



# South Florida WILDLIFE CENTER

In partnership with The Humane Society of the United States

## 2017 Annual Report



*Protecting wildlife through  
rescue, rehabilitation and education  
since 1969.*



## Letter from SFWC Executive Director Debra Parsons-Drake

Dear Friends,

My first year as executive director of South Florida Wildlife Center was a whirlwind.

Of course, there was the very real wind that ripped through our campus last fall. Hurricane Irma took a hefty toll, leaving in its wake more than \$400,000 worth of damage to our hospital, animal habitats, equipment and supplies. Before the storm, we proactively safely evacuated the more than 400 patients and kept them protected and cared for in foster homes until it was safe for them to return.

With donor and volunteer support, we cleared debris, made repairs and emerged, battered but resilient. While all this was going on at home, we also sent staff to assist with wildlife rescue in Hurricane Harvey-ravaged Texas, and spent almost three months procuring supplies and loading cargo planes with human and animal-related relief for Hurricane Maria-decimated Puerto Rico.

Irma's aftermath accelerated our need to build a new hospital. Making extensive repairs to an aged facility which could not withstand a major storm is not fiscally-responsible—and we take stewarding your support very seriously. You'll be hearing more from us in 2018 about exciting new plans to better serve our community, educate future veterinarians and meet emerging wildlife-related challenges in a new, hurricane-rated center. In addition to making proactive structural plans, we also significantly expanded our rehabilitation, training and community resource programs. To develop and oversee those important initiatives, we added a Director of Outreach and a Wildlife Education Director to our modest staff.

In 2017, SFWC also forged partnerships with the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, and Nova Southeastern University on projects that impact animal and human health. We collaborated with other agencies to heal the victims of environmental hazards and to prevent reoccurrence of harm to species including burrowing owls, gopher tortoises and multiple species of seabirds. Our specialists advanced SFWC's reputation as a regional leader in the treatment of avian botulism; identified a previously unknown parasite in Virginia opossums, which will enable a targeted, more effective treatment of symptoms associated with that tick-borne parasite; and shared knowledge about prevention, early detection and treatment of a wide range of other conditions affecting both humans and wildlife.

Each patient's life is precious—and each animal gets individual, specialized care. Although we cannot save them all, for reasons including catastrophic injury, rodenticide poisoning, disease, fish hook ingestion and other deadly hazards, we fight to save every animal entrusted into our care.

All of this upward mobility resulted in more patients benefitting from a larger arsenal of technological and collaborative advances. Add to this more volunteer hours, more intellectual collaboration and expanded outreach and community service, and 2017 was a productive whirlwind, indeed! Thank you for your continued support of our onward and upward momentum.

*Deb*

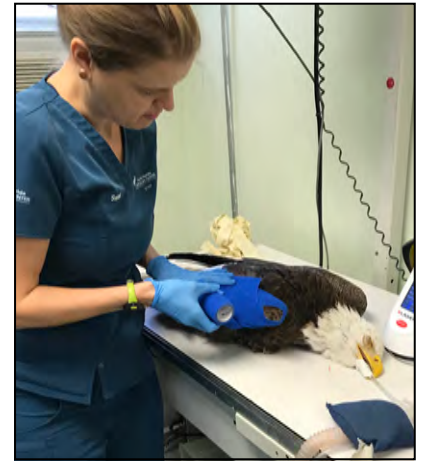




This turkey vulture came to SFWC via our wildlife ambulance with a fractured left wing and made a full recovery.



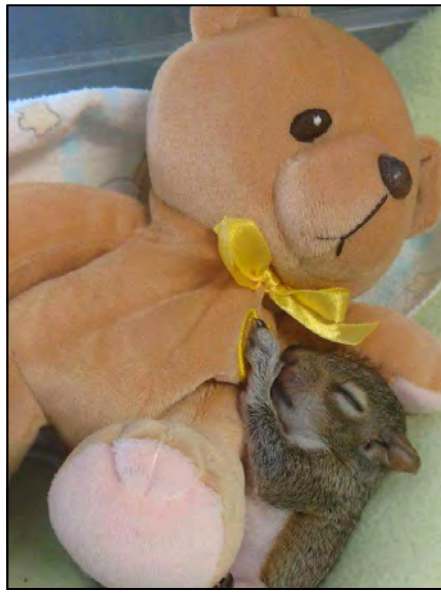
Every year SFWC helps hundreds of orphaned baby animals like this raccoon grow strong enough so they can be released.



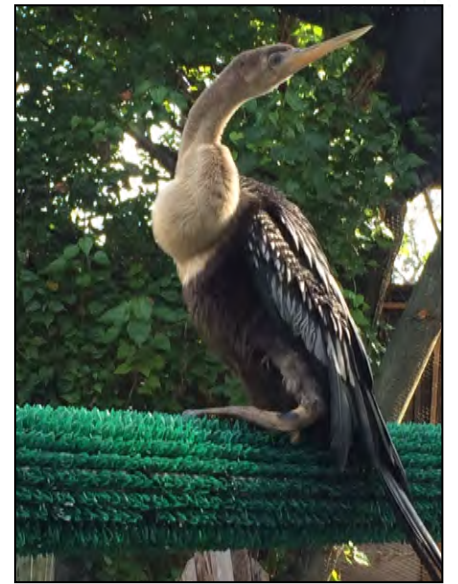
This bald eagle from Palm Beach County had a soft tissue injury, which was healed with laser therapy.



Florida Congressman Ted Deutch visited SFWC after Hurricane Irma and befriended a baby grey squirrel.



This tiny orphaned squirrel found comfort and a nap partner in a plush toy.



This aninga came to us with injuries suggestive of a lightning strike, and made a full recovery.



An osprey with a head injury recovered after cage rest, rehydration and anti-inflammatory medication.



We removed three fish hooks from this pelican and used ultrasound to break up scar tissue so he could fly again.



A group of SFWC volunteers taking an advanced course that teaches rescue and release.

## South Florida Wildlife Center 2017 Financial Information\*

### Revenue

Contributions and bequests	\$2,013,431
Other income	<u>\$1,709,887</u>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$3,723,318</b>

### Expenditures

Program services	\$3,373,682
Management and general	\$ 297,603
Fundraising	<u>\$ 29,903</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,701,188</b>

**End of Year Net Assets** **\$ 273,093**

### Ratios

Program services	91%
Management and general	8%
Fundraising	<u>1%</u>
	100%

\*Preliminary 990 numbers as of April 2018.

### Total Programmatic Efficiency

● Program Services   ● Management and General   ● Fundraising

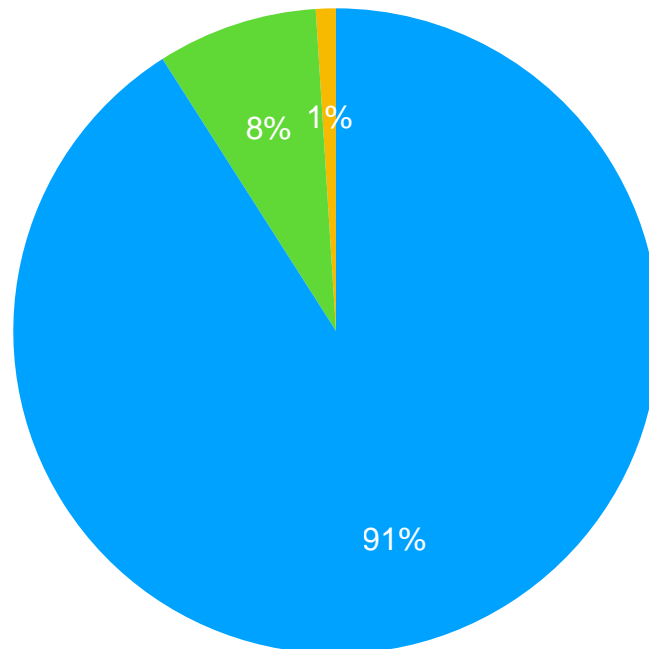
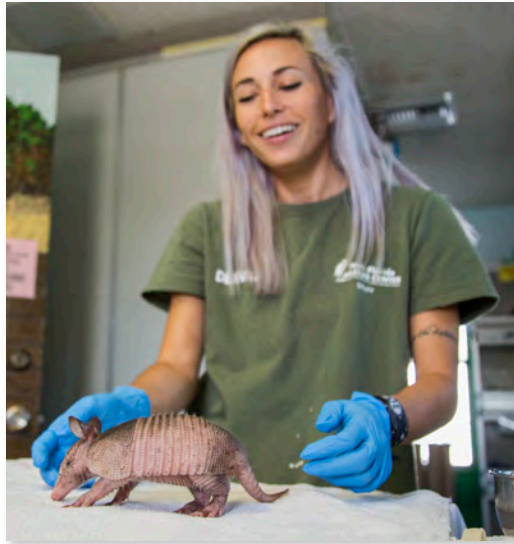






Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Morffiz

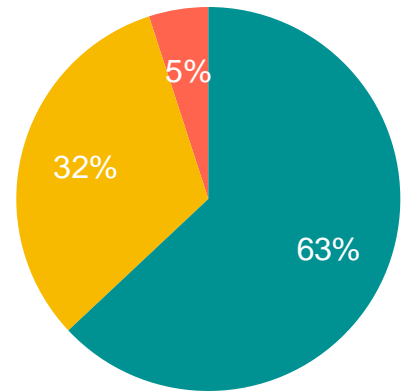
In 2017, SFWC treated approximately 12,000 native and non-native animals in crisis.



**40 staff members**

Including three full-time veterinarians, three full-time wildlife rehabilitators, and a team of veterinary technicians and animal-care specialists.

● BIRDS ● MAMMALS ● REPTILES



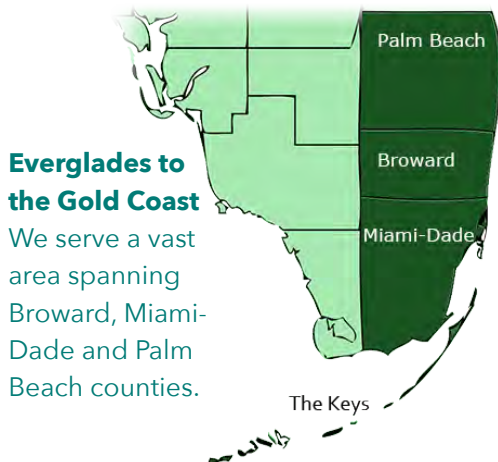
**85,000 miles traveled**

Our Rescue & Release vehicles raced to help imperiled and injured animals.



**Over 300 volunteers**

Our wonderful volunteers and professional students logged 22,800 hours, valued at more than \$551,000.



**Everglades to the Gold Coast**

We serve a vast area spanning Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.



**Nursery babies**

We care for thousands of baby animals every year until they are strong enough to be released.





Learn more about our work or become a volunteer  
[www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org](http://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org)



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
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**SFWC is 100% donor funded.**  
Please consider a planned or major gift to help us  
continue saving South Florida's wildlife.

**We're growing and we need your help!**  
Watch for an exciting announcement about  
our plans soon!