

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Saving our wildlife, one life at a time

FEATURES INCLUDE: IMPACT SUMMARY, A RINGTAIL RESCUE,
FINANCIAL REVIEWS & MORE

A photograph of two Japanese raccoon dogs (tanuki) standing on a wooden platform. They have thick brown fur, white chests, and dark faces with white markings around their eyes. They are looking towards the camera. The background shows a chain-link fence and some greenery.

It's not enough to love animals;
we must also actively protect and
preserve them. It's our duty and
responsibility as custodians of
this planet.

DAPHNE
SHELDRIK



LEADERSHIP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Coppersmith: Board Chair
Linda Searles: Executive Director
Paul Diefenderfer
Raandi Morales
Fairfax O'Riley
Dr. Nick Robl
Michelle Burns

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Linda Searles: Founder and Executive Director
Kim Carr: Animal Care Manager & Assistant Director
Khymberly Lewus: Clinic Manager & Veterinary Technician
Robyn Moul: Lead Education Specialist
Jamie Haas Oliver: Marketing and Development Manager



*Cover Photo: Spock, one of our long term sanctuary residents.
Page 3: Fern, one of our sanctuary resident beavers.
Photos by Kris Wheaton.*

Dear Friends of Southwest Wildlife,

Thank you for all you've generously shared with the animals last year. We welcomed seven new staff members to the team, expanded our volunteer base, and launched the Don Coyote Society, Southwest's leadership giving group. We maneuvered the mundane paperwork and managed change all year while continuing to rescue, rehabilitate, and release Arizona's precious wildlife.

You got us through the summer scare of the Diamond Fire. You supported orphaned Bengal tiger Indy through her infancy and early childhood, saving her from a treacherous life as a "pet."

You rallied around all of the new sanctuary residents – Echo and Dash the mountain lions, Chi the coatimundi, Fern the beaver, to name a few – and provided them a safe home. You cheered on the hundreds of rescued animals as they healed, grew, and returned home to the wild.

I can hardly believe 2024 marks our 30th Anniversary of saving wildlife. As you leaf through these pages, know in your heart that we would not be here without you. It is only with the support, compassion, and love of our community that Southwest Wildlife endures.

From the Board Chair

On behalf of the SWCC Board of Directors, thank you for another year of supporting Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. Animals in need have a safe place to go, heal, and return to the wild if they can – all because you care.



2023 marked another year of change and growth for us. We spent time carefully enhancing staff and volunteer functions to ensure sustainability and scalability as we make plans for our new home at McDowell Mountain Regional Park. We welcomed new board members Nick Robl, D.V.M.; Michelle Burns; and Raandi Morales. We celebrated our rescues and releases, and mourned our goodbyes for several of our long-time sanctuary residents.

It's true, the only constant is change. But thanks to you, one thing never will: Southwest Wildlife will be here in Maricopa County saving wildlife, one life at a time.



From 1994 to today, every animal saved, every success story told, and every child who learns to love animals on a sanctuary tour is all thanks to you.

Sincerley,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Searles".

Linda Searles
Founder, Executive Director

Our mission and vision for a state where people and wildlife coexist will guide us as we expand our facility, our capacity, and our community so all of Arizona can enjoy the privilege of living in such a beautiful place. Future generations deserve to glimpse a bobcat in the wild, ready to pounce. They deserve to hear the song of coyotes under the desert stars.

Because you care, they will. I look forward to a bright future together, and can't wait to see what tomorrow will bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sam Coppersmith".

Sam Coppersmith
Board Chair

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THE DON COYOTE SOCIETY



To recognize your commitment to wildlife conservation, we organized the Don Coyote Society as the premier donor affiliation with Southwest Wildlife. This sustaining group of Southwest Wildlife's most loyal friends provides mission-essential funds for our rescue team, the wildlife hospital, rehabilitation program, and a release structure that returns animals to the wild where they can thrive on their own as part of a vital ecosystem.

Don was the first sanctuary resident of Southwest Wildlife way back in 1994. He came to our founder, Linda Searles, as an orphaned pup with no place to turn. Linda saw a need and rose to meet it – and thanks to your compassion and generosity, Southwest Wildlife continues rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing animals year after year.



The Don Coyote Society is the leadership group committed to sustaining and growing Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. Annual gifts of \$1,500 and higher secure membership as a Don Coyote. For all giving levels, member benefits focus on experiences visiting the sanctuary and getting to know the animals you love. Southwest Wildlife simply could not operate without support from our Don Coyotes, so thank you – all of you! – for your annual commitment to sustain our mission to save our wildlife, one life at a time.

If you'd like to know more about joining the Don Coyote Society, visit southwestwildlife.org/donate, call our Development Office at (480) 881-5535, or email us at dcs@southwestwildlife.org.

OUR DEDICATED ANNUAL GIVERS

Maura Keller and Nevin Deppen
Andrea Andersen
Isabel Arnone
Marion and Bob Auray
Penelope Baker
Dale Balvin
Alan and Karen Barry
Janice Bergmann
Gail Bliss
Sue Borman
Mary Bradley
Anita Broeren
Sandra Brown
Perry & Kimberley Brush
Suzanne Buerger
LoriAnn Busse
Michele and James Capron
Sandra Carroll
Barbara and Roger Carter
Barb Cecrle
Rachel Chulew
Jeffrey and Melanie Close
Irene Cohen
Marcia Colpas
Sam Coppersmith
Gail Costello
David Crabb
Thomas Crews
Michele and Cliff Crooks
Rosemary Cudzewicz
Peggy Kavookjian and David Nora
James Davis
Kathryn S Davis
Paul Diefenderfer
Rich and Bashi Doyle
Robert Dudacek
Kathy Duncan
Michelle Edwards
Beverlynn and Steven Elliott
David Fahey
Mark Fairhead
Gregory and Deanne Falls
Bert and Betty Feingold
Marleigh Fletcher
Janet Forman
Ernest Fujimura
Linda Garrett
Deeann Gibbons
James Gordon
Debbie and Leon Gross
Sharon and Tony Guastella

Darlene Hagan
Keith Halliday
Sue Halvorsen
Marc Hapke
Florence and Darrell Harding
Myra Hickey
James and Anna Hoag
Sharon and Jeffrey Hotham
David and Gwen Huck
Margaret and Alan Hunt
Barbara Irwin
Marianne Jensen
Susan Josephson
Timothy and Robin Kaehr
Diana and Mark Kirk
Joanne Klonoski
Michael and Joanne Klonoski
James E Kopp Jr.
Henry Krautter
Ada Lang
Linda LeBlang
Coleen Lehman
Donna and John Leipold
Peter and Sheila Levy
Kathryn Lincoln
Ralph Lipfert
Carol and Joseph Lizzadro
Catherine Long
Patricia MacAllen
Kathryn and Richard Madison
Bradford Manatt
Luis and Sara Mangas
Georgette McConnell
Leika Cooke McNally
Alicia Meling
Katharine Messenger
Duane and Margaret Morse
Janis Nelson
Wayne Nelson
Robert Nyman
William and Suzanne Oelman
Deborah OKeefe
Dorothy Oremus
Timothy and Beth Parker
Peggy Patrick Wingate
William and Bettye-Lynn Pollard
Doris Marie Provine
Alice and Frank Puleo
D J Rael
Renee Ragland
Kinsey Rawe

Tammy Rawe
Marilee Rocca Johnson
Sandra Romanoff
Elizabeth and Robert Rusy
Ronald Sassano
Debby Satter
Brigitte Scanlon
Robert Schall
Marc & Rikki Schmidt
Ellen Schoenbeck
Carolyn Sheley
Louise Short
Robert and Maureen Siefert
Michael Skovran
Catherine Stewart
Kim and Steve Stovall
Courtney and Kevin Streelman
Laurie and David Sutherland
Katherine Thornton
Vincent Valentino
Diane Vaszily
Robert and Janet Vreeland
Bethany Weeby
Ronald Weir
Jacquelyn Westbay
Willard White
Stephania and Bruce Williams
Michael Wilson
Patricia Witek
Daniel Wochos
Thomas Wolf
Kristen and John Wolfe
Darrell and Loreen Wood
Carole and John Wooldrik
Judith and Robert Worcester
Janet Zetah

And those who wish to remain
anonymous



MISSION



RESCUE

Southwest Wildlife operates a 24/7/365 wildlife emergency hotline. We take calls around the clock to answer questions on wildlife, offer wildlife coexistence advice, and refer the community to additional wildlife resources. Our trained team of volunteers communicates quickly to dispatch a rescue volunteer or team of volunteers whenever needed. The animals are then safely transported to our veterinary clinic.

REHAB



Once an animal arrives at Southwest Wildlife, they begin receiving top-of-the-line medical care. This process begins with a thorough intake exam. It is followed up by specialized diet, medication, and wound care as needed. Depending on the animal and their needs, our team of volunteer and staff vets and vet techs complete all surgeries, x-rays, and intensive care within our state-of-the-art clinic. After an animal no longer needs intensive care, they are moved to our rehab area, where they are given ample time to recover without being overly exposed to humans.



RELEASE

We believe wildlife belongs in the wild. Our highly trained animal care staff and volunteers work hard to keep human contact to a minimum – keeping our animals as wild as possible. Once the animal is given a clean bill of health and deemed releasable, our staff and volunteers take them to a safe location to be released.

SANCTUARY



Some animals that come through our doors could not survive in the wild. Many have injuries that prevent them from being released, while others were kept as pets and have imprinted on humans. Non-releasable animals can live out their lives peacefully in our accredited sanctuary. Southwest Wildlife is the only sanctuary in Scottsdale capable of caring for large mammals such as black bears, mountain lions, and endangered Mexican gray wolves. Many of our sanctuary residents live on our tour route, giving us an opportunity to educate the public on these magnificent animals while teaching them how to safely coexist with wildlife.

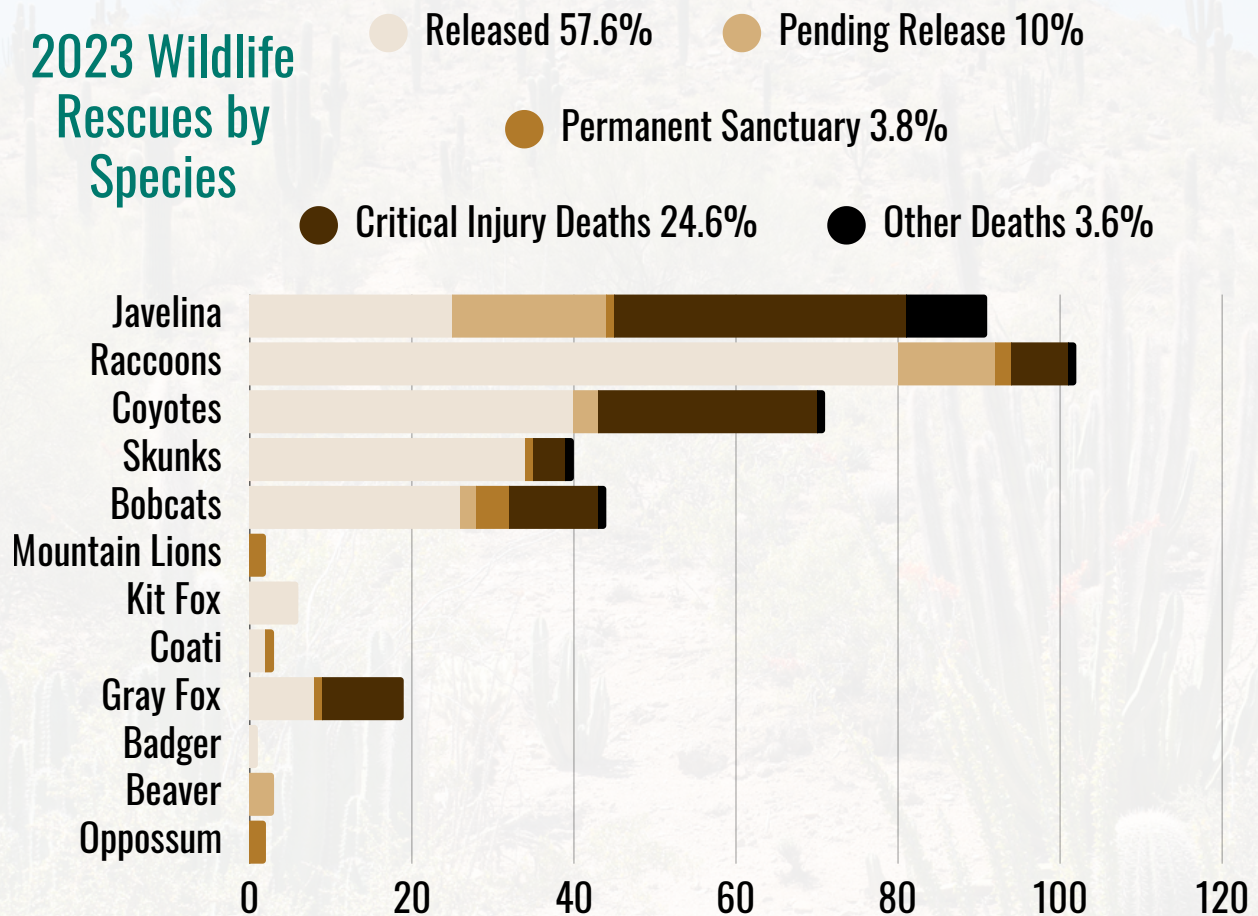


EDUCATION

We believe that knowledge is power. Our vision includes the inspiration of conservation of native wildlife through educational programs, tours, events, and community building. Through onsite, offsite, and virtual programming, social media engagement, and marketing efforts, Southwest Wildlife staff and volunteers work endlessly to teach the public how to safely coexist with wildlife in Arizona.

I M P A C T

2023 Wildlife Rescues by Species



Another astounding year for rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing wildlife in Arizona! In 2023, 385 wild animals were rescued. Of those, 276 were able to be saved through around the clock care, life saving surgeries, and specialized medical and dietary intervention. For those who survived, 222 were released, and 39 were still pending release as of the end of 2023. That brings us to a 90% release rate in 2023 – meaning many wild animals are back where they belong, all because of you.



**Surviving Wildlife:
Released &
Pending Release**

STORIES



So many things have happened at Southwest Wildlife over the past year! From our *busiest* baby season yet, to *five* new sanctuary residents, we can't wait to share the highlights with you.

Read on to see a few of our top stories, including a ringtail rescue, details on our newest sanctuary residents, and a coyote caught in a leg-trap story you don't want to miss.





A Ringtail Rescue



Although this isn't the first ringtail Southwest Wildlife has seen, they are a rarity. Even as Arizona's state mammal, we don't often see them in need of rescue! Thankfully, when a staff member at a saloon in Tortilla Flats found him, they were quick to call Southwest Wildlife.

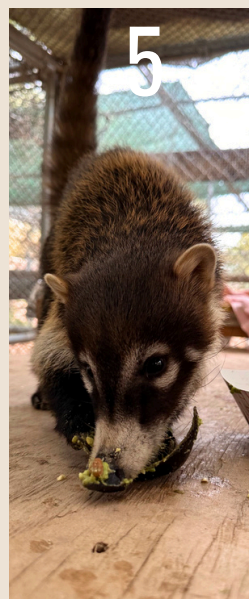
This adventurous little guy was found in a fry-oil disposal container. Although it was mostly empty, the leftover oil mixed with rainwater made it impossible for him to climb out. Once restaurant staff found him, they attempted to rinse off the oil. Unfortunately, the shock from his experience left the ringtail shivering, breathing heavily, and unable to move.

Southwest Wildlife rescue volunteers arrived as quickly as they could. They brought the ringtail to our clinic where he received a warm bath, oil removal, and a full checkup.

He has currently received a clean bill of health and is feeling stronger everyday.

While he recovers, he will receive a specialized diet, medication as needed, and a warm, quiet space to regain his strength.

We are grateful for the wildlife warriors who helped us rescue this ringtail – from our hotline staff to our rescue team, we couldn't do it without you.



5 New Sanctuary Residents



This has been a busy year at Southwest Wildlife! We have welcomed FIVE new sanctuary residents. Check out their stories!

CUBBY

Cubby is a small gray fox born in February of 2023. Someone picked her up thinking she was orphaned, and kept her too long – making her far too friendly with humans.

Due to her imprinting, Cubby lives in the Southwest sanctuary. She is on our tour route and shares an enclosure with Frank and Boots, fellow gray foxes.

Her favorite activities include playing with her fox friends and running through her enrichment tube!

ECHO & DASH

Echo & Dash are the two newest adolescent mountain lions! After being found orphaned in the White Mountains, these kittens came to Southwest Wildlife. Unfortunately, their mother died in a car accident – making them unreleasable with nobody to teach them to be wild.

Over the summer, Southwest Wildlife ran a kitten naming fundraiser – resulting in the names Echo & Dash, almost \$20,000 in donations, and nationwide news coverage. They truly are America's mountain lions!

FERN

Fern was found orphaned at only a few weeks old. Her parents were nowhere to be found, and her sibling already deceased. With nobody to rely on, it was determined Fern needed Southwest Wildlife.

Volunteer Rescuers transported her all the way from Payson, AZ. Upon arrival, Fern was cared for around the clock by our dedicated Animal Care team.

Fern now lives on the tour route in an outdoor enclosure – complete with a pool, branches, and evap cooler for the hot summer months. She has made herself right at home and quickly stolen our hearts!

CHI

Chi is a young coati found in Tucson. After he fell in a cave, Chi's mom was unable to be located. Rescuers attempted to reunite mother and baby for several days, but they were unsuccessful. Chi was taken in temporarily by a wildlife center in Tucson, then transferred to Southwest Wildlife by the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Chi was deemed happy & healthy, and recently transitioned to a large outdoor enclosure where he is thriving! Chi means "energy" in Chinese medicine and culture. It's the perfect name for him – he is always running & playing in his enclosure!



Caught Between a Fence and a Hard Place



In the Fall of 2023, our rescue line got a call from a homeowner in North Central Phoenix – a coyote had entered their yard and gotten stuck between a large planter and their block wall.

The coyote appeared to have an injured leg due to a leg trap – this can be seen in the second photo. Several rescue team members began to coordinate – this scared coyote was truly stuck and appeared unable to get out on his own. Sedation was considered and several volunteers & staff members began to coordinate how to administer the soothing drugs that would allow them to calm the coyote and remove him from the small space.

Our dedicated & experienced team continued to chat and brainstorm while waiting for staff to arrive with sedation drugs. Minutes before they arrived, we all received good news – our brave rescue volunteer had freed the coyote and contained him in a crate!

Miraculously, the leg trap was easy to remove and injuries appeared minimal. After a thorough check up at our clinic, this coyote was cleared as releasable and returned near his friends & family.

This happy ending is a pleasant surprise and a bold reminder – it's time to stop using leg traps.

COMMUNITY

2023 was the busiest year yet at Southwest Wildlife! We saw many guests we hadn't seen since before the pandemic and reached many new local communities and travelers alike for visits to the sanctuary. Many of our events sold out, our social media following grew, and we reached record numbers of volunteer impact.

10,649

Sanctuary
Visitors

18,976

Volunteer Hours
Served

47,431

Social Media
Followers

7,060

Weekly Readers of
Email Newsletters

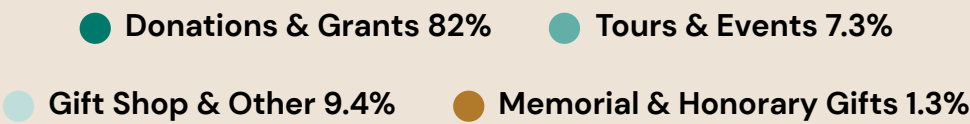
In 2023, Southwest Wildlife's community grew more than ever before. We saw a total of 10,649 sanctuary visitors! Our team was able to improve event and guest processes, and we introduced many volunteers to our event and trail guide teams. Our volunteers were hard at work – serving a total of 18,976 hours! As our in-person community grew, so did our virtual following – we now have a total of 47,431 social media followers and 7,060 weekly newsletter readers. As our community grew, so did our team. Southwest Wildlife added and filled several new positions, as well as specific volunteer roles. We are thrilled with our growth over the past year and can't wait to see what 2024 has in store.





FINANCIALS

2023 Revenue



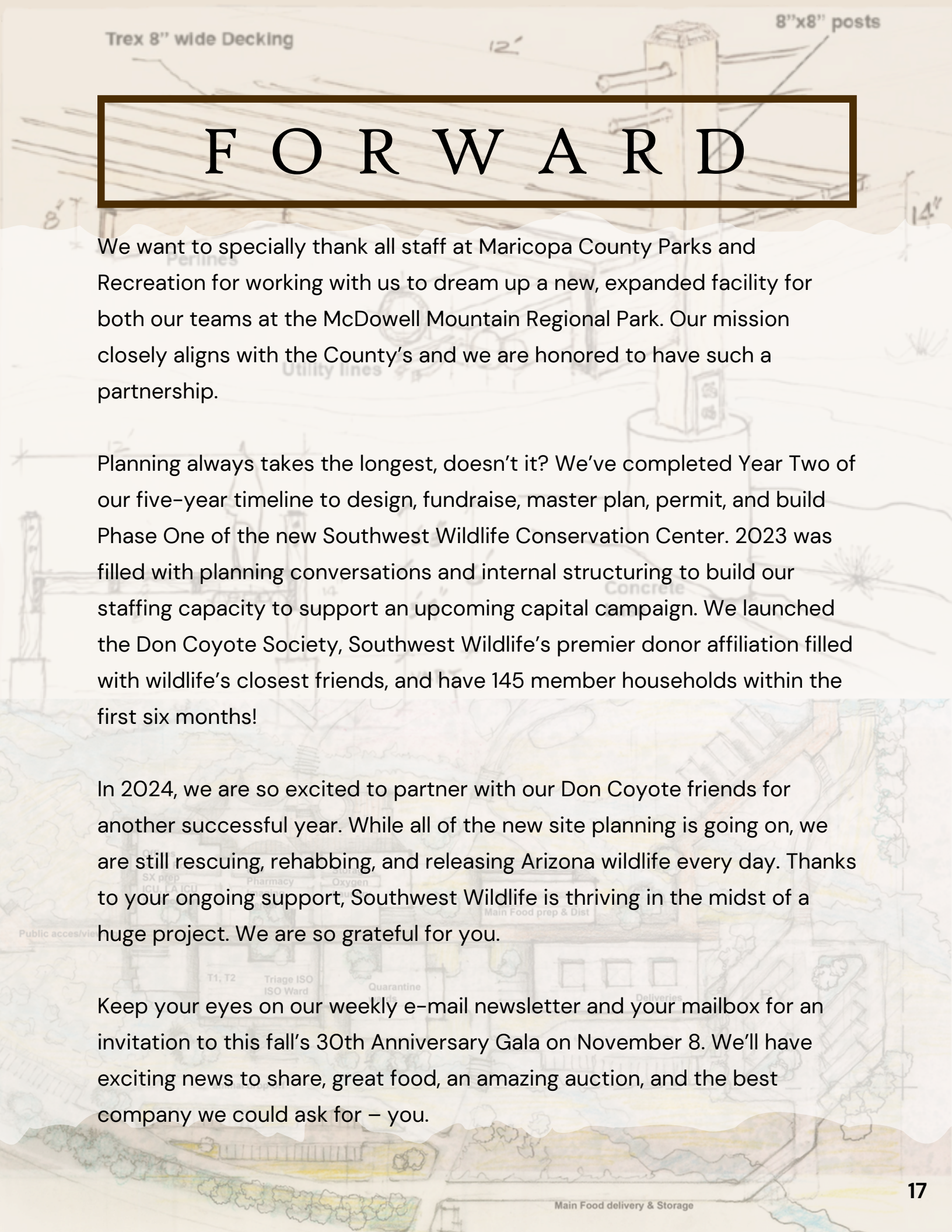
Annual revenue reached an all time high in 2023, exceeding \$4 million for our animals! 83% of our revenue came from generous donors just like you – helping us to rescue, rehab, and release more animals than ever before.

2023 Operating Expenses



2023 showed a slight increase in cost – primarily due to the ever-rising expense of medical care and animal feed. Thankfully, due to our generous donors, we were able to help every animal that came through our doors – no animal was turned away. As always, Southwest Wildlife strives to put the majority of our money towards our animals, with program costs accounting for 79.4% of our annual expenses.

Data on this page is unaudited, and comes from internal financial reports.



F O R W A R D

We want to specially thank all staff at Maricopa County Parks and Recreation for working with us to dream up a new, expanded facility for both our teams at the McDowell Mountain Regional Park. Our mission closely aligns with the County's and we are honored to have such a partnership.

Planning always takes the longest, doesn't it? We've completed Year Two of our five-year timeline to design, fundraise, master plan, permit, and build Phase One of the new Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. 2023 was filled with planning conversations and internal structuring to build our staffing capacity to support an upcoming capital campaign. We launched the Don Coyote Society, Southwest Wildlife's premier donor affiliation filled with wildlife's closest friends, and have 145 member households within the first six months!

In 2024, we are so excited to partner with our Don Coyote friends for another successful year. While all of the new site planning is going on, we are still rescuing, rehabbing, and releasing Arizona wildlife every day. Thanks to your ongoing support, Southwest Wildlife is thriving in the midst of a huge project. We are so grateful for you.

Keep your eyes on our weekly e-mail newsletter and your mailbox for an invitation to this fall's 30th Anniversary Gala on November 8. We'll have exciting news to share, great food, an amazing auction, and the best company we could ask for – you.

V I S I T



WALK WITH WILDLIFE TOURS

You must hear the animals' stories to understand the obstacles wildlife face every day. When wildlife cannot be rehabilitated and released back to the wild, they find a permanent home in our sanctuary. On this standard tour, spend two hours with our Trail Guides for a unique, up-close view of those you saved "one life at a time."

SPECIALTY TOURS & EVENTS

Twilight Tours, Full Moon Tours, and special holiday parties – Southwest Wildlife is the perfect place to celebrate with loved ones. Join us for a seasonal event or enrichment party!

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Come join us as we partner with The Arizona Game and Fish Department to sponsor webinars and in person events! Learn more about Arizona wildlife and how we can coexist safely.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

From kindergarten to high school, Southwest Wildlife hosts field trips for schools, home schools, scouts, camps, and other educational organizations!

For more information on tours & events, visit us at bit.ly/tours-events or give us a call at **(480) 471-3621**.

YOU CAN HELP

DONATE

Join our Don Coyote Society and donate annually, add Southwest to your legacy plan, or sponsor an animal. There are so many ways to give – visit our website and find all the details.

VISIT

Book a tour online, and bring your friends and family! Meeting the sanctuary animals and learning their stories is a life changing experience.

SHOP

Check out our online shop at bit.ly/ShopSWCC or purchase items for Southwest Wildlife through our Amazon Wishlist.

VOLUNTEER

Over 100 dedicated and passionate people rescue, rehabilitate, and release the animals at Southwest. Why not you? Apply at bit.ly/VolunteerSWCC.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow, like, share and comment on our Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok pages @southwestwildlife to help spread the word on wildlife advocacy and stay up to date on happenings at Southwest Wildlife.

For more ways to get involved, email us at swcc@southwestwildlife.org or give us a call at (480) 471-9109.



SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE

CONSERVATION CENTER

8711 East Pinnacle Peak Road
PMB #115
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

You can make a difference in the lives of animals.

Use the enclosed envelope and donate today.

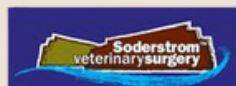


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