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Director's Message

Judy Scherpelz

Executive Director

There is no shortage of causes for you to support. I am extremely honored that you have chosen to lend your strength to ours. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program can only continue our mission because of your generous support.

Your contribution saves lives on a day to day basis, and I hope this document will show you exactly how you become the hero of these raptors stories. You can be assured that your faith is not misplaced.

The challenges of 2016 were only overcome because the RMRP had your amazing support and the kindness of your heart.

I hope by telling you the stories of some of the patients you helped to save, you will see exactly how important you are to the day-to-day mission of rehabilitation, education, and research.

Warmest Regards,

Judy



Inspiring the appreciation and protection of raptors and the spaces where they live through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.

A History of Compassion

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program began in 1979 when veterinary students at Colorado State University's (CSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital cared for an injured hawk.

In 1987, the University hired Judy Scherpelz to expand the student club into a self-sustaining, community-based program. It became a nonprofit organization in 2003 and separated from CSU in late 2006.

The RMRP retains close ties to the clinicians at CSU, who perform the more complex procedures and surgeries some of our patients require. Our Rehabilitation Director, Gail Kratz, meets every week with our supervising clinicians to ensure each patient has a perfected course of treatment.

Though rehabilitation was the initial focus, it became apparent that education and research would be essential to complement the mission.

The years have seen a great evolution of the education program. It began as a handful of permanently disabled birds, dubbed Educational Ambassadors, and a small number of informational programs. It has expanded to twenty Educational Ambassadors spreading our message during hundreds of presentations each year.

Research has an ever-expanding role to further the knowledge base of not only the RMRP but those entities we work with. Each year sees the addition of more research to help find solutions to the problems facing today's raptor populations.

Going forward, we hope to expand the services that the RMRP provides for the surrounding areas. There is so much more we can do for wildlife, and you can help.



Left: This Redtailed Hawk was stricken with West Nile Virus. Because of the efforts of RMRP and our amazing supporters, he was returned to the wild.



Cornerstones of a Mission

Rehabilitation

Seeing a raptor fly back into its natural environment is awe-inspiring, encouraging us to carry on. We have been widely recognized for providing an excellent standard of care.

Our staff has more than 75 years of combined experience in healing raptors. Our close relationship with CSU is extremely valuable as they also provide diagnostics, medical procedures and surgery for our more challenging cases.

A Second Chance at Freedom is the goal of every admission.

Education

We know our educational programs are essential to the health of our community and the environment. We present nearly 200 days of environmental education programs and public outreach exhibits in the region each year.

Through these efforts, people learn about the importance of conserving raptors, wildlife, and wild places.

These programs inform and educate thousands of audience members, who also experience the awe of seeing these inspirational birds at arm's length.

Research

We believe we must learn as much as we can about the raptors we care for and the diseases and hazards that affect them in the hope to find solutions.

The large number of injured raptors we see provides for the ongoing collection and analysis of data.

Raptors are an important part of our environment, and as the top of the food chain, they are key indicators of the health of their surrounding ecosystem. By studying them, we discover the presence of toxic substances, hazards, diseases, and potential solutions.

Every Day, A Life Depends on You

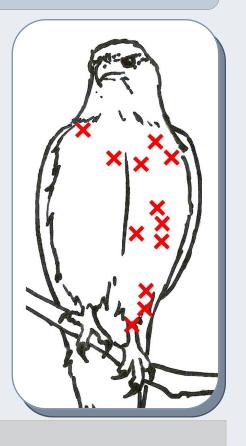


"You CAN change the future for wildlife.
Especially the one that needs you today."

-Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director

Left: A Red-tailed Hawk heals after being shot.

Right: The hawk had thirteen pellet wounds scattered across his body.



Torn From the Skies

There are times when a patient's injuries are so unbelievable, you can't imagine how the bird survived. This Red-tailed Hawk is one of those patients.

He had been found on the side of a busy road, so was presumed to be hit by a car when he was rescued. However, during his exam it was obvious that his injuries were much more sinister.

Pellets from a gun pierced his skin, some deep enough that they couldn't be removed except with invasive surgery. He was extremely lucky. The ammunition used was steel and not lead, and none of the pellets had punctured his internal organs or broken his bones.

Cases like this tell the RMRP that our work is needed now more than ever. The education that the RMRP provides is essential to prevent incidents like these. It's only by inspiring love of wildlife that we can hope to protect it.

2016 Rehabilitation Statistics

Admission Species and Numbers

Red-tailed Hawk	57
Great Horned Owl	55
Swainson's Hawk	41
American Kestrel	26
Cooper's Hawk	31
Common Barn Owl	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10
Bald Eagle	6
Long-eared Owl	5
Burrowing Owl	4
Eastern Screech Owl	4
Golden Eagle	4
Merlin	3
Rough-legged Hawk	3
Saw-whet Owl	3
Ferruginous Hawk	2
Northern Harrier	2
Osprey	2
Prairie Falcon	2
Mississippi Kite	1

Total Number of Admissions: 292

Rescue Cities

Colorado:	Loveland
Akron	Milliken
Atwood	New Raymer
Ault	Nunn
Bellvue	Orchard
Berthoud	Pierce
Briggsdale	Platteville
Commerce City	Roggen
Crook	Sedgwick
Eaton	Severance
Evans	Sterling Sterling
Fort Collins	Timnath
Fort Lupton	Walcott
Fort Morgan	Wellington
Galeton	Wiggins
Gill	Windsor
Greeley	***
Grover	Wyoming:
Haxton	Casper
Johnstown	Cheyenne
Keenesburg	Glenrock
Kersey	Laramie
LaSalle	Lusk
Livermore	Pine Bluffs
Longmont	Saratoga
March 19 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Sinclair

Types of Injuries and Numbers

(Categories are not mutually exclusive)

` 0	•
Fracture	12
Head/Spinal Trauma	63
Emaciated	43
Hit by Vehicle	26
Window Strike	22
West Nile Virus	21
Barbed Wire	10
Gunshot	8
High Voltage Trauma	7
Caught by Cat	5
Leg Hold Trap	4
Lead Positive	4
Methane Burner	2
Oiled	1
A CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF T	

The total number of Bird Care Days in 2016 was 9147.

For every day a bird is cared for by the RMRP, we count it as a "Bird Care Day." The total number of Bird Care Days is calculated from the day the bird arrives to the day it is released back to the wild, or is humanely euthanized due to its injuries.

Service to Our Community

Making Strides in Raptor Protection and Conservation

Here are just some of the ways you have enabled RMRP to continue our mission to save wildlife. Last year, the RMRP was able to take part in the following services to our community and environment:

24/7 Emergency On-Call: The RMRP is reachable every hour, every day of the year for people who have concerns about injured raptors. We also help direct people with other types of birds and animals to their closest wildlife rehabilitator.

Welfare Checks: Many situations call for a professional eye to assess a raptor with a potential problem. Many of RMRP's staff often drive out to do situation assessments when a concerned member of the public calls about a possibly injured or distressed raptor and we cannot resolve the incident over the phone. From young owls stuck in window wells, to downed trees possibly containing a nest of distressed nestling hawks, our team can help find a solution.



Above: RMRP teaches a raptor identification class for Colorado Parks and Wildlife employees.

Below: An owl that was stuck in a hole dug by a utility company returns to the wild.



<u>Colorado Parks and</u> Wildlife Raptor Training:

Officers and volunteers at CPW are given training on identification and safe capture and transport of raptors so we can work together to ensure the best care for raptors in our area.

Powerline Safety: Raptor powerline deterrents and supplemental perches are tested at the RMRP using live raptors. This helps many companies understand how their designs will work to save wild raptors from electrocution and high voltage trauma risk.

Energy Companies Consulting and Training:

RMRP hosts professional workshops providing education to energy companies, plus we do consulting with field operatives to help resolve and prevent conflicts with raptors.

Service to Our Community

Raising Awareness: We strive to alert our surrounding community to problems that wildlife of our area face. We use outreach, educational conservation programs, and publications to help others understand how they can make a difference in wildlife conservation.

Golden Eagle Rescue Network
(GERD) - Partners for Raptor
Transport: RMRP coordinates
with GERD to respond
immediately to help injured
raptors in the Southeastern
Wyoming area.

Wildlife Commission:

Rehabilitation Coordinator
Michael Tincher works closely
with wildlife commissioners and
regularly attends commission
meetings to help ensure that
rehabilitation issues and raptor
populations are considered in
state regulations to best protect
and serve wildlife.



Above: Raptor powerline deterrents are set up in a flight cage at RMRP to be tested with live raptors. This data will help save wild raptors from electrocution.

Inset: Some deterrents doing their job at keeping raptors safe.

Professional Science Masters
Program (CSU): Students that
are part of the PSM in Zoo,
Aquarium, and Animal Shelter
Management have the
opportunity to learn at the
RMRP with our knowledgeable
staff as mentors. Director Judy
Scherpelz also teaches several
classes for the students to
expand their knowledge of
wildlife non-profits.

Thank you to those who help us give these amazing creatures the help they deserve.

Thanks to:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Wyoming Game and Fish
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado State University
Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Exotics Department
Westridge Animal Hospital
Cheyenne Pet Clinic
Teton Raptor Center
EDM International, Inc.
Powerline Sentry, Inc.
Xcel Energy
Noble Energy
Poudre Valley REA

Death Defying Feats

Red-tailed Hawk Survives Horrible Wounds

Near Right: Red-tailed Hawk on admission after being hit by a car and attacked by another hawk. Severe wounds litter his body.

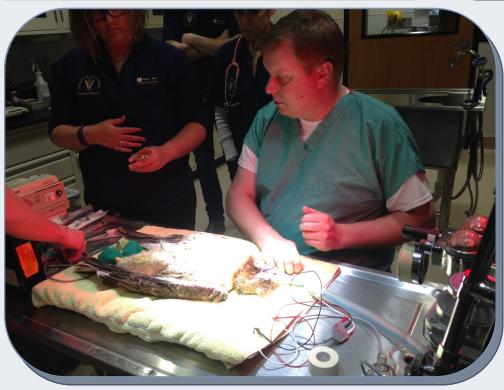
Far Right: Up at last. After several weeks of healing, the hawk is much stronger and his wounds are nearly healed.

Below: The hawk needed surgery and months of wound care to heal all of its wounds.

Bottom Right: Freedom! Thanks to the hard work of staff, volunteers and supporters, this hawk had everything he needed to go home.









Education & Outreach



Education

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program's Education and Outreach programs are essential to the future health of our community and the environment.

Formal educational programs are delivered in to children's groups (e.g. schools, Boy Scouts, and church groups) and adult and family groups (e.g., wildlife-interest groups, seniors, and public library programs).

Our programs at the public libraries in Fort Collins have become their best attended events. Education Director Carin Avila has a fan club that makes sure to never miss one of her educational programs.

Outreach

Both Education and Outreach Programs teach about raptors and conservation, enabling audiences to experience the awe of seeing these inspiring birds at arm's length.

Our outreach program reaches tens of thousands of visitors to festivals all over Colorado. From Open Houses held at the RMRP, to local farmer's markets, to huge festivals like the Boulder Creek Festival, the RMRP strives to reach as many people as possible to spread our message.

Being face-to-face with our Educational Ambassadors is a powerful motivation to learn more about conservation.

2016 Education & Outreach Statistics

Types of Programs and Numbers

Formal Programs 122

Educational Tours 40

Informal Educational Outreach 44

Total Number of

Education/Outreach Days: 206

"Change comes through education, from the effort each of us take to make the world a better place."

-Carin Avila, Education Director



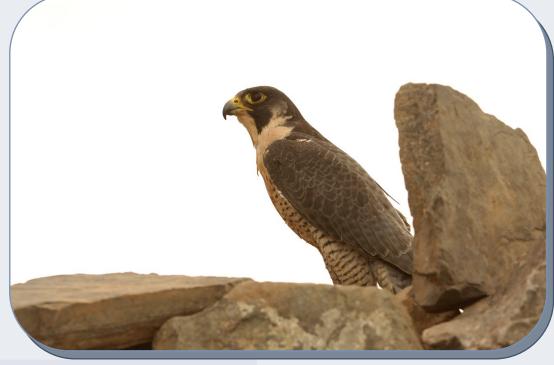
Education Power Houses

Educational Raptors Inspire Hope

Looking into the eyes of an eagle from barely three feet away is an experience that cannot be forgotten. Educational Raptors are one of the greatest tools you can use when trying to spark enchantment with the wild.

Education about the conservation of wildlife and wild places is not effective without captivating the audience's hearts as well as their minds. The plight of these creatures can be brought to a more personal level when you are face-to-face with a raptor that was taken from the skies by human faults.

Educational raptors remind you that you can make a difference in the lives of these creatures. You can become an advocate for their conservation, one bird at a time.



Above: This Educational Peregrine Falcon is 17 years old, and still going strong. In 2016, she participated in 63 education programs.



Left: Coming to the RMRP in 1988, this Turkey Vulture is the oldest of our Educational Ambassadors.

Right: This 26 year old female Swainson's Hawk is a hard working Education Ambassador with the additional job of being a foster parent for orphaned or injured young hawks.



2016 Research



Delivering Knowledge

The RMRP was proud to be represented by our Rehabilitation Coordinator Mike Tincher at the Raptor Research Foundation Conference in October of 2016. This prestigious forum allows information from all over the world to be disseminated to the hungry minds of raptor rehabilitation, education, and research professionals.

This year, we were excited to provide data to a project designed to save raptors from being injured on powerlines. Partnering with EDM International, Mike presented "Testing Perch Deterrents and Supplemental Perches Designed to Mitigate Raptor Electrocutions on Electric Power Poles." This paper was authored by James Dwyer, Michael Tincher, Rich Harness, and Gail Kratz and originally published in Northwestern Naturalist.

The future of these wild creatures depends on our ability to understand them better. The more we can learn, the better we can secure their future in this changing world.

Research is a way for the RMRP to help increase the world's knowledge of raptors and the environment. We are involved in several ongoing projects, and we hope our contributions will continue to advance the conservation of raptors and the places they live.

Projects: (primary investigators listed in parenthesis)

- ♦ Enhanced surveillance of West Nile Virus and Avian Influenza. (Nick Komar, CDC)
- Measurement data supporting the ongoing study of the taxonomic status of the Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk. (Allen and Clarke)
- Data collection for raptor electrocutions, electric shock victims, and methane flare burner injuries. (Harness, EDM)
- Survey of lead levels in raptors of Colorado. (RMRP)
- Approximately Raptor carcasses are sent to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to become a part of their tissue bank for genetic population studies.
- Effectiveness of raptor exclusion devices and supplemental perches to prevent raptor electrocutions. (EDM)
- West Nile Virus surveillance. (CDPHE)
- Wing measurements for dimension of raptors on electric utility poles (RMRP)
- Monitoring of Avian Influenza in raptors.(USDA APHIS)

2016 Income Report

Analysis of Income and Expenditures

RMRP I	ncome & Expense	Stateme	ent
Income		2015	2016
	Individual Gifts	\$271,622	\$290,704
	Grants	\$37,439	\$71,777
	Corporate Support	\$2,432	\$19,456
	Auction	\$73,960	\$84,260
	Merchandise Sales	\$20,325	\$26,624
	Education Fees	\$26,931	\$22,980
	Miscellaneous	\$18,936	\$982
	Loan to Restructure Debt	\$100,000	NA
	Makal Taranasa	φ τ ο π 000	4505.050
	Total Income	\$ 537,399	\$507,053
Expenses	Total Income	\$537,399 2015	\$507,053 2016
Expenses	Rehabilitation & Research	· · ·	
Expenses		2015	2016
Expenses	Rehabilitation & Research	2015 \$213,490	2016 \$207,004
Expenses	Rehabilitation & Research Education	2015 \$213,490 \$208,816	2016 \$207,004 \$124,803 \$68,851
Expenses	Rehabilitation & Research Education Fundraising	2015 \$213,490 \$208,816 \$54,421	2016 \$207,004 \$124,803 \$68,851
Expenses	Rehabilitation & Research Education Fundraising Program Administration	2015 \$213,490 \$208,816 \$54,421 \$55,844	2016 \$207,004 \$124,803 \$68,851 \$69,034

ENDING BALANCE

\$12,216

\$49,577

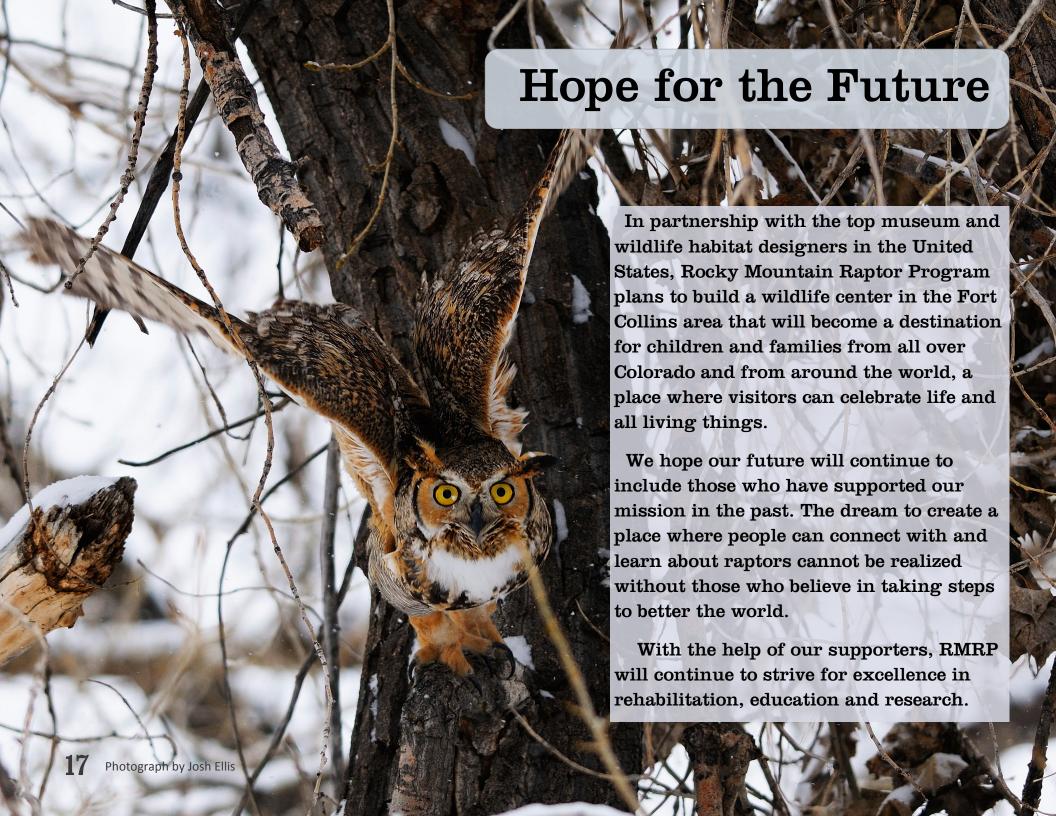
Balance Sheet

December 31, 2016



"In nature I find the inspiration to work toward a better world. I hope that the RMRP will open the eyes of those who meet us and inspire them to look within and be the difference."

-Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director



Staff, Board and Volunteers

The dedication of these individuals, backed by the support of generous donors, has enabled the RMRP to become the leading raptor rescue and rehabilitation facility in the region.

Staff Members:

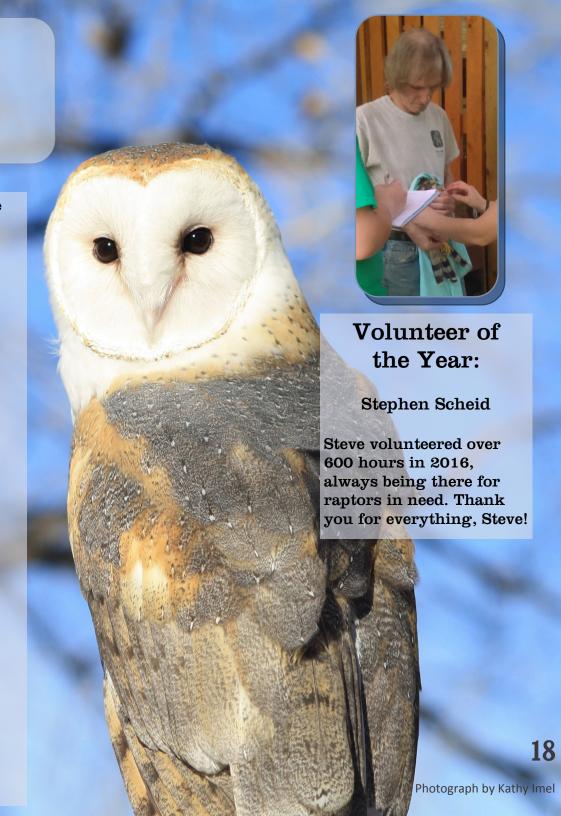
Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director
Lisa Winta, Assistant Director
Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director
Carin Avila, Education Director
Michael Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator
Lynsey Reed, Administration Associate
Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Associate
Jessica Miller, Education Associate
Bonnie Cleaver, Education Associate

Board Members:

Judy Scherpelz, President Rick Snow Todd Kerr Dyanne Willow Jerry Craig John Reed

Volunteers:

250 volunteers donated 30,747 hours to the RMRP in 2016. These volunteers are an invaluable resource that the RMRP thanks from the bottom of our hearts.





The 2017 Aerie Society



The Aerie Society is a cornerstone giving community that includes donors who have given \$1000 or more to the RMRP in 2016.

Jim and Monica Adams Alice N. Jenkins Foundation Margo and Dean Allman Piper Aune Bernice Barbour Foundation, Inc. George and Barbara Biedenstein Christopher Bielinski and Jenny Geiser Big Al's, LLC Bonanza Creek Energy B. Pamela Brown Fred and Cynthia Burdick David and Alexandra Butler **Bryan Byers** Century Communities, Inc. Robert Cipriano and Lula Callahan Kitty Cottingham Ross and Jill Cunniff Tharon and John Deakins James Doyle Barbara Duffner Kenneth and Mary Dunnington H. Richard and Anne Farr Carl and Judy Ferenbach Dennis and Geri Georg Barbara Green Robert Gregory Rosana Guimaraes Jessica Hagewood Linda S. Hamilton Jon and Kimberly Hassinger Bob Heer Hillside Construction, Inc. Andrew Hornbrook Gene and Susan Humphries **Infinite Wellness Center** George and Margaret Janson Kenneth & Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation, Inc. Todd and Lisa Kerr Marie Kirkpatrick Christina Kuroiwa and Paul Evangelista Michael and Gayle Lettenmaier

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Freedom's Refuge



Freedom's Refuge is a lifetime giving society that recognizes donors who have supported the RMRP throughout its 29 year history.



Eagle's Stronghold

\$100,000 +

Rosana Guimaraes
Monfort Family Foundation
Mortimer Charitable Lead Trust
Mary K. Stallings Trust



Peregrine's Preserve

\$50,000 +

Bernice Barbour Foundation Elinor Patterson Baker Trust August and Christel Pfeiffer The Powell Foundation Wayne and Phyllis Schrader



Owl's Haven

\$25,000 +

Alice N. Jenkins Foundation
Animal Assistance Foundation
William and Kris Bensler
Bohemian Foundation
Sheila Boll
John Brooke and Cheryl Teuton
James Doyle
Barbara Duffner
Carl and Judy Ferenbach
Richard Luebs
Vic and MC Reichman



"Thank you for being the heroes these creatures deserve. Your support, in the most appropriate definition of literally, saves lives."

-Lynsey Reed, RMRP Associate

Osprey's Harbor

\$10,000 +

Heman and Pat Adams

Piper Aune

George and Barbara Biedenstein

BP Corporation of North America

Bryan Byers

Richard and Jeane Darst

Carol Dollard and Harry Bates

James Doyle

Barbara Duffner

El Pomar Foundation

Scott Gale and Nancy Cox

Dennis and Geri Georg

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Robert Gregory

Jessica Hagewood

Jon and Kimberly Hassinger

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Kennedy and Coe, LLC

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Dr. and Mrs. John McGrew

Dick and Lynn Minor

Molloy Family Foundation

New Belgium Brewery

Kevin and Jean O'Toole

Todd and Lisa Kerr-Power Line Sentry, LLC

Nancy Prior

John and Maria Reed

Larry and Heather Reeder

Vic and MC Reichman

Judy Scherpelz

Rick Snow and Helen Petrak

Rutt and Annie Bridges Family Foundation

George Tomasevich

The Vermont Community Foundation

Dyanne Willow and Jason Loftus

Mike and Leslie Winn

Xcel Energy Foundation



"The knowledge,
dedication and
passion the RMRP
has is as infectious
as the amazing
raptors they care for.
That is why we
donate."

-Helen Petrak, RMRP Supporter

Red-tail's Retreat

\$5,000 +

Bernie and Barb Alexy Margo and Dean Allman Alsager Animal Care Center Anadarko A-Train Marketing Phil and Lynn Beedle Maxine Benjamin, DVM Dr. Thomas Bennett and Jaqueline Bennett Frank and Carla Bennett Christine Berkness Julie Bettis **Black-Periman Foundation** Daryl and Helen Boggs **Dennis Bogott** Bonanza Creek Energy David and Alexandra Butler Robert and Ann Chlebnik Roberta Cipriano and Lula Callahan Colorado Division of Wildlife **Community First Foundation** Ross and Jill Cunniff Tharon and John Deakins Eric Defonso Paul and Ellen Dudek Kenneth F. and Mary Dunnington **Engle Family Foundation** Trish Faubion Fort Fund Bob and Rose Francella. Scott and Rosemarie Hanson Karl and Cindy Hoff Shawn and Evon Holladay The Home Depot Foundation

Scott and Ria Hudson Gene and Susan Humphries **IBM** International Foundation Kenneth & Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation, Inc. Marie Kirkpatrick **Lakin Family Foundation** Joel and Ruth Larner Michael and Gayle Lettenmaier Ed William Lewis Hal Litoff Charles and Gail Lowrie Michael Mabbitt and Diane Hill-**Mabbitt** Ron Malm and Tandie Opsal Bruce and Susan McGill Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Loene **McIntyre** Messing Family Charitable Foundation Aaron Miller and Carin Avila Terri Orcutt and Charles Berner OtterCares Foundation Pajeau Wildlife Foundation Lyal E. Quinby Andrea Rayford Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Robertson Robert Schein Sarah Schmeer Drs. Steve Stauss and Olga Boltalina Robert and Sue Taylor Russell Taylor and Mary Wilson Michael and Christine Thomas Rebecca Van Pelt Steven and Teresa Wells **Wesch Family Foundation** Wild Birds Unlimited

"When a life is in your hands, you do what you have to so they pull through."

-Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator



The Legacy of Freedom Society

The Legacy of Freedom Society honors those donors who have chosen to give a future gift by including RMRP in their will to ensure their legacy will live on through the freedom of raptors.

Barbara and Bernie Alexy James T. Alsop Elizabeth A. Armour Susan Baker and Stephen Scheid Maxine Benjamin, DVM **Mara Blatt** Bob Bixler and Colleen Shannon Dave and Kerry Brookman Fred and Cynthia Burdick Amie and Benji Durden **Bob Francella Bob Heer** J. Michele Hogan Gene and Susan Humphries **Bob Janis Barbara Jones** Rick Luebs Jim and Joanne Matson **August and Christel Pfeiffer** Vic and MC Reichman Dr. Steve Ryder Laura Schafer Cordelia and Amanda Stone Ray and Janet Thurman Rebecca Van Pelt Suzanne Westgaard

Lisa Winta

How You Can Help

By becoming a supporter of the RMRP, you can ensure the future of our mission. Supporters at every level build the base upon which we can build our program.

- Donate Online: Go to www.rmrp.org/donate to generate immediate resources for the RMRP. Donations of \$1000 or more qualify you to become a member of the Aerie Society.
- Join the Legacy of Freedom Society: By adding the RMRP to your will or estate, you can ensure a future for the creatures we care for in generations to come.
- Become a Sponsor: You can be a foundation for RMRP to stretch our message even further. Sponsorship opportunities are available for our photo calendar project, annual gala dinner and benefit auction, community outreach events, and much more.
- Wish List: Such a huge endeavor as the RMRP uses a lot of resources. Can you fill some of our needs? You can find our current wish list online at www.rmrp.org/ donate/wish-list.
- Shop Smart: By using iGive.com, Amazon Smile, or GoodShop you can ensure that your regular online shopping will also give back to your community. You can find links to these programs and more online at www.rmrp.org/donate/other-ways-to-help.
- Become a Volunteer: You can see what our volunteers do to aid the RMRP on a daily basis by checking out our volunteer program online.



