



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc.

It is the mission of Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. to build a compassionate community that embraces individuals who recognize the need to heal and challenge their adversity to grow.

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Jeremy Ebert & EZ Signs, LLC	Equine Manager & Trainer
Fredonia Veterinary Clinic	Property Manager, Facilities & Grounds
Dr. Sara Gilbertson DVM	Veterinarian
Chris Adickes	Veterinarian & Equine Chiropractor
Sherri Sandona Kamenski	Farrier
	Volunteer, Equine Massage, MMCP & MMES

Program Horses

Ember
Simpson (2001-2024)
Ellie Mae (1996-2024)
Lucero
Frost
Ali
Buckley
Prince
Sir Steve
Kola (2005-2024)
Captain

Horse Sponsors

Anonymous
Helene Meyer
Anonymous
Mark H. Reed & Karen Reed
The Jors Family
Jim Zirngibl & Susan Wilson
Lisa A. H. Cudahy
Matt & Celeste Pauli
Donny Robbins & Tyler Wittmann
Sharon Sandona
Sherri Sandona Kamenski

Barn Ambassadors

Donkey Kong
Goose & Carol

Ambassador Sponsors

Deb
Mark J. & Nicole Zirngibl

Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc.
Therapeutic Riding Center

940 S. Main St.
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Annual Report 2024



HGR's 2024 Equine of the Year: Frost

2024 Volunteer of the Year

Deborah Hoerres

Legacy Pledge

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

2024 Memorial Donations

Anonymous
Anonymous
Mary C. Chapman
Stephen D. Moker, U.S. Army Retired
Alan Rasmussen
"Sommer"
Larry J. Ten Pas, U.S. Army Retired
"Kola"

Equine Angel Sponsors

Anonymous
Anonymous
Hamza Jaka & Family
Herman B. Lustigman Foundation
Jim & Pat McLaughlin
The Mikolajczak Family
Mark H. & Karen Reed
ReVivEquine, LLC
Michael & Sandra Smith
Marilyn Tenzer & Family
Jack & Arlene Warden
David & Laura Zirngibl



PATH
INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

**PREMIER ACCREDITED
CENTER**

920-400-0628

www.heavensgaitranch.org



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center

Dear Family and Friends,

Last year your increased support provided more scholarships and sponsorships than ever. Ninety-seven families were touched by your kindness and impacted by your generosity, giving 1,312 equine assisted services to our greater community.

Getting old is tough, but as you know, it's a privilege not guaranteed to everyone. We've learned that happiness comes to those who learn to adapt and enjoy the ride. Despite facing the difficult reality of aging horses, volunteers, veterans, and donors, your thoughtful consideration and timely giving prepared us to weather some "perfect storms" in 2024. Thank you for helping us maintain financial stability while providing the highest quality of our industry's services. Every day is a blessing we're still here, and your prayers make the world of difference while we make the most of year nine.

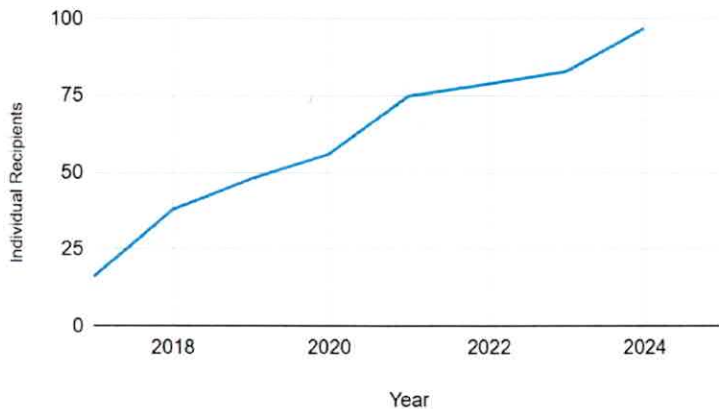


Considering the requirements set by the Department of Health Services, we increased rider fees in 2024 to more closely reflect the rates approved by the state. This generated 26% of our operational income last year; however, your unrestricted gifts were instrumental in closing the gap, covering the true cost of services. Families paying out of pocket at HGR received partial scholarships or full sponsorships based on financial need, so we can't thank you enough for allowing us to allocate funds where & when they are needed most.

With steady referrals from the Children's Long Term Support Waiver, we've maintained a wonderful partnership with professionals in our community who value the equine assisted services we provide. As the only Premier Accredited PATH Intl. Center in our area, HGR remains a go-to provider for county case managers, service facilitators, counselors, and physicians seeking additional support for their clients and patients.

Equine Services for Heroes remain 100% sponsored by your generosity. Thank you for giving back to those who have already given so much. Although we had a higher volume of Vietnam Veterans enrolled prior to the pandemic, their health – or that of their spouses – has declined in recent years, creating more barriers to consider, such as multiple therapies, treatments, and transportation that all factor into accessibility. While some of our original veterans are no longer able to join us at the ranch physically every week, many have chosen to stay engaged with our mission by volunteering or donating, paying it forward to sponsor lessons – or most notably last year – by helping HGR purchase one of our new program horses.

HGR Scholarships & Sponsorships



Last year over 65% of our weekly participants sought counseling and therapeutic services at HGR. Other interests included but were not limited to recovery, individual skill development, empowerment, self-determination, and adaptive riding. Our three focus areas to meet their goals included Equine Assisted Learning, Therapeutic Riding, & Equine Services for Heroes.

Equine Assisted Learning served individuals referred to us by two neighboring counties for Comprehensive Community Services and the Children's Community Options Program – as well as special groups seeking experiential learning opportunities.



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center



“Sir Steve” arrived last fall through the generosity of the Moker & Menacher families, in honor of U.S. Army Veteran Steve Moker who sadly passed away last spring. “Sir Steve” seamlessly stepped into programming and has already provided over 150 lessons at HGR. It’s been a joy to keep Steve’s encouraging spirit alive at the ranch.

Between Sir Steve, Buckley, and Prince, you dramatically impacted the number of Therapeutic Riding lessons we could provide in 2024 because you helped us add three versatile horses to the herd. With multiple PATH Instructors on staff, capable of sourcing and integrating new mounts into programming for individuals with special needs, their time and talents were collectively put to good use. Providing over 800 mounted lessons in 2024, demand for therapeutic riding continues to rise. Meeting that demand, however, continues to depend on limited resources that heavily rely on governing with teamwork, prudence, and fortitude.

When the seasonal PATH Center to the north of us announced it would be going almost entirely unmounted by summer 2025, HGR started receiving a high volume of inquiries. We had 60 people on the schedule for our first session of 2025, and our herd is holding steady with their workloads. We will continue to explore free lease options for future mounts when needed, but we do not plan on purchasing more horses in 2025. Nationwide, the average hours served per volunteer is declining, and HGR’s trends are consistent with recent growth in episodic volunteering. Therefore, sustainability and growth not only depend on getting more horses when programming demands but also steadily compensating qualified staff to provide experienced leadership, daily horse care, facilities management, and certified instruction.

Looking back on 2024, your charitable contributions covered 75% of our operational expenses. Thank you for your incredible support. Humanely euthanizing three program horses and purchasing three more – all in the same year – was one perfect storm, and we are anticipating more hurdles to jump in 2025. The ripple effect of federal budget cuts is still yet to come, and we recognize you are also bracing for impact. That said, we’re nine years into preserving our mission, and you’ve taught us how to keep our heels down and toes up, with our eyes soft on the horizon. Sustaining operational funding with unrestricted gifts remains our greatest priority, even if that means pausing special projects or capital improvements such as insulating the indoor arena. We trust that with your help, we will continue to find a way when timing and other resources align.

Thank you for preparing us for the perfect storms of 2024 while providing the means for our mission to thrive in 2025 and beyond. With your steady support, your generosity will extend to over 100 individuals in need this year, and it’s an honor to highlight the positive ripple effect you continue to have on our community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mary McClaren

Margaret Mary McClaren



Follow us on Facebook to see more smiles and learn more about our mission!



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center



The Impact of Horsepower

What impact will your eulogy tell? Who will share your stories, and who will care to listen? It's a thought that eventually crosses everyone's mind; hopefully, we all have more time to ponder it — and better yet — to craft it. What an honor it is to share the impact of a life well lived — and what a privilege it is to see life positively evolve after death.

Anyone who has followed our story from the beginning knows Ellie was the matriarch of our herd. She arrived in 2017 through the generosity of Cheri & Gene Eberhardy, as the first mare accepted into our therapeutic riding program. She immediately became the most requested mount for children with special needs. Standing just over 14 hands, Ellie's patience in the barn and steadiness under saddle made her the perfect partner for children and young adults learning to ride.

Not only did her seniority offer a forgiving friend for kids learning to regulate their big emotions, but her predictable pace also provided proprioceptive input at a manageable speed for riders with physical disabilities. From carrying children with Rett Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy to supporting young adults with speech & learning delays, Ellie elevated her friends' confidence & life skills, taking small steps week after week.

She was the perfect introductory mount for many, teaching hundreds of riders to progress to taller and faster mounts who could comfortably trot and canter. Even after riders developed a need for speed, they often asked if they could still groom or feed Ellie before or after their lesson. And to see her work with our veterans was simply a delight.

Over the years Ellie was adored by all. Staff fondly recall her birthday parties, when children would bring homemade "edible arrangements" of apples and carrots creatively crafted in the shape of unicorns while veterans would arrive with new halters and lead ropes because they thought "Ellie would look pretty in pink." There's no doubt, Ellie was loved by many, including a variety of sponsors who covered the cost of her growing care. HGR especially thanks a generous anonymous donor, the Jors Family, Marty Hake, and the Mikolajczak Family for their support over the years, as you made it possible for Ellie to provide a total of 1,180 lessons to those in need.





Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center

Because she was so popular, many assumed Ellie would have provided the most equine assisted services at HGR; however, Simpson became HGR's silent MVP — providing over 1,400 lessons to children with special needs and adults with disabilities from 2017-2024. Standing sound at 15.1hh and weighing 1,200 lbs in his prime, he comfortably carried children as young as three and adults as old as 79. Generously purchased with the help of Andy & Lisa Munao and sponsored by Helene Meyer for eight consecutive years, Simpson created hundreds of success stories for others, while simultaneously cultivating his own.



From 2017-2019, Simpson was a staple for our veterans with disabilities. He “picked his people” by not only mirroring their energy but also by regulating their heartbeats. He couldn't stand being alone or confined to a stall, and although impatient at times — he was always eager to see a buddy — namely, the veterans and participants who loved him. For years, Simpson was lower on the pecking order, and you'd hear him calling for the alpha or checking in with the mares, trying to get close to the drafts without also disturbing peace in the paddock.

He made his presence known wherever he was on the property so that he was never left behind. For these reasons and more, our combat veterans empathized with his need for safety and desire for security in numbers. They, too, could relate to various environmental stressors and worked hard to acknowledge and release them.

As a prey animal on alert, Simpson was spectacular working with combat veterans who shared his sensitivity to sounds, touch, or smells, so much so that they'd instinctively anticipate his anxieties and stand by his side, whenever he needed some positive reinforcement or reassurance. Ironically, as an Appaloosa, Simpson's sight was not his strongest sense, which meant his other senses were constantly overcompensating. Appaloosas are genetically inclined to develop recurring eye issues, including uveitis, which is chronic and painful inflammation in the eyes. Appaloosas are eight times more likely than other breeds to develop this condition and four times more likely to inevitably go blind because of it. Despite this highly-probable, pre-existing condition, we took a chance on his potential, and slowly but surely, he provided more riding lessons than any other horse to date at HGR.

After Jack, Mac, and Dolly passed, Simpson naturally climbed the ranks in the herd, not necessarily by choice but by default. Once again, our combat veterans could relate to Simpson. One minute, he was looking for a leader to assuage his fears. The next minute (it seemed), he was a leader, with new recruits now depending on him for safety and direction.

It now seems like it happened in a blink, but by year eight, Simpson was one of our most seasoned steeds on site. As a senior at HGR, Simpson loved carrying teens and adults with disabilities. Because they had already developed a relationship with him from the ground, he taught them how to “feel,” making him a trusted mount for those who made the effort to know him. Not only did he carry riders with Alzheimer's Disease and Down Syndrome, but he also carried riders with Tourette Syndrome & ADHD. He knew when to slow down and when to speed up, giving riders what they needed to live a little in the moment.

Although HGR didn't have Kola for nearly as long as Simpson, the two shared some notable similarities. They were incredibly intelligent, intuitive, alert and responsive to their surroundings, including their handlers and riders. This responsiveness is why certain staff members, volunteers, participants, and veterans enjoyed working with them: it was a challenge to leave your issues and pride at the door because you had to be present with them in the moment. They were not about to just give you a boring pony ride.



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center



Formerly registered as “Kohler It’s Magic” with the American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA), Kola was adopted by HGR in the fall of 2021 with her son, Captain, after her owner generously and anonymously donated both to our programs. As a 20 year old, five gaited saddlebred, the chestnut mare was professionally trained for showing saddle seat. While other horses are typically trained to walk, trot, & canter, Kola had two extra gears: she could rack and slow gait as well. Although she never entered the show ring again once she arrived at HGR, her giraffe-like stature amazed all who dared to catch her.

Veterans and adults welcomed the challenge, while children were drawn to her loving heart. Some of our favorite memories of Kola include working with homeless veterans who had the courage to visit HGR after the pandemic with the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin. They were proud to partner with such a powerful animal, and we were humbled to provide the opportunity for physical connection and human decency after COVID.

We especially thank Kola’s generous sponsor, Sharon L. Sandona, for providing such wonderful care in her senior years, as well as Sherri Sandona Kamenski who provided her with much needed equine massage. When they learned Kola’s health took a turn for the worst, these ladies literally crowned her with roses and flowers to give her a beautiful send off, and HGR’s memorial “mum” garden is now so fitting for this magnificent mare.

2024 Volunteer of the Year: Deborah Hoerres Written by Maggie Robertson

Deb Hoerres started volunteering at HGR to reconnect with her childhood love of horses. In doing so, she found so much more. She found community by witnessing the joy of children engaging in the magic of equine partnership.

“I grew up on a farm and had two ponies that I rode until they were ready to drop,” Deb says. “Remembering my connection with them and how they were my therapeutic buddies, I wanted to reconnect with that feeling and help pass it on to others. When I heard about Heaven’s Gait at a presentation at the Cedar Grove Library, I knew it was something I’d like to be involved in.”

Since December 2019, Deb has grown with us through thick and thin. Her dedication to our mission extends beyond civic responsibility: it’s clear her heart is fully invested in the good we accomplish together. Her ability to connect with the animals and riders alike is truly special, and she brings a calmness to everyone around her. Whether she is supporting riders during lessons or lending a hand with tasks around the barn, Deb is truly a gem. Her passion for animals, particularly the ranch's barn ambassadors, is a testament to her love for all creatures, big and small.





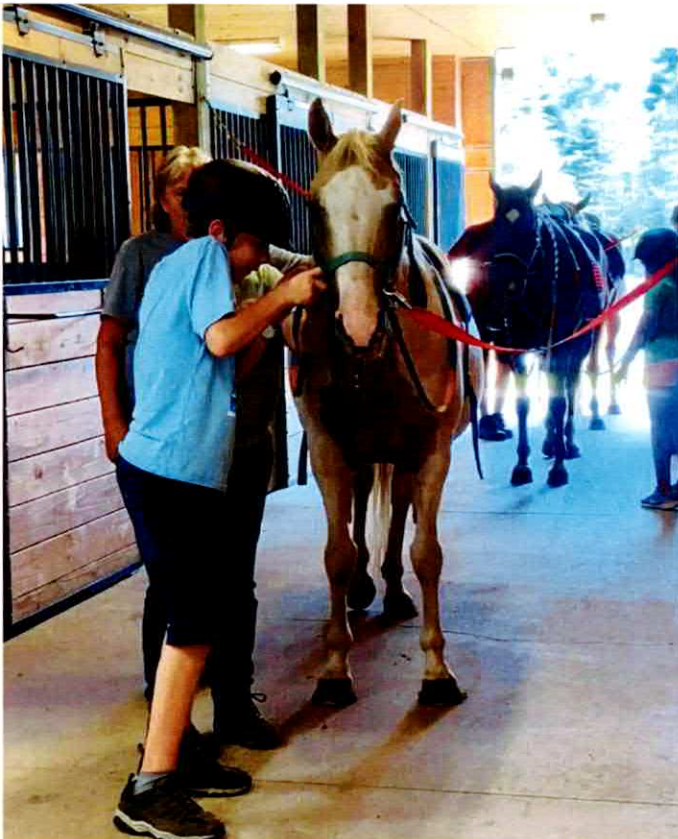
Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center

Every Monday, Deb arrives to a multi-species chorus, who have an uncanny ability to tell time and day. Kong brays and trots to the fence line for his carrots, while Goose waits by the door for his Temptations cat treats. Upon her entrance, he meows excitedly and jumps on the couch. Having side-walked for many of our participants over the years, Deb fondly recounts one of her favorite moments. She says, "a young rider buzzed his hand over my head while doing airplane arms with a sly grin on his face."

In her spare time, Deb enjoys being outdoors, traveling, and volunteering with other animal charities. We are so grateful to have Deb as a part of our wonderful team of volunteers!

"Seeing the enjoyment that the horses bring to participants and their families makes my day. And of course, the excitement of the 4-legged friends when I have treats!" – HGR Volunteer, Deb Hoerres

Thank You, Deb, and Thank you to All our Volunteers for Making our Programs Possible!



HGR's 2024 Equine of the Year: Frost Written by Maggie Robertson

Every day, think of how many hats you wear — Mom or Dad, Wife or Husband, Employer or Employee, Brother or Sister, Friend or Partner. Each of those roles demand more responsibilities, each with their own nuances and challenges. For our program horses, each lesson can be like wearing a different hat from hour to hour on a given day. For one lesson, a slow, steady tempo is best; for the next, a responsive, faster pace.

Throughout the week, our equine partners might be asked to stand still while a veteran gains connection. In the next lesson, the same horse might be asked to canter on a lunge line while a youth learns body language communication. This versatility and intuition is what makes Frost our 2024 Equine of the Year.

"She's a sweet, gentle girl on the ground, and she pays careful attention to who's on board in the arena," says PATH Intl. Instructor Monica Schaefer.

In 2020 when volunteer Jenny Rescorla was looking to downsize her herd at home, she offered one of her mares to HGR for purchase. With one striking blue eye and cute little ears, participants were eager to meet the beautiful Tennessee Walker cross with a palomino pinto coat. But what won everyone's heart was the way Frost could keep her cool from lesson to lesson. From helping children build core strength and coordination to offering adults emotional support and encouragement, no matter the rider, Frost demonstrated she could intuitively adapt.



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center



"Frost has grown and evolved so much with our program: she has developed the ability to read the participant she's working with and know just what they need that day," says Monica.

Since joining our herd, Frost has provided 1,014 lessons to individuals with special needs and disabilities, making a positive impact in 1,014 ways... and counting!

Events in 2025:

- Super Bowl Squares: Feb. 9th. Thank you, Devlin Gray & Family, and all who participated or donated! Your collective efforts sponsored a stall in 2025!
- Meat Raffle at Kyote's Bar & Grill in Belgium, WI: April 26, 2025 at 2pm
- Rounds for the Ranch, Charity Clay Tournament: June 7, 2025 from 2:00-7:30 PM at Highland Sportsmen's Club in Cascade, WI
- 2025 Hayburner Fundraiser & Silent Auction: September 13, 2025 from 1-4 PM at Heaven's Gait Ranch

Text to Give: (920) 315-7551
Keyword: horses

How You Can Help HGR in 2025 & Beyond

1. **Support our 9th Annual Hayburner Fundraiser & Silent Auction.** Donate an item or help us invite others to support our mission. Popular items include custom goods, gift certificates, baskets, event tickets, overnight stays, and golf packages.
2. **Sponsor a Stall in 2025.** We have three left, and one could have your name on it! A \$2,000 donation to sponsor a stall helps cover the cost to provide daily equine care and facility management. Many thanks to an anonymous donor, Bob & Joan Bach, The Buechel Family, Devlin Gray & Family, and Sharon Sandona & Sherri Sandona Kamenski for sponsoring a stall in 2025!
3. **Consider a Corporate Matching Gift.** Many businesses offer matching donations, and every little bit helps! Does your employer care about health & human services, child development, education, military veterans, or animals? Please ask your employer today or let us know if this is an option, and we'd be happy to connect.
4. **Make a Planned Gift & Leave a Legacy.** Help HGR build our endowment. Making a gift to Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. in your will or living trust can guarantee that your legacy endures. Your gift may be a specific dollar amount, stocks, bonds, an estate, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all other provisions are specified. If you have named HGR in your will or trust, please let us know so we can ensure your gift is used according to your wishes. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we will keep your name and gift in strict confidence.



Financial Review and Budget Summary

It is my pleasure to share with you the following budget review for 2024 and the planned operating budget for 2025. As always, we value transparent and timely communication. In the following two pages you will see a detailed breakdown of the program's expenditures and explanations if they differ substantially from the budget. We are proud of what we have accomplished together on this small ranch in Cedar Grove.

Respectfully,

Brian McClaren

Co-Founder, Director of Finance and Operations

	2024 Annual Report	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income				
Rider Fee Income		\$ 85,000.00	\$ 107,515.00	\$120,000.00
Donation Income		\$ 245,000.00	\$ 284,339.84	\$235,000.00
Other Income		\$ 24,000.00	\$ 17,199.00	\$ 20,000.00
Total Income		\$ 354,000.00	\$ 409,053.84	\$375,000.00
Expenses				
Contractor - Lawn Care/Snow		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 12,500.00
Contractor- Farrier		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,943.13	\$ 5,250.00
Contractor - Veterinarian/Afterlife Care		\$ 18,000.00	\$ 31,140.13	\$ 25,000.00
Wages (Staff)		\$ 192,000.00	\$ 197,821.99	\$205,000.00
<i>Executive Director, MBA, PATH CTRI & CCS Provider</i>		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.22	\$ 52,500.00
<i>Program & Volunteer Coordinator, PATH CTRI & CCS</i>		\$ 43,000.00	\$ 42,000.04	\$ 46,000.00
<i>PATH Certified Instruction/Therapeutic & Rehabilitation Services</i>		\$ 34,000.00	\$ 42,968.65	\$ 49,500.00
<i>Facilities Management</i>		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,798.00	\$ 30,000.00
<i>Equine Management, Training, Conditioning/Other</i>		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,336.51	\$ 27,000.00
<i>Kim Berggren, ETC, Adv. PATH instructor, ESMHL & Mentor</i>		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 22,718.57	\$ -
Employee Recruitment, Retention, & Benefits		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,090.00	\$ 5,000.00
PATH Membership(s) Annual Dues		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,039.78	\$ 7,500.00
Liability and Property Insurance		\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,427.41	\$ 8,500.00
Workers Compensation Insurance		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,027.00	\$ 4,789.00
Unemployment Insurance		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 423.22	\$ 1,400.00
Supplies and Program Materials		\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,521.48	\$ 10,000.00
Professional Services/Property Care		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,018.50	\$ 5,000.00
Legal/Accounting/Web		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,251.69	\$ 4,000.00
Meals and Entertainment/HGR Events		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,569.81	\$ 9,000.00
Office Supplies (Printing, Hosting, Publications & Mailing)		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,604.26	\$ 5,500.00
Payroll Expenses		\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,667.66	\$ 1,750.00
Payroll Taxes (FICA)		\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,395.42	\$ 15,700.00
Real Estate Tax		\$ -	\$ 10,638.09	\$ 500.00
Maintenance of Facility/Equipment		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,829.07	\$ 15,000.00
Utilities (Water/Sewer/Electric/LP/Internet/Trash)		\$ 13,500.00	\$ 12,412.03	\$ 13,500.00
Horse Feed (Hay & Grain)		\$ 14,000.00	\$ 11,919.08	\$ 13,000.00
Tack + Horses		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,958.16	\$ 5,000.00
Capital Expenses		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses		\$ 344,850	\$ 378,598	\$ 372,889
Carryover Income		\$ 9,150	\$ 30,455.93	\$ 2,111.00

Donation Income

2024 Donation Income outpaced expectations as some donors moved up their 2025 donations to 2024 to take advantage of the tax deductions in a year where they could better use them. To the extent possible we have prepaid expenses to help take advantage of the sooner-than-expected income.

Rider Fee Income

In 2024 HGR provided more than 1,300 lessons. Rider fees were increased in 2024 to maximize the benefit to the program from multiple county funding sources. We anticipate ~1,200 lessons per year is sustainable for the current herd and program structure.

Contractor – Lawn Care/Snow Removal

EZ Signs and Lawn Care, owned and operated by Jeremy Ebert, continues to exceed expectations. He will continue to provide excellent year-round property services. We paid for the 2025 contracts in the calendar year 2024 to take advantage of discount pricing.

Veterinarian + Afterlife Care

Sadly, we said goodbye to three animals in 2024. Despite strategic and preventative care packages that we put in place for each equine, the cost of “senior living,” euthanasia, and end-of-life care including removal and cremation are all quite expensive. In a rural area, there are only a few providers of such service available. We did not expect to lose three horses last year, typically we plan for about one loss per year. We have increased this allowance moving forward.

Cost of Labor (Staff)

With fewer weekly volunteers available, we onboarded additional program assistants in 2024 to provide reliable equine care and handling for programming. We ended our contract early with Kim Berggren and also onboarded an experienced PATH Intl. Instructor with bandwidth for daily instruction. Team leaders reshuffled responsibilities to best suit the skills of our current staff. As for 2025, we are well-staffed and looking forward to another successful year.

Employee Recruitment, Retention, and Benefits

The cost of finding and keeping employees has continued to increase. We have adjusted this budget moving forward to remain as competitive as possible and to keep our great staff happy. The category includes a small retirement incentive match for staff who have been employed for 12 months as well as retention, apparel, and other minor benefits showing our appreciation.

PATH Memberships

This budget item increased for 2025 as we plan to send some of the instruction team to the bi-annual national PATH conference. Also, as a Premier Center, our annual PATH dues are higher than those of a traditional program.

Unemployment Insurance

We received a reduction in rate for having no claims over a certain period. We expect an increase in rate from .37% in 2024 to .65% in 2025.

Meals and Entertainment/HGR events

The overage in the category is associated with a new fundraising event we started in 2024 – **Rounds For The Ranch** – This Sporting Clay shooting event, hosted at SoLu Winery in Cascade, WI had great attendance and engagement from existing supporters, volunteers, and new faces. This event will be repeated in June 2025. Please join us and be sure to ask about the “flurry” shoot!

Maintenance of Facility and Equipment

Both machines went in for long overdue service at the end of 2024. The Bobcat 753 had a total ECU (Electronic Control Unit) failure and needed a \$3,000 replacement to function again. The 2025 budget accounts for a \$12,000 note payable on the newest tractor as well as annual service(s). The 2024 component of that note was prepaid in 2023.

Real Estate Taxes

For the first time – and for all years to come – the physical real estate property has been removed from the real estate tax roll – This lengthy application was successfully completed in early 2024 and applies to the 2024 taxes (payable in 2025) and moving forward as long as the organization’s 501(c)(3) status remains in good standing.

Tack and Horses

With high herd turnover in 2024, we have budgeted to add one horse and/or miscellaneous tack to the program this year.

As you review the above information, please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions. We are proud of the work we do at HGR, and we know we couldn’t do it without your support. Thank you for taking the time to share part of your life and purpose with us.