



Miracles in Motion

THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

April 2026

Miracles Moment: Darla Meyer

My love for horses goes back to my childhood and was impressed upon me by my mom. After my parents moved from our farm, I always longed to be back around horses. In the spring of 2023, I volunteered for a clean-up day with my friend Sarah Barnett and her workplace. I loved helping to rejuvenate the beautiful grounds of Miracles and learning about its mission. I was hooked from that very day! I went home and immediately signed up for the next volunteer training and “officially” started volunteering in August 2023.



I started with side-walking, and over the years, I've been trained as a horse leader and a barn assistant as well. I also enjoy participating in groundwork on the “off-season” as it gives me a chance to really work one-on-one with horses and practice my own skills.

Miracles has given me more than I could have ever asked for. It gives me a space to decompress from the “day to day grind,” a place to reconnect with horses, wonderful kids to work with & watch grow, and especially a place to feel close to my mom, who passed in 2020. My love for horses and passion for Miracles continues to grow every single time I am there, and for that, I am extremely grateful. I will continue passing on the passion for Miracles and the love of horses through my kids and grandbabies, who love coming to Miracles for the annual Boo at the Barn. This past year, I was lucky enough to lead Max during the horse parade!

With the arrival of spring in Iowa, we are excited to announce that Spring Classes are officially starting! After the long winter, we are thrilled to welcome our participants back

to the arena. Our team has been working diligently during the off-season to prepare for a successful season. Our new and returning volunteers have completed orientation and training to ensure the safety of all riders. Similarly, our herd has received consistent attention through groundwork and exercise. We have also updated our policies, formulated new lesson plans, and refreshed the indoor arena. These preparations allow Miracles in Motion to continue bringing horses and people together, providing vital equestrian activities for individuals with disabilities or differing needs. This mission is only possible thanks to the dedicated support of our staff, volunteers, instructors, donors, and, most importantly, our herd.

Our Spring Session is completely full. We are currently filling the openings for Summer Session and will then work on the Fall Session. We look forward to seeing you soon.

From The *Director's Desk*
BY DEB LEICHSENRING



GreenState Foundation Supports Adaptive Riding

In early March Miracles in Motion was awarded a \$10,000 grant for our Adaptive Riding program by the GreenState Foundation. We are so deeply grateful for their support for our programming! From the bottom of our hearts and all of the hooves in the barn, thank you for helping us continue to make Miracles!

Horses for Mental Health Campaign: Join us May 30 to Raise Awareness

Many people are in need of mental health care, but organizations like Miracles in Motion often face limited funding and resources to meet that need while also maintaining our facilities and caring for our horses. We are proud to announce that Miracles in Motion is joining the global Horses for Mental Health campaign during Mental Health Awareness Month this May!



To celebrate, we are hosting a Gala on Saturday, May 30th from 3-5PM. Please note a limited number of tickets will be available for this event.

We cannot do it without you! By joining the movement for Mental Health Awareness, you help us continue our life-changing work. Your support truly makes a meaningful impact!

Thank you for helping us Make Miracles!

To donate directly to this campaign follow the link below or scan the QR code at right.

<https://horsesformentalhealth.org/campaigns/miracles-in-motion/>

Or you can mail a check to:

Miracles in Motion,
2049 120th St NW,
Swisher, IA 52338



Don Pecos



It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of Don Pecos, a beloved Morgan who would have turned 30 in April. From the moment he arrived at Miracles in Motion—originally trained by Michelle Blackler and generously donated to our program—Don Pecos was a truly exceptional horse, characterized by his intelligence, adaptability, and expressive eyes.

Don Pecos was deeply in tune with everyone around him, whether he was being groomed or carrying a rider. He was dedicated to helping both children and adults reach their full potential through our equine-assisted activities and therapies. As a vital part of every aspect of our program, he was an incredible teacher to us all. Horses are the heart of everything we do, and the partnership we share with them makes this loss particularly difficult for our volunteers, instructors, riders, and staff. While we mourn his absence, we take comfort in knowing that the impact of a horse loved so deeply remains a permanent part of our community. If you would like to donate to Don Pecos's memorial, you may designate your contribution toward horse care or funds for a new horse. To donate visit our website, use **this link**:

<https://miraclesinmotion.networkforgood.com/projects/265023-in-loving-memory-of-don-pecos>

or mail a check to: Miracles in Motion, 2049 120th St. NW Swisher, IA 52338

*Thank You
Miracles Makers!*

We look forward to celebrating our incredible volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 19th-25th! Get ready to enjoy goodies, giveaways, and more!

A special thank you to our sponsors!



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