



Wind Walkers

EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING & THERAPY CENTER

IMPROVING LIVES
THROUGH
UNMATCHED
EQUINE ASSISTED
SERVICES

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

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WindWalkers is a magical place where horses and caring professionals offer a variety of equine-assisted therapies to aid in the development and growth of those with challenges, be they physical, neurological, emotional, behavioral, or psychological. Our services impact not only people living with challenges, but our community as a whole.

A Personal Note

FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The magic of WindWalkers is that it is truly a place of transformations ~ Daily we see so many positive changes and joy for our riders, their families and our volunteers! Many thanks to our dedicated team, who works tirelessly to ensure that our programs run smoothly year-round.



When you step on to the ranch, you can instantly feel acceptance from the two legged to the amazing four legged team members.

At WindWalkers we believe in meeting each participant exactly where they are with compassion and understanding. Our clients are always at the heart of every decision. We believe in offering the highest quality of equine assistant activities and therapies that can then lead to extraordinary results..

WindWalkers is more than just a center —it's a place where people discover their strength... where everyone can be their true, authentic selves.

And I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this magical community!

~ Beth Gusick

TESTIMONIALS



"Watching Arlette grow as a rider at WindWalkers has been a remarkable journey. Her dedication, courage, and ever-growing skills have transformed her story and inspired everyone around her. Her progress is a testament to the power of determination and the magic of equine partnerships."

-Natasha Gitlitz

Our daughter, Ann, was diagnosed at age 7 with generalized anxiety disorder, and at age 11 was reassessed with a diagnosis of high functioning autism. At age 13, she began having seizures and we soon learned she had a very rare genetic mutation that was the root cause of both the autism and the epileptic seizures.

Ann, now 15 years old, has been going to WindWalkers for equine assisted learning, summer camps, and most recently for therapeutic riding sessions since she was 8 years old. We were attracted to WindWalkers from the beginning as a way to fuse Ann's innate love for horses and all animals with our exhaustive search for the most effective therapeutic support.

With years of trials and error, going from one therapist, social worker and counselor to another with little to no positive outcome, we are certain that Ann's experiences at WindWalkers have had the most lasting and profound impact on her emotional well-being. The cumulative positive effect she has received from all of the years at WindWalkers is immeasurable.

WindWalkers is a beautiful facility with a large family of gentle, soulful horses guided by PATH Certified instructors, bringing joy to children and adults alike who come for this special form of therapy. The ability to keep this huge operation running from day to day never ceases to amaze me.

Because of its magical healing atmosphere and ethos, WindWalkers attracts a remarkable army of volunteers. But they cannot run on volunteers and magic alone. This is why we are taking the time to share our experiences as beneficiaries of this outstanding facility. Please consider supporting WindWalkers at the highest level so they can continue to serve those, like Ann, who greatly benefit from their amazing work.

-Sue Shufro & Bob Perlmutter



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Dear Friends,

In 2023, we reflect on the challenges we've faced in recent years—challenges that have tested our resilience, but also shaped our determination to move forward with renewed hope. For our communities living with [dis]abilities, the path has often felt uncertain and filled with hardship. Yet, despite these obstacles, we've emerged with a stronger sense of purpose and a clearer vision for the future.

At WindWalkers, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to providing vital support to those who need it most. This year, we're proud to share that our programs have grown by 27%, and our strategic plan is focused on expanding our reach and capacity to serve even more individuals in need. As we look toward the future, we do so with optimism, knowing that the best is yet to come.

This annual report highlights the impact we've made together. As WindWalkers' Board Chair and Co-Directors, it's our responsibility to guide the vision and growth of our organization alongside our dedicated Board and Staff. But the truth is, we cannot do this work without you—our incredible friends, donors, sponsors, and volunteers.

In 2023, WindWalkers continued to evolve and raise awareness through three exciting fundraising events. We had our annual Kentucky Derby Party and benefitted from this year's Cowboy Up, where we celebrated community, connection, and joy.

But we didn't stop there. We also launched a number of new and unique programs to expand our reach and provide even more support to our clients. Of course, no year is without its challenges, and we faced some heartbreaking losses within our magical herd. Like many others in the equine-assisted services field, we also dealt with a shortage of horses. Despite these obstacles, we remained resolute in our mission, knowing that the work we do has a lasting impact.

Thanks to you, WindWalkers has experienced another year of growth, resilience, and success. Your generous contributions have helped us continue our life-changing programs, even when faced with adversity. Together, we've made a difference in the lives of countless individuals who face significant challenges every day.

From the bottom of our hearts, and from the warm breath of our horses, thank you for your ongoing support. We are so grateful to have you by our side as we gallop toward another year of service and hope.

Warm Regards,



Gabrielle Greeves
Executive Director



Beth Gusick
Program Director



Deb Morrison
Board President

METRICS & CLIENT STATS

770

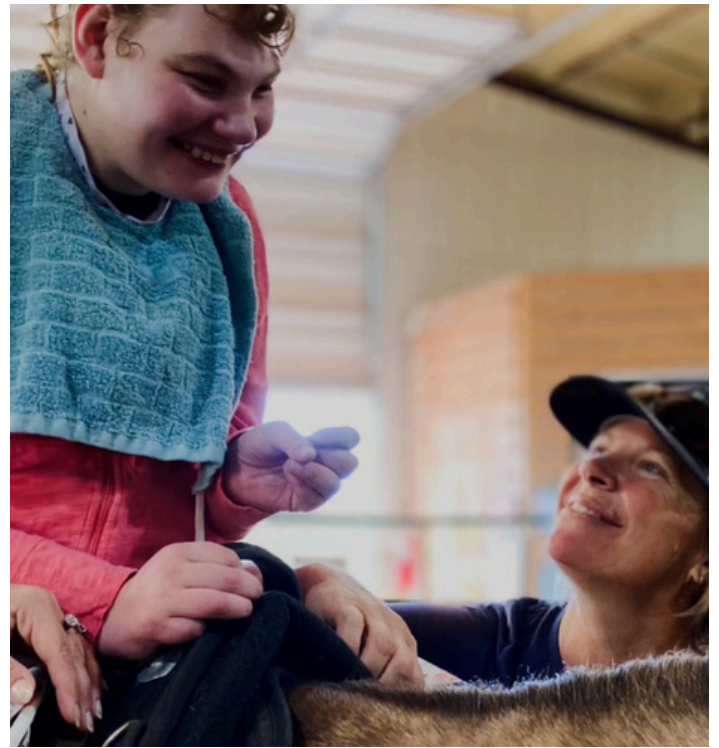
Participants in Our Programs

19%

Increase in
Mental Health &
Social/Emotional
Clients

27%

Increase in Program
Participation



63

Types of Diagnoses:

Autism | MS

KIFIA | PTSD

ADHD | Anxiety

Spinabifida

Cerebral Palsy

Down Syndrome

Williams Syndrome

Muscular Dystrophy

Angelman Syndrome

IDD and more...



82%

Showed Improvement
in Physical Goals &
Decreased Spasticity

98%

Reported Personal
Growth

71%

Showed Improvement
in Cognitive Goals

91%

Showed Improvement
in Social/Emotional
Goals

89¢

Of Every Dollar
Spent on Programs



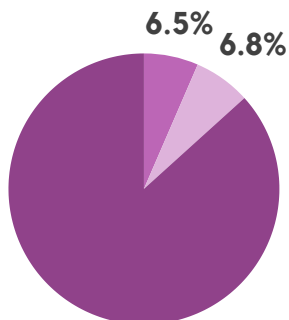


BY THE NUMBERS

Individual Contributions	\$521,971
Government Contracts & Grants	\$200,500
Fees/Earned Income	\$143,704
Special Events	\$79,304
In-Kind	\$38,000
Investments	\$5,723

EXPENSES

- PROGRAM EXPENSES 86.7%
- ADMIN & GENERAL EXPENSES 6.8%
- FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 6.5%



TOTAL ASSETS \$2,169,241
TOTAL LIABILITIES \$897,063
TOTAL NET ASSETS \$1,272,178

WINDWALKERS PARTNERED WITH
53+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WE SERVED PARTICIPANTS FROM
3 COUNTIES



18,000
 SERVICE HOURS

100%
 INDIVIDUALS
 WERE SATISFIED
 WITH THEIR
 EXPERIENCE AND
 WOULD
 RECOMMEND US
 TO A FRIEND

"BUTTS IN
 THE SADDLE
 & BOOTS
 ON THE
 GROUND"

\$45 vs \$175
 AVERAGE COST VS ACTUAL COST
 OF A RIDING LESSON

16,400+
 VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$403,000

VALUE OF
 HOURS



\$65,000

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN PER YEAR
 TO OVER **89%** OF OUR CLIENTS

97%

REPORTED
 INCREASED
 MOBILITY

24 HORSES
4 GOATS
2 CATS
& MANY DOGS

OUR SERVICES

Therapeutic Riding: Serving 150 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 & Pony Pals 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.

"Wild West Wednesdays"

After School Program for kids ages 8-11 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!





VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers at WindWalkers not only help deliver services to extraordinary riders, but also in schooling horses, maintaining the facility, taking on office tasks, and assisting with special events and fundraisers. Our volunteers are at the heart of our programs. Anyone ages 12 to 82 can apply to volunteer. Our volunteers run the gamut from retirees to students, as long as they are here to make a difference.

WindWalkers provide all the training needed to be part of our volunteer community inside and outside of the arena. We also extend opportunities to our volunteers to learn about the extraordinary individual participants, develop or hone horse handling skills and experience the power of the human-animal bond while increasing physical fitness and enjoying the social benefits of volunteering at the ranch.

250

VOLUNTEERS



16,400

VOLUNTEER HOURS

EVENTS

6TH ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

We had an incredible turnout of 130 guests for the best two minutes in sports! We cheered on the race, enjoyed a delicious southern family-style dinner, and were dazzled by the enthusiasm and stylish hats all around. A huge thank you to Springs Creek Ranch for hosting this fantastic event. We also appreciate Premier Party Rental, Woody Creek Distillers, Aspen Sojourner Magazine, and all our supporters for making the day so special!



10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT HORSE SHOW

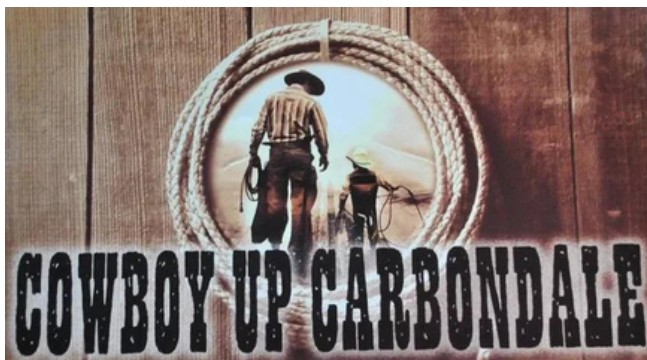
With over 75 entries, 69 classes, and 200 spectators, this two-day event is a must-see! Both CWHJA members and our special athletes compete side-by-side, showcasing their incredible talents. We can't thank all the local businesses and individuals enough, but we'd especially like to express our gratitude to our hosts, Bridget and Kit Strang of Strang Ranch, for their unwavering support in making this event a success.



COWBOY UP BENEFICIARY

Held in place of our annual Wranglers & Rhinestone event. This year, WindWalkers was the beneficiary of Cowboy Up Carbondale, a local fundraiser and celebration of western heritage.

Thank You Cowboy Up!



THANK YOU DONORS

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING
DONORS WHO GIFTED US \$5,000 OR MORE IN 2023

All Valley Storage
Alpine Bank
Anschutz Family Foundation
Aspen Community Foundation
A.V. Hunter Trust
Boxwood Ventures Inc
The Bruning Foundation
Camp Chip A Tooth
Casey Concrete
City of Aspen
City of Glenwood Springs
El Pomar's Sally Beck Fund
Fidelity Charitable - Donor
Advised Fund
Susie & Steve Frasier
Garfield County - BOCC Grants
Glenwood Springs Ford

Jackie & Jerry Kehle
KNU for Kids Foundation
Krista Klees
Mary 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 Haul It All
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!



"Help us keep
butts in the saddle,
boots on the ground
& feedbags full!"

WINDWALKERS STAFF



Gabielle Greeves
Executive Director



Beth Gusick
Program Director



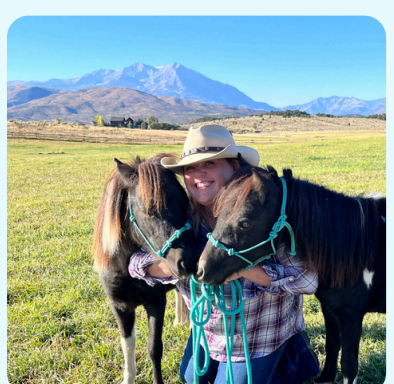
Sarah English
Head of Schooling Team



Melissa Taylor
School Liaison



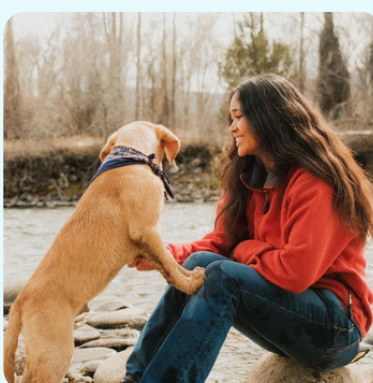
Abby Easterling
CTRI In Training
& Youth Mentor



Kristin Connor
Volunteer Coordinator



Lilly Easterling
Ranch Assistant



Katie B
Ranch Assistant

Thank You

to our dedicated staff for working countless hours to help individuals in our community grow & thrive!



Here to Help

Call the Office at (970) 963-2909 or
Email us at info@windwalkers.org

- Receive expert advice on our services and programs
- Get clear answers to your questions and concerns
- Request forms and collaborate with us to create a personalized lesson plan
- Explore meaningful ways to get involved: volunteer, sponsor a horse, or support a rider!