



MEMBER 
MELBOURNE regional
CHAMBER of East
Central Florida

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

Director's Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have had another amazing year. Along with adding our first ever (part-time) veterinarian to our team, we also celebrated our **50th Anniversary**. It's humbling to think about the impact we have made in the community and in the local wildlife populations in those 50 years. We plan on being around for the next 50 years. This has already been a challenging decade, having to deal first with COVID-19 and then Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). But here we are, still helping animals and educating our local community on how to live with and protect our local wildlife.

We were very excited to raise almost \$35,000 on **Giving Tuesday** this year. The goal was to raise money for our medical program, and that amount will really help with getting new equipment, medical supplies, and more. Special thanks goes to Four C's Nursery for providing a donation match again this year, helping to inspire others to give.

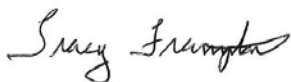
We are very proud of our **2023 accomplishments**:

- Hired our first veterinarian
- Celebrated our 50th Anniversary all year long
- Built a new raptor pre-release enclosure with 4 separate holding areas
- Built a new small mammal and bird enclosure, also with 4 separate holding areas
- Updated our logo with a modern look
- Hired our first grant writer to help us find and receive more grants

Our **plans for 2024** are exciting:

- Moving our veterinarian from part to full-time
- Purchasing more medical equipment for in-house diagnosis and treatment
- Hiring our first ever development person to help our finances keep up with our facility growth
- Adding a separate triage building to help prevent disease transmission
- Build a new education pavilion for small groups

We are very grateful for all of our supporters. None of this would be possible without generous support.



Tracy Frampton
Executive Director



Josie Quiroz
Board Chair



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**BACK
COVER** | **SPONSORS**

Board of Directors

BOARD OFFICERS



Board Chair
Josie Quiroz



Vice Chair
Jo Faden



Secretary
Donna McGill



Treasurer
Daniela Goyer

BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Farquharson
Julie Harrison

Steven Long

Michelle Salyer

Barb Sloan

FWH Community



571 NEW DONORS

These people donated for the first time in 2023



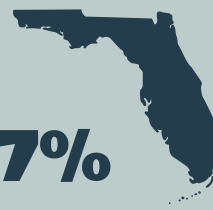
115 MONTHLY MEMBERS

These members help smooth out the ups and downs of annual gifts



1223 ANNUAL MEMBERS

These members make a gift once or twice a year



77%

of our donors live in Florida



Donors from
26
other states

The FWH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (Tax ID # 23-7292826).

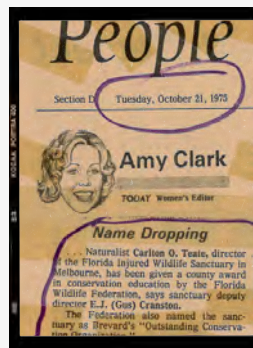
Your donations make a difference! You can help wildlife by calling (321) 254-8843 or visiting floridawildlifehospital.org/memberships. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

50th Anniversary



1973: Opened by Carlton & Gladys Teate

1975: Hospital gets funds from County Commission and City of Melbourne and wins award for conservation education



1997: Restructure as independent organization with a new name
-Receive donation of 3.5 acres of land on US 1

1973

1983

1993

1974: Recession hits the Florida Wildlife Sanctuary- The community reaches out with a helping hand

1981: City of Satellite Beach works with Florida Wildlife Sanctuary to control their rodent problem with owls

1998: Receive donation of additional 1.5 acres of land

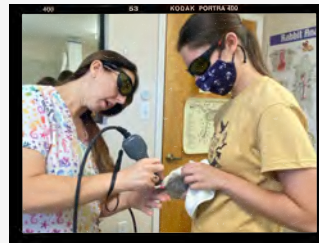


Timeline

2003: Brand new hospital facility is built



2023: 50th Anniversary ribbon cutting with Melbourne Regional Chamber.



2020: Hospital gets red light laser to reduce pain and inflammation in patient injuries

2008: Flight Cage built
-First Running Wild 5k

2018: Hired first FT certified vet tech

1999

2003

2008

2013

2023

2000: Addition is built onto hospital for more space
-First Blessing of the Animals

2005: First interns

2014: First Hoot in the Park

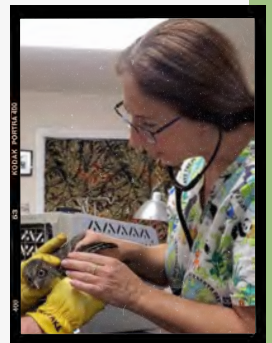
2002: Construction begins on a new hospital building

2017: Begin partnership with the Brevard Zoo



-New X-ray machine

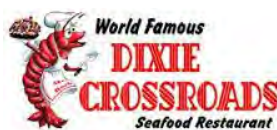
2023: Hired first on-staff veterinarian



Community Partners

We would not be able to help all of the wildlife that we do without the assistance of our wonderful partners in the community. In 2023, partners helped install irrigation pipes, maintained our beautiful pond, donated items for the animals, and assisted with vet care.

Chastain Skillman also discounted a property survey and Moss, Krusick, & Associates discounted a financial audit for the hospital.



*Bubb's Ponds
and Water Features*



Awards

We are very proud to be a recipient of WKMG News Channel 6's Getting Results Award. We are also proud of our Executive Director, Tracy Frampton, who was nominated as one of Orlando Business Journal's 2023 Women Who Mean Business. Our Board Chair, Josie Quiroz, and our veterinarian, April Geer, were both recognized by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce for Hero Appreciation Week. They are both amazing heroes for wildlife.



Financial Report

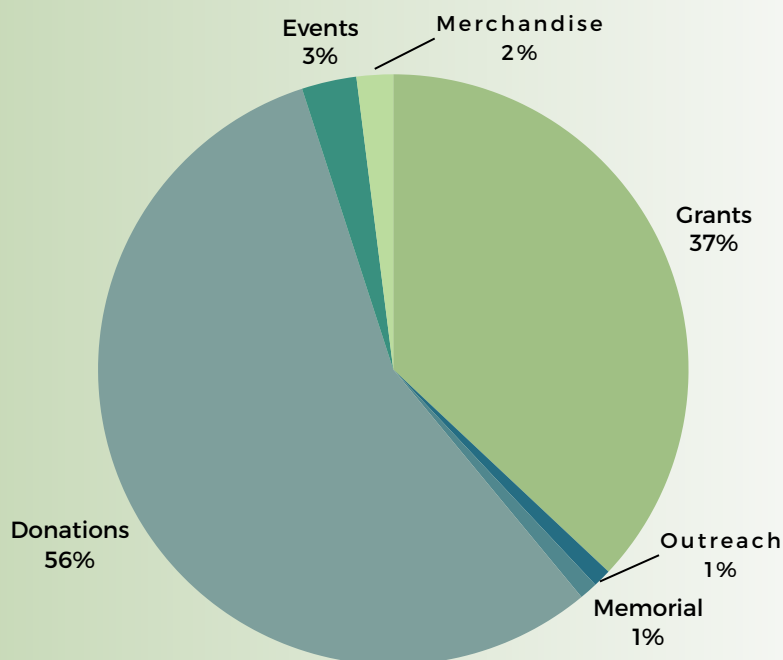
FLORIDA WILDLIFE HOSPITAL IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION THAT DEPENDS PRIMARILY ON PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. GRANTS AND GIVING TUESDAY WERE USED TO HELP WITH REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION.

****BEQUESTS HAVE BEEN FACTORED OUT FOR BUDGETING PURPOSES****

INCOME

Donations	56%
Grants	37%
Events	3%
Merchandise	2%
Outreach	1%
Memorial	1%

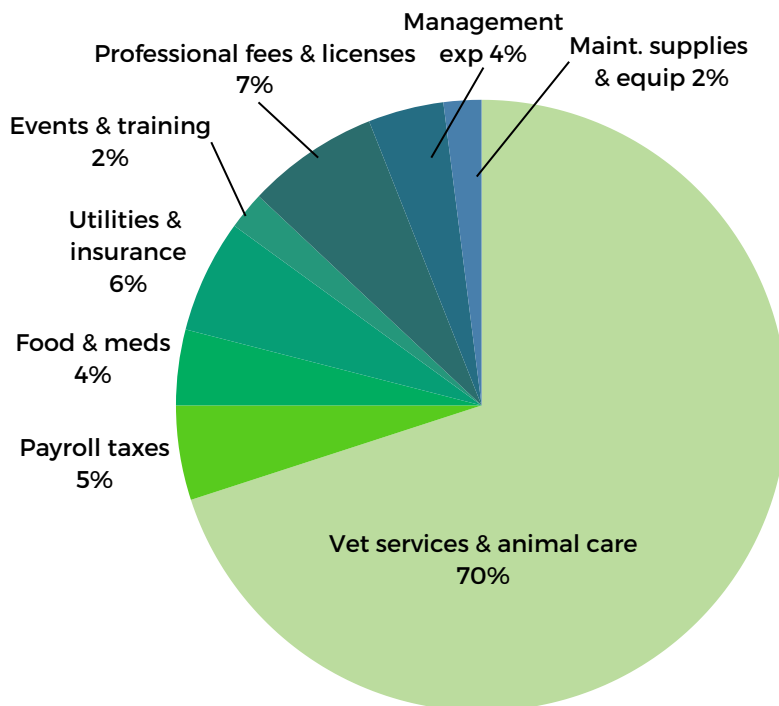
TOTAL
\$714,015



EXPENSES

Vet Services & Care	70%
Professional Fees & Licenses	7%
Utilities & Insurance	6%
Payroll, Taxes, & Fees	5%
Foods & Meds	4%
Management Exp.	4%
Maintenance Supplies & Equipment	2%
Events & Training	2%

TOTAL
\$714,050



Capital Construction

CONTINUING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRE-RELEASE ENCLOSURES ON OUR PROPERTY TO MEET AN INCREASING NEED FOR SPACE AS WE SEE MORE PATIENTS

Medium Flight Enclosure

We have a 100-foot flight cage which is required to rehabilitate larger raptors, but sometimes we, like a busy ER, have more patients than we have rooms. Our new medium flight cage will give us much needed additional cage space for smaller raptors and for larger raptors that are waiting their turn for the 100-foot flight cage.



Small Mammal and Bird Enclosure

Most of our pre-release enclosures are multi-use, meaning more than one type of animal can be housed in the enclosure (not at the same time). This enclosure can hold small mammals such as squirrels and songbirds such as mockingbirds and blue jays. This new aluminum structure has four separate holding areas.



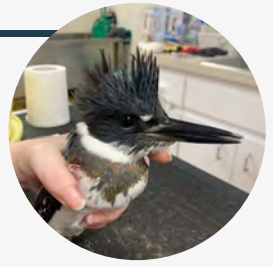
Looking Forward

In 2024, in addition to the plans mentioned in the Director's Letter on page one, we are planning to bring back the "rescue" in rescue, rehabilitate and release. We hope to have a rescue vehicle, equipment and more folks vaccinated for rabies as a precaution. This will be a costly endeavor but necessary for those times when someone just can't get the animal to us themselves.



5,959 Total Patients

WE ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO TREAT AND RELEASE NATIVE AND MIGRATORY WILDLIFE. BELOW IS A LIST OF ALL THE NATIVE SPECIES WE SAW IN 2023.



Amphibia

2 Southern Toad

Avian

2 American Bittern
14 American Black Vulture
2 American Coot
2 American Kestrel*
2 Amer. Purple Gallinule
2 American Redstart
41 American White Ibis
3 Amer. White Pelican
1 American Wigeon
31 Anhinga
4 Audubon's Shearwater
2 Bald Eagle
4 Barn Owl
2 Barn Swallow
18 Barred Owl
4 Belted Kingfisher
2 Bicknell's Thrush
7 Black Bellied Whistling Duck
2 Black-crowned Night Heron
10 Black Scoter*
4 Black Skimmer
1 Black-and-white Warbler
2 Black-capped Petrel*
1 Black-necked Stilt
1 Black-throated Blue Warbler
119 Blue Jay
1 Blue-headed Vireo
1 Blue-winged Teal
20 Boat-tailed Grackle
1 Bonaparte's Gull
1 Bridled Tern
119 Brown Pelican
19 Brown Thrasher
1 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Bufflehead
18 Carolina Wren
7 Cattle Egret
6 Cedar Waxwing
26 Chimney Swift
9 Common Gallinule
180 Common Grackle
8 Common Ground Dove

13 Common Loon
3 Common Nighthawk
1 Common Tern
14 Common Yellowthroat
1 Connecticut Warbler
14 Cooper's Hawk
36 Cory's Shearwater
26 Double-crested Cormorant
10 Downy Woodpecker
1 Eastern Bluebird
4 Eastern Phoebe
102 Eastern Screech Owl
1 Eastern Whip-poor-will*
1 Eastern Wood Peewee
40 Fish Crow
2 Glossy Ibis
13 Gray Catbird
51 Great Blue Heron
1 Great Crested Flycatcher
9 Great Egret
7 Great Horned Owl
7 Great Shearwater
15 Green Heron
3 Hermit Thrush
27 Herring Gull
3 Killdeer
55 Laughing Gull
1 Leach's Storm Petrel
4 Least Bittern
16 Least Tern*
2 Lesser Black-backed Gull
23 Lesser Scaup
18 Limpkin
2 Little Blue Heron
14 Loggerhead Shrike
46 Mallard
1 Marsh Wren
1 Merlin
6 Mottled Duck
319 Mourning Dove
31 Northern Bobwhite*
42 Northern Cardinal
27 Northern Gannet

143 Northern Mockingbird
4 Northern Parula
1 Northern Waterthrush
122 Osprey
11 Ovenbird
1 Painted Bunting
7 Palm Warbler
7 Pied-billed Grebe
6 Pileated Woodpecker
1 Pine Warbler
1 Prairie Warbler
5 Purple Martin
102 Red-bellied Woodpecker
6 Red-eyed Vireo
82 Red-shouldered Hawk
6 Red-tailed Hawk
20 Ring-billed Gull
34 Royal Tern
1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
4 Ruddy Turnstone
2 Sanderling
43 Sandhill Crane
1 Scarlet Tanager
3 Sharp-shinned Hawk
7 Snowy Egret
1 Solitary Sandpiper
2 Sooty Shearwater*
3 Sooty Tern
5 Sora
3 Swallow-tailed Kite
1 Tree Swallow
2 Tri-colored Heron
1 Turkey
12 Turkey Vulture
2 Veery
1 Virginia Rail
1 White-tailed Tropicbird
1 White-winged Dove
2 Wilson's Snipe
3 Wilson's Storm Petrel
1 Winter Wren
6 Wood Duck
8 Wood Stork
1 Wood Thrush
4 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

9 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
13 Yellow-rumped Warbler
4 Yellow-throated Warbler
Mammals
18 Brazilian Free-tailed Bat
1 Coyote
712 Eastern Cottontail
565 Eastern Gray Squirrel
7 Eastern Mole
1 Eastern Wood Rat
27 Evening Bat
97 Marsh Rabbit
17 Nine-banded Armadillo
5 North American River Otter
377 Northern Raccoon
18 Northern Yellow Bat
8 Seminole Bat
4 Southeastern Myotis
8 Southern Flying Squirrel
812 Virginia Opossum
5 White-tailed Deer
Reptiles
11 Black Racer
1 Common Garter Snake
2 Common Mud Turtle
1 Common Musk Turtle
31 Common Snapping Turtle
4 Corn Snakes
3 Diamondback Terrapin*
25 Eastern Box Turtle
43 Fl. Peninsula Cooter
2 Fl. Red-bellied Cooter
77 Fl. Softshell Turtle
200 Gopher Tortoise*
12 Striped Mud Turtle
3 Yellow Rat Snake

****Vulnerable/Threatened/endangered***

Patient Stories



Softshell Turtle 23-0129

This turtle is a resident in one of our volunteer's neighborhood. Neighbors spotted this poor turtle and thought it was dead, but luckily it was still hanging on. It took another couple sightings before our volunteer was able to rescue it and bring it in for help. The turtle received medications to reduce the swelling and infection before surgery to remove the mass on the side of the neck. It healed well and after two months of recuperation, the same volunteer was able to take it and release it back home.



Eastern Gray Squirrels 23-4690, 23-4691

A member of the public brought in two baby squirrels that had hardly any fur and their eyes were still closed. Tree trimmers accidentally cut their nest down and left the babies on the ground. They brought them in to us and we made sure they were healthy and uninjured. One of our staff took them back to where their nest had come down.



The mom picked up the first baby and ran it across a busy road so our staff took the second baby across the street for her. The staff watched her build a new nest in a tall palm tree.



Barn Owls 23-1590, 23-1625, 23-1794, 23-1795

These barn owls nested in the duct work of a new house that was being built. We got one owl at first, then a sibling was brought in the next day. We were told there weren't any others but our staff double checked and found that there were others but they were too high to reach. The home owners said they were going to shoot them so that they could finish construction. We immediately contacted Florida Fish and Wildlife since they were threatening to illegally kill the innocent birds. The story has a happy ending though because FWC and Wild Florida Rescue worked together to get the last two owlets to us. They were all reunited and after learning how to fly and catch food, they were released.



Black-crowned Night Heron 23-5034

This heron arrived unable to stand without assistance. There were no significant findings during the intake exam, but clearly something wasn't right. He received anti-inflammatories and supportive care initially. Once he was able to stand on his own, physical therapy was added to his routine and he was able to be released after 57 days in our care!

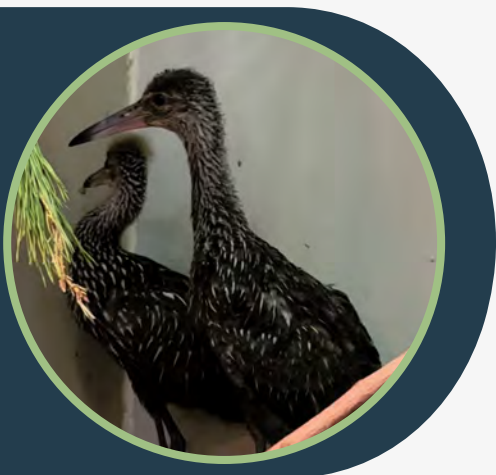
Soft Shell Turtles 23-3448 to 23-3450

Mom came to us after being hit by a vehicle. She had some bumps, scrapes and wounds but most were superficial. Radiographs revealed she was an expectant mother and she later laid eggs while in our care. The eggs were placed in an specialized reptile incubator. Once the mom's wounds healed, she was released. After a couple months in the incubator, her eggs hatched and the babies were also released.



Bald Eagle 23-2468

This juvenile eagle arrived in May 2023 with a wing fracture. After radiographs and consulting with Brevard Zoo veterinaries, it was determined that it was a comminuted fracture (broken in multiple places). It also was starting to heal on its own so we didn't interfere. He is still flying only occasionally and not steering very well. We are hopeful he can make a full recovery but as of February, 2024 he is still with us rebuilding strength in the broken wing.



Limpkins

We had limpkins come to us on several occasions in 2023. A limpkin is a unique wading bird that eats mostly snails. That food item is not something we regularly have on hand. We did a shoutout to our friends for snails and found several locations with invasive snail populations. It is only legal to collect non-native snails which made food collection more complicated. Our friends were up to the challenge and helped to keep the limpkins eating. This led to the successful rehabilitation and release of this unique bird.

Events

WE LOVE CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT FLORIDA'S AMAZING WILDLIFE.



Blessing of the Animals

It was another wonderful celebration of pets and wildlife at the **23rd annual** Blessing of the Animals hosted by **Tails at the Barkery**. This year Wink the Screech Owl, Trinity the Three-toed Box Turtle, and Sriracha the Red Rat Snake attended to raise awareness and funds for wildlife in need.

Open Houses

For our 50th anniversary, we decided to celebrate by inviting the public, in small groups, to take a walking tour of the property. Visitors got to meet and learn about our education animals, see how the hospital is laid out, and view the different outdoor enclosures that are specialized for different species of patients on our five acre property.



Running Wild

This year we took a step back from managing the Running Wild 5K and let Running Zone Foundation manage all of the race preparations. We were still there with our animal ambassadors out on the course, and Running Zone Foundation generously donated a percentage of the proceeds to the hospital to help wildlife.

Community Events

Staff and volunteers from the hospital participated in Viera Voice's Scarecrow Walk. They created a jack-lantern scarecrow dressed up as an opossum which was auctioned off to raise money for the Brevard Schools Foundation.

We also picked up trash along the Pineda Causeway, organized by Keep Brevard Beautiful for International Coastal Cleanup Day. We joined in with a total of 695 volunteers who picked up almost 9,000 pounds of trash and debris from 41 miles of Indian River Lagoon shorelines.



**Brevard Schools
FOUNDATION**
INVESTING IN YOUNG MINDS

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL
CLEANUP



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Melbourne Regional Chamber joined us for a ribbon cutting ceremony as we celebrated five decades of caring for the wildlife of Brevard County (and surrounding counties). We are very proud of all that we have accomplished over the last 50 years and even more excited thinking about the next 50.

Hoot in the Park

This was our most successful Hoot in the Park ever! This year had more sponsors, more vendors, more activities, and more chances to meet and greet our animal ambassadors. We were also excited to feature the art work of our first annual art contest winner on our event t-shirts. Congrats to Kahlia H. for her beautiful drawing!





Outreach & Education

In 2023, we had the highest number of programs ever! And we are passionate about continuing to grow and improve our educational outreach.

71

Outreach Programs

6,253

Community members reached

\$5,450

Raised to help keep wildlife wild

2,104

Volunteer hours by C.O.R.E

Our volunteers not only contribute to the direct care of wildlife patients but also play a crucial role in community education and outreach. Through hour long programs, guided tours, and outreach events, they act as ambassadors for wildlife conservation, spreading awareness about the importance of coexisting with our wild neighbors. In doing so, they inspire others to join the cause and become stewards of our natural world. We are hopeful that this education prevents many more animals from ever having to be admitted as patients in the first place.



This year we received the 2023 Oxbow Rescue Grant which will be used to build an outdoor education center on property. We will be able to host education programs, small camps, and outdoor education activities on site for the first time ever!

We said goodbye to one of our beloved animal ambassadors this year, Bella, the American kestrel. She was with us for 14 years and for such a small bird, she made a huge impression and she will be dearly missed.



Interns

EXPANDING OUR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

In 2023, we educated more young minds than ever before! We also had our first ever international intern (from Colombia) and our first education intern. We are excited that as our facility grows, we are also able to grow our opportunities for students to learn more about wildlife rehabilitation and medicine.



AC - Animal Care | VT - Vet Tech | NPM - Non-Profit Management | EDU - Education

FROM TOP LEFT:
SOFÍA | SPRING AC
HALEY | SUMMER AC
BRIANNA | SUMMER AC
KAYLA | SUMMER AC
JADE | SUMMER VT
JOSH | SUMMER NPM
JENNA | FALL VT
ADAM | FALL VT
KAYLA | FALL AC
FAITH | FALL AC
KYRA | FALL EDU

Scout Projects

Peyton W. of Troop 373 built stands for our planter boxes and planted edible plants that we can use for our patients. **Zach E.** of Troop 300 built woodpecker nest boxes for patients. **Sylvia K.** of Troop 4373 built a large tortoise pen that is used by our resident turtles and tortoises. **Javen L.** of Troop 380 made five raccoon hammocks out of upcycled fire hose. **Thor K.** of Troop 373 built 12 screech owl nest boxes for patients.



Volunteers

THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Volunteer Impact and Dedication:

In the heart of our Wildlife Hospital's success lies the unwavering commitment of our dedicated volunteers. Their passion for wildlife conservation and tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping the positive outcomes we've achieved this past year. As we reflect on the milestones reached and the challenges overcome, it is impossible to ignore the invaluable contributions of our volunteer team. Our volunteers have an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless wild animals and has helped advance our goal of preserving biodiversity.

Diverse Skill Sets, Singular Goal:

The strength of our volunteer team lies not only in its numbers but in the diverse skill sets each member brings to the table. From animal lovers to skilled craftspeople to veteran volunteers who help knock out the piles of laundry and dishes everyday, each volunteer plays a unique role in ensuring the smooth operation of our hospital. This diversity fosters an environment of continuous learning and collaboration, strengthening our ability to provide the best care possible.

17,391

Volunteer
Hours



147

Active
Volunteers





\$520,866

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

Compassion in Action:

Beyond the numbers, it's the compassion and dedication of our volunteers that truly set them apart. Whether it's the late-night rescues, working in the extreme Florida weather, or the compassionate care provided to each patient, our volunteers exemplify the spirit of service. Their selfless commitment to the welfare of every creature admitted to our hospital is the driving force behind our success.

Recognition and Gratitude:

As we look to the future, we are confident that with the help of our amazing volunteers, our impact will only grow, creating a brighter and more sustainable future for wildlife.

Thank you



L3HARRIS



Thank
you

 Seacoast
Bank

Science

WE STRIVE TO NOT ONLY HELP THE ANIMALS IN OUR CARE BUT ALSO THE LARGER POPULATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS.

Ongoing Projects

FWH continues to provide specimens to **Florida Fish and Wildlife** to help monitor disease and population health. Specifically, we send bird samples for the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and turtle samples for fraservirus (TFV1).



We are providing samples to the **Department of Environmental Protection** in order to better understand the prevalence of plastics in aquatic avian species.



Since 2017, we have provided lab specimens for **Eastern Florida State College's** Vet Nursing Program. While we wish the outcome for these patients was better, at least their deaths will help to educate the next generation of Veterinary Nurses.



Some of the more unique species that don't make it are donated to the **University of Florida's Museum of Natural History** where things like feathers from uncommon birds can be studied to help scientists learn more about these species.



New Projects

We are working with Blue World Research Institute by submitting the fishing line and lures that are attached to birds as they study the impacts of human impacts, such as fishing, on wildlife.



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



HOOT IN THE PARK



GRANTS



- Leslie Alexander Foundation
- Sue Bassett Foundation
- Margaret Binz Foundation
- Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation
- Albert & Birdie Einstein Fund
- Roy and Barbara Stevens Foundation
- Summerlee Foundation
- William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust



Florida Wildlife Hospital

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Palm Shores, FL 32935

(321) 254-8843

www.FloridaWildlifeHospital.org