

# INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

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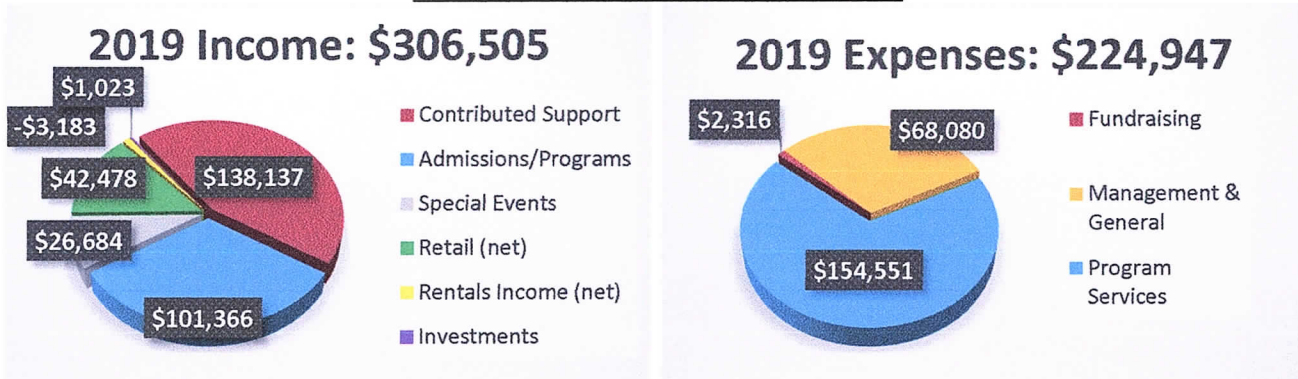
What a year, huh?? We are extremely grateful that **the International Owl Center went into COVID strong**. We were blessed with increasing numbers of visitors in 2019 and early 2020, generous donors, and being able to hold the International Festival of Owls in 2020 with the best weather we've ever had...all of which led to very healthy operational reserves. We had already been doing online programs and had our gift shop online, so while we were closed we filled orders and started a series of free online owl chats, now available on our YouTube channel. We were also able to start our new Barn Owl research, develop a volunteer handbook, and create new highly accurate flying owl silhouettes based on scientific measurements.

After being closed for three months this spring we reopened in late June with special procedures and significantly limited visitor numbers. We held a hybrid in-person/online International Owl Awareness Day Celebration. We closed again in mid-November due to flaring COVID cases and are not sure when we will reopen. We have now launched a **free weekly Virtual Owl Expert Speaker Series**. Thanks to sponsors, donations, and a whole lot of interested folks around the globe, this is a whoppingly successful way to accomplish our education mission during COVID! Each of our first two programs had **hundreds of attendees from about 18 countries and 39 states**. We plan to keep this series going throughout the winter, so join us on Sundays to learn from experts working all over the planet.

While overall things have gone well for us, we did cancel the Breakfast with the Owls capital fundraiser (which made purchasing the last property for our future building site tougher), pushed the World Owl Conference back from 2021 to 2022 and we will have to wait until sometime in 2021 to finally get our new owl specimens mounted. We also are planning a bare-bones, mostly virtual International Festival of Owls in March, which in a normal year raises over \$20,000 in operational funding for us.

You don't have to worry about us closing, but **your financial support would be extra appreciated this year to help us continue becoming a leader in global owl education efforts and move forward with architectural plans for our future facility**. Our owl and human staff appreciate your support of the Owl Center's mission to make the world a better place for owls through education and research.

## 2019 Short and Sweet Annual Report



In 2019 we **educated 10,062 visitors to the Center**, **informed 1,362 International Festival of Owls attendees** who braved terrible weather, **taught 3,797 people at 88 special programs**, helped **transport 19 sick/injured raptors**, **purchased two properties and removed a house**; **developed a webpage to help people find owl rehabbers in the USA** by state and a **webpage to teach people how to observe owls respectfully** and read their body language.