



BondFire Ranch
2023 Annual Report

Table of Contents

- *Letter from the Founder & President*
- *Mission & Vision Statements*
- *Year in Review*
- *What Our Guests Say*
- *Board of Directors and Staff*
- *Financial Statements*
- *Goals and Plans for the Future*
- *Sponsorship*
- *Contact Information*
- *Conclusion*



Letter from the Founder & President

Dear BondFire Ranch Family,

As I reflect upon the first 19 months in our nonprofit journey, I'm filled with both pride and gratitude for what we have undertaken at BondFire Ranch. It's been a remarkable first chapter in our continued mission of "Warming the Heart of Families".

Achievements: In May 2022, we took our first steps as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, driven by the desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our heroes. This moment marked the birth of BondFire Ranch, and I'm thrilled to say that we've made incredible strides since then. To include hosting over 125 guests in 2023.

Building a Diverse Team: One of our most significant achievements has been assembling a dedicated team within our Board of Directors, comprised of seasoned individuals with backgrounds in logistics, the horse industry, accounting, entrepreneurship, and more, which brings a wealth of knowledge to our organization. Additionally, our volunteer corps, a force of passionate individuals, stands strong and ready to support our programs.

Program Expansion: We've successfully launched programs that facilitate healing and resilience-building. Our equine interaction program, coupled with our achievement in offering the Horsemanship merit badge to the Scouts BSA, supported by our wonderful volunteers, has already begun making positive impacts in the lives of many. Likewise, our crafting program, has provided a therapeutic outlet for participants, fostering self-confidence and reducing stress.

Challenges: As you would expect, BondFire has come with its challenges as well, from sharing our mission, garnering guests, finding funding to build programs and facilities to enable our mission.

Pole Barn Project: While we've made remarkable progress. Our most pressing need is the construction of a 60' x 120' pole barn. This facility is essential to our mission, as it will provide year-round space for our programs, as it will protect our guests and herd from inclement weather throughout the year. We have done fundraising for this project and wrote a grant, which was submitted to the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs in November 2023. And just prior to publishing this report we received word that we had been granted the amount needed for the pole barn project and should have the barn completed by July 2024.

Letter from the the Founder & President

Garnering Funding and the Grant Process: As a newly established organization, funding is one of our greatest needs to provide equine and outdoor experiences. Therefore, we have started navigating the grant writing process to secure funding. Our submissions to the Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF), United Way, and Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs (ADVA) were our first steps into the world of grants, and we are excited about the potential partnerships. Each submission has provided us with a better understanding of the process as well as the language needed to articulate our mission our heroes and there needs and Team BondFire is prepared to write many more grants as well as start fundraising initiatives to meet our funding needs head on!

Measuring Impact: We are resolute in our dedication to the heroes who have sacrificed so much for our nation. Our mission is clear: to provide opportunities for healing, connection, and growth. We believe in the power of face-to-face interactions, shared experiences, and the transformative potential of our herd and the outdoor activities offered at BondFire.

Measuring the true impact of our programs is a challenge we take seriously. We understand the significance of assessing how our activities positively affect the lives of our participants and their families. Therefore, we are looking for a partnership opportunity with mental health professionals to help us measure any improvements in our guest's well-being.

As we move forward into the new year, I am filled with optimism. With your unwavering support and belief in our mission, we can overcome these challenges and continue making a profound impact on the lives of our heroes. Together, we can bring warmth to the heart of the families who have given so much.

Thank you for standing with us on this incredible journey. I look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Warm regards,

Brian Eddy

**G. Brian Eddy, USAF, Colonel (Retired)
Founder and President
BondFire Ranch**



Mission Statement

- BondFire Ranch is dedicated to "Warming the Heart of Families," with a primary focus on military personnel, first responders, and their families. We recognize that the experiences our heroes endure can leave invisible wounds, and through equine and outdoor experiences, we aim to heal, reconnect, and build resiliency. Our programs foster positive face-to-face interactions and meaningful experiences, free from the distractions of electronic devices, to facilitate healing and strengthen family bonds.



Vision Statement

Our vision at BondFire Ranch is to create a sanctuary where heroes and their families, as well as our community can find solace, support, and transformation. We aspire to be a beacon of hope, providing year-round opportunities for healing and growth within a diverse and inclusive community. Through equine and outdoor experiences, we envision a world where the invisible wounds of service are mended, and family bonds are fortified, ultimately leading to happier, healthier lives for our heroes and their loved ones.

Year in Review

As we bid farewell to 2023, we look back with immense appreciation for the milestones we've achieved, the hearts we've touched, and the lives we've impacted at BondFire Ranch. This year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to "Warming the Heart of Families," especially those of our military personnel, first responders, and their loved ones.



Supporting Our Heroes

Throughout the year, we had the privilege of serving and supporting over 100 heroes and their families. These individuals have walked a path of sacrifice, and it has been our honor to provide them with a sanctuary of healing and connection. We have had many organizations support our mission through our first 19 months to include **United Way of Central Alabama, Dunn Building Company, Taylor Made Lumber, USAF Officer Training School, USAF First Sergeant Academy, AARP Alabama, and the Boy Scouts of America.**





Generous Donations

The heart of BondFire Ranch beats with the spirit of generosity, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to share that we received a remarkable donation from **Gwen and Steve Williams**, of 3 horses (Beauty, Brave, and Hannah) along with hay, a hay rack and ring, round pen, tack and stalls. The three girls quickly settled in with the BondFire herd. But more importantly they become an integral part of our equine interaction program as they are sweet and gentle. In their own way they invite our guests into their presence, which helped our participants find solace and strength.

Generous Donations



Additionally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our BondFire Ranch Family that donated to the mission... ***David Mato, Tonya Cash, Laura Bashista, Stephanie Jordan, Joe Thomas, Barbara Hickman, Alan Smith, Jodi Cleckler, Jamie Prince, Jessica Hammer, Holly Patterson, Brian Holes, Carolyn Phinney, Andrew Judware, Leigh Ann, Gaylyn DeWalt, Melanie Harris, Svein Helge Steinbakken, Waylon Mitchell, Jan & Ellen Prins, Edward Varden, Tore Myklebust, Brandi Fleming, Matthew Kemp, Kenda Gusme, Janet King, Mason Pigue, and Ellen Smith*** Their support has not only enhanced our facilities but also contributed to the safety and well-being of our horses and guests.





Community Engagement :Our engagement with the community soared to new heights in 2023. BondFire Ranch actively participated in Jemison Cowboy Day, an event where we had the opportunity to connect with the community and share our mission. We also joined the vibrant atmosphere of the Chilton County Peach Jam, an event that drew over 30,000 visitors. This provided us with an incredible platform to raise awareness about our cause and the services we provide. Additionally, we were honored to engage with the Clanton Lions Club where we had the opportunity to speak about BondFire Ranch's mission and the positive impact we aim to create.



Supporting Our Herd: Our commitment to caring for our herd is unwavering, and this year, we took a step further with our Horse Sponsorship Program. Four of our beloved horses found sponsors through this initiative. They provided funds to ensure overall well-being of our cherished herd, to include feeding, hoof trimming, and essential veterinary visits. These sponsorships have not only provided essential financial support but have also fostered a deeper connection between our guests and herd. We are truly thankful to ***Amy Congdon, Art & Candy Weber*** and an ***Anonymous Donor***, our 2023 Horse Sponsors.

Inspiring Future Leaders

In June, we had the privilege of hosting 47 Air Force Officer Training School (OTS) cadets. These young men and women are the future leaders of our nation's Air Force, and we were honored to provide them with an opportunity to connect with nature, horses, and the values of resiliency and teamwork that are at the core of BondFire Ranch. This was our first large group event, and it was so special because we could mentor these leaders on the importance of their and others resiliency and what that might look like outside the normal Air Force channels.





As we look forward to the coming year, we carry with us the memories of the lives we've touched, the bonds we've strengthened, and the hope we've kindled. With your continued support, we are excited to embark on new adventures and reach even greater heights in our mission of "Warming the Heart of Families."

What Our Guests Say

In the past year, our programs at BondFire have continued to foster meaningful connections and transformative experiences for our guests. The heartbeat of our organization lies in the profound impact we aim to create, not only through our exceptional programs but also through the genuine warmth and hospitality.

Our equine companions have been at the forefront of creating memorable experiences, as echoed by one of our esteemed guests who exclaimed, *“The horses are beautiful! The hosts are amazing. The scenery is stunning. I look forward to visiting again!”* This sentiment encapsulates the essence of BondFire—a sanctuary where the beauty of our four-legged friends intertwines seamlessly with the warmth of our volunteers and the breathtaking natural surroundings.

Another guest expressed, *“BondFire is an amazing place! The family is amazing and so are the horses!”* This acknowledgment reaffirms the strength of the bonds we cultivate, not just between our guests and the equines, but within our close-knit BondFire Ranch family.

What Our Guests Say

Our unique programs, designed to facilitate personal growth and connection, have left a lasting impression on our guests. One individual shared, *“My favorite part was working in the round pen with Beautiful & Ms. Anne.”* The power of interaction with our horses extends beyond mere recreational enjoyment; it becomes a healing and introspective journey, forging a deep connection between our guests and the incredible animals under our care.

Equally impactful are the personal connections made with our volunteers. A guest fondly recalled, *“My favorite part was talking to Mr. Brian. I liked hearing about the ranch and all the plans.”* This highlights the significance of not just the experiences within our programs but the personal touch that our volunteers bring, sharing stories and visions that make BondFire a unique and cherished space.

Finally, we are humbled by the words of gratitude from a guest who recognized the broader impact of our mission, stating, *“The Lord has given them a wonderful model, in you & your ministry. Thank you & Chairidy & your children for sharing your lives.”* Such expressions of appreciation underscore the spiritual and communal dimensions that weave through the fabric of BondFire.

As we reflect on the past year, we are immensely proud of the positive impact our programs have had on our guests, creating a tapestry of cherished memories, and fostering a sense of belonging. With gratitude for the support of our community and the dedication of our team, we look forward to another year of growth, connection, and transformative experiences at BondFire.

Board of Directors & Staff

G. Brian Eddy, Col, USAF(R) Founder & President

Prior to founding BondFire Ranch, Brian served over 28 years in the United States Air Force. In his last assignment, he commanded the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. AFMAO has global responsibility for all Air Force mortuary matters, operates the nation's sole port mortuary, and provides global contingency mortuary response teams. Brian was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Program of the University of South Carolina in May 1992. During his 28+ years of service, he held a variety of assignments, including five squadrons, Major Commands, Headquarters Air Force, NATO, and the Defense Commissary Agency. All of these roles focused on serving members and their families.



Barry Franks, LTC, USA(R) Chairman of the Board

Before serving as the BondFire Ranch Chairman of the Board, Barry served 26 years in the United States Army. In his last assignment, he served as the Army Special Forces Liaison Officer to the Special Operations Command Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Barry was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Alabama Birmingham and earned his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Montevallo in May 1995. During his 26 years of service, he held leadership roles at various levels, from Platoon to Brigade, and completed combat tours, including two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003, 2008) and one deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan-2010). Barry returned to his hometown in Chilton County in 2016 and has since served the community in various roles, including as an assistant track and field coach for Chilton County High School.



Mason Platzke

Vice President

Mason brings an impressive 47 years of experience in the horse industry to BondFire Ranch. His journey in the industry began with backyard pony riding and extended to achievements in the Pony Express 4-H club. Mason has also been involved in jousting with organizations such as the Eastern Shore Casting Association, the Maryland Jousting Association, and the Knights of the Round Table Jousting Association. In addition to these accomplishments, he has worked as an independent contractor, training horses for various equestrian activities and helping others build relationships with their horses. Alongside his equestrian pursuits, Mason has worked full-time as the owner and operator of Flashburn Welding and, more recently, with CK Stone. His passion for the outdoors and horses is now shared with his own family, including his 19-year-old daughter who is starting her own business in the horse industry.



Ramie Strand

Treasurer/Secretary

- Ramie serves as the Board Secretary/Treasurer at BondFire Ranch. Her journey into her current role began with a deep passion for working with people, numbers, and math. This passion led her to earn a BA in Business Administration in Accounting. With over 20 years of experience in a wide variety of accounting areas, Ramie combines her expertise with a sincere appreciation for the military and the outdoors. She is passionate about providing amazing experiences to a diverse range of people. Beyond her professional life, Ramie enjoys spending time with her family and friends and exploring new destinations whenever she can.



Joe Thomas

Member at Large

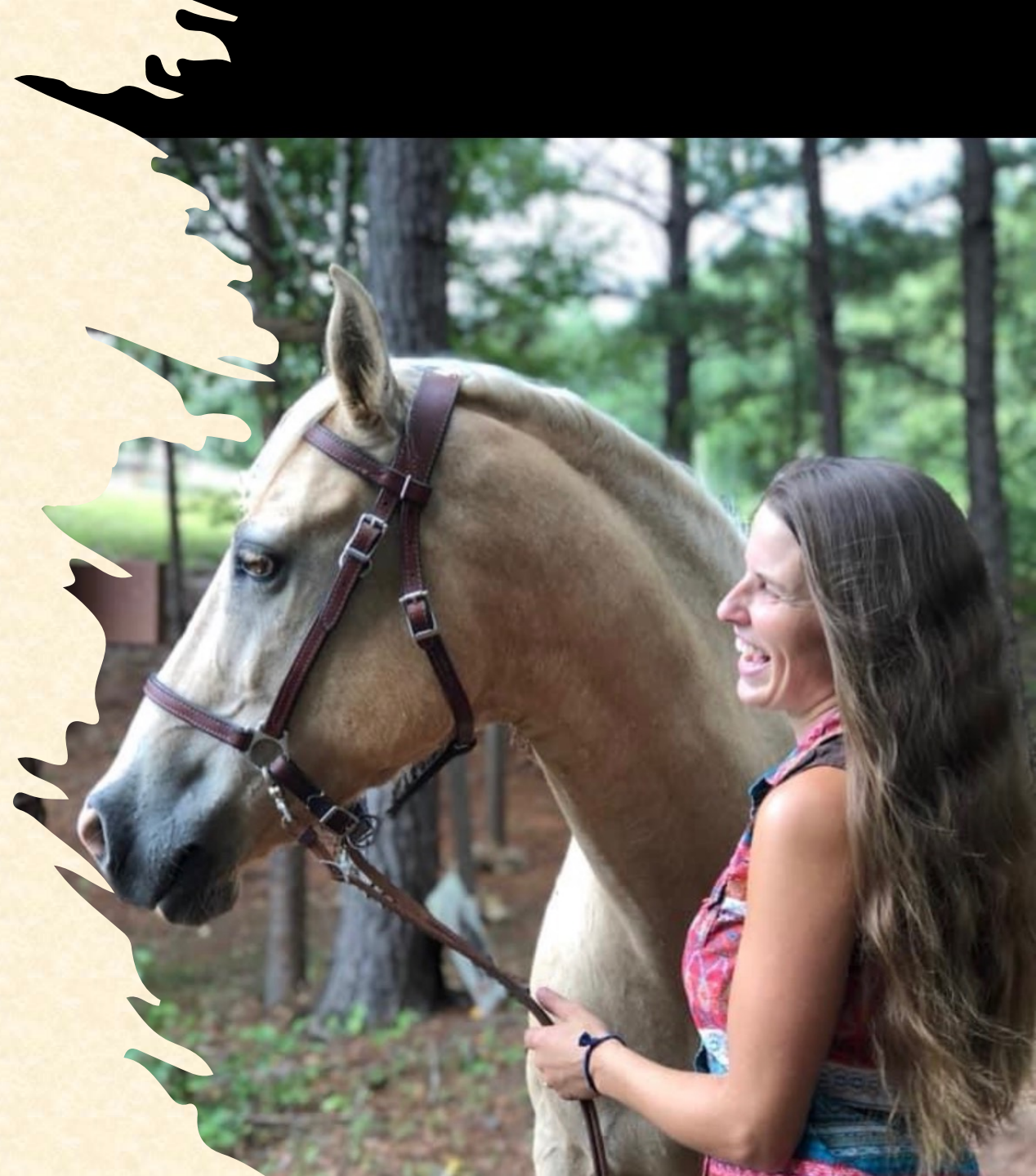
Joe, an electrical engineer by training, embarked on a unique career journey. He started three software companies before transitioning into the financial services industry, where he has served for over 17 years. Joe is currently a financial professional with 2065 Wealth Wealth Management, LLC. As a father of five kids, he leads a busy life. Joe's background as an Eagle Scout has shaped his love for the outdoors, which he has passed on to his family. Together, they enjoy spending time at BondFire Ranch, engaging in activities like fishing, horseback riding, and hiking.



Anne Bell

Lead Horse Volunteer

- Anne brings a BA degree in Special Education, as well as a passion for equine therapy work. Starting at 16, with her own horse she rode and learned about horses with an undying interest and love. Since then she has worked over 10 years in different special needs and equine therapy circles. She has 6 years of teaching beginner riders English & Western to all ages. She's gained various experiences and has a wide knowledge of the inter workings of therapy barns and the business of caring for horses and their clients. Her previous 3 years were spent at Kings Home, involved in managing the stables for 12 horses and 3 staff members that served over 90 over 96 troubled and abused youth. The barn also offered a homeschool horse club, which included weekly lessons and summer camps that taught about horses and riding. In addition, they taught several special needs individuals. Anne has a brother in the Army National Guard, who is about to retire and her life journey has led her to find a common bond at BondFire were she would like to help those like her brother who need a place to find healing!



2023 Financial Statements / Transparency & Accountability

BondFire

Statement of Activity
January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributed income	
Donations directed by individuals	10,123.46
Total Contributed income	10,123.46
Interest Income	1.50
Total Revenue	\$10,124.96
GROSS PROFIT	\$10,124.96
Expenditures	
Contract & professional fees	
Accounting fees	75.00
Legal fees	50.00
Total Contract & professional fees	125.00
Insurance	
Liability insurance	4,974.00
Total Insurance	4,974.00
Office expenses	200.00
Bank fees & service charges	64.71
Memberships & subscriptions	455.00
Shipping & postage	59.81
Software & apps	332.80
Total Office expenses	1,112.32
Repairs & maintenance	1,460.00
Supplies	312.86
Supplies & materials	3,438.48
Total Supplies	3,751.34
Total Expenditures	\$11,422.66
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -1,297.70
Other Expenditures	
Vehicle expenses	
Vehicle gas & fuel	106.46
Total Vehicle expenses	106.46
Total Other Expenditures	\$106.46
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -106.46
NET REVENUE	\$ -1,404.16

Goals and Plans for the Future

As we look ahead to 2024, BondFire Ranch is committed to achieving our mission of "Warming the Heart of Families." Our strategic objectives for 2024 have expanded to include a broader range of initiatives and enhancements to better serve our community and participants.

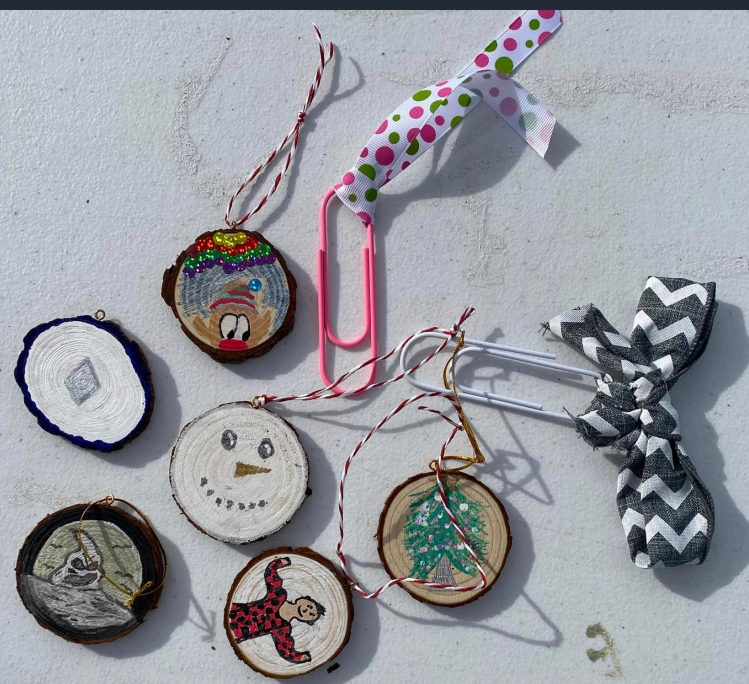


Equine Program Expansion

We will continue to expand and enhance our equine interaction program, offering a wider range of activities that provide emotional, cognitive, social, and physical benefits to our participants. Integration of equine-assisted healing will be a key focus. Our first expanded program will be *Cowboy Boot Camp*, which consists of weekly classes (2 hours) for 6 weeks. Designed to welcome the whole family as well as individuals or groups of service members, veterans, and the community. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in practical activities as well as learn about equine and barn safety, equine behavior, grooming & tacking, equine health & wellness, basic groundwork skills and farm/ranch management. We believe Cowboy Boot Camp will create a transformative and supportive environment where individuals and their families can thrive, overcome challenges, and build a foundation for long-term well-being.



Crafting Program Expansion



Building on the success of our self-directed crafting opportunities, we are researching the possibility to partner with local craft organizations and woodworking individuals to diversify and enrich our program. Crafting has proven therapeutic benefits, and we want to continue harnessing its potential for healing and self-expression.



Fishing Program Expansion

We are looking at ways to enhance our fishing program. Our primary focus at the moment is to increase the depth of our pond, create aeration, which would lead to improved habitat for Bass and Bluegill fish. This would ultimately lead to BondFire being able to host fishing derbies for our community.

Infrastructure and Facility Improvement

Covered Riding Arena: With the ADVA Grant approval, we are working with **DC Construction** to prep the site for the pole-barn. Once the site is graded and leveled the construction will begin and completion is expected on or about 1 June 2024. The arena will provide a versatile space for not only our equine interaction but also our crafting programs, and other gatherings, allowing us to operate year-round, no matter the weather.

Well Pump Repair and Outhouse: Ensuring reliable access to water is crucial for our operations, we will have our well repaired as needed to provide water for our herd, guests and arena. As well as construction of a permanent outhouse near the pond for the convenience of our guests.

Fencing: Prioritize the installation and maintenance of fencing throughout the Ranch to ensure the safety and well-being of our herd and guests. Thanks to **Scott Eason** and **Taylor Made Lumber**, much of the materials are on-hand.

Second RV site: We completed our first of two RV hooks last year and we are looking to install our second one in combination with our well/pump repair project.

Barn Expansion: We need an ADA compliant training room and restroom at the barn; therefore, we are in discussions with a construction company to build an area that will better support all our guests.

Bunkhouse & Tiny Homes: Our long-term goals include the construction of 2 tiny homes and eventually turning the current residence into a bunkhouse. All three projects will provide BondFire more programming opportunities to allow guests to stay on property.

Land Management

As we begin to build our trails system, BondFire is looking to implement sustainable land management practices, which includes using Alabama native flowers, grasses and trees to fill in our current pastures, which we believe will not only preserve the natural beauty of BondFire Ranch but enhance it while ensuring safety and accessibility to all.






Equipment & Vehicle Acquisition

Skid Steer: A skid steer will assist with various tasks, including construction and maintenance.

ATV: An ATV will improve mobility and accessibility across the ranch.

Tractor w/Attachments: The acquisition of a tractor with various attachments will aid in land maintenance and animal care.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Corporate and Individual sponsors play a significant role in the success of our special events and the ongoing support of BondFire Ranch's mission. We understand that each sponsor may have unique philanthropic, marketing, and involvement needs, and we are dedicated to working closely with sponsors to customize their participation. At BondFire Ranch, we believe in the power of partnership, and we are grateful for the support of our sponsors in helping us achieve our mission.



**United Way
of Central Alabama, Inc.**



Annual Sponsorships

- Fire Ring Sponsor: \$7,500+
- Fire Sponsor: \$5,000 +
- Flame Sponsor: \$2,500+
- Spark Sponsor: \$1,000+
- Flint Sponsor: \$500+
- Kindling Sponsor: \$250+

Sponsoring BondFire annually is a meaningful way to support the Ranch's mission. These sponsorship levels provide a range of benefits and recognition, ensuring your contribution makes a significant impact for you and or your organization.

The levels ranging from \$250 to \$7,500+.

If you would like additional information, please refer to the sponsorship page on www.bondfireranch.org or contact us via email or phone.



Horse Sponsorship

Supporting Our Equine Partners

Horse sponsorship is a special opportunity for individuals and organizations to make a direct and meaningful contribution to the BondFire Ranch herd. It involves supporting one of our beloved equine partners by contributing \$600 annually, which can be done as a \$50 monthly contribution or a one-time donation of \$600. This sponsorship plays a crucial role in offsetting the costs associated with the care and well-being of our horses.



Why Horse Sponsorship Matters

Annual maintenance and care for all our horses come at a significant cost, totaling over \$5,000. These costs cover essentials such as feed, veterinary care, hoof trimming, and shelter. By becoming a horse sponsor, you become part of our community, forging a unique connection with the animals and individuals whose lives you are helping to transform. Your support strengthens our mission of "Warming the Heart of Families" and makes a lasting impact on the well-being and resiliency of our participants.

Bringing BondFire Ranch to You

BondFire on the Road (BFR) is a new innovative and a mobile extension of our mission. It's a fully-equipped trailer designed to take the unique BondFire Ranch Experience directly to military and first responder organizations

BFR is a testament to our commitment to bringing healing, connection, and resiliency to the heroes and families we serve. We welcome sponsors to contact us to discuss on how we can customize their involvement to align with their specific philanthropic and marketing goals.



Contact Information

For more information or to sponsor,
donate, volunteer time or
equipment

Please Contact Us!

Phone: 302-399-3612

Email: BondFireRanch@gmail.com

Facebook: BondFire Ranch



Conclusion - BondFire Ranch Annual Report 2023

Program Success: In 22 - 23, BondFire Ranch made a positive impact on the lives of our heroes and their families through our diverse range of programs and initiatives.

Community Engagement: Our involvement in events and educational outreach efforts across the region allowed us to expand our reach and foster a sense of belonging within our communities.

Board, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Donors: We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers, sponsors, and donors whose unwavering support has been instrumental in making our inaugural 19-months a success.

A Message of Hope for 2024: As we look ahead to 2024, we remain committed to our mission of "Warming the Heart of Families." Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and inspire positive change, fostering healing, resilience, and connection within our BFR family and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of the BondFire Ranch journey. Your support makes a world of difference!