We have had another amazing year at Florida Wildlife Hospital. Luck was on our side, as we did not experience any major storms or a difficult migration season so our patient numbers were down from the previous few years. That doesn’t mean we weren’t busy. We took advantage of a lighter patient load by doing more staff and volunteer training, catching up on house cleaning, creating more detailed protocols and procedures and building stronger ties in the community.

Some of the exciting changes we saw in 2018:

- Implementation of a year-round intern program including a Non-profit Administration Internship
- Addition of a Certified Veterinary Technician position
- Addition of an Assistant Director position
- Creation of our Community Partners Program
- Development of the Walk on the Wild Side (behind-the-scenes experience)

One of our goals for 2019 is to create more sustainable funding in order to keep our important work going long into the future. We are approaching this challenge in many ways:

- Creating a more professional and user-friendly website
- Incorporating more effective donor/membership software to better serve our supporters
- Strengthening our Community Partners program with local businesses interested in supporting our operations
- Building partnerships with local municipalities who believe our wildlife is an important resource for Brevard County
- Enhancing our Board of Director documents and procedures

Florida Wildlife Hospital is a great example of a “community facility” because we couldn’t do what we do without the community support through:

- The initial rescue of wildlife in need by concerned citizens
- Financial donations
- Supply donations
- In-kind services
- Volunteering
- Event attendance

I am honored and humbled by the support of our friends and the concern for our local wildlife.

Tracy Frampton
Executive Director
We have had community support from local businesses for many years. In 2018, we started a formal Community Partners program and had eight businesses join in the first year. Our goal is to have these businesses continue their support in 2019 and to find additional partners. This type of support goes directly to operations and can be financial or in-kind. In 2018, one business offered financial support and the remaining seven provided significant in-kind support. By joining this important team, you are making a big impact on our work to help wildlife. Your logo will join the group of supporters on our Community Partners wall and will be acknowledged in our quarterly newsletter and on social media. For more information on how you can be part of this elite group, please email: Tracy@floridawildlifehospital.org

The veterinary partnership with Brevard Zoo has been a great asset. The Veterinary Intern completed her first year of the 2-year program. The Brevard Zoo Animal Health Team assisted us with 131 cases in 2018. We greatly appreciate their assistance and advice with these more challenging cases.

We added a Digital Radiology machine late in 2017. We hit our stride with its use in 2018; we did x-rays on 428 patients. If we had to transport that many patients to another facility and pay for those x-rays, it would have been cost prohibitive and the patients would not have received complete care. We are very thankful for the donations to purchase this machine.

We added a Certified Veterinary Technician to our staff roster. She brings new skills and knowledge to our medical team. We are doing more in-house bloodwork and would love to have better equipment in order to do more diagnostic testing in-house.

After attending several seminars, our staff implemented new diet recipes in order to improve the recovery of debilitated birds with great success. We also received a new infrared camera as a donation, which helps us detect tissue inflammation and feather damage. I’m excited to see what new skills and equipment we will have for the coming year.
Florida Wildlife Hospital’s Mission Statement

Our mission is to aid sick, injured, and orphaned native Florida wildlife and migratory birds and return them to their place in the ecosystem.

Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary, is a 501(c)3 organization that depends primarily on private donations for its programs and services. Although our income varies greatly depending on the season, we are happy to report that we broke even in 2018.

Total Expenses: $348,278

Total Income: $348,210

Using some financial reserves and grant money, we were able to begin or complete several projects including:

**Small Mammal Enclosure**

In March, we finished work on our new Small Mammal enclosure. This served to help prepare hundreds of animals for release including squirrels, opossums, rabbits, and bobcats.

**Medium Mammal Enclosure**

Work on this enclosure began in the fall and will be completed in early 2019.

**Whole House Generator**

We were thankful for a quiet hurricane season but will now be prepared for the next. A generator was installed along with a new natural gas line for the main hospital.

**New A/C Unit**

The Hospital not only owns the main building but also the house at the front of the property that we originally worked in. That building needed a new A/C unit over the summer.

**New Countertops**

The animal commissary is the most trafficked room in the hospital and it was beginning to show. In 2018, the countertops were replaced leaving us with a sanitary, clean workspace.

For 2019, our capital projects include:

- New roofs for the Hospital and front house
- A new air conditioner unit for the main hospital
- A new pre-release enclosure
Total Volunteer Hours

16,302.85
Equivalent to nearly 8 additional full-time staff members.

Volunteering to help Keep Wildlife Wild

$402,517.37
The amount of money, FWH volunteers saved the hospital in 2018.

*based on the National Rate for Volunteer Time

This past year, over 125 different individuals donated their time to help Florida Wildlife Hospital carry out its mission to help Florida’s native wildlife and migratory birds. We also had 8 volunteer groups from local organizations and companies participate in group projects at the facility. These included two Eagle Scout projects.

New positions were created to better suit our expanding needs, such as office support, volunteer mentors, and a non-profit management internship program. Volunteers continued to assist with hospital maintenance, landscaping, building new enclosures, animal care, outreach, and education.
What It Takes...

**Squirrels:** 592 patients in 2018
*Cost per patient:* $370
*Food/ Meds:* $70
*Time/ utilities:* $300
*Avg. Length of Stay:* 2 months

**Otter (infant):** 1 patient in 2018
*Cost per patient:* $3500
*Food/ Meds:* $2000
*Time/ utilities:* $1500
*Avg. Length of Stay:* 6 months

Where are they coming from?

32935—394 patients
32940—262 patients
32937—232 patients

32955—223 patients
32904—158 patients
32901—139 patients

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A **Yellow Rat Snake**, patient number 18-3776, was admitted on October 21st after a concerned citizen discovered it with what appeared to be a large mass in its stomach. This patient is a perfect example of how it takes an entire community to help our native wildlife. The snake was rescued by Wild Florida Rescue who transported her to Young's Animal Hospital where Angela Bockelman, DVM performed surgery to remove the mass, a ping-pong ball. Two weeks later our patient required a second procedure and Dr. Trevor Zachariah at the Brevard Zoo was there to help. After nearly 2 months of care and recovery, we are happy to report she was returned to the wild on December 18th.

On October 10th a juvenile male **Bobcat** was admitted to our facility. Patient 18-3660 was found near a road in Sebastian and was suspected to have been struck by a vehicle. Upon intake he was observed to have wounds on his head, corneal abrasions in both eyes and was lethargic. Once our patient was stable, we took radiographs and fortunately did not find any serious trauma. Bobcats are dangerous animals to work with but thankfully we had a compliant patient. He had to receive ointment in his eyes several times a day for a week to heal the ulcers, a difficult task with the normal temperament of a wild bobcat. Without his willingness to let us help, we might have had a much different outcome. He tolerated his daily treatments and upon their completion became the aggressive wild cat we all had hoped for. The patients we rehabilitate are meant to be wild animals, thus a healthy fear and aggression towards humans is exactly what we want. On December 7th we returned him home to run wild and free.
Here are a few examples of what it takes to care for a few of our more popular species and those that require a bit extra.

Crow (hatchling): 51 patients in 2018
Cost per patient: $325
Food/ Meds: $225
Time/ utilities: $100
Avg. Length of Stay: 2.5 months

Gopher Tortoise: 108 patients in 2018
Cost per patient: $300
Food/ Meds: $150
Time/ utilities: $150
Avg. Length of Stay: 3.5 months

These zip codes represent the top 10 locations in the community where our services were most needed. These include the cities of Melbourne, West Melbourne, Indian Harbor Beach, Rockledge, Merritt Island, and Indialantic.

32952—139 patients
32934—128 patients
32907—119 patients
32903—112 patients

Every Patient Matters

On March 19th we received a call from a concerned citizen that a young animal, species unknown, had been abandoned along a busy road. Wild Florida Rescue responded to the call and discovered the animal to be a young, male River Otter. The otter pup was in critical condition and near death. He was rushed to a nearby veterinarian where he spent the night under close observation and the following morning he was transported to the Florida Wildlife Hospital. He was going into hypoglycemic shock upon admission and our team sprang into action. Within minutes he was hooked up to oxygen and had received fluids and sugars. For more than a month, our little patient received around-the-clock care from a few of our most experienced staff. He was brought home by staff every night to be fed and receive medications every 2 hours. As he became stronger and his crashing episodes became fewer, we began searching for another facility that had a friend for him. We were excited to hear a nearby facility had a young female about the same age and the perfect place for the two of them to finish growing up. On May 14th, we transferred him to Creature Safe Place in Fort Pierce and we are excited to report both otters were released happy and healthy back to the wild.

We received a Peninsula Cooter on May 18th from the Vero Beach Humane Society. Being the only facility of our kind in both Brevard and Indian River Counties, we admit many patients from Sebastian and the surrounding areas. This individual was found along a busy road and had likely been struck by a vehicle. She suffered severe damage to her shell and a deep tissue wound near her hind leg. Being that she was an aquatic turtle, we were concerned that she would not be able to submerge in water thus making her non-releasable. We placed brackets on her carapace using a non-invasive technique and stabilized her shell into place, and then we waited. After nearly 3 months of care the braces were removed and our patient was swimming wild once again.

On December 6th, 2017 we admitted an Eastern Screech-Owl who had been accidently sprayed with foam insulation nearly a month earlier. The owl had been confiscated by FFWCC from a well-meaning, but ill-advised, citizen who was attempting to rehabilitate the patient without the proper permitting or training. The owl arrived at our facility in poor condition and it was apparent at first sight that we would have it for a very long time. Every one of its feathers had been irreparably damaged by the spray insulation which meant we would have to wait for the bird to undergo a complete molt of its feathers, something that only happens once a year. After 301 days in care the owl was released and flying free once again.
4,394 Patients Treated in 2018

Although we would love to treat every patient that enters our facility, per state regulations, we are only permitted to treat and release native Florida wildlife and migratory birds. Below is a chart of the native species we treated in 2018.

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<th>Birds:</th>
<th></th>
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</table>

23,091 Hours spent on Patient Care
*Staff and Volunteers Included

Mammals:
Cadre Of OutReach & Education

Educating ~ Enriching ~ Engaging

58
Decrease of 4 programs from 2017 and an increase of 20 program from 2016
Programs Attended by our C.O.R.E. Team

10
Number of Animal Ambassadors FWH provides a home to

9,181
A 31% increase in guests attending our programs from 2017.
Number of Guests Reached in 2018

$6,154
Money raised by C.O.R.E. team for wildlife care

1,932
Hours of Volunteer Time by C.O.R.E.
Events

Each year, the Florida Wildlife Hospital (FWH) relies heavily on fundraising efforts to help fund our operating budget. Over the past few years we have expanded our efforts to include new and exciting events, while also upgrading the events we have held for several years. Fundraising events also allow the Hospital another outlet for reaching out to the local community to educate and communicate our mission.

Walk on the Wild Side
Held Quarterly Throughout the Year
This is a new event held quarterly at the Florida Wildlife Hospital to give members and community members a behind the scenes glimpse into what it takes to run a wildlife hospital. Guests receive light appetizers, drinks, and an in-depth experience of the hospital.
Raised $3,223

Wild About Wildlife
April 21, 2018 Wild Ocean Market, Port Canaveral
A premier event for FWH, this was our second Annual event. This year’s event saw more sponsors, an effort to go green and compost the trash from the event, and an even larger turnout. We also welcomed back Greg Pallone, The Tree Frogs, and Laurilee Thompson.
Raised $15,799

Baby Shower
May 19, 2018 Town Hall, Palm Shores
Held each year at the Town Hall of Palm Shores, this was our 12th Annual event. The event helps raise supplies and funds to carry the Hospital through baby season each year. Due to poor weather, this event wasn’t as well attended as previous years but still helped in many ways.
Raised $1,846

HOOT in the Park
November 17, 2018 Wickham Park, Melbourne
Dogs and people alike have loved attending this event for the past 5 years. This year, the event was held in the new Wickham Park pavilion and saw our largest crowd of around 800. With more vendors and more sponsors, we are thrilled at the growth this event has seen.
Raised $6,131

Misc. Fundraisers
In 2018, the Hospital participated in a few other fundraising events. In February, we partnered with Painting with a Twist for Painting with a Purpose where the proceeds from a paint night were donated to FWH. Later in the year, Texas Roadhouse invited us for a restaurant fundraiser.
Raised $3,571

2018 Event Sponsors
“Florida Wildlife Hospital is the opportunity of a lifetime for both their patients and their interns. As an intern, I was able to get amazing hands-on experience that is unavailable at other locations, and the patients are able to get the best care and better meals than a college intern could ever afford. The employees here only have the animal’s best interest at heart, and that’s why I love going back to volunteer whenever I can. Florida Wildlife Hospital makes a difference everyday and every animal is important no matter how big or how small.”

Nora Oukili, Summer 2018 Animal Care Intern

“I didn’t realize how truly lucky I was to live in Florida until I began volunteering at the Florida Wildlife Hospital. I also didn’t appreciate just how many fascinating, beautiful, and extraordinary creatures share this state with us until I had the great privilege of working with some of them. As a volunteer, I have had the opportunity to work with raptors, reptiles, and mammals I never would’ve dreamed I could do. The staff at the hospital are dedicated to the care of these animals and, through them, my fondness for all creatures great and small (pardon the pun) has grown immeasurably. This facility is truly an invaluable asset to the county and I can’t express enough how happy it makes me to be a part of it!”

Linda Perry, Most Active Volunteer in 2018

“I am a proud board member and supporter of the only wildlife rehabilitation facility in Brevard County. Thanks to the incredible dedication of staff, generous donors and community partners like Brevard Zoo, our Wildlife Hospital is able to continue to provide a critical service for sick and injured wildlife.”

Andrea Hill, Board Member and Community Partner with Brevard Zoo

“I grew up in the area, so I’m really familiar with the hospital. My dad & I actually rescued a red-shouldered hawk that was caught in some fishing wire & brought it to you guys years ago...So this is a project that’s really close to home for me. Really excited to be working with you!“

Gina Cullen, SeaDek/ SwimDek a Community Partner

While we never seek out recognition for what we do, we are always so appreciative when what we do is recognized. For us, the reward of helping each patient that comes through our door is fulfilling enough. In November, the Florida Wildlife Hospital was honored to be one of Space Coast Daily’s Humanitarian Award recipients and several volunteers and staff attended the gala to accept the award. Huge thank you to Maria Sonnenberg for this wonderful nomination and to Space Coast Daily for the beautiful award and presentation. We love being able to spread our mission to more of the community in any way possible.
Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary
4560 North US Highway 1
Palm Shores, FL 32935
(321) 254-8843
FloridaWildlifeHospital.org