

# On the Horizon



Horizon Wings Newsletter – Summer 2015

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

Welcome to Horizon Wings' semi-annual 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.

## Baby Season at Horizon Wings 2015



On April 21st, Horizon Wings received a call about a baby owl on the ground in someone's driveway. When the baby arrived, we knew we had a Great-horned owlet; it had probably been blown out of its nest the previous night in the wind. This owlet was still very young and at the point that it might imprint on us. This is when it would think that it's a person and not an owl. Owls don't start focusing on things until they are a bit older than other birds, so we knew it was very important to minimize any human contact until we could get it back in the nest with its parents. This was going to be tough since the owlet was so young that it was not yet eating on its own. We brought out a stuffed owl puppet and cut a hole in it so we could put the feeding forceps through. Then we cut up small pieces of mice and fed it without making any eye contact with it. Success! It ate like a champ for us with the puppet.

The next day we went back to where it was found to try to re-nest it so the parents could properly raise it. We found remnants of a nest but no sign of any adults. The people that found it also stated that they hadn't seen any owls in the area for a couple of days. Without knowing that there was an adult Great-horned in the area, we didn't feel comfortable putting it back. We now had our first "orphan" of the year.

Within two weeks we received our second Great-horned owlet. This one had fallen out of its nest somewhere in Massachusetts and ended up at Tufts Wildlife Clinic. After an exam it was found to have some broken ribs and required rest to heal up. When it was well enough to not need care at Tufts they were looking to place it with another Great-horned owlet. After a phone call to Horizon Wings it arrived within a week. We now had 2 Great-horned owlets. Both are now out in the aviary with our education adult Great-horned owl – Oscar. They are eating well and behaving like Great-horned owls. They are growing rapidly and will be released at the end of summer.

As a reminder this baby season, please don't take any birds into your care unless you know for sure that they are orphaned or injured. At this point, please call a licensed rehabilitator to care of them. Most of the time when young birds are on the ground their parents are still caring for them and they really don't need help from humans. Young owls can use their beaks and talons to climb back into a tree without being able to fly. Also, it is an old wives tale that the mother bird will smell humans on their baby if you place them back into the nest and reject them. Birds can't smell so it's ok to place them back into the nest.

Watch our Facebook page for photos of these 2 young owls as they grow up and then are released back to the wild.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

# Earth Day 2015

We are grateful to say that our 5th annual Earth Day Event was a huge success! Surpassing our expectations, adding more to the overall experience, and a beautiful day to boot, this year's event set a new standard here at Horizon Wings.

This year's crowds were amazing, some even driving out ahead of time just to make sure that they had the right place! Luckily for our guests, this year's programs were even more astounding with not one, but two eagles. Atka the Bald Eagle was joined by Chrysos the Golden Eagle, who helped to entertain, amaze, and educate. Visitors got to learn about our special eagles and all of the other birds in our care. From the smallest owl in New England, the Saw-Whet Owl, to the common American Crow, to the commonly seen Turkey Vulture, and to our beautiful Peregrine Falcon, education on the birds of Horizon Wings was plentiful.

And of course, not only were there meet and greets with the birds, but two full-length programs, story time with Oscar the Great-Horned Owl, and other attractions. Between face paintings by Adria Mecca, music by Bruce John, educational stations, visiting with an adorable ram with The Bourkes from Cairn O'Mohr Farm in Ashford, there plenty of places to stop. To add on to that, there were tantalizing raffle items, birdseed crafts for the kids, and a showcase of the magnificent wildlife inspired art by the talented Brenda Lyons and Pat Morris for sale. During all of this, there were tasty baked goods and even chili, all gratefully donated by amazing volunteers. And to top all of that off, we had a special treat with our guest Christine Peyreigne, the youngest falconer in our state – she shared some of her falconer trade with her Red-Tailed Hawk! With blue skies, warm sun, and excited chatter, the day passed in a blur of beating wings. This year's event surpassed our financial expectations, yet again, and we are incredibly grateful for all those that took the time to come out and visit – your generosity and support makes our mission possible!

Thank you to all the volunteers that gave their time and resources to make the event a success! We couldn't do this without you!!

*Written by Colleen Backman*

## Spring Photography Event

Photographers from all around the state flocked to Wickham Park on May 3rd to take part in Horizon Wings' first annual Photography Event. In the beautiful Oriental Gardens, photographers were able to take photos of our resident birds among beautiful scenery on a warm spring day.

For a donation, photographers were able to sign up and take as many photos of the birds as they wished. Among the birds present were Chrysos the Golden Eagle and Atka the Bald Eagle, as was our tiny Saw-Whet Owl, Sprite, Athena our Peregrine Falcon, and Dakota, the Red-Tailed Hawk, as well as many others. Thank you to all the photographers who participated, and we hope to see you again next year!



*Written by Brenda Lyons*

## *“Tell Your Friends That I Am Kind”*

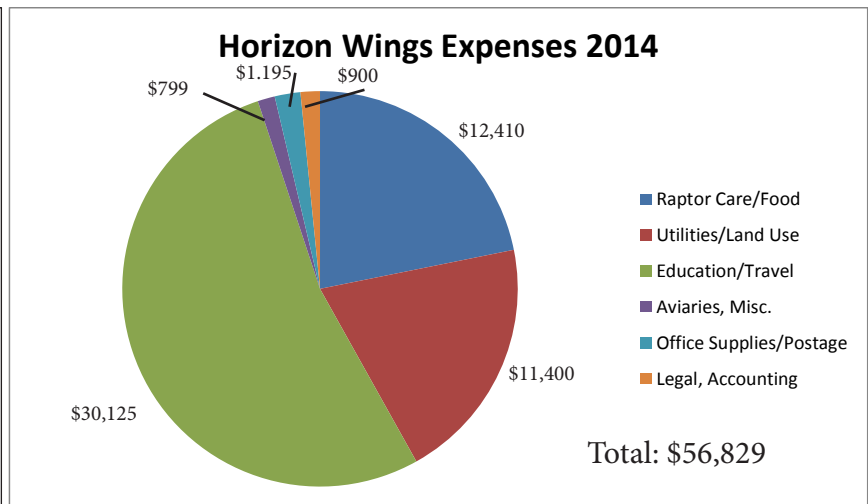
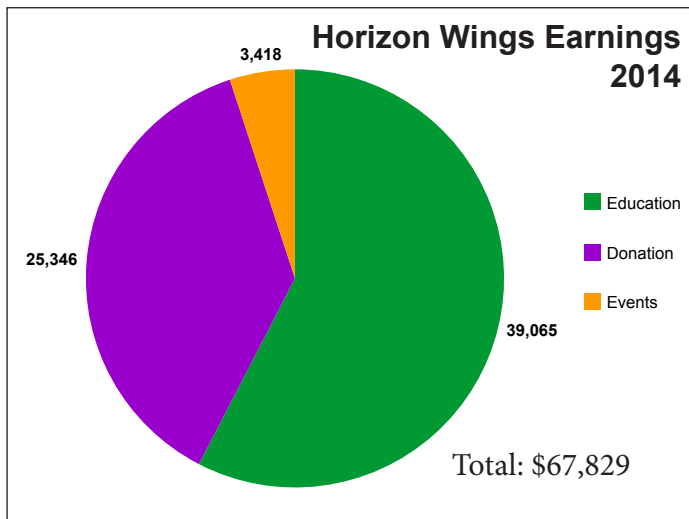
Horizon Wings has created a fund in the memory of a very special child, Catherine Violet Hubbard. Catherine was one of the children that lost her life at Sandy Hook. Catherine had a true love for all animals and in her memory we would like to share this love by using donations to this fund to bring live bird programs to children who may otherwise never experience this.

Please learn more about Catherine by visiting [CVHFoundation.org](http://CVHFoundation.org).

Donations can be made by check or through PayPal on our website, please add a note designating the donation to go to Catherine’s fund.



### Horizon Wings 2014 Finances and Rehabilitation Report



#### Rehabilitation Stats:

Horizon Wings took in 56 birds total in 2014. Of them:

- 12 were euthanized due to the severity of injuries
- 6 died
- 2 were placed as educational ambassadors
- 36 were released

### Wish List

- 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!*

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education  
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860-429-2181

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.**