

2020 Annual Report



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER

Joy Bartling

Dear Friends, Scatter Joy Acres began as a simple calling placed on my heart — a belief that healing happens when people feel safe, seen, and deeply connected. In 2024, I watched that calling unfold again and again in ways that were both humbling and holy.

This past year reminded us that joy does not have to be loud or complicated. Sometimes it is found in a quiet moment with an animal who asks nothing in return. A gentle touch. A shared breath. A sense of peace that settles in places words cannot reach.

Throughout 2024, Scatter Joy Acres continued to serve as a sanctuary for both people and animals. Our rescued animals — each with their own story of survival and resilience — became partners in healing for children discovering confidence, seniors rediscovering comfort, veterans seeking peace, and families longing for connection. Watching trust be rebuilt, hope be restored, and hearts soften through these encounters remains one of the greatest privileges of my life.

This year also stretched us in meaningful ways. Expanding programs, responding to increasing needs, and caring for a growing family of animals required faith, perseverance, and the unwavering support of our community. There were moments when the work felt heavy — but never without purpose. God met us in those moments, often through the generosity, prayers, and encouragement of people like you.

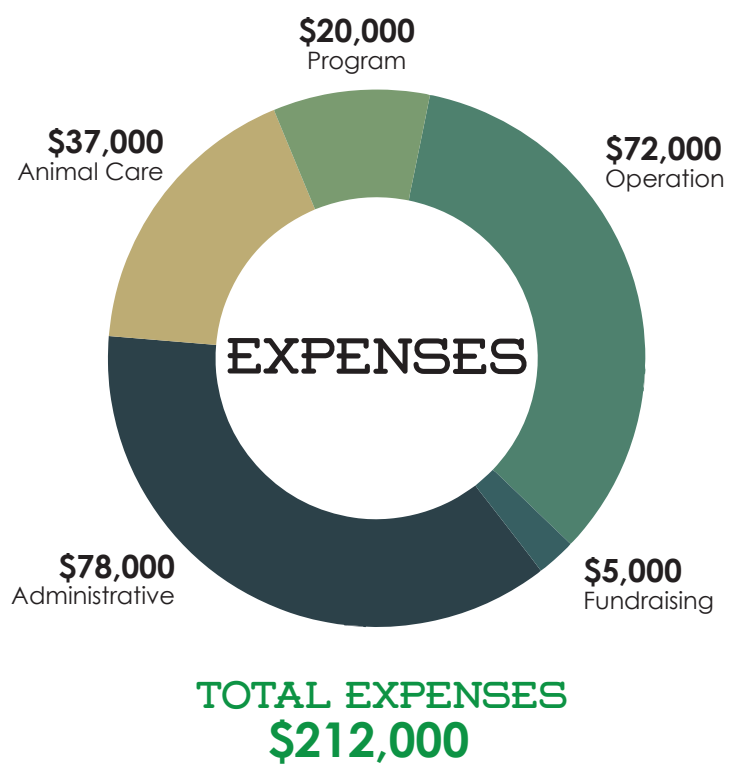
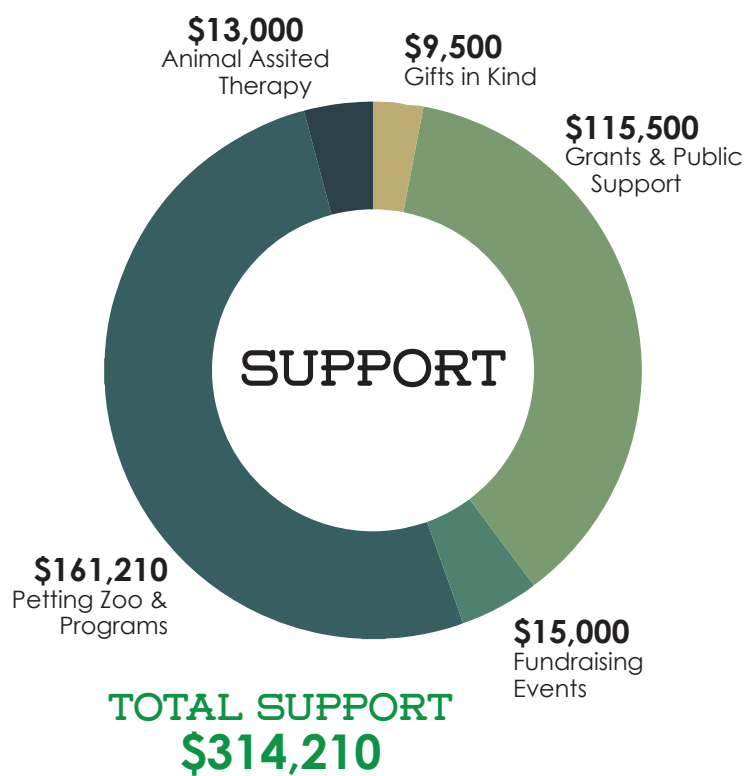
Your support in 2024 did far more than fund programs or provide animal care. It created space for healing. It brought comfort to those nearing the end of life. It offered safety to animals who had known fear. And it reminded countless individuals that they are not alone.

As we reflect on this past year, my heart overflows with gratitude. To our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners — thank you for believing in this mission and walking alongside us. You are an essential part of every life touched at Scatter Joy Acres.

As we move forward, our commitment remains the same: to honor each life entrusted to our care, to continue scattering joy wherever God leads us, and to create spaces where hope and healing can flourish.

With deep gratitude and love,
Joy Bartling
Founder & Executive Director
Scatter Joy Acres







926
VOLUNTEERS

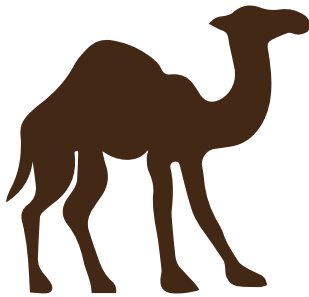
8,228
HOURS

20,091
VISITORS



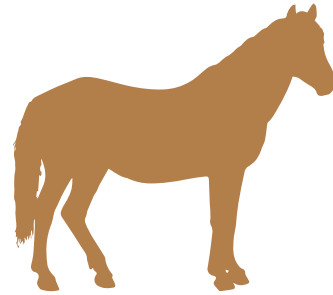
OUR MISSION

ASSISTING MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ANIMALS BY
PROVIDING A *PLACE OF RESCUE* AND A *JOURNEY TO PEACE*.



1,418

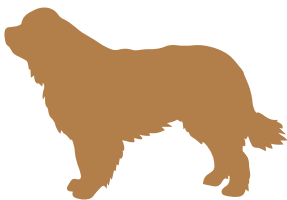
SPECIAL EVENTS
HOURS



405

ADULTS & YOUTH
SERVED THROUGH
DIRECT PROGRAMS

We rely on volunteers to provide second chances to the **528 animals** that Scatter Joy Acres was able to save in 2024. They assist us with ranch activities daily and impact every aspect of our organization. SJA simply couldn't do it without them.



1,980

SENIOR HOME
VISIT HOURS



1,200

BEHAVIOR &
ENRICHMENT HOURS

OUR VISION

RESCUES, FEEDS, AND CARES FOR NEGLECTED, HUNGRY, AND ABANDONED ANIMALS TO CREATE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. TO HELP PEOPLE RESTORE A SENSE OF PEACE AND PURPOSE IN LIFE.



COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS



ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

Pets can be good for our health. They are known to increase a sense of well-being and reduce our stress levels. Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is an innovative intervention in which an animal becomes a crucial and highly effective part of the treatment process. Animals can give therapists the tools they need to begin and maintain an effective treatment program with solution-focused therapy. AAT can improve a person's social, emotional, and cognitive functions.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Scatter Joy Acres brings our animals to seniors to interact with, improving their well-being and showing them that a furry companion can be life-changing. Walking a dog is great cardiovascular exercise, but just the simple act of petting, brushing, or feeding an animal provides both activity and a means to stay engaged with the world. Pets can make the elderly feel needed, and that feeling can translate into a greater sense of purpose and self-worth. During what can be a lonely time of life, the unconditional love of a cherished dog, goat, llama or donkey can be a bridge to more socialization with others, lowered stress, mental stimulation and a renewed interest in life.

VETERANS PROGRAMS

Many soldiers experience symptoms of mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and addictions. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can exacerbate symptoms. When left untreated, the effects of symptoms affect not only the veteran, but their relationships with others. The Veterans Programs at Scatter Joy Acres includes social learning theory and animal assisted therapy (AAT) as a mean of providing education, changing stereotypes, reducing stigma, and encouraging change from non-judgmental helpers (ie animals). With training and treatment, it is hoped that symptoms will be alleviated, and healthier lives can become reality. We not only work with the veteran, but their family members as well.

AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS

Scatter Joy Acres uses interactions with animals to teach at-risk youth how to behave towards other people. By teaching empathy and responsibility, our At-Risk Youth Program helps turn the kids into protectors, ending the possible cycle of abuse and giving them another path to follow. The animals at Scatter Joy Acres all have histories of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or worse. Often, the children in our programs share similar pasts, and hearing the stories of the animals helps them see that change is possible. As they see that the animals are safe here with us, the children begin to open up because they, too, feel safe. We believe that our animals, with their unconditional love and non-judgmental attitude, can often reach kids more deeply and effectively than people can. As the children learn to love and understand the animals, they learn to love and understand themselves. When they explore how our previously-abused animals have learned to forgive and overcome their pasts, the animals become role models helping the children reach their goals of surpassing their pain and reaching for their bright futures.

EDUCATION

After School Programs
College Planning
Service Learning
School Field Trips
Outdoor Education
Ranch Academy
STEM Education
Scout Camps
Tutoring Assistance
Cowboy Ethics
Volunteer Opportunities
Animal Husbandry
Internships
Community Service*

ACTIVITIES

Bonfires & Campouts
Catering & Cookouts
Mobile Vet Clinic
Hay Bale Climing
Horseshoe Pit
Hula Hoop Toss
Nature Trails
Petting Zoo
Playground
Photography Ops
Picnics

EVENTS

Animal Encouters
Birthday Parties
Corporate Outings
Easter Egg Hunts
Hay Rack Rides
Hump Day Events
with a Camel
Live Nativities
Scavenger Hunts
Static Steer
Head Roping
Summer Camps
Reindeer Events

CERTIFICATIONS

SCATTER JOY ACRES:

USDA Class C
Exhibitor License
NE Fish and Game
Wildlife Permit
NE Dept of Ag
Shelter License
Member NAM

JOY BARTLING:

Vet tech
AAT
Cowboy Ethics

* To support local law enforcement efforts and the community, SJA is a site for court ordered community service.



www.ScatterJoyAcres.org

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