

# growing better together



When I grow  
up I want to  
be **a problem  
solver**





## Our **MISSION**

The Children's Advocacy Project is a team of committed agencies and individuals who work together to provide coordinated forensic and comprehensive services for alleged victims of child abuse and neglect in order to minimize trauma to children, break the cycle of abuse, and foster a more effective and efficient community response to child maltreatment.

When I grow  
up I want to  
be **strong**..



# A letter from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Think back to your childhood. Do you remember experiencing that internal desire to grow? As little tikes, we couldn't wait to be tall enough to ride the carnival rides, grow as tall as our siblings, or just be taller than the last mark on wall where we kept track! As we get older, growth has a much deeper meaning. We may want to develop our personal relationships, grow in our professional life, or achieve a personal goal to improve our lives.

The Children's Advocacy Project strives to help each child grow. We want to empower the hundreds of children who walk through our doors to face their fear and talk about the abuse they have experienced so they can begin to grow and heal. We strive to give them the opportunity to find their inner strength to recognize their worth and potential, so they may grow into strong, self-assured survivors who experience their own success and happiness, regardless of their past.

2019 was a year of growth for The Children's Advocacy Project, as we worked to meet the increasing needs of child victims of abuse. We look forward to continuing our mission in 2020 by helping these amazingly brave children. Thank you for supporting CAP, and most importantly, the many children in our communities.



Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director

# CAP by the NUMBERS

**4,284**

Children have bravely completed a Forensic Interview since opening



**326**

Forensic Interviews Conducted in 2019



**672**

Individual Counseling Sessions



**270**

Children Attended a CAP In-school Training



**210**

Adults Attended a CAP Community Training



# National NUMBERS

1 in 4 Girls &



1 in 6 Boys will be



Sexually Abused  
before Age 18.

Only

**38%**

of child victims  
disclose that  
they have been  
sexually abused.



**90%**  
of sexual  
abuse victims  
know their  
perpetrator



Four children  
die every day  
in the U.S.  
because of  
abuse

A report of  
child abuse is  
made every  
ten seconds



**1,825**

children are abused  
or neglected each  
day in the U.S.



one-quarter of abuse  
victims were younger  
than 3 years old.





# When I grow up I want to be **the best** **version of myself**

+

Madison never thought she would look forward to her future. She saw no reason to create goals or have dreams. She knew that, like her mother before her, she would probably get pregnant, drop out of high school, work a low-paying job and that would be her life.

Madison's story started off not that different from most of the children we serve at The Children's Advocacy Project. She and her siblings had been in and out of foster care from an early age. Her mom's boyfriends were often violent, and it wasn't unusual to find drugs and alcohol in the home. Time after time, Madison's mom would work a successful reunification plan by staying clean and sober, taking classes, getting a job and finding stable housing only to "mess up" by getting together with the wrong guy. "She was never happy unless there

was a guy in our lives. I don't know why our love couldn't be enough, but it never was."

School, when they attended, was often Madison's only safe place. "I knew at school no one was going to mess with me, and that my brother and sister were safe." Even though grades didn't come easy, she wanted to please so she worked extra hard in math and science and asked for help when she needed it. Everything got harder when Madison reached middle school. A thoughtful teacher encouraged her to work with a "much smarter" peer, Emily, who became her tutor. "With Emily's help, I even made the Dean's list. My mom didn't care much but I knew it was a big deal."

Madison and Emily became friends, then best friends. "We did everything together, and we didn't have any secrets." When Madison



needed a place to stay, Emily's parents took her in. For the first time in her life, Madison felt like she had a family. "I had my own room. They said if I was going to live there, I had to have chores, so I helped with the dogs, washed dishes, did my own laundry. Things were going great." Then, like they usually did in Madison's life, something bad happened and she was asked to leave.

She tried to find someplace else to take her in. Ultimately, Madison had no choice but to move back in with her mom, her mom's boyfriend, Eric, and Madison's younger brother and sister in a tiny, two-bedroom trailer. Madison slept on the floor in her sibling's room or else on the couch in the living room. Her mom and Eric drank and used drugs. It wasn't long before Madison was smoking marijuana and drinking with them. Her grades dropped and she began having trouble with other kids at school. "There really wasn't much keeping me in school. I didn't feel like I had any hope of ever really getting my life straightened out."

Sometimes, Eric would encourage "his girls" to snuggle up to him on the couch. He would often touch Madison inappropriately, but she felt it was okay because "it didn't ever go very far." Sometimes she felt like she deserved to be mistreated "like I was a bad person or something." One

night, after her mom passed out on the couch, Eric enticed Madison into the bedroom where he forced her to have sex with him. Madison told her mom the next morning.

Madison's mom stated she was "hung over" when Madison told her Eric had raped her and "may have jumped to the wrong conclusion." She and Madison got into a fight, waking up Eric who denied everything. Madison stormed out of the house. Her mom reported her as a runaway and Madison was picked up and sent to YCC. While at YCC, she reported the rape. Madison was interviewed by a DFS investigator and a Casper Police Department Detective. "They were both really nice, but not too nice. I never felt like they pitied me or thought I was some sort of victim. They asked me questions about where I lived and what my life was like. Then they told me they were going to have me talk to someone else."

"At first, I was really nervous. I'd already told them practically everything and now they wanted me to talk to another stranger?! I thought they were crazy, but I was afraid they were going to send me home, so I agreed. The next day, I went to The Children's Advocacy Project for a forensic interview." At CAP, Madison was asked non-leading, non-suggestive questions

about the drugs and alcohol use, as well as the sexual assault. During the safety portion of the interview, Madison also revealed a history of physical abuse and domestic violence.

“After the interview, the same DFS lady and detective who talked to me in the beginning told me that I would be placed in foster care. They asked if there was anyone I felt safe with. I told them about Emily and her family.” Emily’s family reluctantly agreed to take Madison in until suitable housing could be found. Although it was difficult at first, Emily’s family and Madison slowly rebuilt a trusting relationship. Madison participated in trauma counseling at The Children’s Advocacy Project. She worked to bring her grades up and “somehow” managed to pass her classes. “My grades were like a bloodbath of D’s and F’s. I didn’t think I could possibly keep from flunking out; but I did.”

Two years later, Madison is preparing for her senior year. Although she won’t qualify for the full Hathaway scholarship, she has turned her academic horror story into one of success. Madison plans to shadow a prosecuting attorney when she can job shadow next year. Although her own case did not go to trial, she believes that justice was served and wants to be able to help other girls with stories like hers. **“The CAP team was there for me when I didn’t think anybody really cared. I want other girls to know that someone will always have their backs and that they can do even more than they can imagine because of it. The sky’s the limit when you feel safe!”**



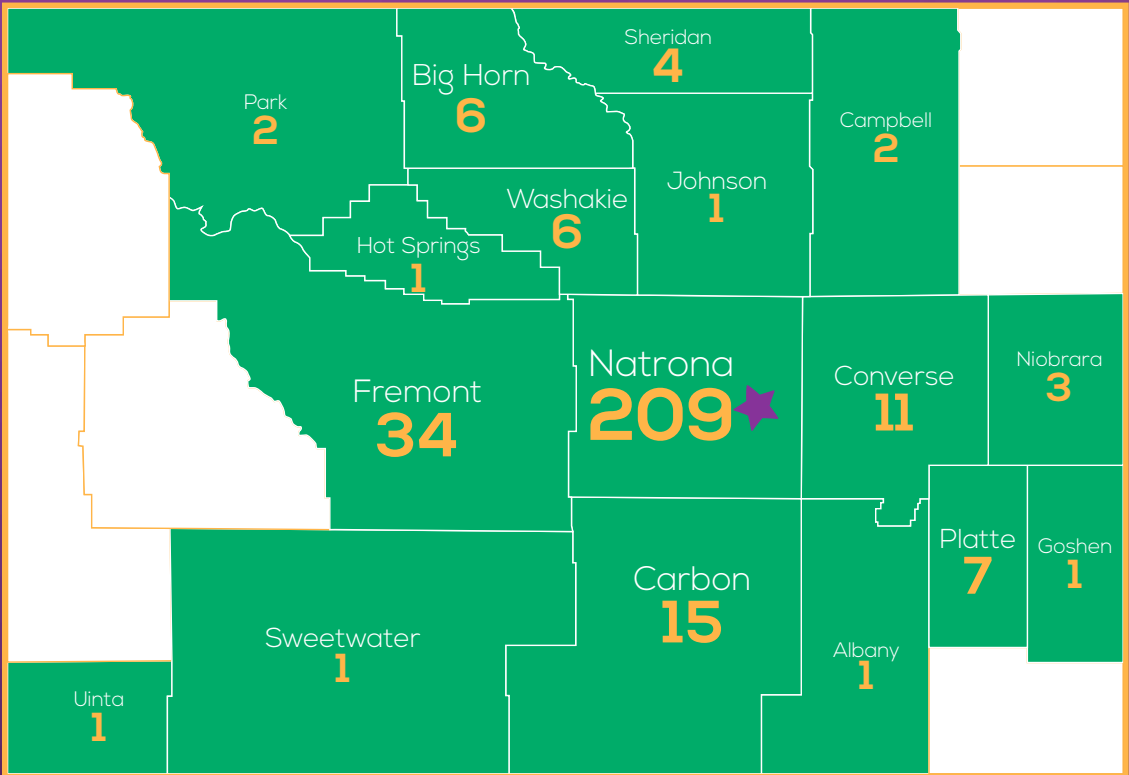
When I grow  
up I want to  
be **brave**.....





# FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

## by County

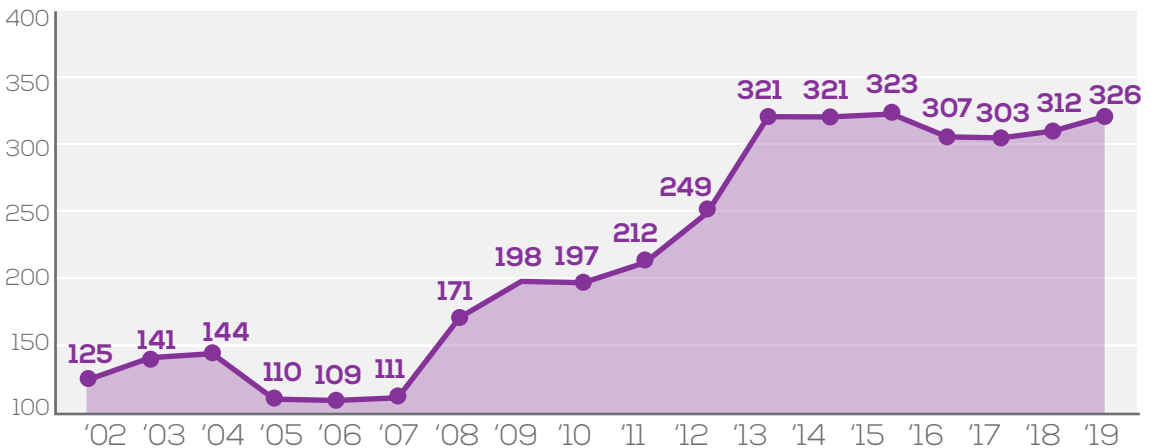


**Other Courtesy Interviews:** Colorado: **1**, Nebraska: **3**,  
Louisiana: **2**, Montana: **1**, Oklahoma: **1**, Texas: **4**, Utah: **4**,  
Federal-FBI/Military/Homeland Security : **5**



# FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

## by Year



Forensic interviews are the first step at the Children's Advocacy Project when there is suspected child abuse or maltreatment.



Forensic interviews help to reduce trauma to the child by reducing the number of times they have to talk about what has happened to them.



Forensic interviews are recorded and reviewed by our multidisciplinary team.



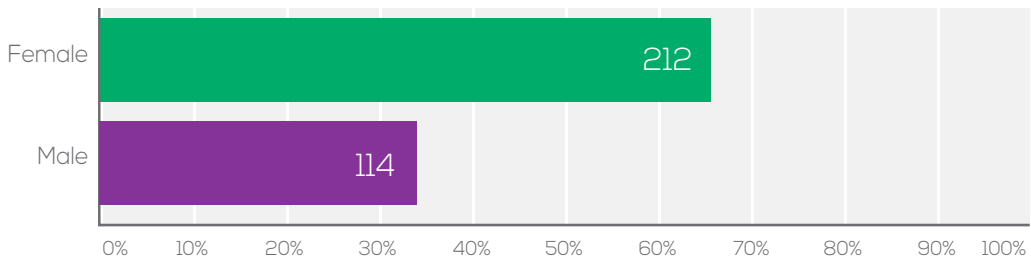
Forensic interviews obtain information from the child that might be helpful to a criminal investigation and create a case that will hold up in court.



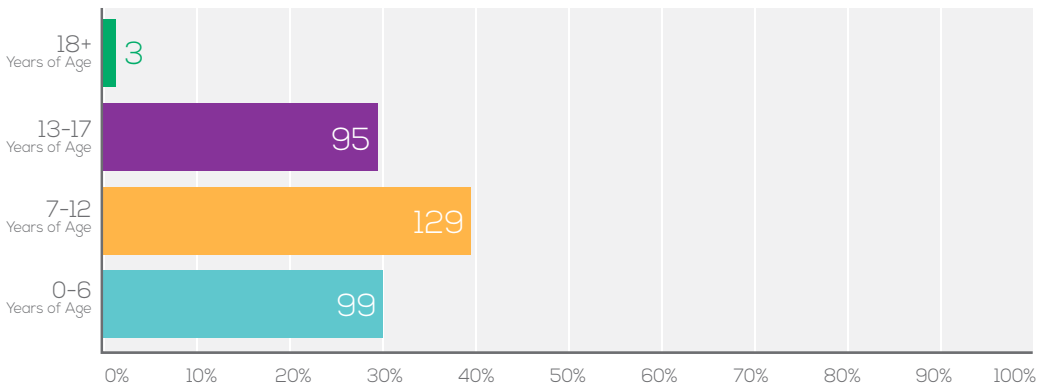
When I grow up I  
want to be **happy**.



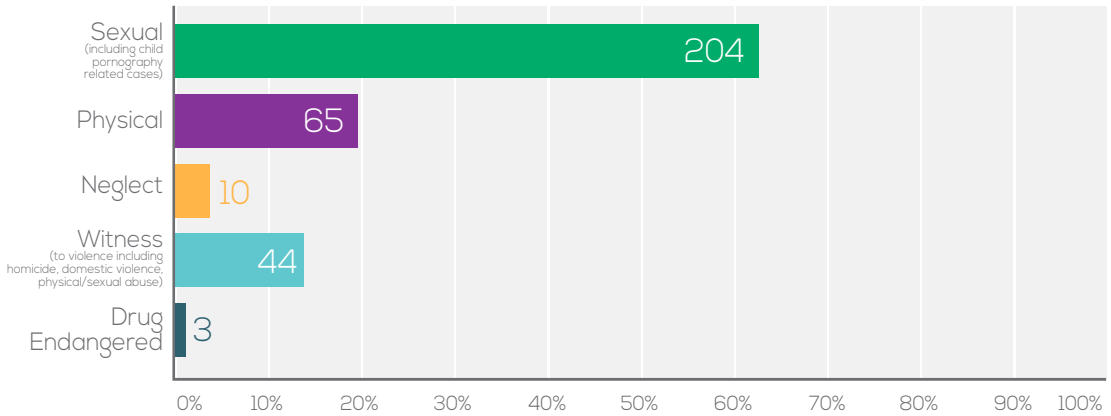
### Gender of VICTIM



### Age of VICTIM

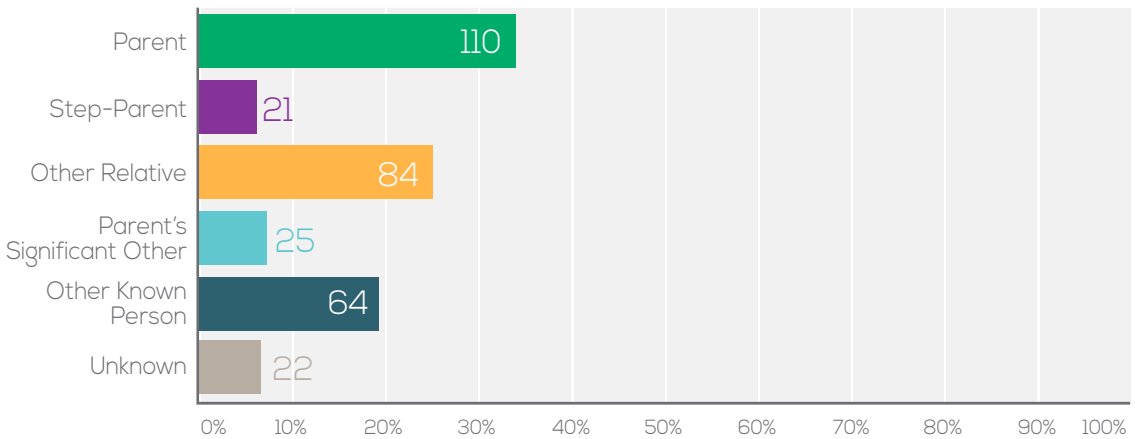


## Types of ABUSE

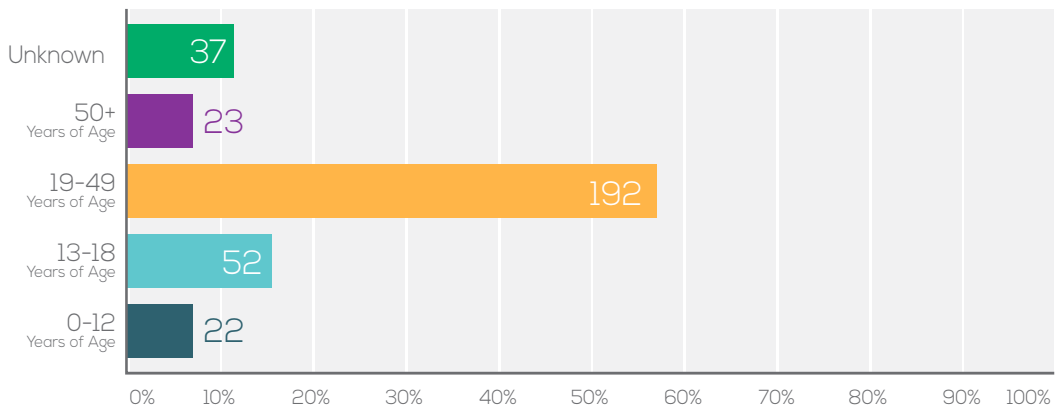


\*\*\*Of these 326 cases, 42 children experienced more than one type of abuse.

## Relation of SUSPECT



## Age of SUSPECT







# Year in REVIEW

## April

Mayor Charlie Powell calls for Casper to prioritize safety in preventing and responding to sexual assault. The statement came as part of a proclamation naming April Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the city. Following the proclamation, the Children's Advocacy Project staff and community members planted 312 pinwheels to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## April

Wyoming Supreme Court denies offender Douglas C. Jones' appeal of a jury's finding that he sexually abused three girls. He is convicted on three counts each of second-degree and third-degree sexual abuse of a minor and is sentenced to 15 to 45 years imprisonment. Jones argued that the decision at trial to allow prosecutors to show the video of the girls' interviews at the Children's Advocacy Project violated a court rule against hearsay evidence.

## April

Donna Gatlin, convicted of fracturing a 10-month-old child's skull, appeared in Natrona County District Court to enter an Alford plea to a single count of child abuse. An Alford plea is a guilty plea under which a defendant is allowed to maintain their innocence. In entering the plea, Gatlin

was not required to admit to committing the crime but instead acknowledged prosecutors would likely be able to prove the case against her. She made the plea as part of an agreement with prosecutors, who had initially charged Gatlin with aggravated child abuse. Prosecution and defense attorneys will recommend that the judge sentence Gatlin to three years probation in lieu of 7-10 years imprisonment. The boy had fully recovered from the injury and his parents did not want Gatlin imprisoned. The parents do not believe Gatlin has "ill will" toward the child.

## May

During a hearing in Natrona County District Court, Jonah J. Decker pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree sexual abuse of a minor. He admitted to sexually abusing a 10-year-old girl. He also entered an Alford plea to a single count of first-degree sexual abuse. Prosecutors agreed to dismiss six additional felonies in exchange for Decker's pleas. They also agreed to cap their sentencing arguments to 20-30 years imprisonment. He will serve the three sentences at the same time. The girl was interviewed at the Children's Advocacy Project, and she said Decker had been touching her inappropriately for about three years.

## June

Natrona County Judge Kerri Johnson found George Tamblyn, 41, guilty at trial of committing three sex crimes against a 5-year-old girl. Because Tamblyn was convicted in 2012 of second-degree sexual abuse, his latest conviction for the same crime means he is subject to a Wyoming statute that requires his incarceration for life without possibility of parole.

## July

Wyoming Supreme Court denies the appeal of Joshua Winters' 2017 conviction by jury for kidnapping and sexually abusing a 5-year-old boy. Winters remains incarcerated in Wyoming's maximum security prison, serving a sentence that totals as many as 115 years.

## August

Adam G. Glazier made the admission in Natrona County District Court as part of a guilty plea to a single count of third-degree sexual abuse of a child. He also pleaded guilty at the hearing to a single count of possession of child pornography. In exchange for his pleas, prosecutors agreed to dismiss six other felony counts Glazier had faced. Assistant District Attorney Kevin Taheri also agreed to recommend Judge Kerri Johnson run sentences on the two convictions at the same time. Glazier could face up to 15 years in prison, which is the maximum penalty for the abuse conviction. Prosecutors have not yet indicated what sentence they will seek. Glazier told the judge he had a child porn video on his computer and touched the child's genitals.

## November

Following a three-day trial, jury convicts a Natrona County man, James Tanner 55, of sexually abusing a teenage girl in the bathroom of a Mills home. In a follow-up interview at the Children's Advocacy Project, the girl said she recalled telling Tanner that she did not want to have sex with him, she closed her eyes and he abused her. She then recalled "I didn't want to open my eyes. I didn't want to, like, come to, like, reality with it."

## December

A 32-year-old Casper man, Joshua Hicks, admitted to abducting a girl in the summer of 2019 from her south Casper lawn, before exposing himself and attempting to molest her. Hicks made the admission as part of his guilty plea to a single count of aggravated kidnapping. His plea means he will serve decades in prison for the child abduction. In exchange for his guilty plea, prosecutors also agreed to dismiss two other felonies he faced: single count each of second-degree and third-degree sexual abuse of a minor.

## December

A Natrona County judge sentenced a Casper man, Trae D. Smith to 48 to 60 years in prison for molesting two mentally disabled women, who are non-verbal, while he worked at a local group home. In a separate attack, he sexually abused a teenage girl, who during the trial stood to give a victim impact statement.

# 2019 Events

## **CAP, Cabernet & Calcutta**

120 Attended Event  
56 Silent Auction Items  
11 Live Auction Items

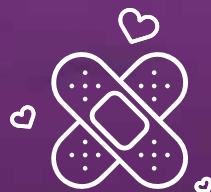
## **Shoot Trap for CAP**

17 Heavy Hitter Teams  
5 Rec League Teams  
110 Total Shooters

## **2019 Total Raised:**

\$46,691

When I grow  
up I want to  
be...**caring**...



When I grow  
up I want to  
be **ME**.....



# ANNUAL BUDGET

## FUNDING SOURCES

VOCA Federal Funding	\$169,806.00
Natrona County and City of Casper	\$75,000.00
Other City & County Funds	\$43,415.00
Program Income	\$60,000.00
Fundraising	\$58,000.00
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$50,000.00
McMurry Foundation	\$30,000.00
United Way	\$20,000.00
Donations	\$15,000.00
National Children's Alliance	\$7,000.00
Other Grant/Donation Income	\$34,921.45

**\$563,142.45**

## EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	61.0%
Contract Services	14.9%
Training & Travel	5.0%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, Housekeeping)	4.3%
Fundraising	3.4%
Equipment & Supplies	3.2%
Accounting	2.8%
Advertising & Website	2.4%
Legal Services	1.0%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1.0%
Printing & Postage	1.0%

**100%**





# Thank You!

Thank you for investing in the belief that no child should be without the services needed to heal from abuse and working together to create a world that better responds to and helps prevent child abuse. **Your support helps children in our community begin to believe again that they can be anything when they grow up!**

2nd Street Liquor & Wine  
307 Healing Waters  
Adrian & Brooke White  
ANB Bank  
Anchor Designs  
Artisan Alley  
Aspen Creek Massage  
Backwards Distillery  
Becky & Justin Burt  
Best Friends Animal Health Center  
Big Horn Polo Club  
Big O Tires  
Black Sunday Tattoo / Andy Westman  
Brad & Natalia Follensbee  
Brian Brooks  
Carla Aurelius  
Casper Animal Medical

Casper Events Center  
Casper Police Department  
FOP Lodge #6  
Central Wyoming Therapy  
Chad & Cheri Frimml  
Cheyenne Frontier Days  
Chris & Tiffany Elhart  
Chris Hadlock  
Chrissie Rosenof  
Discovery Downhole Services  
Domino's Pizza  
Donnell Tate & Angie Rezanina  
Douglas Golf Club  
Dr. Roussalis/New Beautiful You  
Durbin Street Golf  
Dustin & Baleigh Hite  
Flannigan's Furniture



FOP Platte River Lodge #11  
Frosted Tops  
Gail Zimmerman  
Global Sporting Safaris  
Grab and Go Gourmet  
Grand Targhee Bike Park  
Grass River Retreat  
Great Harvest Bread Company  
Greater Wyoming FCU  
Hansen Contracting  
Hilltop National Bank  
Honalo Farms  
IPA Machining  
Jackson Hole Outfitters  
Jen Wilson / Rodan + Fields  
Jenny Lynn Photography  
Jessica Brehe  
Jonathan Peterson  
K9 Corral  
Kelly Daily  
Killmer & Associates  
Kimberly Mittelstadt  
Leah & Chad Schieck  
Less Monday  
Lifetime Health & Fitness Center  
LoveHaight Boutique  
Mary Lynne Shickich  
Matt and Jenn Wiles  
Miller Chiropractic Clinic  
Nowoodstock  
Old Baldy  
Outback Steakhouse  
Paragon Painting  
Peak Asset Managers  
Poplar Wine & Spirits  
RBC Wealth Management  
Rootz Salon  
Rosemary Bartle & Tara Fairbanks  
Salon 307  
Salon Savvy

Samantha Henderson  
Saratoga Resort & Spa  
Shannon Green Photography  
Sherry's Place  
Sierra West  
Sit Means Sit  
Sonny's RV's  
Spearfish Canyon Golf Club  
Spruce Nail Bar  
Stacey Mittelstadt  
Stacy & Bob Nelson  
Starla Kull  
Sunsations Tanning Salon  
Sweet Grass Acupuncture  
The Fox Spa, LLC  
The J Team Casper - Remax  
The Spence Law Firm  
Three Crowns Golf Club  
Thrive Therapeutic Massage, LLC  
Toft Family Dental  
Toy Town  
Ugly Bug Fly Shop & Crazy Rainbow  
Uncorked  
Urban Bottle  
Wagner's Outdoor Outfitters  
Western Distributing  
White's Mountain Motors  
Williams, Porter, Day & Neville  
Winchester Ranch / Chad Frimml  
Wind City Physical Therapy  
Wind River Casino  
Wyoming Behavioral Insitute  
Wyoming Mountain Song Soaps  
YMCA  
Young's Market Company

If your name is not included in the list of donors,  
please know we sincerely appreciate your support and  
apologize for the omission.





**If you would like to make a donation or if you have any questions about our services, please contact us:**

(307) 232-0159 • 350 North Ash • Casper, WY 82601  
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