



Premier sponsor for our 30<sup>th</sup> year

**SOUTH SLOPE**  
PHONE INTERNET TELEVISION

Jackie Wallace has been selected as a “9 Who Care” by KCRG.



It's no surprise to any of us at Miracles in Motion – she has volunteered since virtually the beginning of the organization in 1988! Her depth of knowledge of the mission and history of the organization makes her an “in-demand” speaker and her knowledge of everything horse-related makes her invaluable to what we do!

Jackie (left) and Karla Miller with the minis at the Swisher parade.

Here is something that Jackie wrote for the 1988 NARHA Region 7 Conference after 10 years of volunteering.

### **Can't Just Walk Away**

Almost everyone who has worked in a volunteer program has experienced the problem of volunteer turnover. Volunteers come and go for many reasons, some perfectly legitimate and understandable and others somewhat arbitrary or casual. For a volunteer in a therapeutic riding program, here is some food for thought.

In any volunteer program you will find that there are times when you wonder if you should quit. Maybe volunteering takes too much time; maybe the work is hard and it takes real physical or mental effort to accomplish it. Maybe they don't do things the way *you* want to or maybe you wonder if anyone cares if you are there or not.

One evening while I was waiting my turn to lead a horse to the mounting ramp I was thinking those thoughts. I am a strong believer in the value of therapeutic riding, but on the other hand, I could certainly use the extra time to do other things I enjoy. I definitely would not miss the stress of responsibility. Yes, I thought there were plenty of reasons I could justify leaving the program. Then I watched the next rider approach the ramp.

I watched how hard he worked to move one foot ahead of the other, to lift a leg up each step on the mounting ramp, to lift a foot and place it in the stirrup, and then to lift the other leg over the horse. How agonizingly slow it seemed as I waited in the center of the arena! I thought about how different my life would be if every move I made or every task I had to perform took a Herculean effort and total concentration. How much real leisure time would I have if it took that much time and strength to complete basic tasks? I remembered how Paul's mother had talked about his anger and frustration at being confined to a wheelchair. Suddenly it became very clear to me. Just *wanting* to put something behind you and move on isn't always easy or even possible. Paul couldn't just wake up one morning and say, “I'm tired of this wheelchair business and I won't do it anymore!” And just like Paul can't walk away, neither can I.

## It runs in the family – Jerry Mohwinkle

I semi-retired last January 2018 and was looking for a place to donate my time. I had a choice between Unbridled Spirits (Thoroughbred Retirement Ranch in Lisbon) and Miracles in Motion. I wanted to be around horses again and Miracles in Motion won me over because of the kids and families they serve.

Sharing my decision with my parents, my mother told me....that is where my Father's horse, Candy Bar, ended up. I never knew this. Go figure....things do come around full circle.

I was made aware of the importance of the therapy sessions on my first sidewalking assignment with a young girl who could not support herself in the saddle. In "full hold" when the horse was asked to walk-on, I felt the muscles in her legs and back move and flex involuntarily. Her therapist told me after the session that 30 minutes on horseback was more valuable exercise than the young girl could get in an hour in her office.

It has been a pleasure to work with these gentle giants and fulfilling to have the opportunity work with the precious cargo they carry.



Jerry was able to bring his father (92) out to visit Miracles and spend some time with Aspen, one of our wonderful therapy horses.

### A first-time Miracles volunteer, Sher Hawn, reflects on her experience

My first season, volunteering at Miracles In Motion, was amazing! As a side walker, I had the opportunity to interact with students. I saw students' faces light up when they communicated with their horse and show pride when they mastered a skill. I saw some students transition from being hesitant and withdrawn to confident and engaged during a single class. I had such a rewarding time with students, horses, staff and other volunteers in such a positive and fun atmosphere!

### Are you interested in volunteering at Miracles?

The first step is to fill out an application –[Follow this link](#) Or head to our website and click on "Volunteer Now" at the top of the page.



Thanks to Leash on Life for sponsoring our newsletter. You can visit them on their website at [www.leashonlife.net](http://www.leashonlife.net)

### Miracles is hiring!

Director of Operations – a full-time, salaried position

Volunteer Coordinator – a part-time, hourly position

For information on these jobs, follow this link: <https://www.miraclescanmoveyou.com/jobs-at-miracles-in-motion>

### YOU DID IT!!!

Thank you to all of our supporters who came through to help us end the year on a very positive note! We were hoping to take full advantage of the \$15,000 in match money available for our end-of-the-year campaign. With several checks coming in this week – we are now up to \$21,265! This will make such a difference to our programs in 2019! The match was increased to match all of the donations! Thank you to all that contributed and thank you to our match sponsors:

Mary & Jim Pratt to honor the memory of Ethan, Seth, Mira and Eleanor Sueppel

Lois James in memory of her horse, Sanchez

Thanks also to Nathan Douglas and his family for letting us share his story of how Miracles has made a difference in his life over the past 6 years.