

# INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

126 East Cedar Street • P.O. Box 536  
Houston, Minnesota 55943

December 2023

This year the human and feathered staff at the Owl Center have been working their tail feathers off! We were able to hold the first normal International Festival of Owls since COVID hit. Visitation numbers have finally reached pre-COVID levels, and more schools, libraries and other groups requested owl programs than ever before.

Owl Center staff and volunteers around the world invested a substantial amount of time to pull off the 7th World Owl Conference in La Crosse, WI. Around 120 people from 16 different countries attended, with an immense sharing of knowledge and owl spirit, leaving participants raring to go home and do more great owl work. It was the first time the entire Owl Center staff has been able to attend a conference and absorb all of the latest owl information from around the globe.

An enormous amount of brainpower has been poured into working with DSGW and Wieser Brothers on the plans for our new facility, engaging volunteers, staff and board members. Wolfgang Scherzinger from Germany reviewed our walk-through aviary plans, as he pioneered the concept decades ago in the Bavarian National Forest.

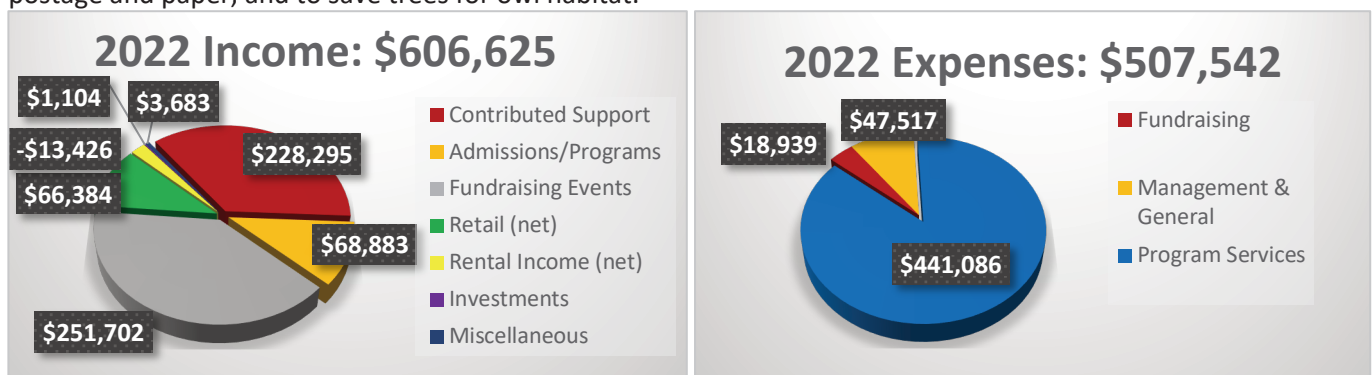
**YOUR SUPPORT is what has made this and everything in the Year in Pictures possible. THANK YOU!**

We are eagerly looking forward to the day when the Owl Center can operate in a single consolidated new energy-efficient building with properly functioning plumbing, an adequate number of toilets, separate acoustic spaces for programs, up to 28 owls can live on site in spacious aviaries, handled owls get more down time, and programs can run seven days a week. Our major focus in 2024 will be raising the funds to make this dream a reality for the benefit of the owls, visitors and staff.

**THANK YOU** to all who have recently donated or plan to contribute to support owl education, research and moving forward with the new Owl Center.

## Last Year's (2022) Short and Sweet Annual Report

Note: We combine our current fundraising appeal with our annual report for the *prior year* to save money on postage and paper, and to save trees for owl habitat.



In 2022 we **educated 10,187 visitors** to the Center plus **educated 4,612 people at 76 special programs**. We were involved in transporting **11 sick/injured raptors** and consulted on dozens more, **demolished another house** on our building site, documented rare **Barn Owls at 6 new sites** in southeastern MN and southwestern WI, **published a note on a Barn Owl roost**, continued **planning the World Owl Conference**, and **hired an architect and builder** for the new Owl Center facility. Additionally, we auctioned children's owl artwork and raised close to **\$250,000 to help the children of Ukraine**.

# Join or Donate Today!



Annual Membership Levels	10% Gift Shop Discount	Member only events	Member discount on events	Free member admission for (X) people	Free admission for your kids under 18	Free guest admission for (X) people	Kids' art card and one of Uhu's feathers
\$30 Individual	✓	✓	✓	1			
\$55 Household	✓	✓	✓	2	✓		
\$80 Grandparent Plus	✓	✓	✓	2	✓		
\$125 Burrowing Owl	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	2	✓
\$250 Spotted Owl	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	4	✓
\$500 Snowy Owl	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	6	✓
\$1,000 Blakiston's Fish Owl	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	8	✓

## Member Benefits:

10% discount online and in-store at the Owl Center Gift Shop

Free Admission to our International Festival of Owls, held during the first weekend in March

Members also receive discounted admission at The [Minnesota Marine Art Museum](#) in Winona, MN and the [National Eagle Center](#) in Wabasha, MN.

**Owl Level Members** (Burrowing Owl and above) also receive an art card from our children's owl art contest and a molted feather from Uhu our Eurasian Eagle Owl. *(This is only legal for species not native to the United States. Please note that we can only ship feathers within the United States, not to other countries.)*

**Circle One:** Individual = \$30 House = \$55 Grandparent = \$80  
 Burrowing = \$125 Spotted Owl = \$250 Snowy = \$500  
 Blakiston's = \$1,000 **Donation Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  Membership Renewal  **Donation Only**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK Box if you want to receive our e-Newsletter**

Contact for membership **RENEWAL** by:  Email  Mail

Gift Membership For: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

International Owl Center - P.O. Box 536 - Houston, MN 55943

**I have included the Owl Center in my estate planning.**

Staff use: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_ QB/SQ: \_\_\_\_\_

DS: \_\_\_\_\_ New Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GR: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing/MS cards: \_\_\_\_\_