



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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4107 Waverly Road, Murray, NE 68409



A Reflection from Our Founder & Executive Director

Scatter Joy Acres began as a calling placed on my heart—a deep belief that healing happens when people feel safe, seen, and connected. What started as a small dream has grown into a sanctuary filled with animals whose stories mirror our own journeys of resilience, trust, and hope. Every day, I am reminded that joy does not have to be loud or complicated; sometimes it's found in a quiet moment with an animal who simply understands.

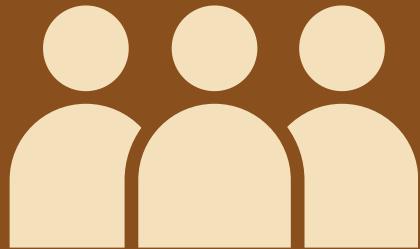
My passion has always been about more than rescue. It's about creating a place where people can breathe, where hearts can soften, and where healing unfolds naturally through connection with animals and nature. Watching children find confidence, families find peace, and individuals rediscover hope alongside our animals is the greatest privilege of my life.

This past year, that calling led us to an exciting new chapter with the creation of Hope and Joy Sanctuary in Florida. This new location represents the expansion of everything Scatter Joy Acres stands for—compassion, growth, and the belief that love has no boundaries. As we move forward, my promise remains the same: to continue scattering joy, honoring each life we touch, and building spaces where healing and hope can flourish. Thank you to every staff member, volunteer, donor, and foundation who have made our work at both locations possible. You are seen, appreciated, and loved.

Joy Bartling



2025 By the Numbers



29,248 Visitors

States Served
8

Animals Rescued
260

Volunteers
592

Seniors/
Veterans Visited
10,481

Volunteer Hours
2,139

Shelters/
Facilities Visited
101

Animal Adoptions Facilitated
260

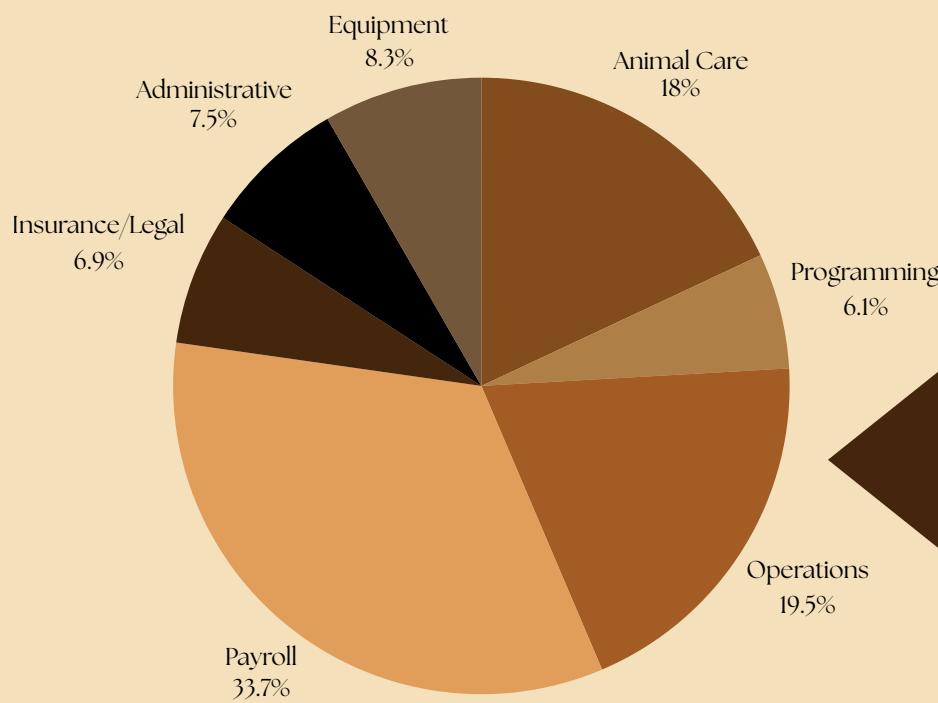
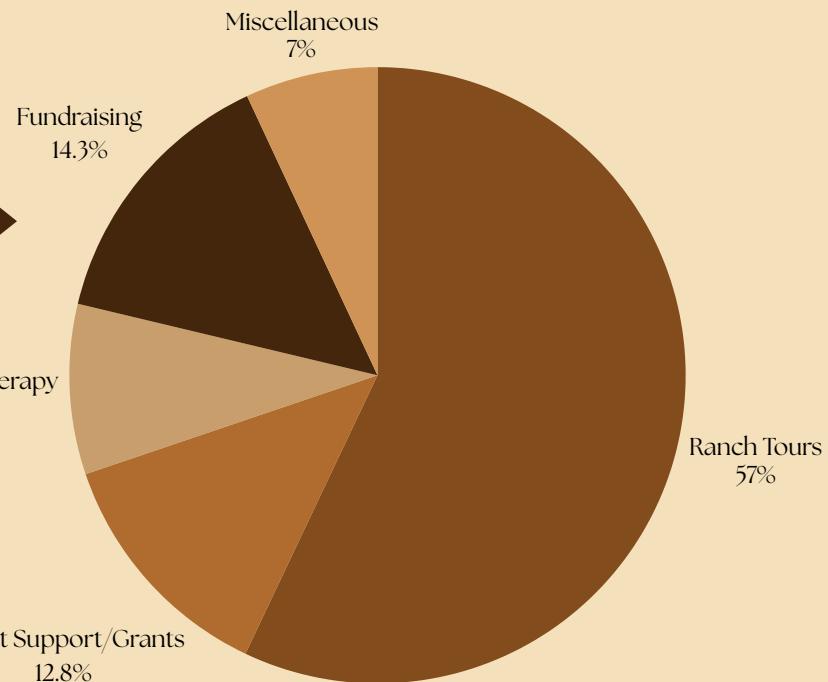
Special Events
646

Program Hours
2,712

2025 Financial Review

\$811,682

Support



\$736,293

Expenses



The Gift of Aging with Animals

Just as it always has, Scatter Joy Acres continued to bring animal-assisted therapy to thousands of seniors across Nebraska and southwest Iowa last year.

Many seniors in assisted living facilities were lifelong animal lovers who can no longer have pets as part of their daily lives, either because of facility rules or chronic health conditions. In fact, up to 15% of animals surrendered to U.S. shelters are from seniors who died or lost the ability to care for them, according to the ASPCA. This is only expected to rise over the next decade as the Baby Boomer generation ages and more seniors transition to care homes.

Scatter Joy Acres visited X assisted living facilities across the Omaha metro area to more than 12,000 residents. It's difficult to describe the healing that takes place in the hearts of men and women gifted with holding and petting a cat or dog again. Or the retired farmer who reconnects with a calf or sweet little lamb. More exotic animals entice residents out of their rooms, bringing delight and facilitating greater social connection. It can be challenging to ensure consistent staff coverage for these off-ranch visits, but it is worth it when we see the smiles, laughter, and tears of happiness in the seniors we visit.



“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace”

-Luke 2:29

One of our greatest privileges is being part of bringing joy to seniors nearing the end of their pilgrimage on earth. This fall, we were contacted by a family whose loved one, Don, was in hospice. Don was a lifelong animal lover, and his family knew he would treasure connecting with God's creatures one last time. We brought several of our sweetest babies to the facility where Don was being cared for, and he spent nearly an hour with them. He died shortly after the visit, and we received a moving thank you from his family a few weeks later. We share this with our donors to demonstrate that your support has a real and lasting impact.

Joy,
Thank you so much for helping making Don's dream come to life and for doing it so quickly and graciously. We are incredibly grateful that you were able to accommodate a last-minute request, especially knowing his health was declining. Your flexibility and kindness meant the world. The quiet, gentle time Don spent cuddling your animals brought him so much peace and comfort. Those sweet moments, the soft snuggles and tenderness of the animals resting with him, were exactly what he needed. Don passed shortly after his dream and because of you, he experienced joy, warmth, and love in his final days. Thank you for giving him such a meaningful gift!

-Shelby



Offering Hope and Healing to Animals, through Animals

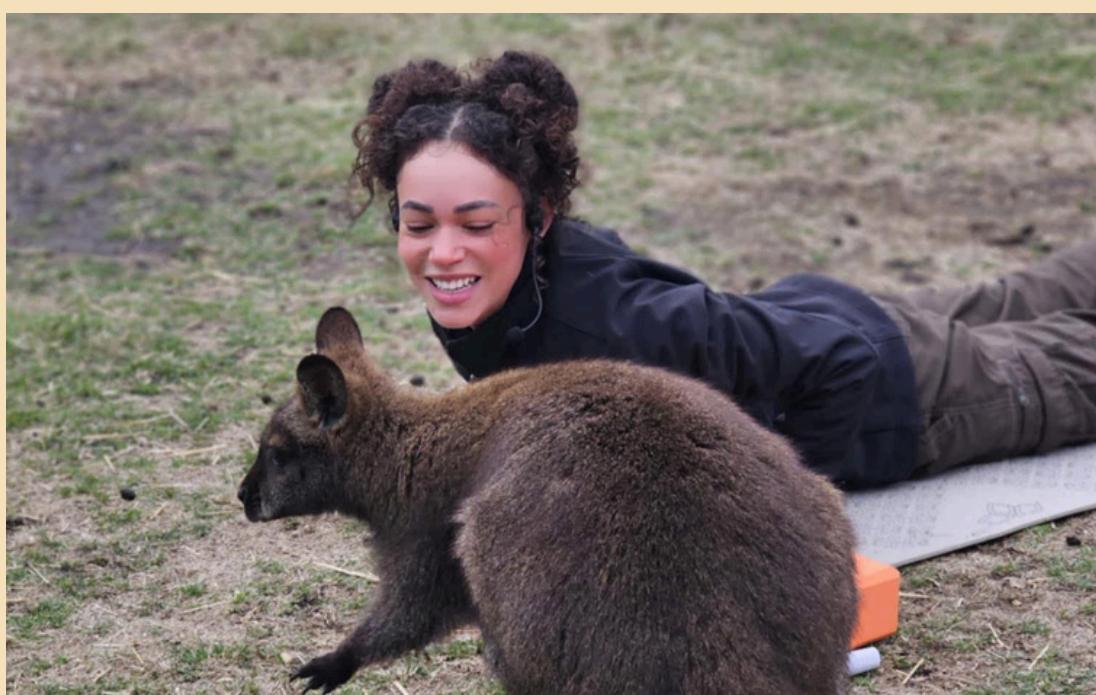
Yoga. Ladies night. Eighties parties. Bonfires. Creative Writing courses. Pumpkin decorating. All with animals, of course!

Scatter Joy Acres is home to nearly 90 domestic and wild animals, many of which were rescued from neglectful or abusive situations. After rehabilitation, these animals are equipped to participate in many of the events offered at the ranch and offsite within the community, offering people a unique form of companionship. With animals, there is no judgment, criticism, or expectations. They teach us to accept and live in the moment, and their example of learning to trust again can inspire all of us to work through the difficulties of the past, learn to forgive others and ourselves, and move forward into a more hopeful future.

Last year, Scatter Joy Acres' programming expanded to include even more activities designed to heal and foster resilience in individuals and the wider community. Healing happened through the ranch's reactional activities, personal animal encounters, the Be Somebody program for at-risk youth, and our visits to seniors and veterans. Scatter Joy Acres also continues to be one of just a handful of organizations in the Midwest that offers equine-assisted psychotherapy, in which a licensed therapist and equine specialist guide clients with PTSD, depression, or anxiety through activities with horses to heal from trauma.

There is hope and healing for everyone at Scatter Joy Acres, and we are grateful to the supporters who made this possible.







Scatter Joy Acres depends on support from its donors, foundation and corporate sponsors, and the general public to care for its animals and continue to bring animals and people together for healing.

Please help us make an even greater impact in 2026 by making a donation today!

6 WAYS TO DONATE:

- Visit scatterjoyacres.org/donation
- Call 402-709-9401
- Email development@scatterjoyacres.org
- Mail a check to “Scatter Joy Acres” to 4107 Waverly Road, Murray, NE 68409
- Visit the ranch to meet the staff and animals and make a personal gift
- Scan the QR Code below

