



2024 Impact Report

## Welcome

#### A YEAR OF REFLECTION AND GRATITUDE

As 2024 comes to a close, we at Connected Horse reflect on an incredible year and express our deepest gratitude for your support. Our impact report offers a snapshot of the meaningful work our team has accomplished and introduces you to the lives touched by our programs. Words can only go so far in capturing the magic—we warmly invite you to visit the barn and experience the transformative connection with our horses firsthand.

As many of you know and have experienced, dementia impacts nearly 7 million Americans, with 1 in 9 adults over 65 living with the condition. Over the past decade, we've been dedicated to reducing the stigma, isolation, and loneliness often associated with this diagnosis. Our programs have touched the lives of countless participants—from grand-children making memories with grandparents to mothers and daughters adjusting to new roles, to spouses of 70+ years finding new ways to connect. One participant beautifully captured our mission: "Words don't matter as much as being truly open and present. It's still hard, but we're charting a new course with renewed hope."

This year, guided by our core value of strengthening social bonds, we embarked on several initiatives under the theme Deepening Connections: program innovation, workshop expansion, training:, community collaborations, fundraising success, and advancing research.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the horses who inspire us, the dedicated barns, tireless volunteers, generous donors, and resilient community members who make this work possible. Together, we're building something extraordinary—one person, one program, and one horse at a time.

With gratitude

Paula Hertel

Nancy Schier Anzelmo

Many Scherlengha

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Connected Horse provides innovative equine-assisted workshops and training that inspire connection and engagement and improve the lives of those impacted by dementia together with their care partners. Our pathbreaking equine programming is driven by research conducted at Stanford University and University of California, Davis and is designed to help those who can attend workshops in person at local barns as well as those at home or in senior communities and day programs using our engagement kits.

## Our Mission

Connected Horse is my favorite organization. My experience with Connected Horse and all of you provided me with something I hadn't believed would be possible. It was the first time I truly felt accepted after my Alzheimer's diagnosis. I carry that comfort and the confidence I gained from Connected Horse with me daily!

TAMMY MAIDA PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

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## Connection & Growth



### INNOVATIONS IN ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER AWARD

We are honored that Connected Horse received the National Innovations in Alzheimer's Caregiving Award for our Barn-At-Home sensory engagement kits, designed to provide at-home and senior programs with a horse-based sensory experience to those without access to our live programs. The \$20,000 award will help expand these engagement kits to adult day programs, senior living communities, and interactive Zoom workshops.



EXPANSION OF SENSORY ENGAGEMENT KIT PROGRAM

We saw a need to increase meaningful engagement in community settings. Initially launched for those living at home, 2024 marked the expansion of the program from one-on-one interaction to work with larger groups of seniors in senior living communities, adult day programs, and community groups. With the help of our partners, we were able to serve over 600 attendees and expand the pilot to seven sites.



EXPANSION AND INTRODUCTORY MINI-WORKSHOPS

Connected Horse expanded our programs at Three Horse Farms and our Center of Excellence, Five Star Equestrian. We piloted one-day introductory mini-workshops to introduce community groups, senior living communities, and organizations focused on those affected by memory loss to the therapeutic benefits of research-derived equine activities.

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### UPGRADED FACILITATOR ONSITE AND ON-DEMAND TRAINING

In 2024, Connected Horse trained 12 new facilitators to strengthen our current programs and reach our goal to launch four additional sites in 2025. Our new training platform allows for a three-step learning process – an on demand foundations course, two days of onsite clinic work, monthly peer to peer coaching calls and virtual communication hubs.



#### ADVANCING RESEARCH

Our dream is that one day soon, the health care community will recognize the value of social therapeutic programs and a physician will be able to prescribe a "visit to the Connected Horse barn." We have advanced our efforts to provide data through new evaluation tools that measure our impact. Early findings demonstrate that interactions with horses not only improves hope and positive energy, but also boosts confidence and engagement for people living with a dementia diagnosis and their care partners.

We learned to relax and focus on what is in the moment. I felt more tuned into myself in a way I hadn't been for a while, and I also felt more connected with my mother. I could see she was happier after the workshop.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

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## Program Metrics

WORKShops (1-day and 3-day)

79 workshop sessions in three locations

80 persons with dementia and their care partners

### sensory engagement kits

644 attendees living with dementia at adult day programs or senior living communities

on-site locations

### dedicated volunteers

(includes workshop partner barns)

60 volunteers

olunteers 4275 hours volunteered

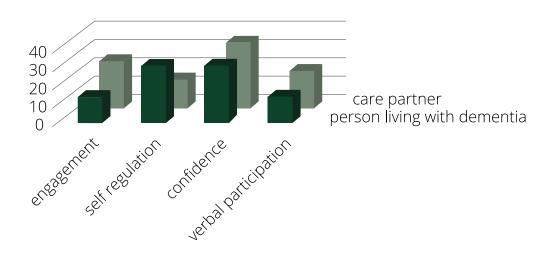
total impact

 $724_{\text{program participant}}$ 

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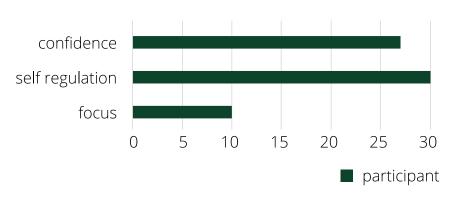
### workshops

### TOP 4 OBSERVATIONAL BENEFITS PERCENTAGE INCREASE FROM BEGINNING TO THE END OF PROGRAM



### sensory engagement kits

### TOP 3 OBSERVATIONAL BENEFITS PERCENTAGE INCREASE FROM BEGINNING TO THE END OF PROGRAM



## Benefits

In order to help measure the success of our programming, we utilize qualitative and quantitative evaluation tools to access participants prior to the start of our program and again after program completion. This data helps us to measure the impact we have in terms of the following criteria:

**ENGAGEMENT**: Changes in verbal or physical interactions or physical proximity with horse(s) and human(s).

**SELF REGULATION**: Change in ability to verbalize self awareness, respect boundaries or limits or other behavioral changes.

**CONFIDENCE**: Change in interaction with exercises and horses, openness to try something new, or changes in posture or demeanor.

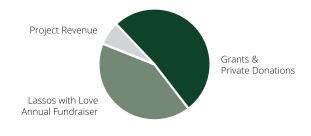
**VERBAL PARTICIPATION**: Change in ability to take in the group/tone, finish sentences, and engage with others.

# Financial Summary

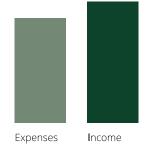
Prudent stewards of our finances, Connected Horse relies on donations and grants to fund our no-cost programs.

Connected Horse is committed to financial stewardship. We are a volunteer-driven organization, using every dollar to support our mission and expand our programs. Eighty-three percent of every dollar raised goes towards direct service including our equine assisted services, volunteer and facilitator trainings and the expansion of our program research.

#### **SOURCES OF REVENUE**



#### **INCOME VS. EXPENSES**



#### **ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES**

83% of all income goes to direct program expenses

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# Fundraising

#### SECOND ANNUAL LASSOS WITH LOVE FUNDRAISING EVENT

With a sold-out crowd of 220 attendees, guests enjoyed the beauty of Five Star Equestrian —with the serene backdrop of nickering horses, beautiful rolling hills, and a dramatic sunset—along with the energy and excitement of our silent, live, and online auctions. Guests were treated to a remarkable performance by Kansas Carradine, her daughter, and Dude from Cavalia, as well as inspiring stories from our honorary Chair Tammy Maida, Charlotte Driver, and Claudia Sonder, DVM. This year, we were thrilled to introduce additional events, including a Friday night lecture about the Gaucho Derby and a Sunday clinic with Kansas Carradine.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our 50+ incredible volunteers, generous community donations, and support from our sponsors. Thanks to this generosity, we raised over \$100,000, allowing us to continue offering no-cost equine-assisted workshops and sensory engagement kits for those impacted by dementia. A heart-felt thank you to everyone who made this unforgettable night possible!









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# Our Supporters

None of our work would be possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers, generous community donations, and financial donations from our supporters. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$200,000 in 2024, allowing us to continue offering no-cost equine-assisted workshops and sensory engagement kits for those impacted by dementia.

We offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Aegis Senior Living Al Broch Albert FW Ganss

Alex & Janet Trzesniewski

Ali Shabahangi Amir Kia Amphora Nueva

Amy Degrote

Audrey & Richard Hausman

Audrey Blough August Health

Bader Philanthropies, Inc. Barry & Shirley Kaminsky Barsotti Family Juice Company Bart Akinson & Lynn Goehner

Baughman's Western Wear **Belmont Senior Living** 

Bernard Wheeler Medley

Beverly Patterson Big Bay Ray

Blackhawk Museum

Blue Moon Capital

Bradley Lay **Brant Watson** Breck Austin Brigid Flanigan

Bronca Calvin Ho

Canyon Club Brewery Carefield Senior Living

Carla Graci

Carlton Senior Living Carol & Ned Spieker Caroline Kelley Caroline's Salon

Carolyn Baysdorfer Carolyn Ziegler Carston Advisors, LLC Catherine Aker Catherine Camarda Cathy Carmada Cecilia Salomon Chef Cyrus

Chopra Foundation Chris Freeman Claudia Sonder

Clearwater Senior Living

Colleen Helfrick Concannon Winerv Concord Feed

Three Horse Farms Continuing Life Courtney Siegel

Connie Dahl

Danielle Morgan-Cunningham

Darolyn Jorgenson Dave Coluzzi

David & Rosalind Bloom

David Troxel Dawn Boyer Debroah Godt Diablo Foods Domaine Carneros Douglas Pancake Architects

Dr Elizabeth Landsverk Dustie Robeson Elaine Chan

Elise Hatchell Elizabeth Salen Elizabeth Welborn Elke Tekin Elliot Bloom Eric Rudney Erica Lodish Erin Levi Ernie Castiaux Esin Restaurant Esther Khodadadi

Evelyn Sigg

Family Caregiver Alliance Five Star Equestrian Five Star Stables Florabel Espartero Frank Mellon Gabriela Marquez Gadis Dillon Gay Durward Gloria Passarella

**Grand Pacific Resorts Gurpreet Singh** Gwen Kinney Handwritten Cellars Heather Rosnow Hefferan Insurance Hello 3am

Hugh & Mary Anne Wing

Isabel Soloaga lames & Anita Weil lanet Gomes lax Wine leffery Dillon Jen Schnayer **Jennifer Waitte** lessup Cellars

Jim Lee

John Chaves John Licausi Josh Allen

Juanita Peer Kizor Judi Magee Judith Feins Judy Vared Juleen Lapporte Julie Jaecksch Kaliyaana Spa

Kansas Carradine Kate Neligan Katherine Leader Kathy Kamei

Kathy Kelly Kati Knox Katie Taggart

Kensington Senior Living

Kim Harrison
Kimberlee Alsup
Kisco Senior Living
Kristina Deluna
Kristina Johnson
Laura Finnerty

Leo Buscaglia Foundation

Linda Feldman Linda Renfro Lindsey Flores Lisa Bloom Lisa Pieretti Lisa Schumann

Livermore Wine Trolley

Lori Chan Lori Rueppel Lorissa Wayne Lucy Cohen

Marilyn & Kent Muhleker Marine Mammal Center Mark & Joani Share Mary & Hampton Lyons Mary Eaton Campbell Mary Shapiro

Mary Taylor Maryanne Canaparo Melinda Gonzalez

Michael O'Reilley Michel Augsburger Michelle Bea

Mickey & Collete Gray Mighty Pilates Lafayette Nancy & Tom Anzelmo

Nancy Griffin

National Charity League

Neil Doshi

Niles Canyon Railway

Oakland A's Community Fund Oakmont/Ivy Park Senior Living

Patricia Kohnen Patti Baird

Paul & Tammy Maida Paul Emmons

Paula & Joel Goldman

Peninsula Handcrafted Tile Art

Polly Miller

Providence Healthcare Foundation

Rachel Cohen Raise the Bar Renee Bauer Renee Hamilton Rhona Balan Richard Hausman Richard London Richard MacFarlane

Rob Aceto

Robert & Linda Williams Robert & Marjorie Kaplan

Robert Combellick Robin Lewis

Rocca

Ron & Nancy Geren

Safeway Sally Michael Sameer Patel San Francisco Ballet

Sara Ricks

Senior Assistance Foundation Eastbay

Senior Community Learning

Seth Moldoff &

Donna Abraham Moldoff

SF Kebab Shelley Vranesh Shirley Sharp Sidetrack Bar & Grill Skin Spirit Walnut Creek

Sora O'Doherty
Spirit Living

Stanford Court Hotel

Starbucks

Stephanie Mathers
Steve & Patricia Moran

Steve Barkarrie Steve Barklis Steve Haworth Stoneridge Creek

Sunrise Bistro and Catering

Sunrise Horse Rescue Supervisor David Haubert

Susan Filice
Susie Botts
Suzanne LaTour
Suzanne Smith
Tenfold Senior Living

Terry Howard

The Inn on Villa Lane

The Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert

Foundation Theresa Banghart Thrive Market Tineke Jacobsen

Tom & Kathleen Addison

Tom Bahrman Tony & Sue Farrow

Trader Joe's TruFusion

Upjohn Foundation Val & Fred Neverez Valerie Northup Vanessa Renée Vicki Clark Wente Winery Wood Family Winery

Yvette Rice Zehra Murthy Zeke Griffin

## Looking Ahead

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for Connected Horse. Our vision for the coming year focuses on activation, hope, and expanded reach:

#### TRAINING MORE VOLUNTEERS

Expanding our training modules to welcome 50 new volunteers.

#### PUBLISHING OUR IMPACT

Partnering with researchers to publish our findings by 2027.

#### **EXPANDING OUR REACH**

Partnering with four new barns, expanding beyond California and Nevada.

We believe in creating positive change and would love to bring Connected Horse programming, both our equine-guided workshops and At-Home programs, to more communities this year. By achieving this goal, we can combat loneliness and isolation while bringing hope to many more people affected by dementia and their care partners.

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At Connected Horse, we rely on a dedicated team of volunteers to make our programming possible. Whether you are supporting participants, facilitating our workshops, helping with our horses as a seasoned equestrian, or supporting our day-to-day operations, we welcome your input and participation. You do not need horse experience to volunteer at our workshops or engagement programs. Our vibrant and vital team helps with fundraisers, workshops, and community events.

# Join Us

I just so enjoy making the connection with the families and the horses--and seeing how they transform over time. It is so wonderful to have a program that allows the caretakers, as well as the individuals, to participate and to see those changes occur.

LINDA BLOOMFIELD VOLUNTEER HORSE HANDLER

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## Get Involved

Whether you contribute your time, money, or expertise, your support makes a critical difference in someone's life.

Your support is vital to our mission. We would be honored if you would consider making a gift to Connected Horse. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

**DONATE TODAY** 



Your tax-deductible contribution will fuel the work of Connected Horse and allow us to offer some of the only equine-assisted services and programming in the country that brings people facing dementia and their care partners together.

#### **DONATE ONLINE**

Visit our website (www.connectedhorse.org/donate) to make a one-time, annual, or monthly tax-deductible donation.

#### **DONATE STOCKS**

Maximize your donation's impact. Gift stock or donate long-term appreciated securities including stock, bonds or mutual funds directly to Connected Horse. We receive the full value from its sale and you have the potential to eliminate capital gains exposure and increase your gift and tax donation—a win for everyone.

#### PLANNED GIVING

There are many creative and flexible giving options to achieve your unique charitable vision. By making a bequest or other estate gift to Connected Horse, you will support our work to bring healing and hope to families facing dementia.

Please contact us at 415.377.0934 or at info@connectedhorse.org with any questions about how you can make an impact to our important work.

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## Reach Out

Please contact us to learn more about our programs and how you can become involved today.

Connected Horse is a 501 (c)(3) organization. TAX ID 81-1502726.

phone: 415.377.0934

email: info@connectedhorse.org online: www.connectedhorse.org

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I believe Connected Horse is really onto something. Theirs is an organization that provides therapeutic equine therapy to those experiencing memory loss and dementia, along with their families and communities, to bring compassionate care and healing between people and horses. Please join me in supporting this worthy organization.

ROBERT REDFORD ACTOR, FILMMAKER, ENVIRONMENTALIST

PHOTO CREDIT: LINDA SOLOMON

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