

WindWalkers

Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Center

**2022
ANNUAL
REPORT**

IMPROVING LIVES
THROUGH UNMATCHED
EQUINE ASSISTED
SERVICES





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WindWalkers is where horses and caring professionals help individuals (and families) with challenges to grow and thrive- from Aspen to Parachute.



A Personal Note from our Executive Director:

"I love this place; it has changed me and thousands of people's lives. I get up every morning thinking that I'm not lucky, I'm blessed. I see the change and the happiness it brings to our participants every day. And I mean every day. Our small staff sacrifices weekends to make the programs work year-round. The first thing you will hear from both our 2 and 4-legged healers, counselors, therapists, and instructors at WindWalkers is 'I see you and accept you. Yes, you!' Because we promise to meet the participants 'where they are'. Our clients are at the Heart of every decision we make. We promise to always strive to exceed expectations and remain committed to the highest quality of equine-assisted activities and therapies that offer unmatched results.



WindWalkers has become a place where people can find their strength, find what's good about themselves, rather than just focusing on the negatives and their struggles. It's best summed up as a Magical Place- A Safe Place to practice being your authentic self. "

GABRIELLE GREEVES

Testimonials



WindWalkers' unwavering commitment to the well-being and development of its students, families, and communities is evident in every interaction we have had with your organization. The therapeutic riding sessions at WindWalkers have been instrumental in helping our students discover their hidden potential and overcome personal challenges. The patience, expertise, and genuine care demonstrated by your staff and volunteers have fostered an environment of trust, enabling our students to develop both physically and emotionally. The bond they have formed with the horses and the friendships they have built with the volunteers have enriched their lives in ways that words fail to fully capture.

-Sierra Aldrich, Rebound Dean Yampah Valley High School



"BEST DAY EVER!" shouts a class of 8 latino and multiracial boys from RiverView School in the social/emotional 3rd Grade class.

This organization represents family. It is an inclusive, positive setting where children and adults can thrive and feel successful in a safe and loving learning environment.

As a professional who works within the school system advocating for families, I look to WindWalkers to improve and change the trajectory of a family's life. They are my first thought for equine therapy. They are my first thoughts for an alternative way for a student to learn. I have been sending students to WindWalkers as early as two years old for Early Intervention. This is because WindWalkers benefits continuing learners within their Reading and Riding camp and as an alternative to physical, occupational, behavioral, and speech therapy to build strength, balance, regulation, and confidence.

-The Casper Family
Renee, Chris, Talia, and Ruby.





WHO WE ARE WHAT WE BELIEVE

Dear Friends,

We are all living in stressful and difficult times, and our [dis]abilities communities face even greater challenges during such times. To respond to the heightened needs of our communities, WindWalkers has stepped up our commitment to help. Our programs have grown 27% this past year and our strategic plan calls for significant growth to support our vulnerable community members. Your support fuels this growth and allows us to make a difference in the lives of every person we serve.

This annual report details the difference we are making. As WindWalkers' Board Chair and Co-Directors, it is our responsibility to oversee our Board and Staff team in building our capacity and sustaining our growth. But, we don't do this alone.

In 2022, WinWalkers stepped up our events to raise awareness and funds for our programs. This year we had 3 wonderful events from our Derby Party to our Annual Gala dubbed Wranglers and Rhinestones. You can certainly experience the smiles of our students showing off their horsemanship skills at our annual horse show or listen to one of country music's finest new singer-songwriters while sipping on signature cocktails like a Canter-tini.

With that said, we also expanded our reach through a few unique programs.

Unfortunately, we also had some heartbreaking losses to our magical herd. And, like many businesses in the equine-assisted services industry, there was a horse shortage. So, yes, the year was tempered with difficulties, too!

But, friends, donors, sponsors, and volunteers-like you- continued to help us stride forward to make a difference.

Thanks to you, WindWalkers has had a successful year providing life-changing support to our clients facing challenges in our communities. Your generous support fueled our program growth even in the face of such difficulties. We therefore smiled and galloped on.

Thank you, from our hearts and from the warm breath of our horses

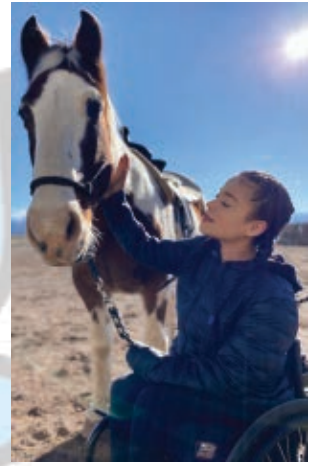
Gabrielle Greeves.
Executive Director

Beth Jusick.
Program Director

Deb Morrison
Board President

METRICS & CLIENT STATS

63 Types of Diagnoses:
Autism MS
KIF1A PTSD
ADHD Anxiety
Spina bifida
Cerebral Palsy
Downs Syndrome
Williams Syndrome
Muscular Dystrophy
Angelman's Syndrome
IDD and more...



82%
showed improvement
in physical goals and
decreased spactisity

19%
increase in
mental health &
social/emotional clients



98%
reported
personal growth

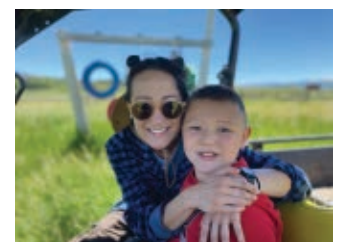
89¢
89¢
of every dollar
spent on programs



71%
showed improvement
in cognitive goals

770 Unduplicated participants
in our programs

27%
increase in program
participation



91%
showed improvement in
social/emotional goals



WINDWALKERS PARTNERED WITH
53+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WE SERVED PARTICIPANTS FROM
3 COUNTIES

18,000

Service hours
“butts in the
saddle and
boots on the
ground”

100%

Individuals were
satisfied with
their experience
and would
recommend us
to a friend

\$45 vs \$175

Average cost vs actual cost
of a riding lesson

16,000
volunteer hours

\$400,000
value of volunteer hours

\$65,000

Scholarships given per year
to over 89% of our clients

97%
of participants
have seen
an increase
in mobility,
self-esteem
and confidence
in less than
4 sessions

24 
Horses carry
the program

4,200
Bales of hay
consumed

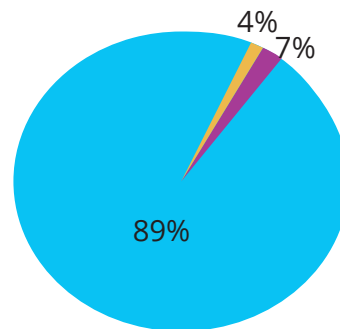
By the Numbers

WindWalkers Income Sources

Individual Contributions	\$241,417.40
Government Contracts and Grants	\$230,965.00
Fees/Earned Income	\$166,256.97
Special Events	\$100,216.34
In-kind	\$16,405.89

Expenses

- 🎯 Program Expenses 89%
- 🎯 Admin & General Expenses 7%
- 🎯 Fundraising Expenses 4%



Total Assets \$2,088,357.73

Total Liabilities \$903,496.48

Total Net Assets \$1,184,861.25

Our Services

At WindWalkers, we offer several types of services:

Therapeutic Riding: Serving 130 clients weekly in private and semi private therapeutic equine riding sessions. Sessions provide social, educational and adaptive sport opportunities that are uniquely designed by the PATH certified instructors for each client.

EAGALA/ EAP / EAL: Offered by licensed psychotherapist / mental health professionals and an equine specialist designed to help individuals, families and groups suffering from a diverse range of trauma.

Special Group Sessions: Varies from group to group – Some use the time to enjoy riding together while others use it as a critical component of a holistic treatment program to overcome addictions, trauma, and behavioral challenges.

All Inclusive/All Abilities Summer Camps: Camp encompasses various activities which include ranch chores, horse knowledge, arts and crafts, horse grooming, tacking and riding. Those with diagnoses ride with their peers. Camp is available for ages 4-5, 6-11 and 12-15.

Newly designed " Reading and Riding" is a 5 week intensive for those challenged readers -and dyslexics- from 7-11 years old.

Silver Saddles: Focus is on early onset dementia, Alzheimer, Parkinsons, MS and for the Senior Rider who wants to simply get back in the saddle.

Veteran Services: WindWalkers invites active duty, retired and veterans to participate in adaptive riding, wellness and equine therapy camps.

Educational (Social/Emotional): supports children in learning appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication, receiving and understanding positive feedback, reciprocity in positive relationships - especially with the horse - and assertiveness, impulse control problem solving, social skills...and more!



"I don't pretend to understand the magic behind the programs, or why they work - all we care about is -

IT DOES WORK!"

-Anne Merz

MS client/Board Member

Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of WindWalkers. Without their dedication and hard work, our barn doors would not be open 6 days a week. WindWalkers offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Some do require horse experience, but many do not. Our volunteers come from many different backgrounds and walks of life. They lend their experience and knowledge in different areas of our business while enjoying their time supporting members of their community.



150

Number of volunteers

\$400,000

Value of contributed hours

Volunteer work groups: Kiwanis Club of Glenwood Springs, Key Club, Jaywalkers, Aspen Skiing Company, local Rotary Clubs, H.S. Honor Society, Ritz Carlton Club, CRMS, Stepping Stones, Hagist Excavation, Aspen Tree Service, Aspen Rent All, Haul It All, local ranchers and businesses.

5th Annual Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 7th



130 guests joined us for the best 2 minutes in sports. We watched the race. We enjoyed a southern family style dinner. As always we were amazed by the enthusiasm and stylish hats. Thank you to Rumble Ridge for hosting and our local Roaring Fork Horse Council for partnering with us. We also thank Premier Party Rental, Woody Creek Distillers, Aspen Sojourner Magazine and all of our supporters for coming out that day.

9th Annual Benefit Horse Show Saturday & Sunday, June 24th & 25th



Over 75 entries, 69 classes and 200 spectators make this 2 day event a must see. Both CWHJA members and our special athletes compete side-by-side. As we know there are too many businesses and local individuals to thank herein. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our host Bridget and Kit Strang of Strang Ranch for always helping us pull this off.

2022 Events

2nd Annual Wranglers & Rhinestones Saturday, August 6th

Thank You to our host Jim Colombo and our sponsors- Slifer, Smith and Frampton (Krista Klees), Kemo Sabe, Bethel Party Rental, 4 Corners Fencing, ANB Bank and Bank of Colorado



190 guests enjoyed signature cocktails by Woody Creek Distillers plus western-style foods by Cache Cache, Home Team, Brick Pony and Smoke. And, two Aspen Beer Burrows. Then unique music performances by Danielle Coulter accompanied by music therapist, Mack Bailey. We promise, there wasn't a dry eye in the house ... followed by Jackson Emmer's and the Swing State Ramblers.

Thank You Donors

Thank you to all of our donors! Your support allows us to “keep butts in the saddle, feedbags full and boots on the ground!”

We would like to recognize the following donors who gave \$5,000 or more in 2022.

Alpine Bank
Anschutz Family Foundation
A.V. Hunter Trust
Boxwood Ventures Inc
The Bruning Foundation.
Camp Chip A Tooth
City of Aspen
City of Glenwood Springs
Jim Colombo
Ted Edmonds
El Pomar’s Sally Beck Fund
Fidelity Charitable - Donor Advised Fund
Susie & Steve Frasier
Garfield County - BOCC Grants
Glenwood Springs Ford
Jackie & Jerry Kehle
Kemo Sabe
KNU for Kids Foundation
Krista KleesMary J.
Demmon Private Foundation
John and Jessica McNally
Michael Silverman
Mid-Shore Community Foundation
Gregory Norton
Pitkin County BOCC
Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
Katherine and Pete Rich
Rocky Mountain Health
Slifer Smith and Frampton
Colin Trueman

IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Alpine Equine Hospital P.C.
Aspen Rent All
Cool Bricks Studio
Copy Copy
El Jebeverage
Maggard & Hood, P.C.
Pitkin County Solid Waste Center
Premier Party Rental
RJ Paddywacks
Roaring Fork Co-Op
Smoke Modern BBQ
Starbucks
Tractor Supply
Whole Foods
Woody Creek Distillers
and all our auction donors!

Thank You

On behalf of the WindWalkers family

We truly wouldn't have the success we do without all of you! Thank you for your countless hours of commitment to our programs and to helping individuals in the Roaring Fork Valley to grow and thrive!

Board of Directors

Deborah Morrison
President
Founder Camp Chip A Tooth

Martha O'Keefe
Treasurer
Snowmass Rotary Member
Controller, G.F. Woods Construction

Dr. Jay Merriam
Member & Chair
Retired Vet

Anne Merz
Member
Rider with MS

Debbi Whitlock
Member
Bookkeeper, Reese Henry

Ken Robinson
Member
Glenwood Rotary Member
Retired Small Business owner

John Vierthaler
Member
Attorney

Staff



Gabrielle Greeves
Executive Director
Chief Unicorn



Beth Gusick
Program Director/
Advanced PATH Int.
Certified Instructor
Butterfly Chaser



Shannon Weeks
Creative Designer



Sarah English
Advanced PATH Int.
Certified Instructor



Amy Fulstone
Volunteer Coordinator



Kristen Wolff
PATH Int.
Certified Instructor



Abby Easterling
CTRI in training
Ranch hand/Mentor



Lily Easterling
Ranch hand/Mentor



Melissa Taylor
Adolescent lead guide
Orton Gillingham Tutor



Holly Gressett
Office Manager



Julie Lang
Wilson Reading
Instructor



Alisha Evelyn
PATH Int.
Certified Instructor

Here to Help

Call the Office at (970) 963-2909

- Get Knowledgeable advice on services
- Get answers to your tough questions
- Request forms and build a lesson plan
- Volunteer, Sponsor a Horse or Rider!

