



# THE WINGS PROGRAMS

Quarterly Newsletter



January 2024

*Thank You to our Donors, Supporters & Volunteers!*

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of those who have donated time, money and equine gear in 2023 to help our rescue and sanctuary equines have the best life possible.

Here are some highlights from 2023!

## Rescues

This past year we remained pretty busy with existing rescues but still made room for a few more. **Gus**, a red roan, came to us from a senior owner who was downsizing his ranch. Gus was his last horse and was born on his ranch. We discovered that he is going blind in one eye, but he's still a lovely horse and is being trained to be a companion horse.

**Puddles** was a former rescue who's adoptive owner died and we took her in knowing she would probably be adopted out quickly.

**J.J.** is an Arabian who was rescued by a kind soul but had a lot of dental issues and was not eating. When he came in he was severely underweight. We started feeding him soft mash four times a day and within two months had gained 130 pounds and is now at a good weight. Although he is 24, he has been trained and is still rideable.

Eighteen of our twenty-five equines received dental floats in 2023 at an average cost of \$180 each, for a total of \$3,240. Your donations go directly to helping with expenses like this.



J.J. at a good weight

## Adoptions

**Puddles**, a former Wings rescue, was brought back to us after her owner died and was adopted out within a month to a new family with a young girl who now has the horse pal of her dreams.

**Mama, Baby and Sissy**, the donkey family that was adopted out last year, came back to us due to the previous adoptive owner having physical challenges that made it hard for her to handle them. Luckily, a family new to the valley bought a ranchette and was looking for donkeys. After a month or so the new family took Mama and Sissy home, and within a few weeks they were able to take Baby as well and keep the donkey family together. All three donkeys are in their 20's.

**Ice and Lola** went to a foster home south of Hamilton in December to see if they would be a good fit with the two horses there. All are doing well and we will be finalizing their adoption in January.

We also adopted out four of the nine donkeys we received from the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue. As winter approached and we had no pending applications, the remaining donkeys were taken to the Wyoming satellite adoption center, where there were approved adopters waiting for donkeys to be available.



Visit [www.wingsprograms.com](http://www.wingsprograms.com)

# Memorials

We lost two of our seniors this year - Star in the spring and Stetson in the fall. Both were in their late 20's and are buried here with others we have lost in the past.

We thank the vets at Tammany for their care and compassion during the final act of kindness when we had to let them go.

We also lost our ranch dog Sophie, who was a well-known favorite to all that visited. She was our "doorbell," barking at any cars that drove in and parked so we would know someone was here when we were in the barn.

We miss them all!



Star



Stetson



Sophie

# Volunteers

We added eleven volunteers to our regular weekly schedule this year, with another five who come when they are able. This brings our stable of volunteers to a grand total of thirty people who will help out at the ranch and at events. These folks come out in all kinds of weather, respond to emergency calls for help, and staff the many events in which we are now participating.

We enjoy and appreciate everyone who comes to help out and could not run this huge endeavor without them. We average twenty-five equines on site and currently have three in short-term foster care and two in long-term foster care. Thank you volunteers and foster families!

# Events & Community Outreach

It was a really busy year for Wings as we became more well-known in the valley and expanded our community outreach. We did more with school visits and mini-horse parties, and we attended many major events in the valley. Check out the list at right! As always, we couldn't have done all this without the support of those **awesome volunteers!**

## Wings 2023 Events

- Two School visits at the ranch
- Evergreen School Kids Fest
- Mule Days
- Sapphire Lutheran Homes concerts
- Celtic Festival
- Dreamin' for Darby school fundraiser
- Stock Farm community event
- Ravalli County Fair
- Art in the Barn fundraiser at the ranch
- Birthday parties and company events
- Bitterroot Living center monthly visits
- Stevensville Parade of Lights
- K&S Greenhouse Christmas fundraiser



Hope the Cowgirl



Santa Nell

# What's Happening in 2024

Our first big event of 2024 is the Musical Potluck at the Rocky Mountain Grange on February 9th. See the ad on the below for all the details. We'd love to see you all at this musical event that will be a ton of fun, and we'll bring horses!


Look for us at all the big Bitterroot Valley events listed above, and contact us if you'd like to include us in your special event or arrange a ranch visit for your school or business. We've also had a couple of groups come from local businesses for a volunteer day, which has been so helpful in enabling us to complete larger ranch projects with a big group of people.

**LIVE! from**  
**THE GRANGE**



@rmgrange116    [www.rockymountaingrange.org](http://www.rockymountaingrange.org)

**Musical Potlucks with Purpose**  
(Each performance is partnered with a local non-profit)  
**Potlucks start at 6, music runs from 7-10.**

Benefit for the **WINGS PROGRAM INC.**  
featuring  
**WOLF AND THE MOONS**  
in Hamilton, MT!!  
Friday, February 9th, 2024



**at the Rocky Mountain  
Grange!!**  
adult beverages by donation  
**\$10 suggested donation at the door.**  
**KIDS ARE FREE**  
Potluck starts at 6pm Music 7pm-10pm



Visit [www.wingsprograms.com](http://www.wingsprograms.com)