

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

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The Raptor Center

2014 Report to the Community

Celebrating four decades of dedication to raptors



A message from the executive director and advisory board

Dear Friends,

We look forward to reconnecting with our friends each time we produce this report. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and share a few upcoming plans.

This has been a busy and exciting year as we celebrated our 40-year history, developed a new strategic plan and continued several key initiatives, such as addressing the issue of lead poisoning in eagles and working with our partners in the Galápagos. None of this could be done without you, our generous supporters. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.



The Raptor Center advisory board, from left: Rachel Hollstadt, Kim Carswell, Renee Olsten, C. Ben Wright, Kate Nielsen, Mark S. Citsay, Tracy Elftmann, Teresa Daly, Mary Sandok, Chris Heeter, and Dr. Julia Ponder with Pi, the bald eagle. Not pictured: Ellen Andersen, Beau Farrell, Jerry Lynch, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Nelson, Susan Platou, Dr. Pat Redig, and Cyndy Wallin Photo by Sue Kirchoff

This past year saw two major accomplishments that will impact our future work immensely. First, we surpassed our goals in a three-year comprehensive campaign, raising \$4.8 million in support of both annual operating needs and a capital project to rebuild our outdoor bird housing and education area. It was truly inspiring to see the generosity of our donors in this effort. One of our earliest lead gifts was from Doug Dayton, a longtime friend of The Raptor Center. Other Dayton family members followed Doug's move with significant support. In a truly poignant moment, we received the closing gift in memory of Doug from his widow, Wendy, and her daughter, Lizzie. In recognition of these gifts and Doug's long support, we are naming our new education area the Douglas Dayton Education Wing.

Another family that has been part of TRC for decades is the Andersen family, who, through numerous funding, has once again provided incredible financial support to us. We are also very grateful for significant gifts over the past three years from Bob and Carol Berry, Rachel Hollstadt, and the WM Foundation.

Our second major accomplishment was the development of a new strategic plan for The Raptor Center, an outline of which is included in this annual report. We look forward to sharing our progress in the coming years as we reach for these lofty goals, all of which are in reach with the support of our incredible volunteers and donors. Thank you so much for being on the journey with us!

With warm regards,

Julia Ponder, DVM
Executive Director

Thank you

We are pleased to list the individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations that contributed \$500 or more or made a planned gift for The Raptor Center's comprehensive campaign during the period of July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2014. We regret that space limits us to listing only those who have contributed that amount. Every donor is important to us, and your continuing support makes our work possible.

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The Raptor Center is committed to maintaining an accurate donor list that acknowledges all of our supporters. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Ellen Orndorf at 612-624-8457 or eorndorf@umn.edu.

Recent accomplishments

The Raptor Center (TRC) celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014, a milestone year in which more than 800 raptors were treated in our clinic, the educational Raptor Lab was inaugurated, and a new strategic plan was developed. With the help of our generous supporters, a major capital campaign was completed, allowing us to move ahead with a project that benefits both our raptor and our visitors. Indeed, we are soaring toward a healthy world!

Care of raptors

The Raptor Center treated a total of 839 birds of prey in the past year, including 117 bald eagles.

A successful capital campaign

A three-year capital campaign resulted in a total of \$4.8 million in annual operating gifts, capital gifts, endowment gifts, and planned giving.

A new outdoor space

The completion of the capital campaign enabled construction to begin on TRC's



Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director, stands by with Pi, a bald eagle, as TRC friends and supporters Kate Nielsen, Lizzie Nelson, Wendy Dayton, Ellen Andersen, and Rachel Hollstadt break ground on the Douglas Dayton Education Wing. Photo by Sue Kirchoff

new outdoor home for raptors. The Douglas Dayton Education Wing will open in the new year with an enhanced bird viewing space for the public and an environment conducive to Minnesota's weather challenges.

The Raptor Lab

The Raptor Lab, a yearlong, raptor-oriented science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum for seventh and eighth graders, was launched. Funded by Minnesota's Environment and National Resource Trust Fund, the Raptor Lab provides hands-on ways for students to explore the topic of raptors and the environmental issues they face.

A new strategic plan

With an eye to the next 40 years, TRC developed a new three-year strategic plan focusing on training future specialists in raptor medicine and surgery, developing a research program dedicated to raptors as sentinels for ecosystem health, and expanding public outreach.

Teaching

Dedicated to educating the next generation of raptor veterinarians

and ecosystem health professionals, TRC provided a variety of training opportunities for veterinarians and veterinary students from around the world.

Research

The Raptor Center's research efforts are based on the understanding that every raptor brought to the clinic can provide valuable information about ecosystem health. Research efforts focused on antifungal drugs for raptors, food web toxicity in the Galápagos, a study of antibodies to Newcastle disease in raptors, and the feasibility of integrating wildlife health data from a variety of sources into a common system.

Service and outreach

TRC's public education programs and events reached more than 150,000 people with live eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons, helping to deliver messages on ecosystem health, environmental sustainability, and impacts of human activity on the natural world. Youth RaptorCorps, a service learning program, as well as TRC's summer programs and fall raptor release, engaged thousands of people. The annual Duke Lecture featured Dr. Pat Redig, TRC's cofounder and director emeritus.



Dr. Irene Galán Lecona, a clinical intern from Spain, examines a northern saw-whet owl. Photo by Amber Burnette



Molly Gezella-Baranczyk, interpretive naturalist, displays Maxime, an education eagle, at the Minnesota State Fair. Photo by Amber Burnette

Financial report

The Raptor Center

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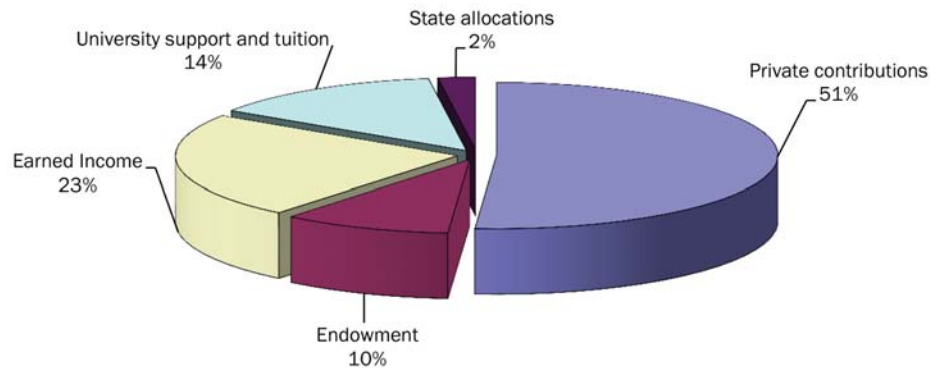
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In addition to our dedicated advisory board and full-time staff, nearly 20 part-time staff members and 270 volunteers contribute their valuable time and effort to The Raptor Center.

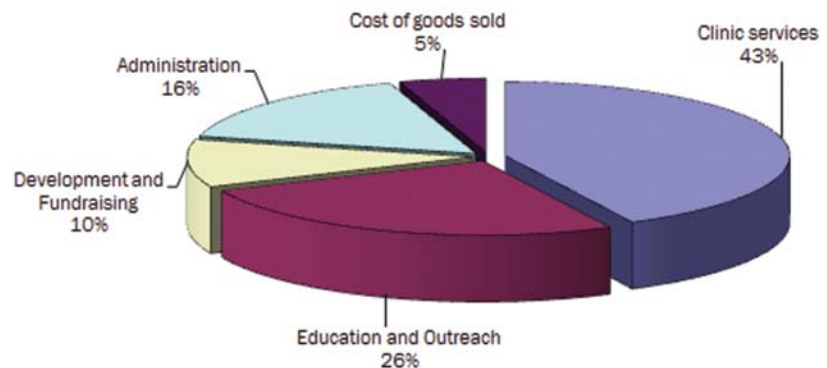
Financial Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

Revenues: \$1,406,061



Expenses: \$1,381,925



The Raptor Center is deeply grateful for the generous support of the many donors who make our work possible. We appreciate your gifts, as well as your commitment to our mission of protecting raptors and ensuring a more sustainable natural world. During fiscal year 2014, we saw increased philanthropic support, including gifts toward capital improvements to ensure the future of our program. Our endowments also grew through bequests from departed donors and major gifts. We continue to benefit tremendously from the support of our amazing volunteers, who each year give as many hours to our organization as our staff. Thank you so much for your generosity. Your partnership is crucial to the work we do.

On the cover

A bald eagle is released to the wild by Paula Buchner, chief operating and financial officer of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Photo by Les Conrad