

HAWK CREEK

connecting to nature



Life Below Zero ~ This Time We'll Be Ready!

Fall 2018

Dear Friend of Hawk Creek,

2018 has been a whirlwind of exciting events at the Center; the biggest highlights include having most of the animals moved into their new homes and being honored to welcome *Onyx*, the Verreaux's Eagle, to our family! As we celebrate surviving the non-stop year we've had, we recall events from last winter—we still have nightmares about those frigid weeks. As fall is approaching we know we must shift our focus and construction funds away from our fencing, signs, trail, parking lots and air conditioning (our computers are overheating) so that we can **redirect money to solve problems we faced during the extreme cold last winter—we need to be prepared for *Life Below Zero!*** Looks like we will once again postpone our plan of spoiling ourselves with real toilets!

Can we count on you to help the animals of Hawk Creek that are dependent on us to provide for their every need? While some of our ambassadors love the arctic weather, others have permanent injuries, are aging or are native to warmer climates so they need extra special care during harsh winter conditions.

As we brainstormed ideas to solve our winter woes, we knew we could not afford a \$400,000 building—oh how we miss our Lodge from the old site! We contemplated moving the Lodge, after all that's how we got it in the first place—someone told me “If you can move this polo barn, you can have it”. Sadly, it won't survive another move. As we began to feel rather defeated, there was light at the end of the tunnel, we received a generous donation of a 48' long insulated trailer—this could work! We've drawn up plans and have done our homework, this trailer can indeed be re-purposed by converting it into animal housing for arctic temperatures in the winter and as a bonus it will double as a nursery for babies in the summer. **Last year during the long stretches of below zero temperatures we had to get creative and had animals tucked in all sorts of odd places. We had owls stashed in our offices at the old facility, vultures in our old mammal house, falcons in our feed room and a Martial Eagle in the house—between that and trying to keep our herd warm with vests stolen from my husband's closet, it was extremely stressful. Check out our website hawkcreek.org/wp/news-blog/life-below-zero/ for our “*Diaries of Cold, Sad Keepers*” to read our account of last winter!** While the animals were safe, the housing was less than ideal and it required our skeleton crew to be spread thin by constantly driving back and forth to check on the animals throughout the day and night at two facilities. The reality is we live in Buffalo and it is imperative that we have proper housing for winter. Unlike the tropical birds, the vultures, elderly animals, owls and some of our falcons need a temperature between 25 -55 degrees.

Some people wonder why we don't bring in all of our animals for the entire winter, simply put, because the animals would hate it! It would deprive them of space, sunshine, fresh air and fun in the snow! Even our African Servals like to go outside in winter. Like all of our wild cats they have insulated dog doors that give them the choice of being in their outdoor habitat or their heated indoor area 24/7.

In addition to getting the trailer, the Center was fortunate to also receive a grant through the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo for construction of our new Eagle Complex,



Onyx is one of only six Verreaux's Eagles in the country.



Cherokee was hit by a car when she was 5 years old causing a permanent wing injury. She is now over 50 years old and truly the embodiment of power!

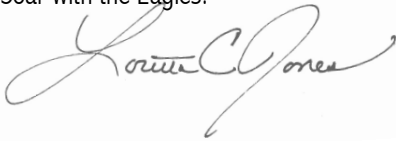
the grant has gotten us started but is not enough to complete the project. This section must be completed by fall so that we can move the remaining raptors to our Mill Road Facility. Along with outdoor enclosures, we need our indoor heated eagle housing completed for *Onyx* and *Thakan* our Martial Eagle, before winter. These rare African eagles are vital ambassadors for global eagle conservation. Hawk Creek and the Western New York community have been bestowed with a great honor to welcome these magnificent birds to our family. **When Hawk Creek was contacted by our partners at Sia, the Comanche Nation Ethno-Ornithological Initiative, we were humbled to be offered the first Verreaux's Eaglet to be born in the Western Hemisphere due to our conservation work with eagles. *Onyx* is one of only six Verreaux's Eagles in the United States.** It has been an incredible experience to share with the community what it is like raising an eagle from a tiny chick! Eagles are not only some of the most iconic animals, integral to cultures across the globe, they are also vital barometers of the health of our planet. As apex predators they keep diseases at bay and control pest populations making the planet healthier for humans.

Eagles require specialized, long term care—they can live up to 60 years in captivity! The indoor portion of the eagle housing is crucial for geriatric care in their golden years, remember *Cherokee* is over 50 years old! Not only must we have long term care ready for each animal at Hawk Creek, we need to provide them with everything they need to have a quality, fulfilled life. For *One Wing* that means getting her another companion after the loss of *Tunka* in the spring. In Florida there is a young, non-releasable bald eagle that is in dire need of a permanent home. He is now waiting for the eagle complex to be finished so he can be transferred here to his forever home where *One Wing* is waiting. We must continue to fulfill our mission of rescuing animals in need and this eagle complex is critical to that mission.

Please help us get our eagle complex and winter housing ready for the next time we are forced to endure *Life Below Zero*. **If everyone did just one small part to help, we can move the remaining animals to Mill Road, offer higher quality care to our warm weather and geriatric eagles in winter, save another bird in need, give *One Wing* a companion and provide a permanent solution for extreme winters to keep the animals safe and give their caretakers some peace of mind.**

Thank you for your valuable support that allows Hawk Creek to continue to soar in fulfilling our mission!

Soar With the Eagles!



Loretta C. Jones
Executive Director

PS:

We acknowledge and appreciate your decision to help our mission. We realize that funds are always limited and there are many causes seeking donations.

Did you know that you can designate your United Way donations to Hawk Creek and many employers have matching donations to double your dollars? (United Way #3430, CFC #42802, SEFA #5700099).

Another easy way to help our mission is through smile.amazon.com! Simply choose Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, Inc. as your supported charity, shop, and a portion of your purchases will be donated to Hawk Creek! We receive no state or federal funding. If you cannot give at this time, please share this with family, friends and co-workers.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES:

Insulated trailer	Donated!
Electrical work	\$4,500
Roof repair & move	\$2,000
Windows & doors	\$4,000
Move heater from old site	\$2,000
Fans & vents	\$1,000
Concrete floor	\$3,000
Paint/patch walls & ceilings	\$ 500
Build interior enclosures	\$3,000
Security cameras	Donated!
Generator	\$10,000
Total	\$30,000



This beautiful young bald eagle was found emaciated, with damage to both feet and blind in one eye. He has been nursed back to health and given a second chance at life! Can he count on you to bring him home?