



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

To Our Supporters:

Rural communities are the backbone of our nation and a significant part of our economy. They are responsible for providing our nation's agricultural and energy resources and the foundation for goods and manufacturing. As the Water Well Trust Executive Director, I am proud to announce that we have put back over \$1.7 million into these local communities in 2024, ensuring that rural homeowners have access to the precious resource of water that so many of us take for granted.

I am eager to share this report with you showcasing the important work the Water Well Trust does throughout the country. These are just a few examples of our dedication to ensuring Americans have access to clean water.



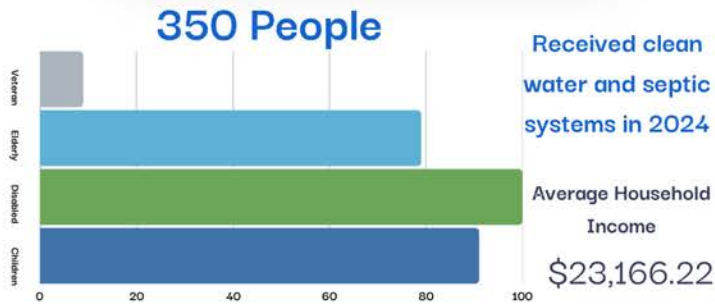
Margaret Martens

MARGARET MARTENS

Executive Director, Water Well Trust

waterwell trust

2024 OVERVIEW



36 States

174 Total Projects

144 Water Wells

30 Septic Systems

Florida had the most projects completed in 2024 - 17 wells and 3 septic systems



Missouri had 16 wells and 1 septic system

Cost for our Clients



Average Well Loan - \$10,197

Average Well Payment - \$61.31



Average Septic Loan - \$7,911

Average Septic Payment - \$49.08

Office Queries

4,646 Inquiries

20 Asks for help a day

344 Applications

Money Back into the Industry

\$1,724,527



83 Donors *Thank You!*

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response-Western North Carolina

In the wake of Hurricane Helene's destruction, the Water Well Trust worked closely with the North Carolina Groundwater Association, Drillers Services Inc. (DSI), Ferguson Drilling, Merril Drilling and Water Systems, and Yadkin Well Company to collaborate efforts to address the water availability crisis.

Public water and private wells were mostly non-existent after Helene washed everything away. A restricted fund was set up at the Water Well Trust for disaster relief donations. Water Well Trust was the conduit for the vetting of applicants that needed assistance rehabilitating an existing well or drilling a new well. In addition, the Water Systems Council's wellcare® Hotline helped front questions from private well owners finding themselves with water quality concerns.

Donations started funneling in from DSI vendors and concerned citizens wanting to help. Projects started in December with community wells at a local church in Swannanoa and a fire department in Fairview. Both locations serve as disaster relief centers and the wells allow community members access to showers and toilets and the ability to procure water for their household needs.

The request for help from WNC homeowners continues on a weekly basis. Homeowners report FEMA is issuing only around \$750 per household and insurance claims remain slow. Homeowners are desperate to rebuild and return to some sort of normalcy and having access to water is a step in the right direction.

Experts specializing in natural disasters tell us recovery efforts will take at least a decade. This organization and its staff are 100% committed to this endeavor.



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Joette Wood - La Luz, New Mexico

Joette Wood lives in La Luz, New Mexico, and had been without water since her well ran dry in 2018. She was able to acquire a 1,100-gallon water storage tank and was having her water delivered until the cost rose to a point that she was no longer able to afford it.

In 2022, a neighbor allowed Joette to hook up to their irrigation well to fill her storage tank. "People don't understand what it's like to be without water until they don't have it," Joette explained. "It was a nightmare and very stressful; it was awful. I'd rather be without heat than without water."

Looking for a more long-term solution, Joette applied for a new well with the Water Well Trust in 2022. However, the cost associated with her new well exceeded the \$15,000 maximum allowable amount that could be financed through the Trust.

Thankfully, the Irwin family selected Joette to be a recipient of a grant through the Robin Irwin Sunshine Fund. When the WWT informed Joette that she had been selected, she was so stunned she did not realize that she had been granted a new well. A few days later, she contacted the WWT to ask what her monthly payment would be as she did not see any amount outlined in her agreement. She could not believe it when she received an email stating that the Robin Irwin Sunshine Fund was providing her with a grant, so there would be no repayment.

"I went back to that email at least 50 times to make sure that I read it right, that I was being gifted a well at no charge," said Joette. "Robin found me in the middle of nowhere and blessed me."

After her well was completed and she enjoyed clean water again in her home for the first time in seven years, Joette was able to do things she couldn't do because she always had to be mindful of saving water - like cleaning her bird cages, caring for her desert turtles, and simply washing her curtains.

"Having water running out of my faucet takes some getting used to again," said Joette. "I am so grateful to the WWT and the Robin Irwin Sunshine Fund for answering my prayers."

Joette planted two trees near her well in remembrance of Robin and thankfulness for the WWT.



EVENTS

WWT Golf Tournament and Auction

On October 14, 2024, the Water Well Trust hosted its 16th Annual Fall Golf Tournament and Live Auction in Tucson, Arizona, at the Omni Tucson National Resort. The golf tournament was fun-filled with a shotgun start as nine teams hit the course to battle for first-place bragging rights. Throughout the day, golfers participated in several sponsored games and vied for prizes.

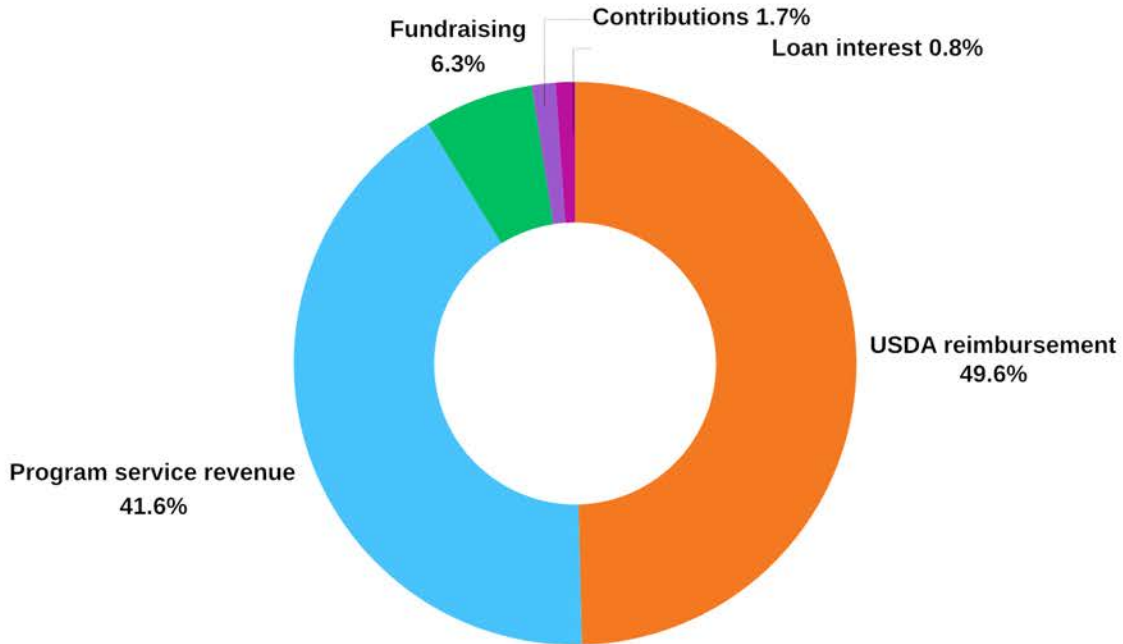
Following a day of golf, it was off to the reception, dinner, and auction. This year the format for the evening was different. Most auction items were included in our silent auction that kicked off the week before. Ten additional items were auctioned off live, then it was on to the Bid from the Heart, which is strictly financial donations. The Bid from the Heart raised a record \$149,375, with the help of a generous \$50,000 donation from Bill and Jean Mills!

Once again, we raised a record amount totaling **\$246,795** from the golf tournament, silent and live auctions, and Bid from the Heart! These funds will go toward the USDA-required match for our 2024 USDA grant, ensuring access to the \$3M granted to the WWT.

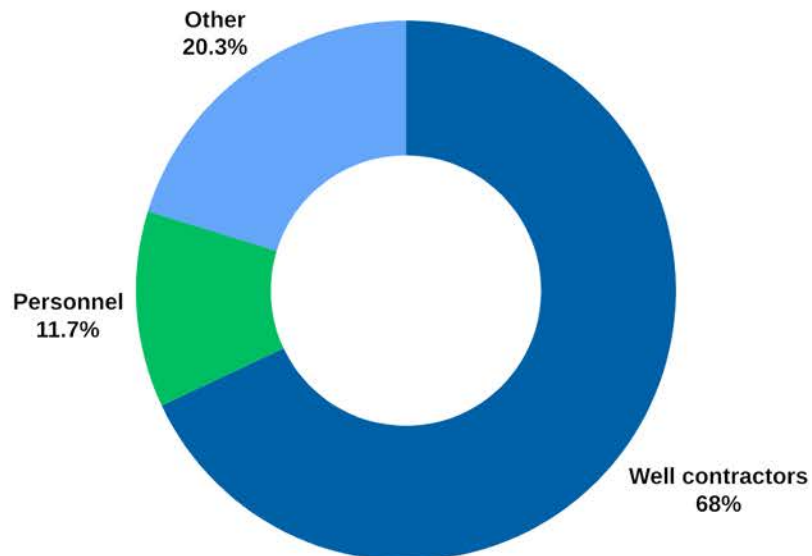


2024 FINANCIALS

Income



Expenses



Strickland Hardee PLLC audited the financial statements and compliance requirements identified in the OMB Compliance Supplement of Water Well Trust, Inc, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, for the Single Audit, the Organization complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

2024 DONORS & PARTNERS

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Western Hydro
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Z. Oral

THANK
You!

This program is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA and the Water Well Trust are Equal Opportunity Providers, Employers and Lenders.