comfort zone to try something new is beneficial. It is also impactful to be part of a mission to help others. I can't wait to see what I experience next at Miracles in Motion!

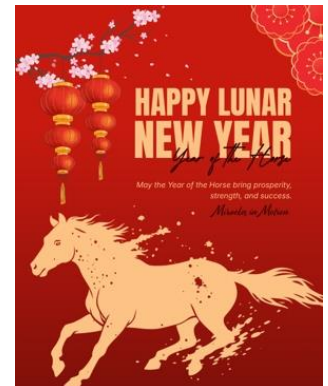
From The *Director's Desk*

WRITTEN BY DEB LEICHSENRING

The Year of the Fire Horse is a rare 60-year cycle that began

on February 17, 2026, and will conclude on February 20, 2027. This Zodiac year symbolizes strength, energy, and perseverance, characterized by confidence, responsibility, and intelligence. The Year of the Fire Horse brings fresh opportunities, personal growth, and a faster pace of life. While the fire element introduces intensity and passion, the horse promotes movement, motivation, and mental clarity. This year is not about running the fastest, but about running the longest; the horse does not fear slowness, only stillness.

This rare cycle encourages us to move forward with courage and drive, turning ideas into results through honest leadership and forward thinking. When I think of our herd, I see these characteristics—hardworking, helpful, and determined. This herd is at the heart of everything we do!



Help Us Make Miracles in 2026!

Join our volunteer team to make Miracles happen for our riders this year! This year, all new volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend an Orientation session prior to training. The orientation dates are as follows: 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 or apply to volunteer today at <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1200170319> to get signed up for orientation and training!



Thank you, Farmers State Bank!

We are so appreciative of our partnership with Farmers State Bank (FSB) and for their sponsorship of our website and newsletter again in 2026! Their sponsorship allows us to be able to share information with our Miracles community! As a locally owned community bank, FSB takes pride in giving back to the community in which they live and work. FSB supports a variety of local community enrichment programs, donor-dependent charitable organizations, and numerous informational and educational programs — donations totaling more than \$200,000 each year! In addition to their financial commitment, FSB employees volunteer more than 5,000 hours of their time each year in numerous ways to many organizations, with the purpose of improving the quality of life in our communities. FSB has offices in Marion, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Tiffin, and Alburnett. Miracles in Motion is pleased to be a part of Farmers State Bank’s tradition of community investment and improvement again this year.

“Making Miracles” for Years to Come

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Ray and Sheryl Zinkula, pictured here, for their incredible generosity and thoughtful commitment to leaving a legacy to Miracles in Motion. We are truly grateful for their support of our mission and programming.

As you look toward the future, what is your plan for leaving a legacy? Legacy giving can be integrated into your will or as a part of your formal estate planning. While these gifts are typically prepared by a financial planner, online options exist for creating simple, planned gifts. Planning your estate ensures that your contributions support the charitable organizations that mean the most to you.

One common form of legacy giving is a bequest, which allows you to designate a specific dollar amount to sustain your favorite organizations for years to come. These gifts can be established during your lifetime, allowing you to see your donation at work. Legacy gifts can take many forms, including monetary donations, stocks, mutual funds or property. Beyond reflecting your personal wishes, these gifts can also provide reduced estate taxes for your heirs.

When planning your estate, please consider leaving a part of your legacy to Miracles in Motion. Your sustained support helps us continue our programming and ensures we can keep “Making Miracles” for years to come.



Links

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Links, a majestic 16.2-hand registered Quarter Horse officially named Kufflinks. Before joining our program, Links had a successful career in dressage and jumping with his partner, Ainsley. When Ainsley left for college, she generously donated him to our center. Links leaves behind a trail of beautiful memories for the staff and volunteers who worked with him and the students who rode him in class. If you would like to donate to Links' memorial, you may designate your contribution toward horse care or funds for a new horse. To donate visit our website (<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/296080-in-memory-of-links>), or mail a check to: Miracles in Motion, 2049 120th Street, NW, Swisher, IA 52338



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Farmers State Bank is sponsoring the
Miracles in Motion website and newsletter for 2026.
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