



FRIENDS OF LAUGHING BUCK FARM NONPROFIT



**"HIS CONNECTION
WITH THE HORSE HAS
IMPROVED HIS CONFIDENCE
AND SELF AWARENESS.**

**IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW
MUCH JOY THESE CREATURES
CAN GIVE TO HUMANS."**



Annual Report 2022



ABOUT FRIENDS OF LAUGHING BUCK FARM

Friends of Laughing Buck Farm Nonprofit is a registered 501c3 committed to developing and supporting educational and therapeutic horse and farm experiences for EVERYONE. We are passionate about creating programs that are fully accessible regardless of economic class, culture, gender, sexual identity or set of abilities. We celebrate inclusion and diversity and want you to know you are welcome here! Riding instructors are PATH certified (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship.)

The nonprofit, formed in 2018, is hosted by [Laughing Buck Farm LLC](#), whose mission it is to inspire a love for farming, horsemanship, gardening, and nature through the rhythms of the seasons and hands-on learning and play-- all in an outdoor, farm setting.

FarmHer Rosemary

Rosemary Jedel Graff has a background in teaching and when she and her family moved to Colorado in 2007, she turned their farm into her outdoor classroom. In addition to offering riding lessons and 4-H horse programs for children, she created Farm School, where kids of all ages work, play and learn outside as they ride and care for horses, gather eggs, milk goats, feed the pigs, care for the rabbits, tend to the garden and swing in the huge haybarn.

FarmHer Rosemary continues to find therapeutic benefits in this unique setting and loves exposing kids, adults and families to the joys of connecting with nature, moving their bodies through work and play, and developing relationships with creatures great and small. She founded the nonprofit, Friends of Laughing Buck Farm, in 2018 to develop educational and therapeutic horse and farm experiences for everyone.



Rider Spotlight

Emmy, Age 8, Pronouns: (They, Them)



Emmy started the Adaptive Riding Program in the summer of 2022, and is currently riding Prince our golden colored Haflinger! Their favorite things about Laughing Buck Farm are Prince, their equine therapist, and the hay barn where they can climb the hay bales to the top, or swing on the rope swing. Their favorite things about Prince are “his stubbornness and the challenges he shows me for my horsemanship skills”.

Emmy said about Laughing Buck,
“It’s very comforting & there are wonderful people here to help guide me. Laughing Buck has changed me because I am now more emphatic and it has helped me to be outside and to overcome my fear of wasps.”

Emmy stated they would definitely recommend LBF to people “ because they really strongly fulfill our needs!”

Instructor Spotlight

Rachel Ann has been involved in the therapeutic riding community since she was a teenager and volunteered throughout high school at a PATH (then NARHA) program. Rachel studied Equine Science at Colorado State University. She is a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and Equine Specialist in Mental Health & Learning as certified by PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship). Rachel has 23 years of experience in the field of equine-assisted activity.



Rachel has a passion for all equines, but especially donkeys. In addition to her work with Laughing Buck Farm, she runs a donkey training program and is the Director of Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue. Rachel is also a published author. She has three published books in the “Starting the Donkey” series, and she is featured on the cover of Strides magazine, the Fall 2022 PATH International’s publication, along with her article “Partnering with LongEars”. Anyone who knows Rachel knows it is very difficult to out-stubborn her, as she is very patient!

Program Highlights

Adaptive Riding

The adaptive riding program at Laughing Buck Farm delivers equine assisted activities (EAA) and equine facilitated learning (EFL) to individuals with cognitive, physical and social/emotional special needs. Participants experience horsemanship lessons with PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) International certified instructors who are also PATH Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning. Students work with equines and volunteers in a safe, secured and private setting.



Scholarship Support Program

Friends of Laughing Buck Farm offers scholarships for lessons, classes and camps so that we can invite and include everyone from the community. Scholarships provided are based upon financial need, on a first come, first served, basis until all scholarship monies are allocated and/or spent. In 2022, **\$2,690** was provided in scholarship funding, which covered **96 hours** of adaptive riding, **28 hours** of nonadaptive riding, and **15 hours** of Farm School. Many thanks to our generous donors!



Farm Education and Enrichment Program

In 2022, our independent enrichment programs included individuals from Shine and Our House (Fort Collins day programs for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities) who come to work and learn on the farm two days per week, and an individual from Cooper Home who comes to do paid work on the farm four days per week. In addition, we also work with daycare centers and PSD school groups throughout the year. We use an adaptive teaching methodology to offer recreational and educational experiences in a working farm setting to promote cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being in a working farm environment.



Program Highlights

Integrated Farm School and Summer Camps

Our integrated farm experience aims to help children develop and improve their social-emotional skills, independent living skills, and sensory regulation by learning through a sensory-rich environment, where children can experience the sights, sounds, smells, feel, and work of farm life.

All Ability Interns and Volunteers

We invite youth to work on the farm alongside instructors and farm workers where they will gain skills in working with horses, pigs, goats and chickens. They also assist with our educational programs, learning social skills, leadership, confidence and connection. We partner with Poudre School District's ACE (Alternative Cooperative Education) program which provides work experience, related classroom instruction and vocational transition planning for high school students with special needs. Students develop personal and career skills preparing them to live and work independently as vital, contributing members of their community. In 2022, our supported enrichment program includes volunteers from Our House, interns from PDS's ACE program and Cooper Home who are mentored by Laughing Buck Farm, and staff four days per week.

EnGender LGBTQ+ Program

Youth in our community who identify as LGBTQ+ are some of the most at risk for violence, self-harm, suicide, and mental health problems. These young people struggle with all of the basic social and emotional skills that many of their peers do, plus the added complication of being different in a world that doesn't always see difference as valid. EnGender is our newest equine-assisted therapeutic program that serves the unique social and emotional needs of LGBTQ+ youth by building leadership, community, and connection with horses both on the ground and in the saddle. In addition to our Engender workshops, we offer Rein-Bow Connection, a fun, educational, and accepting 2 hour Equine-Assisted Learning Experience for LGBTQIA+ teens (12-18)



5

164

Adaptive riding sessions provided

14

Adaptive Riders

\$2690

Scholarships funding

300

AR Volunteer hours donated

139

Intern hours donated

8

Inclusive summer camps supported

2022 Results Highlights

Arena lights Many of the adaptive riding students take lessons after school. Lessons are held outside and offered year round, so as winter comes, this means grappling with the early sunset and coming darkness. This past Fall, thanks to the generous donations made to Friends of Laughing Buck Farm nonprofit, we were able to install lights for the arena. These lights increase safety for both horse and rider, and allow the timing for winter lessons to be extended. Ahh, let there be light!



Hay purchases The cost of hay has risen dramatically in 2022 and is impacting all Colorado farmers, including Laughing Buck Farm. With a total of 14 horses, 1 donkey, and 3 goats to feed, there is a never-ending demand for hay, especially important to help our animals through the cold winter season. In 2022, a total of \$17,010 was spent on hay alone for the Laughing Buck Farm animals.



2022 Results Highlights

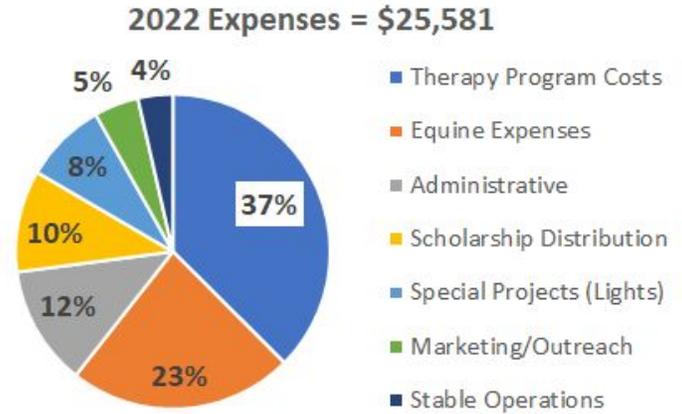
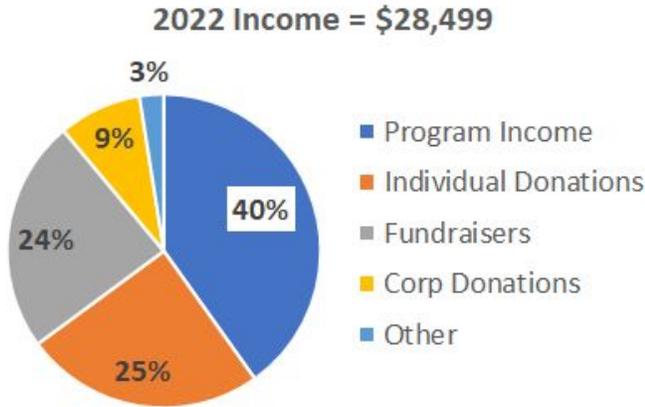
Barn Dance and Fundraiser

Laughing Buck Farm held its first annual Barn Dance and Fundraiser on October 1, 2022. Participants enjoyed a wonderful afternoon and evening full of wagon rides, pony rides, a treat trot, “Kiss My Lass” opportunities to have a photo taken with Lass, the farm’s PATH-certified American Mammoth Jennet donkey, a food truck and beer truck. The day was capped off with a good old fashioned barn dance that had everyone jumping into the swing of things! We also held an on-line auction. We are happy to share that, with the support of our community, the first annual Barn Dance and Auction Fundraiser surpassed our fundraising goal of \$5,000 by raising just over \$6,500! Special thanks to our sponsor of the event O’Dell Brewing and Sharon Guli for square dance calling.

If you missed the Barn Dance and Auction in 2022, plan to join us for the 2023 Fall for the festivities!



Financials



Friends of Laughing Buck Farm extends our deepest gratitude and thanks to all our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Donors

Alana McKinney
 Amber Hopkins
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 Anonymous donors
 Beau Jos' Pizza
 Cathy Prieto
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Board Members

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Want to support our work?

Donation options available for all budgets.

\$20

Buy one bag of feed or bale of hay

\$45

Provide a scholarship for one farm school class

\$65

Provide a scholarship for one riding lesson

\$100

Sponsor a therapy horse for a month

\$400

Provide a scholarship of 8 weeks of adaptive riding



[DONATE NOW](#)

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Friends of Laughing Buck Farm

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