



Pelican Harbor

SEABIRD STATION

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Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Enters a New Period of Growth

Miami, FL – Miami’s premier native wildlife hospital, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS), is at a pivotal moment of growth supported by a robust staff and dedicated board, assuring the nonprofit organization’s future evolution and success as a world-class wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, release, and education center.

Since its founding in 1980, PHSS has achieved significant milestones. The organization has proudly treated and rehabilitated over 42,000 wildlife patients, solidifying its commitment to the well-being and conservation of local native wildlife. Due to its continuous growth and success, PHSS also transitioned from a small to a medium-sized non-profit, expanding its scope to treat native wildlife beyond Brown Pelicans.

To ensure the highest quality of medical care for the patients it treats, PHSS now boasts two dedicated veterinarians on staff and a veterinarian on its Board of Directors, enhancing its capacity to provide specialized attention to the diverse range of species it rehabilitates annually.

The organization’s commitment to excellence is further underscored by the recognition received from reputable organizations, reflecting the positive impact and satisfaction of our community members and supporters. This includes a coveted 5-star rating from GreatNonprofits, and Platinum status from Candid, both recognizing PHSS’s transparency, accountability, and effectiveness as a non-profit organization.

We are pleased to now announce that the groundbreaking on Pelican Harbor’s new larger state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center is imminent. Soil remediation and groundwork will be funded in part by a generous grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency and will likely start in January 2024, soon followed by vertical construction, pending securing a Warrant and Building Permit, both in their final rounds of reviews with the city of Miami. Our partners at Stiles Construction and Sharpe Project Developments have set a project completion date in March 2025. For this \$15-million-dollar project, \$11,900,000 has already been secured through donations, sponsorships, and formal pledges in addition to a construction line of credit with Bank OZK, as

fundraising continues via the Capital Campaign. We continue to look for new donors who share our vision of preserving local wildlife so that future generations will benefit.

Former Assistant Director Chloe Chelz will assume the role of Acting Executive Director following the departure of Christopher Boykin, who led the organization for over nine years and will step down in mid-January to accept a position with Miami Waterkeeper. During Boykin's tenure, he significantly expanded PHSS's patient care from solely Brown Pelicans to the treatment of native wildlife, including birds, mammals, and reptiles, grew the organization from a staff of three to 18, and led significant fundraising efforts for both the Capital Campaign and the organization's \$1.4-million-dollar operating budget. "It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as Executive Director of this amazing and crucial Miami-Dade nonprofit. Our staff, board, volunteers, and incredible supporters continue to inspire me."

"The Board is grateful for Chris's nine years of dedicated leadership and service to Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. As we embark on this exciting next phase, we're well-positioned to become the leading wildlife hospital and rehabilitation center in the Southeast US," said Board Chairman Robert Glidewell.

A Miami resident for over 14 years, Chelz brings to the organization a wealth of knowledge about the community it serves, in addition to a passion for both wildlife conservation and Pelican Harbor's mission and vision for the future. She is deeply involved in its daily operations and in the progress of the new building construction. Chelz states, "Thanks to the responsible growth and careful planning thus far, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is perfectly positioned for its next phase of development and expansion. We are on the precipice of having an even greater positive impact on both the compassionate care of our patients and our outreach to the community, the meaningful effect of which will reverberate for generations to come. I could not be more excited and proud."

For more information, please visit www.pelicanharbor.org



Digital Rendering of Future Wildlife Center



Screech Owl Receiving Laser Treatment

Photo credit: Pelican Harbor Seabird Station