

# On the Horizon



## Horizon Wings Newsletter – Fall 2012

[www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org)

Welcome to Horizon Wings' quarterly newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

## A Special Birthday Donation

Being a part of Horizon Wings has many rewards, from the thrill of releasing a rehabilitated bird back to the wild to the privilege of working with our non-releasable birds in an educational setting. One of the greatest rewards is when we see a child who has a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for the work that we do. We were fortunate to meet such a child this past year. Jared Palumbo, along with his father Michael, attended our Earth Day Fair this past spring. Jared had a great interest in and knowledge of birds of prey. He was especially interested in peregrine falcons and kept coming back to Athena's aviary to learn more about her. Jared and his father were there for the majority of our Earth Day asking questions and learning more about each bird.

Although Horizon Wings has developed a loyal following over the years, many visitors come and go. This was not to be the case with Jared! As it turned out, Jared had won one of our raffle prizes and came the next day, along with his older brother, Marcus, to pick it up. Marcus also had a great interest in and knowledge of birds of prey, and as he was not able to attend Earth Day they were given a tour. After this meeting with Jared and his family it was obvious we would be seeing him again. We just didn't realize what a special child he was.

A couple of months passed and we received a phone call from a lady who wished to donate some lumber to Horizon Wings. As we always do, we asked how she had heard about us. We were informed that a friend of hers had a son who requested donations be made to Horizon Wings for his birthday. When asked who her friend was, she told us Michael Palumbo and his son Jared. We contacted Michael and were told Jared had decided that instead of receiving gifts for his sixth birthday (yes, this is a six-year-old boy) that he wanted his party guests to donate to us. We were floored! We made arrangements with Jared's parents to surprise him with a visit by some of the birds on his birthday. On the day of his party, Mary-Beth and I showed up with Athena, our peregrine falcon; Dakota, our red-tailed hawk; and Silo, our barn owl. We were greeted by a very surprised Jared. Jared had even made a special donation box by cutting pictures from our newsletters. The next day Jared presented us with the donations he had collected---- a total of \$180 along with some always needed cleaning supplies.



It is always special to us to reach out and be able to educate the children who will help with the protection and conservation of our environment in the future, but to have one step forward to help us with that goal is extra special. We would like to thank Jared again for his selfless gesture and look forward to seeing him and his family in the future.

*Written by Alan Nordell*

## Wish List

### Materials:

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Roofing material
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware cloth
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves
- Small P.A. system.

*Please support your local merchants whenever possible!*

# Just in Time for the Holidays – Horizon Wings 2013 Donations and Calendars and Adoptions!

Monetary donations are a wonderful gift to give this season to our many birds who need your help. Funds will be used for medical supplies, aviary-building materials, and food for the birds. Contact us at [horizonwings@gmail.com](mailto:horizonwings@gmail.com) to find out how you can help. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donations are tax-deductible.

In addition with a donation of \$25.00 or more you will receive a 2013 Horizon Wings calendar featuring the birds of Horizon Wings.

Looking for the perfect gift for friends or family? Why not adopt a raptor? You can sponsor one of our magnificent birds (or our mascot “Beamer”) to help subsidize the cost of their daily care. This includes medical cost, aviary repair and construction, and feeding. In return you will receive an 8x10 photograph of your bird along with an adoption certificate and their biography. Visit [www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org) for more information.



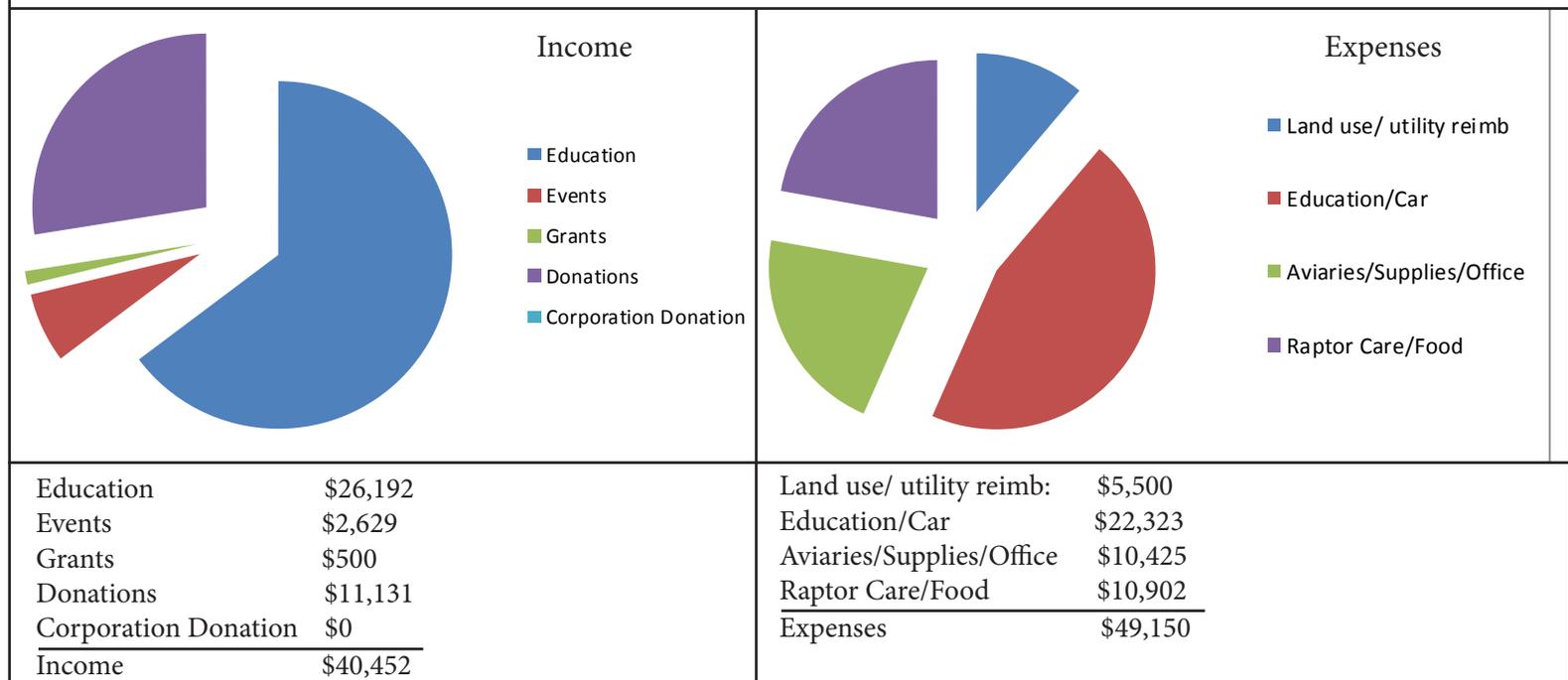
## A Fun Time? Owl Say!

Smiles, giggles, laughter, and glee-----all part of our celebration of all things “owls”. Thanks to everyone who participated, Horizon Wings’ 2nd annual Owl Prowl fundraiser, held this past October, was a resounding success. We exceeded last year’s attendance records, and were truly touched to see the huge outpouring of support. We enjoyed sharing the evening with you all and are already looking forward to next year.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers for giving so freely of their time and talents to make this evening unforgettable.

*Written by Patricia Cebrelli*

## Horizon Wings 2012 Fiscal Report



## Special Acknowledgements :

Horizon Wings would like to thank the many people who helped to support us in different ways throughout the year:

**D'Amico Electric**, for donating their time to run water and, electricity closer to our aviaries.

**Vaughn and Sheila Numrych**, for their generous donations that funded the water, and electricity project.

**Paul Watson**, accountant.

**Vern Ellis**, printing

**Paulien Rorick** of Studiographic Design for our website

**Dr. Ann Bourke** of North East Bird Clinic

**The doctors and staff** of Bolton Veterinary Hospital

**Tufts Wildlife clinic**, especially **Robin** for her help in transporting the sick and injured birds.

**Tony Fantonoli** for building the Broad-wings aviary.

**EO Smith students, Uconn Honor Council, and Wildlife club** and all of the other people who have helped us with our spring and fall clean-ups and other events throughout the year.

**Mary and Margie Thompson** of Thistle Glass Crafts in Ellington.

**Wendy Carty and Sandy Rosseau** for their fund raising efforts.

**Selective Insurance** for their help with fall cleanup.

And last but far from least our regular volunteers who help make

Horizon Wings what it is. Thank you **Jeanne, Sandy, Patricia,**

**Brenda, Sara, Jeremy, Colleen, and Chelsea.**

*-Mary-Beth and Alan*

## The Year of 2012 at Horizon Wings

It was another busy year for us at Horizon Wings. We were very lucky to welcome 4 new educational ambassadors to our team. In May we got Dante the Turkey Vulture and Cypress the Red shouldered hawk from Teresa Kramer of Canton Raptor Care. Cypress made his debut at TSI Harley in Ellington in July and did a fantastic job. We've been working hard at getting Dante ready to come out to do programs. We expect to have Dante out on programs in December. He's very comfortable on glove and is doing well going in a travel box.

We also got a beautiful immature Red tailed hawk in on St. Patrick's Day. This bird was hunting along the highway and flew straight into a car that was traveling 60 miles per hour. When we received him, he had a very bad head injury that took several weeks to heal. He needed to be force fed for quite some time. We were nervous about his eyesight. After getting checked by our avian veterinarian on several occasions it was determined that his eyesight was comprised to the point that release back to the wild was not possible. This bird had a very mellow and gentle personality and was doing well in with our other Red tailed - Dakota. We spent much of the spring and summer training Patrick to come out on glove and go into a travel box. He is currently ready for his debut on educational programs.

In August we received a nestling Black Vulture that was an imprint. That meant that this bird wouldn't be releasable. We also spent the summer and fall training this bird to sit on glove and go into a travel box. He too, is ready to begin his new life as an educational ambassador.

In May we held a contest to name our young grey Eastern screech owl. The winner was Isabella Deep from Griswold Elementary school with the name of Jasper. Tony Fantonoli, a student from E.O. Smith, and his



father built a new aviary for us to house our Broad winged hawk. During the summer, D'Amico Electric came and ran water and electricity down to the aviaries for us. Also, Alan and some of the volunteers split one of our larger aviaries in half in order to house the vultures. Thank you so much for the great job you all did!

A lot of hard work also went into hosting two fundraising events at our facility. In April we had our Earth Day event and in October we had our Owl Prowl. Both were very successful and we look forward to hosting them again next year. Keep an eye out for next year's events. So far this year, we have taken in 53 birds to rehab. And, during 2012 we did 154 educational programs - the most we have ever done! What a busy and prosperous year for Horizon Wings. We are looking forward to another great year in 2013. Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to our accomplishments.

## Upcoming Projects For 2013

Horizon Wings has had a wonderful year in terms of projects. We added many new features thanks to amazing people who donate their time and funds. From a new aviary, to finally having running water and electricity, we made amazing progress. All the help we received with our projects and wish lists makes running Horizon Wings efficient and productive.

The upcoming year of 2013 holds many possibilities. The most important project on the agenda is the building of a double aviary. This is one of our first priorities. We are planning on tearing down the current aviary for Emrys the Barred Owl. It has already been refurbished once, but it is in desperate need of a complete replacement. We are planning on building a 20x16 double aviary for Emrys and Silo the Barn Owl. The estimated cost for the double aviary is about \$1,500.

There are a few more projects to tackle. We plan on building an atrium for Atka the Eagle's aviary. We need to refurbish the aviaries for Julian the Raven and Dakota & Patrick the Red-Tailed Hawks. We would also like to set up permanent barriers around the aviaries. The last major project on the current list is to lay linoleum flooring in the rehabilitation shed, supply shed, and the Turkey Vulture atrium.

Any help, small or large, is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing what is on the horizon for Horizon Wings!

On another agenda, Horizon Wings is always in need of specialized services and/or talents. We are currently in need of a grant writer. Grants can make quite a difference in the running of a non-profit organization. If anyone is willing to donate his or her services we would be endlessly grateful. Please contact us if you are willing to help.

*Written by Colleen Backman*



*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

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Would you like to help Horizon Wings? Fill this form out and mail back with a donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our email mailing list? Yes  No

Mail to:

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education  
P.O. Box 238  
Ashford, CT 06278

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**Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on Facebook! Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.**