

# Annual Report 2025



It's 1986, you hop into your car and as Lionel Richie streams through the radio, you head home when you accidentally hit something. You pull over, discover it is a barred owl and rush to see that she is still alive. Your first call is to the local animal control officer who can't help but gives you the number to the local veterinarian who shares that they cannot afford to perform medical procedures on animals that don't have owners and they have no training in wildlife handling, anatomy, diagnostics or treatment.

This very scenario is what CFW founders, Dr. Gerry Beekman and State Senator Dawn Hill, observed and it is what inspired their dream of creating both a community resource and healing space for wildlife. In 1986, they engaged the first board members and filed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit. At the time, wildlife rehabilitation was barely a formal field with most people doing this work out of their homes. There were no college degrees in Captive Wildlife Care and Management and the fields of Wildlife Ecology or Conservation Biology didn't exist. Within state wildlife agencies, programs for non-game and endangered species didn't exist and staff biologists were solely monitoring species that were fished, hunted or trapped.

From a trailer with no running water to a state-of-the-art facility, from one barred owl ambassador named Bridget to 450 environmental education programs conducted annually with a team of 28 wildlife ambassadors, from 1 phone call a week to 15,000 annually, and from 100 patients to 2,500 annually we are SO proud to have grown in response to the need for this critical and unique work. We are also proud to be part of a movement helping humans understand that wildlife and environmental health is directly tied to human wellbeing, even if that thread is invisible to most.

This past year, we continued to work towards completing our 11-year, transformational campaign. The third and final phase is completing construction and installation of equipment for 17 new buildings that house 40 outdoor clinic recovery enclosures allowing us to treat up to 3,500 injured and orphaned wildlife. A lot has happened these past 40 years and we look forward to seeing what's in store for the next 40 and beyond!

## Wildlife Medical Clinic:

In the early days, work was conducted from a trailer with no running water. Baby mammals were fed a diet that was not calibrated to match the caloric content and nutritional ratios that each species requires and baby birds were fed with popsicle sticks instead of a specially adapted medical grade syringe. In those beginning days, it is a wonder any animals were released back to the wild, but that speaks to just how strong and resilient wildlife are as well as how determined our team was.



## Environmental Education:

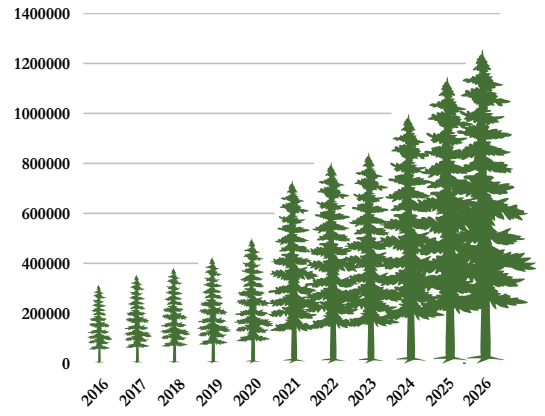
Five years into our work, data showed that nearly 100% of the time wildlife were becoming injured or orphaned due to some kind of human activity. It was quickly realized that if we didn't help our community understand that cutting trees during nesting season destroys local populations, or leaving trash in the roadways attracts prey, and thus predators, to the roads to forage and hunt, we would not do justice to the animals being treated and released. We also knew that if we weren't offering children the experience, the wonder, and awe of being up close with the wild animals they would find in their backyards or feel the scientifically proven boosts in serotonin, dopamine and endorphins that time in nature creates, we would end up with a generation that would not steward its own natural resources. The earliest days of our education programs involved bringing our female barred owl ambassador, Bridget, to a few schools and libraries each year to teach about wildlife rehabilitation and now we have a 28 member ambassador team that presents alongside our Education and Outreach Team to community members of all ages.

# RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

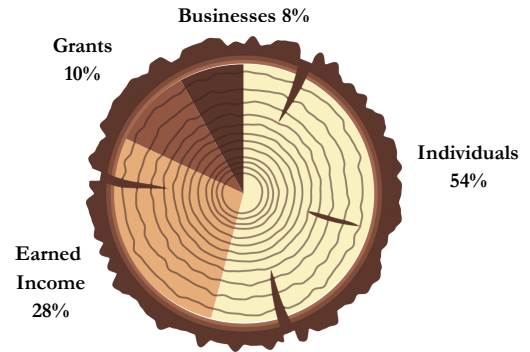
2025 started off with massive government layoffs. As a field that has never received dedicated state or federal funding, it may not seem like this would directly impact us, except that now there is a flood of organizations on the landscape who had been receiving state or federal funding seeking to account for this loss. Combine this with the fact that donors who typically contribute gifts in the \$25-100 range continue to steadily decline ever since COVID 19 and we were slightly worried about securing funding for CFW in 2025. Thankfully, we have worked for 14 years from a strategic plan and associated pro-forma budget because we know that financial health is paramount to our success. Part of our new facility included investing in earned income opportunities such as visitor admissions, birthday parties, rentals, and outreach events. Our goal has been to grow not only the number of people that can visit, connect, and learn about wildlife, but to also ensure we have the ability to generate our own income, and engage with the community at all levels of support. A few highlights of sustainability from the past year that we are particularly proud of:

- Established formalized general operating, debt management, capital needs, operating reserves fund ratios and thresholds which ensures we can weather economic storms, respond to urgent needs and continue to grow our capacity in response to an ever increasing demand for our services
- Added an estate lawyer to our group of advisors who can provide support or insight to donors that are defining their legacy goals through estate and bequest planning
- Sustained our \$1.1M annual operating budget (approximately \$600K for our clinic program and \$400K for our education program) while continuing to grow our endowment and fund our capital construction project

General Operations Budget by Fiscal Year



CFW Giving by Source



## Volunteering in 2025



141 Volunteers



10,884.50 volunteer hours



\$315,170.65 of equivalent staff time

It's no exaggeration to say that without volunteers, the work behind Center for Wildlife's conservation mission would be an impossible task. We are deeply grateful for our dedicated volunteers who make time in their already busy lives to help injured and orphaned wildlife and make environmental education accessible to our community.

### Board of Directors



Eric Cimon



Daniel Thompson



Kimberly Masucci



Sarah Swanson



Kim Davis-Smith



Joe Tucker



Anne Manisic



Tamara Monroe



Charles Potter



Madison Barker

## 2025 Clinic Highlights

- Incubated, hatched, and overwintered 8 critically endangered Blanding's turtles in collaboration with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Contributed more than 70,000 wildlife patient records to enhance biologists recommendations about incorporating wildlife crossings in DOT plans, help discover historical nesting sites for listed species, as well as illustrate the impacts of climate change on species' ranges and nesting seasons
- Supported a staff member who researched and published a journal article on the expansion of nesting seasons for Eastern gray squirrels in the past two decades as a result of rapid climate change, discovering there is potential for adding a 3rd gestation cycle if the current pace of climate change persists



2275 total patients

140 different species: 5 amphibia, 111 aves, 12 mammalia, 11 reptilia

142 towns served

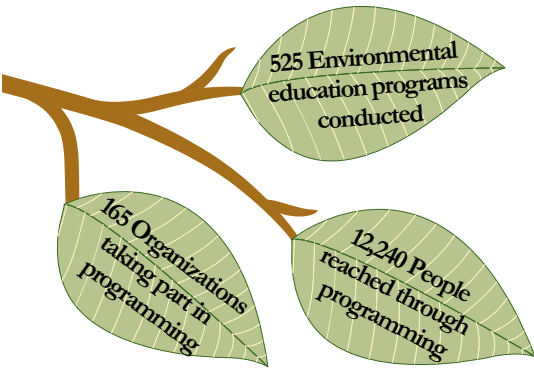


# Education Overview

2025 welcomed a new Education and Outreach Team including a few ambassadors. We were thrilled to welcome Dan Gardoqui, expert naturalist, award-winning educator and registered Maine guide as our new Education and Outreach Director. After partnering for decades with Dan on nature-based programming, consulting with him on bird ID or wildlife track and sign, the stars aligned and we welcomed him to our team in Spring 2025. Joining Dan on the Education and Outreach team are Christian Tobias and Saige-Lyn Gidzinski. Christian is our Schools and Libraries Team Lead working with local schools, home school programs and libraries providing programming alongside our Wildlife Ambassador team and Saige, our newest EO team member serves as a Nature based Educator and Outreach Team Lead ensuring our community partnerships are thriving and our social media accounts are well populated and informative.

## Here are some celebrations from this past year:

- Held our 3rd annual Nature-Based Summer Camp with over 100 campers experiencing 7-hour days screen-free and immersed in nature and local wildlife
- Launched our Eco-Tour Series, bringing participants closer to the land through immersive trips in differing ecosystems and alongside cultures that live very closely to the land
- Expanded the trails on our community campus to help visitors feel comfortable exploring different habitats



## Programs conducted in partnership with:



Schools



Libraries



Municipalities



Land Trusts



And More!



## Community Night



As part of our collaboration with local businesses, we have had the opportunity to co-host community night programs! This past year in 2025, we partnered with OTTO Pizza of Portsmouth for a fundraising pizza night in October! We had a blast getting to know members of the Portsmouth community, enjoying delicious OTTO's pizza, and introducing people to our animal ambassadors!

## Sponsorships

Center for Wildlife is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has never received government funding. This year, we're honored to celebrate new & returning local business sponsors including:

Above the Line Accounting  
Bernier Insurance  
Gideon Asen LLC  
Owen Haskell, Inc  
Red Squirrel Arborcare

Allagash Brewing Company  
East Coast Cannabis  
North & South Construction  
QA Cafe LLC  
SavATree

Sponsor CFW: [www.thecenterforwildlife.org/business-sponsorships](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org/business-sponsorships)

## Ways of Giving



### General Giving

One-time, monthly, or annual giving



### Adopt an Ambassador

Support the care of a CFW non-releasable ambassadors



### Tribute Gifts

Honor a loved one or celebrate an occasion



### Nest Egg

Ensure a sustainable future for wildlife for generations



# Maximize Your Impact!

Did you know? Many donors at all levels are now choosing to amplify giving with a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), a charitable giving account. DAFs are the fastest growing giving mechanism, due to their immediate tax deduction benefits and relative ease of setup. When you contribute cash, stock, or other assets to a DAF, you can also recommend grants to organizations at any time. Donating appreciated securities through a DAF is particularly beneficial, allowing you to avoid capital gains tax.

We have experienced (along with the rest of the US) a decline in \$25-100 donations this year and last. DAFs, planned giving, along with growing our earned income, have helped us not only exist but continue to meet exponential demand for our services. Estate gifts received have also been crucial to helping us weather Covid, major election cycles, and other external challenges. Examples of planned giving include a bequest to CFW in your will or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy. This kind of legacy giving can ensure your passion for our mission will live on for generations.

## The Next 40 Years...

This past year, we have focused on the construction of the final phase of our capital campaign, but an opportunity to expand our community campus while also helping to conserve critical habitat presented itself and we could not pass it up. Thanks to special grant funding, Center for Wildlife purchased an additional 22 acres that abuts our current property and connects us to the larger Mt. Agamenticus Conservation Region. While we are still in the early stages and have not solidified plans for this new acreage, we are excited by the prospect of expanding our community offerings and helping to conserve critical habitat that surrounds our campus. This extension of our campus will help ensure we are poised for the next forty years of creating connections between humans, wildlife and our environment.



### Call of the Wild

Save the Date and join us at our largest fundraising event of the year! Call of the Wild will take place on Thursday, May 14 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at Churchill Barn in York, ME. A night of food, drink, live auction items and fundraising in support of CFW's 40th Anniversary. The evening will be hosted by Judy Camuso, Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and will feature a panel of CFW team members past and present.



### Summer Camp

Join us for a summer of active, nature based learning on CFW's campus. Our Summer Camp is the perfect place for your child to connect with nature, make new friends, and build confidence in a fun, safe environment. For aspiring naturalists ages 5-7 and 8-12. Spaces are limited so be sure to reserve your spot early!

**Weekly Summer Camp Sessions:**  
June 29<sup>th</sup> - August 20<sup>th</sup>  
Monday - Thursday | 9AM - 3PM



### Legacy Donations

Legacy donations make a huge difference in our capacity to treat wildlife and serve our community, helping us not only exist but continue to meet exponential demand for our services. Planned giving such as estate gifts have been instrumental in helping us expand our educational outreach and build new facilities to increase our clinic capacity and broaden conservation efforts over the years. Your legacy gift helps ensure a sustainable future for wildlife for generations to come