

INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

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

Life keeps giving us opportunities to create lemonade from lemons. In 2020 we created the Virtual Owl Expert Speaker Series to bring scientists from around the world together with the public when COVID shut the world down. In 2021 we partnered with the Save Our Bluffs organization to preserve the steep, highly erodible bluff covered with rare habitats and species within the city limits of Houston. We expect the end result to be stunning hiking trails for our visitors and residents to use.

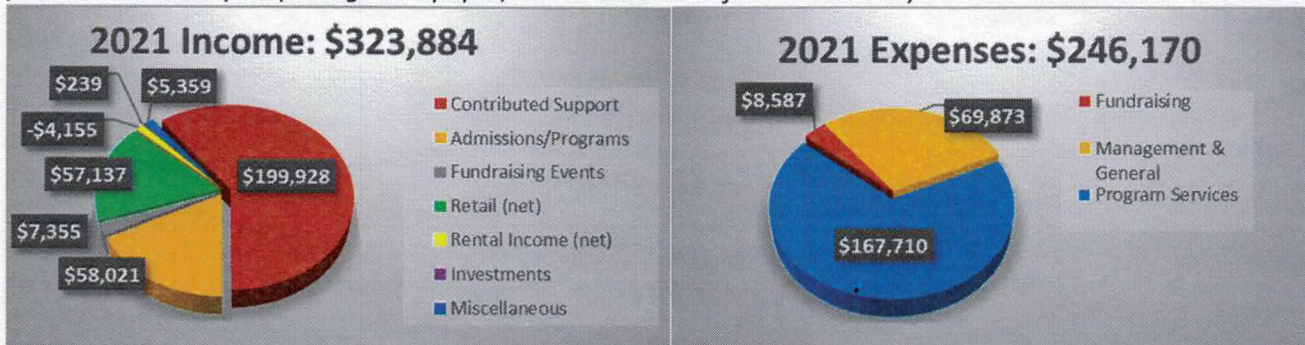
This year the war in Ukraine prompted us to auction off about 300 pieces of owl art created by Ukrainian children for our kids' owl art contest over the years. Thanks to your generosity, we raised about \$250,000 which we donated to UNICEF, earmarked to help Ukrainian children.

Each year the need for our new facility becomes more apparent: more days when we don't have enough space for everyone to sit during programs, longer lines to use our single restroom, more phone calls interrupting programs, and more time commuting owls to and from work as we acquire more birds.

This year we hired Wieser Brothers General Contractor, paired with DSGW Architecture, to design our new center. We also hired Mark Davy & Associates to conduct a fundraising feasibility study. This process takes a lot of staff and volunteer time on top of the usual time it takes to run our education programs and research projects. **Your donations and memberships support our normal day-to-day operations and allow us to grow to give owls and visitors alike a better experience.**

Thank you for your trust and support by giving generously according to your ability.

2021 Short and Sweet Annual Report (We combine our 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 2021 we educated **7,890 visitors to the Center** plus educated **5,319 people at 64 special programs**. We helped **transport 17 sick/injured raptors**, **demolished another house** on our building site, **documented rare Barn Owls in five locations in southeastern MN** and documented the **first Barn Owl nest in WI in 22 years**, **published a paper on owl education methods around the world**, and held an **architectural contest** to address challenging design needs for our future facility.