

Forever Home

2022-2023 Impact Report



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Contents

- 3 Dear Friends
- 4 Rescue, Rehab & Release
- 6 Educating Our Community
- 8 Our Forever Home
- 10 A Destination For All
- 12 Your Support Matters
- 14 A Year of Events
- 15 Our Impact

Dear Friends

“For 40 years we at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary have been dedicated to the protection and conservation of Florida’s wildlife and natural resources. To accomplish this goal, we have a two-fold mission of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and environmental education. Our vision is to raise an active community of people who cherish, enjoy, and protect the native wildlife and natural resources of South Florida.”

– Peter W. Busch, Board Chairman,
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at Abramson & Schlaggar Reserve



We are delighted to welcome you to the 2023 Impact Report, a celebration of our four decades of dedicated service to the community and the remarkable progress we have made in expanding our facilities to better serve the needs of both our resident wildlife and the countless individuals who have come to us seeking education and solace in the heart of nature.

For forty years, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary has remained committed to its mission to protect and conserve Florida’s diverse wildlife and natural ecosystems, providing a safe haven for injured, orphaned, and imperiled animals while fostering an appreciation for the natural world among our fellow citizens. As we enter a new era in our organization’s history, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community and the dedicated individuals who have contributed to our growth and success.

In this report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our progress in building new, state-of-the-art facilities that will enhance our ability to provide top-tier care for our resident wildlife and expand our educational programs. The expansion of our facilities, including the modern animal rehabilitation center, spacious enclosures, and updated education center, reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and our ongoing dedication to the well-being of the animals in our care.

We are pleased to share the stories of impact, both big and small, that have shaped our sanctuary over the years. From the successful rehabilitation and release of countless animals back into their natural habitats to the inspiring stories of how our educational programs have shaped the lives of future conservationists, we hope that you will be as proud as we are of the positive changes we’ve brought to our community and the wider world.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited about the potential for further growth and impact. Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at Abramson & Schlaggar Reserve, remains steadfast in its commitment to its mission, and we look forward to continuing to serve our community for many more years to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey, for your support, your enthusiasm, and your belief in the mission of the Sanctuary. We invite you to explore the 2023 Impact Report, to learn about the progress we have made and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Warm regards,

Amy J. Kight, Executive Director

Peter W. Busch, Board Chairman



Chow Mein, an American Alligator helps teach people everything about gators—from their habitat, diet, to how they grow.

Rescue, Rehab & Release

Our mission has always revolved around local wildlife and natural resources because we believe that change starts right at home. However, the impact of our efforts extends far beyond our immediate surroundings. We provide care to threatened and endangered animals from all corners of the world. Animals migrate, and our Sanctuary contributes to the well-being of patients from across the globe, either through our Jupiter-based wildlife rehabilitation center or via our rehabilitation collaborations that span the nation.

The average donation left by those who bring an animal in need of rehabilitation is just \$16.99. If you've ever taken an animal to the vet, you know that doesn't go very far. Moreover, a significant portion of our patients suffer not only from injuries or illnesses but also from issues like dehydration, emaciation, parasite overload, infection, and more. It's only through the incredible generosity of our donors that we can keep up with the yearly increase in patients and continuously improve the quality of care they so rightfully deserve.



An Orphaned Owl

On February 14th a caller reported an injured Screech Owl on the ground in their yard. The bird appeared to have a broken wing and flies were swarming it. To make matters worse, the caller was fairly certain that this was a female owl who had a nest in a nearby tree. One of our wildlife rescue volunteers responded to the call with a tall ladder and was able to rescue the mother and the two eggs that this owl had been taking care of. The eggs were placed in an incubator, but because no one knew how long the mother was injured and away from the nest, hospital staff wasn't sure if either would hatch. However, on February 20 one of the eggs hatched! This tiny screech owl grew quickly, had a great appetite, and gained weight fast. After raising this orphaned owl, we returned it into the trees it came from as soon as it was strong enough to fend for itself.



Caring Cranes

Earlier this year, a local community member brought us a very young Sandhill Crane that had been hit by a car. Staff found only superficial scrapes on one of its legs and the colt (the name for a Sandhill Crane baby) was cleared for release. Our team reached out to the neighborhood, who kept an eye out for the parents. When the parents were spotted, staff rushed the colt to the location. As soon as the colt was released, the parents circled it and the family of three walked off, as if they had never been separated, a happy ending!



Armadillo In Need

This Armadillo was hit by a car and sustained a skull fracture and a deep wound on its right hind leg. It stayed with us for about a month for rehabilitation. Staff removed more than 35 ticks from its stomach and provided wound care, nebulizer treatments, and pain medication. Our junior naturalists and volunteers foraged for fresh grubs, worms, and other invertebrates from our Pineland Nature Trail to provide a natural diet while it was recovering. After a month of rehabilitation it was successfully released back into the wild.



Hannibal, an American Bald Eagle is a cancer survivor and is a beacon of hope for all who visit with her.

Educating Our Community

In the current year, we welcomed more than 240,000 visitors and 17,835 schoolchildren, many of whom were from Title 1 schools through grant funded partnerships. Palm Beach County School District's minority enrollment is 70% and 43.7% of students are economically disadvantaged. Our program educates children about the environment and we have incorporated STEAM components, utilizing Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. Through this program we are able to provide environmental education experiences for hundreds of children who would otherwise not get the opportunity. Educators engage with children using animal ambassadors to help teach about wildlife and our environment. The program is distinctive in the sense that it gives children the opportunity to learn first-hand about local habitats, wildlife, conservation, and the impact humans have on the environment. As the world becomes more tech focused, learning about the importance of nature and our impact on it is more critical than ever to connect the classroom with real life knowledge. Recent research shows that young people's connection to nature drops sharply from the age of 11 and does not recover until they are 30. This research also provided insight into how strong the connection to nature needs to be to deliver positive environmental benefits required for a sustainable future.

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at Abramson & Schlaggar Reserve provides complimentary environmental education programs, offering the community a unique chance to connect with nature firsthand, instilling feelings of reverence and respect for all living beings and their habitats. By providing our daily programs free of charge, we ensure unrestricted access for individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, including many who might otherwise miss the opportunity to learn about the vital principles of environmental stewardship and the importance of respecting wildlife and the natural world. Furthermore, students from all corners of Florida embark on field trips to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary to enrich their science curriculum and further their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education.

Ed-Venture Outreach Program

We extend our reach of the Sanctuary to schools and community organizations that may not have the opportunity to visit us in person. Our presentations are customized to suit the specific requirements of each group and are available throughout the year. In an increasingly technology-driven world, understanding nature and our influence on it is more crucial than ever.

The Junior Naturalist & Mini-Junior Naturalist

These dual programs cater to children aged 5 to 14, offering them the chance to gain knowledge about and actively engage in conservation efforts to safeguard Florida's wildlife and natural assets, while simultaneously developing essential leadership skills and public speaking abilities. This opportunity contributes significantly to their personal growth and confidence. Our Junior Naturalist Program serves as the catalyst for nurturing a lifelong passion for nature and animals!

The Nature Gap refers to the stark reality that nature's benefits, and consequences of its decline, are unequally distributed by race, income, and age. No one needs nature more than our children do. Studies consistently find that youth who spend more time in natural environments experience improved health and cognitive functions, reduced stress, and enhanced social skills. They tend to perform better on standardized tests and have fewer attendance problems. However, low-income children and families often lack access to nature.



Spanish Language Outreach Programs

The Sanctuary brought its outreach to Latino communities by introducing Spanish language programs and participating in local Hispanic networking events. These initiatives aimed to engage and educate the Latin community about wildlife conservation and foster a deeper connection with nature. Through these programs and events, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary not only broke down language barriers but also created opportunities for people to interact with our animal ambassadors, making the organization more inclusive and accessible to a wider audience.

" Thank you for providing our students with an amazing and educational experience this morning. We are grateful that you are able to educate our children. Your ability to share your knowledge is so appreciated. We saw how well you take care of these amazing and lucky animals. We hope to continue to have you visit our school each year. "

– Pre K Teachers at NB Preparatory School

A Destination For All

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at Abramson & Schlaggar Reserve is a destination for travelers and locals alike because it offers a unique opportunity to see and learn about Florida's native wildlife. The Sanctuary is home to over 200 animals, including birds of prey, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Visitors can explore the Sanctuary's paths, exhibits, and gardens, and attend educational programs and events. Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is also a leader in wildlife rehabilitation, and visitors can learn about the Sanctuary's work to rescue and release injured and orphaned animals back into the wild.

Our Brightline Station takeovers in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, and West Palm Beach in 2023, reintroduced our Sanctuary to over 223,000 riders during spring of 2023.

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary was front and center this year along our major South Florida highways. Prominent billboards featured our beloved animal ambassadors and were seen by over 1.9 million travelers from Miami/Dade through Ft. Pierce during Spring 2023.



2023 Travelers' Choice
4.5 STAR AVERAGE
777 REVIEWS
#2 ON THINGS TO DO IN JUPITER

2023 TRAVELER'S CHOICE DESTINATION!

Every year, Tripadvisor awards travelers' favorite destinations, hotels, restaurants, and things to do around the world, based on reviews and ratings collected over the past 12 months. The Travelers' Choice Best of the Best winners are decided by real travelers from all over, sharing real opinions and stories.

" Great experience. Took family (and toddler). No tickets required, just make a donation of your choice. Good variety of animals. Decent size. They provided a free educational show where they brought out several animals and taught the audience about the animals and the work that the sanctuary does. You get to walk through a variety of different outdoor environments. "

- Google reviewer

" Great place to enjoy FL nature and see some local species up close. Plenty of staff available for education and direction who genuinely care for the animals and are passionate about wildlife rescue. "

- Google reviewer



" I just wanted to compliment you guys on making Daphne and Magnolia's birthday party such fun and making it so easy for me to host! My girls and their friends had a fabulous time! Joy was a pleasure to work with, she decorated the pavilion beautifully (despite windy conditions) and we enjoyed perfect weather. I highly recommended your birthday party packages to the other moms in our group. "

- Pavilion Renter



" A great place to see the local wild life up and close and personal! They have great educational shows as well. A great place to bring the whole family for the afternoon. This is our 4th time here and we enjoy bringing people here. They have a nice gift shop and the whole place operates on donations! "

- Google reviewer



Our Forever Home

In 2020, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary took a significant step to address the increasing demand for our services by acquiring 20 acres of land in Jupiter Farms. Today, we are thrilled to announce the successful completion of Phase One of our new, expanded facilities, a vital milestone in our mission to offer conservation education to a significantly larger number of children and families while also affording us the space to develop more extensive rehabilitation areas for wildlife.

This new home, our “forever home,” now boasts a state-of-the-art animal rehabilitation center. It includes enclosures that uphold the highest standards of animal care and recuperation habitats that not only meet but surpass national benchmarks. The transformation of our wildlife rehabilitation center is nothing short of remarkable. It has grown to a size four times that of our previous facility and is better equipped to cater to the ever-increasing demands of our community. Once complete, Phase Two includes more critically needed specialized rehabilitation areas. Moreover, we’ve enriched and expanded the public Sanctuary side of our operation, ensuring a more captivating and immersive experience for all who visit.



“ This project is one of those once in a lifetime type projects, a legacy sort of project. Rooted right here in the heart of our community, it is not just construction, it’s a commitment to the continuous improvement of our community. Our team has a lot of young families, and this is a project each of our team members can be proud to be a part of while spending time at this wonderful facility with their families, which is why we proudly sponsored the Classroom, in hopes of our future generations finding passion in learning about wildlife, environmental conservation, and community service. ”

–Justin Howard, President & CEO,
Black Diamond General Contracting

“Today, we proudly unveil our new campus. When you visit us, you can expect a deeper engagement with nature, expanded educational outreach, and enhanced rehabilitation efforts. Our expansion is not just about a physical transformation but also a step towards furthering our environmental conservation goals. I want to thank everyone here for their support in helping us build our forever home.”

– Amy J. Kight, Executive Director,
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary At Abramson & Schlaggar reserve



Your Support Matters

We celebrate the profound impact of your invaluable contributions that have fueled our mission to conserve and protect Florida's diverse wildlife and natural habitats. Your unwavering support has been the bedrock of our success, enabling us to provide crucial rehabilitation, education, and conservation programs. Throughout this report, we shine a spotlight on the transformative influence of your generosity. Your donations have empowered us to expand our rescue efforts, nurture injured animals back to health, and educate the community about the importance of wildlife preservation. Your commitment has facilitated innovative initiatives that drive sustainable change, fostering a harmonious balance between humanity and nature.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for being an integral part of our journey. Your support not only matters; it defines the very essence of our shared commitment to safeguarding wildlife and their habitats for generations to come.



Scan to watch our supporters tell their stories.



Sandy Myers

I knew about the Sanctuary several years ago and I came up and took a tour. I thought it was really nice, it was different. I've been living here since 1970 and it's just nice to see how this county has grown over the years and this is a very good institution. I was impressed. At this site we get over 200,000 people a year and it's kind of almost double when we move to the new site three miles to the West.

It's not a zoo, it's a sanctuary. These animals wouldn't have any other real place to be going and it's in the north part of the county which needs this type of place to educate kids. I think it's a very important asset to Palm Beach County.



Andrea Neves

I support the move. I think it'll be spectacular because you're going to have much more space for the animals, much more space for people to be able to tour around and see different types of animals and hopefully also invite some new friends to come to the Sanctuary because it'll just be a larger Facility.

To have a facility like this that would allow people of all ages to walk in free of charge and be able to see the magnificent animals that are here and then have somebody be able to explain to them the reasons why these animals are here and that they're here either to educate or they are here in order to be rehabilitated whether it was in an injured deer an injured bird or any other type of wildlife.



Michele Kukla

In Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, I can definitely make a difference. I feel it and see it every time I'm here. My grandchildren benefit from it, their friends benefit from it, birthday parties happen here. Our life revolves around knowing that we've made a difference in the community through Busch Wildlife. I got involved many years ago with my youngest son Julius. Julius had to do a project towards his Eagle Scout. He wanted to do something environmental, he wanted to do something with animals so naturally we came to Busch Wildlife.

I think the Busch Wildlife has outgrown its current home. This home has been wonderful for many, many, many years; everyone's enjoyed it, but it's too tight, we need more science, more medical, we need more ability to rehab more animals. And so it means we need to move to a more permanent place both for an educational standpoint - the new place will offer opportunities for young people and adults alike to learn more about the environment here - and the animals. It also offer a lot more clinical work and I think that's really, really critical.



Grayson, a Gray Fox arrived at our sanctuary after being illegally kept as a pet. Foxes DO NOT make good pets.

The Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes those individuals and families who have remembered Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. More so, it enables members and friends to demonstrate the value of the Sanctuary in their lives and secure Florida's native wildlife for generations to come. Membership is simple—no need to donate today! Simply name Busch Wildlife Sanctuary as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, donor-advised fund, or foundation. Thank you to our Legacy Society members:

Sonja A. Arbuse • Lawrence & Edna Barton • Willetta B. Beach
 Alfred E. Binger • Jane Branch • Louis Carrino • Marilyn Chase
 Barbara Cole • Jennie Echo Corona • Katherine Kurner Exley
 Dr. Michael & Sharon Feinstein • Gail Robin Goldstein
 Matthew William Green • Hanne Halland • Robert L. Hesse
 Erna A. Huey • Robert L. Johnson • Joyce Keleher
 Barbara Kay Koehl • Claire Levine • Frank L. Nash
 Alan K. Parmalee • Carol T. Pfeiffer • Betty L. Phillips
 Betty K Rodrick • William & Corinne St. John • Janet Wilkins

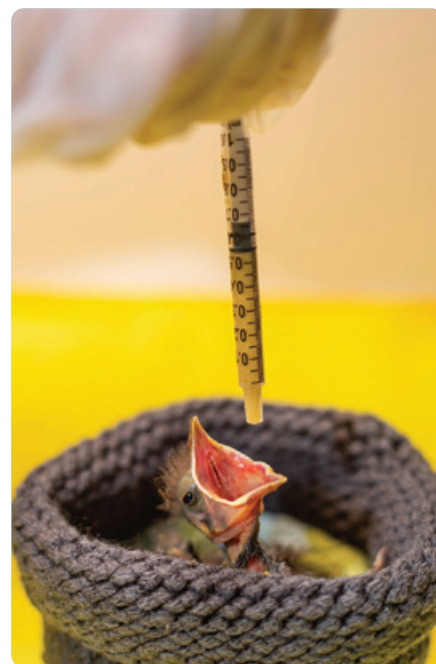
Nurture What's Wild Capital Campaign

We are immensely proud of this achievement, yet our work is far from over. While our new facilities mark a momentous achievement in our journey, there is still much to be done. We aim to expand and build additional rehabilitation habitats to accommodate the rising needs of our local wildlife. Your support remains crucial in helping us complete these vital habitats. By contributing, you not only aid in the continuation of our mission but also have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy through our naming opportunities. Join us in creating a brighter future for wildlife

by exploring our naming opportunities by scanning the QR code below. Your generosity will play a pivotal role in shaping the success of Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's ongoing efforts to conserve and protect our precious wildlife.



Scan to view available naming opportunities.



Steering Committee

With heartfelt gratitude we want to recognize the Capital Campaign Steering Committee for their dedication and commitment to our mission.

Jim and Mary Casto,
Honorary Chairs

Kamil Banc

Peter W. Busch

David W. Busch

Lisa Carroll

Christine Cooley

Paul Fisher

Matt Gitkin

Jeremy Howard

Dr. Heather Johnston

Justin Kasper

Michaela Kennedy

Alexander "Sandy" Myers

Andrea Neves

Timothy Powers O'Neill, Esq.

Christopher Skvarch

Charles T. Weiss, P.A

Contributors

We sincerely appreciate the following individuals and businesses for their generous donation of time and supplies to build the Sanctuary.

2GHO • All Custom Shells • Julie Silk Beaumont

Black Diamond General Contracting • Charlotte Pelton & Associates

CustomCages.com • Environmental Quality, Inc • Grace Elkins • Finish Line

Flo Seamless Gutters • Forming Brands • Adam Ginsburg

Gold Coast Logistics Group • Honestware • JD Thornton Nurseries

Landscape Solutions • LiDonni Nursery • Dan Luecht • Palm Coast Tree Service

Two Men and a Truck • Keith Wanner • Yates Burle Studio

A Year of Events

WINE IN THE WILD

The 4th Annual Wine in the Wild Gala at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, held on December 10, 2022 was an unforgettable evening – the final Wine in the Wild at the former location. It was a wonderful evening of beverages, food samplings, guest appearances by animal ambassadors, a silent & live auction, music and more. Raised \$115,466



BABY SEASON

Baby Season is our busiest time of the year and lasts from March through September – we receive up to 60 animals a day in need of care and medical attention, many of whom need months of intensive care and rehabilitation before returning to the wild. Our amazing 2023 Baby Season Sponsors helped provide much needed items and funds to help all of our rescued wildlife. Raised \$75,855



SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING WINE IN THE WILD

Get ready for an enchanting occasion that promises to ignite your senses and warm your heart – the 5th Annual Wine in the Wild fundraiser is back, and it's bigger and better than ever before! Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the new Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, this event is your golden ticket to an unforgettable evening filled with a symphony of flavors, captivating encounters with our cherished animal ambassadors, an enticing silent auction, live music to set the mood, and so much more. Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 27, 2024, and prepare to embark on a journey that blends conservation, celebration, and community.

ROGER DEAN CHEVROLET STADIUM

Through our partnership with Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary brought our mission to sports fans. During the April 2023–September 2023 season, our educators and volunteers exhibited at Saturday home games. Special themed nights were also hosted by the Stadium, such as Wild Night Out, during which limited edition jerseys featuring our animal ambassadors were worn by the home team. The jerseys were later auctioned off with proceeds benefiting the Sanctuary.



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many corporations and businesses that held fundraisers to support our cause. Your generous support helps us continue our mission of wildlife conservation and education. Together, we make a positive impact on our community and the natural world. Thank you for your partnership.



100 MOST INFLUENTIAL

Amy Kight has been named one of 2023 The Palm Beaches 100 Most Influential Leaders by Palm Beach Illustrated.

ARVY'S STORY IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Our very own "celebrity", Arvy the Brown Pelican, graced a page of the 2023 National Geographic Almanac. This amazing water bird beat the odds after being rescued from the chilly Connecticut water, and then flown to Florida by a mother–daughter duo.

Our Impact

This year has been a remarkable journey filled with countless tales of saving lives, nursing animals back to health and returning them to their natural habitats, and enlightening people about the significance of Florida's native wildlife in our delicate ecosystem. Our mission of Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release, and Educate is far from over, and there is still a world of work ahead!

Our Special Events last year

- Women in Wildlife Panel Series
- All about Florida Black Bears Virtual Workshop
- Guided Happy Trails walks in natural areas
- Guided Night Walks at the Sanctuary
- Halloween Fun event
- Earth Day event
- Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston

GUESTS	239,024
VOLUNTEER HOURS	15,805

STUDENTS VISITED	17,835
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	975
Onsite programs with our Animal Ambassadors	577

- Wildlife Encounters
- Gator Talks
- Story-time for Toddlers
- Hunters of the Sky
- Reptiles Rule!

JUNIOR NATURALIST & MINI JUNIOR NATURALIST	
Sessions	124
Children Served	239

ANIMALS ADMITTED	5,123
SPECIES RESCUED	267

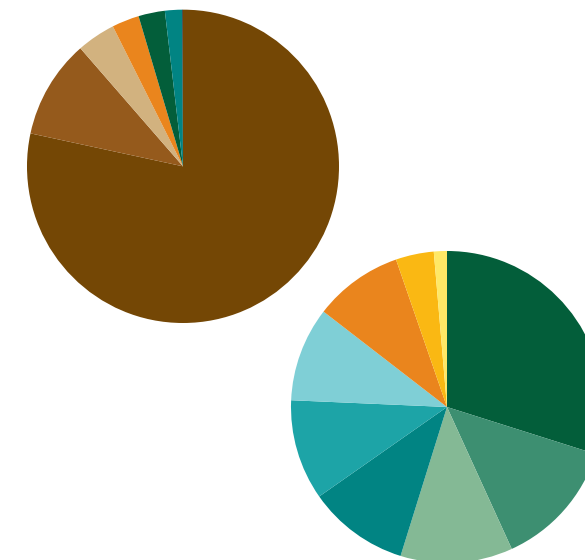
MOST COMMON SPECIES	
Virginia Opossum	665
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	551
Mourning Dove	277
Gray Squirrel	263

FOLLOWERS ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS	
Facebook	29,262
Instagram	13,369
Threads	1,085
LinkedIn	613
YouTube	535
X	417
TikTok	241

2022–2023 Financials

REVENUE

Capital Campaign Donations	78%	\$7,214,494
Donations	10%	939,170
Grants	4%	368,510
Gift Shop	3%	260,006
Fundraising	3%	252,081
Education	2%	163,840
Volunteer Income	> 1%	7,168
Total*		\$9,205,269



EXPENSES

Animal Care	30%	\$657,457
Development & Fundraising	13%	292,821
Operations	12%	255,927
Administration	10%	230,225
Gift Shop	10%	229,147
Education	10%	215,280
Marketing	9%	203,109
Property Maintenance & Vehicle	4%	86,815
Volunteer	1%	28,722
Total*		\$2,199,504

* Figures are based on unaudited financial statements ** ASU 2018-08 recognized as of the pledge date therefore included in revenue.





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www.buschwildlife.org
(561) 575-3399

Oliver, a Barred Owl is our most senior resident ambassador. She was the first to move into the new Sanctuary this year!

Our Partners



This Impact Report Generously underwritten by Peter W. Busch
Some photos courtesy Capehart, AHP Reptiles and Photography,
John W. Iwanski.

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