

SADDLES IN SERVICE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR STAFF

- Tammy Oluvic** - CEO/Founder
- Michelle Mullen** - Vice President
- Sarah Hudson** - Executive Assistant
- Tom Bercher** - Wyoming General Manager
- Glenda O’ Grady** - Wyoming Hero Liason
- Niesha Zimmerman** - Director of Marketing
- Nathanial Max Oluvic** - Director of Ranch Management
- Gabe Duncan** - Ranch Manager
- Jess Harjo** - Case Manager
- Julia Gibson** - Data Management

OUR BOARD

- Mark Kester** - Chairman
- Ed Padinske** - Vice-Chairman
- Jason Deaner** - Secretary
- Glenda O’Grady** - Treasurer
- Amy Scruggs** - Board Member
- Dave Allan** - Board Member
- John Burmingham** - Board Member
- Kirby Tolch** - Board Member
- Mike Oluvic** - Board Member
- Kym Bundschuh** - Board Member
- Tammy Oluvic** - Board Member



OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to combat the suicide rates of Veterans, Active Duty Military, and First Responders and to promote mental health, wellness and healing to these Heroes through equine-assisted learning and activities.

CORE VALUES

Integrity – We act with honesty and do what’s right, even when no one is watching.

Respect – We honor every individual, both human and horse, with dignity and care.

Empathy – We listen and seek to understand one another’s stories.

Love – We serve with open hearts, fostering healing and connection.

Compassion – We lift each other up and offer kindness in every moment.

Learning – We grow together through self-discovery, teamwork, and horsemanship.

PASSION STATEMENT

We embrace all humans and horses that walk through our gates with respect and compassion.

We encourage all of our volunteers and heroes to continue learning about themselves, others, and horsemanship. We lift one another up and don’t break anyone down. We support each human and horse in their journey to become the best version of themselves, living a life fueled with purpose, and newfound freedom.

REFLECTION LETTER FROM TAMMY OLUVIC

As I reflect, one word continues to echo in my heart, growth. This year stretched us, strengthened us, and reminded me just how powerful generosity and community can be when hearts align around a shared mission. It was a year of both expansion and deep reflection; one that has left me profoundly grateful.

One of the most meaningful moments of 2024 was the incredible gift of The Circle T Ranch. This 20-acre donation represents so much more than land, it's a new chapter for our programs and the heroes we serve. With this space, we've been able to bring in more horses, welcome more participants, and expand the reach of our mission in ways I only dreamed possible. This blessing came through the deep generosity of Lisa Lightfoot, whose heart and vision perfectly align with ours. Her gift will continue to touch lives for years to come, offering a safe and healing place for both heroes and horses. Every time I step onto that land, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude, not just for the space itself, but for what it symbolizes: hope, healing, and growth.

This year also brought an incredible honor, being named the Nonprofit of the Year for California's 40th District. Receiving that recognition from Senator Brian Jones was humbling beyond words. It wasn't just an award; it was a reflection of the countless people who pour their hearts into this mission; our team, volunteers, donors, and the heroes and horses who make it all meaningful.

Standing there, I couldn't help but think of every moment that brought us to this point; the early mornings, the challenges, the quiet victories, and the unwavering belief that healing truly happens when humans and horses come together.

Lessons and growth in 2024 taught me to lean into faith and trust the process, even when things felt uncertain. Growth often comes with discomfort, and this year was no exception; but every challenge opened the door to something greater. I learned to slow down, to appreciate small moments of connection, and to celebrate progress even when it came in tiny steps. Our organization grew, but so did I. I've learned more about leadership, resilience, and grace than I ever could have imagined. I've also seen how love and purpose can ripple outward, touching lives we may never even meet.

Here's to another year of growth, service, and the kind of healing that changes lives; one hoofbeat and one heartbeat at a time.

Tammy Oluvic

TAMMY OLUVIC
FOUNDER & CEO

PROGRAM INFO

At Saddles In Service, we believe that healing begins through connection. The bond between a human and a horse has the power to restore trust, confidence, and peace. Our program is designed to offer Veterans, Active Duty Military, and First Responders a safe, supportive environment where they can explore personal healing, rediscover purpose, and experience the freedom that comes from working alongside a horse.

A PATH TO HEALING

Many of our nation's heroes carry invisible wounds from their service; the physical, mental, and emotional stress that comes from protecting others. The Saddles In Service program helps Heroes process these challenges through meaningful interactions with horses. Unlike traditional therapy, our approach is experiential: participants learn to communicate, lead, and build trust with a horse, creating a reflection of their own inner journey toward balance and peace.

THE POWER OF THE HORSE-HUMAN CONNECTION

Horses are intuitive and nonjudgmental. They respond to honesty, presence, and authenticity; qualities that help participants reconnect with themselves and others. Through groundwork, riding, and mindful interaction, Heroes experience emotional breakthroughs, learn self-awareness, and develop tools for resilience both in and out of the arena.

Each session is guided by compassionate and knowledgeable wranglers who share our core values of Integrity, Respect, Empathy, Love, Compassion, and Learning. Together, we foster a community that uplifts, supports, and empowers every individual who steps through our gates, both human and horse alike.





RESTORING PURPOSE AND FREEDOM

For many Heroes, life after service can bring feelings of disconnection or loss of identity. Saddles In Service helps bridge that gap by providing a renewed sense of purpose, belonging, and peace. Whether it's learning new horsemanship skills, forming lasting friendships, or simply finding comfort in the rhythm of a horse's movement, participants often describe the experience as life-changing.

Our **goal** is simple yet profound: to help each Hero become the best version of themselves, living a life fueled by purpose, compassion, and newfound freedom.

WHY OUR PROGRAM

Many of our Heroes experience daily stressors and emotional challenges throughout their service to our nation and communities. At Saddles In Service, we offer a place to reset, reconnect, and renew.

Our program was created to remind every Hero that they are not alone in their journey. Through the powerful bond between human and horse, participants rediscover trust, confidence, and inner peace. Each step of the program is designed to meet Heroes where they are, providing growth, healing, and purpose at a pace that fits their individual needs.

A 7-PHASE JOURNEY OF HEALING AND GROWTH

Our program is individually tailored to meet each Hero’s needs, competence, and availability. It provides a progressive and holistic approach to horsemanship and personal development.

- 1. Horse Psychology and Physiology** – Learn how horses think, feel, and communicate, building the foundation for a strong and respectful partnership.
- 2. Grooming and Horse Care** – Develop trust and connection through hands-on care, fostering mindfulness and mutual respect.
- 3. Groundwork** – Establish a deep relationship with your horse through groundwork techniques that promote communication and leadership.
- 4. Riding in a Controlled Environment** – Build confidence and skill through riding in a round pen or arena with the guidance of experienced wranglers.
- 5. Trail Riding** – Experience freedom and peace in nature while deepening the bond between horse and rider.
- 6. Advanced Cowboy Skills** – Learn advanced horsemanship such as roping, cattle work, and challenge courses, enhancing teamwork and mastery.
- 7. Wyoming Cowboy Experience** – Put it all into practice in an immersive cowboy adventure, celebrating personal growth, confidence, and camaraderie.

Each phase empowers Heroes to grow in confidence, awareness, and strength; both in the saddle and in life. Through patience, compassion, and purpose, our Heroes discover not only the healing power of the horse, but also the strength within themselves.





2024 IMPACT & PROGRAM STATISTICS

At Saddles In Service, healing happens in the quiet moments between a Hero and a horse; a shared breath, a step forward, a spark of trust. Every day, we witness transformation; Heroes rediscovering confidence, reconnecting with purpose, and finding peace within themselves.

Since our founding, hundreds of Veterans, Active Duty Military, and First Responders have experienced life-changing breakthroughs through our equine programs. Many arrive burdened by the invisible wounds of service — stress, anxiety, and loss — and leave with renewed hope, strength, and freedom.

OVER **4,000**
LIVES IMPACTED

Our impact reaches far beyond the ranch. Heroes carry their healing into their families, communities, and workplaces, inspiring others with their courage and resilience. Through compassion, connection, and the partnership of horses, we are helping rebuild lives; one Hero, one horse, one ride at a time.

283

TOTAL # OF ACTIVE HEROES

In 2024, we provided 1,829 program sessions for our heroes at the Saddles In Service ranches

18

TOTAL # OF CAPSTONE PARTICIPANTS

In 2024, 18 heroes journeyed to Wyoming, where they put into practice the powerful skills they had gained through the Saddles In Service program.

151

TOTAL # OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Our mission wouldn't be possible without the incredible wranglers and ranch hands who give their time, strength, and hearts to our heroes and our herd.

STATE RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE

In 2024, Saddles In Service was truly humbled and honored to be named Non-Profit of the Year for California’s 40th District. This recognition, presented by State Senator Brian Jones, celebrates not only our mission but the incredible heroes, horses, and volunteers who make it possible.

Senator Jones recognized the lasting impact of our program; a place where veterans, active duty military, first responders, and horses come together to heal, grow, and find renewed purpose. His words were a reminder that the work we do reaches far beyond our ranch; it touches hearts, rebuilds hope, and strengthens communities across California and beyond.

Our CEO and Board Member, Dave Allan, proudly traveled to Sacramento to accept the award on behalf of our entire Saddles In Service family. As they accepted the honor from Senator Jones, it was clear this award belongs to every hero who has saddled up, every volunteer who has given their time, and every supporter who has believed in our mission.

This recognition is more than an award; it’s a reflection of the courage, compassion, and community that define Saddles In Service. Together, we continue to change lives, one ride and one hero at a time.



2024 CORPORATE PARTNERS



SCOT ADAMS OF



Peregrine



BAND OF KUMEYAAY INDIANS



Grossmont Healthcare District

CAMPING WORLD

CHOPRA FOUNDATION

EL CRISTIANO 1761

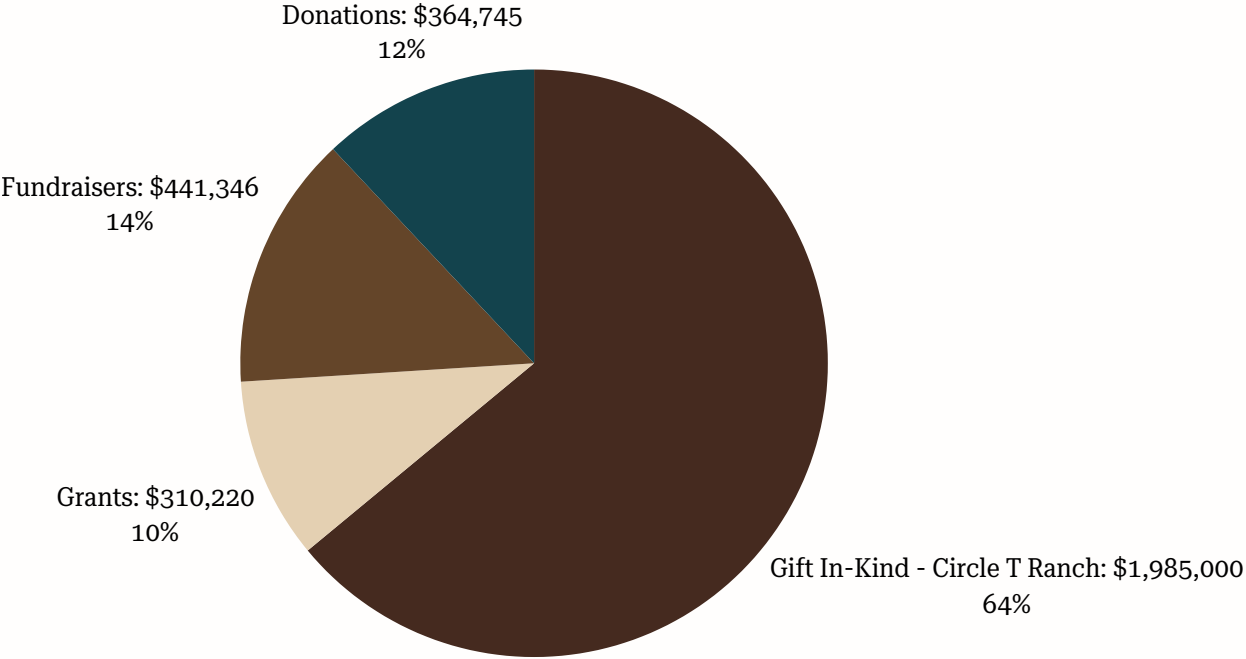
Details DEFINED
EVENT PLANNING & PRODUCTION



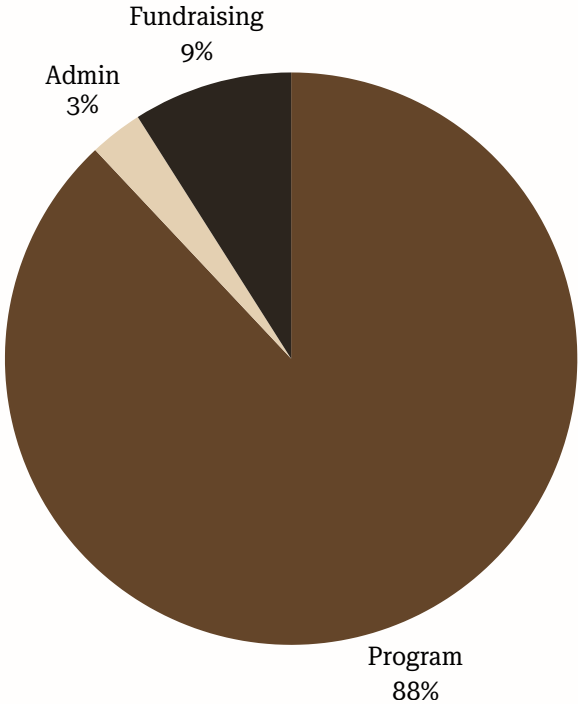
2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE	\$1,116,311
EXPENSES	\$923,613
NET INCOME	\$192,698
NET ASSETS	\$2,537,667

DONATION CATEGORIES



2024 EXPENSE SUMMARY



ON THE HORIZON

As we look toward the future, our vision at Saddles In Service is to carry an even deeper sense of gratitude and hope. Every day, we are reminded that the work we do is more than a program, it’s a lifeline. There is still so much ahead: more lives to touch, more horses to rescue, and more opportunities to bring healing to those who need it most.

Over the years, we’ve seen incredible transformations; heroes who arrived burdened with invisible wounds have found peace, purpose, and a renewed sense of belonging through the connection they form with our horses. Each story is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. The bond between a hero and a horse is something sacred; it’s built on trust, patience, and mutual respect. And through that bond, both begin to heal.

The number of heroes applying for our program continues to grow, and with that growth comes both joy and responsibility. It’s a blessing to see so many men and women seeking hope and healing, but it also challenges us to expand our capacity; to ensure we can say “yes” to every hero who needs us. **To do that, we must continue to partner with donors, sponsors, and community supporters who share our belief in the mission of Saddles In Service.**

When you give to Saddles In Service, you are doing far more than funding a program; **you are investing in the mental health and wellbeing of America’s heroes.** You’re helping veterans, active duty military, and first responders rediscover strength, confidence, and peace. You’re helping rescued horses find new purpose and life beyond hardship. And you’re helping create a community where compassion, courage, and healing come together in the most beautiful way. Your investment in this mission is truly invaluable. Every dollar, every volunteer hour, and every prayer helps change lives; not just for our heroes, but for their families, their communities, and even our horses.

Our prayer is that we continue to build upon the foundation of compassion, faith, and courage that brought us to this point. We’ve come so far together, and yet, there’s still so much good waiting to be done.

The Circle T Ranch stands as a powerful symbol of what’s possible when people believe in something bigger than themselves. It’s more than just a place; it’s a sanctuary of hope and healing, a space where brokenness turns into strength, and where the bond between human and horse reflects the power of grace and love. As I look ahead, my heart is filled with excitement, gratitude, and anticipation for all that is yet to come. Together, we can continue to bring **renewed purpose, resilience, healing** and **hope** to our heroes and our horses.

Together, we can keep riding forward: one step, one life, one miracle at a time.



VISIT US

Check out our website for latest news and program updates.

Be sure to subscribe to [our newsletter](#) to stay in touch on the latest news!

www.saddlesinservice.org

PARTNER WITH US

At Saddles In Service, we'll work closely with you to find the best way to make an impact that aligns with your values; whether as an individual, family, or business. There are many meaningful opportunities to get involved, from hosting a special event to sponsoring our Holes for Heroes Golf Tournament or the Love for Heroes Gala, and everything in between.

Email us at: contact@saddlesinservice.org to learn more!

FOLLOW US

Check us out on our socials! Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

[@saddlesinservice](#)

To learn more about how you can get involved please visit our website or reach out via:

Email: contact@saddlesinservice.org

Phone: 619-415-2521

