

## Annual Report: 2019



Proud Member of the:

  
**MELBOURNE** regional  
CHAMBER of East  
Central Florida





# Table of Contents

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Page 1   | Director's Letter             |
| Page 2   | Partnerships and New Software |
| Page 3   | Financials                    |
| Page 4   | Volunteers/ Interns           |
| Page 5-6 | Patient Info/ Release Stories |
| Page 7   | Species List                  |
| Page 8   | Outreach/ Education           |
| Page 9   | 2019 Events                   |
| Page 10  | How Far Can \$1 Go at FWH     |



## Message From Our Director

I am constantly amazed with the work we are able to accomplish every day. This year was a banner year. We had the highest number of patients come through our door since opening in 1973: 5543. Thanks to new protocols and procedures, our staff and volunteers worked together like a well-oiled machine, caring for this unprecedented number of patients.

We are thankful to all our long-time supporters and new donors. Our work could not happen without all of you. We are proud of the work we do here and are very pleased to have shown off our facility to nearly 100 people through our *Walk on the Wild Side* quarterly event since its inception in 2018.

In addition to our many patients, we had a new challenge in 2019: oiled wildlife. This was the first time in our history that we had oiled birds come in. We worked closely with the US Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. There was quite a learning curve as we worked to save these patients. The source of the oil was never found. We hope this will never happen again but we are better educated if it ever does.

Thanks to some generous bequests, we were able to make some important improvement to our infrastructure in 2019:

- Replaced the shingle roof on the hospital building and the house with a 50-year metal roof
- Replaced the old windows in the house with energy efficient, impact windows
- Completed the work on our new whole-house generator
- Created a modern, professional website
- Changed our donor software to a more useful tool

In 2020, our goal is to continue to increase our sustainable funding in order to serve the community long into the future. All other growth depends on this most important goal. Some of our plans for this year include:

- Repairing the 100ft flight cage
- Building more raptor pre-release enclosures in order to decrease wait times for patients
- Complete the construction of a large mammal enclosure
- Plan for an on-site education facility
- Complete our perimeter fence – this need became apparent due to the growth around the facility
- Improve our parking

The increase in patients in 2019 has shown that we provide an important service to this community and beyond. It is an honor to serve as the place to go in Brevard County for injured wildlife in need.

Tracy Frampton  
Executive Director



# Community Partner Program

We are honored to have so many local businesses willing to support our work. Since its inception in 2018, we have grown from 8 to 13 partners. Partners support our work through significant financial donations or in-kind services. We would be happy to add more signs to our wall.

Please reach out to [tracy@floridawildlifehospital.org](mailto:tracy@floridawildlifehospital.org) or go to our website and search the **Support FWH** tab for more information on how your business can be added to this important program.



## Government Partnerships



Wildlife rehabilitation requires a good working relationship with many other agencies including state, federal and county groups such as BCSO Animal Services. Although we work closely with each, we receive no sustainable funding from these agencies. Taxes do not help support our work. We are pleased to announce our first government partnership with a government entity: the **City of Satellite Beach**. We are providing many educational opportunities from workers compensation training for keeping their employees safe, to attending festivals, presenting programs for their residents on ways they can help wildlife and even a program for their summer camp kids. Our goal is to expand this program to other cities in Brevard County. It's a win-win-win for wildlife, for residents and for our facility.

## Donor Software

As our facility has grown and matured, it became clear that we needed a new software program to manage our donors, memberships, grants, and fundraising events. We made the leap in 2019. This new software has many powerful tools to help with organizing, management and planning. The learning curve has been great but each day we feel more confident with our abilities.



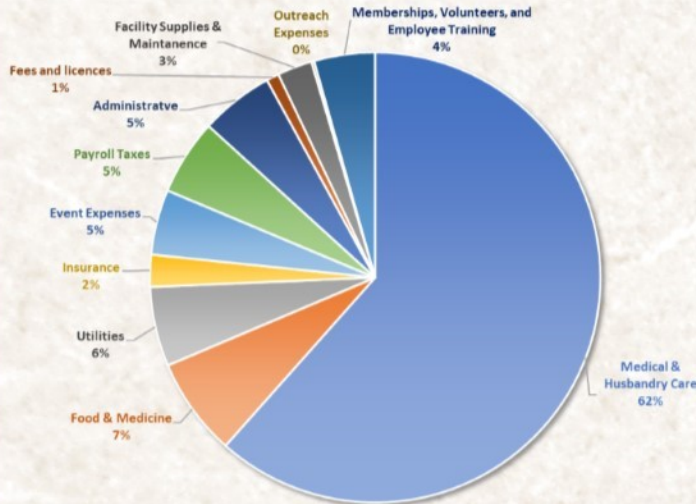


## Florida Wildlife Hospital's Mission Statement

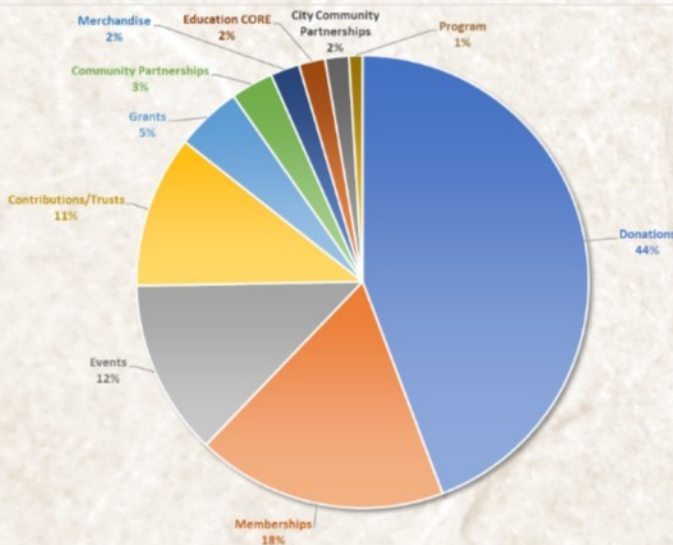
Our mission is to aid sick, injured, and orphaned native Florida wildlife and migratory birds and return them to their place in the ecosystem.



Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary, is a 501(c)3 organization that depends primarily on private donations for its programs and services. This year's total income left us with approximately \$36,825 in reserves for future projects, not including received bequests.



Total Expenses: \$358,720



Total Income: \$395,545\*

\*Bequests totaling \$126,900 have been factored out for budget purposes.



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

### Building Improvements

In early summer, we were very excited to partner with Direct Metal Roofing and have a 50-year metal roof placed on the main hospital and front house. Later in the year, new windows were also added to the front house to improve energy efficiency and safety. These improvements were made possible by bequests. The building also received a new coat of paint.

### Security

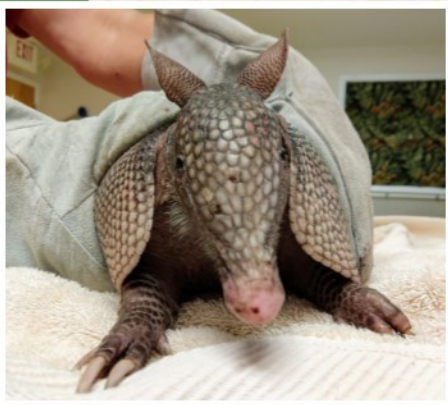
New enclosures were constructed for patient drop-offs after hours. These are much sturdier and easily disinfected. Thanks to a grant from Community Foundation, not only were the new cages installed, but security cameras were also set-up for better safety measures. Staff also took an Active Shooter Course from BCSO.

### Raccoon Enclosure

Work was completed on this enclosure in the early part of the year and we have been successfully been rehabbing and releasing raccoons since its completion.

### Donor Software

The Hospital upgraded both the Donor Software by switching to Donor Perfect and had a new professional website created by Rock, Paper, Simple.



For 2020, our capital projects include:

- Repairing the 100ft flight cage
- Building more raptor pre-release enclosures to decrease wait times for patients
- Complete the construction of a large mammal enclosure
- Plan for an on-site education facility
- Complete our perimeter fence
- Improve our parking



# Running On Volunteers



Total Volunteer Hours

**15,373.86**

Equivalent to nearly 8 additional  
full-time staff members.



## *Volunteering to help Keep Wildlife Wild*

# \$369,587.59

**The amount of money, FWH volunteers saved  
the hospital in 2019.\***

\*based on the Florida Rate for Volunteer Time via  
IndependentSector.org

This past year, our volunteer hours did appear to be much less than in 2018. However, an error was found in the way previous year's had been calculated using our management software. The correct amount of hours from 2018 was 16,187. The decrease in this year's numbers we are attributing to fewer volunteer groups, as well as more organized volunteer assignments at events and during slower patient times.

In 2019, FWH hosted 6 volunteer groups, introduced a new intern position with Veterinary Technician students from EFSC, and continued its year-round Animal Care and Non-Profit Management Internships.



# What It Takes...

Opossums: 657 patients in 2019

Cost per patient: \$280

Food/ Meds: \$105

Time/ utilities: \$175

Avg. Length of Stay: 2 months

Otter (infant): 5 patient in 2019

Cost per patient: \$3500

Food/ Meds: \$2000

Time/ utilities: \$1500

Avg. Length of Stay: 6 months

## Top Reasons For Admissions...

Animals brought in with  
trauma caused by  
unknown reasons:

890

Infants who fell from the  
nest and could not  
be re-united:

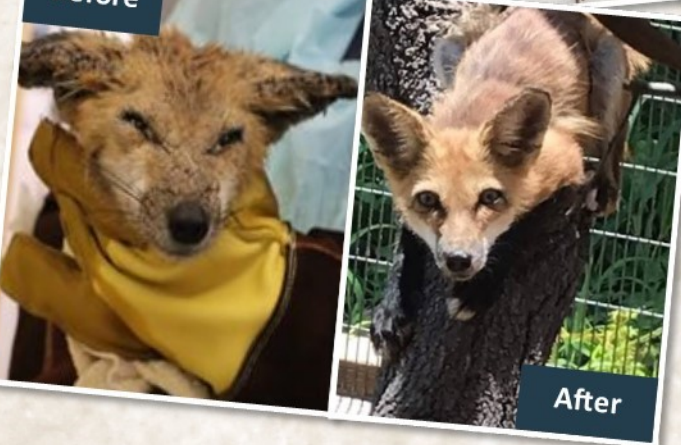
494

### Red Fox 19-0948

An adult female red fox was admitted on March 19<sup>th</sup> after Brevard County Sherriff's Office Animal Services had received a call about a sick fox in Rockledge. They arrived at FWH and began filling out paperwork while our staff gownned up to retrieve the animal from their truck. She was in very poor condition, too weak to fight us, eyes sunken and crusted closed, severely dehydrated, emaciated, anemic, with ulcerating pressure sores on both hips, and covered in matted and crusty fur patches. She was suffering from a severe case of mange mites and had multiple secondary issues as a result. We prepared a kennel with a heating pad, lots of soft bedding, a shallow bowl of water, and a small dish of easily digested food. She was given subcutaneous and oral fluids, an antiparasitic medication to start treating the mange, and several nutritional supplements before being placed in the warm, quiet room where she could relax and begin to heal. After only 24 hours of supportive care she was starting to feel better, readily eating the small dishes of food we provided, drinking water, and opening her eyes more. She was started on a course of antibiotics and given a medicated bath to help loosen the matted fur and sooth her dry and itchy skin. For the next several weeks she continued to make daily improvements; gaining weight and becoming feisty, her wounds healed, eyes bright and open and skin no longer inflamed. On April 4<sup>th</sup> she was moved to an outside enclosure to finish her stay here. The mange infestation had caused severe fur loss and she would need to grow a healthy coat before release. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, after more than 2 months in care, staff was overjoyed to return a beautiful and healthy fox back to the wild.



Before



After



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.

**N. Mockingbird:** 201 patients in 2019

**Cost per patient:** \$250

Food/ Meds: \$150

Time/ utilities: \$100

**Avg. Length of Stay:** 6-7 weeks

**Raccoon (infant):** 285 patients in 2019

**Cost per patient:** \$1,260

Food/ Meds: \$510

Time/ utilities: \$750

**Avg. Length of Stay:** 4.5 months



Our patients arrive a wide variety of reasons each day. Here are the top 5 reasons for admission from 2019.

Avian patients who are  
unable to fly for an  
unknown reason:

**438**

Patients Hit By Vehicles:

**426**

Patients attacked by cats:

**240**



# Every Patient Matters

We received a juvenile white ibis on August 15<sup>th</sup> from the Vero Beach Humane Society. It was admitted for unknown trauma but had injuries consistent with a vehicle strike. Initial exam findings were blood in the interior of the right eye, abrasions on the keel, both wings, and both legs. A larger wound was present on the left hock and the patient appeared to be favoring the leg. Wound care, pain management, and fluids were started right away. The location of the hock injury complicated wound healing and after a few days it was evident it would need surgical intervention. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> the Brevard Zoo veterinary team preformed the necessary surgery and returned our patient for post-op care. We closely monitored the wound and leg function while providing supportive care. After only a couple weeks the wounds had healed well and no loss of leg function was evident. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, after several weeks at our facility, the juvenile Ibis was flying free once again.

**White Ibis 19-3881**

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, a very young common gallinule was found in a garage in Merritt Island. The door had been left open and the home owners heard strange noises coming from outside. When they went out to investigate they found a small, strange looking bird that was quite unhappy. Unsure of what it was and what might be wrong with it, they quickly scooped it up to bring to FWH. Upon admission, the young bird was healthy, active, and calling for its parents. We identified the species and asked them to return home to see if they could find the parents. After a few hours, they called to report they had found a pair of adult gallinules very near where the baby was found. They came right away to pick up the baby and bring it back to its parents. They called again a short time later to tell us it was a success!

**Common Gallinule 19-3074**

**Barn Owl 19-3521-25**

On the evening of July 20<sup>th</sup>, a woman in Cocoa got a call from her neighbor that had a nest of baby barn owls fall through her soffit on the backside of her house. The woman rushed over to find 5 owlets on the ground near the water's edge of a canal. She gathered them all up to bring to our afterhours drop off boxes. Staff placed them in warm kennels for the night once they arrived. The following morning full exams were completed on each owl. All five were bright and alert but thin. Staff worked the rest of the day to rehydrate them and slowly introduce food again, we suspect they had not been fed in a while. Four of the five quickly started gaining weight and began picking up food after a few days. Despite our best efforts, the youngest and smallest one of the group, did not survive. However, after a couple weeks inside, the other 4 owls had grown substantially, were losing their natal down and getting juvenile feathers. They were eating well on their own and were ready to be moved to an outside enclosure. They spent the next month and a half building up flight muscles and growing flight feathers. After passing live prey school and 2 months in care, four Barn Owls were returned to serve their role in our ecosystem.

While in care at FWH, our four barn owls ate 144 mice and 55 rats totaling a cost of \$1072.00. Barn Owls are excellent, natural pest control with each barn owl eating up to 6 mice per night every night. They typically have large clutches of 5-7 eggs and can have 1-3 broods per year. That's a lot of mice and rats eaten every year! They are typically cavity nesters and will use man made nest boxes. If you or someone you know has a rodent problem, consider installing a nest box to welcome these excellent forms of pest control.



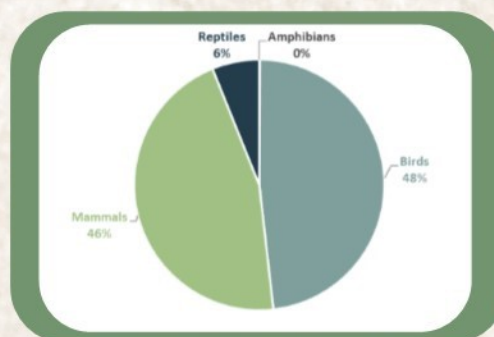
# 5,543 Patients Treated in 2019

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 2019.

|                              |     |                          |     |                          |     |                            |    |                            |     |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|
| <b>Birds:</b>                |     | Cattle Egret             | 15  | Lesser Black-backed Gull | 2   | Ruby-throated Hummingbird  | 2  | Eastern Cottontail         | 503 |
| American Bittern             | 1   | Cedar Waxwing            | 4   | Lesser Scaup             | 3   | Ruddy Duck                 | 1  | Eastern Gray Squirrel      | 785 |
| American Kestrel             | 3   | Chimney Swift            | 34  | Limpkin                  | 1   | Ruddy Turnstone            | 6  | Eastern Harvest Mouse      | 1   |
| American Purple Gallinule    | 5   | Chuck-will's-widow       | 1   | Little Blue Heron        | 1   | Sanderling                 | 3  | Eastern Mole               | 4   |
| American Redstart            | 2   | Common Gallinule         | 8   | Loggerhead Shrike        | 9   | Sandhill Crane             | 37 | Eastern Wood Rat           | 2   |
| American Robin               | 2   | Common Grackle           | 190 | Louisiana Waterthrush    | 1   | Sandwich Tern              | 4  | Evening Bat                | 29  |
| Anhinga                      | 28  | Common Ground Dove       | 16  | Masked Booby             | 1   | Sharp-shinned Hawk         | 4  | Hispid Cotton Rat          | 5   |
| Bald Eagle                   | 6   | Common Loon              | 38  | Merlin                   | 2   | Snowy Egret                | 5  | Marsh Rabbit               | 55  |
| Barn Owl                     | 6   | Common Merganser         | 1   | Mottled Duck             | 12  | Sooty Tern                 | 2  | Nine-banded Armadillo      | 3   |
| Barn Swallow                 | 3   | Common Nighthawk         | 4   | Mourning Dove            | 251 | Sora                       | 3  | North American River Otter | 5   |
| Barred Owl                   | 10  | Common Tern              | 1   | Northern Cardinal        | 26  | Swainson's Thrush          | 1  | Northern Raccoon           | 285 |
| Belted Kingfisher            | 1   | Common Yellowthroat      | 8   | Northern Gannet          | 97  | Swainson's Warbler         | 1  | Northern Yellow Bat        | 12  |
| Black Bellied Whistling Duck | 12  | Cooper's Hawk            | 30  | Northern Mockingbird     | 201 | Swallow-tailed Kite        | 1  | Red Fox                    | 1   |
| Black Scoter                 | 18  | Cory's Shearwater        | 7   | Northern Parula          | 8   | Tree Swallow               | 2  | Seminole Bat               | 1   |
| Black Skimmer                | 5   | Double-crested Cormorant | 18  | Northern Waterthrush     | 2   | Tri-colored Heron          | 2  | Southern Flying Squirrel   | 7   |
| Black Vulture                | 30  | Downy Woodpecker         | 7   | Osprey                   | 87  | Tufted Titmouse            | 1  | Spotted Skunk              | 1   |
| Black-and-white Warbler      | 4   | Eastern Phoebe           | 1   | Ovenbird                 | 16  | Turkey                     | 4  | Virginia Opossum           | 657 |
| Black-bellied Plover         | 1   | Eastern Screech Owl      | 111 | Painted Bunting          | 1   | Turkey Vulture             | 1  | White-tailed Deer          | 1   |
| Black-capped Petrel          | 1   | Fish Crow                | 36  | Palm Warbler             | 1   | White Ibis                 | 25 | <b>Reptiles:</b>           |     |
| Black-crowned Night Heron    | 2   | Glossy Ibis              | 3   | Peregrine Falcon         | 1   | White-eyed Vireo           | 1  | Black Racer                | 10  |
| Black-necked Stilt           | 1   | Gray Catbird             | 15  | Pied-billed Grebe        | 1   | White-tailed Tropicbird    | 2  | Chicken Turtle             | 4   |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler  | 5   | Gray Kingbird            | 1   | Pileated Woodpecker      | 8   | White-winged Dove          | 1  | Common Snapping Turtle     | 15  |
| Blue Jay                     | 114 | Great Blue Heron         | 48  | Piping Plover            | 1   | Wood Duck                  | 10 | Diamondback Terrapin       | 4   |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher        | 2   | Great Crested Flycatcher | 6   | Purple Martin            | 3   | Wood Stork                 | 5  | Eastern Indigo Snake       | 1   |
| Blue-winged Teal             | 1   | Great Egret              | 18  | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 59  | Worm-eating Warbler        | 2  | FL Banded Water Snake      | 1   |
| Boat-tailed Grackle          | 13  | Great-Horned Owl         | 22  | Red-breasted Merganser   | 2   | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker   | 6  | Florida Box Turtle         | 30  |
| Bobwhite Quail               | 1   | Great Shearwater         | 2   | Red-eyed Vireo           | 11  | Yellow-billed Cuckoo       | 8  | Florida Mud Turtle         | 1   |
| Bonaparte's Gull             | 1   | Green Heron              | 9   | Red-shouldered Hawk      | 69  | Yellow-crowned Night Heron | 2  | Florida Red-bellied Cooter | 10  |
| Bridled Tern                 | 2   | Hermit Thrush            | 3   | Red-tailed Hawk          | 6   | Yellow-rumped Warbler      | 8  | Florida Softshell Turtle   | 27  |
| Brown Booby                  | 4   | Herring Gull             | 19  | Ring-billed Gull         | 17  | Yellow-throated Warbler    | 3  | Gopher Tortoise            | 156 |
| Brown Pelican                | 137 | Killdeer                 | 1   | Ring-necked Duck         | 1   | <b>Mammals:</b>            |    | Peninsula Cooter           | 29  |
| Brown Thrasher               | 9   | Laughing Gull            | 88  | Rose-breasted Grosbeak   | 2   | Bobcat                     | 1  | Red Rat Snake              | 9   |
| Brown-headed Cowbird         | 3   | Least Bittern            | 6   | Roseate Spoonbill        | 1   | Brazilian Free-tailed Bat  | 16 | Striped Mud Turtle         | 4   |
| Carolina Wren                | 16  | Least Tern               | 7   | Royal Tern               | 54  | Coyote                     | 1  | Yellow Rat Snake           | 3   |

**22,672\***  
Hours spent on  
Patient Care

\*Staff and Volunteers Included



**12** Endangered,  
Threatened,  
or Near  
Threatened  
Species Treated



# Cadre Of OutReach & Education

Educating ~ Enriching ~ Engaging

73

Increase of 15 programs from 2018 and  
an increase of 11 programs from 2017

Programs Attended by our C.O.R.E. Team



10

Number of Animal  
Ambassadors who  
call FWH home



\$10,238

A 61% increase in money  
raised for helping  
Keep Wildlife Wild!



8,586

Number of community  
members reached in  
2019



2,211

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.



## Wild About Wildlife

April 6, 2019 Wild Ocean Market, Port Canaveral

A premier event for FWH, this was our third Annual event. We were thrilled to have Port Canaveral as a presenting sponsor this year and continued our effort at using eco-friendly products for the event. We also welcomed back Greg Pallone, The Tree Frogs, and Laurilee Thompson.

*Raised \$16,250*



## Baby Shower

May 4, 2019 Town Hall, Palm Shores

Held each year at the Town Hall of Palm Shores, this was our 13th Annual event. The event helps raise supplies and funds to carry the Hospital through baby season each year. Due to outgrowing the location and less of a need for large supply drives, this was the final year for this event.

*Raised \$2,586*



## Running Wild 5k

June 29, 2019 Wickham Park, Melbourne

Making a return after many years gone, FWH resurrected the Running Wild 5k. We partnered with Running Zone Race Management and hoped for 175 runners in the first year. That was nearly doubled and the event saw 368 runners in its first year! We are excited to see what the future of this event holds!

*Raised \$8,670*



## HOOT in the Park

November 23, 2019 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 \$6,461*



## Misc. Fundraisers

In 2019, the Hospital participated in a few other fundraising events for additional income. We greatly appreciate those in the community who reach out looking to hold fundraisers in our honor. Fundraisers were held at Tijuana Flats, Mulligan's Beach House, a Brunch at a donor's home, and proceeds from the raffle at the Space Coast Wildlife and Birding Festival.

*Raised \$7,235*

## 2019 Event Sponsors



# *How Far Does A Dollar Go?*

\$1.00



**\$0.76**

is spent directly on  
patient care



**\$0.12**

is spent on the facility  
for the patients



**\$0.12**

is spent on Fees & Government  
Fees that we must legally  
follow as a business

Wildlife Rehabilitation is the treatment and care of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife with a goal of returning them to the wild. The US requires permits through US Fish & Wildlife Service and state agencies in order to practice wildlife rehabilitation. These permits help to ensure that wildlife is properly housed and treated to prevent animal suffering and the release of individuals who are healthy, both mentally and physically. Every licensed wildlife rehabilitator must prove they have proper housing for the species they will treat, a letter of recommendation from another licensed rehabilitator, a letter of agreement from a licensed veterinarian lending their services, and pass annual inspections. These regulating agencies are responsible for granting our permits but do not provide any monetary support.

This field encompasses so much more than hands on interactions with wildlife. We are educators, teaching the next generations the importance of our native species, their roles in the ecosystem, and how to safely appreciate them as wild animals. We provide members of our community with information on ways to coexist with our wild neighbors and assistance when they come across one in need. We field questions on our hotline, emails, and social media from concerned citizens near and far. Our social media posts and membership newsletters allow us to interact with people all around the world. We are fundraisers, grant writers and event planners. Staff constantly attends seminars, conferences, and classes to better our knowledge and skills. We network with others who share the same mission to help ensure patients receive the best care. Our facility provides opportunities for the community to give back and encourages a sense of responsibility for our impacts on the environment. We are on the front lines of disease outbreaks and are able to provide valuable data on environmental and species' population trends. Finally, we are here to provide treatment to wildlife in need and to help in easing the pain and suffering of those patients beyond treatment. Our mission is to aid our native wildlife in hopes of returning them to the wild while our ultimate goal is to not be needed.

Members of this unique community are some of the best at stretching a dollar. We never charge to bring us a patient and we do not receive any funding from the state or federal government. Instead, our operation depends on donations, membership dues, and a handful of grants annually. Our volunteer and internship programs account for 47% of the man hours put in each year at and on behalf of the Florida Wildlife Hospital. Many of the foods and supplies necessary to care for the thousands of animals treated each year are donated by our members and local businesses. We could not fulfill our mission without the support of our community. We are constantly brainstorming ways to entice our community into supporting our mission.





Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary  
4560 North US Highway 1  
Palm Shores, FL 32935

(321) 254-8843

[FloridaWildlifeHospital.org](http://FloridaWildlifeHospital.org)

