

TAKING FLIGHT

CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

6000 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC 28078
carolinaraptorcenter.org | EIN#: 56-1349170

OUR MISSION

To ignite a passion for raptors and a responsibility for our shared natural world.

FROM OUR **BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Carolina Raptor Center Friends,

The Carolina Raptor Center is starting a new chapter, with the strength to soar toward a clear horizon. I'm proud of how far CRC has come and grateful for the dedicated people whose work has brought us to this moment.

This past year, the Board asked hard questions and made thoughtful decisions to strengthen the organization. In partnership with Next Stage Consulting, we sought input from CRC staff, assessed the organization's needs, and sharpened our strategic direction.

That work culminated in the hiring of Gabor Zsuppan as our Executive Director. Gabor understands where we are, has a powerful vision for where we need to go and the expertise to get us there.

As I look back on six years of service, including the last two as Chair, I'm proud of what we have built together. We set a clear course for sharing the wonder of raptors and the importance of their conservation, advancing science education and creating opportunities for more people to connect with the natural world.

It has been an honor to be part of CRC's history, and I look forward to seeing where it soars in the years ahead.



Sincerely,

Sherri D. Belfield
Board Chair 2024 to 2026

IN THIS REPORT

Letter from Our Director.....4

Community.....6

Excellence.....12

Impact.....16

Learning.....20

Stewardship.....22



A LETTER FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Carolina Raptor Center Community,

Like the call from a certain Red-legged Seriema heard within two miles of Carolina Raptor Center, it is crystal clear that CRC finished Fiscal Year 2026 boasting an accomplished legacy, standing on a strong foundation, and leaning into a bright future. As we begin to take steps toward what's next, we are excited to share with you a look back at the past year. Through this Annual Report, we celebrate the many stories, images, and numbers that reflect the accomplishments of our community over the last twelve months.



Organized around our new cultural values of **Learning, Stewardship, Excellence, Community, and Impact,** this Annual Report is imbued with the energy that we are riding from 2026 into 2027 and beyond. These new values were developed by staff, volunteers, and board members, and approved by the Board of Directors in March of 2026. They simultaneously describe who CRC is by highlighting so much of what makes this organization extraordinary. They also challenge us to remember that these are the values that we need to carry forward every single day as they are core to our success and our world-class reputation.

CRC's mission has not changed, and our priorities remain: **raptor rehabilitation, education, and conservation**. But the past year has also brought stability through change, a new direction out of uncertainty, and excitement out of anxiety. It has also given us opportunities to elevate new perspectives and new ideas from a new team of Directors, a renewed commitment to grow our community through







membership and engagement, and the continuity to lead the way for the field while ensuring that we also look to learn and grow. All of this means that CRC is both the same as it's ever been while also seeing the world with new lenses that reveal new opportunities.

Our many engagements offer something new for everyone year after year. As you walk the Raptor Trail, attend our events, sit in on a school program, or join a Hospital Tour, CRC experiences will always aspire to reveal new discoveries and inspiration. Maybe at this year's version of the Summer Bird Show, you take away a new learning about Great Horned Owls from Dumbledore, but also an admiration for the comedic talents of the presenters. Perhaps you add an Owl Prowl or a PhotoWild to your calendar this year to experience our ambassadors and the staff, interns and volunteers that care for them, in a new way. Or you challenge yourself to get a hole in one at our next Birdies for Birdies spring fundraiser!

We hope you find the contents of this Annual Report informative and encouraging. In whatever way you engage with us, we are grateful that we get to do this work and that we get to do it together. And the next time you hear Bash's call on the Raptor Trail, I hope it signals to you the Carolina Raptor Center's undeniable strengths both now and in the future we build together.

Gabor Zsuppan



COMMUNITY

Carolina Raptor Center strives to continuously strengthen our community. This includes our internal community of our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, as well as our broader community of visitors, members, and supporters.



Volunteers from Lowe's Home Improvement assist in replacing a rehabilitation enclosure.



Guests get an up-close look at Bart the Eurasian Eagle Owl during a Meet a Raptor program on the Raptor Trail.



During our Baby Shower, Raptor Tech Rebekah Younger shares how our Raptor Hospital feeds babies.



Families attend an educational program led by Education Manager Keeley Mesler during a Homeschool Day.



Members enjoy an exclusive program featuring Bash the Red-Legged Seriema and Welfare Coordinator Hailey Patton at Member's Night.



Surrey the Barn Owl stars in a news segment about Giving Tuesday on QC Life.



Volunteer Docent Charlie Huff demonstrates an Andean Condor's wingspan during our annual International Vulture Awareness Day event.



Volunteers engage with local residents at the Hello Huntersville Music & Art Festival.



Behavior Coordinator Lacey Sharpe chats with a guest at the 2nd annual Birds & Brews fundraiser.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of June 2026

Sherri Belfield, Chair
Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority

Neil Jonas, Vice Chair
Brock and Scott

Dr. Sarah Fatherly, Secretary
Queens University

Michael Wetmore, Treasurer
Victory Lane Aviation

Matt Campbell
Netrix Global

Riley Clements
DPR Construction

Dr. Michael Feldman
Community Volunteer

Wendi Fleener
Duke Energy

Dr. Katherine Hall-Hertel
UNC Charlotte

Matthew Morgan
Mecklenburg County

Faye Moser
EPRI

Leah Rafuse
Community Volunteer

Dan Tyler
Human Resources Professional

STAFF



Gabor Zsuppan
Executive Director



Colleen Hartman
Director of Ambassador Programs & Education



Sunny Cooper
Director of Raptor Rehabilitation



Rachel Dupree
Director of External Relations

ADMINISTRATION

Ernest Clewis
Property Manager

Kieley Wilson
Finance Manager

AVIAN AMBASSADOR

McKenna Chao
Curator of Birds

Hailey Patton
Welfare Coordinator

Lacey Sharpe
Behavior Coordinator

Claire Stewart
Husbandry Coordinator

Keeley Mesler
Education Manager

Sydney Vaughan
Education Specialist

RAPTOR HOSPITAL

Ron Shema
Hospital Manager

Cas Daum
Raptor Medical Sepecialist

Sydnie Matda
Hospital Manager

Renee Brewton
Senior Raptor Tech

Rebekah Younger
Raptor Tech

Emily Al-Rousan
Raptor Tech

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Maggie Stein
Volunteer Manager

Jessica Pollard
Development Manager

Anna Diebolt
Marketing Coordinator

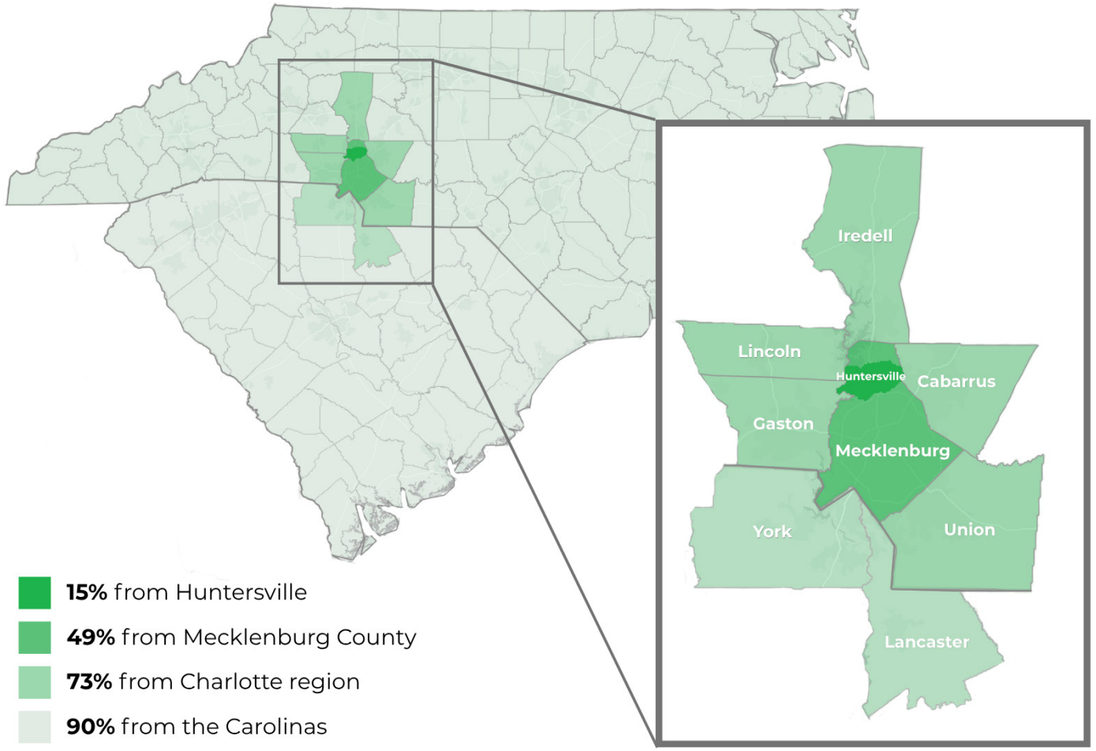
Cooper Mickelson
Visitor Experience Coordinator

Glory Fox
Visitor Services Associate

Sam Lyon
Visitor Services Associate

Raptor Trail Visitors

July 2025 - June 2026



15% from Huntersville

49% from Mecklenburg County

73% from Charlotte region

90% from the Carolinas

A LOCAL PILLAR

For over 45 years, Carolina Raptor Center has served as a vital part of our community. Nestled in the woods of Latta Nature Preserve in Huntersville, we welcome neighbors from our own backyard and throughout the Carolinas to discover the wonder of birds of prey on the Raptor Trail, a zoo featuring more than 25 avian ambassadors from around the world.

From July 2025 to June 2026, **46,612 guests** visited Carolina Raptor Center. CRC remains a staple for local families, with nearly half of guests live in Mecklenburg County andour Huntersville neighbors making up 15% of guests.

The Raptor Trail also brings in guests from across the Carolinas and beyond, further generating an estimated **$848,000 of local economic activity** annually through food, lodging, and other tourism-related expenses.

GROWING OUR COMMUNITY

This year marked an exciting new chapter for Carolina Raptor Center as we **re-launched our membership and major giving programs**, to strengthen our connections with our most dedicated supporters.

Our membership community experienced remarkable growth, increasing **from 480 active members in July 2025 to 900 in June 2026, a 87.5% increase** in just one year. This growth reflects the enthusiasm of our community and the growing number of people choosing to invest in our mission.

We also celebrated the launch of the Wingspan Society in August 2025, creating a dedicated community for our most generous supporters. In its first year, the Wingspan Society has grown to **40 members** making a meaningful difference for raptor rehabilitation, conservation, and education. Together, these growing communities are helping to build a stronger, more sustainable future for Carolina Raptor Center.

FROM OUR MEMBERS



"CRC is special for us since we both started our careers at UNC Charlotte. When I joined the Biology Department faculty in 1982, the Raptor Center was housed in the basement of our building. I got to see first-hand almost daily the excellent work the dedicated staff were doing on behalf of these amazing birds, and I knew I had to be involved. My appreciation and commitment have only grown over the years."

Tom & Claudia Reynolds, Wingspan Society Members



"My 5 year old and I have been members at the Raptor Center for a few months now and love it. The staff make us feel so at home and welcomed as soon as we walk into the Visitor Center. My daughter is a raptor expert at this point and we owe it all to the visits here. The work being done at the Raptor Center and behind the scenes at the rehabilitation facility is amazing and we love being a part of such a special place."

Cate & Miriam Evanson, Dual Members

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Volunteers serve in every department of the Carolina Raptor Center, ensuring our patients receive the best care, our avian ambassadors maintain a high quality of life, and our guests leave with a greater appreciation for raptors and the natural world.

In FY26, Carolina Raptor Center's team of **volunteers provided the same amount of service as eight full-time employees**, greatly increasing our ability to carry out our mission.

100+	$567,480	16,311
INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS	**IN SERVICE VALUE**	**HOURS OF SERVICE**



"Every chance I get to go out on a rescue, I feel alive and purposeful. It's helped me to gain confidence in who I am and what I love to do. It's also connected me to other really cool people who share a love for conservation and birds. It's been an awesome experience!"

Austin Voss, Raptor Rescue Volunteer Since 2025



"Volunteering here gives me a sense of purpose and peace. It is so wonderful to work with such dedicated people. I have learned so much and I look forward to continuing my education. I also have been able to introduce the Center to my friends and family."

Marcella Pustorino, Docent Since 2024







BUILDING TOGETHER

Group volunteer projects are a vital component to the operations of Carolina Raptor Center. Group projects help support our mission of raptor rehabilitation, education, and conservation all while fostering a sense of unity and the creation of meaningful connections for corporate teams. In Fiscal Year 2026, CRC hosted **342 volunteers from 14 different groups**, making a tangible impact for raptors and the natural world.

"Our team's volunteer experience at the Carolina Raptor Center was truly exceptional and left a lasting impression on everyone involved. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive—colleagues continue to reference the day enthusiastically and have expressed strong interest in returning for future volunteer opportunities.

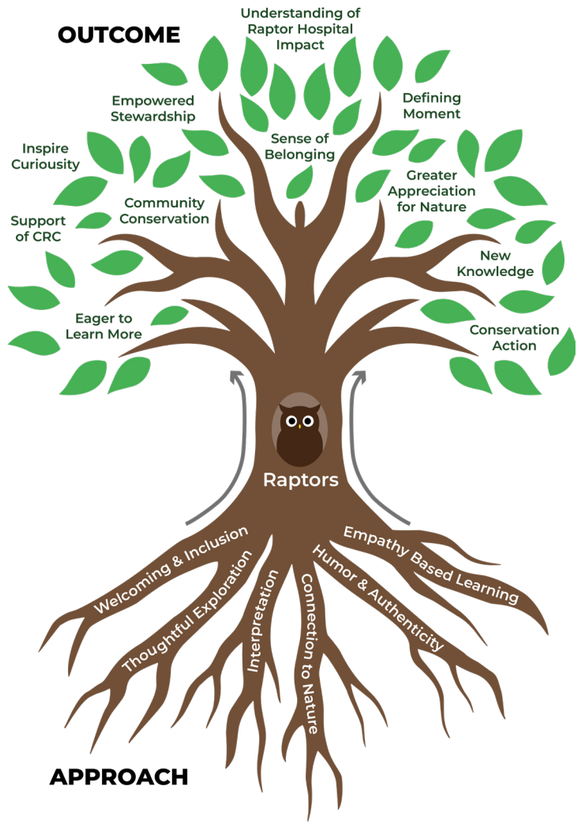
Beyond the enjoyable nature of the activities, the experience offered meaningful insight into the vital conservation work the Center performs. Understanding the direct impact of our contribution to raptor rehabilitation and environmental education added a genuine sense of purpose to the day, reinforcing the value of TIAA's community engagement initiatives."

Rick Artale, Manager, Risk and Compliance Officer, TIAA

EXCELLENCE

At Carolina Raptor Center, excellence extends to every aspect of our work. In the last year, we've continued to develop and apply best practices across all we do, from our educational approach and program offerings to our facility management and research involvement.

LEARNING PHILOSOPHY



This year, CRC developed a Learning Philosophy to define and standardize our approach to education and guest engagement. A team of staff members from across the organization worked together to connect our values and identify outcomes that guide how we connect people with raptors, nature, and conservation.

The Learning Philosophy emphasizes creating welcoming and inclusive experiences that encourage thoughtful exploration, authentic connections, and empathy-based learning. By sharing the stories of our ambassador birds, patients, and conservation work, we help guests build meaningful relationships with the natural world and better understand the importance of protecting it.

This framework guides the design of our programs, exhibits, and visitor experiences, with the goal of inspiring curiosity, creating memorable moments, and fostering a lifelong appreciation for nature. Through these experiences, we aim to increase understanding of CRC's mission, conservation efforts, and Raptor Hospital while encouraging continued learning, community connection, and conservation action. The Learning Philosophy provides a shared foundation that helps ensure every guest experience reflects CRC's commitment to impactful and meaningful learning.

ENCLOSURE UPGRADES



Bash's new enclosure on the Raptor Trail.



A newly built behind-the-scenes enclosure.

In Spring 2026, Bash, our Red-legged Seriema, moved into a newly constructed habitat that provides additional space and features designed to support his welfare and natural behaviors. The new enclosure reflects our continued investment in habitat improvements and high-quality bird care. In addition to Bash's new home, we have begun making behind-the-scenes upgrades to other bird habitats, enhancing spaces throughout our campus to support long-term welfare goals and the best possible care for our ambassador birds.

EXPANDING ACCESS

MUSEUMS *for* ALL®

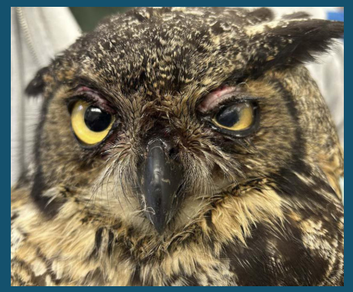
an initiative of the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

This year, Carolina Raptor Center joined the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for All initiative. Through Museums for All, those receiving SNAP benefits can gain free or reduced admission to more than 1,600 museums throughout the United States simply by presenting their EBT card and a photo ID. Across Fiscal Year 2026, 846 individuals were able to visit the Raptor Trail free of charge through the Museums for All program. This initiative reflects Carolina Raptor Center's dedication to removing barriers to the natural world.

ADVANCING RESEARCH

From the early days of banding birds upon release to recent avian influenza vaccine trials, furthering knowledge within the field has been a vital part of the Raptor Hospital's operations. This past year was no exception with the Raptor Hospital participating in several research studies as well as preparing for publication in the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery.









Left: Sunny Cooper, Director of Avian Operations, and Dr. Tracey Ritzman, Veterinarian, provide wound care for Patient #26130. Top Middle: Patient #26130, a Great Horned Owl. Top Right: Cod fish skin graft in sterile packaging. Bottom Right: Healed skin after successful use of fish skin grafting on Patient #26130.

The Journal of Avian Medicine is an international publication of the Association of Avian Veterinarians that includes scientific articles, case reports and new research. This past year Dr Tracey Ritzman, one of CRC's contract veterinarians, and Sunny Cooper, Director of Raptor Rehabilitation, worked on a case study manuscript following Patient #26130 after a serious soft tissue wound lead to use of a fish skin graft to facilitate skin growth. This will be the first publication on successfully using a fish skin graft on a wild avian species.

The Raptor Hospital's staff also helped gather samples for several research studies throughout the year. One involves collecting hippoboscid flies, commonly known as flat flies, off wild patients as they are admitted. Katherine Brown at the University of South Carolina is studying these prolific ectoparasites to determine if they could be a secondary vector for West Nile Virus and if that has any impact on the birds that carry them. Our staff have worked to obtain samples from over 100 birds, collecting live flies and obtaining oral swabs from each of the patients who host these parasites.



Tubes containing samples of flat flies and oral swabs to be tested for West Nile Virus by Katherine Brown at University of South Carolina.

The second major study that we collected samples for was for a follow-up study on Black Vultures and their external microbiomes. Elias Barber, an undergraduate student at Catawba College is studying the microbiomes on Black Vulture faces with a plan to identify the microorganisms down to the species level. Understanding the diverse biome that lives on these scavengers' faces helps us understand how they keep clean as they play a critical role as one of nature's primary clean up crews.



Swabbing the face of a Black Vulture to be analyzed by Elias Barber at Catawba College to understand their microbiomes.

The Carolina Raptor Center's Raptor Hospital has further joined two studies that are hoping to gain better insight into wild raptor health on a larger scale. The University of Georgia's Southeastern Cooperative of Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) is collaborating with wildlife centers around the southeast to collect data investigating the effects of anticoagulant rodenticide in bald eagles and other raptors. As a part of this study, blood samples are collected for any Bald Eagles that come into care. CRC also became a member of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) Surveillance in Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities. This is a combined effort from the University of Florida, USDA, and TGen North. The effort aims to help organizations ensure that they can test regularly for HPAI and have access to data and resources all in one place.

Research will continue to be a part of our core work with new opportunities taking flight each year. We look forward to continuing to make a difference in our field through our work as wildlife rehabilitators as well as being able to supply data to our many partners.

IMPACT
REHABILITATION

Carolina Raptor Center initially began as a rehabilitation center for birds of prey. Over the years, we've spread our wings to build a world-class Raptor Hospital. Our expert team continues to lead the field in developing tools and techniques to give every bird we treat the best chance at survival.

794	15	54
PATIENTS ADMITTED	**SPECIES ADMITTED**	**AVERAGE DAYS IN CARE**

TOP SPECIES ADMITTED

208  **BARRED OWL**

203  **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**

112  **RED-TAILED HAWK**

CELEBRATING A ONE-OF-A-KIND CAREER

In December 2025, we celebrated the retirement of Mathias Englemann, a member of Carolina Raptor Center's team who has embodied our mission for more than four decades.

Mathias first started volunteering in 1983, two years after CRC's official founding, as an undergraduate student in Biology when CRC was still located at UNC Charlotte. He quickly fell in love with the work and when the organization moved to the Latta Nature Preserve, he went with it. Mathias lived onsite for the first few years that the Carolina Raptor Center was at Latta, eventually becoming a staff member of our rehabilitation team.







Throughout his 43 years at CRC, Mathias has been a pillar within the Raptor Hospital. His expertise in the entire rehabilitation process is evident though his teachings, involvement with the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, the design and build of enclosures, and his deep understanding of the medical needs of patients in care.



Top Left: Mathias prepares to release an immature Bald Eagle in Badin, NC in 1986. Top Right: Mathias administers treatment to a patient in 1994. Middle Right: Mathias assists in leading a seminar on raptor rehabilitation at CRC in 1995. Bottom: Mathias and Raptor Tech Renee Brewton perform imping, a treatment to replace damaged feathers, on a patient in 2023.

While his commitment to the birds was his passion, it was the people's hearts who he really touched. When out in the community, it is often Mathias's name that people bring up when talking about the Carolina Raptor Center as they share fond memories of him. Mathias' legacy continues through the lives of the thousands of raptors he helped rehabilitate and the knowledge he shared with countless professionals in this field.

IMPACT
EDUCATION

A core part of Carolina Raptor Center's mission is engaging a wide variety of audiences in educational opportunities with birds of prey. Through nose-to-beak experiences with avian ambassadors, we aim to foster enthusiam for raptors and the natural world.

PRIVATE PROGRAMS

10,175
STUDENTS ENGAGED







SUMMER BIRD SHOW

2,388
GUESTS ATTENDED







SPECIAL EVENTS

30+
EVENTS OFFERED

TITLE I PROGRAMS

With support from the Arts & Science Council (ASC), CRC provided meaningful environmental education field trips to more than 700 students from eight Title I schools during the 2025-2026 school year. These grant-funded field trips connected classroom learning to real-world experiences through live ambassador bird presentations, outdoor exploration, and hands-on science learning.



For many students, this visit was their first opportunity to experience a wildlife or nature-focused educational facility. Teacher feedback revealed that **76-100% of students were first-time visitors to a wildlife center, nature center, or nature preserve**, demonstrating the importance of reducing barriers to access for nature-based learning experiences.

Educators consistently reported positive outcomes and high levels of student engagement. When asked why they would recommend the experience to a colleague, one teacher shared: "It is so engaging and aligns with what we teach. It makes the learning concrete. **One of the major themes we teach is why we should care about birds. They really care about the ones they meet at the Carolina Raptor Center.**"

Teachers also highlighted the power of connecting classroom lessons to living animals and authentic conservation experiences. One educator reflected: "The most memorable part of the trip was students being able to show off their knowledge of raptors during the presentation and connect the information they learned from books to real-life raptors in the wild!"

Many teachers described seeing live raptors up close as a defining moment for their students. Every educator surveyed **agreed or strongly agreed that the experience supported student learning and curriculum, and 100% reported that students who rarely engage in class became more active participants during the trip.**

Because of this grant funded opportunity provided by ASC, we have helped inspire curiosity, deepen understanding of wildlife and conservation, and create memorable learning experiences that many students may not otherwise have had the opportunity to access.

LEARNING

Learning is at the heart of Carolina Raptor Center's work. Our team provides varied educational opportunities for students, community members, and professional colleagues throughout the year. We also aim to continuously improve our own skills by staying up to date on best practices in the field.

PROFESSIONAL WEBINARS



This year, CRC continued its commitment to learning and supporting wildlife professionals through virtual training opportunities focused on raptor care, welfare, and conservation. Our Raptor Ambassador Course provided a five-part learning experience for professionals working with ambassador birds, covering topics such as behavior and enrichment, training, education program support, husbandry, and welfare-based decision-making. The course welcomed 27 participants from all over the country, helping build a shared foundation of knowledge and best practices for ambassador raptor care.

CRC also launched the Raptor Rehabilitation Webinar Series, a four-part virtual course led by members of our rehabilitation and medical teams. Sessions covered key topics in raptor patient care, including intake and triage, parasitology, flight and release evaluations, and practical rehabilitation techniques used in the treatment and recovery of injured birds of prey. The series welcomed 27 participants and marked a successful first offering of this new professional development opportunity.

AZA MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

In March, Director of Ambassador Programs and Education, Colleen Hartman, and Director of External Relations, Rachel Dupree, attended the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Mid-Year Conference in Atlanta.

Accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is widely considered the highest standard for animal care, welfare, and conservation in the zoo and aquarium profession. Attending the Mid-Year Conference allows CRC to become better equipped to embark on the accreditation process in the coming years.





At the conference, Colleen and Rachel attended sessions on animal care, training, fundraising, communication, and more. They also had the opportunity to tour the Atlanta Zoo and Georgia Aquariam and connect with similar professionals.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NC

CRC has a long history in supporting the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina's Annual Symposium hosted at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine. The goal of the symposium is to connect wildlife rehabilitators from all over the east coast and engage in continued education.

This past January, our Director of Raptor Rehabilitation, Sunny Cooper, Director of Ambassador Programs and Education, Colleen Hartman and veterinarians, Dr. Antonia Gardner and Dr. Tracey Ritzman, presented a wide range of topics. Sunny taught a large bird bandaging lab and helped co-teach a Raptor Ambassador equipment lab with Colleen. Our veterinarians presented on several avian topics, including wound care and sea bird medicine.

LEADING TEAMS WITH CRC VALUES



One of the many ways in which CRC put its new organizational values into practice was through a series of workshops called, "Leading Teams with CRC Values." The series was facilitated by Dan Tyler, CRC board member and former HR executive with Assa Abloy and Ingersol Rand. Through these workshops, CRC managers and directors explored ways in which our new values show up in interviews, day to day communication, coaching conversations, staff development, motivation, and decision making. Concluding in Q1 of FY 27, these workshops are aligning teams and setting the table for shared understanding around leadership to ensure that CRC values are something that show up not just on our website, but in how we work with each other and our community.

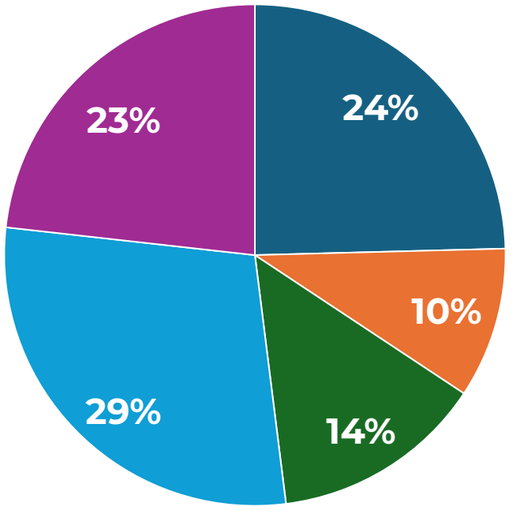
STEWARDSHIP

Carolina Raptor Center is committed to responsible management of the resources entrusted to us. From our funding to the birds in our care and the land we manage, we carefully consider every choice we make to ensure we are meeting our mission.

FISCAL YEAR 26 FINANCIALS

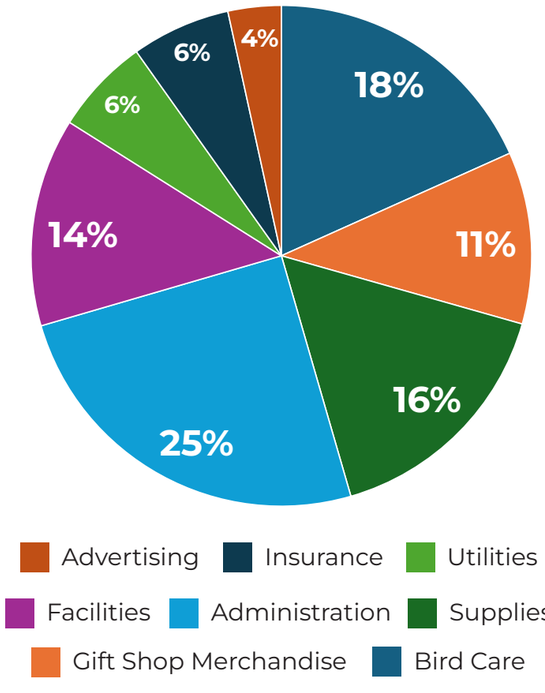
REVENUE
$1,897,962

REVENUE BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES
$1,864,559

NON-PERSONNEL EXPENSES



SPREADING OUR WINGS

For some, asking the question of **"What's next?"** can bring up feelings of excitement at the pure potential of possibility. For others, it brings up anxiety of the unknown or the unfamiliar. Perhaps for some of us, it may even conjure a mixture of both. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, there is one thing that's inescapable – we create our future together.

In 2025, CRC's Board of Directors made the decision to focus the attention of the organization towards developing our legacy campus at 6000 Sample Road. This was a change in direction from the plans developed as far back as 2014 to move the Raptor Trail to Quest Nature Center. While CRC is proud to have been a big part of bringing forth Quest and will always have a presence there, the Board decided that the organization's best path forward at this moment is to stay put where we are and have been since the 1980s. It also teed up the opportunity for this community to envision what it wants to build as the future for CRC.



When you see yourself bringing friends and guests to the Carolina Raptor Center in 2036, what do you see? How is it the same as it is today? How is it different?

Going into the new year, the board, staff, volunteers, and supporters of CRC are asking those same questions. As we look to the future, we know that we will build it on the legacy, foundation, and vision that has already made Carolina Raptor Center a world class facility. Our focus will continue to be to inspire and cultivate that passion for raptors and the natural world. But how does that mission continue into the fourth decade of the 21st century? How do we balance the beauty of our natural setting with sustainable infrastructure, the best care for raptors, and unparalleled experiences for the humans who love them?

Looking ahead means taking the accomplishments and lessons of the past and building a future worthy of the legacy that we carry. In Fiscal Year 2027, CRC will continue to carry out its work of rehabilitation, education, and conservation while exploring ways to reimagine our campus in its next iteration. To do that, **we will lean on our greatest assets: the expertise, passion, and enthusiasm of the people that make up our flock.** Of course, the love for raptors and the natural world will be central to revealing what CRC looks like in ten years. More to come, but we can't wait to share our progress with you soon.

Until then, see you out on the Raptor Trail!

THANK YOU!

CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER

Our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2026 were made possible by generous support from these individuals and organizations.

$100,000+
Arts & Science Council
Bruce and Nancy Roberts

$20,000-$99,999
Duke Energy Foundation
NC Science Museums Grant
Dr. Thomas and Claudia Reynolds

$10,000-$19,999
Ross and Michele Annable
Crescent Communities
Town of Huntersville
Randall Suggs

$5,000-$9,999
Carol Phelon Foundation
Peter DeArcangelis
Valerie Lakey Taylor
The Loving Climate Foundation
Lowe's Home Improvement
Scott and Cindy Tew

$2,500-$4,999
Tipton and William Gray
Sarah and Dennis Lambrecht
PlayPower, Inc
Eleanor and Tom Raispis
Michael Romanchuk
Sandra Wilson

$1,000-$2,499
Steven and Peg Aldridge
Philip Blumenthal
Dr. Mark and Dr. Carol Boles
Melinda Bostick
The Brent Milgrom Family Foundation
David and Linda Campbell
Lois Clark
Angela Copen
Corning Optical Communications
Dr. Sarah Fatherly
Dr. Michael and Elle Feldman
David Franchina
Robert and Kai Glass
Horton Family Foundation
Eileen Kellgren
Chris and Karen Kesler
Debbie and Scot Kiggans
Wendy Kimball
Kevin Klimt
Dr. Stephen Leighton
Molly Sims and Gary Leonhardt
Charles Macdonald
Hugh McColl
Ann McGowan
Steven McNichols
Ruth Pollow and Richard Mead
Meeting Street Homes and Communities
Dr. Mark Self and Thea Moore
Patti and Doug Neal
Julie Novack
Renee Orme Orander
Parker Hannafin
Ann Powlas
Ross Angel Foundation
Gregory Schaffer
Melissa Schmidt
Anne Steinert
Bryan Spach
TIAA
Dr. Peter and Rebecca Vassallo
Melanie M Wells
Michael Wetmore
James Winkler

$500-$999
Sarah Bacha
Bryan Beasley
Elysha Booth
Brandon Hills Vineyard
Burkert USA Corp.
Cherishing Animal, Plant, Earth Foundation
Allison Clark
Carolyn Cline
Brian Coley
Lara Culpepper
Brian and Leah Desloge
Ernst & Young
Bronwyn Falconer
Nina Fischesser
Heather and Kevin Gavagan
Patricia Gearity
Katherine Hall-Hertel and Josh Hertel
Jim and Betsy Harrington
The Hershey Company
Neil Jonas
Justyn Kissam
Cheryl and Adam Knobeloch
Melinda Landsness
Crystal Lockhart
Lee Armstrong Lumpkin
Mantissa Corporation
Christine Massey
Laura McCready
Patricia McDonough
Todd Owsley
James Parrish
Robert and Tana Poole
Cyndy Pratt
R Scott Radford
David Richardson and MaryJo Camp
Michael Ritter
Dean and Angie Roberts
Mr. and Dr. Randolph Robinson
Rotary Club of Davidson
Zack Russ
Lawrence Schliessmann
Thomas Soos
John Stevenson
Becka and David Tait
Jennifer and William Van Lear
Edward Wall
Sallie Weart
Allan and Joyce White
Whole Foods
Wildlife Rehabilitators of NC
Arthur Williams
Grant Wilsterman

Carolina Raptor Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
EIN# 56-1349170