



CARING COMPASS

Newsletter from Teton Youth and Family Services



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- Olive Byrne, *JH Leadership Coordinator*

Red Top Meadows

- Tom Concannon, *Director*
- Wes Gabel, *Director of Education*
- Ted Nichols, *Wilderness Program Director*

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Letter from Sarah



Dear friends and supporters,

As the year draws to a close, we're invited to reflect on all of the challenges and achievements over the last year. This year has had plenty of both, and we know that Teton Youth & Family Services could not have weathered either without your ongoing support.

In alignment with the trend we've witnessed over the past two years, demand for our services has continued to increase. More young people than ever are facing serious mental health challenges, and our staff has worked tirelessly to support them and their families – helping them take the first steps, no matter how unsteady, towards healing.

We also leapt boldly into Building Brighter Futures, our comprehensive campaign that will allow us to finish the renovation and rejuvenation of the Hirschfield Center, Van Vleck Group Home, and Red Top Meadows Residential Facility. The overwhelming majority of the funds required to undertake these desperately-needed renovations are coming directly from private donors like you. We're thrilled to see these projects taking shape and realizing the vision that we have for more welcoming, tranquil, and safe facilities for both our kids and staff.

Though we've made substantial progress on funding these efforts, we still need your help. As you make your end of year gift considerations, please keep Teton Youth & Family Services in mind, and help us finish out these inspiring projects. Ultimately, it will ensure that we can seamlessly continue serving the families and children who need us most 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In deepest gratitude, and sending warm holiday wishes to you and yours,

Sarah Cavallaro
Executive Director

TYFS Wish List

- Electric keyboard
- Microphone
- Propane grill
- Gas gift cards
- Restaurant gift cards or activity passes
- Acoustic guitars
- Used or new hiking boots
- Supplies for the Little Food Pantry: non-perishable food items, toiletries, socks, etc.



Scan here to view a complete list of items and purchase directly from Amazon



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Not pictured: Faye Campbell, Board Member



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Fall Wilderness

Red Top Meadows

The theme of Red Top Meadows' Fall Wilderness trip is Community Service or "being a contributor".

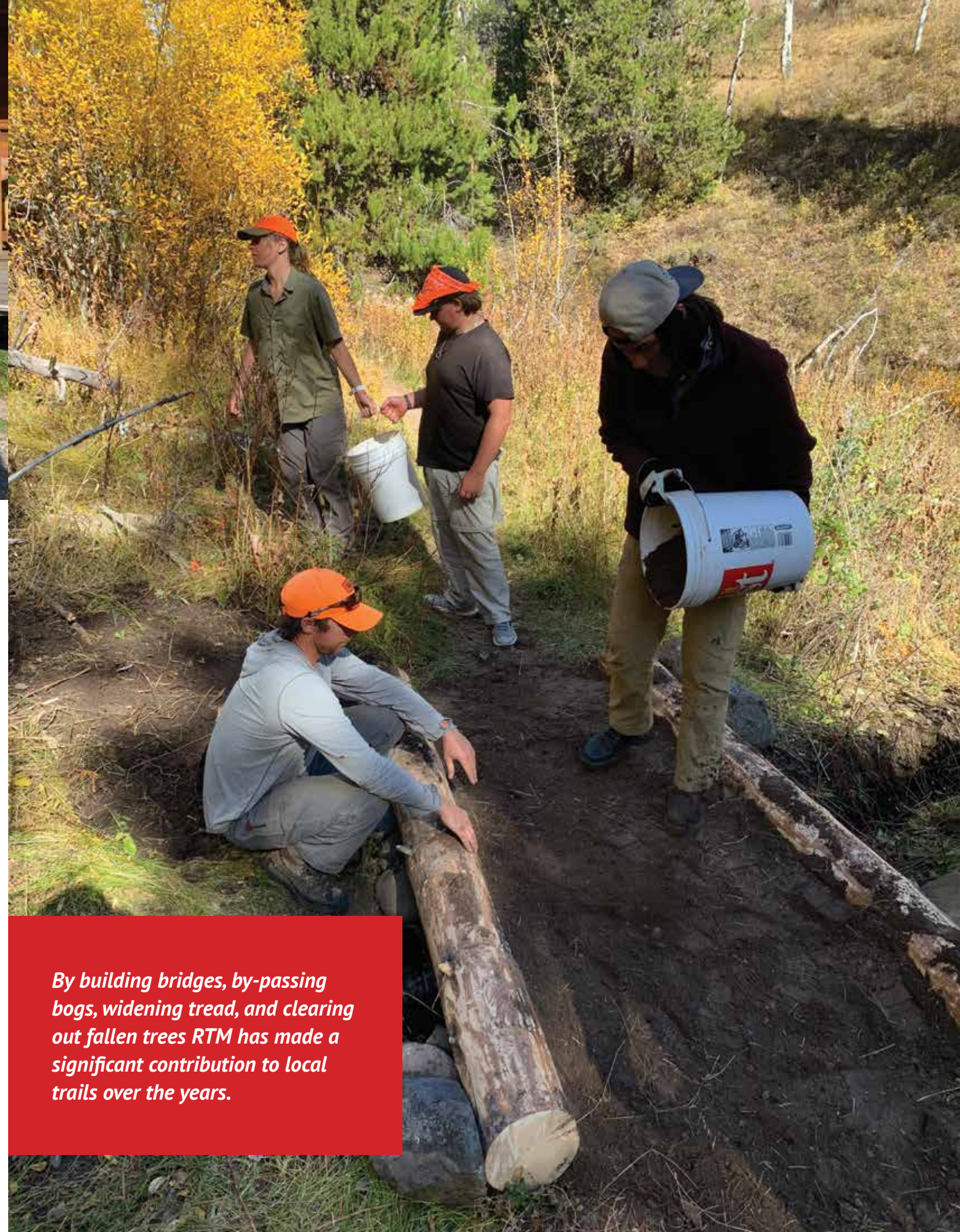
This Fall Red Top focused on how each student's skills and the groups' skills can contribute to their wilderness group, and to the larger community.

One of the values we hold as a program is that of contributing to something greater than oneself. This practice gives young people an important sense of being needed and valued. Community service is also recognized as providing significant benefit to those experiencing mood disorders like depression. Fall Wilderness is a way to make service a reality for our young men.

Red Top has been working on the trails in the Fall Creek area for about twenty years. Due to the hard work and efforts of many past RTM students and staff these trails have become a high quality system for all types of users, such as hunters, hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. By building bridges, by-passing bogs, widening tread, and clearing out fallen trees RTM has made a significant contribution to local trails over the years.

Weather on the Fall trip can be hit or miss. Last year it was very cold, wet, and snowy. This year was the opposite. To the relief of all participants, it was warm, sunny, and fall foliage was in full effect! This year our wilderness trip helped the BTNF Jackson trail crew to repair parts of the Munger trail system. They put in a reroute around a boggy area where the Big Munger trail meets the Squaw Creek trail. Our students also put in a turnpike on Poison Creek that will help water drain past the trail. To finish out the week, students spent time clearing overgrown brush on the sides of the trail to allow for more visibility and to prevent bikers from constantly hitting their hands while riding.

If you have time, take a hike on the Munger trails. Enjoy the breathtaking Fall foliage and see the hard work our students put in to maintaining these trails! Special thanks to Tim Farris, the BTNF Jackson District's Trails and Wilderness Specialist, for his support in making this trip a gratifying and successful experience.



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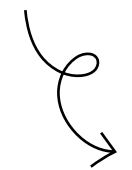
It was a beautiful summer of learning about what it looks like to be a leader in our communities, meeting new friends, and lots of goofy games.



As a result of the re-design, we will have a new staff office, an open kitchen/dining/living area and a more spacious area to meet with families.

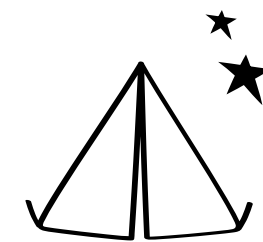
Van Vleck House

Starting in June of this year, The Van Vleck House began undergoing its first renovation since we purchased our current residence 28 years ago. Since its inception in 1977 as a teen drop in center, the Van Vleck House has occupied 6 different locations in town and has offered a variety of different programming over the years. In 1986, we began operation of our Crisis Shelter and Group Home at a time when the nearest such services were in Rock Springs. Since that time we have never had a purpose built setting that adequately meets the dual needs of safety and comfort that the kids we serve deserve. We have always worked at having as “home like” a setting as possible that does not have an “institutional” feel. At the same time, the needs for safety and supervision that kids are coming to us with, are becoming more severe and make it necessary that we improve the safety and comfort of our building. To that end, we have stripped everything down to the studs and re-designed the house. As we did so, we realized that there were many more safety issues than we had realized such as the old wiring from mid-century that has scorched some of the studs. As a result of the re-design, we will have a new staff office, an open kitchen/dining/living area and a more spacious area to meet with families. We have also been sweating the details down to the fixtures in the bathrooms so as to diminish the likelihood of both tampering as well as potential self-injury. We couldn’t be more excited for this upgrade and look forward to the improved quality of life community will bring.



Interested in seeing what is happening? Join us for a tour on Wednesdays at noon. Email scavallaro@tyfs.org to confirm.

Leadership Program



JHLP had a fantastic summer. It started off snowy and wet the first week of camp and ended with a stormy final week in the backcountry. Despite the stormy weather we really enjoyed getting to use the Doug Walker Challenge course all summer long and camping at Granite Creek Campground was a blast! Some of the highlights of Phase I included creating Empathy Quilts each Thursday where we talked about what we feel the world needs more of. We had ideas like love, peace, more recycling, fun, and inclusivity. A JHLP summer wouldn’t be complete without a good old fashioned round of rubber chicken water polo and we had plenty of those. Our Phase II campers hiked the Shoal Falls and Brewster Lake loops this year. The wildflowers, lakes, and falls were incredible on both loops. The campers faced challenges like homesickness, unpredictable (and often stormy) weather, hot temperatures, long miles (especially uphill ones), and unrelentless trail songs and jokes from counselors, like champions. It was a beautiful summer of learning about what it looks like to be a leader in our communities, meeting new friends, and lots of goofy games. and it was all made possible by the incredible JHLP Counselors, campers, and their families! A huge thanks to everyone involved for making summer 2022 unforgettable!





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TYFS Supports Growth

With \$15M we can transform our facilities and enhance the quality of our programming.



Secure, harmonious spaces invite healing.



SAFETY

Incorporating state-of-the-art design and building elements, TYFS will provide facilities for children and families that prioritize safety and ensure that all areas are utilized as efficiently as possible.

Welcoming, peaceful facilities encourage healthy connections.



HEALING

The path to healing is gentler in an environment that offers a sense of peace, safety, and community. TYFS aims to create both private and communal spaces that foster a sense of individual and collective wellbeing.

Trusting, authentic connections are the bedrock of a thriving community.



CONNECTION

Genuine growth doesn't happen in a vacuum – it occurs with support, compassion, and in a space that invites vulnerability and openness to new ideas. This critical exchange is the foundation for resilient individuals and relationships.



BUILDING
Brighter
FUTURES

To learn more about Building Brighter Futures visit tyfs.org/building-brighter-futures