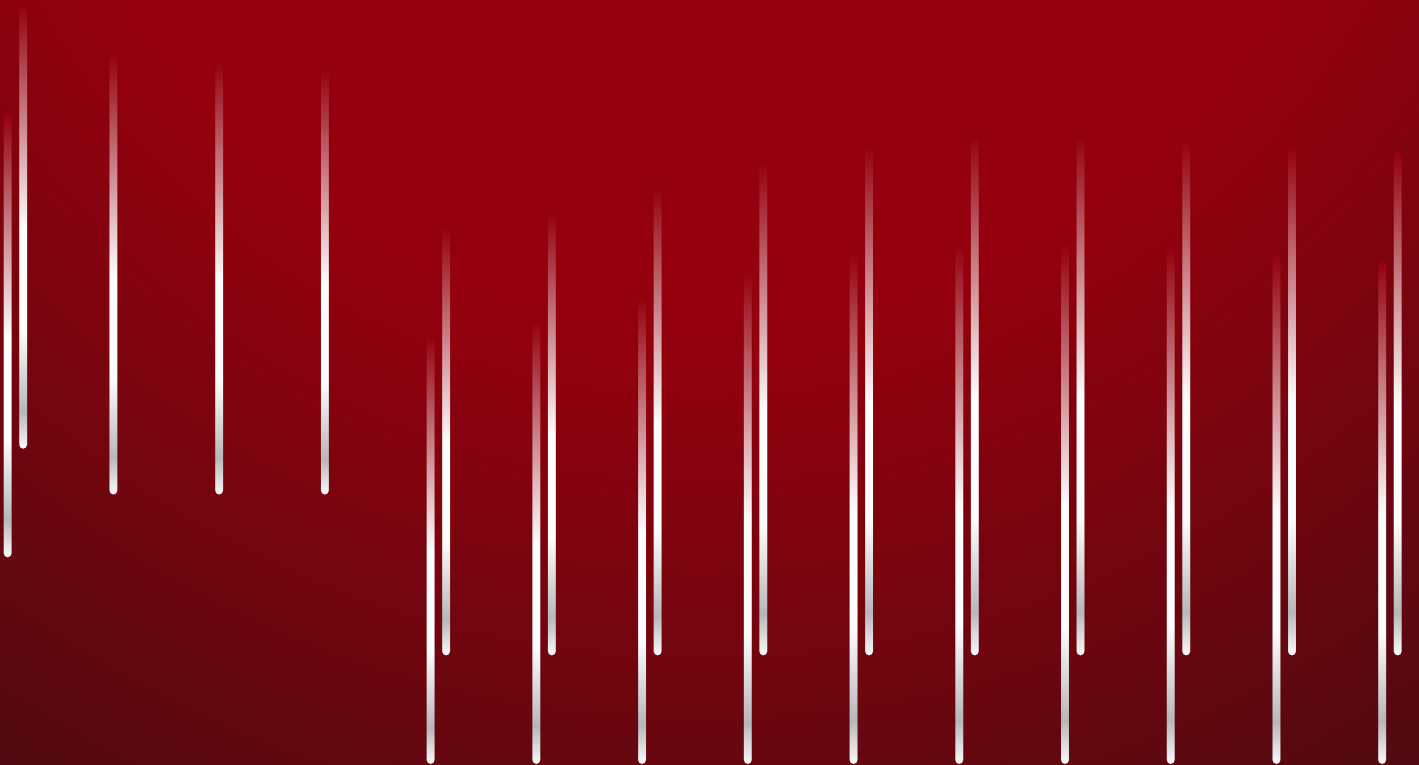


Annual Impact Report 2024



EXPANSION CAN BE CHALLENGING AND DEMANDING; HOWEVER, WE HAVE RESOLVED TO EMBRACE THIS CHALLENGE WITH GRATITUDE.

This past year has truly flown by. As we age, time speeds up. When I was a child, it felt like Christmas would never arrive. Now, I find myself putting the decorations away only to pull them back out again before I know it.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished over the past year. The completion of our art and dance studios, along with our offices and apartment, are significant milestones. We have made substantial progress with our mental health strategy. We are confident that we have a comprehensive plan to provide top-notch therapy for our residents. Our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Life Development Resources in Lakeville, Minnesota, has significantly enhanced our therapy offerings. Their generosity and professionalism are unmatched.



This report shows that thousands of volunteer hours were dedicated to The LifeGuard Group. Whether in missing person searches, construction, maintenance, or direct service, these contributions show that our work would not be possible without each volunteer. We anticipate that 2025 will bring another record-breaking year of volunteerism.

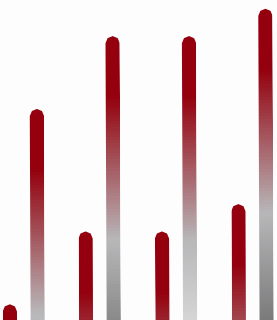
The year 2025 marks a Year of Expansion for The LifeGuard Group. We will begin construction on our second residential facility in the first quarter. This new space will provide transitional housing for residents ready to embrace a more independent living experience. I never imagined that we would already be looking to expand just one year after opening The LifeHouse. Our entire team is motivated by the fact that as of January 2025, our waiting list sits at 15 individuals. We are committed to providing healing opportunities for each of them, and the only way to do that is by expanding our operations. It is tough to tell someone that we currently have no available rooms. Through our case management team, we work diligently to find them placement elsewhere. Many respond, "It's okay... I'll wait until I can come there."

Expansion can be challenging and demanding; however, we have resolved to embrace this challenge with gratitude.

Now is your time to #findyourplaceinthefight. If you can, make a contribution toward our expansion giving campaigns. Volunteer for one day a week, a month. Follow us on social media and share our mission and updates with those you influence. **Together**, we are more powerful.

In the fight

LOWELL HOCHHALTER,
PRESIDENT/CEO
THE LIFEGUARD GROUP



Statement of Purpose and VALUES

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP is a *non-profit, mission-focused organization* of people who will strive to aggressively RESPOND to those hurting, lost, broken, and exploited. RESCUE those buried in life's injustices, longing for support. RESTORE them to a place of wholeness and REVIVE hope in our world by encouraging and educating others to find their place in the fight.

We will LEAD with kindness and RESPECT to bring peace and healing to our world through the power of prayer, love, and actions with respect for one another and those we serve. We will GROW, in faith and integrity, until all victims are restored and those who hurt understand that LIFE is our gift and LOVE is our power.

We will stand firm and never waiver in our commitment to OFFER LIFE to those in need and to STAND UP for those who are oppressed, hurt, and victimized.

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP is an expert team dedicated to an aggressive, comprehensive approach to ending human trafficking. We respond aggressively to those in need, rescue individuals trapped in injustice, restore them to wholeness, and revive hope in our world. We collaborate with law enforcement and other abolition organizations, seeking justice for perpetrators and restoration for victims. Our approach is integral in our dealings with all human beings.

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP is dependent on the generosity and passion of its donors, supporters, and volunteers. We will work to partner with the community, churches and individuals who are able to provide the resources and skills necessary to make the difference in people's lives

ourcoreValues

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP will be an organization that serves ALL people.

We will embody the commitment to inclusivity and impartiality. Our services are available to ALL individuals without discrimination based on race, religion, or ethnic origin.

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP will be a strong and unified team.

We aspire to form a formidable, harmonious team driven by a shared purpose. Our commitment to the vision and mission is evident, reflecting a deep dedication to our collective goals.

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP will strive to be a transparent and honest.

Transparency and honesty are fundamental values that drive THE LIFEGUARD GROUP as an organization.

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP will be respectful to ALL people.

We emphasize the core value of respect within THE LIFEGUARD GROUP, emphasizing the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and fairness.

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP will be accountable.

We will demonstrate a deep commitment to accountability in various dimensions of our operations.

By embracing responsibility in these multiple facets, THE LIFEGUARD GROUP establishes a culture of reliability and trustworthiness, consistently delivering on our commitments and building strong partnerships with stakeholders.



THE LIFEGUARD GROUP



STAFF

Lowell Hochhalter -

Founder/Executive Director

Carson Hochhalter -

Director of Operations

Joe Danzer -

Search and Rescue Coordinator.

Emily Miller -

In Home Manager

Heidi Stockbauer -

Case Manager

Rueben Miller -

Ranch Manager

Athena Cole -

Prayer Team Coordinator

Tami Hochhalter -

Co-founder, Development Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Derek Talley- Chairman

Lowell Hochhalter-

President/Executive

Director

LaDean Edam- Treasurer, Director

Liz Manley- Director

Shaun Six- Director

Jordan Stivala- Director

Dr Mike Windauer- Director

Jodi Windauer- Director

Carson Hochhalter- Director/Vice

President (Non-Voting)

Tami Hochhalter- Director (Non-

Voting)

Christina Jesko - Director

Brad Tschida Lisa Marek - Director

QUOTES FROM SURVIVORS

"Since being at the ranch, I've experienced some culture shock. Before coming here, I was physically and emotionally broken. I had no hope! When I arrived at the ranch, they instantly reassured me that I would be loved and cared for for as long as needed. Healing is hard work, but being here gives me the gift of healing, safety, and freedom. Thank you for loving me.



CASE MANAGEMENT

This year has offered many successes. We have celebrated a graduate from the program while supporting several thriving residents. The journey is not one of ease, but it is rewarding beyond measure. We have expanded our programming, creating more opportunities for each resident as she navigates her time at the LifeHouse. Domestic violence and sexual abuse create an uphill climb for these women. Our comprehensive medical team has helped transform our residents' Physical well-being. The donated dance studio has provided a resource for daily exercise and body connectivity. Restoring former images of brokenness and bondage with freedom in movement.

Mental therapies are plentiful, and there is an aggressive pursuit to find the best resource for each resident. Trauma-informed therapists meet individually and offer group sessions. Therapists equip each resident with daily and weekly skill-building tools. Animals have been introduced as comforting non-verbal companions. Neurofeedback is an emerging non-invasive treatment offered for individuals with PTSD. As the residents blossom, they are integrated into the community through volunteerism. As they connect with their community, they discover more of their interests. This has helped set future goals The LifeGuard Group can help residents reach. Established partnerships have opened educational and job training opportunities. Looking into 2025, our goals are broad. We want to expand on the services currently provided. We aim to serve more women on-site through transitional housing. Outreach programs for survivors and their families are being developed. While challenges remain, our commitment to providing a safe, empowering environment continues to yield positive outcomes. We couldn't do it without the support of our volunteers, donors, and community supporters. Together, we are able to continue our mission to RESPOND, RESCUE, RESTORE, and REVIVE for years to come.

HEIDI STOCKBAUER,
CASE MANAGER
THE LIFEHOUSE



RANCH MANAGEMENT

So much has happened here at the Crooked Tree Ranch this past year. One of the fantastic things about this place is that wherever you look, you will see growth, whether it is seeing staff members, residents, or the ranch grow and change. As the ranch manager, I had the privilege of leading volunteer groups that came, helped clear brush, and finished the art barn, which included installing the kitchen, moving the fence to make room for the garden, Hauling and stacking hay, splitting firewood and beginning the installation for the main gate. These are just a few things done here at the ranch this past year.

As the ranch manager, I look forward to leading more volunteer groups this summer. Leading volunteer groups is always a bright spot here at the ranch. We get a lot accomplished and love to hear volunteers share their thoughts and the impact the ranch had on their time spent with us. The Crooked Tree Ranch is an impactful experience for every person who comes and serves.

REUBEN MILLER
RANCH MANAGER
CROOKED TREE RANCH



”

Every hour, 34 more individuals enter the life of sexual exploitation. In the United States alone, there are more than 2 million victims, the majority of them being women and children. Although 2024 was a successful year, our work is far from over.



MISSING PERSON SEARCHES



CALLS

We received eight calls from individuals with missing family members. (The remaining three calls did not meet our search criteria, as the families did not provide us with the necessary information to search.

SEARCH ONE

Lasted 9 months and the missing person was found deceased

SEARCH TWO

is on going and has lasted 12 months

SEARCH THREE

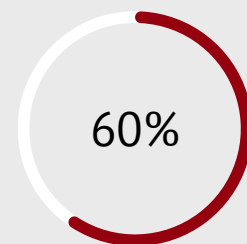
lasted 12 hours before the missing person was located and returned to safety.

SEARCH FOUR

Lasted one week before she was found and returned safely home.

SEARCH FIVE

Ongoing



SEARCH COMPLETIONS

We continue to search for missing persons till cases close.



VICTORY NOTES

One particular case will stay in my heart forever. I was handed a message that a father had called the office, and his daughter and grandchild had been missing for months. I called the father and assured him we would not give up until they were found. Over the next few weeks, we scoured social media, talked to family and friends, and with the help of our resources, “T” was found. With tears in our eyes, we watched as “T” was reunited with her father. When we arrived at the location to reunite this precious family, I witnessed her father run out to meet his daughter and grandchild; I watched as this large, fit man fell to his knees on the hot pavement and began to weep. After a long embrace, this man came and hugged me tight, and through his tears, he said, “Thank you for saving them, thank you for caring”. This story and many more are the reason we keep searching!

JOE DANZER
SEARCH COORDINATOR



SURVIVOR SERVICES



1424

Safe Night Sleep for
victim/survivors

4272

Meals provided for
victim/survivors

3000

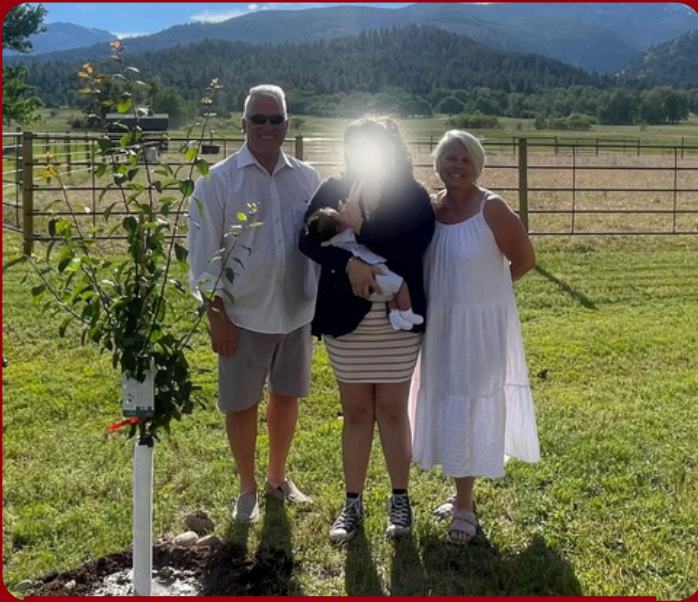
miles transporting victims
through Wings of Freedom
Pilots

94

Direct Service requests

16

Intake Interviews



RESIDENT GRADUATION FROM THE LIFEHOUSE



RESIDENT GRADUATION FROM THE LIFEHOUSE



WINGS OF FREEDOM PILOT RESCUE MISSION



WINGS OF FREEDOM PILOT RESCUE MISSION



AT THE LIFEHOUSE



GETTING A ROOM READY AT THE LIFEHOUSE

OTHER SERVICES

Other services provided include individual counseling sessions, group therapy sessions, equine therapy, art therapy, dance and exercise therapy, play therapy, culinary, gardening, baking, job readiness preparation, talk and walk therapy, essential time management, Finding Glow classes, legal aid, personal care, medical, dental, and eye care.

CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVED IN 2024



HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAININGS

629

Medical and First
Responders

1882

Schools, Administrators,
and Community Members

1110

Business and
Governmental Agencies

1995

Civic and
Church Groups

5616

Total individuals Trained

58

Total Trainings Provided



OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS

Being a Vōcōmé Volunteer has been a fantastic experience. What I have gained from this experience and from each brave woman I have been blessed to work with is priceless.

- Tracy Richards

These women have touched my heart in such an impactful way. We have had such sweet moments together while in the field with the horses or in our free time in the evenings. Each woman's healing journey is inspiring, even in the messy moments of healing.

- Lyndsi Pratt

Being a Vōcōmé Volunteer has allowed me to help women with horrific life experiences far removed from mine. My role at The LifeHouse is to be present, nonjudgmental, loving, and supportive simply. Through this journey, I have learned much about the effects of trauma. The LifeGuard Group has supported my role excellently through its ongoing training, counseling, and encouragement.

- Jean Stewart

OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS HOURS

7181

hours donated
to the LifeHouse

14,240

volunteer hours to
the Montana Human
Trafficking Hotline

21,421

total volunteer
hours

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- FINISHED THE ART THERAPY STUDIO
- FINISHED THE DANCE THERAPY STUDIO
- STARTED A HYDROPONIC GARDEN
- WE WERE GIFTED A NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
- WE WERE GIFTED A STAFF DEVELOPMENT PORTAL
- CREATED WINGS OF FREEDOM PILOT PROGRAM
- BEGAN AN AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF MONTANA AND DPHHS

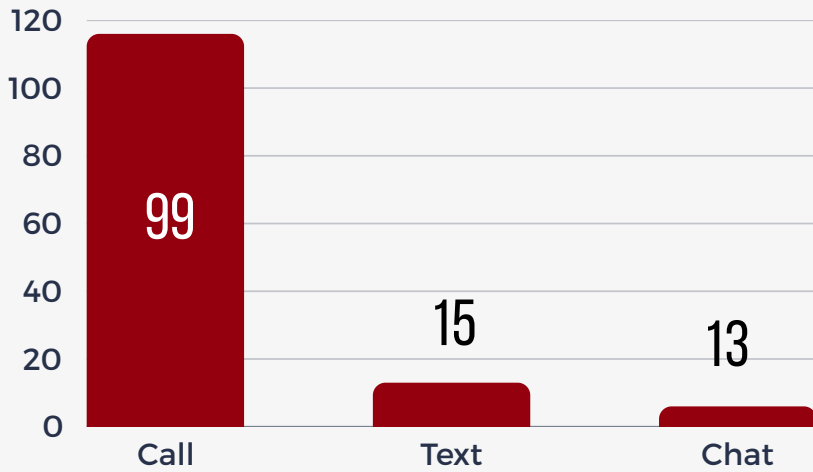




2024

MONTANA
HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Overview



CONTACTS PER MONTH



135

Contacts in 2023

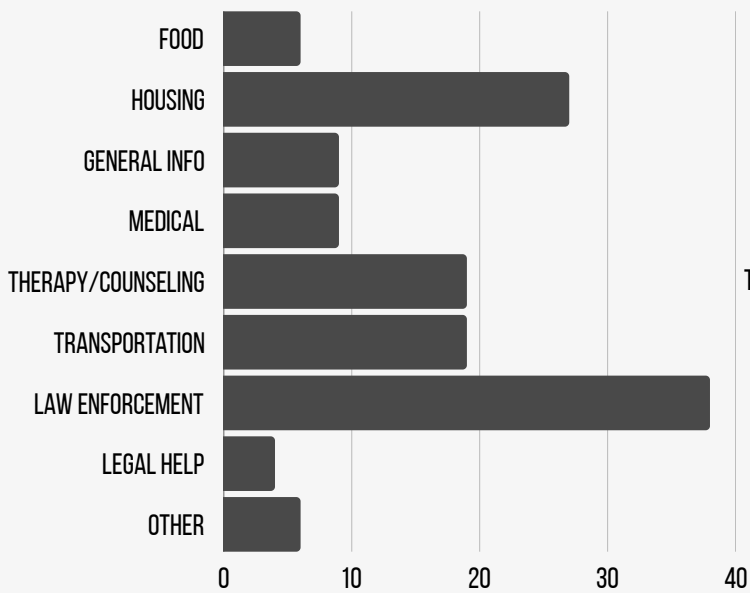


509

Contacts since launch
(Nov. 2020)

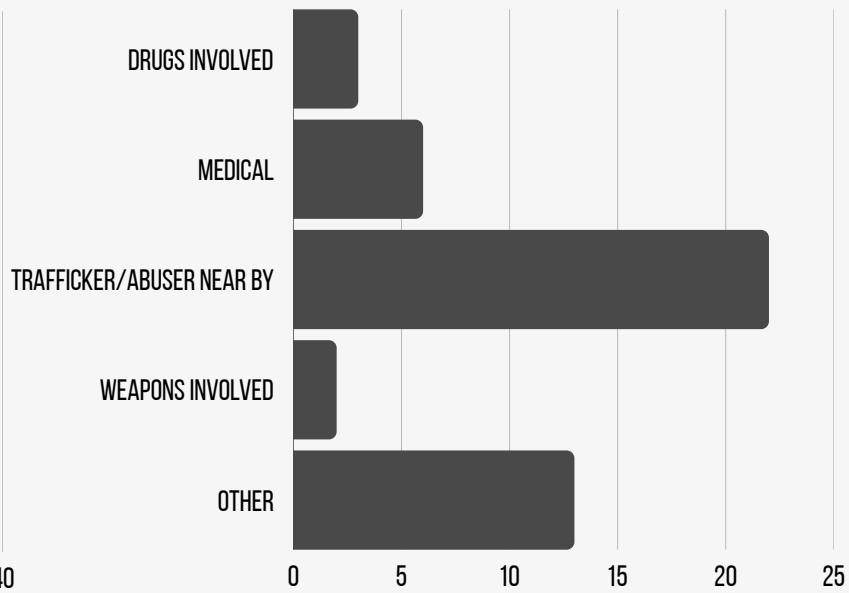
The Victim

CURRENT NEEDS



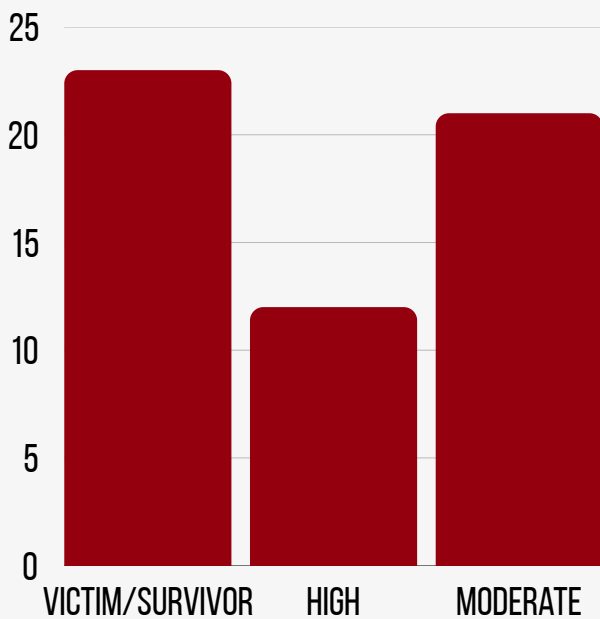
*Multiple needs may be given by a single caller.

SAFETY CONCERNS

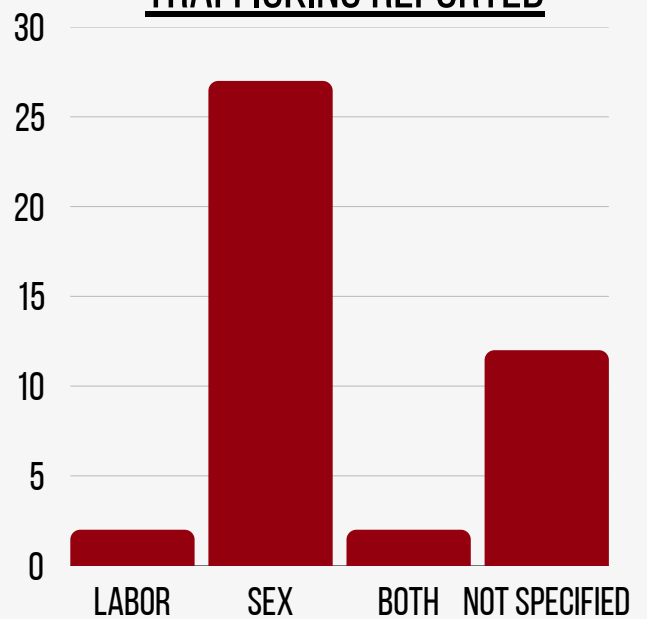


*Multiple concerns may be given by a single caller.

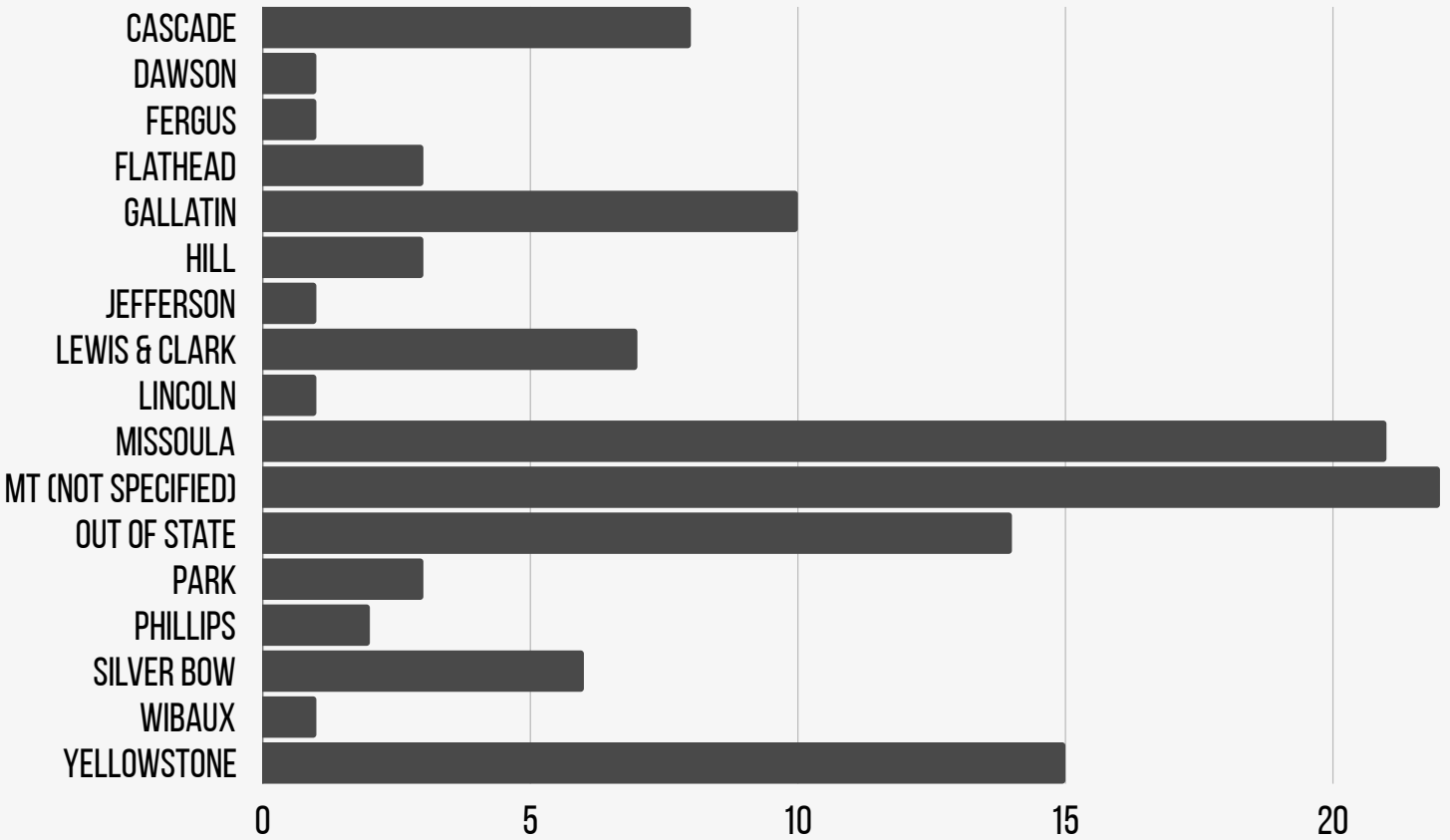
TRAFFICKING INDICATORS



TYPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTED



CONTACTS PER COUNTY



OUR PARTNERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL



AUSTIN KNUDSEN



THE LIFEGUARD GROUP



GOVERNOR
GREG GIANFORTE



MONTANA
Department of Transportation



SENTINEL PROJECT



A special thank you to all those who volunteered in 2024 as a Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Advocate.

Financials

The LifeGuard Group is proud to have retained the Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency on Guidestar. Below, you will find an overview of our 2024 financials. As is our practice, our 990s will be posted to our Guidestar page as soon as we receive them back from our CPA.

FULL REPORT



Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

US\$

FY24

INCOME

\$442,669.43

EXPENSES

\$439,225.75

CLOSING BALANCE

\$223,413.98

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER - Bring your gifts and talents and join the fight against human trafficking. Become a: Search Team Member, A mentor to the survivors at The LifeHouse, An advocate on the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline, A guest instructor for our Art, Equine, and Dance therapies...the possibilities are endless. Use the QR code below and reach out today and find your place in the fight.



FOLLOW - Follow us on social media, repost and tag us whenever you can. We have a social media presence on *Facebook*, *Instagram*, *TikTok*, *SnapChat*, and make sure you check out our *YouTube* channel.

CONNECT - Most of our donors and volunteers come through mutual relationships. Many people still do not know that human trafficking is a real threat to our society. One way is to host a dinner or dessert event and invite those that you know. One of the LifeGuard Team can be available to attend and give a brief presentation on how to get involved in this fight.

GIVE - The LifeGuard Group is funded entirely by individual donors and private foundations. We strive to be good stewards of every dollar that is given and we know that transparency is important.



THE 210



The LifeGuard Group, INC

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Suite 430

Missoula, Montana 59802

www.thelifeguardgroup.org

