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annual report 2025



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Atlantic puffin

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Dear IWRC Members, Donors, and Friends,

It is my privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report in the wake of a milestone worth pausing on. Last year, IWRC celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, a small group of dedicated rehabilitators came together, frustrated that too many rehabbers were caring for wildlife in isolation, relying on trial and error, with no shared standards and no professional framework to build on. What they created in response was an organization that has become a force multiplier for the entire field, raising the quality of care through education, community, and evidence-based practice.

Because of your membership, financial support, and donation of your valuable time, IWRC today connects 1,755 rehabilitators across 52 countries. Last year, 636 students in eight countries were able to access courses like Foundations of Wildlife Rehabilitation (the new name of the "Basics" course that is more reflective of the value of the content). You also made possible the recent release of the Nutrition textbook, which is thoughtfully designed to be relevant to wild animal caregivers in every corner of the world.

Like many nonprofits, IWRC navigated a challenging economic environment this year. We responded deliberately, and the most important step we took was bringing on Catherine Huang as our new fundraising professional. Catherine's experience is already producing measurable results, and we are confident in the direction that work is heading.

As we head into our next 50 years, the IWRC is committed to continuing to drive the professionalization of wildlife rehabilitation globally, to develop programs and resources that are genuinely relevant to members in all regions of the world, and to do all of it in service of the wildlife whose welfare and conservation we exist to advance. We are grateful to pursue that work alongside each of you.

With appreciation,
Meredith Whitney
Board President



about us

IWRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States and provides courses for Wildlife Rehabilitation across all expertise levels. We welcome people from all backgrounds to explore a future in wildlife care.

Wildlife Rehabilitation is a crucial aspect of animal conservation and general ecological welfare. Rehabbers provide temporary care for injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing these animals back into their homes.

In addition to courses, IWRC also provides resources for practicing rehabilitators including our peer-reviewed Journal and Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation. We believe in uniting the efforts of wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, educators, and researchers to foster a community of people dedicated to advancing wildlife care.

We believe in using science-based education and research to assess our impact on the environment and provide high quality care to impacted wildlife. Our goal is to support sustainable and humane human-wildlife coexistence and improve the lives of all species—starting with the proper rehabilitation and release of harmed wild animals.



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our team



Kai Williams	Executive director
Julissa Favela	Programs and creative director
Stephanie Herman	Wildlife content specialist and membership coordinator
Samantha Lyon	Education operations coordinator
Catherine Huang	Development coordinator

board members

Meredith Whitney President

Sheena Dale Vice President

Danene Birtell RVT Secretary

Susie Sullivan Treasurer

Robert Adamski BVMS, CWR

Lloyd Brown CWR

Joe Cashmore

Brooke Durham

Andrés Estay-Stange PhD

Maddie Forrester

Elise Gundlach

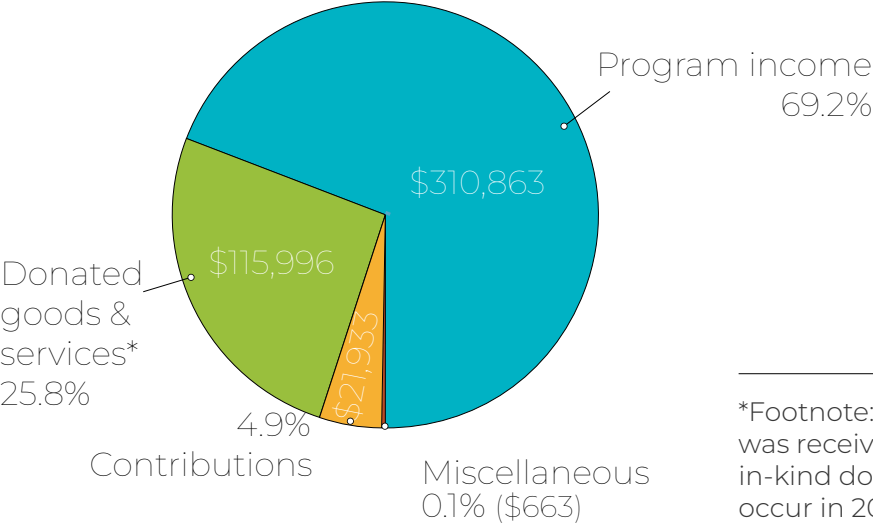
Brittany Maufort

Karen Roe

Cassie Trangsrud

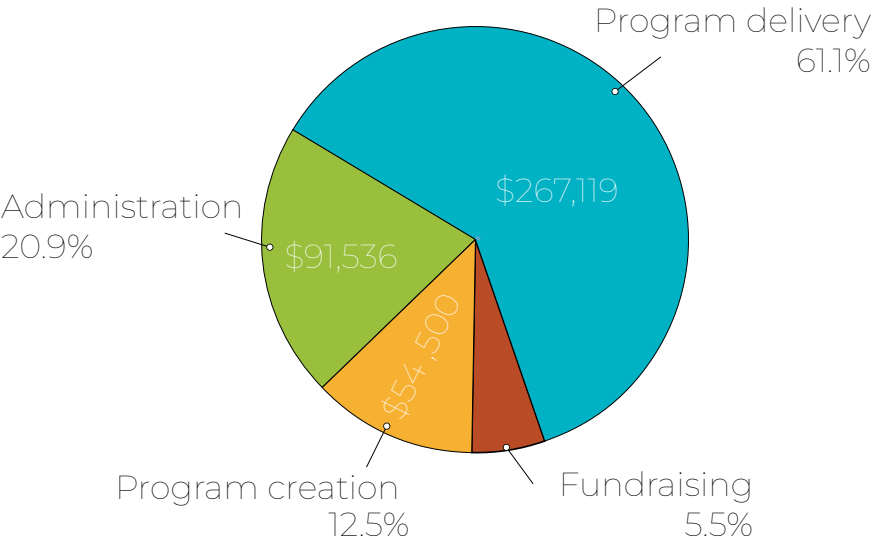
finances

2025 Revenue



*Footnote: A two year software donation was received in 2025. The expenses this in-kind donation will offset will primarily occur in 2026 and 2027.

2025 Expenses



impacts in 2025

Certification

The **Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR)** Program, administered by the IWRC, provides global validation for the knowledge and expertise of individual rehabilitators. In 2025, the program evolved to a bi-level framework: the **Associate Wildlife Rehabilitator (AWR)** designation, which recognizes foundational training and knowledge, and the updated Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) credential, which highlights advanced professional knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience.

The CWR/AWR global community has over 260 active CWRs (currently transitioning to the revised standard) and 15 active AWRs, spanning 14 countries across 5 continents.



50th anniversary

In 2025, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. Founded by individuals dedicated to the care and conservation of native wildlife, IWRC has spent five decades advancing wildlife rehabilitation through science-based education, professional standards, and training opportunities. We are grateful to celebrate this milestone and would not be here without our supportive networks and members.



INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION
COUNCIL



1755 members in **52** countries provided with three issues of Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation, individual support upon request, monthly peer support meeting/learning opportunities, monthly updates in state of the field, ability to query global list of rehabilitators.



Taught 29 classes in Foundations of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Fluid Therapy, Parasitology, Wound Management, and Zoonoses, reaching a total of **636** students across **8** countries.

volunteer spotlight

Anna Carolina Correa

How did you get involved with IWRC?

I was looking for a volunteer opportunity where my marketing skills would make an impact. Through Taproot I found IWRC was looking for help with their upcoming book launch, and it felt right since wildlife and animal causes have always been close to my heart and something I've been involved with since a teenager.

What project, goal, or initiative are you focused on or helped with at IWRC?

The project I started with the Wildlife Nutrition book launch content calendar, strategy and copywriting. Now I'm working on the website audit and Search Engine Optimization (SEO) content.

What has been the most rewarding part of being a volunteer with IWRC?

Honestly, just being part of an organization that creates impact. Working behind the scenes, you don't always see the hands-on results, but you can feel how far the work reaches globally. It's rewarding to know you helped build the steps that got them there, and it's refreshing to break the commercial cycle and focus on the living world around us.



A fun fact!

I have visited 15 countries and my highlight was discovering that Marrakech has an almost mythical number of cats roaming freely everywhere. I also parachuted and rode a quad there, but honestly the cats were the best part.



Nicole Pacheco

How did you get involved with IWRC?

I got involved with the IWRC while seeking out mission-driven work where I could gain valuable skills and experience for my career. I was lucky to be connected with IWRC in 2025 through a volunteering platform and felt excited to learn about wildlife through my role. I joined as a digital marketing volunteer, where I help support website updates, paid ads, and other strategies to help grow the IWRC community.

What project, goal, or initiative are you focused on or helped with at IWRC?

My first project was working with the director to align marketing goals across their digital platforms and find potential gaps in communicating IWRC's message to the general public. I worked on market research, developing advertising campaigns,

and later developing performance tracking systems and ensuring that website updates were aligned with the overall goals of IWRC. Since my initial project with the ads and website updates, I've been focused on helping develop creative strategies for reaching new groups, increasing mission visibility, and building context for the importance of joining wildlife rehabilitation.

What has been the most rewarding part of being a volunteer with IWRC?

I think that working with people who are deeply passionate about their work and being under the mentorship of strong female leadership has been especially rewarding in my position. As someone who started volunteering fresh out of college, I felt

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like IWRC provided a home for me to explore my skills, develop my professional identity, and truly begin to build my "why" as a young professional. My time at IWRC has encouraged me to continue working in the nonprofit space and become an advocate for other professionals (especially in the tech/marketing space) to explore ways to help local organizations, wildlife groups, and other nonprofits.

A fun fact!

One of my bucket list items is to visit every national state park in the United States. So far, I've only been to Yosemite & Joshua Tree, but I hope to make that list much longer soon!

current projects



Wildlife Nutrition: Feeding for Rehabilitation, Release, and Reintroduction is a globally relevant, science-based guide created to empower wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and animal care professionals with the knowledge they need to make confident, informed nutrition decisions. Available in June as an ebook and print in July 2026.



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Reuniting and Wild Fostering Raptors is a selfpaced, interactive online course teaching the best practices to reunite, renest, and wild foster young raptors. It covers everything students need to know to successfully return young raptors to the wild, including raptor behavior and development, as well as procedures and logistical considerations necessary for reuniting, re-nesting, wild fostering, and hacking—all supported by more than a dozen real-world case studies! Available through IWRC's online classroom starting May 2026.



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The **Rabies Vector Species** module will be added to the Zoonoses course in fall 2026. The module focuses on what students need to know to remain safe when handling higher-risk vector species such as bats and susceptible small carnivores. The RVS module, in tandem with a future expansion of the Zoonoses course, will fulfill the classroom learning requirements for handling RVS species in several regions.

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Class schedule – upcoming in 2026

Foundations of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Sabetha, Kansas

Eastern Time Zone

Laredo, Texas

Orlando, Florida

Central Time Zone

Mountain Time Zone

Pacific Time Zone

Pasadena, California

Pain & Wound Management

Bay Village, Ohio

The accomplishments highlighted in this report are only possible because of our community. As we look ahead, your continued support will help shape the future of wildlife rehabilitation. **Make a gift today and create a brighter future for wildlife worldwide.**

<http://bit.ly/DonateIWRC>



On demand courses – self-paced

Fluid Therapy

Parasitology

Reuniting and Wild Fostering Raptors

Wound Management

Zoonoses

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