



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



www.SCWC.org

An independent 501(c)3 non-profit
providing skilled and compassionate emergency treatment and long-term rehabilitative care
to thousands of injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals annually
– with the goal of releasing healthy animals back “home” in the wild –
and educating the public about the importance of helping, protecting,
and safely co-existing with wildlife





BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

For Second Chance Wildlife Center, Inc. (SCWC), 2024 was another year of great progress and promise for the future. SCWC successfully advanced its mission to provide compassionate emergency and rehabilitative care for wildlife patients on a virtually 24/7 basis. During the year, **SCWC admitted 2,699 wildlife patients (representing 123 species)**, with each receiving expert care and benefitting from donations enabling our team to purchase essential supplies, medications, and specific food for each species' age and medical condition.

We are especially proud of staff leadership which managed each patient with skilled care, and optimized scheduling efficiency and use of available funds, while promoting strong morale during long and often exhausting work shifts. Simultaneously, these leaders dedicated their time and expertise to ensuring that the unique requirements of our new facility being built in Clarksburg, Maryland, were being met by the construction team every step of the way.

Our new facility, funded fully by private donations, is expected to open in October of 2025. Compared to the current 100-year-old farmhouse that SCWC has rented for over 25 years, this facility, custom designed specifically for wildlife emergency care and rehabilitation, will have a clinic building nearly three times larger and pre-release outdoor enclosures providing almost ten times more space.

We are grateful to all who have supported SCWC in its work to care for and heal our precious wildlife neighbors. And, as we move forward in the new facility, we seek continued unrestricted operational support for animal care resources and for expanding our educational outreach to help the public learn to protect and safely co-exist with wildlife.

With gratitude,
Kenneth R. Button





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each member of our all-volunteer Board of Directors is passionate about protecting and healing wildlife and 100% committed to their fiduciary responsibilities in guiding SCWC. Additionally, each brings unique life experience and expertise to support the needs of our special organization.

Kenneth Button, MBA, Ph.D. - Chair

Relevant Expertise: Economist, Business Valuation, Executive Leadership

Janice Hazlehurst - Vice Chair

Relevant Expertise: Project Management, Budget Management, Volunteering for Animal-Centric Non-Profits

Jane Acri, Ph.D - Secretary

Relevant Expertise: Neuroscience Research, Science Education

Carol Barnard, CPA, CFE, MBA - Treasurer

Relevant Expertise: Non-Profit Financial Management & Accounting, Certified Fraud Examiner

Mariana Acevedo, Esq.

Relevant Expertise: Law / Trial Attorney

Harriett Crosby

Relevant Expertise: Environmental Policy & Legislation, Owner: Organic Farm & Learning Center

Susan McCurdy, CMCA, PCAM

Relevant Expertise: Business Leadership, Entrepreneur, Community Engagement

Barry Meil

Relevant Expertise: Entrepreneur, Non-Profit Leadership, Business Development

Charles "Chuck" Szollosy, PE, LEED AP, CEM, GBE

Relevant Expertise: Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing & Fire Protection Engineering, Small Business Leadership

Lucas Webster, Esq.

Relevant Expertise: Construction Law / Attorney



Board member & staff representative at Rockville Science Day



Board members touring new facility progress in late 2024



Board member assisting with baby squirrel feedings



Board member educating people on the importance of trees for people & wildlife



Board members & staff leaders breaking ground for new SCWC Facility



FAST FACTS

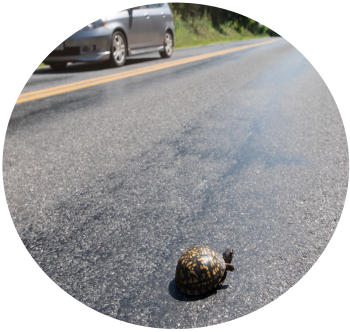
- **Founded in 1995.** SCWC will celebrate 30 years in 2025.
- **Admits over 2,600 patients (120+ species) annually.** While approximately 70% of our patients are found in Montgomery County, Maryland - where SCWC is located – injured, ill, and orphaned wildlife are brought to us from across the state. Some rescuers travel 2-3 hours to reach us, drawn by SCWC's strong reputation and its expertise in treating a variety of species.
- **Small Clinic Staff** includes Clinic Director, Wildlife Veterinarian, Rehabilitation Technicians, and Telephone Hotline/Patient Admissions staff working in shifts over **7 days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays.**
- **Volunteers and college interns** assist with housekeeping, meal preparation, patient weight checks, medical chart updates, some feedings, and some releases.
- **On-site surgery room, X-ray machine, blood analysis kit, microscopes, cold laser machine, and more.**
- **SCWC never charges individuals for services.**
- **Average expense per patient: ~\$250 in 2024.**
- Works with **Federal, state & local health agencies** to identify and track animal diseases that could infect humans.





WHY REHABILITATE?

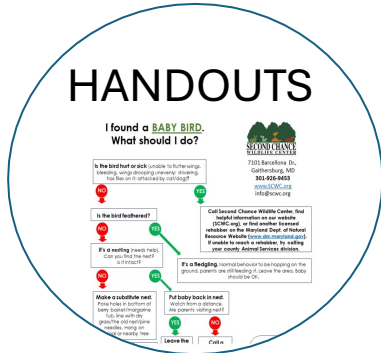
- Since 1970, **50% of the World's wildlife species populations have disappeared.***
- **Commercial and residential development continue to expand** - destroying habitat, displacing wildlife, and increasing negative encounters with humans that often result in injury or death to the animals (collisions with automobiles & lawnmowers, nest destroyed by tree trimming and/or tree removal, window strikes, etc.).
- **Ecosystems are out of balance.**
- **Misunderstood animals are important to save, too:**
 - **Opossums** eat thousands of ticks (helping to prevent the spread of Lyme disease).
 - **Bats** consume pesky mosquitos.
 - **Vultures** prevent the spread of disease from roadside animal carcasses and other waste/trash.
 - **Snakes** are a natural form of rodent control.
 - **Snapping Turtles** keep waters healthy by consuming dead fish and other decaying material.
- **Every healthy native and migratory animal we can return to the environment is a win for people and wildlife!**





EDUCATION: A KEY PART OF OUR MISSION

- We respond to ~8,000 telephone calls and emails annually from people across the country seeking our expert advice on animal rescue situations, animal behavior, and more.
- Our **social media platforms, brochures, videos, email blasts, newsletters, and website** provide important information about safely co-existing with wildlife, simple tips people can do at home to avoid injuring wildlife, and more. Our Facebook page, alone, reaches over 32,000 people.
- **Staff & Board members participate in educational presentations** to community organizations, schools, businesses, at science fairs, and more.
- **SCWC's College Internship Program** provides hands-on experience and expert mentorship to students considering careers in wildlife rehabilitation, biology, veterinary medicine, environmental science, etc.
- SCWC's President serves on the **Montgomery County, Maryland Animal Services Advisory Board** and its **Community Outreach Subcommittee**.
- **We educate through the media.** SCWC and its messaging have been featured on/in: WUSA-TV, WASH 97.1FM, Bethesda Magazine, Frederick Magazine, The Washington Post, and more.





ACCREDITED AND REPUTABLE...

- **501(c)3 Charitable Organization in “Good Standing”** per Maryland's Secretary of State.
- **In 2024, SCWC achieved the highest ratings possible from independent charity evaluators Candid/GuideStar (Platinum rating) and Charity Navigator (4 out of 4 stars).**
- Audited annually by independent agency (currently Linton, Shafer, Warfield & Garrett). Selby & Poulin CPAs provide annual tax filing services and monthly financial bookkeeping reviews.
- Licensed to operate under **permits issued annually by the state of Maryland and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.**
- Fully Insured for **General Liability, Cyber Security, D&O, Employment Practices, and Workers Comp.**
- Board approved, and staff implemented, policies address Non-discrimination, Document Retention, Non-retaliation, and Conflict of Interest avoidance.
- **10 Person All Volunteer Board of Directors:**
Backgrounds in Law, Science, Environmental Policy, Economics, Business Leadership, Engineering, Project Management, Non-Profit Accounting, Construction, Community Association Management, and more. Each has a passion for saving wildlife and considers their Fiduciary Responsibilities first and foremost. They file Annual Conflict of Interest Statements & Board Responsibility Acknowledgement documents.

Board Committees: Executive, Finance, Fundraising & Construction.

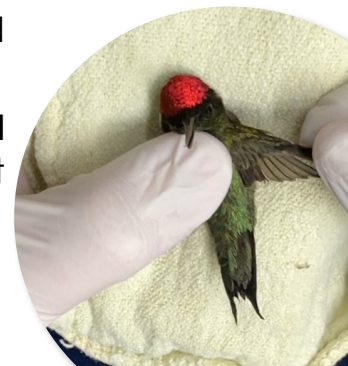
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ACCREDITED AND REPUTABLE...(cont'd).

- **Experienced Non-Profit/Business Leadership:**
Staff President, Maureen Smith (serving SCWC Oct. 2018 – present):
 - Former President: Jane Goodall Institute
 - Former Senior Executive: National Wildlife Federation
 - Former EVP/GM: Animal Planet TV
- **Clinic Director & Wildlife Veterinarian:** 30+ years combined wildlife care experience at licensed facilities in 8 states.
- **Animal Care Technicians:** Degrees include Biology, Wildlife Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science, and more. Prior roles at other animal care facilities (including the Smithsonian National Zoo), as an Animal Services officer, and volunteering or interning at SCWC and elsewhere.
- **Employee Handbook** and **Standard Operating Procedures Manual** updated and required reading annually.
- SCWC is a member of the **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**, **National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association**, and **Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**.
- **Recipient of State and County proclamations** honoring SCWC for providing outstanding service to the community.
- Member **Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce** and **Germantown-Gaithersburg Chamber of Commerce**.
- Formal partnership agreement with **Montgomery County Animal Services** to provide care for wildlife that the County doesn't have the resources to provide.





...AND BELOVED

"Thank you for existing. Your care for – and support of – local wildlife is priceless." – D.F.

"Thank you for helping injured wild animals. I have appreciated being able to call you when needed." – J.B.

"Thanks for the good work you do. Those who help the helpless are the unsung heroes of our world." - S.H.

"We will be counting Second Chance Wildlife Center Staff and Volunteers when we count our Christmas Blessings! - D.D.

"I love Second Chance Wildlife Center. What you do is incredible and I hope this donation can help you to help more animals in need."- B.R.S.

"We love what you do for wildlife. Thank you for your hard work!" - L.Z.

"Thank you for all that you do for the precious wildlife that surrounds us."- K.B.

"Thank you for the invaluable service you provide." - J.P.

"You are all the greatest."- E.N.

"Thanx for all the hard work protecting animals and birds! We now know how really hard it is." - Anonymous





A NEW HOME FOR SECOND CHANCE



Artist's rendering of future clinic building

- **Under construction at: 26400 Haines Road in Clarksburg, MD. Expected Opening: October 2025.**
- **Land was purchased in full for cash in 2018. No mortgage.**
- **SCWC has been renting a small, aging farmhouse from Montgomery County Park & Planning for 20+ years.**
- **\$5.4M+ project** with customized designs for rehabilitation: X-ray room, individual room climate controls and lighting for different species, more and larger outdoor enclosures. Main Clinic building increasing from 1,700sf today to 4,990sf at new facility, plus expanded outdoor enclosures.
- **All funds have been raised via PRIVATE sector. No Government Funds. No loans.** Active fundraising for this project is reflected in our Audited Financials as assets and cash. Those funds (excluding operational fund and reserves) will be depleted as construction continues toward completion in late 2025. The need for operational funds is ongoing.



Current building. 100+ years old. Only 1,700 sf. Never intended for wildlife rehabilitation.



New Facility Surgical Tables & Lights in New Facility Exam/Treatment Room

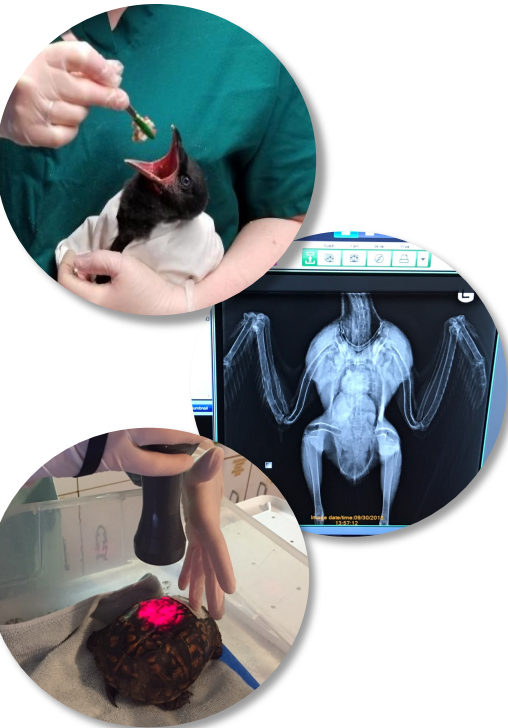


Outdoor Enclosures Being Built on the 8+ Acre Property



ESSENTIAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES:

- **Species-specific foods.** Live insects and fish, nuts, formulas, fresh fruits & vegetables.
- **Medications and Vitamins.** Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory & pain medications, hydration fluids, and oxygen are used daily; others are acquired and used as needed.
- **Operational Necessities:** Business insurance, utilities, annual permit fees, computers & printers, cleaning supplies, biohazard waste removal, financial service fees, payroll & payroll taxes, patient databases & bookkeeping software, etc.
- **The Wildlife Rehab field has a high turnover rate due to the hours, traditionally low pay, and stress of the job. We have focused on attracting, training, and retaining high-quality Staff** via competitive wages, health insurance, continuing education & training, career growth opportunities, how we approach scheduling shifts, and more. This has resulted in greater retention and maximizing our investment in recruiting and training.
- **Medical Equipment & Supplies.** Repair or replacement of X-ray machine and accessories, cold laser therapy system, blood panel analysis kits, surgical lights, microscopes, incubators, refrigerators and freezers, and more. Bandages, splints, surgical tools, syringes and needles, feeding tubes. Surgical masks and gloves, etc.

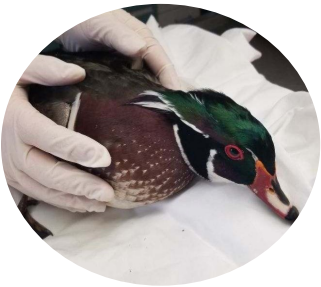
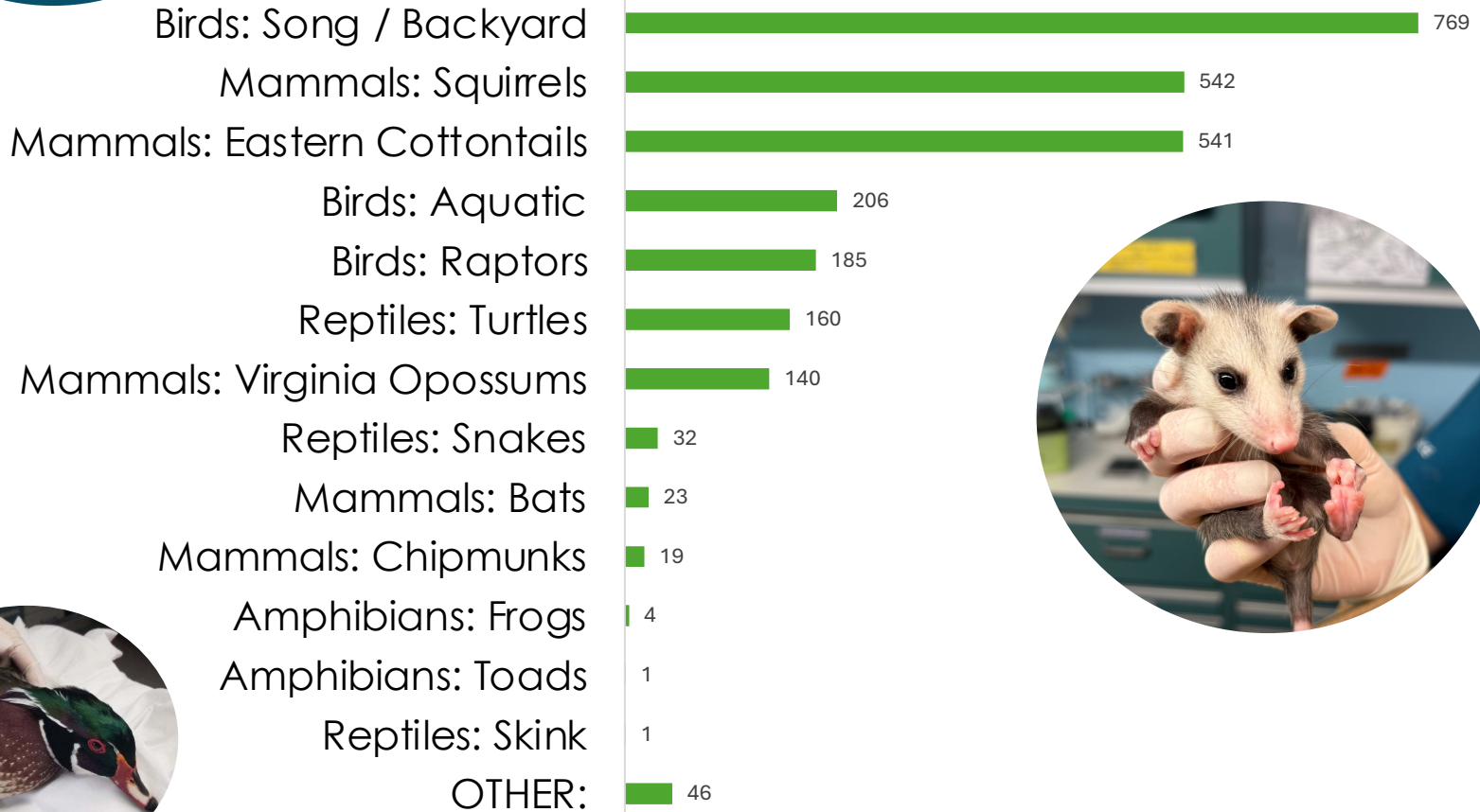


Whenever possible, SCWC seeks donated or discounted supplies, equipment and services. The need for fresh produce and "live" food items requires having cash resources on hand to purchase these essentials as needed.

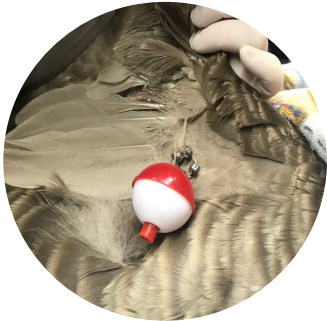
The costs of these essentials continue to rise. With expanded capacity for patients at the new center, our expenses for these essentials will increase even more. Your support is critical to our ability to continue to provide life-saving resources.

2024 PATIENT STATISTICS: ADMISSIONS

123
SPECIES



2024 PATIENT STATISTICS: REASON FOR ADMISSION





For example, many people don't realize that most of the bird species they see in their backyards require dramatically different nutrition and care. Some are seed eaters. Some eat insects and prefer food that wiggles. Some nest up high, some down low. Some are migratory and need to be rehabilitated and on their way before seasons change, etc. Differences abound in anatomy, resilience, diets, and more across the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that we treat. Rest assured, our team is well-educated and prepared for all.





2024 AUDITED FINANCIALS

(Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/24)

SCWC Leadership, including the Board Finance Committee, works diligently to protect its assets via investment diversification, monthly and annual financial reviews, frequent vendor evaluations, and business insurance policies. SCWC Financials are audited annually by an independent, licensed third-party accounting firm.

Active fundraising for our new facility construction project is reflected in our Audited Financials as assets and cash. Those funds (excluding operational funds and reserves) will be depleted as construction continues toward completion in late 2025. The need for operational funds is ongoing.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets	431,141
Property & Equipment	4,505,572
Investments	3,039,555
Total Assets	7,976,268

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	209,929
Net Assets - without donor restrictions	5,652,147
Net Assets - with donor restrictions	2,114,192 *
Total Net Assets	7,766,339
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	7,976,268

* Restricted to new building fund

SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program	647,572	79%
Management & General Admin	98,048	12% **
Fundraising	71,597	9% **
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	817,217	

** SCWC's construction project has required extra administrative work and fundraising

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Donations & Grants	1,544,732 ***
In-kind Donations	14,175 ****
Investment Income	189,938
Donated Stocks	504,790
County Animal Services Contract	88,986
Product Sales (portable mew)- Net	1,500
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	0
Total Income	2,344,121

*** Includes \$271,009 in restricted donations, primarily for the new facility building fund

**** In-kind donations consisted primarily of construction legal services



GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE



HOW YOU CAN HELP WILDLIFE BY SUPPORTING SECOND CHANCE

No two days are alike at Second Chance. Fresh foods, clinic supplies, and medications can be very costly, and produce and some medicines spoil or expire over time and cannot be purchased in bulk. Financial contributions are always preferred as they provide us with the ability to quickly acquire specifically needed items regardless of which animals arrive at our door and what their specific needs are.

Financial Contributions

Financial Contributions through September 2025 can be mailed to Second Chance Wildlife Center, 7101 Barcellona Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20879. Donations via credit card can be made anytime on our website www.SCWC.org/donate.

Ask your employer to include Second Chance Wildlife Center in its corporate matching or giving program, or to offer a grant to SCWC.

Workplace Giving

If participating in a United Way campaign, designate your gift to #8901. Use #65923 for CFC.

Ask friends to donate to SCWC instead of buying you a traditional gift for birthdays, weddings, graduations, etc. Many suggest donations to SCWC in lieu of flowers for funerals.

On a daily basis, we need cleaning products, postage stamps, office supplies, towels, black-and-white newspaper, as well as gift cards for groceries (Giant Foods) and gas (for driving animals to be released across the state). A list of the specific items we need is updated frequently on our website. Individuals or businesses can bring these items directly to our facility (please be sure to call us at 301-926-9453 in advance).

Donations Instead of Presents

Local places of worship, scout troops, and schools have been successful in hosting donation drives to provide SCWC with needed supplies. It's easy!

If you are more than 70.5 years old and have an IRA, speak with a tax or financial advisor to see if making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can benefit you and Second Chance.

Include SCWC in your estate planning.

Contact us at Info@SCWC.org for more information on any of the items listed above.

Estate Planning

Host a Donation Drive

Consider Making A QCD



RETURNING HEALTHY ANIMALS BACK HOME TO THE WILD IS THE BEST PART OF OUR WORK



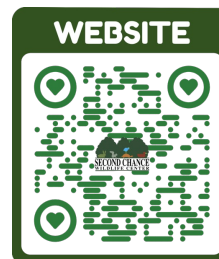
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52-1927600



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For more information
Email us :
Info@scwc.org