



WILDWOODS

501(c)(3)
The Northland's regional wildlife rehabilitation facility

Dear Wildwoods Friends and Supporters,

Baby season is just around the corner, but first, we would like to share with you our 2020 annual report. These pages will recap 2020 with reflections, highlights, financial information, and outcomes from our work this past year. We are delighted to share this information with you and thank you for everything you did to make sure that we could do what we do best.

Reflections in a time of shared hardship

Our work must be placed in a broader context; everything we do when it comes to the struggle for life is connected, and if we do not see ourselves as part of a broader whole, then we risk having our work be in vain. It is inconceivable to write about our experiences at Wildwoods last year and fail to mention what was happening in the world around us.

A year ago today, we held our first ever open house. Little did we know that one week later, none of us would be having face to face meetings or events, and workplaces would close with schools following close behind. Wildwoods delayed our opening by two months as we watched COVID-19 roll through our communities and learned what we would need to do to adapt to the new reality. Two days after we opened in May, George Floyd was killed, sparking a reckoning on race that is sorely needed, and plunging communities into protest to affirm their right to life and the absolute necessity of eradicating racism and white supremacy.

Against this backdrop, Wildwoods continued its mission of working with injured, diseased, and orphaned animals. We admitted 1,296 animals into our facility and served over 2,500 people this past year. These lived experiences encouraged us to work even harder to do our part in making the world a more just and equitable place.

Wildwoods in 2020

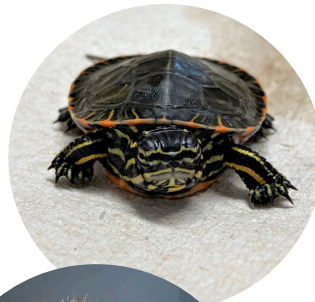
When we look to nature and the wildlife therein, some people see resources, others see a playground, and yet others have the sense that nature and wildlife exist beyond us, that they have an intrinsic value separate and apart from their relationship to humans. Whatever our views and choices, one thing is for certain; humans have a tremendous impact on the lives of the animals with whom we share space.

During the past 18 months, we brought on new staff, acquired a new permit, and created a safe working environment so that we could function during the pandemic. By May 2020, we had our metaphorical ducks in a row just in time for the baby influx. Since then, our doors have been open to all wildlife in need, ranging from hummingbirds to eagles to coyotes to salamanders.

Roughly ninety percent of the animals that come to Wildwoods arrive here because of a negative interaction with a human (window hit, car strike, tree home lost due to landscaping or gardening, pet attacks), and we do what we can to mitigate the damage. In other cases, an animal is inadvertently harmed by a well-meaning individual who feels they are looking out for the animal (kidnapping of baby animals that need to remain in place).

Wildwoods steps into these spaces, where animals are injured or orphaned, working to restore the balance by providing a haven for animals that have unwittingly been caught up in our trappings. For those who are beyond repair, we offer a humane passing so that they do not linger in pain. Education is a growing part of our work, and we focus on educating the community on what we can do to protect nature and live with wildlife.

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We had more than 1,500 people call us with questions about animals “in need.” Our conversations with these callers help us and them to determine when an animal does and doesn’t need our intervention and resulted in over 1,200 animals being left alone.

The process of rehabilitation is a communal one: from the person who places the animal in a box, to the one who drives it to Wildwoods, to the staff person that examines it, to the staff and volunteers who care for it daily. We create a community of support for our wild neighbors, forged from the fact that we know, deep in our own selves, that these animals deserve a life free of our intervention and an opportunity to live as they were meant to.

Our Community of Supporters

Wildwoods cannot exist without our community. You have continued to support us through our staff and leadership changes, through our permit issues, and through a very long year. Please look at our financials in this report to see just how you fit in. Individual donors are responsible for

65 percent of our revenue. Each dollar that you put into an envelope, leave in our mailbox, or donate online makes up a portion of that 65 percent. Your dollars, words of encouragement, volunteer hours, care for the animals, and spreading the word on how to share space with nature and her wildlife are inextricably linked to our successes here at Wildwoods. As we move into 2021, we expect an increase in the number of animals we will receive even as we double our educational efforts. As animals continue to lose space to development and recreation, those most impacted will find their ways to our door. With your support we will do everything we can for them, as we have done since 2006.

Please support us in our efforts so that we can continue to be there for you, and for the animals that enrichen our lives.

Kind regards,



Jessica LaBumbard
Executive Director



Animals Served

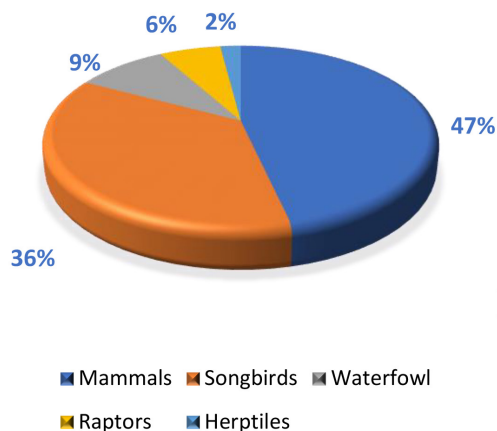
In 2020, we admitted **1,296 animal patients from 130 species**. The eastern cottontail rabbit topped the list (296) followed by the rock pigeon (102), eastern gray squirrel (92) and the American robin (55). The list continues with coyote pups, foxes, fawns, ruby-throated hummingbirds, common nighthawks, ring-billed gulls, mallards, bald eagles, several species of owls, western painted-turtles, and many others!

People Served

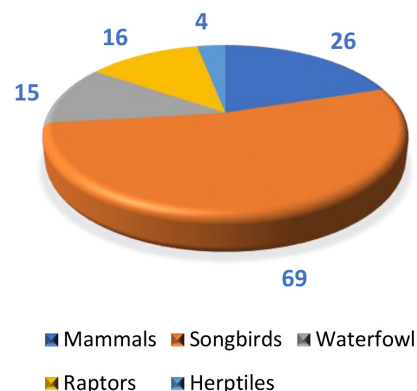
Wildwoods served 2,557 people in 2020:

- 1,050 people brought in animals for care.
- 1,507 people called with animal concerns and questions, with most calls resulting in the animal being left safely in place.
- 170 people participated in our educational programs.

PATIENTS



NUMBER OF SPECIES BY ANIMAL GROUPS



Animal Stories

Dark Morph Rough-legged Hawk

In November we received a call about a bird that looked like a small eagle sitting at the end of a driveway. It was not flying, and the caller was concerned for its safety. One of our dedicated volunteers was able to pick it up from the site and bring it to Wildwoods. We identified the bird as a rough-legged hawk, but it did not look like the other rough-legged hawks that we have seen before. It turns out, this was a dark morph rough-legged hawk! It is the same species, just a different coloration. Dark morphs are not as common as light morph rough-legged hawks, and it is easy to understand why they might be mistaken for a small eagle. Its yellow eyes told us that this hawk was born just this year – as adults, their eyes are dark brown.

During the exam, we found that both the radius and ulna in the right wing were fractured. There was also a wound on the backside of the wing that may have been caused by one of the fractured bones. Staff flushed the wound and bandaged it, making sure the open wound was covered, then applied a body wrap to help keep the fractured bones in place and prevent further damage to the wing. The rough-legged hawk was transferred the next day to The Raptor Center in St. Paul, MN, where they were able to take radiographs and plan the next steps in its treatment. They determined that the fracture was approximately 10 days old. They performed surgery on the wing, inserting pins to help the radius and ulna heal correctly. The hawk was also anemic due to blood loss, and it was able to get a blood transfusion from a red-tailed hawk during surgery!



Great Horned Owl

Our volunteers are so important to our organization! Long-time volunteer Elda holds a great horned owl that she retrieved at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The owl was found by a maintenance worker, huddled in a doorway, barely able to move. Unsure of what the problem was, they called us. Elda brought the owl to Wildwoods where we completed an exam under the direction of The Raptor Center and arranged for transport the very next day. Raptor Center veterinarians confirmed a diagnosis of lead poisoning and kept it for several weeks for treatment. Once it was good to go, we brought it back to Duluth and released it in its old hunting grounds.



Cedar Waxwings

It takes a lot of work to raise orphaned animals, and that is something we are very good at! These Cedar Waxwings came in two separate batches, but quickly became friends when they joined forces in our incubator. **They were inseparable for their entire time at Wildwoods and were released together.** When the waxwing on the right first came in, we had no idea it would survive. It was the smallest nestling we have ever had, but our staff made a determined effort to keep this little guy going, and they did it!



Thank you to our staff and volunteers for making 2020 a success!

Wildwoods Staff

Wildwoods staff spend their days educating callers, caring for animals in our nursery, providing emergency support for those that need it, and working with our volunteers to provide safe and secure transport to other facilities when necessary.



Volunteers

We could not have near the number of volunteers we needed or wanted last year, but we did have a few! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who transported animals, fed our nestlings, mowed the lawn, built cages, and took on the onerous tasks of doing our laundry and cleaning up after the animals! Our volunteers put in more than 1300 hours of time and effort into helping us this past year.



THANK YOU

DONORS



Charity Partner for Grandma's Marathon 2020



Minnesota Power Foundation

Four Cedars Environmental Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

Hegardt Family Foundation

Cloquet Riverside Recycling

Economy Garages, Inc.

UMD Graphic Design Seniors

...And a heartfelt thanks to the more than 750 individuals who have donated to us!

2020 Financials

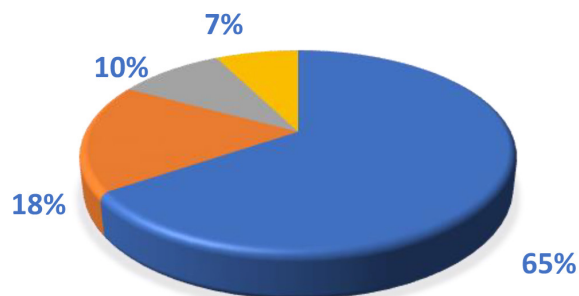
January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Revenue: \$193,916*

Expenses: \$192,734

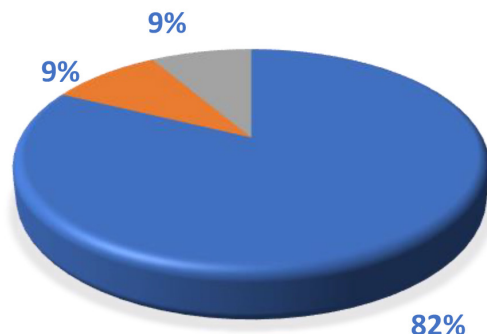
** Reported revenue is \$268,916 due to a donor forgiving a \$75,000 loan made in 2015.*

2020 DONATIONS BY SOURCE



■ Individuals ■ Grants
■ Events/Fundraisers ■ PPP Income

2020 EXPENDITURES



■ Program ■ Management ■ Fundraising

Baby Shower 2021!

It is time for our annual baby shower as we prepare for the arrival of spring babies. Please visit our website at <https://wildwoodsrehab.org/support-wildwoods/donate-items/> to find the link to our baby registry.

How can you help?

There are several things you can do to support our work!

- **Make a donation** using the enclosed envelope! Your funds go a long way to helping us provide this care and support to our local wildlife.
- **Use Amazon Smile** for your online purchases, and name Wildwoods as your charity of choice for donations!
- **Order some Wildwoods swag** here: <https://wildwoods.itemorder.com/sale>. A portion of the proceeds goes to us.
- **Save those aluminum cans!** You can drop them off at Wildwoods, B&B Market in Cloquet, or Cloquet Riverside Recycling. Proceeds from these cans benefit Wildwoods!
- **We are always looking for transport volunteers.** Let us know if you can give a lift to a sick or injured animal that needs to go to another rehabber.



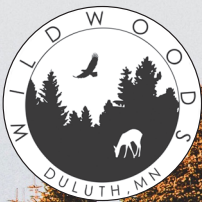


Wildwoods
4009 W. Arrowhead Rd
Duluth, MN 55811

Your support makes our work possible!

Donate online at www.wildwoodsrehab.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!



Wildwoods is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Duluth, MN, that accepts orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife.

We rehabilitate orphaned wildlife and return them to the wild while providing emergency stabilization and transfer of injured and sick wildlife to other rehabilitation centers in the state.

Open 365 days a year
Winter: 8 am - 4 pm
Summer: 9 am - 6 pm

www.wildwoodsrehab.org

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