

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



BLUE SKY ACRES

<http://blueskyacres.org>

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



2023 was an eventful year for Blue Sky Acres and we have much to praise God for!

After many prayers, we were able to purchase 43 acres in Springfield, GA and spent much of the year working on our property to get it ready for programs. We transitioned our Supported Employment Program into a Handi-House on-site and produced new products for sale while preparing to resume our Equine Activities in 2024.



We saw the community join together to complete major projects and made valuable connections. We watched our core value in action which confirmed to us that we truly are "better together." As we look forward to 2024, we anticipate being able to start our Equine Programs and hire additional Supported Employees. We ask for your continued prayers as we move into the things that God has called us to!

Blessings,

Hallie Myers

Board

Leslie Williams - President
Pat Bagley - Vice President
Karen Signal - Secretary
Larry Fort - Treasurer
Pam Moore
Fran Todd

Staff

Hallie Myers - Executive Director
Jackie Garman - Program Director
Workshop Assistants:
Matthew Redhead
Erin Pevey
Thomas Lanham
Caleb Miller



BLUE SKY ACRES

ABOUT BLUE SKY ACRES

Vision

We seek to help all people walk in their God-given destiny and purpose.

Mission

We seek to improve the lives of individuals facing physical, mental or emotional challenges through relationships, horses and Christian principles.

Core Values

- Christ Centered - We are committed to living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reflecting Him in all we do and say. (Eph. 2:10)
- Grace Focused - We respond to God's love and kindness by sharing it with others. (Col. 3:13)
- Integrity Driven - We maintain a high standard of excellence, honor God and generate trust and accountability in all that we do. (Pr. 10:9)
- Better Together - We are stronger as a team than as individuals because of the unique gifts and abilities God has placed within each of us. (1 Cor. 12:12)
- Dream Big - We know we serve a BIG GOD and with Him ALL things are possible! (Eph. 3:20)

Who We Are

We are a 501c3 nonprofit and member center of PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) located in Springfield, GA.

Programs

- Equine-Assisted Activities-We offer groundwork and riding activities to individuals with special abilities to help them build life skills that will make a difference in their daily lives.
- Supported Employment-We provide on-site employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals with special needs after high school graduation in order to help them build job skills and confidently enter the workforce. Each employee is paired with a job mentor that provides them with one-on-one support and supervision while promoting independence.
- Fostered and post-adopted children (Blue Sky Moments)-We pair volunteer mentors with children in foster care to help them build a stable adult relationship which will allow them to find the resilience to overcome the trauma they have experienced.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands.
-Psalm 19:1-*

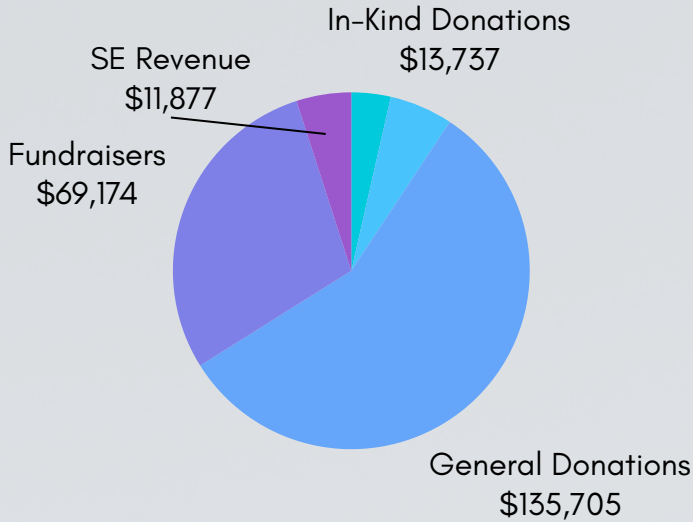
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Purchased 43.16 acres of land on March 22nd, 2023.
- We obtained our rural business license to operate on site.
- Improvements were made to the house onsite including new roof, windows and flooring.
- GAP Ministries built a ramp on Blue Sky Acres property to the house, making it wheelchair accessible.
- A Handi-House was installed on property, which will serve as a temporary workshop for the Supported Employment program. The building was insulated, installed with a minisplit and outfitted for use.
- Soil testing was completed by Troy Smith.
- Wetlands testing was completed by Resource Land Consultants.
- A Boundary Survey was completed by Buddy Fulcher.
- Run-in shed (shelter for our future horses) was completed by a group from FBC Rincon.
- Pasture fencing was installed for horses.
- Prograde South completed property clearing and cleanup projects.
- Freddie Tuten began maintaining our hay fields and had one cutting.
- Woodmen Life completed a volunteer work project to paint our round pen and installed a flagpole onsite.
- Thomas and Hutton assisted us with completing a site plan for the property.
- Held Blue Sky Acres Fun Day at RCOG.
- Round pen footing was put in place and round pen was installed with the help of equipment from Reeves Construction Company and Joe Marchese Construction and dirt from McGraley.
- Obtained grants from International Paper and Planters Telephone Foundation for fencing materials and property improvements.
- New water lines were put in place with the help of Southern Pride Landscaping and Joe Marchese Construction Company.
- 2nd Annual Golf Tournament—a total of 31 teams participated raising a total of \$41,984.04 after expenses.
- 2nd Annual Clay Tournament netted close to \$9,400.



2023

NUMBERS & STATISTICS



	2023	2022
Total Income	\$247,990	\$398,355
Total Expenses	\$185,056	\$95,717
Fixed Assets	\$526,181	\$2,673
Long-Term Liability (Mortgage)	\$195,262	\$0

2023 Results		
	2023	2022
Supported Employment Working Hours	1292	590
Supported Employees	4	4
Volunteer Hours	3793	2014
Total Volunteers	35	24
Due to our move, we did not complete any Equine Program Hours in 2023		



More detailed financial summaries and giving information can be found on our website at www.blueskyacres.org/give. If you have any questions, please email us at hallie@blueskyacres.org

NET FUNDRAISER INCOME	
NOVEMBER 2023	MAY 2023
\$9,400	\$41,984
CLAY TOURNAMENT	GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank You

Corporate Partners

- Atlantic Commercial Construction
- Chick Fila Rincon
- Coca Cola Savannah
- Edwards Interiors
- Fixin' To
- Georgia Ports Authority
- H&E Equipment Rentals
- International Paper
- Joe Marchese Construction
- Katz-Moses Woodworkers for Disabilities Fund
- Lancaster Metalworks

- Ole Country Outfitters
- Planters Telecommunications Foundation
- Pro-Grade South
- RBL Supply Chain Consulting
- Reeves Construction Company
- Shuman Plumbing Inc.
- The McGraley Company
- Thomas & Hutton
- Wiley's Home Center
- Woodmen Life Inc.

Church Partners

- Bethel Lutheran Church
- Bible Lutheran Church
- First Baptist Church Rincon
- North Newington Baptist Church
- Rincon Church of God
- Springfield Oaks Church

2024 GOALS

Land Development

- Develop site plan for workshop

Finances

- Increase monthly donor giving from \$2800 to \$3500
- Create horse sponsorship opportunities and recognition for sponsors
- Obtain sponsorships for two horses
- Obtain at least \$50,000 from 2 annual fundraisers
- Apply for a minimum 6 grants

Programs

Therapeutic Riding

- Acquire Horses
- Resume sessions

Blue Sky Moments (foster program)

- Add 1-3 new participants

Supported Employment

- Develop new products for Sale
- Maintain or Increase Sales through booths, presentations and Facebook Ads
- Church and community presentations

Community Outreach

- Increase newsletter subscribers to 300
- Average one speaking engagement per month
- Connect with three more churches



How to Help



Purchase Products made by our
Supported Employees at
<https://blueskyacres.org/store>



Find out how you can give to
support our mission at
<https://blueskyacres.org/give>

STORIES

When Caleb first came to us, we were told that he works too hard, making it challenging for his employers to find enough things to keep him busy! When he first joined our staff, there was a learning curve for us to make sure we had a plan in place but we were consistently impressed by Caleb's work ethic and the smile on his face that he experiences when he is doing what he loves.

When we were filming a video about our Supported Employees and our Program Director, Jackie Garman, was interviewing the employees about what they do in a day. She had a very interesting conversation with Caleb.

Jackie: What else do we do in the morning? Do we pray?

Caleb: Oh yeah, we pray to God! (as he does this, he looks up to the sky and holds his hands up as though God is right there!)

Jackie: We pray that He will keep us safe right?

Caleb: Oh yeah because God, He helps me every day!

Caleb has been such a perfect fit for our program, especially since we moved onto our new property! Watching these moments is such a reminder to us to slow down and be grateful for the little things in our work day that give us joy. This is enough reason to stop for a few seconds and thank the One who helps us every single day!



Our employee, Matthew, has Down Syndrome and one of his goals is to be able to communicate more effectively.

Even though Matthew has a limited vocabulary, he is finding ways to demonstrate his understanding of the way tools are used in the BSA workshop and communicate this understanding to his mentor.

For example, we recently moved the workshop from another location onto BSA's new property. The mentor working with Matthew at that time is an accomplished woodworker and was setting up the miter saw.

Part of the setup is a 6-inch block of wood that is placed in a specific area on the saw table which is used to cut the boards to the correct lengths. The mentor had forgotten about this block of wood. Matthew pointed to a board and then pointed to the miter saw.

When he saw a confused look on the mentor's face, Matthew picked up a pencil and drew a line six inches from the end, indicating that it needed to be cut.

When the mentor was still confused, Matthew drew a smiley face on the block to match the one we were using previously (see picture above). At that point, the mentor remembered and understood what Matthew was telling him.

This exchange demonstrates Matthew's ability to find ways to communicate and taking initiative to communicate so that he could accomplish a task.

The part that makes this story even better is that our Program Director, Jackie Garman, had been praying that very morning for each of the employees on her way to work and specifically prayed that Matthew would be able to communicate that day!



The Sky is the Limit
And God is the Way!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



BLUE SKY ACRES

PO Box 250 Guyton, GA 31312

<http://blueskyacres.org>

912-785-0223