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**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The Florida Wildlife Hospital experienced another roller coaster ride in 2022, but we survived the third year of the pandemic without much disruption. Thanks to the support of so many friends and supporters we continued to help wildlife in need. We managed the unprecedented Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak which has still not fully resolved. Brevard County was the epicenter of this highly contagious and deadly HPAI outbreak in Florida, leading to the deaths of many ducks, vultures, hawks, and owls. We were unable to rehabilitate birds for about four months, until most of the waterfowl migrated north. We worked closely with state officials to document cases and provide samples for testing as well as data. We modified protocols in order to safely assist birds again by creating an outdoor triage area and an outdoor Critical Care Unit for birds. We modified the housing enclosures for our outdoor ambassador birds to protect them from the virus as well.

We are thankful for another successful Giving Tuesday in November that raised about \$51,000 to build a new, multi-use enclosure. Four C's Nursery provided a significant donation match which inspired others to give.

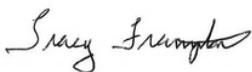
As we approach the Hospital's 50th Anniversary year we have ambitious goals for 2023:

- Hiring our first ever veterinarian
- Building a new, 50-foot flight cage for hawks and owls
- Installing a new, light-up sign with a message marquee to give us more visibility
- Building a new multi-use small mammal/small bird enclosure
- Updating our logo with a fresh look

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2022:

- Hiring a second full-time veterinary technician in order to have 7 day a week medical coverage
- Building a new screech owl enclosure that can hold twice as many birds as before
- Repairing the roof of our 100-foot flight cage
- Increasing our grant applications with a grant writing team
- Florida Today's Volunteer Recognition Award Finalists in both the Organization of the Year and Volunteer of the Year categories
- Orlando Business Journal, Women Who Mean Business Honoree, Tracy Frampton

We appreciate all our donors, partners, sponsors, and rescuers. It takes a team of people and resources to help our local wildlife in need.



Tracy Frampton
Executive Director



Josie Quiroz
Board Chair



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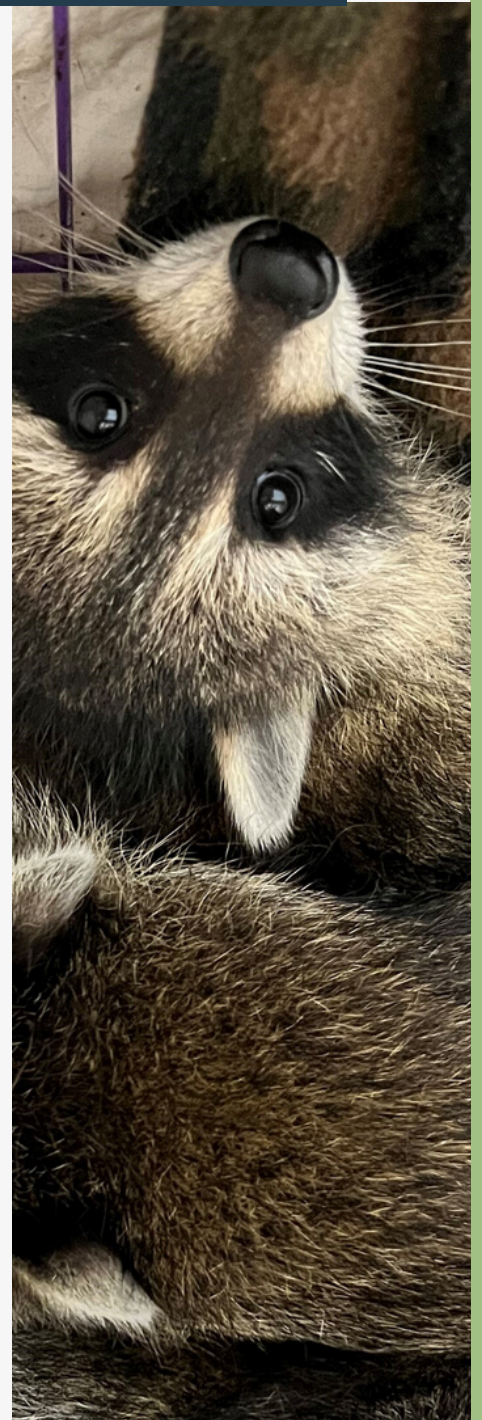
Community Partners

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, OR IN OUR CASE A COMMUNITY.

From local business that donate much needed funds to organizations that donate their time and talent, we are very grateful for our community partners. This year they have helped repair broken water pumps, donated food, provided veterinary services, and so much more.



Bubbs
Ponds and
Water
Features



Awards

Even though we're not in it for the awards, it is always nice to have your hard work recognized. This year the wildlife hospital was nominated for Organization of the Year and our volunteer, Riley Renfro, was nominated for Volunteer of the Year at Florida Today's Volunteer Recognition Awards.



2022 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

12.8.22



Financial Report

FLORIDA WILDLIFE HOSPITAL IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION THAT DEPENDS PRIMARILY ON PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. GRANTS AND GIVING TUESDAY WERE USED TO HELP WITH REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION.

INCOME

\$620,642*

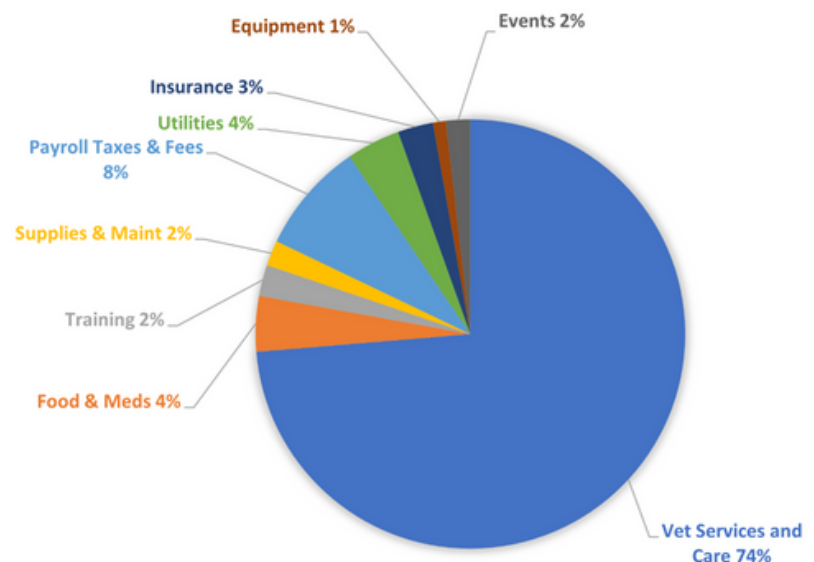
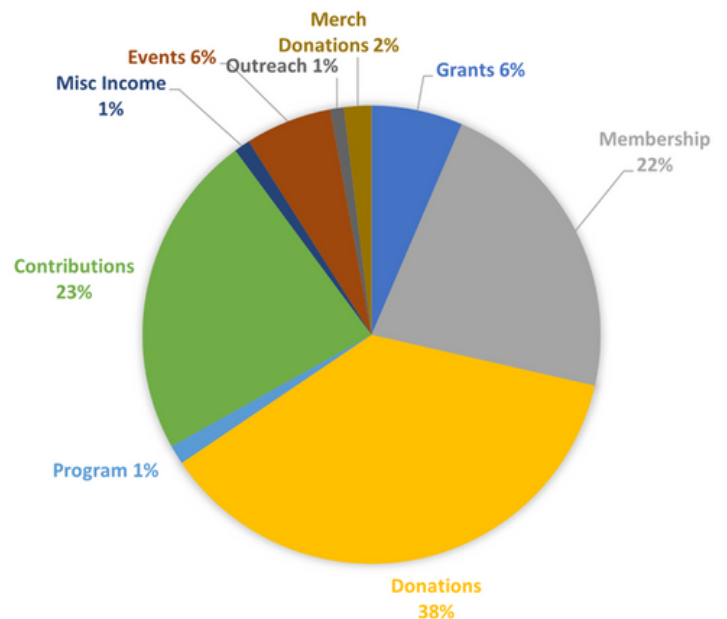
*REQUESTS TOTALING \$142,488
HAVE BEEN FACTORED OUT FOR
BUDGETING PURPOSES

For 2023, we have one project carried over from 2022 and more exciting plans including:

- Building a new pre-release enclosure for hawks and owls
- Building a new multi-use small mammal/small bird pre-release enclosure
- Hiring our first ever veterinarian (part-time)
- Celebrating our 50th Anniversary
- Creating a new, modern logo in honor of our anniversary

EXPENSES

\$554,566

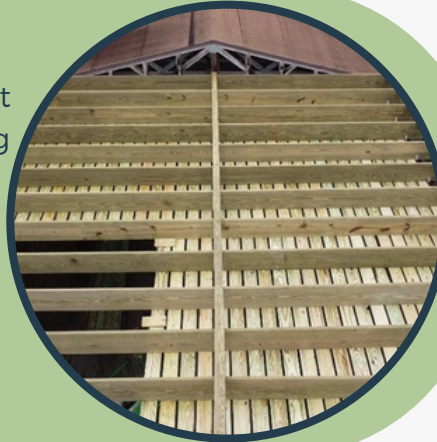


Project Updates

A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE SCENES OF WHAT IS BEING BUILT AND REPAIRED AT THE HOSPITAL.

Flight Cage Repairs

While we are always planning for what comes next, there is always something unexpected that also needs to be repaired. The ceiling beams of our flight cage started to sag and were becoming a safety hazard. Our maintenance team overcame any fear of heights and fixed up the roof to be brand new.



Screech Owl Enclosure

In 2022 alone, we admitted 77 Eastern screech owl patients. Thanks to the generosity of our Giving Tuesday donors, we were able to build an updated screech owl enclosure. Now we have four more spaces for screech owls to get ready for release. This will help reduce the amount of time they have to stay at the hospital and get them back in the wild where they belong as soon as possible. **Thank you again to everyone who donated!** This will make a huge difference.



Vet Staff & New Bio-security Facilities

We added a second full-time vet technician to our team. We now have medical coverage 7 days a week.

Due to HPAI, we added additional bio-security facilities. We installed a new outdoor tent so that we can do intake examinations on birds outdoors to limit exposure risk and we also converted the outdoor pavilion into a new outside CCU so that bird patients can have better airflow, reducing the chances of transmission if we do get a bird flu case.

Patient Stories



Gopher Tortoise Hatchlings

This was our first year incubating gopher tortoise eggs thanks to a kind donor gifting us a reptile incubator. Occasionally, patients lay eggs while in our care, and previously we buried them at the mouth of an adult's burrow and hoped for the best. Now we have the ability to monitor the eggs, determine which ones are fertile, and see if they hatch. We ended up with four sets of eggs, 12 eggs total. Only three eggs were viable, and they hatched successfully. Staff monitored the temperature and humidity in the incubator twice daily, and after a few months we had hatchlings! It was amazing to check the incubator one morning and see little tortoises coming out of their shells.

Gopher Tortoise 22-1151

This patient was found on the side of the road missing a large part of his carapace. The wound was severe, but fortunately his coelomic membrane, a thin membrane that protects the internal organs, was still intact. He stayed at the Brevard Zoo for a month before coming back to FWH for continued care. During his time at the zoo, he was started on a wound vac to help the giant wound heal over. After two months he was healed enough to only need bandage changes and laser therapy. After five months of care, the area hardened enough to protect him from daily traumas and he was released.



Bobcat 22-0031

On January 5th, we admitted a juvenile female bobcat with severe mange. Her fur was sparse, her eyes were crusted shut, and she was underweight, but she was every bit as fiery as a healthy bobcat. She was very feisty with everyone, which only endeared her to the staff more. After one month of treatment her coat was improving and she had gained weight. She was kept an additional three months until we were sure she could hunt for food and sustain herself in the wild. On May 13th, after 128 days in rehab, we packed her up in a metal crate and took her far from the city. She darted out in the blink of an eye and never looked back.



Eastern Screech Owl 21-5328

This patient technically didn't arrive in 2022, but it did spend the majority of the year in our care. It was brought to us October 19th 2021, with little detail as to what befell it. On initial examination not much was found; it was quiet and lethargic but with no obvious injuries. We hoped it just needed some rest and would be back on its way soon, but after a few days in care its head began to tilt to the right. At first the tilt (known as torticollis) was slight, but it quickly progressed, and by day 10 the poor owl had a full 180° head tilt. We had already tried supportive medications, so the next step was physical therapy. For 15 minutes twice a day, we would hold the owl's head straight up, but it wasn't enough. We tried a neck brace, but our patient hated wearing it and the stress canceled out any potential benefits. We sent the owl for a CT scan, but the results showed

no abnormalities. We were running out of ideas; what could we do to help this poor bird? Well, who do you call when you have a bad kink in your neck? A chiropractor! For the first few months the chiropractor was coming twice a week to work on the owl's neck. She could feel the tightness in the vertebrae instantly, and as time went by, she could feel the neck becoming looser. It was a very slow process. In January of 2022, the owl's head tilt was fluctuating between 90° and 180°. By April, the tilt was between 25° and 45°. The chiropractor was coming about once a month at this point. She said the owl needed to retrain its muscles without too much interference. It was moved to an outside enclosure where it could rebuild its strength, work on its hunting skills, and so we could verify that the problem wouldn't re-occur. Happily, by September 2022, the torticollis was gone. After 322 days in rehab, the owl was released!

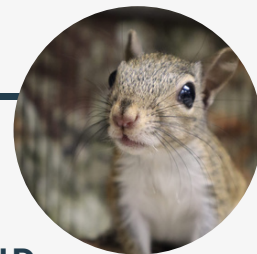
Flying Squirrels 22-3312 to 22-3316 and 22-3333 to 22-3336

Southern Flying Squirrels are not a well-known species in our area and we don't see many as patients. These are nocturnal animals that spend most of their lives living among the treetops. Typically, we only admit a few every year so imagine our surprise when we admitted nine in the span of only a couple weeks! The first litter, a set of five, were some of the youngest we had ever seen. They required five feedings a day, a time-consuming and tedious task for such small animals. We monitored them closely, watching for appropriate weight gains, to make sure they were thriving. A couple weeks later, four more arrived. This set was a little older but still required the same level of care. Week by week we watched them grow and hit their milestones.

They graduated from the incubators and moved into larger cages in our Nursery. This additional space allowed them to run, scurry, and jump. We were happy to see them exhibiting natural behaviors, even though it provided some challenges when catching them up for weighing, feedings, and linen changes. These little animals are fast! As they continued to grow and mature, we slowly weened them off formula while introducing solid foods. Once fully weaned, they were moved to outside enclosures. We filled this large space with lots of pine and oak branches, things to climb on, and nest boxes. It is difficult to evaluate foraging and natural behaviors for nocturnal animals, so we utilize game cameras. They spent several weeks outside, re-acclimating to the natural world and all of its weather, sights, and sounds. After 79 days in care, the set of five was the first to leave. They were transported them back to their original rescue location, where we hung their nest box to provide a safe shelter while they adjusted to life in the wild. A couple days later, the set of four were also ready to be returned home.



4,581 Total Patients in 2022



WE ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO TREAT AND RELEASE NATIVE AND MIGRATORY WILDLIFE. BELOW IS A LIST OF ALL THE NATIVE SPECIES WE SAW IN 2022.

Amphibia

1 Southern Leopard Frog

Avian

2 American Coot

2 American Kestrel*

2 American Purple
Gallinule

6 American Redstart

1 American Robin

3 American White
Pelican

37 Anhinga

12 Audubon's Shearwater

1 Bald Eagle

1 Barn Swallow

9 Barred Owl

5 Belted Kingfisher

1 Bicknell's Thrush

5 Black Bellied Whistling
Duck

2 Black Scoter

8 Black Skimmer*

12 Black Vulture

4 Black-and-white
Warbler

1 Black-crowned Night
Heron

1 Black-headed Gull

4 Black-throated Blue
Warbler

64 Blue Jay

1 Blue-winged Teal

12 Boat-tailed Grackle

1 Bonaparte's Gull

1 Brown Booby

105 Brown Pelican

11 Brown Thrasher

1 Brown-headed Cowbird

2 Bufflehead

3 Cape May Warbler

1 Carolina Wren

7 Cattle Egret

1 Cedar Waxwing

17 Chimney Swift

1 Clapper Rail

2 Common Gallinule

89 Common Grackle

5 Common Ground Dove

17 Common Loon

2 Common Nighthawk

18 Common
Yellowthroat

13 Cooper's Hawk

8 Cory's Shearwater

15 Double-crested
Cormorant

4 Downy Woodpecker

1 Eastern Kingbird

4 Eastern Phoebe

77 Eastern Screech Owl

26 Fish Crow

1 Fulvous Whistling
Duck

3 Glossy Ibis

7 Gray Catbird

53 Great Blue Heron

15 Great Egret

11 Great Horned Owl

10 Great Shearwater

1 Greater Black-backed
Gull

9 Green Heron

1 Hermit Thrush

24 Herring Gull

1 Hooded Merganser

3 Killdeer

1 King Rail

44 Laughing Gull

3 Least Bittern

4 Least Tern*

40 Lesser Scaup

5 Limpkin

2 Little Blue Heron*

5 Loggerhead Shrike

1 Louisiana
Waterthrush

9 Mallard

1 Masked Booby

3 Merlin

2 Mottle Duck

206 Mourning Dove

31 Northern Bobwhite

26 Northern Cardinal

58 Northern Gannet

103 Northern
Mockingbird

2 Northern Parula

76 Osprey

6 Ovenbird

3 Painted Bunting

4 Palm Warbler

1 Peregrine Falcon

2 Pied-billed Grebe

1 Pileated Woodpecker

1 Pine Warbler

3 Purple Martin

57 Red-bellied
Woodpecker

1 Red-billed Tropicbird

3 Red-eyed Vireo

44 Red-shouldered Hawk

3 Red-tailed Hawk

9 Ring-billed Gull

1 Roseate Spoonbill

38 Royal Tern

3 Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

1 Ruddy Duck

7 Ruddy Turnstone

16 Sanderling

20 Sandhill Crane*

5 Sandwich Tern

6 Sharp-shinned Hawk

7 Snowy Egret

1 Sooty Tern

4 Sora

1 Summer Tanager

2 Swainson's Thrush

1 Swallow-tailed Kite

2 Tri-colored Heron*

9 Turkey Vulture

1 Verry

1 White-rumped
Sandpiper

3 White-winged Dove

3 Willet

1 Wilson's Snipe

4 Wilson's Storm Petrel

7 Wood Duck

5 Wood Stork*

5 Yellow-bellied
Sapsucker

18 Yellow-billed Cuckoo

3 Yellow-rumped
Warbler

Mammals

1 Bobcat

8 Brazilian Free-tailed
Bat

3 Coyote

536 Eastern Cottontail

692 Eastern Gray
Squirrel

12 Eastern Mole

15 Evening Bat

2 Hispid Cotton Rat

82 Marsh Rabbit

11 Nine-banded
Armadillo

3 North American River
Otter

150 Northern Raccoon

4 Northern Yellow Bat

1 Red Fox

1 Round-tailed Muskrat

1 Seminole Bat

17 Southern Flying
Squirrel

667 Virginia Opossum

3 White-tailed Deer

Reptiles

10 Black Racer

2 Common Mud Turtle

3 Diamondback Terrapin

2 Eastern Glass Lizard

28 Florida Box Turtle

5 Florida Red-bellied
Cooter

49 Florida Softshell
Turtle

192 Gopher Tortoise*

56 Peninsula Cooter

10 Striped Mud Turtle

5 Red Rat Snake

10 Snapping Turtles

**Threatened/endangered*



Science

EVERY YEAR THE HOSPITAL ASSISTS EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES BY PARTICIPATING IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWH works closely with FWC to provide samples and specimens of a variety of species for disease surveillance, population health, and habitat health. Since rehabilitation centers see sick and injured wildlife, we are on the front lines for detecting emerging diseases, populations trends, etc. Unfortunately, in the past few years Brevard County has been a hot spot for several wildlife disease outbreaks, including Turtle Fraser Virus 1 (TVF1) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). FWH has, and continues to, provide samples for studying these viruses and their effects on our wildlife.

UCF Research

We are working with Professor Hoffman at UCF to collect raccoon samples for a collaborative project he is involved with studying gut microbiome and their effects on disease response. This is a multi-country project with samples being studied in Europe, where raccoons have been introduced and are considered invasive, as well as Florida and several other areas of the United States.

DEP Plastics Study

For a recently developed collaboration between FWH and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we are providing samples and specimens to be analyzed in order to better understand the prevalence of plastics in aquatic avian species.

EFSC Vet Nursing Program

Since 2017, FWH has partnered with EFSC's Vet Nursing Program to provide specimens for the lab portion of their exotics class. The birds and reptiles we provide help to educate the next generation of Veterinary Nurses.

UF Florida Museum of Natural History

For nearly a decade we have partnered with the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of Florida. Feathers from unique, or uncommon birds, can be found in their feather catalog. Specimens are used at the university for teaching taxidermy and mounting. A multiple year project used specimens from us and other Florida rehabilitation centers to study causes of mortality in avian species.

Events

EVENTS GIVE US OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL AS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE HOSPITAL AND FUNDS TO KEEP OUR HOSPITAL RUNNING.



Blessing of the Animals

We were blessed to celebrate our **22nd annual** Blessing of the Animals. This year Bella the American Kestrel, Wink the Screech Owl, and Carolina the Florida Box Turtle came out to join everyone in appreciating the pets and wildlife that make our lives so much richer.

Running Wild 5K

This year was our biggest year yet with 337 runners. We were very fortunate to have beautiful weather for the morning of the race (Hurricane Ian was the weekend before). We are excited to partner with a new director for 2023 to make the race even bigger and better.



Events



Hoot in the Park

We continue to utilize the lessons learned from past events and in 2022, we had our most successful Hoot in the Park fundraiser ever, bringing in over \$7,000. This year, in addition to our annual lure course, photos with Santa, raffle, and craft/local vendors market, we included more education by having multiple tables where guests could meet and greet our educational ambassadors and had animal talks scheduled throughout the day.

Hurricane Ian & Nicole

Not all events are planned. Florida was hit by not one, but two hurricanes in 2022. The hospital was very lucky and sustained only minor flooding and damages. We had a few screen enclosures that needed repairs and a shed roof that needed to be re-secured. We are very thankful that all of our patients were safe.



Volunteers

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM.

Each year we rely on a large number of big-hearted volunteers who dedicate literally **THOUSANDS** of hours to help our wildlife. We say it during volunteer training, but **everything** that volunteers do here, whether dishes, putting stamps on letters, repairing enclosures (again), or feeding animals, helps the hospital function so we can care for our patients and get as many as possible back into the wild where they belong.

It is hard to adequately communicate just how hard our volunteers work. A lot of people mistakenly believe that volunteering at a wildlife hospital means cuddling adorable animals. The truth is that our volunteers are doing lots of cleaning and manual labor. They are working outside in the extreme Florida heat, rain, or even hurricanes. They are driving for hundreds of miles to make sure we have the supplies we need and so animals get where they need to go. They are compassionately working with members of the public who are emotional over an animal in distress. They are getting bitten, scratched, and pooped on. They are writing until their hands cramp. And then they come back and do it again.

We are beyond blessed to have the amazing, hard working volunteers that make keeping wildlife wild possible.

15,460

Volunteer
Hours



\$373,203

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

Interns

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS, VETERINARIANS, AND CONSERVATIONISTS.

In 2020 and 2021, the internship program was temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. This year we rebooted the program and had two Animal Care Interns (Skylar & Madeline), a Non-Profit Management Intern (Hannah), and a Vet Intern (Maren). The program was rounded out with a week-by-week curriculum that includes reading assignments, activities, a project, and completing rotations through different areas of the hospital or administrative positions.



Skylar



Madeline



Maren



Hannah

Group Projects

L3Harris volunteered at the hospital doing brush and invasive plant removal to assist with conservation goals of increasing native plant species which support healthy biodiversity.

Nash S. completed his Eagle Scout project by building two new patient enclosures for small turtles and tortoises.



Outreach & Education

69

Programs
Attended

3,946

Community
members
reached

\$4,945

Raised to
help keep
wildlife wild

1,925

Hours of time
volunteered by
C.O.R.E

OUR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM SLOWED DOWN DURING 2020 BUT HAS SINCE RECOVERED AND IS BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC NUMBERS. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED TO HELP WILDLIFE DOUBLED FROM LAST YEAR.

Seeing the look on peoples' faces when they get to see an animal up close is priceless. Similarly, it is hard to put a dollar value on the number of animals that have been helped by our Cadre for OutReach and Education (CORE) team. They were very busy in 2022 visiting schools, scout groups, retirement homes, corporate events, and more.

Even though we focus on how outreach and education helps wildlife, when we help wildlife we are really helping ourselves. Spending time in nature has been shown to improve cognitive functioning and emotional wellness. We hope that when people see animals up close, they are inspired to help preserve these animals and the ecosystems they live in, not only for the animals' well being, but also for their children and their children's children.

This year we added three new animal ambassadors to our team. Takoda the Southern flying squirrel, Trinity the three-toed box turtle, and Archer our great-horned owl.



WE ♥ OUR SPONSORS

WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND THE CONSERVATION OF OUR AMAZING WILDLIFE.

RUNNING WILD 5K



HERNDON
SOLUTIONS
GROUP



ROCKLEDGE
ANIMAL CLINIC



THE
CANINA LAW FIRM
OUR FAMILY DEFENDING YOURS™



ABSOLUTELY
natural
EST. 1992

Toyota of Melbourne

Sun Plumbing

Bob Steele Chevrolet

Raymond James



HOOT IN THE PARK



Affordable Pet Healthcare



Florida Wildlife Hospital

4560 North US Highway 1

Palm Shores, FL 32935

(321) 254-8843

www.FloridaWildlifeHospital.org