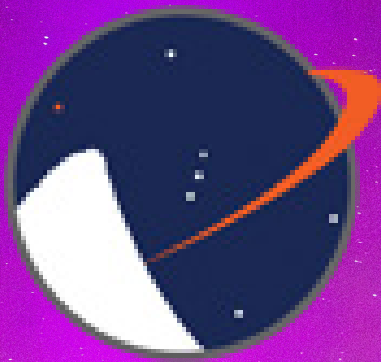




# WYOMING STARGAZING

## 2023 Annual Report

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Connecting You  
to the

# COSMOS

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Wyoming Stargazing is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Jackson Wyoming that excels at making the often difficult to understand concepts of astronomy accessible to everyone.





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# Statement from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It's so good to be back in Jackson full-time! As many of you already know, I returned to Jackson full-time this summer having split my time between Jackson and the SF Bay Area for almost the last two years. It was a fun and wild ride, but I'm glad to be back home with my wife Becca, our daughter Simone, and our two fur babies Monte and Grover. I greatly missed the amazing community and the dark night skies we have here.

As Wyoming Stargazing approaches our 11th anniversary in July of 2024 we are making a larger contribution to the Jackson Hole Community than ever before with six staff members providing STEM tutoring services to students in the Teton County School District 5-days a week. We're also exploring some regular daytime astronomy program offerings on top of our flagship free public Stargazing at Stilson every clear Thursday night throughout the year. There is also a lot of excitement building about the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse that will pass from Texas to Maine on Monday, April 8th. Although we won't have Totality here in Jackson like we did in 2017, a few of us from Wyoming Stargazing will be traveling to Texas for the eclipse to livestream it for all of you to witness. Check our website soon for the timing of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Live Stream. After seven years of hard work in our Save our Night Skies Campaign, we anticipate that the Town of Jackson, Teton County, Grand Teton National Park, and the JH Airport will also submit applications for dark sky status before the end of 2024. As always, thank you so much for your continued support to help Wyoming Stargazing inspire curiosity and learning through Wyoming's extraordinary skies and the Universe beyond. Don't forget to look up!



# Staff



**RICK GORDON**  
Director of Education

Rick grew up in upstate New York and developed a love of learning and discovery as he journeyed through college in California, during which he took a semester off to hike the John Muir Trail and work on the edge of Desolation Wilderness near Tahoe. After college, Rick cycled across the US, led wilderness trips in New England and student bike trips in Europe, spent 6 months backpacking in Asia, and eventually settled for a time teaching history at the Putney School in Vermont. Amidst all these travel adventures, Rick received a MA in Organizational Leadership from University of Minnesota and a PhD in Education from CU-Boulder and went on to found the Compass School, an inspiringly idealistic school in Vermont for students in grades 7-12. Along the way, Rick also led outdoor programs for Outward Bound and Interlocken Center for Experiential Education, coached soccer and Nordic skiing, and spent a year traveling around the globe with his family. Rick brings years of experience working with educators at all levels, including extensive connections with schools and higher education on Service Learning (including editing the well-received Problem Based Service Learning Fieldguide: Making a Difference in Higher Education). Rick co-authored Transforming School Climate and Learning: Beyond Bullying and Compliance and has been a Humanities teacher, run several small businesses, and had the honor of visiting thousands of classrooms as an educational ethnographer and consultant over the years. He is thrilled to bring this wealth of experience to Wyoming Stargazing to learn along with the amazing educators involved with the program.



**NICOLE RIDDLE**

Nicole is originally from Fort Worth, Texas. In May 2022, she received a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University, majoring in Astronomy & Physics and minoring in Mathematics and Sustainability. She was part of an astronomy research group for three out of her four years at TCU and presented research on binary star detection at the American Astronomical Society meeting in January of 2021. Through college, Nicole spent her time working odd jobs such as floral assistant, substitute P.E. teacher, tutor, and legal assistant, but her love of astronomy education was inspired by her job as a guest experience host in the planetarium at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.



**KAILEE TURNER**

Kailee is from Austin, Texas and earned her bachelors in Astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin in the summer of 2023. Kailee moved to Jackson to join Wyoming Stargazing and to experience the beautiful dark skies. During her time at university she conducted research which included locating young stars that were exoplanet forming candidates and mapping the density of the interstellar medium. Outside of being a stargazing leader, Kailee works as a STEM tutor where she aids students to succeed in a variety of subjects such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, and much more. During her free time Kailee enjoys hiking in the Grand Teton National Park and creating art.





**DAVID "JR" DALBY**

At a very young age, JR was interested in the sky. He has early childhood memories of the Apollo missions. Watching Neil Armstrong walking on the moon on TV started his interest in astronomy. His mom gave him his first Planisphere at the age of about 10. He spent countless nights looking at the stars and planets. He moved to Jackson in 2012 and became friends with Wyoming Stargazing. He started to volunteer at events, then lead public programs. Now, he leads private programs and shares his love of astronomy. His education is mostly self-taught through the voyage of discovery using a lot of resources including enrolling in Kahn Academy online Cosmology and Astronomy courses. JR looks forward to meeting you and enjoying the night sky.



**ANDY VASQUEZ**

Andy is from Los Angeles, CA. He's had a passion for astronomy and stargazing since he was a child. Most of his knowledge was obtained through Astronomy classes at UC Santa Barbara and supplemented by documentaries, articles, books, and museums. Andy has been working with the Griffith Observatory for two years where he polished his knowledge and shares the secrets of the cosmos with peoples of all ages. He joined the Wyoming Stargazing team early in the summer of 2023 to better appreciate Jackson's darker skies and further share his enthusiasm for the stars and behold their unique unmatched beauty.



**BENJAMIN WEISER**

Ben hails from southern Ohio in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. Always close to nature, he developed a love for the sky and the questions it implores us to ponder. From a young age, Ben found great fulfillment in sharing the human experience of the sky with others, which led him to Wyoming Stargazing after studying astronomy at Ohio State University. He now lives in Jackson year round and is happy to be a member of the local community. In his free time, Ben enjoys going to the gym, hiking around Jackson Hole, and experiencing local food and drink.



**JOSH COOK**

Josh originates from Olathe, Kansas. In 2015 he graduated from the University of Missouri – Kansas City with degrees in Physics and Astronomy where he went on to work with an international research group studying the evolution of galaxies across cosmic time. In 2018 he spent a year working at a remote observatory under the dark southern skies of NSW, Australia. Following his passion for science communication and for the outdoors, he came out to Jackson in 2019 to work with Wyoming Stargazing. When he's not out leading programs, you can find him pouring the best lattes in town at both Picnic and Persephone Bakery.



**CONNER DAWSON**

Connor grew up in central Florida. After graduating high school, he decided to attend the University of Colorado Boulder. While there, he developed a love for astrophysics as well as the outdoors—two passions he continues to indulge here in Jackson Hole. As Program Coordinator, Connor spends most of his time leading our Public Stargazing programs and serving as a tutor in Jackson's public schools. In his personal time, he enjoys skiing at Snow King and hiking the trails around Grand Teton National Park with his camera in hand.



# JEDI in STEM

## MOTIVATION

To promote Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in STEM fields.

## TEACHING & TUTORING HOURS

3,300

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS

300+

## NUMBER OF EDUCATORS

5

## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

3

Thanks to generous grants from Teton County School District #1 and the Community Foundation of JH Wyoming Stargazing has been able to offer over 5,000 hours of STEM tutoring to over 300 combined middle school and high school students over the past two years.



# Scholarship Recipients



Our first two JEDI in STEM Scholars, Brian (left) and Marco (right) started at the University of Wyoming last fall to begin degrees in STEM fields. They will each receive a \$5,000/year scholarship for four years from Wyoming Stargazing and First in Family JH, paid research and teaching assistantships from the UWYO Science Initiative, and tutoring support during college from Wyoming Stargazing and First in Family JH.

Thanks to the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium, we officially have our first scholarship funded! The consortium has committed \$7,500 each year to help us with the JEDI in STEM program.



# Save Our Night Skies



Dark Sky Compliant  
Fully-Shielded Light

We've completed all the necessary steps for the Town of Jackson, Teton County, and Grand Teton National Park to apply for Dark Sky status. There is considerable interest and work being done within all three of those entities towards submitting an application to the IDA before the end of 2024. We will continue to assist all three of those entities in any way that we can to help them towards submitting an application.

The JH Airport has also expressed interest in submitting an application for Urban Night Sky status from the IDA. We completed another couple rounds of baseline Sky Quality Meter (SQM) measurements for them. They have hired a lighting consultant to conduct a comprehensive indoor and outdoor lighting inventory. We are greatly impressed with their efforts and commitment to make the night sky as dark as possible around the airport while ensuring necessary safety measures.

We are in the process of creating an online public interactive database of all the dark sky compliant fixtures in Jackson Hole. Our goal is to showcase the public and private entities who already have dark sky compliant lighting. Our hope is that by seeing the good work that some have already done, others will be encouraged to convert their lighting to best practice dark sky compliant lighting as well.



# Public Astronomy Programs

## ATTENDANCE

### PLANETARIUM

331  
Kids

106  
Adults

### SOLAR ASTRONOMY

438  
Kids

644  
Adults

### STARGAZING

99  
Kids

734  
Adults

### VIRTUAL ASTRONOMY

302  
Kids

512  
Adults

## PROGRAM NUMBERS

### PLANETARIUM

2

### SOLAR ASTRONOMY

23

### STARGAZING

35

### VIRTUAL ASTRONOMY

13



# Private Programming

## ATTENDANCE

### PLANETARIUM

453  
Kids

24  
Adults

### STARGAZING

460  
Kids

1551  
Adults

## PROGRAM NUMBERS

### PLANETARIUM

10

### STARGAZING

307



# Finances

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

### REVENUE

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Cash Donations       | 19,406.19           |
| Grants               | 49,000.00           |
| Old Bill's           | 59,424.40           |
| Merchandise Sales    | 200.00              |
| Program Services     | 388,313.75          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b> | <b>\$516,344.34</b> |

### EXPENDITURES

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Advertising                    | 5,419.30          |
| Attendance Fees                | 120.00            |
| Bank Charges                   | 224.37            |
| Cash Scholarships Disbursed    | 5,000.00          |
| Commissions Paid               | 14,553.37         |
| Dues & Subscriptions           | 11,879.89         |
| Food                           | 2,153.25          |
| Insurance                      | 29,075.06         |
| Interest Expense               | 3,171.79          |
| Legal & Professional Fees      | 5,718.17          |
| Licenses and Titles            | 1,426.02          |
| Merchandise                    | 909.70            |
| Merchant Processing Fees       | 3,471.46          |
| Payroll Expenditures           | 181,307.14        |
| Program Supplies               | -182.23           |
| Reimbursement                  | 362.56            |
| Rent                           | 29,446.97         |
| Repair & Maintenance           | 1,596.70          |
| Shipping and delivery expense  | 490.68            |
| Staff Relocation & Development | 1,150.51          |
| Subcontractors                 | 189,218.07        |
| Transportation                 | 9,128.90          |
| Utilities                      | 2,678.72          |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>      | <b>498,320.40</b> |

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b> | <b>18,023.94</b>   |
| Interest Earned              | 185.60             |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>           | <b>\$18,209.54</b> |

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### CURRENT ASSETS

#### BANK ACCOUNTS

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Meridian Trust Checking           | 42,394.81           |
| Meridian Trust Money Market       | 49,186.91           |
| Meridian Trust Savings            | 3,554.18            |
| Meridian Trust Scholarship Fund   | 5,984.83            |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>        | <b>101,120.73</b>   |
| Accounts Receivable               | 43,469.25           |
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>  | <b>43,469.25</b>    |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b> | <b>14,301.63</b>    |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>       | <b>158,891.61</b>   |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>         | <b>124,984.34</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>               | <b>\$283,875.95</b> |

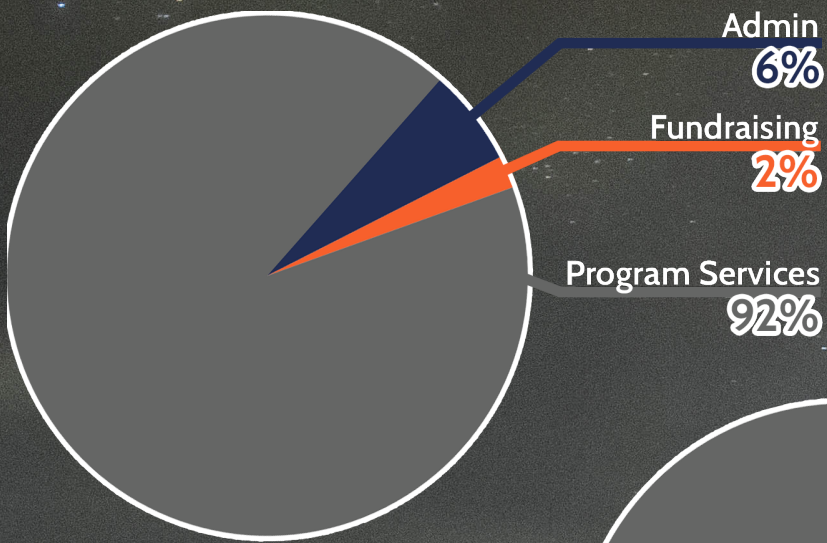
### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

|                                        |                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts Payable                       | -2,229.12           |
| Payroll Tax Liability                  | 5,466.70            |
| Program Deposits                       | 12,146.46           |
| SBA-PPP Loan Payable                   | 0.00                |
| <b>Vehicle Loans</b>                   |                     |
| 2017 Ford Transit                      | 9,042.53            |
| 2017 Suburban                          | 15,607.92           |
| 2018 Ford Transit                      | 18,377.85           |
| 2019 Ford Transit                      | 34,292.85           |
| <b>Total Vehicle Loans</b>             | <b>77,321.15</b>    |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b> | <b>94,934.31</b>    |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>       | <b>92,705.19</b>    |
| <b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>           | <b>0.00</b>         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>               | <b>92,705.19</b>    |
| <b>Permanenently Restricted Funds</b>  | <b>984.60</b>       |
| <b>Scholarship Fund</b>                | <b>984.60</b>       |
| <b>Unrestricted Funds</b>              | <b>171,976.62</b>   |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                     | <b>18,209.54</b>    |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                    | <b>191,170.76</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>    | <b>\$283,875.95</b> |

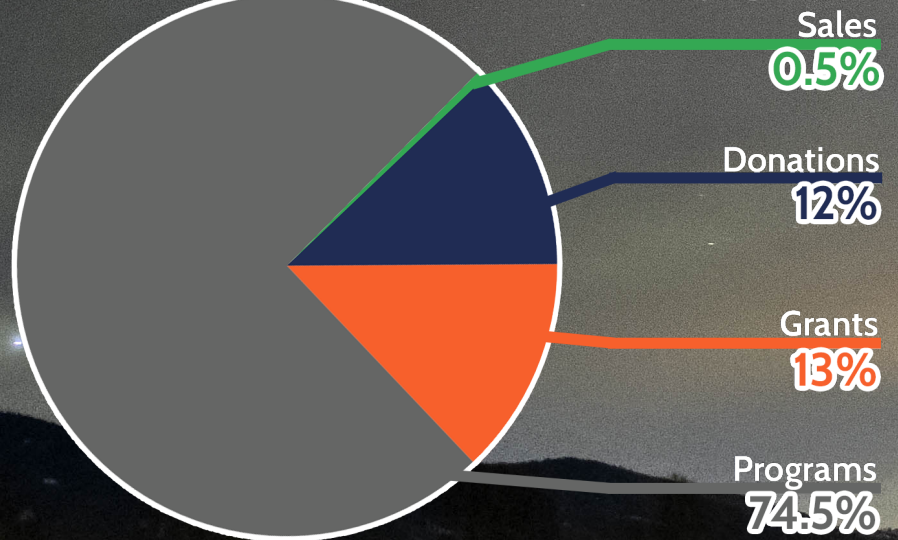


# Expenses and Revenue by Class

## EXPENSES

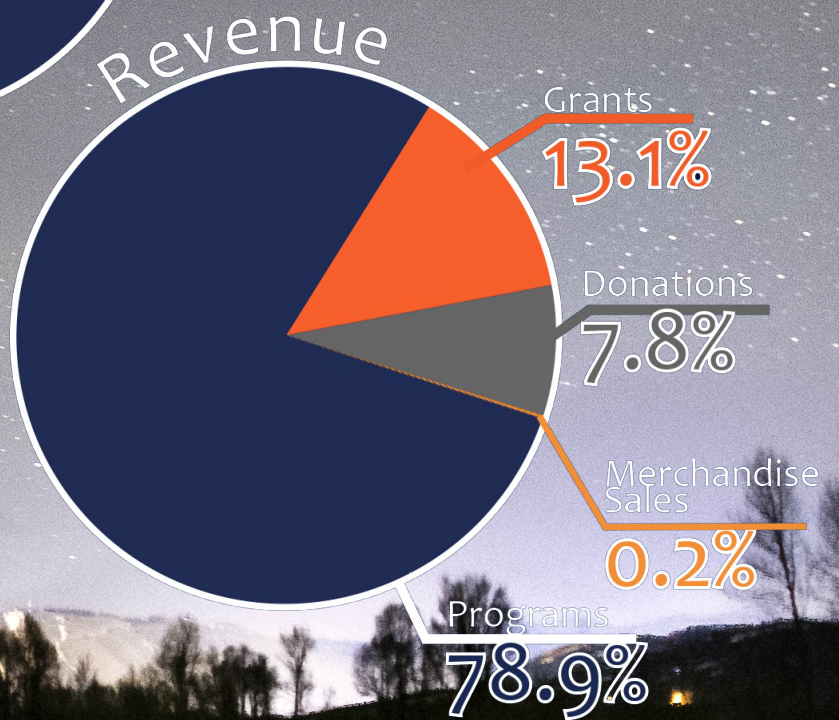
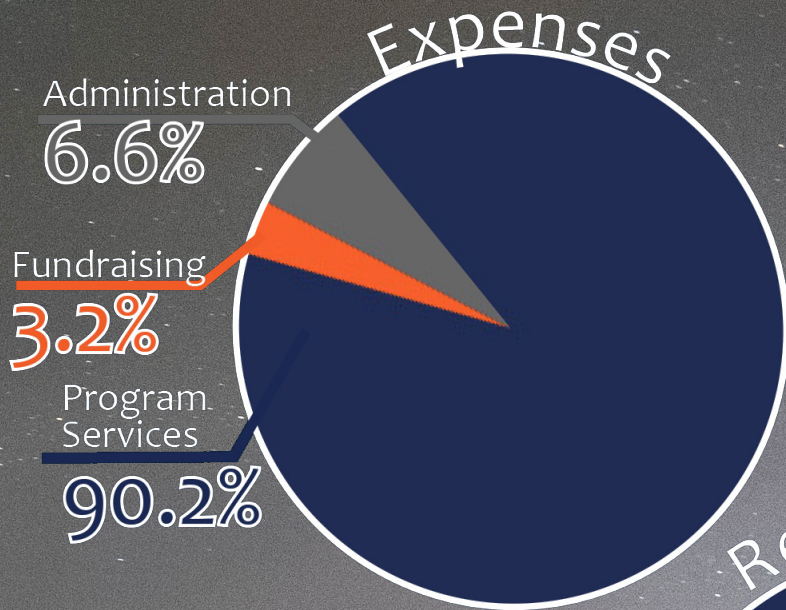


## REVENUE



2023





# 2022



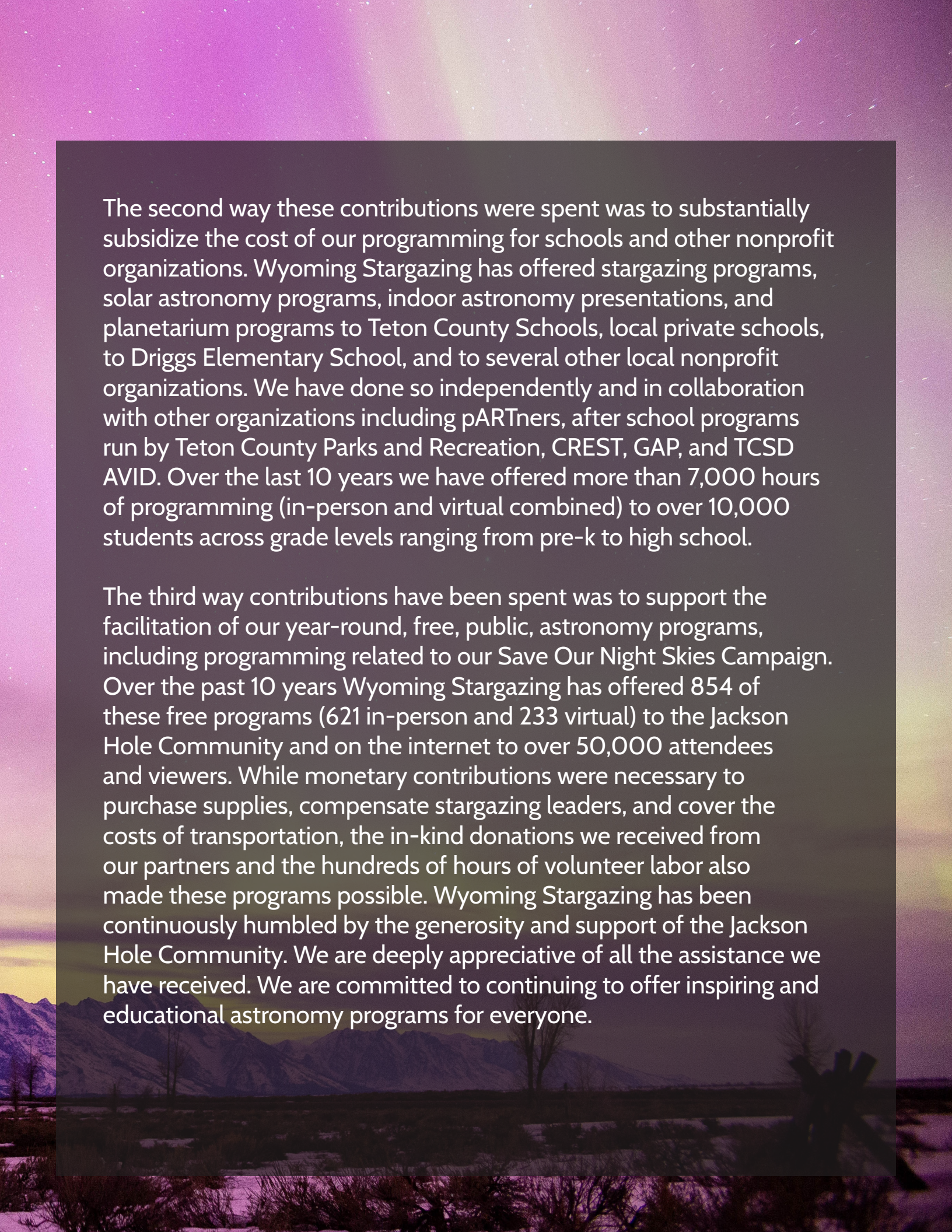
# 2023 Contributions Report

We are always grateful to those of you who support Wyoming Stargazing financially with cash donations and gifts of astronomical equipment. We would not be able to inspire so much curiosity and learning without your generous contributions.

In the last 10 years Wyoming Stargazing has raised \$857,316 combined from donations (\$514,043) and grants (\$343,273). Our smallest donations have been less than \$1 and our largest cash donations have been \$10,000. Grants have ranged in size from \$100 to \$35,000. Nearly one half of all received contributions have come through the community fundraising event known as Old Bill's Fun Run which is facilitated by the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.

These contributions were used in three different ways. First, they were used to purchase equipment for our stargazing programs, solar astronomy programs, and our planetarium programs. We have been able to acquire several telescopes with 11" to 25" mirrors that we use to show people incredible details on the Moon, the rings of Saturn, cloud bands on Jupiter, the phases of Venus, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and more. These telescopes are a central part of fulfilling our mission. We use smaller solar telescopes to provide opportunities to show people sunspots, solar flares, and other amazing solar features. We have also purchased three specialized digital cameras that can project real time images of the Sun and nighttime objects through the telescopes onto flat screen monitors enabling people with physical disabilities to view those objects with ease. Wyoming Stargazing also owns a digital planetarium system that was acquired through generous donations, grants, and proceeds from private stargazing programs. That facility which can be set up inside an auditorium or outside within the Dark Sky Pavilion (also acquired through grants and donations) provides incredible digital images of the Universe and full-length films designed for planetarium domes.





The second way these contributions were spent was to substantially subsidize the cost of our programming for schools and other nonprofit organizations. Wyoming Stargazing has offered stargazing programs, solar astronomy programs, indoor astronomy presentations, and planetarium programs to Teton County Schools, local private schools, to Driggs Elementary School, and to several other local nonprofit organizations. We have done so independently and in collaboration with other organizations including pARTners, after school programs run by Teton County Parks and Recreation, CREST, GAP, and TCSD AVID. Over the last 10 years we have offered more than 7,000 hours of programming (in-person and virtual combined) to over 10,000 students across grade levels ranging from pre-k to high school.

The third way contributions have been spent was to support the facilitation of our year-round, free, public, astronomy programs, including programming related to our Save Our Night Skies Campaign. Over the past 10 years Wyoming Stargazing has offered 854 of these free programs (621 in-person and 233 virtual) to the Jackson Hole Community and on the internet to over 50,000 attendees and viewers. While monetary contributions were necessary to purchase supplies, compensate stargazing leaders, and cover the costs of transportation, the in-kind donations we received from our partners and the hundreds of hours of volunteer labor also made these programs possible. Wyoming Stargazing has been continuously humbled by the generosity and support of the Jackson Hole Community. We are deeply appreciative of all the assistance we have received. We are committed to continuing to offer inspiring and educational astronomy programs for everyone.



# Old Bill's Donors & Acknowledgments

Michael & Virginia Adler | Kevin & Zinnie Aepli | Alexandre & Sybilla Balkanski | Dmitry & Rebecca Balyasny | David T. Barnett & Geneva Chong | Gaior Bennett | Fred S. Bowditch & Angela Burton | Debra Brand | Katherine M. Chapman | Joseph Cipro & Susan Durfee | Richard & Jan Clark | Scott Daily | Arthur & Christine Denton | Mike & Ashley DiPrisco | E-Bikes of Jackson Hole | Ian & Rita Edwards | Rachel Fischer | Scott & Petria Fossel | Michael & Kathleen Glover | Rick Gordon | A. Nick Grenoble | John & Diane Guslander | Lachlan L. C. Hardie | Leslye McLaughlin & David Hardie | Herb C. & Diane O. Hazen | Jack Leroy Howe | Eric C. Huber | Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris | Aaron F. & Margaret Japel | Arne K. Johanson & Susan E. Dong | Peter B. & Rachael Karns | Robert & Sarah Kilmain | Erik Kimball & Krista Hollis | Ted R. Kimmel, Jr. & Becky B. Kimmel | Scott Kirkpatrick | Bill Klyn | Katherine Kohatsu | Charles C. Kusek | Tim Libassi | James R. Little, Sr. | David R. & Catherine P. Loevner | Dave Lucas & Shelley Sundgren | Doug & Shawn Mackenzie | Bo McDowell & Amira Burns | Bradford S. & Katherine L. Mead | Matt & Judy Montagne | Steven & Carol Montesinos | Richard Morgenstern & Devra Davis | Donald & Elizabeth Moselley | Mox Capital | Jaime Musnicki | Barb Nagle | Keith C. Nelson & Laurie Brown | Loren D. Nelson & Nancy R. St. Clair | Jack D. Nunn | James P. & Darlene A. O'Brien | Wynne Prindle | Jim & Deborah Ramo | Rendezvous Mountain Rentals & Property Management, Inc. | John L. & Kitty Resor | Gratia A. Reynolds | Elisabeth Rohrbach | James Rooks & Ruth Moran | Richard Douglas Ross & Joyce C. Frye | D. Keelan Schupman | Jenalee Schupman | Peter M. Selkowitz | Benjamin K. Sinclair | Samuel Singer & Rebecca Steinberg | Steven Singer | Thomas A. & Katie S. Smits | Snake River Interiors | Keith & Linda L. Soper | Stam & Associates CPAs | Stuart Sugarman | Paul & Gail Switzer | Ian & Sherri Taxman | Karen Terra | Estella Terrazas | Teton Creek Enterprises | The Clear Creek Group, LLC | Stanford B. Trachtenberg | Wayne & Polly Turner | Walk the Wild, LLC | Robert P. Warburton & Susan McGuire | Samuel Wasserman-Singer | Linda Wasserman | Robert W. Weed | Robert E. Wemple | Jim Williams & Susan Thomas | Jeff & Barbara Wogoman | Gregory L. & Patricia R. Wright



The background of the entire image is a composite of two photographs. The top half shows a dense field of stars in a dark blue night sky. The bottom half shows a rustic wooden barn with a snow-covered roof, set against a backdrop of dark, forested mountains under a twilight sky.

# Thank You!

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