



2022-2023 Annual Report

# EMPOWERING FUTURES



Teton  
**Youth & Family**  
Services

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## OUR STAFF

### Leadership Team

Sarah Cavallaro  
*Executive Director*  
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### Administrative Team

Lisa Lord  
*Campaign Consultation*  
Emma Getsinger  
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Jackie Fisher  
*Red Top Administrative Assistant*

### Clinical Team

Margaret Brigham  
*Therapist*  
Matia Wilson  
*Therapist*  
Mckenzie Kirkpatrick  
*Therapist*  
Kayla Barglowski  
*Therapist*  
Emily Sloan  
*Therapist*  
Sturdy Sikora  
*Therapist*  
Peter Moffat  
*Therapist and Youthcare Mentor*

### Program Managers

Patty Schengber  
*Juvenile Diversion Officer*  
Arty Polo  
*Van Vleck House Program Manager*  
Teddy Nichols  
*Wilderness Program Director*  
Wes Gabel  
*Red Top Director of Education*

# Letter from Executive Director



Dear TYFS supporter,

We never settle at Teton Youth & Family Services, we continuously explore new options, check out the potential in other directions, and see what works and how to improve it. This is why we embarked on the long expedition of our Building Brighter Futures campaign and decided we needed to add to our programming and, thus, our impact on the mental health needs of youth and their families.

You see, we have to juke and jive with the times because life's challenges are constantly changing, always finding new ways to stir up trouble. We want Teton Youth & Family Services to be there for those times, prepared for the difficulties you share with us, and ready to help your child or family discover their path to healing.

Increased options for outpatient programming. Further competent, understanding staff to accommodate additional needs and faces. More, comfortable residential spaces. On our side, all these updates to our facilities and services are just the beginning – a stepping stone to more tremendous potential and healthier communities. We will never stop working to support our youth and their families on life's journey. And we are humbled and incredibly appreciative of every gift you provide to help us achieve this goal.

One thing is for sure – we all shine brighter together.

Thank you so much for being such an integral part of the community, and as always, please visit us and our new facilities. We love showing off what you helped create for our community!

Sincerely,

Sarah Cavallaro  
*Executive Director*



# Brighter Than Ever Before

It has been a truly beautiful year. Giant leaps and pushes were made, obstacles were overcome, and futures began to glitter brighter than ever before.

Hope arises with the openings of our newly renovated Van Vleck House and Hirschfield Centers - hope that was made possible by you. The improvements provide safer, more therapeutic spaces for youth and more education, programming, and staffing. We need even more well-

rounded services to heal our community from the inside out, truly! With our Building Brighter Futures campaign at 80%, \$3 million left to raise, and the Red Top Meadows renovations beginning, we can't wait to see what this year holds.

Thank you for helping the most vulnerable in our community find a path toward healing and hope.

## In 2023, TYFS provided...

**4,331**

service days  
at Red Top Meadows

**2,176**

service days  
at Van Vleck

**6,507**

total service days  
or "bed nights"



## The Foundation for the Future

The path to healing starts with high-quality, trained, caring people who have the capacity in their own lives to lift others and lighten loads. According to the Wyoming Youth Services Association, in 2023, WYSA agencies served 5,767 people and currently employ 582 individuals statewide with 661 unfilled positions, leaving a workforce gap of at least 79 positions. Think of the incredible difference those 79 people could make in increasing the quantity and bettering the quality of services provided to our youth throughout the state.

However, gathering said employees and staff is the challenge – especially in a town such as Jackson Hole, where the standard of living is so high and housing so challenging to find. Starting well before but fully igniting in 2022, TYFS began to look for ways to improve our employees' lives so that each employee could continue to provide the very best for youth and families in our community and across Wyoming.

In 2022, TYFS raised the starting wage from \$16.50/hour to \$19.70/hour. Then again, in 2023, we raised starting wages to \$25/hour to compete with other community businesses. This significant jump brought a substantial increase in operating expenses but was nevertheless deemed essential by the Board to ensure services remained available to those in crisis. The new starting wage amounts now coincide with local long-term rental prices, intending to pay employees enough to maintain a necessary 30% housing cost ratio.

Other efforts in investing in TYFS's service sustainability include working with various partners in the community to find and create housing options for employees. This past year, TYFS rented three houses with nine rooms for our employees to rent. Additionally, thanks to the Community Foundation and the Hughes Charitable Foundation, we are working with various housing and non-profit partners to explore additional workforce housing options to stabilize employees further and stabilize services for the future.



## Staffing by Numbers

**45** full-time and 5 part-time employees total at TYFS.

**189** youth were served in our prevention programs.

**96** families were provided Family Advocate support with therapy hours, respite care, and case management.

**89%** of TYFS's budget goes to salaries and benefits as the largest cost to the organization is people who can work with youth and families in times of crisis

**745** individuals who were looking for assistance with their youth or family were provided referrals and consultations.



Between salary increases, housing opportunities, and remodeling and rebuilding our facilities to be safer and more therapeutic, TYFS is planning for the next 40 years and ensuring kids and families in the community are cared for during times of crisis, trauma, and turmoil.



## Red Top Meadow Story

Killian found himself bouncing between therapists and youth treatment centers after getting into trouble and facing issues with anger. He had difficulty finding the right environment or couldn't connect with the staff and counselors. After ending up at Red Top Meadows, Killian discovered the respect and support he needed to begin to face his challenges. **He found it incredibly helpful that several of the staff at Red Top had been in his shoes and could genuinely relate to what he was experiencing and feeling.**

## Red Top Data Points

# 21

In 2023, TYFS provided 21 boys and their families services at Red Top Meadows.

# 80%

of the youth served at Red Top arrive 2-grade levels below in academics and leave at grade level or above.

# 100%

of our youth at Red Top qualify for free and reduced lunch, with 75% coming from low-income households.

# 25%

of the youth at Red Top come from families making less than \$25k.

# 8

In 2023 Red Top served youth from 8 Wyoming School Districts: Uinta, Big Horn, Campbell, Carbon, Goshen, Lincoln, Park, and Teton.

# 5-12

Red Top provides school for youth in grades 5-12. This year, we had 26% of our youth in Middle School and 74% in High School.

# 53%

of our Red Top youth have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

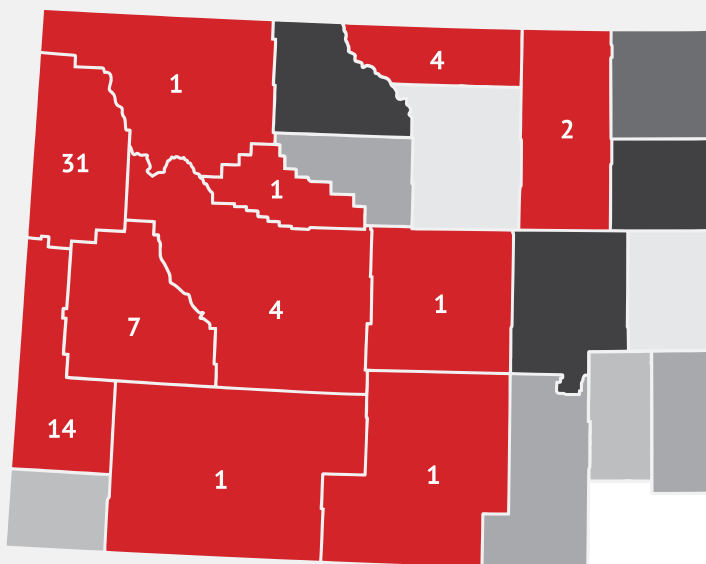


# A Parent's Story

Ellie is a single mother with two teenagers. As elementary-aged children, both of her kids participated in the Van Vleck Leadership program, where they were in a supportive learning environment with peers, and around a staff who met the kids where they were in life. As Ellie's children grew older, her son began to dabble with substances in school and struggled with depression and anxiety. **The Van Vleck House provided a therapeutic, understanding space for her son to reside and heal, giving Ellie safety and space to develop further skills to handle her struggling teen.** The Van Vleck House also provided Ellie and her son the counseling and resources they needed to move towards a brighter future

## Hirschfield and Van Vleck Data Points

- The Newly remodeled Van Vleck House **now offers an in-house safety room for suicidal youth.** The room was designed to feel like a bedroom and features a view of Snow King while also providing a safe space for youth who are at risk of harming themselves.
- The Van Vleck House serves the tri-county area- Sublette, Lincoln, and Teton Counties. Of the counties served, **76% of the youth come from Teton County.**
- When remodeling the Van Vleck House, the builders removed the original roof, only to find three additional roofs! Additionally, when the builders removed all the walls down to the studs, they found all white ceramic electrical units downstairs. **They estimated the units were likely installed in the 1930's, about the same time Jackson got electricity.**
- In 2023, TYFS provided services for **41 youth and their families** at the Van Vleck Group Home and Crisis Shelter.
- The renovations at the Hirschfield Center mostly improved building functionality. As part of the project, 37 new windows were replaced, as before the improvements, when Snow King would make snow, it would snow **INSIDE** the Hirschfield Center. We can work with our clients in a suitable indoor environment thanks to the upgrades. We have all been commenting that it feels like summer!



## Did you know we serve more than Teton County?

Children in need come from all over Wyoming. Here's a look into who we served in 2021.

Teton	31	Carbon	1
Lincoln	14	Hot Springs	1
Sublette	7	Natrona	1
Fremont	4	Park	1
Sheridan	4	Sweetwater	1
Campbell	2		



Based on data from usage of its MHA Online Screening program by youth ages 11–17:

**628%**

increase in clinically validated mental health online screenings between 2019 and 2020.

**84%**

of youth showed symptoms of moderate-to-severe anxiety; that gay, lesbian, or bisexual students were three times as likely to have considered suicide than heterosexual students.

**43.3%**

of youth had a major depressive episode and received mental health treatment.



# The Vital Connection:

## Lacking social connections can be just as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, states the Surgeon General's Advisory

A hug from a parent. A high-five from a friend. These small actions speak volumes of love and provide a vital source of health and healing. We take for granted the meaning and power behind moments of connection, forgetting that for many, a dependable and helpful family or group is an elusive dream.

Spending high-quality time with others is essential for our well-being. Lacking social connection can be just as bad for your health as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day, states the Surgeon General's Advisory from 2023 (Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation, The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community, 2023).

What's worse is that these numbers are getting even higher. "The rate of loneliness among young adults has increased every year between 1976 and 2019," states the same Surgeon General's Advisory. Taking a closer look, a recent report from Mental Health America shined a spotlight on the growing public crisis for youth mental health, exacerbated by COVID-19. Based on data from usage of its MHA Online Screening program by youth ages 11–17, the report found: a 628% increase in clinically validated mental health online screenings between 2019 and 2020; that 84% of youth showed symptoms of moderate-to-severe anxiety; that gay, lesbian, or bisexual students were three times as likely to have considered suicide than heterosexual students; and that 43.3% of youth had a major depressive episode and received mental health treatment.

These demoralizing numbers show that our youth desperately need an intervention – they need a safe space to rest, understanding people to listen, and the opportunity to heal rather

than stay in a cycle of negativity. But finding these safe spaces can be nearly impossible in some cases. Overcrowding and the lack of resources or staff often mean that children might not receive the support they need even when moved to youth care centers.

**State and local agencies are unable to find appropriate placements for foster children and youth with the most severe behavioral health needs. As a result, they are being warehoused in inappropriate settings, such as temporary shelters, hotels, offices, or state-leased houses staffed by social workers; sent far away for residential care, or being left in psychiatric hospitals and detention centers after being cleared for release** (The placement crisis for high-needs kids: it is residential facilities, not foster homes, that are lacking, Child Welfare Monitor, 2022).

That's why supporting high-quality measures for homing and healing our youth is incredibly important. We need to allow them to catch their breath and get back on their feet.

Teton Youth and Family Services has been working towards this goal within the greater Jackson Hole area through our Building Brighter Futures campaign, which improves and increases residential spaces for youth and the programming options available for families in the community. We have also updated our employment benefits to maintain and add to our well-trained, caring staff.

We can give our youth the level footing they need to achieve the brightest futures and build the most vital communities. But it starts now, together.



# The Evolution of Healing

Everything changes – it's the only thing that stays the same. This is true for all people and places, all issues and crises, all things.

Across the country, our youth are struggling more and more with their mental health. The trends we are seeing today relate to youth experiencing high levels of social isolation, poor social skills, suicidal intent and self-harm, aggression towards others, and overall youth who are struggling to self-regulate on a daily basis.

And so, with the changing times, TYFS is also shifting how we manage health and wellness in youth and families in our community. Forty years ago, when TYFS opened our doors with the Van Vleck House, just one facility sufficiently addressed local needs. But over the years, TYFS found ourselves requiring more space, programming, and staff and spread services into four campuses around the valley of Jackson Hole.

Today, TYFS has wrangled our facilities back down to two campuses: Red Top Meadows and the Van Vleck House and Hirschfeld Centers. These critical renovations, starting in 2022 and continuing through 2025, are designed to improve

connections between people, provide a singular space for all the activities and services, and increase opportunities for relationships, collaboration, and healing.

This coming year, we are rolling out new programming with our newly remodeled facilities in town. **As part of this, TYFS is excited to announce that day treatment will become available in February 2024 for youth who are struggling to maintain regular attendance in school due to issues of self-regulation, anxiety, expulsion, or suspension.**

Every little bit counts when caring for our youth, and providing up-to-date services and environments is crucial for maximizing therapeutic potential. We are thrilled at the renovations completed so far and delighted at this chance to bring even more healing to our community.



## The Merriest of Challenges

We just can't thank you enough for the incredible amounts of love, support, and festive gifts you gave to local youth through our Holiday Gift Drive this past year. **We received more gifts than ever before** – which ended up being the merriest of challenges for all the elves who attended our Holiday Gift Wrapping Party (thank you so much for your time and energy!).

To all who celebrated with us at the Hirschfield Holiday Open House – we know no better family than you! It was beautiful being surrounded by those who feel so passionately about the future of our youth. We are still glowing from that afternoon together.

Talk about an inspiring way to start the New Year! We are so grateful to be on this journey with our beautiful community's caring thoughts and actions!

# Financials

TYFS is excited to announce that **thanks to a \$500K gift from the Hughes Charitable Foundation** and a gift of **\$100K from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole**, we have purchased 4.3 acres of land next to the Red Top Facility for future employee housing. **The Ames Family, who worked with us to honor our beloved Wilderness Program creator, Mark Ames, made this land purchase possible.** We are thrilled to have this opportunity to acquire this asset for the benefit of our employees and community.

## Annual Operations for 2022–2023

### Income

Private	\$1,368,390
State	\$1,438,554
Local	\$874,238
Federal	\$155,550
Earned	\$158,744

**\$3,995,476**

### Expenses

Insurance	\$69,379
Facility Maintenance	\$14,982
Food & Supplies	\$213,119
Advertising/ Marketing	\$182,878
Salary and benefits	\$3,217,710
Dues and Fees	\$68,945
Staff Training	\$148,305
Utilities	\$6,093
Vehicles	\$24,064

**\$3,995,476**



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## Save the Dates

### Shine On at The Cloudveil

**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 6-10PM**

A dazzling evening at The Cloudveil—Teton Youth & Family Services is delighted to be partnering with The Cloudveil on our second annual SHINE ON rooftop event.

It will be a night to remember, with music by the talented Sister Karee, dancing in a sparkling sea of guests, and great food.

A healthy, thriving community means building better futures for our youth. Let's come together, and see how we can help them to shine their brightest.

### Annual Golf & Pickleball Benefit

**JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 12-8PM**

We are so excited to host our Annual Golf & Pickleball Benefit at Teton Pines! A beloved spring-time tradition, 100% of the proceeds from the Annual Golf & Pickleball Benefit go directly to services for children and families who need it most in our area.

Not a golfer? Join us later in the day from 4-6pm for a fun pickleball tournament and then head over to the Clubhouse and join our golfers for our Awards Party and Celebration. Pickleball is open to 36 players with four courts in action.

### Summer Celebration

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> 4-7PM**

Join us for some fun in the sun at our summer celebration this August, which will feature live music, festive games, and good food. This is the perfect opportunity to show your support for your community and increase awareness of your business' offerings in a light-hearted, family setting.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR A *Purpose*

Each year Teton Youth and Family Services must raise more than \$1.3M from private, corporate, business or foundation resources to leverage the support we get from town, county, state, and federal sources to provide our programming.

**Will you join us by becoming a partner for a purpose this year?**

Please contact [info@tyfs.org](mailto:info@tyfs.org) or 307.733.6440 for more information