



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



"Caring People, Preparing Youth for Life"

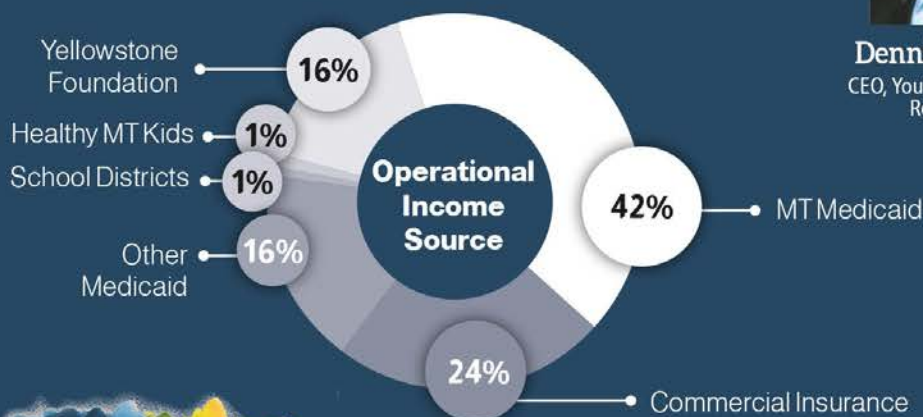


YBGR BOARD

Headquartered just twelve miles west of Billings, Montana on a sprawling 410-acre property, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) is a nationally accredited, nonprofit center dedicated to youth mental health treatment. For over 68 years, YBGR has supported children and families from across Montana and the country, providing a wide range of behavioral health services for youth and their families dealing with mental health challenges.

YBGR holds state licenses as a Child Placing Agency, a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), a Mental Health Center, Therapeutic Group Homes, and an Outpatient Chemical Dependency Program, ensuring a comprehensive approach to care.

In addition to its therapeutic services, YBGR operates as a fully operational ranch. It is home to horses, Black Angus cattle, pheasants, chickens, and includes gardens, orchards, as well as corn and hay fields. The voluntary Spiritual Life Program, based in the historic Robbie Chapel, has been a cornerstone of the YBGR community since its founding in 1957.



Michael Monson
Chairman - Billstein,
Monson, & Small PLLC



Dr. Jane Gillette
Vice Chairman
Rural Pediatric Dentist &
Montana State Legislator



Kathy Olson
Secretary/Treasurer
Exec. Director, SD2, retired



Dr. Bob Wilmouth
Rocky Mountain
College



Hon. Russ Fagg
Russ Fagg &
Associates, PLLC



Mike Vondra
Edward Jones



Willy Johnson
Montana Re-Entry



Terry Moore
First Interstate Bank,
Retired



James Petrovich
Carroll College



Brendan Beatty
Owner,
North Fork Cattle



Dennis Sulser
CEO, Youth Dynamics,
Retired

YBGR Hosts Governor Gianforte, Showcasing Youth and Staff Journeys

In early November, Governor Greg Gianforte and First Lady Susan Gianforte visited YBGR's Ranch campus. After a tour of the grounds, they joined a panel discussion in the Chapel with staff and former youth. Among them were Natalie Nickisch and Jake Mullins, both former YBGR youth who returned as employees, sharing their powerful success stories.

Therapists Juletta Gilge and Lacey Jones, along with Program Manager Skyler Carroll, also shared their motivations and experiences working with youth over the years.

The Governor and First Lady were excited to share an update on Ellie, a former YBGR youth who received a scholarship to pursue nursing. First featured in the Fall 2021 Wrangler, Ellie has now graduated and is a registered nurse—thriving in her career.

YBGR EXECUTIVE TEAM



Michael Chavers
Chief Executive Officer



Tyson Schumacher
Chief Operating Officer



Michael Chandler
Chief Financial Officer



Dr. Taylor Mayer
Executive Director of Residential Services



Lance Moyer
Director of Human Resources



Kim Collins
Executive Director of Community Based Services



Rishay Watson
Executive Director of Business Development & Marketing



Tra Williams
Director of Nursing & Clinic Operations



YDI Joins YBGR

This past October, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) and Youth Dynamics, Inc. (YDI), two of Montana's largest children's behavioral health providers, united to better serve the growing mental health needs of kids and families.

With over 100 years of combined expertise, the newly expanded YBGR now has nearly 800 dedicated staff serving more than 4,000 youth annually across Montana. This partnership strengthens YBGR's ability to offer a full continuum of behavioral health care, from community-based services and in-school support to Therapeutic Group Homes and Psychiatric Residential Treatment.

Through this partnership, YBGR has enhanced its capacity to deliver efficient, timely care, ensuring better outcomes for kids by providing the right service, at the right time, at the right level of care.





PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENT

The Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) at YBGR is the highest level of care offered at YBGR and supports youth who have had a diagnosis of Seriously Emotional Disturbed. Residents typically stay on campus for an average of 4 to 6 months, during which they receive comprehensive Trauma-Informed Care that addresses their mental, physical, emotional, educational, cultural, and spiritual well-being.

Highlights of the PRTF include:

- Individual cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Family therapy with free guest housing and meals for family visits
- 24-hour medical clinic
- Child and general psychiatric board-certified doctors, mid-level practitioners, and nurses
- Secure, 24-hour supervised lodges with 8 to 11 youth per lodge
- Chemical Dependency Program
- Recreation Therapy & Activities
- Occupational Therapy
- Equine Therapy & Recreational Riding
- Voluntary Spiritual Life Program
- Community Involvement
- Ranch Work Crews



McVay Remodel: Just the Beginning

Originally completed in 1972, McVay Lodge sat unused for several years—first due to the need for a fire suppression system, and later due to staffing shortages. Until spring 2024, it was used for staff housing. When YBGR received capital improvement funding from the State of Montana's 872 Commission, staff were relocated to allow renovations to begin.

The remodel started in November 2024 and wrapped up in early 2025. Upgrades included converting two multi-use bathrooms into four safer, single-use bathrooms, and transforming an office into a main-floor bedroom to improve accessibility and build trust.

Grants from the 872 Commission will also support bathroom upgrades in eight additional buildings and two more full remodels to expand residential treatment capacity.



250
Youth Served



IAL TREATMENT FACILITY



From Resident to Role Model: Natalie's Journey

Natalie arrived at YBGR's PRTF in May 2019 as a troubled teen. "I was lost," she recalls.

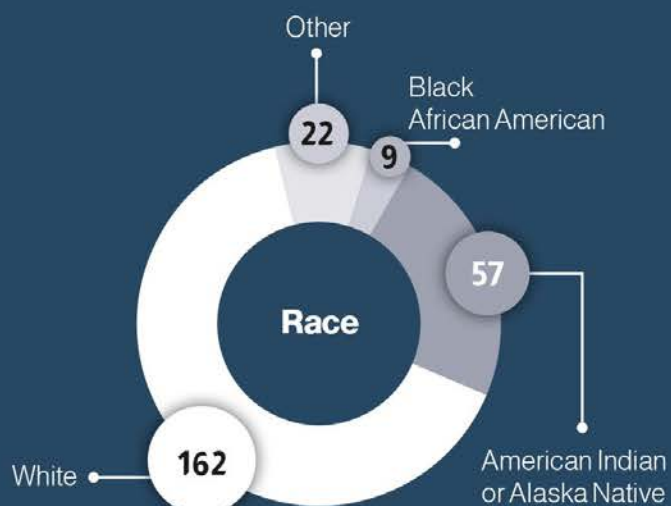
After three months of intensive treatment and strong family

involvement, she was successfully discharged. "It takes two to tango," she says. "The family needs to be involved too."

Now, over five years later, Natalie is back—not as a resident, but as a Mental Health Worker in the same lodge she once called home.

"When kids come here, they're broken," she says. "Seeing them leave full of life and hope is so rewarding."

Natalie's journey is a powerful example of healing, resilience, and the impact of second chances.



9 youth are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Tom & Joan Scott Clinic

The Clinic provides 24/7 nursing care for youth in the PRTF, and, through the end of 2024, was the first stop when youth were being admitted to the PRTF.



Dr. Erin Amato
Medical Director

7,759

Total Visits (PRTF, YA, and Staff)

A Tapestry of Hope and Achievement

In 2024, YBGR's Native American Services (NAS) program began a new tradition to honor Native youth: painting a handprint on the NAS tipi upon completing their time at YBGR. Led by NAS Coordinator Josie Brady, the tradition started in January, and 18 youth have already left their mark.



Each handprint represents resilience and growth, turning the tipi into a powerful symbol of hope and achievement.

The NAS program blends cultural traditions with therapeutic care, offering Wellbriety Talking Circles, sweat lodges, and teachings from the White Bison Organization. These services help youth reconnect with their heritage, foster belonging, and choose healthy paths forward.



YELLOWSTONE ACADEMY

Yellowstone Academy (YA), located on the YBGR Ranch campus, is a fully accredited public elementary school (grades K-8) and a nationally accredited private high school (grades 9-12). YA provides educational services to youth in the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and to students in the Day School Program who are transported daily from surrounding communities and are in need of additional mental health and educational support.

YA works to assist students by offering:

- Credit Recovery
- Extensive elective coursework
- Small class sizes
- Low student to teacher/staff ratio
- Year-round trimester schedule
- Vocational Programs (Welding, Woodshop, Small Engine Repair, Greenhouse, Gardening)
- Pheasant & Bee Programs



Hands-on Learning

At Yellowstone Academy, students don't just learn in traditional classrooms—they build skills for life through robust Vo-Tech programs that inspire confidence, curiosity, and hands-on learning.

From bike repair and small engine mechanics to welding and horticulture, students engage in meaningful, practical work that encourages problem-solving and fosters personal growth. The Broken Spoke Bike Shop teaches students to repair and maintain bicycles, while Small Engine Class provides real-world experience working with tools, engines, and machinery, including Basic Care and Maintenance classes that equip youth with essential car care skills.

In Welding, students learn the basics of metalwork, safety, and fabrication, opening doors to future career pathways. Meanwhile, the horticulture class—often described fondly as “dirt therapy”—introduces students to the healing and rewarding work of planting, tending, and growing. Students help design and maintain a greenhouse, install drip systems, and start seedlings, all while learning responsibility and nurturing patience.

The program also includes training with a CNC Router, where students develop precision cutting and engraving skills used in woodworking, design, and fabrication. This technology provides valuable experience

in craftsmanship, problem-solving, and attention to detail—skills that can be applied to a variety of trades and careers.

These Vo-Tech offerings provide more than just technical training—they offer a sense of accomplishment, build self-esteem, and help students envision a future filled with possibility.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Keith Tresch
Superintendent/Principal



Cass Cole
Principal



Dwight Von Schriltz
School Psychologist/
Director of Special Education

Uncommon Lessons

Since 2019, Yellowstone Academy students have been hands-on in the Pheasant Program—preparing pens, monitoring incubators, and caring for the birds. In 2024, they helped raise about 5,000 pheasants, later sold to private landowners to support wild populations.

Some birds are hatched on campus, while others are shipped in. Last spring, a shipment of 1,000 chicks included a surprise: 999 pheasants and one chicken. The students named the oddball “Uncommon.”

Though clearly different, Uncommon thrived—offering a powerful reminder that it’s okay to stand out. Everyone has a place, whether by fitting in or being one of a kind.



Yellowstone Academy: Where Healing and Learning Walk Hand in Hand

Yellowstone Academy (YA) offers trauma-informed, year-round education tailored to students with complex needs.

With 160 students and 80 staff, YA maintains low staff-to-student ratios—4 staff in each DSP classroom and 2–3 in every PRTF

classroom—to ensure safety, support, and strong adult relationships.

This individualized approach fosters both academic growth and emotional healing, with a focus on credit recovery, skill retention, and meaningful connections.



118
Youth Served
Day School Program

83%
from low-income
families

**Serving
Ages 6-19**



THERAPEUTIC



Age Range
8-17

100%
from low-income
families

43
Youth Served

YBGR's Therapeutic Group Homes provide a nurturing, structured environment that bridges the gap between outpatient mental health services and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PTRF) care, ensuring that youth receive the right level of support at the right time. YBGR group homes serve boys and girls ages 11 - 17 (with the exception of Helena, which serves ages 8-14), offering individualized, evidence-based care tailored to meet the needs of youth facing social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Teams of caring, experienced professionals deliver trauma-informed, strength-based care, fostering strong, trusting relationships that support long-term success.

YBGR has 10 group homes in four Montana communities (4 in Billings, 4 in Boulder, 1 in Great Falls and 1 in Helena) providing a variety of home care services. Each home has 24-hour awake supervision, treatment, advocacy, and family-style care. The length of stay is determined by the child's progress and is typically 6 to 9 months. The focus is to create a supportive atmosphere for healing and growth. By fostering a safe, engaging environment, staff help youth build resilience, develop essential life skills, and attain their goals for a brighter future.



GROUP HOMES



Therapeutic Group Home Campus – Boulder, MT

For youth struggling with behaviors that impact their safety, daily functioning, or ability to attend school, YBGR provides structured, family-style care through our Therapeutic Group Homes.



Since 2005, Boulder, MT has operated a Therapeutic Youth Group Home Campus. The four homes serve youth from across Montana and provide specialized, trauma-informed

behavioral health treatment for youth facing serious personal and family challenges. The Boulder Group Home uses a team-based model that includes Behavioral Therapists, Case Management, and Medication Management to deliver comprehensive daily care.

Key features of the Boulder program include:

- 24-hour supervision and family-style care
- Typical stays of 6 to 9 months, based on individual progress
- Unique treatment for youth, both boys and girls
- On-site Day Treatment Program to meet educational needs
- Outdoor activities such as adventure-based therapy, climbing, and horseback riding
- Access to substance abuse treatment with a licensed Addiction Counselor
- Focus on helping youth build coping skills and confidence to reintegrate into their home communities

The Boulder campus care and treatment approach is rooted in YBGR's mission to provide trauma-sensitive, family-focused care that empowers youth to realize their full potential.





COMMUNITY BA

Total Served for Each Program

CBS Outpatient Therapy	680
Chemical Dependency	238
Chemical Dependency IOP (PRTF)	10
Home Support Services	624
Individual Placement and Support	69
Project AWARE	24
Community Based Psychiatric Rehab & Support (CBPRS)	302
School Based - Comprehensive School & Community Treatment (CSCT)	542
Targeted Case Management	1405
Therapeutic Foster Care	12
Therapeutic Youth Mentor	225
Child Welfare Prevention & Support Services (CWPSS)	217
Day Treatment - Boulder	13
Family Treatment Court	21
Unique Clients Served	2706

YBGR's Community Based Services (CBS) operates as a licensed, accredited child placing agency, mental health center, and state-approved chemical dependency program. It offers a comprehensive array of services for high-risk youth and their families in homes, schools, and communities throughout the state. CBS currently partners with 24 school districts around the state, and has a prevention contract for Chemical Dependency and a contract for Individual Placement Services with the state.

Child Welfare Prevention and Support Services (CWPSS)

YBGR partners with Child and Family Services Department (CFSD) to help reunify kids and their families whenever safe to do so. The kids in CWPSS often have been removed due to abuse, neglect, and safety concerns. Our Family Unification Specialists help coach, mentor, and provide healthy parenting skills so it is safe for the kids to return home. YBGR currently offers CWPSS services in several communities in Montana with a goal of expanding CWPSS services across the state.



BASED SERVICES



BGR
Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch



Expansion of Services in Eastern Montana

Montana is beautiful, but it can be isolating. Mental and behavioral health needs are an increasing concern for youth and families, and with a population per square mile of 6.8, finding resources and support can be difficult when suffering from a mental or behavioral health challenge. 93% of the youth served by YBGR come from families with financial barriers and behavioral health challenges that lead to food insecurities, transportation barriers, and generational trauma. YBGR delivers a full continuum of children's behavioral health care across Montana. With 19 community-based service locations, 10 therapeutic group homes, and the residential treatment center at the Ranch campus in Billings, YBGR is uniquely positioned to meet these needs.

93%
from low-income
families



CBS HIGHLIGHTS

Adoption

In 2024, over 390,000 children in U.S. foster care faced trauma and mental health challenges. For those diagnosed as Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED), finding stability—or a permanent, loving home—can feel impossible.

Therapeutic Foster Care equips foster parents with the training, resources, and support needed to make a lasting difference. Jordan is one of those parents. He knew he had more to give—a home, space, and most importantly, the heart to help a child in need.

In the spring of 2023, Jordan became a licensed foster parent. Soon after, he welcomed his first placement, five-year-old Ryan. From the start, their bond was undeniable. Not only did they connect instantly, but Jordan has also made it a priority to do what is best for Ryan, like keeping his biological family in his life, ensuring his grandmother remains a steady presence.

Now six years old, Ryan has already faced more hardship than most experience in a lifetime. But recently, he celebrated something extraordinary—his adoption by Jordan. With the love of his new father and the steadfast support of YBGR, Ryan is no longer just surviving—he's thriving. He has found strength, hope, and the bright future every child deserves.



Emma's Story

Emma was 17 when she began receiving services from YBGR's Supported Employment Program (SEP). Her employment specialist helped her create a resume, provided interview tips, and assisted her in getting a job interview with a local sporting goods store. Much to Emma's delight, she was hired and worked her way up to manager. During her senior year of high school, Emma's dad and step-mom, with whom she had been living, moved out of state, and with the high cost of rent, Emma struggled to find a place to live.

Now, thanks to the new SEP Housing Fund, Emma has her own apartment. The fund assists with the deposit and rent with the rental assistance stepping down over a year period. SEP Director Liz Campoy reports, "I cannot put into words the look on Emma's face when she was handed the keys to her new apartment. She is incredibly grateful to the donors who have helped her on her way to financial independence." Emma is now 19, still working as a manager at the same sporting goods store, makes and sells her own jewelry, is a talented photographer, and is attending college to earn a degree in welding. A hand up can go a long way.

THE WORKING RANCH

HOMES 4 HEIFERS DONORS



In addition to being a nationally accredited youth mental health treatment center, YBGR is also a working ranch with a herd of 100 Black Angus cattle overseen by Ranch Manager Gary Adams and Ranch Hand Ali Allen. In addition to caring for the cattle and managing youth work crews who help with the care and feeding, Gary also manages the Homes for Heifers program which allows ranchers to contribute by hosting a YBGR heifer at their Ranch with that heifer's calf being sold to benefit YBGR.

Community and Connections

Trauma can affect anyone, anywhere, regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, or connections. Such was the case with Kari. Her grandparents have long been associated with YBGR as calf donors for the Homes for Heifers program so when Kari experienced trauma in her life and needed help to move forward, her grandparents' connection to the Ranch helped the family make the choice to send her to YBGR. Kari worked on her treatment in the lodge and on work crews with Gary Adams. She was able to recover and was successfully discharged back home, where she is thriving!

Calf Bottle Feeding

This past summer, Ranch Manager Gary Adams, with help from youth work crews and Ranch Hand Ali Allen, bottle-fed three calves—an act of daily care and commitment.

Much like the youth at YBGR, the calves needed consistency, patience, and trust to grow strong and healthy. These simple moments served as a powerful reminder for both staff and the kids in treatment: growth takes time, nurturing, and a steady hand.

Whether caring for a calf or guiding a child, YBGR staff remain dedicated to offering the support that builds strength, trust, and resilience.





RECREATIONAL THERAPY

The Recreational Therapy Program, based out of the Uihlein Recreation Center (UC), is designed to enhance the overall quality of life for youth by addressing their physical and emotional well-being. Each YBGR campus lodge has access to scheduled sessions, allowing the youth to utilize the various amenities offered by the UC, which include an indoor basketball court, indoor swimming pool, cardio and weight-lifting equipment, a bowling alley, and a gaming room.

During the warmer months, the children make full use of the baseball and soccer field, ropes course, sand volleyball court, and mini-golf course, all conveniently located next to the UC building. YBGR also offers a range of seasonal activities through the Outdoor Recreation Program.

Honoring Lisa's Legacy

Lisa Frazier, a Michigan native, started her career as a recreation specialist at YBGR in August of 1982 after first doing an internship that started in January 1982. She got certified as a Recreational Therapist in the late 80's and went on to become the Director of Recreation Therapy where she remained until her retirement in December 2024.

When asked about working with such a challenging group of kids for so many years, Lisa responded, "Watching these kids learn and grow is why I enjoyed my job all these years. Not all therapies are done in an office. Sometimes facing fears in a non-traditional setting is so productive." Lisa was also the trainer and host for YBGR's therapy dogs, an offering at YBGR since the late 1990's. As Lisa explains, "Having every youth who walks into the Uihlein Recreation Center met with unconditional love is a therapy all its own."

Thank you, Lisa, for your 42 years of service to YBGR, and best wishes for a rewarding retirement!



New Horses & Saddle Breaking Presley



Presley, the youngest mare of YBGR's herd, has started her training and is responding well under saddle!

This year, YBGR welcomed three gentle new horses—Kidd, Domino, and Belle—into the equine program.

Whether used in therapy or recreational riding, they help youth build trust, confidence, and resilience. Their arrival reflects YBGR's ongoing commitment to healing through hands-on, meaningful experiences.



Summer Fun in the Great Outdoors

Throughout the summer, YBGR's Recreation Therapy Program offers youth a variety of outdoor activities, both on and off campus. The school breaks in June and August are a perfect time for them to get off campus with activities like camping, biking, hiking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and exploring Yellowstone National Park.

Last summer, the boys enjoyed a long-distance biking trip around the Red Lodge area, and the girls experienced a day trip through Yellowstone National Park with glimpses of bison with their calves, elk, a coyote, and a bear far off in the distance.

Summer activities also included riding the trails at Riverfront Park or road biking from campus to Laurel and back via the back roads. At Lake Elmo in the Billings Heights, the youth learned how to paddle canoes and kayaks, as well as balance on a paddle board. It is also a great place to just let the kids swim.



SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM



The Spiritual Life Program (SLP) has been a core part of YBGR since its beginning. This voluntary, non-denominational, Christian-based program is designed to help youth, their families, and staff explore and experience a relationship with God in ways that encourage healing and support spiritual growth.



Welcome Rich Lutton

In 2024, YBGR welcomed Chaplain Rich Lutton to its Spiritual Life Program. With 15 years in youth ministry, including work with Young Life, Rich brings deep experience and compassion to his role.

His addition reflects YBGR's commitment to faith-based support through chapel, Bible studies, counseling, and more.

A Restored Sanctuary of Faith and Fellowship

The Robbie Chapel on YBGR's Ranch campus has served as the heart of the Spiritual Life Program since the building was completed in 1970. The voluntary SLP is supported entirely by donors, and thanks to those donors, this past year, the Chapel was the beneficiary of a fresh coat of paint, new chairs for the sanctuary, additional prayer boxes, alter clothes, and a rolling whiteboard for use during Young Life Club and Campaigners. Thank you to our donors who made it possible!



42
Average at
Weekly Chapel

50
Average at
Bi-weekly
Young Life Club

98
One-on-One
Counseling Sessions

107
Bibles Given
This Year

26
30-Day Bible
Challenges
Completed



Thank You Volunteers!

With 410 acres of land populated by cows, pheasants, chickens, horses, buildings, a fleet of vehicles, and, of course, the youth, YBGR's Ranch campus requires a great deal of upkeep! Last year, many hours were spent by our tireless volunteers prepping and painting McVay Lodge, repairing the Ropes Course, washing cars, mucking the feedlot, decorating the Dining Hall for the spring social dinner, and wrapping Christmas gifts for the youth. We are beyond grateful to have so many hands making the work so light and for the examples that they give our kids. After every group is done, there are conversations all over campus with the kids explaining how the community wants to help and support them with these small gestures, expecting nothing in return.



Packed with Dignity: How One Couple Is Helping YBGR Kids Leave with Pride

Many children who arrive at YBGR come from the foster care system. Others come from low-income families. Often, they have very few possessions and what they do have has gotten moved in garbage bags. When these children complete treatment at YBGR, the goal is to send them to their next home or group placement with actual luggage.

Del and Cheryl Wade, former YBGR staff, have stepped up to assist. They wanted to help and have been supplying YBGR with luggage for the kids obtained from friends, family, and even garage and estate sales for several years. Thanks to their efforts, youth leave campus with dignity and esteem, no longer feeling like they and their things are trash to be thrown away.



Outlaws Partnership

The Billings Outlaws, an arena league football team, began a partnership with YBGR in 2024. They held practices in the Jones Equestrian Center, and, in return, YBGR received tickets to Outlaw games so the staff and kids could enjoy the games. In addition, some of the players did a mini-football camp for the kids at the Uihlien Recreation Center, running various drills and hanging out with the kids. One player even shared his own struggles with mental health issues. The Outlaws went on to be national champions of the Arena Football League in 2024.



A Fresh Look for the Clinic

The Tom & Joan Scott Clinic on YBGR's Ranch East Campus provides 24-hour nursing services to youth in the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, Yellowstone Academy, and staff.

The entrance to the clinic is below street level with sidewalks winding down to the front door and the ponds in front of the clinic. After many years, both the landscaping and

ponds needed a refresh so in the fall, the ponds were cleaned, weeds and deadfall were removed, drought-resistant bushes, flowers, and ground cover were planted along the sidewalks and around the ponds, giving the clinic a fresh new look to welcome all those seeking medical care.

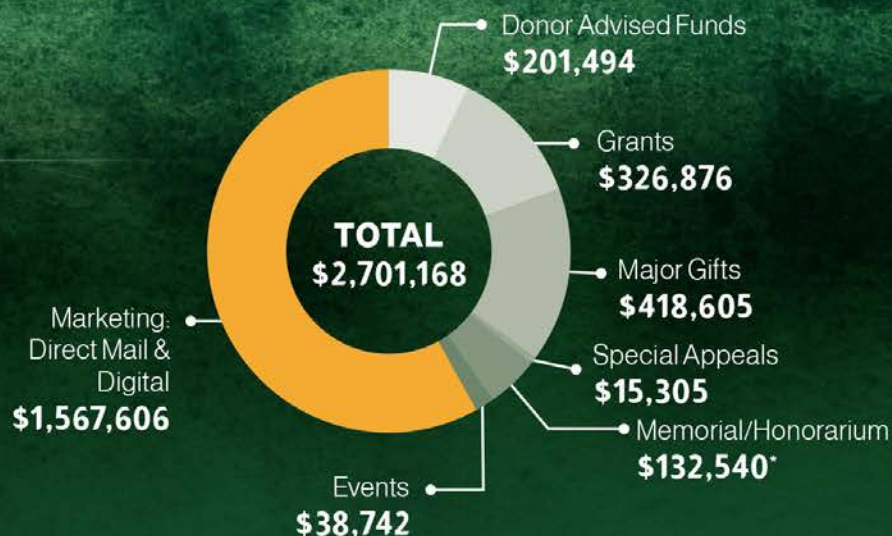
In addition, donors provided for the purchase of a side-by-side for the clinic so staff can more quickly and safely transport youth between east and west campus and deliver medications as needed. Big thanks to Jack and Raeleen Roadarmel and the Helen M. Sloan DAF.



Uihlein Recreation Center (UC)

The UC has served as the headquarters for YBGR's Recreational Therapy Program for over 50 years, ensuring that the kids have opportunities for daily recreation and exercise, even in the coldest months. Like many 50-year-old's, though, the UC needed some maintenance, in this case in the form of a new roof. Leaks had developed, and every time it rained or snow melted, the UC crew had to get out the buckets and towels to protect the gym floor and other areas of the building.

Now, thanks to generous donors, the UC has a new roof, and buckets and towels are no longer needed for drip protection. Thank you to all our donors who made the new roof possible, with special thanks to the Dean & Connie Studer Donor Advised Fund, Alice Lee Lund Charitable Trust, Sigma DG Corporation, Gertrude Kamps Memorial Foundation, Darlene & Marvin Hartze, First Interstate Bank, and Phillips 66!



New Adopt-A-Lodge

Building maintenance is a vital part of keeping YBGR a safe and welcoming place for the youth. Through the Adopt-A-Lodge program, businesses can make a lasting impact by sponsoring a building—whether on the YBGR Ranch Campus or at one of YBGR's locations across Montana.

These sponsorships provide essential funding for upkeep and improvements that go beyond the annual budget, ensuring that facilities remain well-maintained

and functional for the youth who rely on them. Sponsorships range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 annually with a three-year commitment—a meaningful way to invest in the future of Montana's youth.

A big thank you to the newest Adopt-A-Lodge sponsors: KE Construction and their adoption of the Hanscom Building, Rocky Vista University and their adoption of London Lodge, the Johnson Family Foundation and their adoption of Jessie Grant Lodge, and Yellowstone Foundation Staff and their adoption of McFarland Plaza.

Interested in adopting? Contact Abigail Uhrich at abigail@yellowstonefoundation.org or (406) 656-8772.

YELLOWSTONE

4TH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

3rd Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff

The 3rd Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff on September 28th at the YBGR Bill & Anita Jones Equestrian Center raised \$38,742 to support Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch youth facing mental health challenges.

Over 275 attendees enjoyed chili from twelve teams, including Adult Teen Challenge, Staggering Ox, and the Laurel Fire Department. Skyler Carroll with Jessie Grant Lodge won first place, Amy Cooper with Dorothy's Lodge took second, and Willy Johnson placed third. The People's Choice award went to PA Patricia Francisco Thomas.

Thank you to Platinum Sponsors—Faith Chapel and Anderson, Hedge, Wagner, Kienitz, Zwemke & Associates—and all community sponsors. The Hell Roaring Band provided live honky-tonk music.

Your support makes a difference. See you next year for another great event!

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff on September 25, 2025, from 5-8 PM.

Join us for another night of friendly competition, delicious chili, and community impact!



On October 29, 2024, we lost a cherished friend and leader—Jim Soft. Jim's passing has left a deep void in our hearts as he was a beloved and influential member of the Yellowstone family for an extraordinary 52 years.

Jim's journey with us began with humble work and grew into a legacy of leadership, generosity, and care.

As Foundation President and later President Emeritus, he gave tirelessly—offering wisdom, encouragement, and genuine kindness to all. His leadership, expertise in charitable planning, and personal kindness left a lasting impact on colleagues, donors, and friends. He had a gift for making everyone feel seen and valued.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Linda; their children Max and Brook (Larry) White; brother Loren (Janice); and grandchildren EJ, Konnor, and Aubree.

To honor his life and legacy, memorial gifts may be made to the Jim and Linda Soft Spiritual Life Endowment Fund. To date, friends and family of Jim Soft have donated \$126,808.84 in honor of Jim, to support the Spiritual Life Program through the Jim and Linda Soft Endowment.



FOUNDATION BOARD



Jim Swain
Chairperson
Wipfli CPAs, retired



Stella Ziegler
Vice Chair
Stella's Kitchen & Bakery, retired



Michael Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer
Little Horn State Bank



Steve Bruggeman
Valley Credit Union, retired



Tara Roberts
Community Volunteer
and Advocate



Ty Elkin
Senior Relationship Manager &
Investment Advisor Representative
Allied Investment Advisors, LLC

PLANNED GIVING

25 matured gift annuities valued at **\$234,713.91**
(These numbers combine matured immediate and deferred)

2 matured charitable remainder trusts
valued at **\$183,112.24**

15 estate and lead trust gifts valued at **\$1,540,520.62**

Mineral receipts of **\$916,920.48**

Additionally, Yellowstone Foundation provides services to professionals such as attorneys, accountants, financial advisors and other charities/non-profit organizations, all without charge or obligation.

TRUST & GIFT ADMINISTRATION

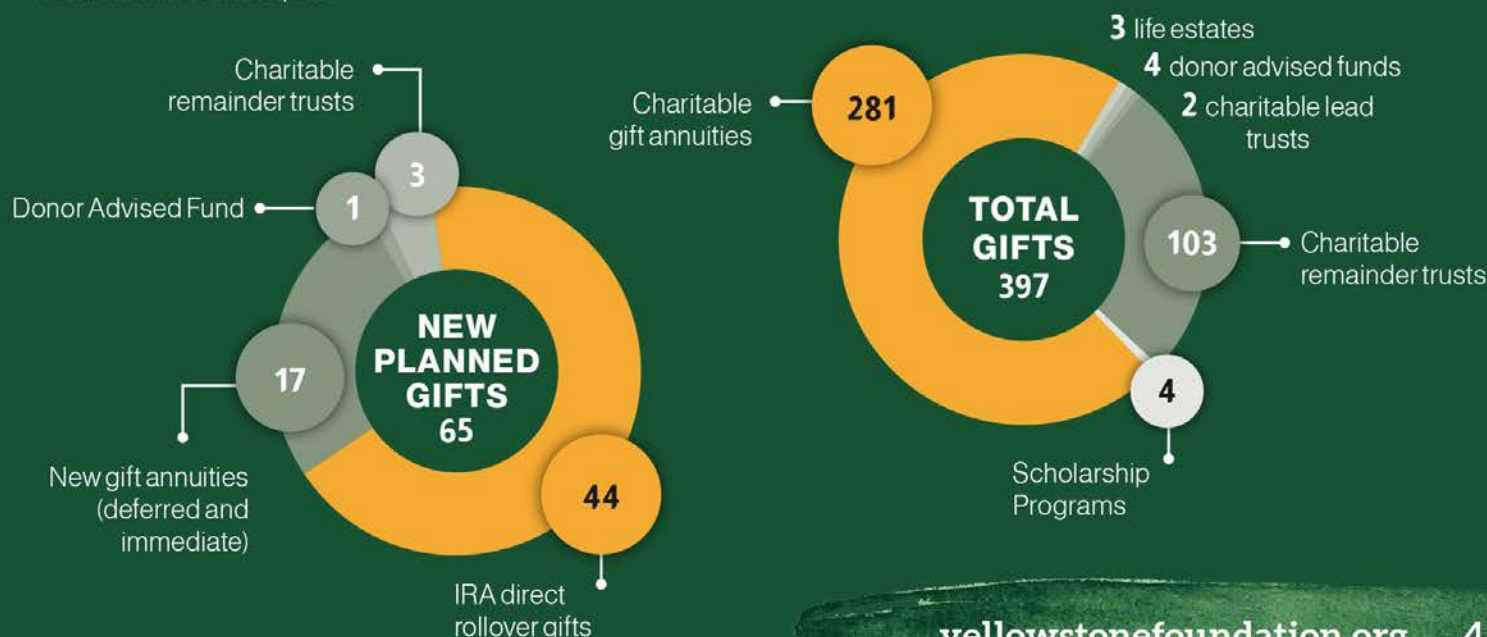
MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Many donors honor a departed friend or loved one through the Yellowstone Foundation memorial fund.

In 2024, \$132,540 was given in honor or memory of a loved one.

**Also included in Development totals.*

This thoughtful tribute brings solace and consolation in the same measure that it offers hope and opportunity to the boys and girls at YBGR.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY2024

TOTAL INCOME
\$18,909,504

PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES
\$4,192,605

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
\$2,902,617

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES
\$1,458,894

**TOTAL END OF YEAR
NET ASSETS**
\$124,700,376

*Yellowstone Foundation is committed to
informed stewardship and fiscal responsibility.
Thank you for investing in brighter tomorrows
for Montana's youth.*

EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



FINANCIAL RATIOS



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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