

CARING COMPASS

Newsletter from Teton Youth and Family Services

Fall 2024



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ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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Matia Wilson, MSW, LCSW
Therapist

Kayla Barglowski, MSW, LCSW
Therapist

Margaret Brigham, MSW, LCSW
Therapist

Emily Sloan, MSW, LCSW
Therapist

Mackenzie Kirkpatrick, MSW, LCSW
Therapist, Red Top Meadows

Peter Moffat, MSW, LCSW
Therapist

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Arty Polo, BA
Van Vleck House Manager

Teddy Nichols, BA
Wilderness Program Manager

Wes Gabel, M.Ed
Director of Education

Patty Schengber, BA
Juvenile Diversion Officer

Austen Coviello, BA
Empowered Minds Coordinator

Letter from Sarah



Dear Friends of Teton Youth & Family Services,

As we enter into the winter season, I am filled with gratitude for our incredible community and the many individuals, families, and organizations who support us here at Teton Youth & Family Services. Your commitment and generosity supports our mission, which is to provide essential support, advocacy, and treatment to children and families across Wyoming so that they can thrive.

We would like to extend a huge **thank you** to the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole for another fantastic Old Bill's Fun Run. Thanks to the compassion and generosity of so many, we raised over \$400,000 for our kids and families. These funds will go directly toward our programs, helping us provide crisis support, youth and family therapeutic services, prevention and intervention services, facility upgrades, and specialized treatment for high-risk youth throughout our state. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the strength and dedication of our community, and a reminder of the incredible things we can accomplish when we work together.

Every day, our team witnesses the profound impact of your support in the lives of the children and families that we serve. Your belief in our mission fuels each success story and empowers us to offer hope and healing to those who need it most. Together, we are building a stronger community and **a brighter future for all**.

On behalf of everyone at TYFS, **thank you for your unwavering support, compassion, and commitment**. It is because of you that we can continue to provide the vital resources for the families and youth who rely on us. Thank you!

With love and gratitude,

Sarah Cavallaro



Together, we do more

PLEASE JOIN US IN BEING A TYFS PARTNER IN 2025!

Each year, Teton Youth & Family Services hosts a handful of beloved community events. These yearly opportunities not only help us to raise money for our crucial services and facilities, but also help spread awareness throughout our community about the resources available for families and youth across Wyoming.

But we need your help to do all of this! Each year TYFS 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.

As a business partner, we can showcase your company through high impact giving and event sponsorship. We also provide service opportunities for you or your employees to volunteer at our events.

You can be the difference. Please join us in being a TYFS Partner by sponsoring one of our fun, community events in 2025!

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

May 14-16, 2025

THE 3RD ANNUAL SHINE ON BENEFIT AT THE CLOUDVEIL

May 16, 2025

THE 1ST ANNUAL TYFS PICKLEBALL BENEFIT AT MILLER PARK

Summer 2025

THE 28TH TYFS ANNUAL GOLF BENEFIT AT TETON PINES

Summer 2025



THE COUNTDOWN ON

Building Brighter Futures

It's incredible watching it all come together, knowing that with each nail and screw we are one step closer to completing our crucial facility renovations at Teton Youth & Family Services.

Currently, construction is right on track at Red Top Meadows, the third and final facility update as part of our Building Brighter Futures campaign. The foundation has been poured, structural beams are in place, and we hope to have the exterior walls complete in December.

The Red Top residents have been so patient throughout this process, and they couldn't be more excited about what's to come. Our brand new indoor recreation space will hold an indoor

gym, a basketball hoop, pickleball court, and even a rock climbing wall. The boys will enjoy greater autonomy with individual bedrooms and shared access to bathrooms, and all of the residents' gear will be easier to access and put away with new storage spaces below the bedroom area.

Our ultimate goal is to reopen Red Top Meadows in September of 2025. **We still have \$4,500,000 left to raise on this critical project – help us reach our goal!** Please consider making a gift to our Building Brighter Futures campaign today.



RED TOP RESIDENTS MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Change is never easy, particularly when you are a youth facing hardship or crisis. But it's something we work on at Red Top Meadows, learning to cope and adapt in healthy ways, and finding positive solutions to life's challenges. Learning to embrace change, not fight it, helps us learn and grow, and sometimes we realize it's all for the better.

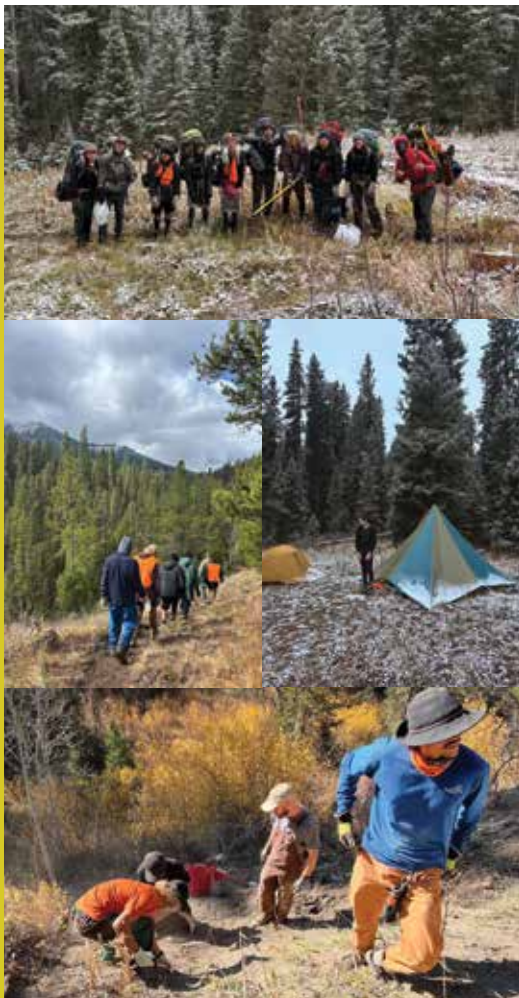
Our RTM residents and staff have truly been feeling the ups and downs of change as we experience the adventure of living at RTM during our facility renovations this year.

For the employees, strategic supervision has been harder to maintain, as all the spaces are being used differently during this flux period, and staffing has been more challenging. Even in light of this, there have been no safety concerns or issues for the boys – they have

done a fantastic job of being respectful and keeping their distance from both the workers and construction space.

When RTM was first demolished roughly a year ago, the residents moved into temporary housing. To our surprise, they were much more comfortable in this temporary space, realizing just how cramped they had felt in the old Red Top Meadows facility. This makes us even more excited for the new individual bedrooms the boys will experience when the facility renovations are complete!

All in all, we are making the best of it here at Red Top Meadows, finding the joy in the challenge, and learning and adjusting alongside our young residents. It's a growing experience for us all, and the future is looking bright because of it.



Fall Wildy Project: MUDDY & MOTIVATED

Each fall, our Red Top Meadows residents take to the woods to complete the yearly Wildy Project: trail work and maintenance in the National Forest around Wilson and Jackson Hole. This year, a local horse-packing outfitter mentioned that there were some very muddy and washed out sections of trail accessed from the North Fork Road - an area that Red Top Meadows has worked to maintain for the last 20 years.

The project involved working with the Forest Service to "bench out" the section of trail, building it up in such a way so that water can drain. All of the boys were engaged, active, and inspired on this project, making short work of the trail updates in only a day and a half, and spending two nights camping in the National Forest.

The trail is now passable by horse once again – and built more sustainably as well – because of our residents' hard work. "It's amazing to see these young men take responsibility and ownership of their Fall Wildy Project, working together to make a difference in their community. You can see the pride on their faces when it's completed." states Teddy Nichols, TYFS' Wilderness Program Manager.

And this year's project was made all the more special, as one of the local horse-packers reached out to thank our residents for their hard work and offered to take the boys on a pack trip at some point in future summers.

Empowered Minds:

ACADEMIC DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR OUR ACADEMIC SUPPORT DAY TREATMENT, EMPOWERED MINDS, RAN FROM FEBRUARY TO JUNE OF 2024, AND IT WAS AN INSPIRING SUCCESS!

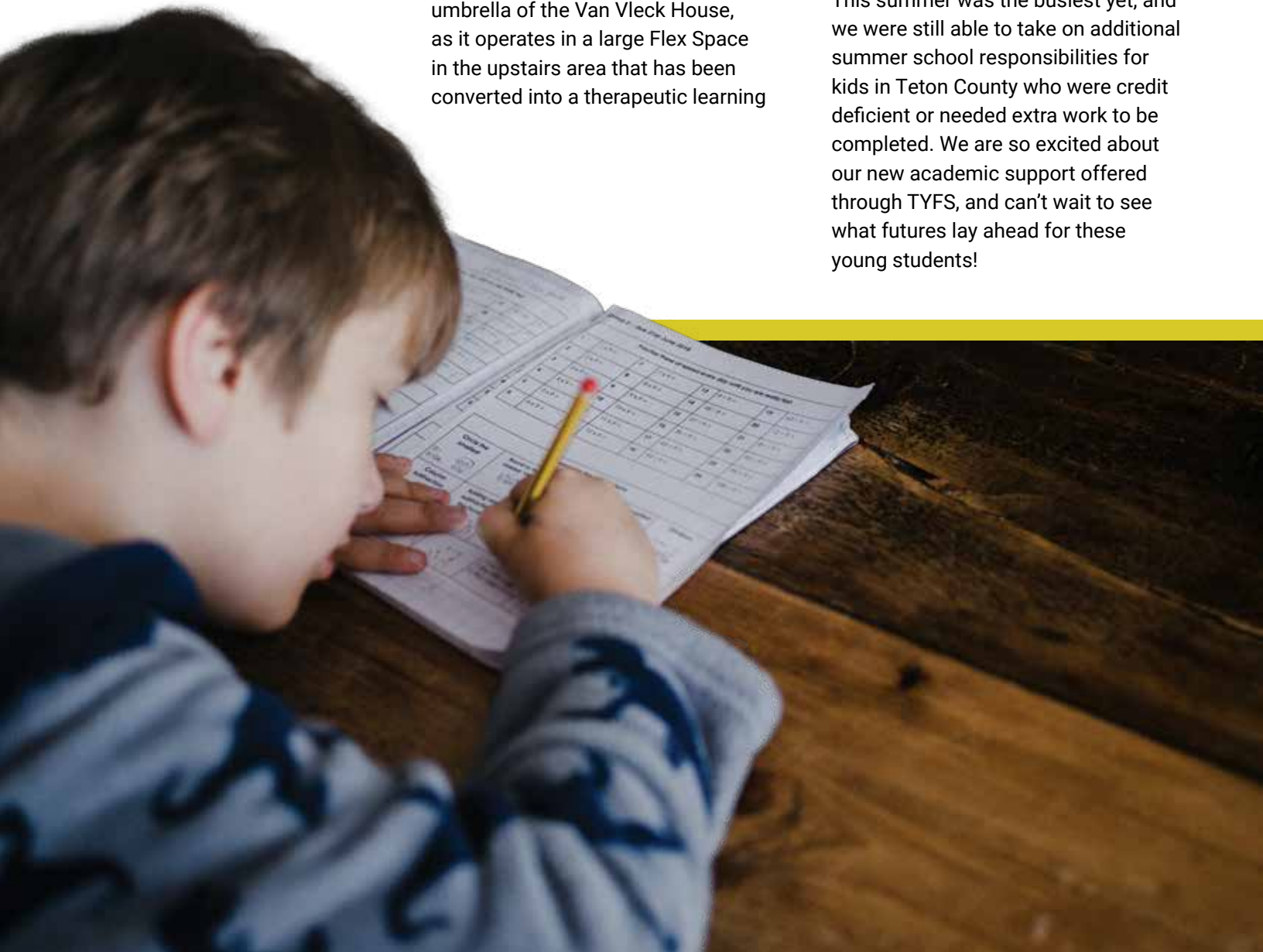
Empowered Minds provides academic support to students in a therapeutic setting while developing life skills through enrichment, experiential learning, job experience, and community service. The program serves middle and high school students with the highest need based on dropout risk, truancy rates, and credit deficiencies; as well as home-schooled students needing academic and social support, or students facing suspension and expulsion.

Empowered Minds lives under the umbrella of the Van Vleck House, as it operates in a large Flex Space in the upstairs area that has been converted into a therapeutic learning

environment: it is used as a classroom for half of the day, and then as a shared group space where activities and therapy groups are hosted.

The program began with part-time teachers from Teton Tutors, but as we have seen its success over the past year and realized there was a critical need for this kind of program in the community, we have since hired a full-time teacher. We are so thrilled to have Austen Coviello as our Empowered Minds Coordinator!

This summer was the busiest yet, and we were still able to take on additional summer school responsibilities for kids in Teton County who were credit deficient or needed extra work to be completed. We are so excited about our new academic support offered through TYFS, and can't wait to see what futures lay ahead for these young students!





Field of Dreams: SUMMER AT THE VAN VLECK HOUSE

The quote “if you build it, they will come” rang true for us at Van Vleck House this summer – this was the busiest summer on record for our Group Home and Crisis Shelter, and typically, the warmer months are quieter. However, this year was incredibly busy! With our increased staff and therapeutic space made possible by our Building Brighter Futures facility updates, we saw more kids in crisis getting the attention and support they so desperately need. This rise in demand for TYFS' services means that our community is doing a better job of recognizing those in need and providing timely assistance. Each young person who is able to find stability contributes to a stronger, more resilient community. This summer has reinforced the importance of a solid support system for our youth – that the vital services we provide through TYFS bring hope and positive change to the greater Wyoming community.



SOMETHING NEW FROM THE HIRSCHFIELD CENTER...

Sometimes, we feel that the only people who can truly understand what we are going through are those who have gone through the same thing. It creates a bond, a connection, that tightens the trust and communication, and can often lead to healing from both parties. That's the mindset of the new after-school program in partnership with Hirschfield Center Therapists and the TYFS Court Diversion Officer: **youth in our Court Diversion Program now have Peer Groups where they have support within their own age, that isn't just adults, therapists, and teachers.** It's a fantastic opportunity for kids to learn they are not alone and take ownership of themselves and their path, and a unique way these young people can give back to their community. We can't wait to see how this inspiring new program unfolds throughout the coming year!



P.O. Box 2631
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www.tyfs.org

Holiday Events & Wish List Information

TYFS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 12, 2024 | 5pm-7pm

Come tour our in-town facilities, donate a present to put under the Christmas Tree from our gift registry on our website, and spread some holiday cheer!

CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

Spread a little extra holiday cheer this season, and consider making a gift from our Wish List! If you are donating to a local pass at Snow King Mountain Resort or the Teton County Recreation Center, please indicate so on our donation page on our website.

A variety of Snow King Mountain Resort passes for our kids to enjoy winter sports this season:

4 season passes
\$780/pass

25 day passes
\$95/pass

25 tube park day passes
\$35/pass

20 cowboy coaster passes
\$40/pass

Teton County Recreation Center Passes:

2 rec center family pass
(3 people) \$540 each

2 rec center family
pass add-on's \$90 each

Climbing shoe rentals

Climbing harness rentals



Target



REI



Amazon