



Windhorse Equine Learning

EMPOWERING YOUTH: INSPIRING POSSIBILITY

IMPACT REPORT 2025



DEAR FRIENDS OF WINDHORSE:

In a world full of expectations and social media pressure, horses offer kids and teens a unique opportunity to be their authentic selves. **By working with horses, our students learn essential interpersonal skills, like connection, communication and awareness, in a safe, inspiring environment.**

Windhorse programs get youth outside and off screens, immersed in nature, learning social and emotional competencies that help them navigate their stressful world. Our effective, **research-based programs** build confidence and resilience.

In 2025, we accomplished a great deal:

- ③ Windhorse served 126 kids through 1,520 program hours, and provided scholarships to 30 youth.
- ③ We partnered with HRDC for our first-ever Spanish-language summer camp.
- ③ We added program staff and increased our volunteer corps to over 60 individuals who provided 1,038 volunteer hours.
- ③ We ramped up our capital campaign to purchase the property we've leased since 2019, so our programs and our students will have a permanent barn home.

It was a year of determined effort to ensure Windhorse programs thrive and provide transformational learning experiences to kids in our community.

Thank you for being part of it.

Darcy Minter
DARCY MINTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maggee Harrison
MAGGEE HARRISON
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What we do EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH HANDS-ON LEARNING WITH HORSES

Through Windhorse's programs, youth learn social-emotional skills and build confidence and resilience through experiential learning with horses.

Our horses and thoughtfully developed curriculum help young people manage mental health challenges and grow into thriving adults.

On average, in 2025, 76% of Windhorse students reported stronger leadership skills and increased feelings of responsibility and self-efficacy after a class session or a summer camp.

Windhorse offers classes in 7-week sessions in the spring and fall as well as summer camps from June to August. Field trips to our barn bring kids from local schools. Our 8 levels of curriculum teach leadership, partnership, responsibility, trust, empathy, resilience, awareness, and connection. We also offer a teen class that focuses on practicing mindfulness with horses.



Photo: Kate Johnston

The impact HENRY'S JOURNEY

Henry's dad passed away when he was only seven years old, and it changed him from a carefree kid into an anxious one with extreme mood swings and little control over his emotions. He removed himself from social settings and was easily overwhelmed. His first day at Windhorse, Henry's excitement was palpable – he literally did a happy dance when the horses came out.

"I saw changes in Henry the very first day," says his mom. As Henry progressed through Windhorse classes and summer camps, he transformed back into the carefree kid he was before his dad died.

"It's given him confidence, and he can share himself with other people now. He's taken responsibility for himself and is able to calm himself when he needs to. When he gets sad, he thinks about the horses, and it shifts his mood into a more positive one. Our whole family dynamic has changed because of Windhorse."

FROM HENRY

If you ask Henry what difference the horses have made in his life, he will tell you: **"They made me calm because I have to be calm for the horses."**



Photo: Rachel Jackson

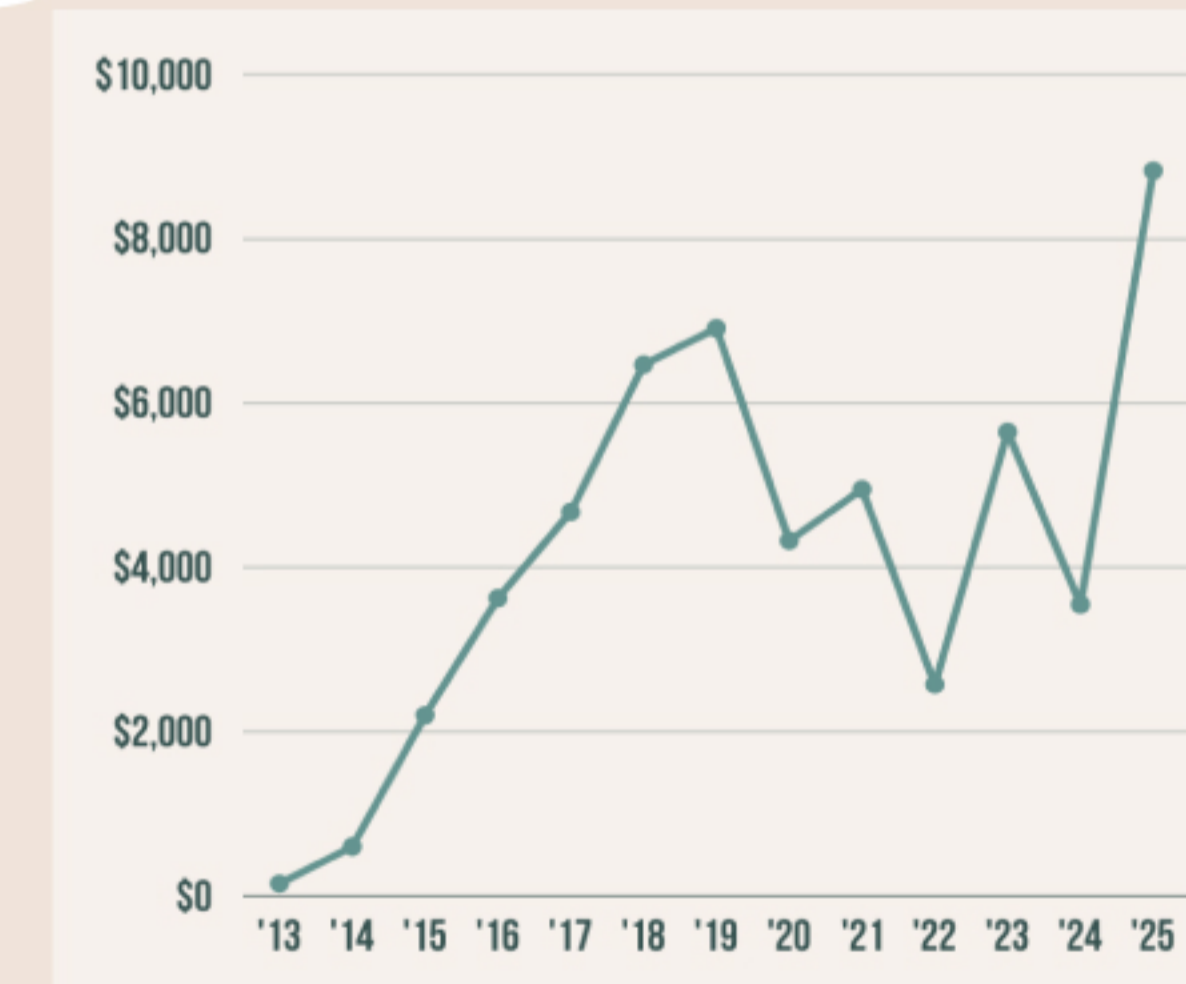
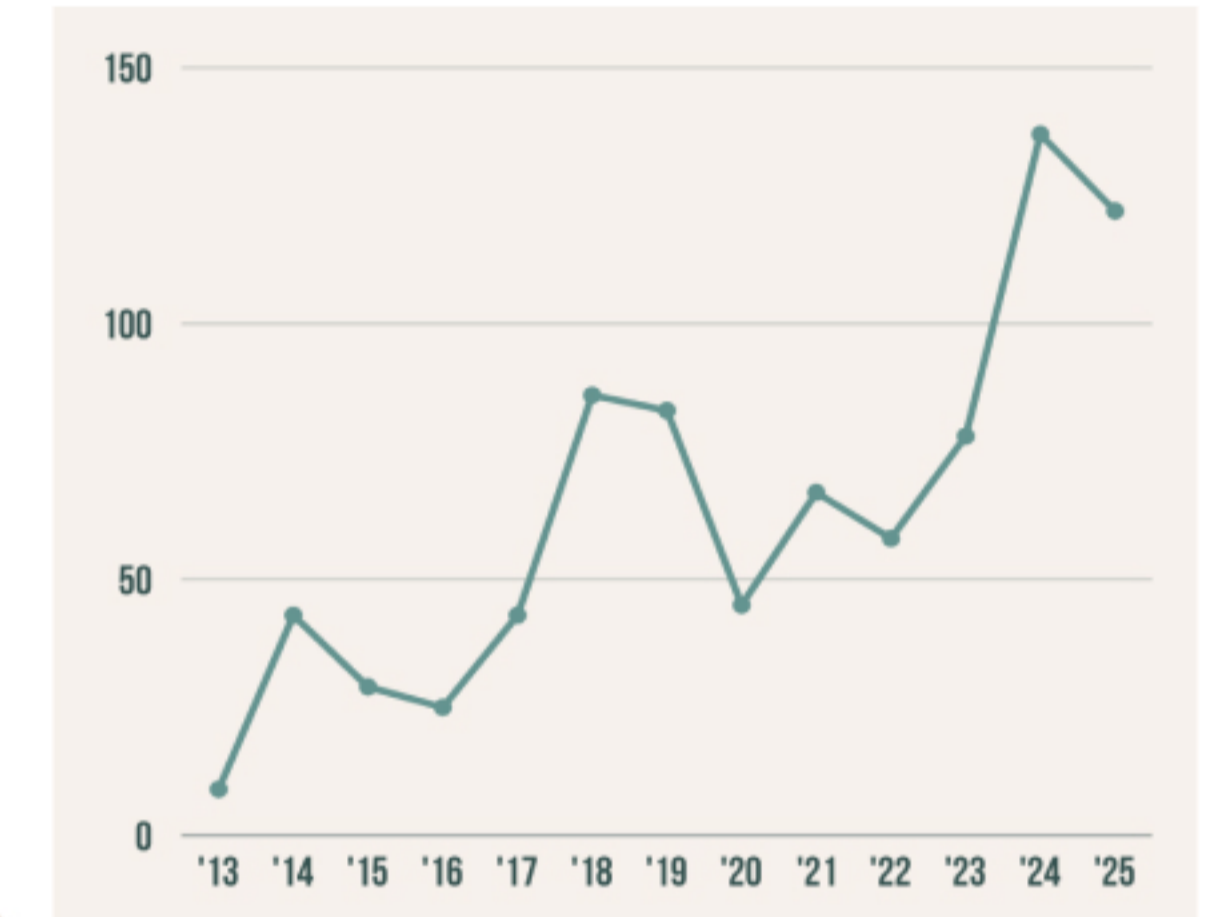


Photo: Rachel Jackson

Participation PROVIDING SKILLS TO HELP KIDS THRIVE

Since 2013, Windhorse has served 850 youth. In 2025, 126 kids and teens participated in our classes, summer camps, and field trips.

Windhorse serves all youth ages 8-18. Approximately **half of our participants have special needs**, including ADHD, autism, OCD, anxiety, learning disabilities, and school struggles. For these youth, our programs offer a safe, healing space to develop positive relationships, self-confidence, coping mechanisms, and interpersonal skills.



*In 2018 and 2019, Windhorse provided scholarships to participants from Big Sky Youth Empowerment (BYEP). In 2025, Windhorse provided scholarships to participants from HRDC's Family and Transitional Housing Program.

Scholarships PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL KIDS

Windhorse believes **all youth should have the opportunity to learn and grow with horses**, regardless of economic circumstances.

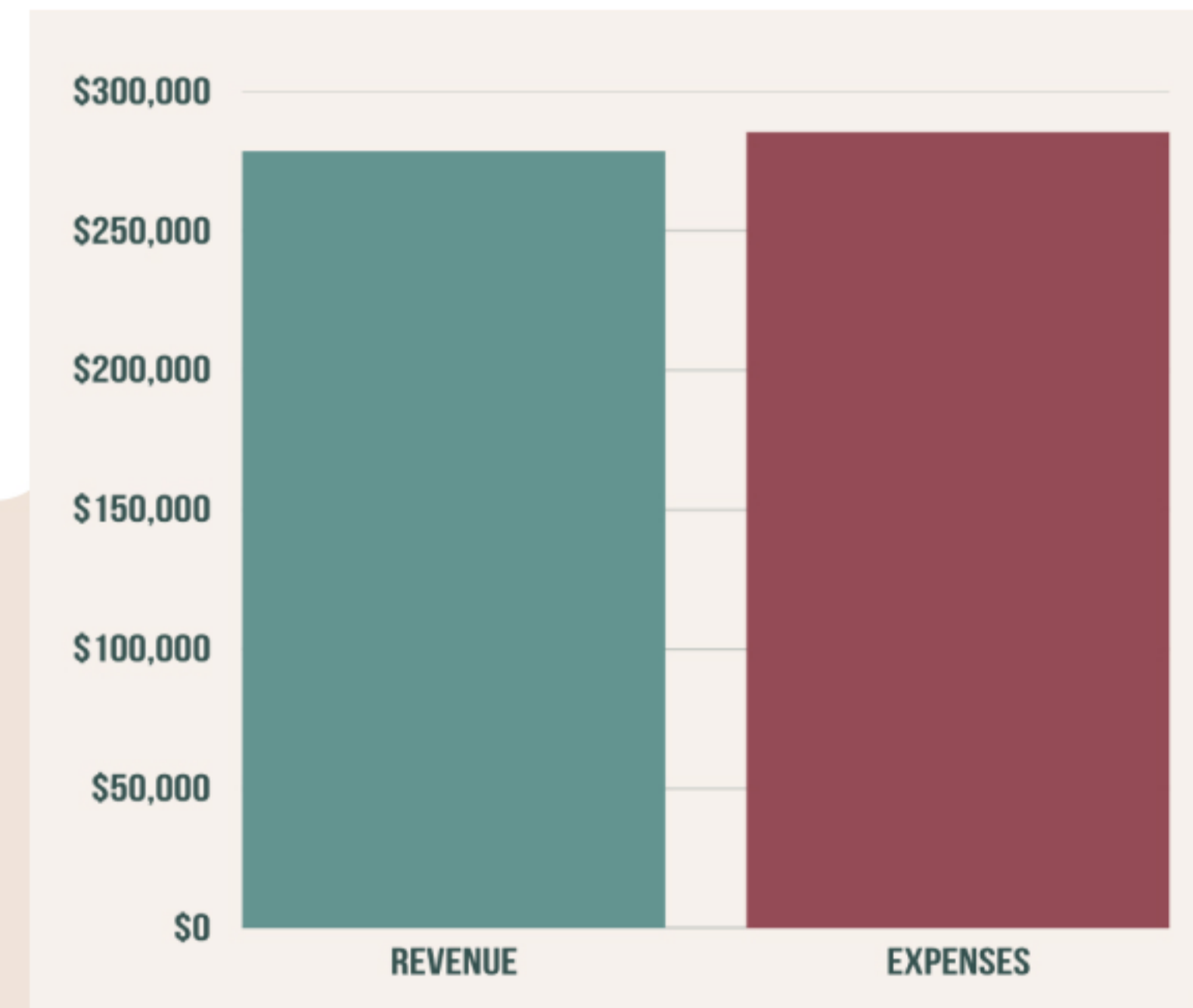
We are committed to making our impactful programs accessible to all kids. Since 2013, we have provided **more than 300 scholarships totaling over \$54,500.**

Financials

REVENUES & EXPENSES

In 2025, Windhorse was focused on raising funds to purchase our property.

Capital campaign income was \$449,211. When excluded, **expenses exceeded revenue by \$6,936.**



*Revenue excludes capital campaign income of \$449,211.

REVENUE		\$278,487
Source	% of Revenue	
Individual Donations	35%	
Events	18%	
Program Fees	16%	
Grants	15%	
Facility Revenue	8%	
Businesses	4%	
Cares Act	4%	
EXPENSES		\$285,423
Source	% of Expenses	
Programs	61%	
Fundraising	25%	
Administration	14%	



Photo: Anne Sherwood

From horsepower to heartpower

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WINDHORSE

➤ PHASE 1:
ACQUIRE OUR LAND

Windhorse is in a critical, final-year race to **purchase the property that is at the heart of our mission.**

This 10.5-acre haven with essential equine facilities has been leased since 2019 from a beloved supporter who unexpectedly passed in 2025. **We now face a deadline of December 31, 2026, to secure the property** from her family's trust at a favorable, below-market price.

➤ PHASE 2:
EXPAND OUR IMPACT

Once the property belongs to Windhorse, we will build a **larger indoor arena with much-needed classroom and office space**, and establish an operating reserve. These changes will enable us to **serve another 40-50% more youth** and provide critical stability and sustainability.



YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP ENSURE WINDHORSE'S FUTURE

Your investment now is the key to expanding our transformative equine-assisted learning programs and securing a permanent sanctuary for youth in our community.

INTERESTED IN HELPING?
Please contact **Darcy Minter, Executive Director** at 406-522-3906 or darcy@windhorseequinelearning.org.



“He’s such a happier kid when he’s in a Windhorse session. His emotions are more stable and he comes home in a state of peace and calm. Windhorse is a place where he feels like he belongs – he’s very connected. And it’s given him confidence and a sense of independence.”

– *Parent of 2025 Participant*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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