

# Garfield County Human Services Grants

## YEAR-TO-DATE

## OUTCOMES REPORT

Date: 2/13/202

**Reporting Agency:** WindWalkers Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Center

### **Desired Goals and Outcomes:**

WindWalkers continues to set and reach goals and outcomes for serving individuals with disabilities in our community. In 2024 we saw large growth for WindWalkers, offering equine opportunities for children as young as 2 years old all the way to 77!

Our goals are to continue to provide services for those who could otherwise not afford it, partnering with agencies like Mountain Valley Development services, Stepping Stones, the Buddy Program, Challenge Aspen and RE-1 school districts.

Our objectives for these populations are to increase physical, emotional and cognitive well-being of our weekly and special group participants.

### **What was accomplished to date in each of the following categories?**

**Service Delivery Goal (SDG1):** Equine Assisted services at WindWalkers will improve and contribute to the health and well being of individuals as well as special groups (listed above) in the Roaring fork valley living with physical, emotional, or developmental/intellectual disabilities.

**Actual to date outcome measures:** over 89%+- report improved balance, mobility, coordination and increased flexibility. They also report increased social skills, respect and acceptance of others. 85% of participants and/or their families report improved communication and language skills, enhanced ability to maintain attention and focus, and increased educational goals. We expect to encourage the development of perseverance, maintenance of a positive attitude and development of meaningful relationships and mobility.

**Service Delivery Goal (SDG2)** Utilize Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Equine Assisted Learning as an effective treatment for individuals and groups experiencing a wide variety of emotional and mental health challenges.

**Community Benefit(s) summary.** Participants become healthier active citizens. When individuals feel healthier and more willing to engage in themselves and with those around them, they also are more willing to reach out and engage with their families and communities.

**Major Activities (Outputs):**

Outputs included continued services for adults with disabilities through Mountain Valley, Challenge Aspen and private individuals. We also continued to serve children through partnerships with Garfield RE-1 schools, Stepping Stones, the Buddy Program as well as private individuals. Without additional funding, most, if not all, of these individuals and groups would not be able to participate and benefit from equine assisted activities.

**Significant Results (Outcomes):**

We take pride in the fact that everyone who attends WindWalkers experiences many benefits and is eager to return. We see increased independence and mobility as well as increased socialization. Participation at WindWalkers is often the start of individuals being more willing to then participate in other community or school activities.

The lessons learned during sessions at WindWalkers translates to healthier individuals, leading to healthier families and a healthier community. By providing services for individuals who could otherwise never benefit from interactions with equines, our outcomes ripple far into the valley. In 2024, we saw over 100 individuals receive weekly services, and provided over 100 hours of therapeutic riding sessions for our group community partners.

**Other Significant Outcomes or Successes(not previously identified):** If progress toward outcomes were/are not able to be met please explain: (N/A)

WindWalkers is looking forward to new growth and extension further into our community in 2025. We hope to share our resources and our knowledge to better serve those in need. We are in the process of 'gathering information' to discover what new programs we can launch (or what current programs we can bolster) to provide even more services for individuals in our valley.