



Annual Report: 2021

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Message From The Desk



It's hard to believe we have had another pandemic year under our belts. In addition to all the adapting we needed to do again in 2021, we also had another record breaking year for patient numbers, with 6063 animals coming through our doors. We were honored to have so many of our supporters remain loyal throughout these challenges in order to keep our mission going. It is clear our services are needed more than ever, and we need to make some changes in order to keep up with the community demand. To this end, we set a goal of \$25,000 for #GivingTuesday to build a new, larger screech owl pre-release enclosure. We ended up raising more than double that amount for pre-release enclosures. We need several new outdoor enclosures and our 100ft flight cage is in need of repair. The price for materials is still changing daily so we are not sure how many projects we will accomplish with this money but our goals for 2022 are:

- New, larger screech owl enclosure
- New, larger medium-sized raptor (hawks, owls) enclosure
- Repairs to 100ft flight cage
- Additional seabird pre-release enclosure

Our accomplishments in 2021 were:

- Built a multi-use chimney swift outdoor enclosure
- Hired a part-time maintenance technician to help coordinate all our maintenance volunteers and projects— moved to full-time before the year ended
- Transitioned from septic to sewer
- Upgraded our computer hardware and internet security

We appreciate all our donors, volunteers, partners and rescuers. It's an honor to be working with this passionate team for the benefit of our wildlife.

Josie Quiroz
Board Chair

&

Tracy Frampton
Executive Director



Community Partners

Our **Community Partner** program is a way for local business to support our work through financial or in-kind donations. We have added several new Community Partners to our wall in the parking lot this year. We are pleased to welcome Next Level, Atlantic Environmental, and Appliance Warehouse to this wonderful list of business supporters. You could have your logo on our wall as well. Just give us a call or go to FloridaWildlife-Hospital.org for more information.



Unique Funding

One of the perks of working for a non-profit is that we are constantly surprised by the compassion and dedication of people in the community who choose to spend their valuable time helping to support our mission to keep wildlife wild.

This year, Olivia made and sold chocolate covered pretzels and donated the proceeds to the hospital.

Jason and Paula of Kingdom of Comics hosted a sketch off and silent auction; if you weren't there you missed out. It was a blast!

Hobbyist wildlife photographer, Coralís, made an absolutely stunning calendar which she sold to friends and family as a fundraiser. You can check out her beautiful photos on Instagram @loki.nature.

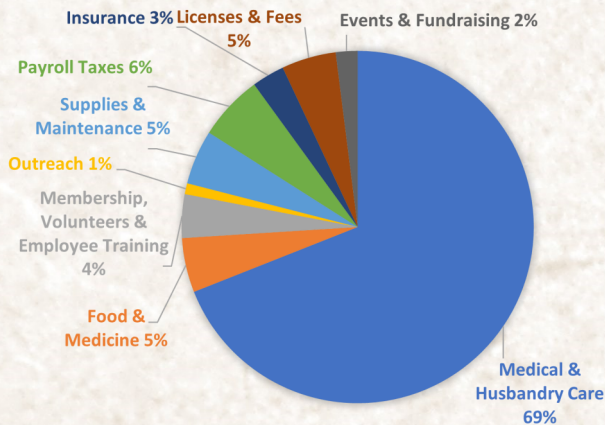
We cannot express enough gratitude to all the members of our community that help us rehabilitate and release wildlife. It takes a village.



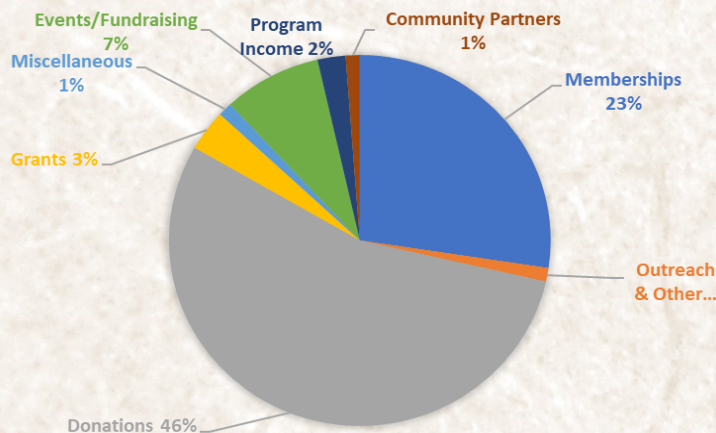
Florida Wildlife Hospital's Mission Statement

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

Florida Wildlife Hospital is a 501(c)3 organization that depends primarily on private donations for its programs and services. 2021'S total income left us with approximately \$134,326 in reserves. This will be important to help cover the minimum wage increases for the next 4 years.



Total Expenses: **\$464,808**



Total Income: **\$513,984***

**Bequests totaling \$210,474 have been factored out for budget purposes.*



Building Improvements

In 2021, we accomplished some great improvements:

Converted Septic to Sewer

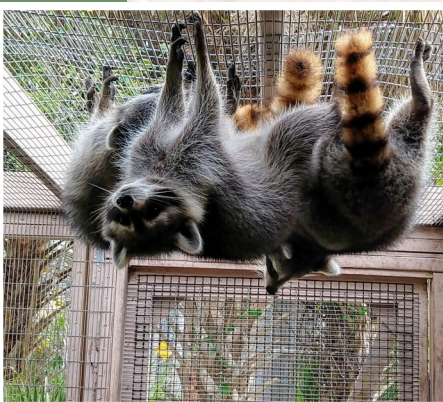
Although we have a few changes to make to complete the job, we are excited to be part of the solution by decommissioning our septic tanks and converting to sewer.

Multi-use Chimney Swift Enclosure

Two grants helped to pay for the new multi-use chimney swift and terrestrial mammal enclosure.

Screech Owl Ambassador Cage

We were able to acquire a new screech owl ambassador but he needed a home. Our wonderful maintenance team converted an unused enclosure to house him safely outdoors. "Wink" is doing great in his new home.



For 2022, several of our projects have carried over and include:

- Rebuild a larger screech owl pre-release enclosure
- Complete a site plan for future enclosures
- Repair our 100ft flight cage roof
- 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
- Build a new garage/workshop

Wild About Our Volunteers

We've said it before and we will say it again many more times; we would not be able to do what we do without our fantastic volunteers. During the busy times, they put up with smells that are practically indescribable, screaming babies that need to be fed every 15 minutes, and stacks of dishes. During the slow times, they pitch in with the deep cleaning from scrubbing floors to organizing storage spaces full of dust and more than a few cobwebs. They do laundry, repair cages, yardwork, provide educational programs, scan pages and pages of documents, send out stacks of thank you letters, and so much more.

This year we continued to conduct Volunteer Orientations online instead of in person and we limited the size of new volunteer groups coming in so that we could avoid large groups during in-person training. We have been very happy to have full orientation sessions each time we offer them and hope that we continue to get the same enthusiasm for the orientations to come.

Another change this year was we had to say goodbye to our amazing Assistant Director and Volunteer Coordinator, Chelsea, who moved across the state to be with her future husband. While we are deeply saddened that she had to leave, we are very happy for her. Joining us as the new Outreach & Volunteer Manager is Lindsay, who previously had worked at FWH as Animal Care Staff and Education Coordinator.



**Total Volunteer
Hours**

10,843



\$294,930

**based on National Value
for Volunteer Hours at
[IndependentSector.org](https://www.independentsector.org)**

Scout Projects

Once again, we welcomed two hard-working, ambitious scouts who completed projects that helped the wildlife hospital.

The first was an Eagle Scout project that constructed two new outdoor tortoise pens which will allow us to have more tortoise patients outside while they finish healing from their injuries and will let them get acclimated to the outdoor weather before their release.

The second project was a Gold Award project that constructed 10 new Eastern Screech Owl nest boxes. We will use these boxes for all of the baby screech owls we get in next year. Thanks to GivingTuesday, we will have even more space to rehabilitate screech owls once the new outdoor enclosure, which is twice as large as the original, is constructed.



Patient Stories...



Brown Booby 21-0498

FWH received an unusual species for us to admit to the hospital, a juvenile brown booby. The young bird was found weak and debilitated on the shoreline in Cocoa Beach. Wild Florida Rescue transported the patient to us for care. This species is very uncommon for us to see in our facility, having only admitted 6 in the last 4 years! Brown boobies are pelagic seabirds who spend most of their lives at sea, only coming ashore to nest.

On admission our new patient was found to be severely dehydrated, emaciated, and overall, in poor condition. His feathers were disheveled and his attitude quiet, and subdued. It was apparent he had been struggling for some time before floating ashore. We quickly started correcting the dehydration and administered supplemental vitamins and an antifungal medication. Seabirds, especially pelagic species, are highly susceptible to a respiratory fungal infection. Over the next few days, we continued to give fluids, vitamins, and medications while we slowly introduced an easily digestible liquid diet. Debilitated patients need to have whole foods slowly reintroduced, often starting with liquid diets before offering whole foods. Their bodies don't have the energy supplies it takes to break down and utilize the nutrients from whole foods. For the next couple weeks, the patient's condition slowly improved until he was eating whole fish on his own during his daily swims. On March 4th, he was moved to an outside enclosure with a large pool to start reconditioning for release. After nearly a month in care, On March 22nd, we are happy to say we were able to return our patient to the wild.

Most Frequent Bird

Mourning Dove

290 in 2021

Average rehab cost: \$280



Most Frequent Mammal

Virginia Opossum

762 in 2021

Average rehab cost: \$318



Most Frequent Reptile

Gopher Tortoise

200 in 2021

Average rehab cost: \$339



Black-necked Stilts: 21-2890 through 21-2902

On June 3rd we received 14 Black-neck Stilt chicks that were confiscated by FWC. The original finder discovered a nest full of eggs while working on a construction site in Viera. He brought the eggs home and he and his wife incubated them until they hatched. Once they realized the birds were Stilts, they called FWC.

We had been getting in only one Black-neck Stilt a year, and now we had 14! They were all at different developmental stages but all were very young. Originally, we had them living together regardless of size, but when it came time for feeding, chaos reigned. It was a mad dash to the food bowls and the smaller Stilts were getting mowed down or pushed out. We decided to separate them into two groups, short and tall, and they lived in the large Rubbermaid bins until they were old enough to move outside.

We had them for about two months before they were released. Half the time they spent inside and the other half they got to run around in an outdoor enclosure. We lost 3 along the way but were able to successfully rehab and release 11!





Red-shouldered Hawks

Over the past few years, we've been seeing a 20% increase in our Red-shouldered Hawk intakes but in 2021 we saw a 36% increase! We were overrun with chicks and juveniles in spring, and no matter the age of the bird they all had that Red-shoulder attitude we know and love. We ended up with about 15 juveniles hanging out together in our flight cage at one time, and rounding them up for release was a big production and very comical. On the morning of the mass exodus, we loaded our two golf carts full of crates, and four of us headed out to the enclosure armed with thick gloves, big nets, and safety glasses. We split into teams of two at each end of the enclosure. Our two tallest employees manned the nets and the other two were ready with their gloves. From there it was all about swooping the birds into the net and getting them into their designated crates. None of this was too difficult when we had a lot of birds to choose from, but that changed when it was down to the last few and they were hip to our game. Those last birds gave us the run around, literally. We eventually caught them up, and the whole endeavor surprisingly took only about 30 minutes. Each crate was then given to their designated release volunteer, and the birds got to fly off into the sunset.

Average rehab cost: \$630

Bobcat 21-3930

At 12:33 PM on 7/19/21 we received a phone call from the Humane Society of Vero Beach. A local animal services officer had just arrived at their facility with an adult bobcat that had been struck by a vehicle. They were reaching out to see if we would be able to help the injured cat. Without hesitation we agreed and immediately started making preparations for the arrival. We prepared an isolation room, set up a large kennel with soft bedding, and contacted the Brevard Zoo veterinary team to ask if they could be on standby if we needed their assistance. All of these preparations enable us to intake patients quickly and efficiently thus reducing handling times and stress levels for the animals. We did not know the condition of, or injuries incurred by, the bobcat but given the nature of the trauma we expected her to be in critical condition.

Upon arrival, our new patient appeared alert but unable to stand with several small lacerations on her face and hind legs. We coordinated immediate transport to the Brevard Zoo where they were able to sedate her to safely complete a through exam and radiographs. Exam findings confirmed we had an adult female bobcat. She had suffered pulmonary contusions, multiple abrasions/lacerations, shock, and multiple pelvic fractures. The veterinary staff helped devise a treatment plan and prescribed multiple medications to help with the pain and infection. Her prognosis was guarded given the severity of her pelvic fractures with concerns she wouldn't regain full mobility or would have a narrowing of her pelvic canal, preventing her from giving birth. Only time would tell how she progressed.

On July 23rd, after several days of supportive care to stabilize her, she was taken back to the zoo for surgical repair of her pelvis with the help of the Brevard Zoo veterinarians and Dr. Christiansen, a local veterinary surgeon. For the next few weeks, she recuperated inside before moving to an outside reconditioning enclosure on 8/19. She spent nearly 2 months outside, regaining her strength and mobility. During this time staff and our consulting veterinary team closely monitored her progress and hindlimb function. Follow-up exams and radiographs indicated she was healing well and would regain full function. On 11/17, after nearly 4 months in care, we were overjoyed to send her running free once again.

Average rehab cost: \$1,692



Busiest Days of 2021

April 26th | 57 patients

June 28th | 47 patients

April 12th | 46 patients

Where do patients come from?

Melbourne | 31.5%

No Information | 12.6%

Palm Bay: 11.0%

Merritt Island: 9.1%

Most Common Reason for Admission

Orphaned

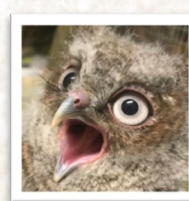
Vehicle collision

Unknown Trauma

Dog interaction



The Grand Total of Patients Treated in 2021: 6,061
5,480 were native or migratory species, and
285 were *near threatened, threatened, or endangered* species.



We are only permitted to treat and release native/migratory wildlife. Below is a list of all native species we saw in 2021.

Birds		Chimney Swift	33	Lesser Scaup	2	Sandhill Crane	32	Flying Squirrel	10
American Bittern	2	Chuck-will's-widow	1	Limpkin	3	Sandwich Tern	3	Hispid Cotton Rat	4
American Coot	2	Clapper Rail	2	Little Blue Heron	3	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Marsh Rabbit	87
American Kestrel	6	Common Gallinule	2	Loggerhead Shrike	11	Short-tailed Hawk	1	Marsh Rice Rat	1
American Redstart	2	Common Grackle	210	Mottled Duck	9	Snowy Egret	6	Mole	12
American Robin	4	Common Loon	21	Mourning Dove	290	Sooty Shearwater	1	Nine-banded Armadillo	24
Anhinga	46	Common Merganser	1	N. Cardinal	35	Sora	6	N. American River Otter	4
Audubon's Shearwater	16	Common Moorhen	6	N. Flicker	2	Spotted Sandpiper	1	Northern Raccoon	202
Baird's Sandpiper	1	Common Nighthawk	5	N. Gannet	119	Summer Tanager	1	Northern Yellow Bat	12
Bald Eagle	1	Common Yellowthroat	12	N. Mockingbird	181	Tennessee Warbler	1	Seminole Bat	1
Barn Owl	3	Cooper's Hawk	12	N. Parula	5	Tri-colored Heron	3	Southeastern Myotis	2
Barred Owl	17	Cory's Shearwater	8	N. Waterthrush	1	Turkey	1	Virginia Opossum	762
Belted Kingfisher	7	Crested Caracara	2	Osprey	121	Turkey Vulture	4	White-tailed Deer	1
Blk Bellied Whistling Duck	4	Double-crested Cormorant	18	Ovenbird	11	Veery	1	Reptiles	
Blk Crowned Night Heron	2	Downy Woodpecker	10	Painted Bunting	6	White Ibis	38	American Alligator	1
Black Scoter	5	Eastern Screech Owl	102	Palm Warbler	3	White Pelican	6	Black Racer	16
Black Skimmer	6	Fish Crow	38	Peregrine Falcon	1	White-tailed Tropicbird	1	Chicken Turtle	3
Black Vulture	15	Forster's Tern	1	Pie-billed Grebe	2	Willet	1	Coachwhip	2
Blk-and-White Warbler	1	Glaucous Gull	1	Pileated Woodpecker	5	Wilson's Snipe	1	Common mud Turtle	2
Blk-Necked Stilt	12	Gray Catbird	17	Pine Warbler	1	Wood Duck	4	Common Snapping Turtle	10
Blk-throated Blue Warbler	1	Great Blue Heron	59	Pomarine Jaeger	1	Wood Stork	6	Diamondback Terrapin	17
Blue Jay	131	Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Prairie Warbler	1	Wood Thrush	2	E. D-backed Rattlesnake	1
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	2	Great Egret	27	Purple Gallinule	2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	Eastern Glass Lizard	3
Boat-tailed Grackle	13	Great Horned Owl	20	Purple Martin	3	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8	Fl. Box Turtle	22
Bobwhite Quail	2	Great Shearwater	14	Red-bellied Woodpecker	88	Yellow-crowed Night Heron	1	Fl. Banded Water Snake	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Greater Black-beaked Gull	1	Red-breasted Merganser	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	Fl. Red-bellied Cooter	17
Brown Booby	2	Green Heron	17	Red-eyed Vireo	6	Yellow-throated Warbler	2	Fl. Softshell Turtle	42
Brown Pelican	137	Hermit Thrush	1	Red-shouldered Hawk	123	Mammals		Gopher Tortoise	200
Brown Thrasher	18	Herring Gull	28	Red-tailed Hawk	7	Bobcat	4	Green Sea Turtle	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	Killdeer	1	Ring-billed Gull	10	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	12	Peninsula Cooter	40
Cape May Warbler	2	King Rail	2	Ring-necked Duck	1	Eastern Chipmunk	1	Rat Snake	9
Carolina Chickadee	2	Laughing Gull	50	Roseate Spoonbill	2	Eastern Cottontail	615	Ring-necked Snake	2
Carolina Wren	21	Leach's Storm Petrel	7	Royal Tern	145	Eastern Gray Squirrel	675	S.E. Five-lined skink	1
Cattle Egret	9	Least Sandpiper	1	Ruddy Turnstone	7	Eastern Pipistrelle	1	Striped Mud Turtle	7
Cedar Waxwing	1	Least Tern	4	Sanderling	5	Evening Bat	24	Yellow Rat Snake	6

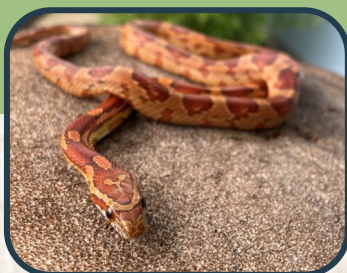
Cadre Of OutReach & Education



We count the number of patients we see each year but what we can't count are the number of animals that didn't become patients because people knew how to coexist with wildlife and how to recognize wildlife in need. It is not uncommon for us to receive animals that were fine and shouldn't have been brought to us or worse, animals that were sick not because of what happened in the wild, but what well-intentioned people did to them while they were being "rescued."

This is why our Cadre for OutReach and Education (CORE) volunteer team is so important. Where else would you expect to get fact-filled, fun wildlife education but your friendly, neighborhood wildlife hospital? The CORE team goes out into the community and teaches them what they need to know to help wildlife stay safe, how to properly help them when needed, and in general fosters an appreciation for Florida's native wildlife. They visit scout groups, classrooms, retirement communities, events for different organizations, and more.

This year we added two more exssssssselent team members. We are pleased to welcome Sriracha, the red rat snake, and Dijon, the yellow rat snake to the family. These snakes cannot be released because they were born in captivity. Letting people get an up close and personal experience with snakes is a great way to dispel unwarranted fear and replace it with respect and appreciation for these awesome creatures that provide important services, such as rodent control.



34

Programs Attended



2,052

Number of community members
reached in 2021



\$2,490

In money raised for helping Keep
Wildlife Wild!



1,972

Hours of Volunteer Time by C.O.R.E.

Events

Fundraising events do not account for a large percentage of our income budget each year but they are a great way to connect with our donors and supporters. We continue to focus more of our efforts on targeted fundraising and less on large scale events which require vast amounts of resources. These events do give the Hospital another outlet to educate and communicate our mission to the local community so we treasure the few events that we host.

Giving Tuesday

We were overwhelmed by the response to our Giving Tuesday event this year. We set a goal of \$25,000 to rebuild our screech owl pre-release enclosure. Our friends at Four C's Nursery offered a donation match up to \$20,000 to inspire more donations. And it did. We ended up raising over \$60,000. We have been working on a master-plan including building more pre-lease enclosures and this will go a long way to help make that happen. Getting all the cages built will be the challenge for 2022.

Running Wild 5K

This event is a trail run at Wickham Park in partnership with Running Zone. October worked out to be a better month to have a race. We were honored to also be included in the Space Coast Runners *Runner of the Year* Series this year. This addition brought great enthusiasm and participation and helped us raise more than double the amount raised in 2020.

Mark your calendars for

Saturday October 8, 2022

HOOT in the Park

November 20, 2021 was our 8th Annual HOOT in the Park Event. We kept this event smaller in order for our vendors to spread out. Even still, it was great to have a more lively event this year. It is difficult to be any more lively than the dogs running the lure course but the vendor area was a close second. It was great to see people out shopping and learning a bit about our local wildlife. We were pleased to raise about \$6,000. This was a bit below pre-pandemic numbers but still helps our cause. And we made a few new friends along the way.



**Thank You to our
2021 Event Sponsors**

The Dream...

So this am we found a baby owl on our porch! I had no clue what to do except to call the Florida Wildlife Hospital and a lovely lady Shannon helped me with exactly what needed to be done and in our car we went where we got to meet Shannon. She took right over. I was beyond pleased at all her knowledge of owls and other animals! We are so great full for this organization. Thank you again. - Nicole



They really care for all the wounded wildlife from our area. The staff are very professional in the process of treating the animals and getting them ready to return to the wild. - Dennis

Great responsiveness! Kind people! Immediate help for the injured animal we encountered and brought to them. Thank you!!!

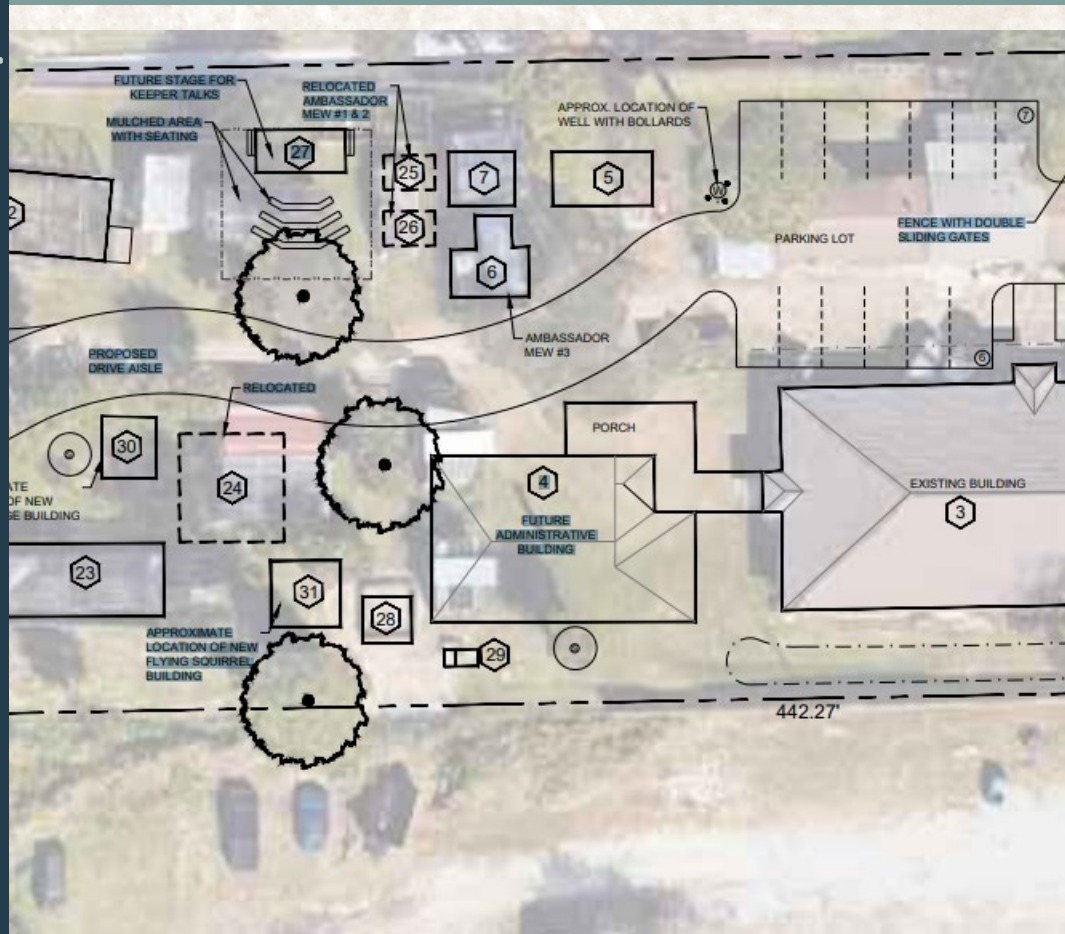


- Kimberly

While it is wonderful to reflect on everything that was accomplished over the last year, we of course are always thinking about the future. Our big dream is to expand. In 2015, we had a record breaking year taking in over 5,000 patients for the first time. This year we took in over 6,000 patients for the first time. That is a 20% increase in patients and yet we haven't added any more space. Our hope for the future is to build a new building connected by an overhang to the existing hospital. All of the non-patient related activities (offices, break room, volunteer check-in area) would be moved to the addition and the vacated space would be used for more patients.

Our other major long-term goal is to increase our parking space. It is hard to bring in more animals, more staff, more volunteers without having somewhere for everyone to park. We would also love to start doing educational programs on property, but again, we would need somewhere for people to park. In order to accomplish this goal we will need to tear down our existing maintenance workshop and carport (where all the laundry machines, fridges, and freezers are kept) and move them farther back on property so that the parking lot could be extended into that space.

Another dream is to purchase the lot next to our property which is currently for sale. This would give us many options for expansion. We are all hoping to win the lottery so we can acquire that land and expand the hospital. I guess we would probably have to start buying lottery tickets first...





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