



Annual Report: 2020

Proud Member of the:


MELBOURNE regional
CHAMBER of East
Central Florida



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The year 2020 was definitely a year to remember. We all experienced many emotions: fear, anger, frustration, helplessness, and isolation, just to name a few. With all of this going on in the world around us, it was mostly business as usual at Florida Wildlife Hospital. We had to change direction many times throughout the year but remained focused on our goal of helping our native wildlife in need. Coming to work felt like an oasis from the outside world. Our staff and volunteers were positive and dedicated while working to help our patients in need. We were honored to have so many of our supporters stay with us as well. We even gained some new friends in the process.

Our patient numbers increased again this year, setting another record with 5608 patients. We noticed a spike during the pandemic lockdown but that only accounted for some of the increase. We are pleased that more people know who we are and think of us when they find an animal in need.

Our goals for 2020 went out the window in the first quarter of the year, although we did accomplish:

- The repairs of the flight cage
- Construction of a new large mammal enclosure
- Completion of the perimeter fence
- Partnering with a local landscape architect to create a site plan for the future and hope to have it completed shortly
- Treatment of more patients than ever in our history

We are keeping our goals for 2021 a bit loose since our view into the future is cloudier than usual. It's unclear when we will be able to hold in-person fundraising events or our "Walk on the Wild Side" behind the scenes events again, but we revisit the plans regularly. Even still, we aim to:

- Add several new pre-release enclosures
- Transition from septic to sewer
- Upgrade our computer hardware

We appreciate our supporters, partners, and everyone who took the time to bring us an animal in need. Here's to calmer seas in 2021.

Josie Quiroz
Board Chair

&

Tracy Frampton
Executive Director

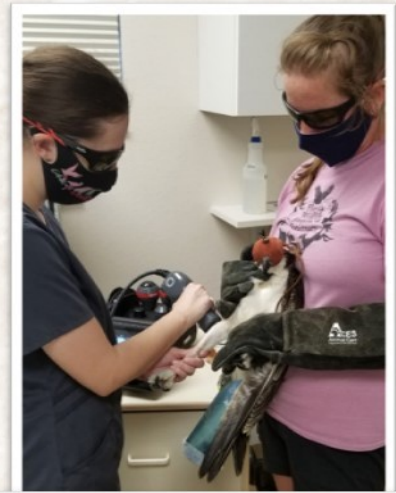
Message From The Top



COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 Pandemic greatly affected everyone's ability to conduct normal business in 2020 and FWH was no exception. When the pandemic first started, we immediately suspended our volunteer program and split staff into two separate teams. This ensured the entire staff would not contract the disease rendering us unable to provide care for the patients. We also hired two additional staff members to help handle the decrease in volunteers. To protect staff and the public, we began utilizing our after-hours drop-off boxes 24/7. Staff monitored the boxes via a camera in the parking area and greeted guests dropping off patients from a safe distance. Volunteers returned to service in June but in limited capacity and adhering to the established separate teams. Masks were mandated for all staff and volunteers and extra cleaning measures are now implemented daily. The volunteer program remains suspended to new volunteers but we are hopeful to restart orientations later in 2021. The hospital takes extra precautions with animals who may have a chance at contracting the virus.

In April 2020, FWH applied for and received the government's Paycheck Protection Program from the Small Business Administration. The facility received just over \$45,000 to assist with employee compensation during the lockdown and pandemic crisis. This loan has been forgiven and will not need to be paid back. This same month, we also received a nearly \$7,000 COVID relief grant from Community Foundation of Brevard.

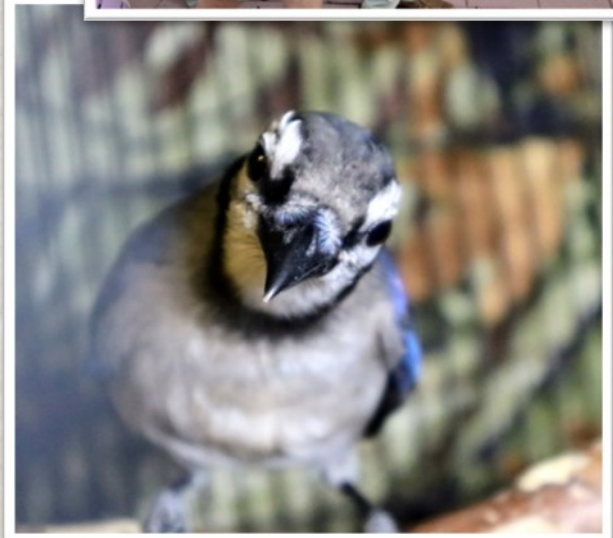


Unique Funding

With the uncertainty of funding in 2020, FWH was very fortunate and thankful to have a good year when it came to funding opportunities. We noticed a rise in Facebook fundraisers by individuals supporting our cause. Facebook also played a big role in our ability to host virtual events throughout the year and raise funds on Giving Tuesday.

Target reached out to our facility to participate in their Target Circle Community Program. Customers vote on their favorite charities after receiving credits when shopping. Target then distributes funds based on the voting by the community. In April, we received \$4,650 and we just received nearly \$4,000 from participating in their winter session as well.

Several other donations came in various forms throughout the year. These included a voting contest by State Title, bringing in \$5,000 to the facility, being the recipient of Amazon Smile contributions throughout the year, and a partnering for a socially-distanced shopping event (Shop, Sniff, and Sip) held in Cocoa Village by long-time supporters.



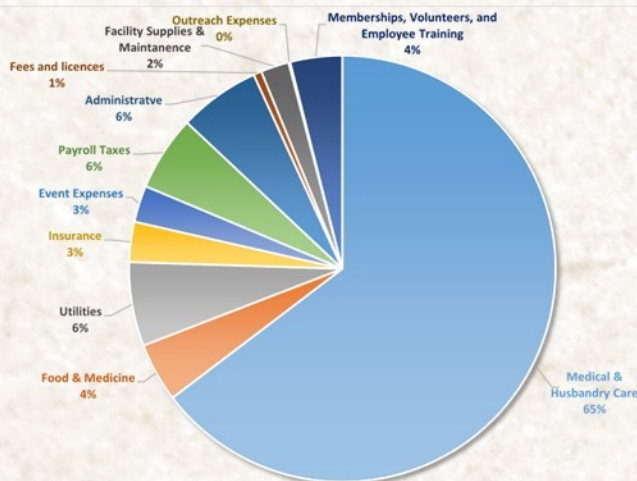
Florida Wildlife Hospital's Mission Statement

Our mission is keeping wildlife wild by providing quality, compassionate care.

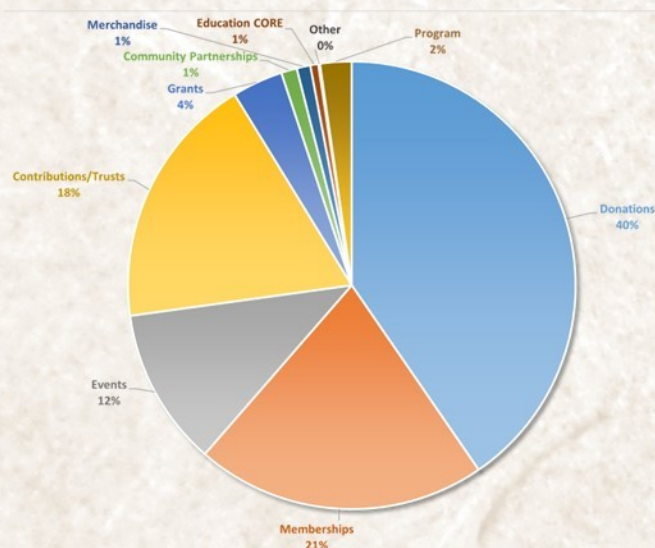
*Updated March 2020



Florida Wildlife Hospital, is a 501(c)3 organization that depends primarily on private donations for its programs and services. 2020's total income left us with approximately \$134,326 in reserves for future projects, not including received bequests.



Total Expenses: \$390,632



Total Income: \$525,611*

*Bequests totaling \$210,474 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 2020, we were able to make several upgrades to our main hospital building. These included installing two new gas water heaters for washing dishes, patient care, and laundry. The hospital also purchased a brand new x-ray machine when the one on hand needed a part that was no longer produced to function. Finally, volunteers re-vamped our wash station for cleaning equipment.

Perimeter Fence

In the fall of 2020, thanks to two grants, we were able to hire Flawless Lawncare and Landscaping to clear off our fence lines and areas on grounds for new enclosures in the future. Once cleared, American Fence was hired to complete our perimeter fence. Our property is now fully enclosed and secure.

Large Mammal 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.

House Repairs

In July 2020, a car crashed into the house at the front of the property. There were no injuries but significant damage to the front of the house. Everything was filed through insurance and all repairs are almost complete.

For 2021, our capital projects include:

- Complete a site plan for future enclosures
- Construct a new Chimney Swift/multi-purpose enclosure
- Build a new Aviary enclosure for small raptors
- Construct new mews in the current location of the aviary for new Animal Ambassadors
- Create a new Pelagic Seabird enclosure
- Convert from septic to sewer



Running On Volunteers

Volunteering to help Keep Wildlife Wild

In 2020, the FWH volunteer program saw many changes due to the COVID pandemic. On March 30th, the volunteer program was suspended due to rising COVID concerns and quarantines. The program was re-opened in June with limited numbers and split volunteer schedules. Only volunteers with advanced qualifications returned to help in as many areas of the hospital as possible. Two new volunteer orientations were held, one in February, and a virtual one in June when it was assumed we would be returning to a normal schedule. Those volunteers will be the first to receive training in 2021. Unfortunately, the program was not able to return to normal in 2020 and we remain working in split volunteer schedules and with new volunteer orientations on hold until the pandemic is under control.



Total Volunteer Hours

10,290.62

\$279,904.86*

based on National Value for
Volunteer Hours at
IndependentSector.org



FWH was the proud benefactor of two **Eagle Scout projects** in 2020. The first scout assisted us with installing 3 new bat boxes on the property to encourage a future bat colony and he also built basking platforms and substrate mats for our aquatic patients.

The second scout constructed and planted a new herb garden just outside our back door with a variety of plants that will be used for patient diets. He also built a new pollinator garden next to our newer mews. Finally, he constructed a recycling center in our parking area.



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the FWH **Internship Program** was dramatically reduced for the safety of staff, volunteers, patients, and the students. Prior to the COVID-19 shut-down, 3 Animal Care interns completed our Winter Session program which ended with one of the interns being hired on part-time to assist during COVID-19.

In the fall, one more Animal Care intern completed the program and was brought in to assist during peak baby squirrel season. This intern's program was modified as a nursery internship.



As always, FWH would not be able to complete its mission on a daily basis without the amazing support of **our many volunteers**. This year, volunteers were instrumental in releases, committee work, daily animal care, landscaping and maintenance, and office support. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, FWH was able to keep the hospital running during a very difficult year and thanks to their ability to adapt, everyone was able to stay safe doing their daily work.

What It Takes...

Opossums: 741 patients in 2020

Cost per patient: \$280

Food/ Meds: \$105

Time/ utilities: \$175

Avg. Length of Stay: 2 months

Red-shouldered Hawk: 90 patient in 2020

Cost per patient: \$565

Food/ Meds: \$315

Time/ utilities: \$250

Avg. Length of Stay: 13-14 weeks

Busiest Days of 2020...

May 1, 2020:

50

April 8, 2020:

40

Masked Booby 20-5395

On December 10th, we received a phone call about a highly unusual species, for our area, in need of assistance. A volunteer with Wild Florida Rescue, a partner organization who serves as a wildlife ambulance in Brevard County, reported that they were on their way to Port Canaveral to pick up a Masked Booby. While there is a small breeding colony of masked boobies on the Dry Tortugas, a sighting of this species is rare in our area. In fact, according to past records, we have never admitted one to our facility! In addition to being a unique species for our facility, this beautiful bird also came with an unusual story. Our newly admitted patient had hitched a ride aboard a cruise ship traveling from Europe after landing aboard the ship several days before they arrived in port. As soon as they docked in Port Canaveral, the captain of the Disney Cruise Lines 'Dream' ship called WFR for help. He reported the bird had landed on the ship about 1500 miles from our coast, near Bermuda. They had run into some poor weather and suspected the bird had landed on the ship to stay out of the high winds. After a couple days, and the Booby showing no interest in flying off, they started to toss him small fish filets. After the speedy call to WFR and swift transport to our facility, we admitted the masked booby, patient 20-5395, to FWH on the afternoon of December 10th. Initial findings included mild dehydration, diminished body condition, and suspected frost-bite on his feet. Otherwise our new patient was bright and alert. He remained in care for a little over a month while we worked to heal his feet, increase his weight and improve his body condition. Due to the rarity of the species, we worked with USFWS as well as state officials to coordinate the best methods and location for release. After a month in care, on January 11th, FWC assisted us with transporting him to open water, many miles offshore. Being a pelagic species, masked boobies spend most of their lives soaring above the open ocean only coming to shore to breed.



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 quality, compassionate care.

Mourning Dove: 271 patients in 2020

Cost per patient: \$70

Food/ Meds: \$20

Time/ utilities: \$50

Avg. Length of Stay: 4-5 weeks

E. Screech Owl: 106 patients in 2020

Cost per patient: \$220

Food/ Meds: \$90

Time/ utilities: \$130

Avg. Length of Stay: 6-7 weeks

Our patients arrive a wide variety of reasons each day. Here is the number of patients taken in during the busiest days of 2020.

June 13, 2020:

40

July 14, 2020:

36

March 4, 2020:

34



Every Patient Matters

River Otters are rarely seen in Brevard County but are endemic to our rivers and lagoon. As developments expand, otters are coming into contact with people more frequently. FWH, typically admits at least a few otter pups each year, although they may not all come from our area. Because we are one of only a few rehab facilities equipped to care for river otters long term, some of our admissions are transfers from other licensed rehabilitators in the state. In 2020, we raised and released 2 young otters. Both were found weak, alone, and suspected to be orphaned and they made fast friends at our facility. For the first several weeks after admission, the otters were housed in our Critical Care Room where they experienced many firsts including the taste of whole fish and swim lessons. Once the otters were a little older, proficient swimmers, and weaned off formula, they were moved to an outside enclosure complete with a large, deep pool. They spent nearly 4 months in the outside enclosure as they continued to grow big and strong while honing their swimming and fishing skills. In the wild, river otters stay with their mother for the first 6-12 months of their lives making them some of our longest term patients. On July 29th, nearly 6 months after admission, we were able to return 2 otters to the wild.

River Otters 20-0347, 20-0461

A nestling Barn Owl was admitted on January 2nd, 2020. This young owl was very lucky to have been found as its nest was on an infrequently visited island in a lake in Vero Beach. The finder has a vacation home on the island and just happened to go out there that day to prepare it for family that was visiting soon. Barn owls are cavity nesters and this one's nest had fallen out of a damaged soffit. The rescuer transported the nestling owl to our facility where we performed a thorough exam. We were all thrilled to find the owlet in good health and the rescuer willing and eager to return it to its parents and siblings. With detailed instructions and guidance on renesting an owl, the man headed south to return the baby to its family. For several days following the reunion, the rescuer boated out to the island to check on the barn owl family and was happy to report all was well. It always warms our hearts when members of the public go above and beyond to help our native wildlife.

Barn Owl 20-0008

Blue Jay "Cobalt" 20-2845

On June 18th, we admitted a juvenile Blue Jay. Unfortunately, the finder had kept him for at least 6 weeks. Wild animals that have been kept and cared for by the public are often some of the most heartbreaking to admit into rehab because the damage done is usually not reversible. Wild animals require specialized care in order to be released successfully. Without appropriate foods, especially for growing babies, appropriate housing, and a conscientious effort to avoid taming, they have a small chance of being successful once returned to the wild. Regrettably, this was the case for our Blue Jay, patient 20-2845. He was found as a young nestling and grew up in a household setting with only people to interact with and learn from which led to irreversible habituation. While he arrived in fair physical condition, it was clear he lacked appropriate behavior around people and likely lacked appropriate behaviors for interacting with other Blue Jays. For more than a week we worked to introduce a variety of natural foods and observed his behaviors around people and other songbirds. With input from our referring veterinarians, other rehabilitators, and officials from USFWS and FWC, we determined that the blue jay would not be releasable but given his temperament and physical condition he would be suited for placement at a permanent facility. We began reaching out to education facilities and accredited zoos for an appropriate forever home. After nearly 3 months in care, on September 6th, a volunteer transporter left our facility to drive 'Cobalt' to his new home at the Boston Museum of Science. While our mission at FWH is to return wildlife to their wild homes, placing a non-releasable animal that is suited for life in captivity is the next best outcome.

5,608 Patients Treated in 2020

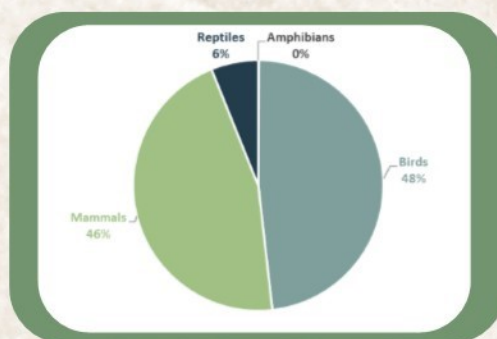
Although we would love to treat every patient that enters our facility, per state regulations, we are only permitted to treat and release native Florida wildlife and migratory birds. Below is a chart of the native species we treated in 2020.

Birds:	Common Loon	27	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	Roseate Spoonbill	6	Coyote	1	
American Coot	3	Common Moorhen	1	Lesser Scaup	4	Royal Tern	74	Eastern Cottontail	537
American Kestrel	3	Common Nighthawk	3	Limpkin	3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Eastern Gray Squirrel	703
American Redstart	9	Common Yellowthroat	14	Little Blue Heron	1	Ruddy Turnstone	3	Eastern Mole	16
American Robin	2	Connecticut Warbler	1	Loggerhead Shrike	13	Sanderling	5	Evening Bat	14
Anhinga	44	Cooper’s Hawk	14	Louisiana Waterthrush	2	Sandhill Crane	20	Hispid Cotton Rat	3
Audubon’s Shearwater	31	Cory’s Shearwater	38	Masked Booby	1	Sandwich Tern	4	Marsh Rabbit	77
Bald Eagle	1	Crested Caracara	1	Merlin	2	Snowy Egret	4	Nine-banded Armadillo	21
Barn Owl	3	Double-crested Cormorant	27	Mottled Duck	12	Sooty Shearwater	1	North American River Otter	4
Barred Owl	11	Downy Woodpecker	11	Mourning Dove	271	Sooty Tern	12	Northern Raccoon	179
Belted Kingfisher	9	Eastern Bluebird	1	Northern Cardinal	34	Sora	3	Northern Yellow Bat	9
Black Bellied Whistling Duck	7	Eastern Kingbird	1	Northern Flicker	2	Stilt Sandpiper	1	Seminole Bat	1
Black Scoter	2	Eastern Phoebe	1	Northern Gannet	45	Swainson’s Thrush	2	Southeastern Myotis	1
Black Skimmer	6	Eastern Screech Owl	106	Northern Mockingbird	164	Swainson’s Warbler	1	Southern Flying Squirrel	11
Black Vulture	34	Fish Crow	24	Northern Parula	6	Swallow-tailed Kite	2	Spotted Skunk	2
Black-and-white Warbler	4	Florida Scrub Jay	1	Northern Shrike	1	Swamp Sparrow	1	Virginia Opossum	741
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	Glossy Ibis	1	Northern Waterthrush	3	Thick-billed Murre	1	White-tailed Deer	8
Black-necked Stilt	1	Gray Catbird	15	Osprey	101	Tri-colored Heron	1	Reptiles:	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	Great Blue Heron	70	Ovenbird	25	Turkey Vulture	8	Alligator Snapping Turtle	1
Blue Jay	122	Great Crested Flycatcher	2	Palm Warbler	4	Virginia Rail	2	Black Racer	12
Blue-winged Teal	1	Great Egret	15	Peregrine Falcon	4	White Ibis	14	Chicken Turtle	3
Boat-tailed Grackle	8	Great-Horned Owl	14	Pied-billed Grebe	4	White-tailed Tropicbird	1	Common Snapping Turtle	14
Bobwhite Quail	1	Great Shearwater	38	Pileated Woodpecker	9	White-winged Dove	2	Diamondback Terrapin	6
Bridled Tern	2	Greater Black-backed Gull	1	Pine Warbler	2	Willow Flycatcher	1	Eastern Glass Lizard	1
Brown Pelican	88	Greater Scaup	1	Prairie Warbler	1	Wood Duck	20	Eastern Ribbon Snake	1
Brown Thrasher	10	Green Heron	9	Purple Martin	10	Wood Stork	5	Florida Box Turtle	20
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	Hermit Thrush	4	Red-and-black Grosbeak	1	Worm-eating Warbler	1	Florida Mud Turtle	1
Cape May Warbler	2	Herring Gull	20	Red-bellied Woodpecker	88	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	Florida Red-bellied Cooter	5
Carolina Wren	28	Hooded Merganser	1	Red-breasted Merganser	2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9	Florida Softshell Turtle	34
Cattle Egret	15	Killdeer	3	Red-eyed Vireo	8	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	2	Gopher Tortoise	134
Cedar Waxwing	1	King Rail	1	Red-Shouldered Hawk	90	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	Peninsula Cooter	50
Chimney Swift	8	Laughing Gull	43	Red-tailed Hawk	2	Yellow-throated Warbler	3	Red Rat Snake	11
Common Gallinule	5	Leach’s Storm-Petrel	1	Reddish Egret	1	Mammals:		Striped Mud Turtle	5
Common Grackle	194	Least Bittern	4	Ring-billed Gull	24	Bobcat	2	Yellow Rat Snake	3
Common Ground Dove	11	Least Tern	6	Ring-necked Duck	1	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	28		

18,450*

Hours spent on
Patient Care

*Staff and Volunteers Included



10

Endangered,
Threatened,
or Near
Threatened
Species Treated

Cadre Of OutReach & Education

Educating ~ Enriching ~ Engaging



The FWH Outreach and Education Team, made up of volunteers and one staff member, plays a vital role in educating our local community about the impact and importance of wildlife. This year, the team faced new challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To solve the social distancing aspect of programs, the FWH began offering virtual programs of its popular programs. By using a virtual platform, the team was able to showcase the hospital in new and exciting ways unlike anything we had done in the past. Viewers were not only able to learn the key educational topics and see animal ambassadors live, but we were also able to take them around the hospital to truly showcase our mission in action. In addition to virtual programs and a few in-person programs, FWH also launched our first take home educational kits. The first kit allows for children (or adults) to dissect an owl pellet and learn all about the wonders of owls. We are looking forward to rolling out more of these kits in 2021.

Sadly, the team also said good-bye to three of its wonderful ambassadors. Owliver the Great Horned Owl, Copper the Red Rat Snake, and Eleanor the Barred Owl will be missed by so many and had a special place in both staff and volunteers' hearts. They will not be forgotten. FWH will be searching for new animal ambassadors in 2021.



35

Programs Attended

Decrease of about 50% from 2019.
30 programs were cancelled due to the pandemic.

1,600

**Number of community members
reached in 2020**

\$3,027

**In money raised for helping Keep
Wildlife Wild!**

1,432

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 year, we have focused our efforts on targeted fundraising and less on large scale events which require vast amounts of resources. These events give the Hospital another outlet to educate and communicate our mission to the local community; this will continue.

Running Wild 5k

What is turning into our most popular fundraiser, Running Wild 5k was scheduled for May 23rd. In April, the difficult decision was made to move the event to a later date in hopes that the COVID Pandemic would be more under control. The new date, September 5th, allowed both Running Zone and FWH to formulate a social distance plan and restructure the race so that it would be safe for all involved. Although a bit warm, the race was extremely successful and brought in over \$5,500. We look forward to continuing this fundraiser in 2021 and have secured the date of October 9, 2021 for our next race at Wickham Park.

Wild About Wildlife

Originally scheduled for March 28th, this in-person event was forced to transition to a virtual event due to the initial lockdown for the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event became a virtual auction with most of the items slated for the live event being posted online for anyone to bid on. Staff also created thank-you videos for all of the event sponsors which were shared via Facebook. Despite being unable to hold an in-person event, nearly all of our sponsors for the event upheld their sponsorships continuing the support for FWH. This event will be phased out in 2021 and other fundraising initiatives will take its place.

HOOT in the Park

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we were still able to hold our 10th Annual HOOT in the Park Event. This year's event, known as HOOT, had three different components: HOOT in the Park (dog lure coursing and a small raffle), HOOT Where It Happens (a merchandise sale at FWH), and HOOT at Home (a virtual day of programming including a Behind the Scenes tour, CORE programs, and a Q&A). The event also had a virtual auction component hosted on the QGiv platform. The auction began on November 21st (the day of the HOOT events) and ended on Giving Tuesday December 1st. Even with the challenges of the pandemic, we still raised over \$3,150!

Thank You to our 2020 Event Sponsors





*Where there's
a W.I.L.L. there's a way...*

The Florida Wildlife Hospital established the W.I.L.L. to recognize and extend appreciation to a special group of donors who have made a future commitment to the FWH through a planned gift.

We invite you to join this special group whose gifts help ensure that the Hospital can continue to provide care for animals in need and to educate the community to protect native wildlife and their natural habitat.

Also, through your example, you will encourage others to do the same. Members of the Lasting Legacy Club receive invitations to special events and educational programs and are recognized in our quarterly newsletter.

Membership in the Wildlife Inspired Lasting Legacy Club is open to anyone who has or will be providing a planned gift of any amount or type.

What Wildlife Inspired Lasting Legacy would you like to leave behind?

Bequests

A gift through your will or living trust (an asset, dollar amount, percentage or remainder of your estate).

Life Insurance Policy

Donate a new policy or designate the Florida Wildlife Hospital as the beneficiary on an existing policy.

Retirement Plans

Name FWH as the beneficiary of your IRA and/or 401(K) plan. Giving through an IRA allows money to go to a non-profit without you having to pay taxes on it.

Cash or Appreciated Securities

Simplest way of making a gift. Name FWH as the beneficiary.



Life Income Gifts

Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts offer an immediate income tax deduction and lifetime income payments.

Charitable Lead Trusts

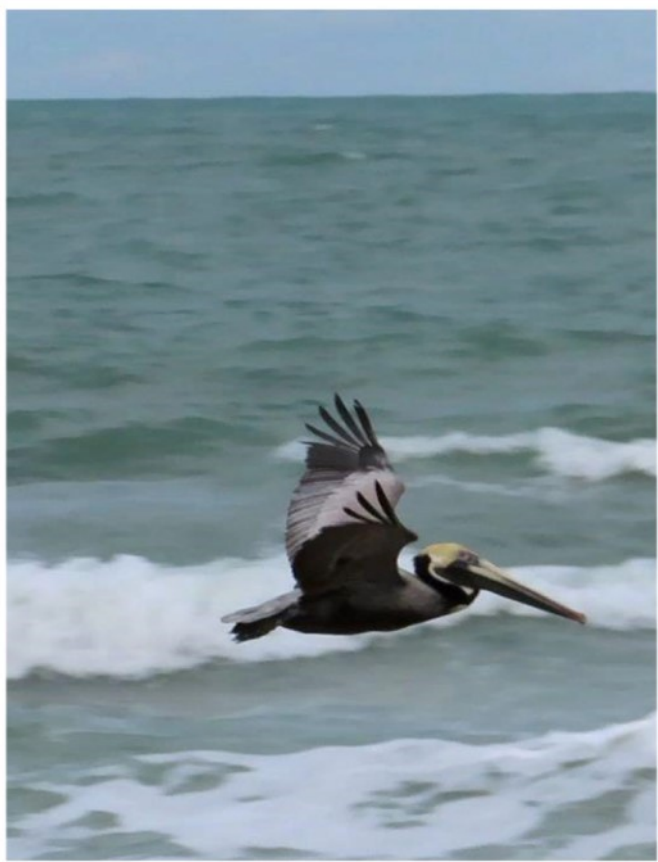
Charitable Lead Trusts provide a way to pass significant wealth to your heirs at minimal or no transfer-tax cost, while making immediate gifts to the Florida Wildlife Hospital.

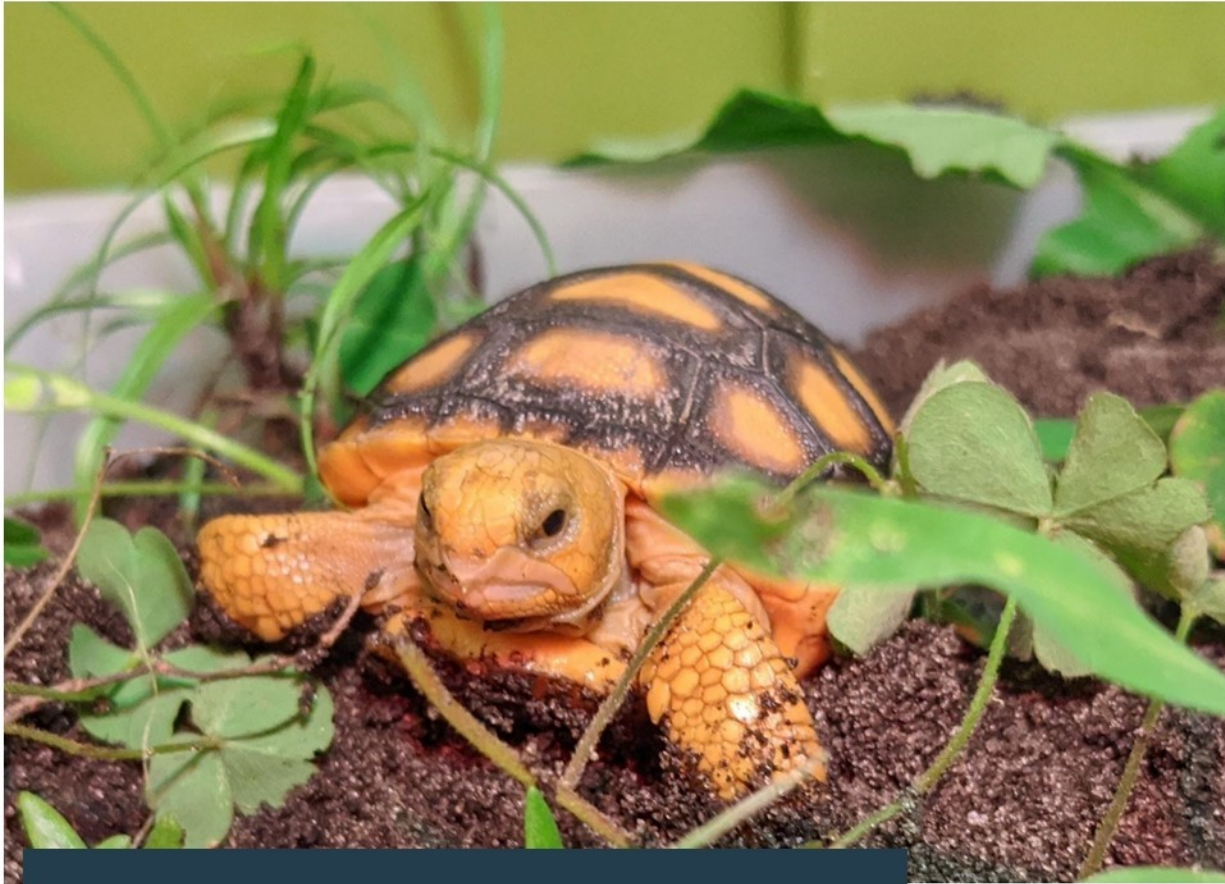
Growing the "Nest Egg"

Looking to the Future

We are always looking toward the next step for growing the organization. One of the most critical pieces to help plan for the future of any organization is having a strong, active Board of Directors. We are working to increase the size of our Board and to add new skills to that team. We are looking for dynamic, energetic people with a passion for wildlife. If you are interested, check out our website under "About FWH: Our Board" to learn more. A strong board is the foundation for all other activities of the FWH.

Beyond building new outdoor enclosures, which we do every year, we are starting to plan a building expansion. It will take several years to plan, design and fundraise but our hope is to increase our capacity to help wildlife in need and that takes infrastructure. The first step will be to convert our wastewater from septic to sewer, which should be available in our area in the next year. We have started working with a landscape architect to get some basic ideas flowing, designing locations for new enclosures and finding creative ways to expand our parking. All of these plans take financial support. We appreciate all our supporters and hope to have some new ones come along for the ride in 2021.





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