

---



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

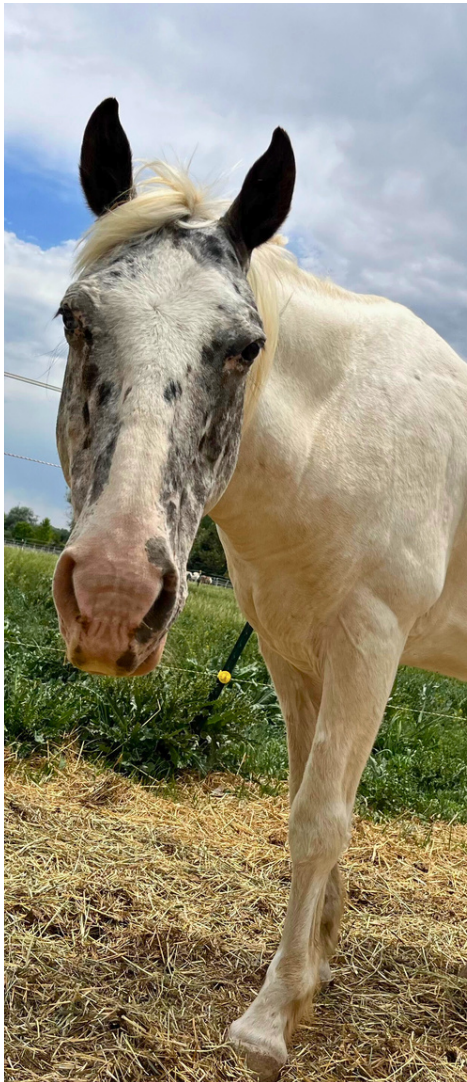


**OUR MISSION:** HORSES HELPING HUMANS

Healing Through the Empathic Power of the Horse



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Mission & Vision         | 2  |
| Letter from Mike         | 3  |
| Our Team                 | 4  |
| Highlights of the Year   | 5  |
| Who We Are               | 6  |
| Signature Programs       | 7  |
| Community Impact         | 8  |
| Youth Program Statistics | 9  |
| Adult Program Statistics | 10 |
| Volunteer Hours          | 11 |
| Community Partners       | 12 |
| Financial Summary        | 13 |
| Join our Community       | 14 |

# OUR VISION

## A more connected, healthy and compassionate community

With the aid of our herd of therapy horses, we offer groups for veterans & active duty service members, people in recovery from substance abuse, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, individuals impacted by cancer, trauma & abuse survivors, underserved/marginalized youth, and more.

# OUR VALUES

## TO HEAL THROUGH CONNECTION

We believe that healing happens through relationship, and relationship begins with connection — to ourselves, our surroundings and others. The horses offer us a safe, forgiving, and non-judgmental place to experience the healing connection of relationships.

## TO TRANSFORM

We believe that horses hold an ability to transform human lives for the better. When we listen, horses teach us to ground, to be present, and to connect. Working with our horses and therapists can lead to great personal insight and understanding.

## TO RESPECT AND HONOR THE HORSE

We respect and honor the wisdom of the horse. We demonstrate this by making session interactions voluntary for our horses, and listening to and responding to their individual needs and requests.

## TO SERVE

We serve diverse populations respecting the dignity and value of each individual.



## GREETINGS MEDICINE HORSE COMMUNITY,

This past year marked our second full year here at Papillon Ranch. The work put in by the entire Medicine Horse community really reflects the pride we all have in the organization and our mission here. We're lucky to have a supportive landlord who has willingly gone along with some of the upgrades and modifications to the property that have made it such an outstanding place for healing. Stay tuned for more exciting improvements we hope to roll out in the coming year.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the efforts of many people and animals. Volunteers, staff, therapists, board members, and our animal therapists have all contributed countless hours to make Medicine Horse a success. I also want to say thanks to our boarders for trusting us with their horses, as our work wouldn't be possible without a great herd. I've been fortunate to have helped out in quite a few groups over the years and I've seen each and every one of the horses make deep, lasting connections with our participants.

One of the biggest contributors to the success of any organization is in having a dedicated team. We are fortunate at Medicine Horse to have staff and therapists who have been with Medicine Horse for multiple years. This continuity has allowed us to develop long term relationships with our clients, partner agencies and supporters. Working beside this group is a pleasure each and every day!

One of our biggest successes this past year was our Gala at The Ranch, held in early September. It was so great being able to hold the event here at the ranch. The team did an outstanding job of putting on this event, and it was not only a big financial success, but also a really fun time. If you were unable to attend last year, don't worry you'll have another chance this coming September. Details will be announced soon but I can assure you we are hard at work planning an even bigger event!

In the late fall we had a transition of leadership as Corey Hollister stepped down as the Executive Director and I stepped in to fill the role. I started volunteering with Medicine Horse in early 2018 and have handled a lot of tasks, from fixing fences, to serving as board treasurer, to helping as a horse handler. I've been lucky enough to see close-up the important work we do and am hoping to build on that in the coming year.

Looking ahead to 2025 we are excited about some new partnerships with other non-profits as well as some new business opportunities. One new partnership that provides a good template for us going forward is with HopeKids. We were introduced to HopeKids through one of our very good supporters and are now planning several groups with them to help serve the families of children with life threatening illness. Another initiative we hope to complete by early summer is in getting Medicine Horse approved to accept Medicaid. We believe that this will be a big help in furthering the sustainability of the organization.

Finally, while the economic and political environment remains uncertain, we feel confident in our ability to secure the funding needed to expand our reach and to continue serving those who need our help the most.

**Mike Franklin**

Board Chair/Executive Director



# OUR TEAM



## **Board President & Interim Executive Director (Q4)**

Mike Franklin

## **Executive Director Q1 - Q4**

Corey Hollister

## **Development Director**

Ania Wells

## **Programs Manager**

Anna Birman

## **Operations Manager**

Dana Schultz, AASW, LCSW, AASW

## **Barn Manager / Clinical Supervisor**

Carina Kellenberger, LCSW, MSW, AASW

## **Clinical Task Supervisor / Therapist**

Casey Jorden, LCSW, MSW

## **Therapist**

Michael Mahoney, LPCC

## **Therapy Interns/Practicum Students**

Avery Hynes  
Keegan Meadows  
Nicole Murray  
Summer Hagan  
Nicholas Schneider  
Judson Frost  
Caroline Grinnell

## **Board Members**

### **Board President**

Mike Franklin

### **Board Treasurer**

Nancy Hoopes

### **Board Vice Chair**

Julie Lobdell

### **Board Secretary & DEI Education Director**

Clara Smith, PhD.

### **Members at Large**

Natalie Longhini  
Nate Parks  
Nancy Hart  
Monique Price (Q1-Q3)  
Justin Brandenburg (Q1-Q2)  
Sorin Thomas (Q1)  
Trudi Howley (Q1-Q3)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

2024 was a year of remarkable growth and connection for Medicine Horse, filled with events that brought together our community in powerful and meaningful ways. From the whimsical magic of our Unicorn Festival to the heartfelt connections made at our Gala at the Ranch, we celebrated moments of joy and healing that highlight the impact of our work.

For the first time, our community and supporters gathered at our ranch for our Gala, an unforgettable evening filled with generosity and connection. With 180 attendees, the event was a powerful demonstration of shared commitment to building a stronger, healthier community for everyone.

Our participation in seven tabling events, including four Pride events and three community celebrations, allowed us to spread awareness and build new relationships. The Fall Festival brought a sense of fun and togetherness, uniting families and individuals for a day of seasonal celebration. Additionally, our Meditation with Horses events provided participants with the opportunity to pause, reflect, and connect with the horses in a calm and peaceful setting.

Each of these events was a testament to the power of horses, nature, and community to heal, inspire, and transform lives.



# WHO WE ARE

Medicine Horse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering emotional well-being and personal growth through the transformative bond between humans and animals.

## WHAT WE DO

At Medicine Horse, we provide a wide range of therapeutic and educational programs designed to support mental health, resilience, and self-discovery. Our work is grounded in Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) and Learning (EFL), utilizing the natural intuition of animals to foster connection, mindfulness, and emotional regulation.

We believe in the power of choice, inclusion, and community. Every session is designed with our core value, Challenge by Choice, encouraging participants to engage at their comfort level while benefiting from the support of our professional staff and the animals.

Through the generosity of our supporters and community partners, we continue to expand access to programs and scholarships, ensuring that no one is left behind on their journey toward healing and connection.

- **Signature Programs**
- **Partner Programs**
- **Individual, Family or Couples Therapy**
- **Corporate Programs**
- **Staff Wellness Days**
- **Meditation with Horses**



# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



“

2024 Group Participant

"The staff was so great, loved them! Being part of this program while going through my cancer journey was such a blessing! Coming every week was the highlight of my week and gave me something to look forward to go and be part of a group that understands what I'm dealing with! Being with the animals and spending time with them and learning how best to be and deal with horses was the best & I learned a lot!"

”

**60**  
Hours

## Rainbow Wranglers

This group creates an inclusive space for LGBTQ+ individuals of all ages to connect, grow, and feel supported. This year, we hosted three teen groups, one youth group, and one adult group.

**36**  
Hours

## Giddy Up

Our Teen Support Groups empower teens to build confidence, manage stress, and foster peer connections. These groups help participants slow down, embrace the present moment, and discover their inner strengths.

**36**  
Hours

## Wholeness with Horses

Our Breast Cancer Support Group provides a safe and supportive space for individuals navigating their cancer journey. Participants connect with our herd and each other, finding strength and healing through shared experiences.

**36**  
Hours

## Operation Be Herd

The group offers a unique environment where veterans and active duty service members can process challenges and build resilience. Through activities with the horses, participants develop trust, connection, and a renewed sense of purpose.

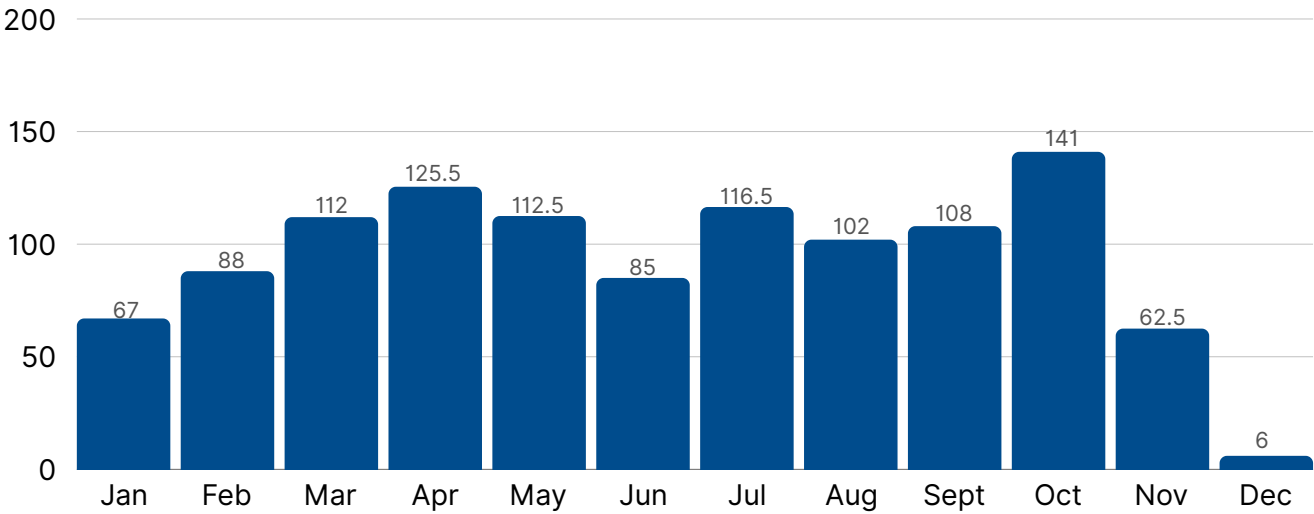
**86**  
Hours

## Weld County Programming

In Weld County, we expanded our reach with programs for teens, including Weld County 4-H, and adults with cancer. These programs provided opportunities for personal growth, community connection, and emotional support.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

This chart shows the total hours per month of individual therapy sessions, signature group programs, and partner organization groups.



**747**

**Total  
Individual  
Therapy Hours**

**393**

**Individual  
Scholarships/  
Intern Therapy  
Sessions**

**208**

**Signature  
Group Therapy  
Hours**

**171**

**Partner  
Organization  
Group Sessions**

**1126**

**Total Hours  
of EFL & EFT**

## Populations Served

Individuals Impacted by Cancer ▪  
Veterans ▪ LGBTQ+ Community ▪  
Marginalized/Underserved Youth  
▪ Substance Use and Trauma  
Recovery ▪ Boulder County  
Probation ▪ Weld County  
Youth/Adults

# YOUTH PROGRAM STATISTICS



“

## 2024 Group Participant

My favorite part was getting to hang with the animals and have choice.

I've realized I don't get choice a lot and I'm afraid to speak up. This helped

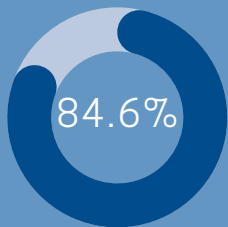
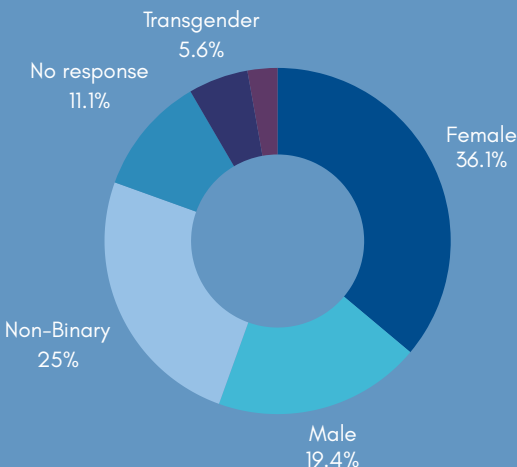
”

**served 73 youth in total**

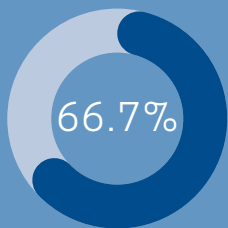
### In 2024, Medicine Horse completed:

- 3 rounds of Rainbow Wranglers
- 1 round of Youth LGBTQ+ Support
- 3 rounds of Giddy Up
- 5 groups for Weld County youth
- 1 Recovery Herd Group

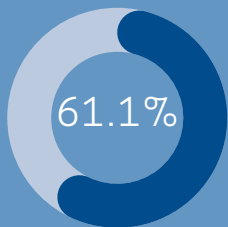
### Gender



84.6% of youth reported improvements in their problem-solving skills or ability to overcome challenges.



66.7% of youth reported feeling less depressed after the program



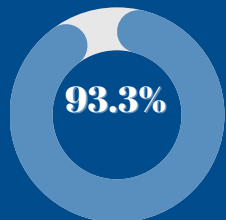
61.1% of our youth groups participants showed an increase in self-esteem scores.



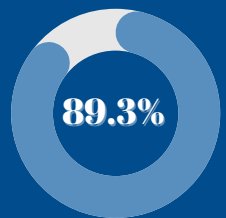


# ADULT PROGRAM STATISTICS

In 2023, Medicine Horse completed three rounds of Wholeness with Horses Sessions, three rounds of Operation be Herd sessions, three groups for Weld County adults, and one group for Boulder County Probation, **serving 57 adults in total.**



of our adult group participants felt that the group helped them build a **stronger community of support**



of our adult group participants reported an **improvement in their emotional and mental well-being** after completing the program

## TESTIMONIALS

“Yes, leading horses, mounting them, getting hugs, horse breaths - felt special every time the horses looked at me. Seeing their confidence gave me power to feel sure of myself. They allowed me to be me. I believe I now can love myself”

“I really loved the one on one with some of the horses. It helped me to connect, feel safe and start to process the trauma. Working with horses helped me to regulate my nervous system and I feel the benefits already in my daily life. The staff were incredible as well and taught me grounding and horse skills.”



# VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers are the backbone of Medicine Horse, bringing our mission to life through their time, energy, and dedication. This year, their collective contributions have created meaningful connections and helped us maintain the high quality of care that our participants and horses deserve.



**1,020+**  
**Hours of Volunteering**

## These hours supported:

- Therapy programs for youth, veterans, and our partner organizations.
- Horse care and barn maintenance.
- Special events like our Annual Gala and community fairs.
- Facility improvement projects.
- Organizational growth & development



## Volunteer Groups That Made a Difference

We are honored to have worked with five amazing volunteer groups this year:

Butler Elementary School  
Arrupe Jesuit High School  
I Have a Dream Foundation  
Avicado Construction  
New Vista High School

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Working together collectively to improve the lives of others in our community



Medicine Horse is proud to collaborate with incredible community partners who help us expand our reach, strengthen our programs, and deepen our impact.

Through their generous support and shared commitment to our mission, these organizations play an essential role in creating a brighter future for our participants and their families.

- Boulder Community Health
- Thorne Nature Experience
- Rocky Mountain Equality
- Family Learning Center
- Main St. School
- Clinica
- St. Vrain Valley Schools
- TGTHR
- TGYS
- Weld County 4-H
- The Weld Trust
- City of Longmont
- Boulder Community Services
- Naropa University
- Boulder Veteran Center
- Boulder County Probation
- Adams County
- New Vista High School
- Papa Johns

## Gala at the Ranch 2024 Sponsors

First Interstate Bank  
Outdoor Craftsmen  
Books of Discovery  
Busey Brews  
Rothe Financial Group  
Jennifer Paris - State Farm  
TBK Bank  
Trader Joes  
Bolder Events  
The Flower Bin  
Wyatt's Wet Goods  
LMI Landscapes  
Barbara Jo & the Hippy Buckaroos  
Evi Photography



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

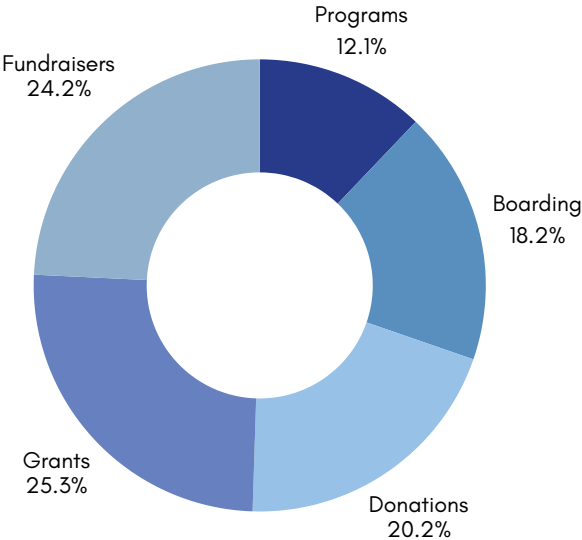
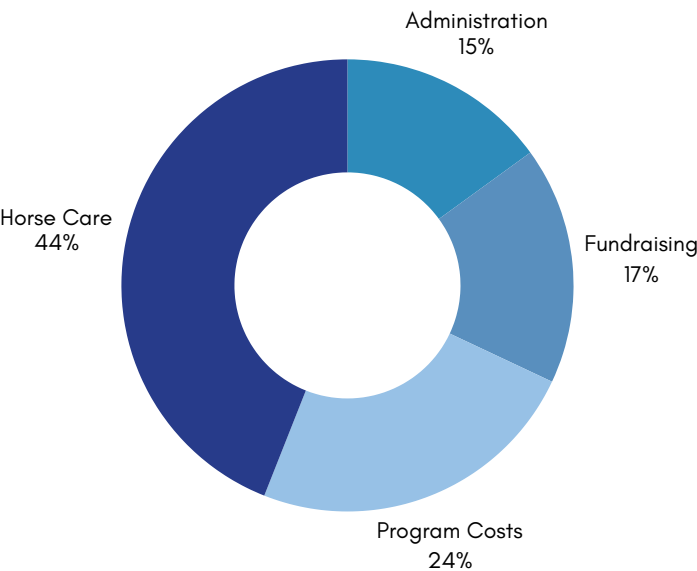
## Sources of Income

|                     |           |                |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Donations           | \$        | 84,933         |
| Fundraisers         |           | 100,382        |
| Grants              |           | 103,708        |
| Boarding            |           | 76,464         |
| Program Income      |           | 51,974         |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>417,461</b> |



## Expense Details

|                                           |           |                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Program Costs                             | \$        | 124,506         |
| Horse Care                                |           | 231,802         |
| Administration                            |           | 80,138          |
| Marketing/Fundraising/Outreach            |           | 90,565          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                     |           | <b>527,011</b>  |
| <b>Net Addition to Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>-109,550</b> |



Expense Details

Sources of Income



# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Your involvement makes all the difference.

Here's how you can help Medicine Horse achieve its mission in 2025:



## Contact Information :

[www.medicinehorse.org](http://www.medicinehorse.org)

[info@medicinehorse.org](mailto:info@medicinehorse.org)

7663 E County Line Rd,  
Longmont, CO 80504

**Donate:** Your financial support is the foundation of our work. Every dollar helps us provide life-changing programs to individuals and families in need. Visit our website to make a one-time or recurring donation.

**Volunteer:** Whether you're an experienced equestrian or simply passionate about helping others, we welcome you to join our volunteer team. Learn more about upcoming training sessions and opportunities at our website.

**Spread the Word:** Share our story with friends, family, and colleagues.

Follow us on social media and help amplify our message.



**Attend an Event:** We host fun events for our community throughout the year, including our annual gala. Join us to connect, celebrate, and support our mission.

**Partnerships:** We are always looking for new partners to collaborate with. Whether you're interested in creating impactful community initiatives or customized programs tailored to your team's goals, we'd love to work together.

With your help, Medicine Horse can continue to change lives, one hoofbeat at a time. Thank you for being part of our journey!

*Prepared By, Anna Birman, Programs Manager*