

2018

ANNUAL
REPORT



FROM THE TEAM

Dear Friends of the American Eagle Foundation:

For over 200 years, the Bald Eagle has served as a majestic living symbol of the United States. It was adopted as the national emblem by our country's Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress in 1782.

In the early 1960's, we almost lost this beautiful bird due to our own carelessness. The bald eagle's dramatic recovery from the brink of extinction is truly a conservation success story. Millions of Americans have a good reason to celebrate the eagles' thriving presence on our lands, waterways, and skies. In 2007 the bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species list but despite the bird's status as our national symbol, it is still one of the most persecuted in the country.

Vital funding is needed to further support, continue monitoring and safeguarding of the critical nesting and foraging habitats that is becoming scarce. Federal and State agencies are transferring more responsibility to the public for the preservation and care of our national bird. The American Eagle Foundation is a non-profit citizens effort dedicated to conducting programs and creating an endowment fund that will ensure a secure and healthy future for this precious national treasure. More than ever before, support from public and private sponsors is now needed to keep eagle care, conservation, monitoring, and recovery programs going forward and progressing. With your help, we can keep our eagle's flying strong and free for generations to come!

Our highest gratitude and appreciation for all those who support us through memberships, donations, tours, sponsorships, and merchandise sales. The success of the American Eagle Foundation strongly relies on the dedicated support of those who share in our passion, vision, and mission.

Sincerely,

AEF Staff



CHANGE & NEW BEGINNINGS

WE HAVE A NEW INTERIM CEO!

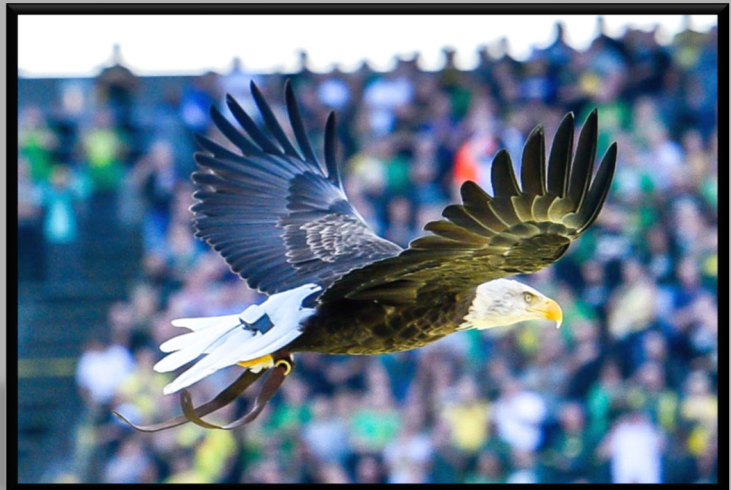
With Al Cecere's retirement in May 2018, the leadership torch was passed to Jim Marietta, a member of the Board of Directors at AEF since its inception in 1985. Jim has hit the ground running in pursuing goals that will bring the organization to new heights, focusing on conservation, education, and facility improvements. Five new Board Members, all bringing their unique experiences and fields of expertise to the AEF, have joined in lending their support.

CHALLENGER TURNS 30 IN 2019

In the spring of 1989, Challenger was hatched in a Louisiana nest. After being blown from his nest in a storm, Fortunately, he was rescued by some well-meaning people who proceeded to hand-feed and raise him. Unfortunately, he experienced too much human contact at a very young age and became a human imprinted bird.

After 25 years of traveling coast-to-coast and in conclusion to one of Challenger's most successful travel seasons in 2017, the American Eagle Foundation would like to express our appreciation to the followers and fans of our famous Bald Eagle for their many years of support. Challenger has reached and educated hundreds of thousands of people nationwide and has been instrumental in raising awareness about his species. One of Challenger's last free flights was on January 21, 2018 at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field where he flew magnificently over a field-sized United States flag.

In celebrating Challenger's 30th birthday this year, the AEF's dedicated staff is committed to provide the most beneficial and healthy future for this eagle ambassador. Challenger will retire from free-flighted appearances in 2019 but will continue to travel from coast-to-coast making gloved appearances at national sporting events, conventions, conferences, galas, fundraisers, schools, and other events. He will also enjoy well-deserved rest & relaxation and continued daily flight exercise at his Tennessee home.



EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

"In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

Those words are as proper today as they were when Baba Dioum first spoke them in 1968 at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

In the 21st century, we are drowning in information, but lacking in wisdom. We need environmental advocates who can synthesize information intelligently and present it in a way that is appealing and easy to understand.

The American Eagle Foundation lists Education as one of its 4 pillars upon which its Mission is based. To accomplish this, we present our live video HD cams on several Bald Eagle nests, where adults and children can watch eagle families go about their daily activities while caring for their young. An online chat is featured, whereby those watching the eagles can ask questions or share observations with others. Moderators and cam operators monitor this chat—individuals immersed in eagle knowledge, who welcome and help inform those who visit. Our moderators also encourage teachers to set up a scheduled viewing time just for their class, so the students can ask all the questions they want in a friendly, welcoming environment. Our viewers can, without disturbing one eagle, see the lives of these magnificent creatures unfold from the comfort of their classrooms, computer rooms – or even their mobile devices.

In addition, AEF carries its outreach programs into hospitals, nursing homes, classrooms, parks, and corporate events with birds of prey shows featuring many of our non-releasable raptors (the stars of the show.) The caregiver/handlers of these birds are knowledgeable and entertaining and delight their audiences with stories unique to each bird and the species it stands for.



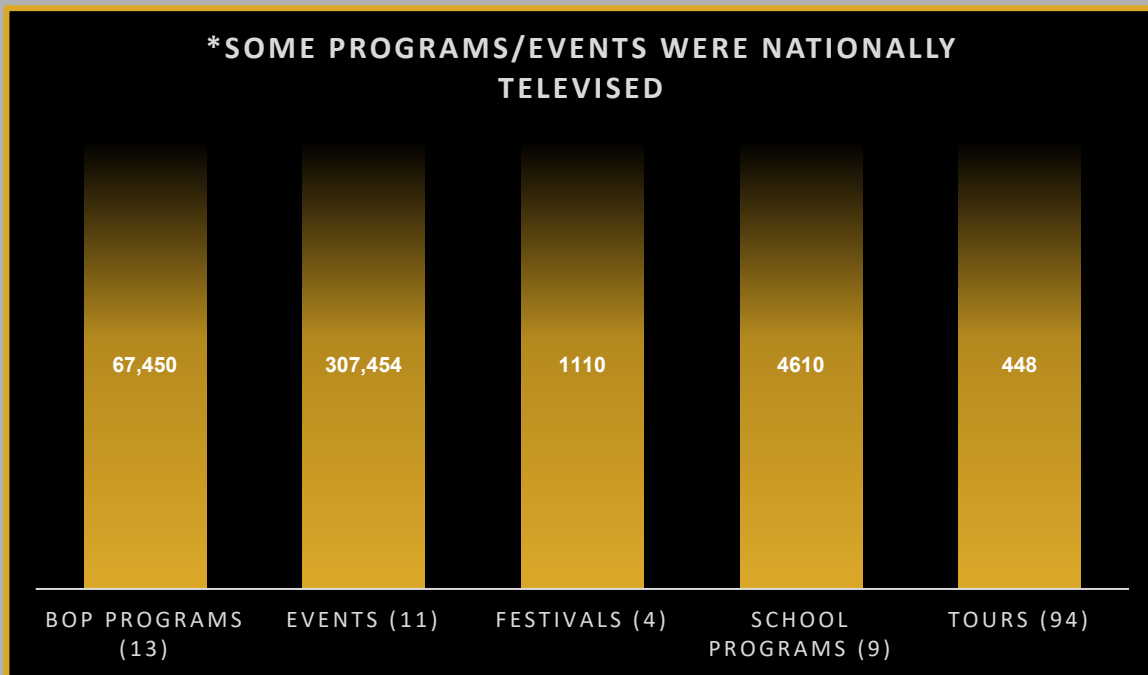
CHALLENGER VISITS VA HOSPITAL

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

At Dollywood theme park located in Pigeon Forge, our Wings of America birds of prey show has educated millions of visitors, while providing a fast-paced, always entertaining hour of fun.

Challenger, the non-releasable, free-flying Bald Eagle has performed thousands of soul-stirring flights over stadiums and corporate events. He has inspired Senators and House Members; visited with the Secretary of the Interior, and even met United States Presidents. He has appeared on national TV shows and is undoubtedly the world's most recognized Bald Eagle. Challenger continues to appear at gloved events to advocate for his species, raising awareness about the Bald Eagle and what it stands for. Those who have been fortunate enough to see him fly experience a feeling of pride and patriotism.

It is up to every one of us to be torchbearers for the future, to speak for the animals, and to protect the planet for generations yet to come.



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

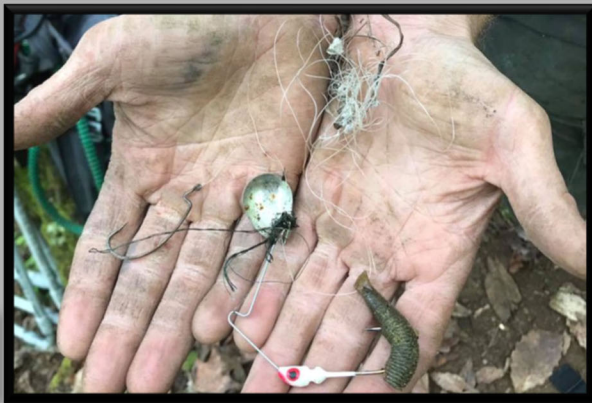
CONSERVATION IMPACT

The American Eagle Foundation specifically engages in non-releasable bird care, Bald Eagle protection & advocacy, environmental clean-ups, and creating & managing a Nest Egg Fund in order to maintain AEF programs designed to help the Bald Eagle.

During April and May of 2018, the AEF's Smoky Mountain Bald Eagle Nest in Sevierville, TN became the focus of environmental issues that affect Bald Eagle nests and other wildlife nationwide. On three separate occasions this spring, in cooperation with the USFWS, interventions were made at this local nest to ensure the safety of three eaglets due to the ongoing presence of fishing line, hooks, & sinkers in the nest.

On April 22, 2018, one of the eaglets was removed from the nest by a professional tree climber after swallowing a hook brought into the nest along with a fish. Fortunately, veterinarians quickly and safely removed the hook, and the eaglet was returned to the nest the following day. On May 9th, hooks, fishing line, and tackle were again seen in the nest.

On May 21st, fishing hooks, lines, and tackle were once again brought into the nest. For the health and safety of the eaglets, a decision was made by the USFWS & AEF to remove all three eaglets from the nest and place them in the AEF's hacking tower located on Douglas Lake. The eaglets were released into the wild at around 13 weeks of age.



A CAMPAIGN TO CLEAN UP THE LITTLE PIGEON RIVER

Keep Sevier Beautiful (KSB) and the American Eagle Foundation are determined to clean up not just the waterways of Sevierville, TN, but also the surrounding ecosystem to help ensure the health and longevity of the animals that depend on this area as their source for food.

REHABILITATION IMPACT

The AEF receives anywhere from 10-50 injured or sick raptors annually for rehabilitation.

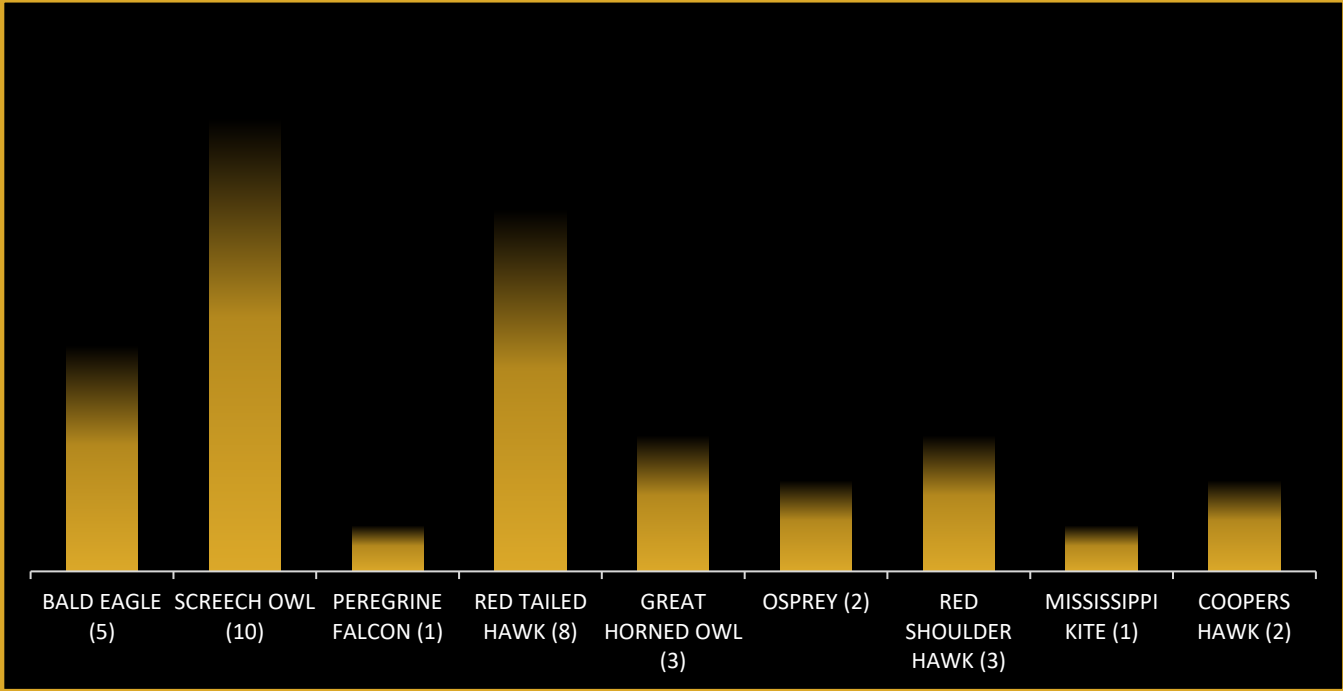
In addition to the treatment of injured, sick, and orphaned eagles, AEF's Eagle rehabilitation qualification is an important factor to its successfully daily care of brooding Eagles, their young, and Eagles being hacked for release.

The American Eagle Foundation works closely with Dr. Mike Jones, DVM (who specializes in Raptor Biomedicine and Avian Emergency Medicine and Critical Care) and the UT College of Veterinary Medicine to ensure the health of the AEF's resident raptors and also to successfully rehabilitate injured wild birds of prey.

UT College of Veterinary Medicine provides vital care to birds of prey with life-threatening or substantial injuries then transfers them to the AEF for daily care and rehabilitation.

The AEF has a quarantine facility for incoming raptors, a rehab facility for daily care, a flight facility for Bald Eagles to rebuild their flight ability after rehabilitation, and a smaller flight facility for small to medium sized raptors, such as owls and hawks.

Once an injured raptor completes its rehabilitation, it is released back into the wild, ideally close to where it was found. Raptors who have sustained injuries that render them incapable of survival in the wild are given a forever home at the AEF or another raptor facility.



GRANT PROGRAM

For eight years the American Eagle Foundation has funded efforts by scientists, agency personnel, and non-profit organizations to further our understanding and conservation of the Bald Eagle.

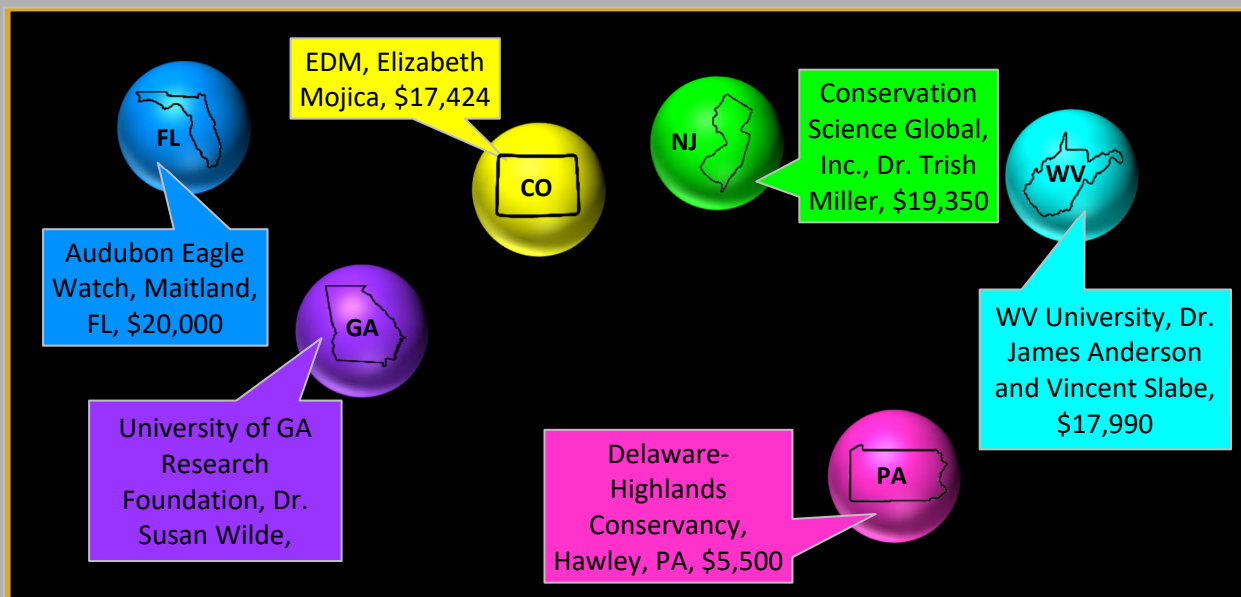
To date, the American Eagle Foundation has awarded over \$700,000 in grants to help insure the continued recovery of the Bald Eagle. Grants were first awarded in 2012, with about \$100,000 awarded yearly (no awards were granted for 2013).

Beginning July 1, 2019, we will be accepting proposals for International Eagle Grants. This is the second year that the American Eagle Foundation has sponsored eagle conservation work from applicants world-wide. The International Eagle Grants program will target research and conservation for eagle species in developing and underserved areas.

History of AEF Grants - The American Eagle Foundation obtained funding for this grant program in 2004, when both the U.S. Senate and House UNANIMOUSLY passed the 'Bald Eagle Commemorative Coin Act.' Congress authorized the U.S. Mint to mint \$5 gold, \$1 silver, and \$0.50 clad commemorative coins, which they sold to the public in 2008.

We continue to make those coins available to the public through our web site. These Coins celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as well as the Bald Eagle's successful recovery in the U.S.A. The Act authorized surcharges collected from the sale of collectible Bald Eagle Commemorative Coins to be paid to AEF of Tennessee "to further its works," which includes grants for Bald Eagle Projects.

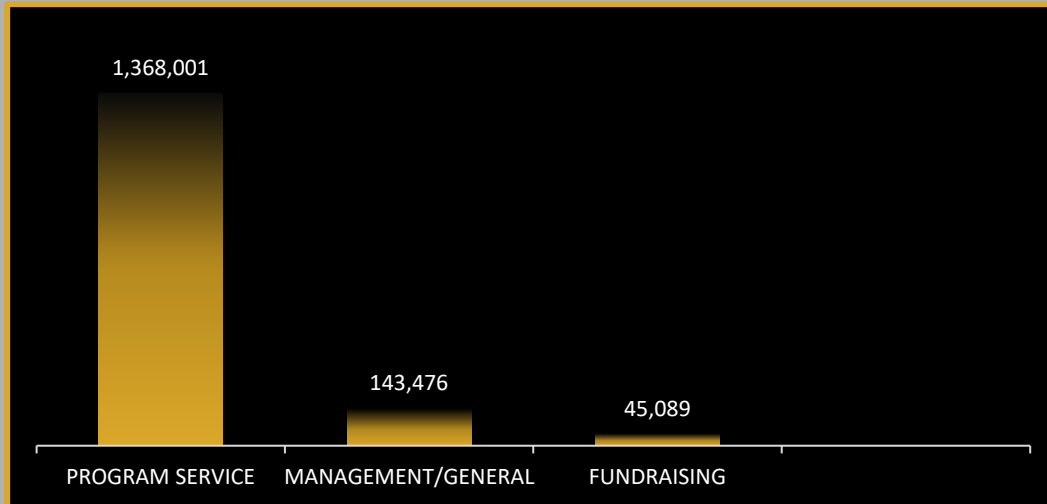
The U.S. Mint's 2008 Eagle Coin sales yielded \$7.8 million in surcharges. Seventy-five percent of the monies, \$5.8 million, were earmarked in the American Eagle Fund. This Fund supports priority bald eagle projects within the USFWS Regions of the United States. Projects may be conducted by state, federal and private agencies or parties.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

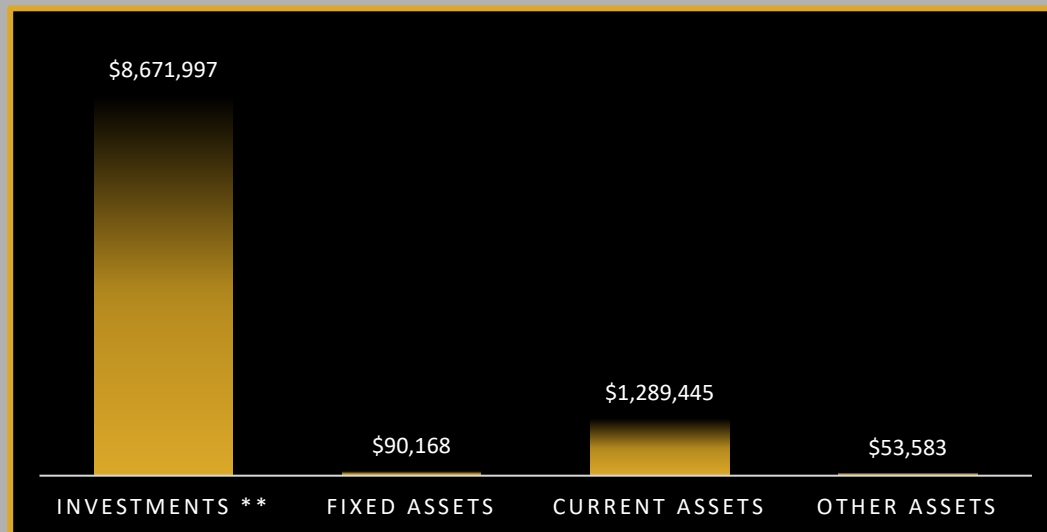
For the year end December 31, 2018



Total Expenses **\$1,556,566**

The American Eagle Foundation is committed to keeping fundraising and administrative expense under 25%, so that at least 0.75 of every \$1 raised goes to support program services. During 2018, the AEF's fundraising and administrative expenses were 12%.

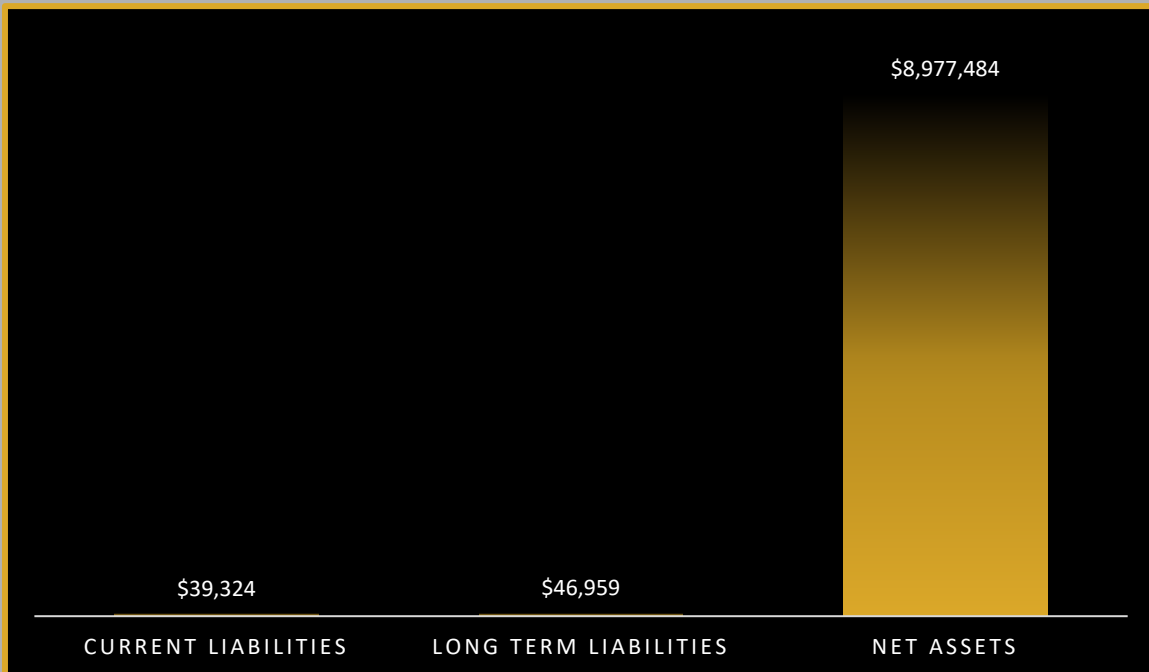
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



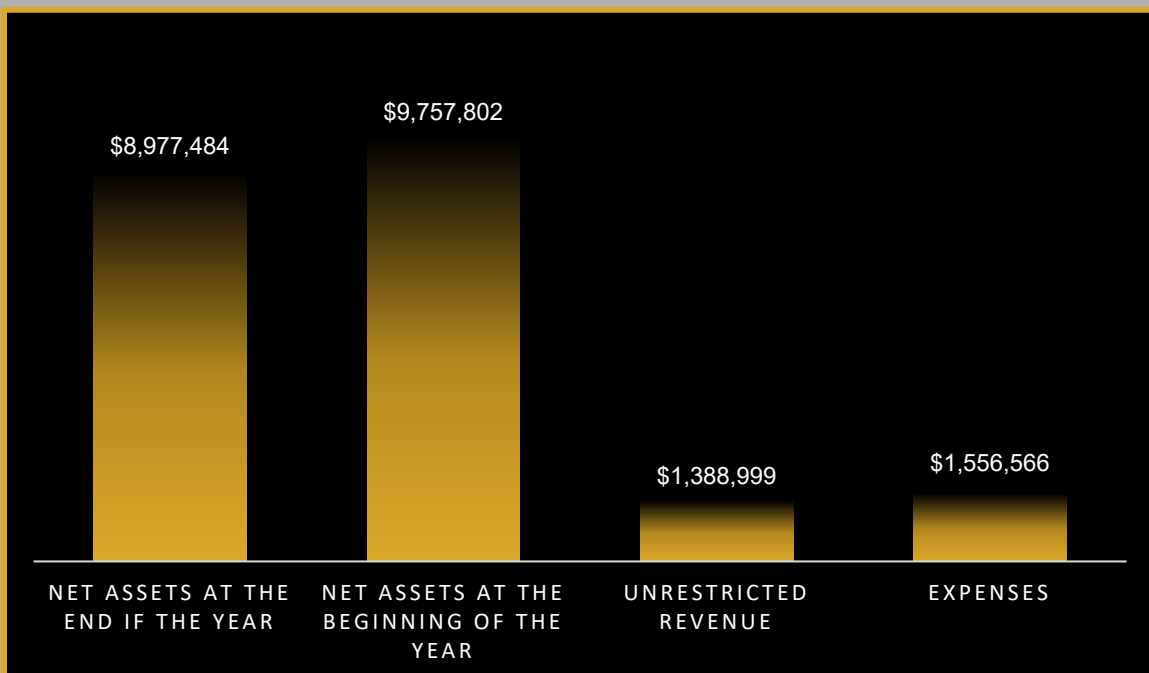
**75% of the funds will be granted to other organizations for various eagle-related projects and that 25% will be used by the American Eagle Foundation for eagle-related public education, care, monitoring, recovery, and protection.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

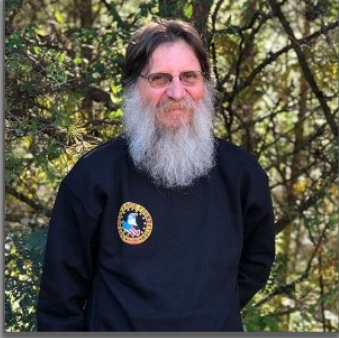


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

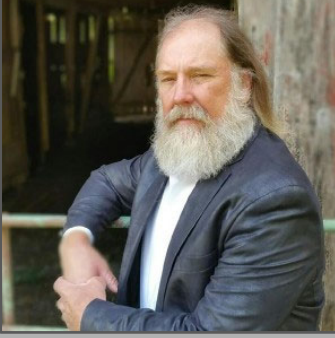


BOARD MEMBERS

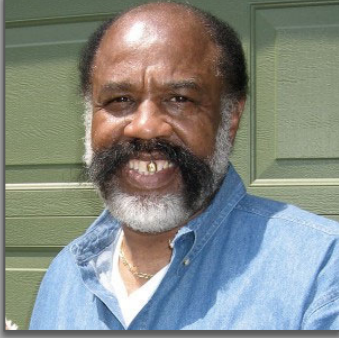
Jim Marietta



Courtney Lewis



Bobby Halliburton



James Rogers



Dr. Michael Jones DVM



Jason Boothe



John Stokes



Frank Bass III

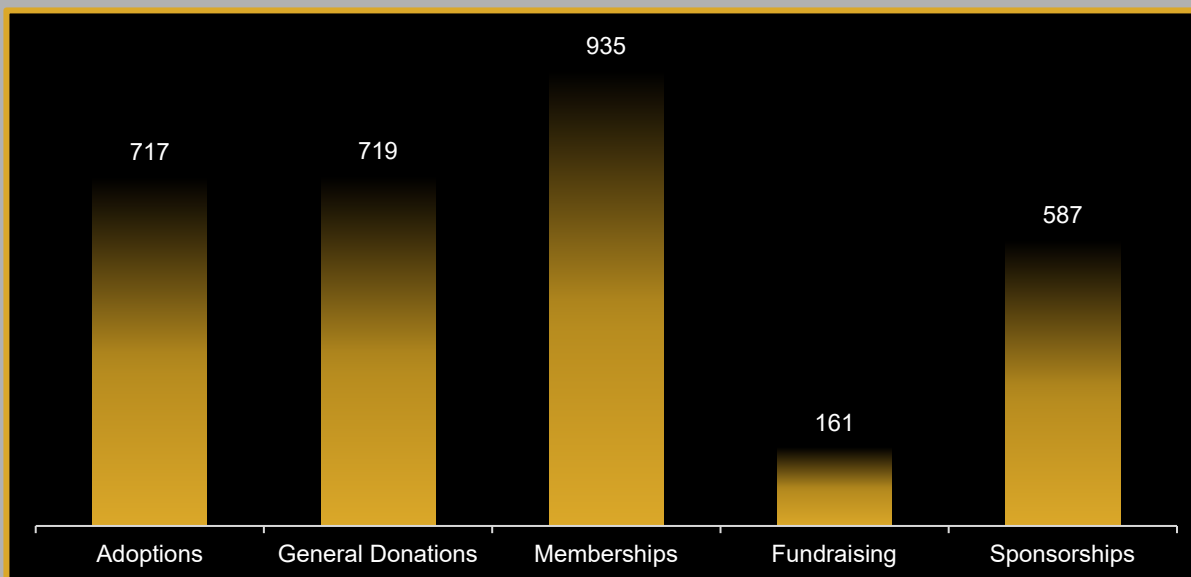


Sally Moorer



DONORS & SPONSORS

Donors & individual sponsorships received are recorded as unrestricted, depending on the existence of any donor restrictions. All contributions are from non-governmental sources.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

