

**AHEAD WITH HORSES**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**2022-2023**

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RIDE ~ SMILE ~ GROW

# ABOUT US

## FOUNDING HISTORY

AHEAD (Accelerated Habilitation Education And Development) With Horses Inc was founded 55 years ago in 1968 by Liz Helms in Sun Valley, CA, the same year that the sport of vaulting (gymnastics on a moving horse) was brought to the United States. Liz had started her career by teaching riding to “normal” children, and along the way she came across disabled children and saw what a difference it could make. It was one of those first children, a boy with shallow hip sockets who required surgery every year, and his father who was a heart-surgeon at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, that encouraged his son to join the program because it would maximize the effect of the surgery. The articulation of the hip joint kept his sockets functioning longer and led to him requiring less and less surgery.

Using the techniques that Liz and her former husband Lew Helms had learned, they began working with more severely disabled children, developing individualized programs to meet each student’s needs. The horse’s movement stimulates the brain, which in turn changes the body and the individual’s ability to integrate and process sensory input. The children have fun and experience a sense of success while facing real challenges.

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## GET IN TOUCH



818-767-6373



10157 Johanna Ave. Shadow Hills, CA 91040



info@awhla.org



www.awhla.org

RIDE ~ SMILE ~ GROW

# ABOUT US

## OUR MISSION

AHEAD With Horses is dedicated to maximizing the potential of disabled, disadvantaged, special-needs children by providing developmental therapy, education, and recreation through horses and related experiences, with measurable improvement physically, mentally, socially and/or emotionally resulting in increased self-sufficiency and the ability to lead better and more independent and productive lives.

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## WHO WE SERVE

AWH is a developmental, therapeutic vaulting program that specializes in working with children with multiple and severe disabilities. Our clients have a variety of different diagnosis, including:

- ADHD
- Autism
- Blindness
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chromosome Disorders
- Deafness
- Down Syndrome
- Developmental Delays
- Hypotonia
- Paraplegia
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Quadriplegia
- Spina Bifida
- and many more!

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our Dear Friends and Families,

## SERVICES

This year found us again surviving the throes of the pandemic but with a gradual return of many of our riders and a number of new students. Covid recommendations were still in place and staff, volunteers, and students adjusted to the changing practices. But we survived and a modified normalcy returned.

## ADMINISTRATION

Sadly, we lost a Board member when Pastor Arlo moved out of state, however, we continue to converse with our neighbors across the street at the Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church with regards to use of their parking facilities for our events. Our Board has been diligently working to revise the Bylaws, employee benefit policies, salaries, and paid time off. Our policies are now concurrent with those of the State.

## PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

We were afforded several volunteer service presentation opportunities by the Kiwanis Club, St. Francis High School, Westridge High School and several groups volunteered at the property. The Girl Scouts completed a painted tire border for the parking area and planted herbs in some of the tires, an Eagle Scout built 4 new benches for us and another refurbished our activity board and created a couple new educational games. UCLA and other schools brought large groups of volunteers to help with weeding and general cleaning. We were fortunate to have a Construction company offer their time and effort to completely clear the property of the 8ft high weeds.

The City work continued very slowly for the drawings and permits and so we brought in an expediter group to complete the tasks at hand and replaced our architect/engineer. We saw decided improvements with this new group and the work continued at an improved rate giving us hope that 2024 will finally be our MOVE time.

## SUPPORT

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped us, encouraged us, sponsored us, and worked with us to make our future move a reality. Your support has carried us this far and soon will take us to our Forever Home.

BLESS YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR US.

Judy Beem, President  
Board of Directors



## OUR TEAM MEMBERS

# WHO WE ARE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Beem, *President*  
 Nancy Kenyon, *Psy.D., Vice President*  
 Julie Casey, *Secretary*  
 Floyd Newman, *Treasurer*  
 Denise Barnes  
 Joyce Davison  
 Wendy Eav  
 Arline Latino  
 Michelle Newman



### STAFF

Lisa Baragosh, *Instructor (Volunteer)*  
 Judy Beem, *Instructor (Volunteer)*  
 Jairo Omar Diaz, *Facility Manager*  
 Luke Hunter, *Stable Worker*  
 Nancy Kenyon, *Psy.D. , Instructor (Volunteer)*  
 Arline Latino, *Volunteer Supervisor (Volunteer)*  
 Elsa Marin, *Instructor*  
 Michelle Newman, *Executive Director & Head Instructor*  
 Gianna Piro, *Instructor*

### HORSES

Cassini  
 Hendrix  
 Jackpot  
 Justin  
 Mare  
 Maverick  
 Minty  
 Solo  
 Sparkles



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

### SERVICES

- Hosted our Annual Children's Demonstration and Fun Day event in June, Costume Day in October, and Ride-A-Thon in December at our Sullivan Canyon mobile location.
- Provided ongoing lessons to 57 students at our main facility in Shadow Hills and our Mobile Program at Sullivan Canyon.
- Hosted foster youth from the Happy Trails program for two field trips.
- Hosted a group of international visitors to promote equine therapy services.
- New students added from waitlist as openings became available.
- Looked at many potential horses; 2 passed the 45 day trial and became part of our herd.

### PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

- Retained services of expeditor to assist in oversight of property development and obtaining permit approval from the city.
- Benefiting from an Eagle Scout project, they refurbished our activity board and created new educational games at current location (and can be moved to future home).
- Fence was moved a few feet to be in compliance with city requirement.
- Maintenance gardening is performed regularly.

### ADMINISTRATION

- Implemented Quickbooks for improved internal financial tracking.
- Began invoicing students to improve accounting.
- Created online forms for new student intake.
- Maintained an active social media presence on multiple channels.
- Monthly eNewsletters sent to families, donors, volunteers, and other interested parties.



////// A CRUCIAL PART OF OUR PROGRAM

# VOLUNTEERS

More than  
365  
people  
donated  
time

*“Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.”*

~Heather French Henry

Over  
3,600  
volunteer  
hours  
logged

## Volunteers help with a variety of duties including::

- Cleaning Horse Stalls
- Grooming Horses
- Leading Horses During Lessons
- Side-walking During Lessons
- Gardening
- Counting Inventory
- Event Help
- Stuffing Envelopes
- and more

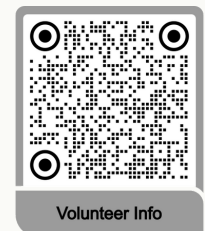


## These individuals are recognized for donating 40 or more hours during the 2022-2023 fiscal year:



Francesca Agliolo  
 Alex Aguilar  
 Lisa Baragosh  
 Judy Beem  
 Eleanor Brindle  
 Julie Casey  
 Pam Currie  
 Joyce Davison  
 Wendy Eav  
 Stephanie Holmes

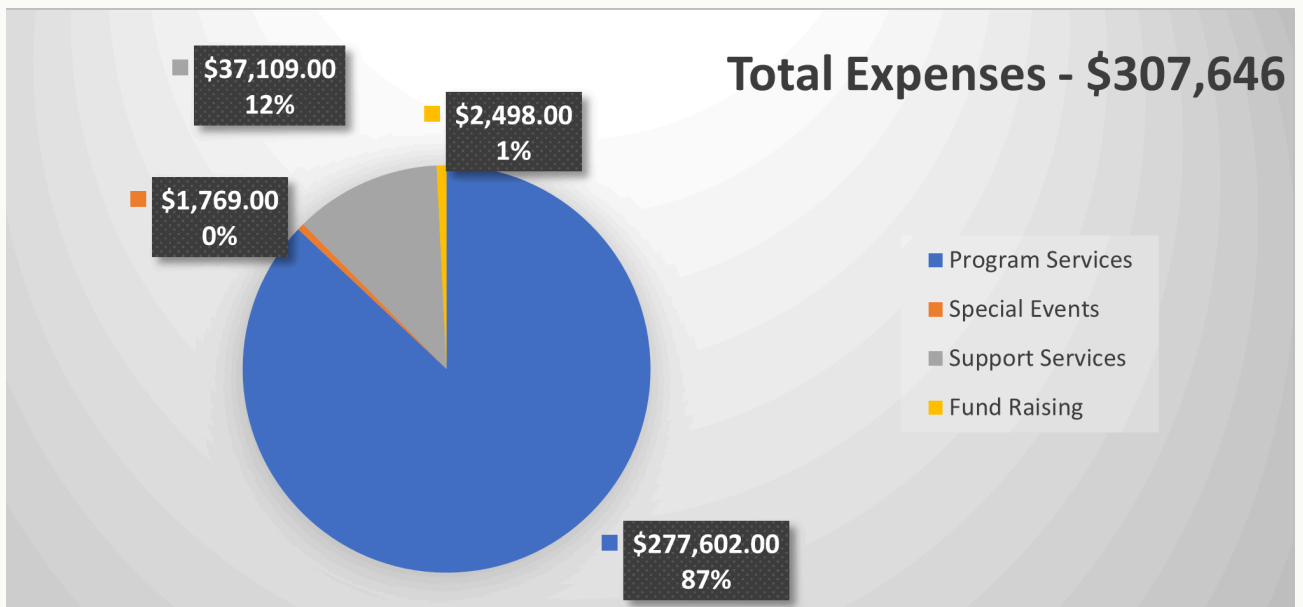
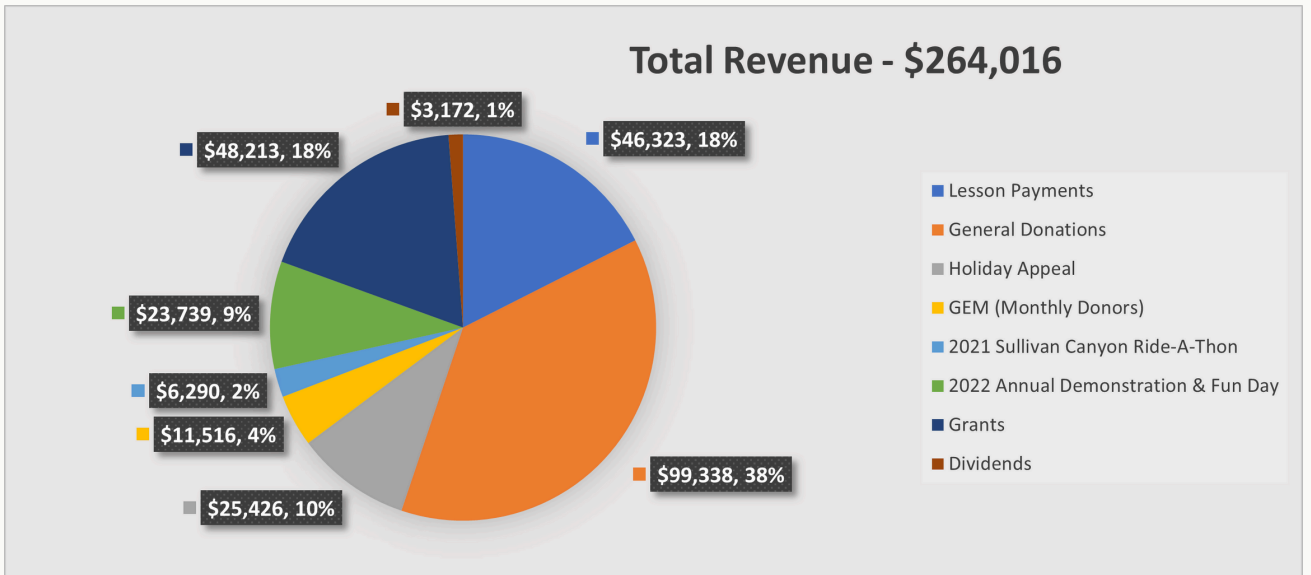
Nancy Kenyon  
 Arline Latino  
 Judi Lohne  
 Kathleen Meyer  
 Claudia Nau  
 Floyd Newman  
 Jacob Reid  
 Jean Rubin  
 Shelley Stravitz  
 Aurora Taliesin-Sudy





# YEAR IN REVIEW

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY





THE REASON WE DO THIS

# OUR STUDENTS



## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT US

64  
Students  
Served



FOR THREE YEARS, AWH HAS PROVIDED SAM A PLACE TO EXCEL BEYOND HIS ABILITIES WHILE INSTILLING IN HIM CONFIDENCE WITH HIS BODY.

**John Bollow**  
*Dad to Sam*



WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL FOR AWH AND EVERYONE WHO WORKS THERE. FROM MICHELLE AND ELSA TO THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS, WE FEEL SO LUCKY TO BE PART OF SUCH AN AMAZING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

**Dominika Ossowska**  
*Mom to Cassius*

# DONORS

294  
unique  
donors

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

~ Winston Churchill



## OUR SUPPORTERS

*Thank you to all of our supporters -  
without you we would not be able to do  
what we do!*



### \$10,000 AND UP

The Hollywood Charity Horse Show  
QueensCare  
Nicholas H & Margaret H Carlozzi Charitable Foundation

Share, Inc  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Council District 5

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

LADWP Employees' Association  
Lainie and Evie Becky  
Brotman Foundation  
Roberta and Paul Currier  
Jean Kerkorian

Marlene Laraia  
Looking Beyond  
Albert Parvin Foundation  
Steele Family Foundation

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Wendy, Lonnie & Jonathan Andre  
Robert & Lynne Barker  
Barnes Family Foundation  
BJ's Restaurants Foundation Inc  
Brittany, Erik, and Victory Belz Philanthropic Fund  
Ella Dalton  
Joyce Davison  
Barbara Dawson  
Global Temp Services\*  
Goldman Sachs  
Grace Helen Spearman Charitable Foundation  
Bill Greene / Sports Tutor Inc.  
Katherine Hickman

Hope Share Care Foundation  
Kevan Husky / Husky Stables, LLC  
IUOE Local 12 Charitable Golf Committee  
Joyce & Herbert Kean  
Nancy Kenyon\*  
Kroger  
Lucille Ellis Simon Foundation  
The Muraida Family  
David Penner  
Gianna Piro\*  
The Riordan Torrey Family Fund  
The Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Frances Watts

# DONORS

"No one has ever become poor from giving"

~ Anne Frank

## \$500 - \$999

AmazonSmile  
Eleanor Brindle  
Tim Brown  
The Casey Family\*  
Paula Claborn  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Gunilla DeArkland  
Dale Freyberger  
Grandsons Of Italy In America  
Joyce Harris  
The Jacob Family  
La Crescenta Woman's Club- Evening Section  
Lawrence Leav

Larry Leone  
Debra McCullagh  
Floyd Newman  
Orrion Farms  
Probity International Corporation  
Fran Reichenbach  
David Simonds  
The Simonds Family  
Mary Jane Stack  
Shelley Stravitz  
The Tio Family  
The Tritch Family  
The Winnick Family Foundation

## \$250 - \$499

The Barneck Family  
Dabney Beck  
Judy Beem  
The Bernal / Steele Family  
Christine Carrington  
ETM Pictures, Inc.  
The Fung Family  
Stephanie Goodman  
Shawn Hodge  
Rabbi Jim Kaufman  
Larry Kay  
Arline Latino  
Cynthia Madrigal  
Sarah Marshall  
McMahon Family

Kathy Megla  
Kathleen Meyer  
Aidan Morrow  
Claudia Nau  
Michelle Newman Ravich  
Debra Piro  
Probity International Corporation  
Marv & Judy Schmidt  
Shane Family Fund  
Jane & Larry Silverstein  
Elvira Steele  
The Tio Family  
Tammy Wickham  
Judy Wolf  
Sandi Zaslow

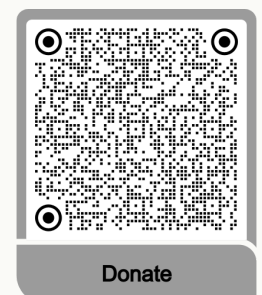
\*Includes in-kind donations

## UNDER \$250

Over 230 additional donors also contributed in the 2022-23 fiscal year - donations of all sizes are truly appreciated.

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

~ Mother Teresa



## GET IN TOUCH

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