Board Chairman & Executive Director

David Epstein
Board Chair
As the former CEO of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, David brings a great deal of leadership, experience and professionalism to our Board of Directors. He and his wife Melissa serve as President and Director respectively of the Three Opinions Foundation, which has been a steadfast supporter of PHSS.

Christopher Boykin
Executive Director
Christopher became the Executive Director of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station in 2014. Since taking the helm, he has increased staff from four to eighteen and grown the budget by almost 300%. This has allowed for more professional patient care, a dramatic increase in the patient survival rate, and more education within the community. Born in Mississippi, he has resided in Florida for over thirty years and is an avid naturalist, conservationist, photographer, and outdoorsman.

As a trusted wildlife rehab center, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station embodies professionalism, compassion, and integrity. Through innovation, education, and outreach, we provide the highest quality of patient care while promoting the importance of conservation in the community.
The site of the new facility on Miami’s Little River is uniquely positioned at the crossroads of the vibrant and diverse communities of Little Haiti, Lemon City, and El Portal with easy access to I-95 and Miami Beach.
Our capital campaign is a testament to the legacy of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station founders Darlene and Harry Kelton, who established PHSS over 40 years ago.

In these early years, our current 950-sq. ft. building provided more than enough room to treat the approximately 300 pelicans and seabirds admitted each year. But as our organization grew, so did our patient numbers. In the early 2000’s, PHSS began admitting nearly all native wildlife, and the spatial constraints of our facility grew readily apparent. In the last five years, our patient intakes have increased 275% and we now admit over 2,500 patients from approximately 150 different native species annually.

In order to accommodate such rapid growth, we have constructed additional pens and modified several others to support the diverse patient load seen today. However, now we are bursting at the seams with thousands of patients of over a hundred species each year. We have outgrown our beloved Seabird Station and need a larger space to fulfill our mission.

“We are bursting at the seams with thousands of patients of over a hundred species each year. We have outgrown our beloved Seabird Station and need a larger space to fulfill our mission.”
A Brief Note on The History and Expansion of our New Property

After spending several years exploring solutions, the perfect property finally became available: the “Little River Preserve” at 399 NE 82nd Terrace. Previously owned by Miami history icon Julia Tuttle, this idyllic 2.6 acre property is truly an urban oasis. With open fields and old growth tree canopies, this expansion will increase our property size by 14 times, providing plenty of room for flight cages and appropriately sized habitats for our patients and education ambassador animals. Our new wildlife hospital and nature center will be seven times larger than our current facility, allowing us to provide state-of-the-art individualized care for every one of our patients.

As a historic Tequesta Native American site, the property will also serve as a nature park and education center. The new facility will be environmentally friendly and will be undergoing Green Globes certification.

Members of the Deeks Foundation touring the new property with PHSS board members. From left: Monica Deeks, Helene Valentine, Robert Gildewell, Marilyn Magill, Terry Deeks, and Ian Deeks.

Peggy Ochandarena with a stand of historic pond apple trees on the Little River. Peggy took advantage of the matching funds and sponsored the X-Ray room in memory of her brother Ray.

Marcus and Jane McCarthy of the Deeks Foundation.
Our Goal

Of course, such an endeavor relies on your support. None of this would be possible without Terry and Monica Deeks and their children at The Deeks Foundation, who contributed $1.6 million towards the purchase of the land and have offered an additional $1.4 million dollar matching grant.

We also are grateful to The Batchelor Foundation, which has pledged $1 million to the capital campaign with $500,000 being a matching grant.

The ongoing support of these Foundations means the world to PHSS. The combined $1.9 million in matching funds will enable us to develop the property and new facility to maximize patient care and the visitor experience.

Can we count on you to guarantee our long-term success? Ways to give ...

- One-time Cash, Check, or Online
- Multi-year Pledge
- Stocks
- Annuities
- Legacy Gift
- Qualified Charitable Distribution

All donations up to $1,900,000 will be matched.
We thank these lead donors for their extraordinary gifts in support of this campaign.

Our Leadership Donors

The Deeks Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation
The Chapman Family Foundation
Three Opinions Foundation
Laurence Baldwin
Holtzman Wildlife Foundation
The Vera Kunsak Charitable Trust
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation
Pamela Isdell
Leila Kight
Martha Singleton
Suzy & Sadek Wahba Felburn Foundation
1. SMALL PARKING LOT, DROP-OFF
2. MULTIPURPOSE PASTORAL LAWN
3. ANIMAL AMBASSADOR PENS
   A. OPOSSUM
   B. OWL
   C. BOX TURTLE
   D. GREAT HORNED OWL
   E. HARRY & DARLENE PELICAN AVIARY
4. AMPHITHEATER GATHERING SPACE
5. 2ND FLOOR EVENT TERRACE
6. BUILDING ROOF
7. MAIN ENTRY
8. SERVICE/STAFF ENTRY
9. REHABILITATION AREA
10. SEABIRD PENS
11. RAPTOR FLIGHT PEN
12. RAPTOR MEW PENS
13. SONGBIRD PEN
14. MAMMALS, SQUIRREL PENS
15. MAMMALS, OPOSSUM PENS
16. RACCOON PENS
17. LARGE PARKING LOT, STAFF PARKING
18. FOX, COYOTE PEN
19. STORAGE PAVILION
Ground Floor Plan
Second Floor Plan
Biodiversity increases at lower latitudes, and as a result, Miami has the greatest avian and wildlife biodiversity in the United States. While there have been multiple conservation success stories, such as the recovery of the Bald eagle, American crocodile, and our beloved Brown pelicans, we have still lost several species to extinction. Help us to commemorate and remember what has been lost, while inspiring our ongoing efforts to protect the species that still exist, by sponsoring our sculpture garden. This larger-than-life outdoor exhibit will feature the four species below and are the work of artist Todd McGrain of the Lost Bird Project. The Carolina parakeet is already complete and the remaining three sculptures are being tailor-made for this project.

Featured Naming Opportunity:
Sculpture Garden
Adrian Chapman  
Board Member  
With almost 40 years of leadership at a publicly traded company, and decades of Board service for large non-profits, Adrian brings a tremendous amount of experience as Chair of our Audit Committee. We are grateful to the Chapman Family Foundation for their significant support of this project.

Jacqueline Contney  
Board Member  
With a Master’s Degree in Construction Management and more than 30 years of experience in the field, Jacki’s timing to join the board couldn’t have been better. As a member of the Building Committee, she reviews invoices, contracts, and provides guidance as we navigate the construction process.

Robert Glidewell  
Board Member  
Robert serves as the Chair of our Building Committee and generously invests over 20 hours each week supporting the Executive Director and keeping the Building Committee on course to complete the project by fall of 2023. His work in the political arena as a lobbyist aids us in making bipartisan connections at state and local levels.

Marcus McCarthy  
Board Vice Chairman  
Marcus serves on the Building Committee and represents the Deeks Foundation, whose leadership gift allowed us to purchase the 2.6-acre Little River Preserve. Marcus is very active with the Building Committee and one of the project’s biggest advocates.

David Williams Jr.  
Board Member  
David is a scientist by profession and spent 33 years in the pharmaceutical industry. He recently completed twelve years of service as a City Councilman in Miami Gardens and has received two gubernatorial appointments. He is passionate about the environment, education, and youth.
Rapid population growth, increased urbanization, pollution, and habitat destruction contribute to human behavior being identified as the greatest challenge to the survival of wildlife populations. Each year, Pelican Harbor experiences a double-digit increase in our patient load.

The new facility and breathtaking riverfront property will allow for a 14-fold increase in outdoor rehabilitation capacity, and the expanded wildlife hospital will increase our indoor clinical, surgical, and community educational capacity by nearly 800%.

ROBERT GLIDEWELL, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Community Advocates

State Senator
Jason Pizzo
District 38

State Senator
Iliana Garcia
District 37

State Representative
Nicholas Duran
House District 12

Miami-Dade Commissioner
Eileen Higgins
District 5

“PHSS has been a pillar and valued member of the Miami-Dade community for several decades and we look forward to its continued success and mission. Their new facility on Little River will allow them to expand their animal rehabilitative services, educate the Miami-Dade community on local flora and fauna, promote a sustainable agenda advocating for environmental preservation, and organize events to bring the community together.”

STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLAS DURAN
I am happy to support the endeavors of the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. This state-of-the-art wildlife hospital will bring much-needed medical care to native wildlife and enrich nature-based educational opportunities for our Miami-Dade community.

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSIONER EILEEN HIGGINS

Can we count on you to guarantee our long-term success?

PelicanHarbor.org/CapitalCampaign