



News from the Farm



Sure enough, in like a lion and we're feeling it. Our herd is hardy, thankfully, and all our horses are fine. And, the staff and volunteers have acclimated to this amazing weather, too. Snow, wind, sleet, record lows, hail, thunderstorms - we have it all. Has it stopped us? Well, not stopped, but it has slowed us down a little. The photo shows our full-size equine statue. Yes, you can only see his head.

The weather has not impeded planning and preparation: updating training manuals; conditioning horses; preparing tack; and learning more every day. Instructors are planning classes and getting their equipment ready (balloons, balls, cones, rings, horse identification cards and such). We'll be sprucing up the barn, arena, and Sensory Trail. The gardens will be readied and the grass mowed. Keep your eyes open on our Facebook and website for info on our Summer Fling!

Veteran and new volunteers will be attending training classes. Each year, new volunteers attend initial training courses and experienced volunteers go through a refresher course. The types of volunteers we use for classes include horse leaders, side walkers, barn assistants, and exercise and trail riders. The Horse Committee, comprised of experienced horse people, manages the herd and provides team leaders for classes.

Likewise, we want the public to know that we are accepting applications for students for Therapeutic Riding, Horse 101-104, and MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad). Very soon, spring will be in the air and we can't wait! Please go to our website: miraclescanmoveyou.com.

Karla Miller, Miracles Board, Horse Committee, Publicity and Mini Ambassador Program Coordinator

Jackie Wallace honored by KCRG as one of 9 Who Care

Our long-time volunteer, Jackie Wallace was honored at a banquet February 16th as of KCRG's 9 Who Care. She has volunteered at Miracles for 30 years! She was joined at the event by her husband (far right), sisters, son and daughter, Jamie Smith (right), who nominated her for the honor. She chose Miracles as the recipient of the \$500 donation from KCRG in her honor. We are so proud and grateful to Jackie for her "above and beyond" support of Miracles in Motion!



It's that time!

Training sessions have been set for April – please sign up for the session that will work for you!

We will be holding training for side-walkers, horse leads and barn assistants on three Saturday's in April – April 6th, 13th and 20th. You only need to attend one session.

We are asking that you sign up for the day that will work for you, as we will limit the training classes to 25. Training will start at 8:30 and run until a lunch break. The afternoon session will last until mid-afternoon. Sidewalkers will only need to be there for the morning session. Horse leads and barn assistants will need to be there for both sessions. Email loisjames@gmail.com to sign up.

BOTH NEW AND RETURNING VOLUNTEERS NEED TO GO THROUGH TRAINING IF INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH THE HORSES.

There will be a separate orientation for those interested in working on special events, property, administration and other tasks around the Miracles farm.

Nikole Tutton, Parent Representative on the board shares “her story”

My name is Nikole Tutton and I am one of the newest members of the board of directors. I represent the parents and caregivers at Miracles in Motion to help ensure the needs of the students are met and the lines of communication between the board and families are open and collaborative. I live with my husband, James, in a converted storefront in Mechanicsville that we are slowly refurbishing.

We have two sons: Zack who is neurotypical and Pattison who is on the Autism Spectrum. I became familiar with Miracles in Motion while attending a two-day educational conference for autism and trauma caregivers. Mary Chadwick, a Miracles board member, was so excited about the upcoming Spring Fling, and through my research I learned that hippotherapy was an excellent way to reach

As I write this, Pattison is refusing to brush his teeth. Why? Because the LED lightbulb in my son's bathroom flickered earlier because of the cold weather as it was warming up, and it was a bit dimmer for just a few seconds. It was unexpected so he is refusing to go in. He declares the room unsafe to enter and a non-starter for the purposes of his personal hygiene. “It is blinking. That could be a sign of a short circuit in the electrical system. A fire could result.”

If we explain the physics of the LED and the effects the cold weather, we might appeal to his intellect and that will overcome his anxiety, maybe. Or maybe he is just being a lazy 10-year-old not wanting to brush his teeth and stalling before bed. There is always that possibility too. Eventually, he will be cajoled into entering the bathroom and either grabbing his toothbrush and using another sink or just going through with it, but it will take some convincing.

On the bright side, he knows how to use all six remotes on the coffee table, can navigate the server for the Netflix, Roku, and Amazon movie conglomeration that is our entertainment “hub”. I just tell him DVD, hard drive, Roku, or streaming – and he gets me where I need to be. I, quite honestly, am lost.

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Our thanks to Nikole for sharing her "Miracles' experience". If you would like to reach out to her you can email her at parentrep@miraclesinmotion.net. If you would like to share your Miracles' story - email to miraclesinmotion@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Thank you to all our loyal supporters! The listing of 2018 donors is now on the website. Every effort has been made to accurately reflect our multiple donors. If you find an error, please let us know at miraclesinmotion@gmail.com so we can correct our records. Head to our website: www.miraclescanmoveyou.com

