

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Sea Turtle Care &
Conservation Specialists Corp.



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends of Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists,

As we reflect on 2024, we are truly humbled by how far we've come. This year has been transformational, and it's all thanks to the unwavering support from our donors, partners, volunteers, and community.

A major milestone this year was signing a contract with the Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society to establish our Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Center. This dream has become a reality with the construction of a three-tank facility, and we look forward to providing lifesaving care to sea turtles in 2025.

We also expanded our outreach by purchasing a vintage camper trailer, now being transformed into our Sea Turtle Learning Shack—a mobile education unit that will inspire the next generation of conservationists through hands-on learning.

In collaboration with the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network (SERSTN), we co-hosted the Pilot Sea Turtle RACE Workshop, the first sea turtle medicine event offering veterinary RACE credits. Education and community engagement continued through events, lectures, and beach cleanups, amplifying our conservation mission.

None of this would be possible without you—our supporters and advocates. Your generosity and passion fuel our work, and we're endlessly grateful for your belief in our mission.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to open our Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Center, debut the Learning Shack, and continue making a meaningful impact for sea turtles in south Florida and beyond.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Whitney Crowder, Sam Clark, and Emily Mercier
Co-Founders and Directors
Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists

ABOUT STCCS

Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists Corp. (STCCS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and protection of sea turtles in south Florida. Based in Palm Beach County, our efforts extend beyond rehabilitation, as we strive to educate the community, promote conservation practices, and inspire meaningful action to protect sea turtles and their marine ecosystems.

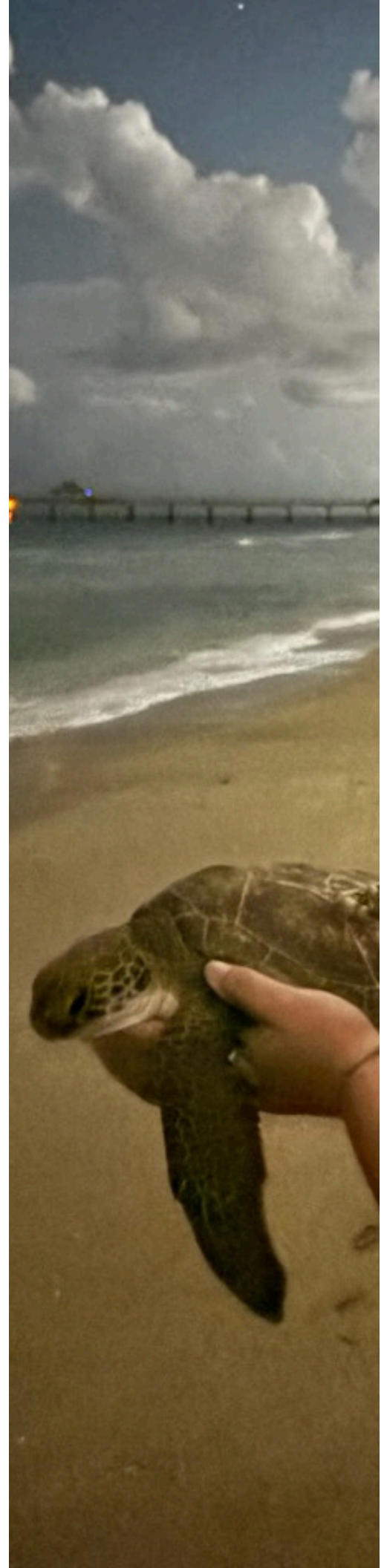
With over 100 years of combined experience, our team has tirelessly rescued, protected, and advocated for sea turtles. This year, we began an exciting new chapter by building our Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Center at the Palm Beach Zoo. Here, we will provide critical care to injured sea turtles, utilizing our strong skills and expertise, and utilizing their state-of-the-art hospital facility. Through hands-on efforts and community engagement, STCCS remains dedicated to protecting sea turtles and their habitats for generations to come.

MISSION

Provide specialized care for sick and injured sea turtles, while promoting conservation awareness and action.

VISION

Recognizing the pressing demand for sea turtle rehabilitation care that surpasses the existing facilities and expertise, we aspire to provide an essential solution that meets the urgent and ever-growing sea turtle conservation need in this region. Our vision is to establish a sea turtle rehabilitation center along the southeast coastline of Florida, primarily serving the coastal counties of northern Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin.



ABOUT STCCS

LEGAL STRUCTURE:

Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists Corporation is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit, working out of Palm Beach County, Florida.

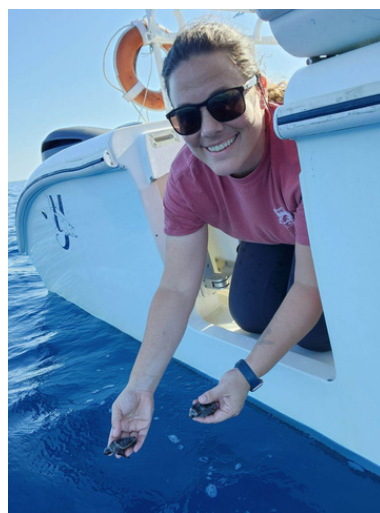
EIN: 93-2524533

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Chair/President: Kim Sonderman
- Secretary: Dr. Kirt Rusenko
- Treasurer: Ryan Butts
- Maria Chadam, DVM
- Charles Manire, DVM

FOUNDERS

- Co-Founder & Director of Clinical Services: Samantha Clark, CVT
- Co-Founder & Director of Operations: Whitney Crowder
- Co-Founder & Director of Conservation: Emily Mercier



YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect on 2024, we are overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for the progress Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists (STCCS) has made. This year has been transformative, marked by exciting milestones, impactful education and outreach efforts, and vital strides in sea turtle conservation and rehabilitation. Here is a look back at some of our most notable accomplishments and highlights from this year.

Rehabilitation Facility at the Palm Beach Zoo

One of our most significant achievements this year was finalizing our contract with the Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society to establish the Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Center, a dedicated sea turtle rehabilitation facility. We have built a three-tank rehabilitation space designed to provide lifesaving care to sick and injured sea turtles. This facility is the realization of a long-held dream and marks a pivotal moment in our mission to protect and restore sea turtle populations.

Mobile Education Expansion

To expand our outreach capabilities, we purchased a vintage 1960s camper trailer, now known as the Sea Turtle Learning Shack. Renovations are well underway, transforming this unique trailer into a mobile educational experience equipped with interactive tools, microscopes, and sea turtle learning materials. We look forward to debuting it at community events to bring hands-on conservation education to diverse audiences.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Pilot RACE Workshop

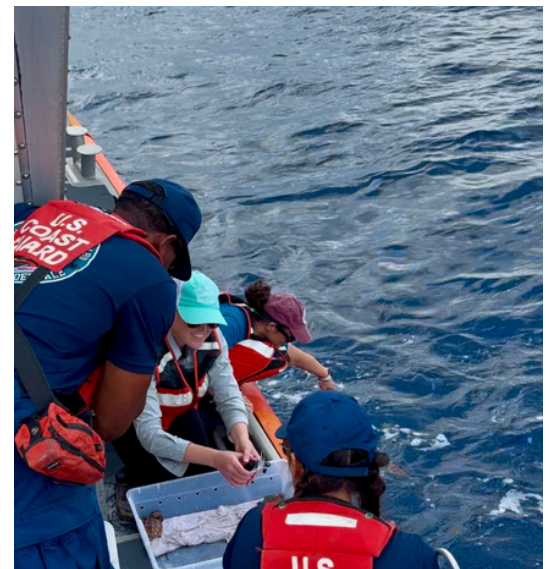
STCCS co-hosted the Pilot Sea Turtle RACE Workshop, a groundbreaking event for sea turtle medicine. In collaboration with Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network (SERSTN), this was the first Florida based sea turtle-focused workshop to offer RACE credits for veterinary professionals. The workshop brought together veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and sea turtle experts to share medical cases, discuss treatment approaches, and strengthen teamwork across the field. This innovative program is a huge step forward for advancing sea turtle veterinary care, and we are excited to expand its impact in future years.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Sea Turtle Activity

In 2024, STCCS responded to four juvenile and subadult sea turtle strandings. We also worked closely with other Florida rehabilitation facilities to release approximately 500 hatchling and washback sea turtles into the Gulf Stream, placing them in sargassum—a critical habitat for their survival. Additionally, we coordinated the release of two educational juvenile loggerheads, helping further both conservation and public awareness efforts. These efforts were made possible through collaboration with the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, and dedicated long-time volunteers who provided crucial support during offshore releases.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Events & Outreach Highlights

This year, STCCS attended and hosted several events to engage the community, raise awareness, and inspire conservation action:

- **Earth Day Celebrations:** Our sea turtle conservation booth, complete with interactive displays and engaging activities, made waves at multiple Earth Day events. These booths helped educate attendees of all ages on the importance of protecting sea turtles and reducing plastic pollution.
- **Beach Cleanups:** Alongside dedicated staff and volunteers, STCCS participated in local beach cleanups to combat pollution and protect sea turtle habitats. Our educational booth highlighted the devastating effects of plastic on sea turtles, motivating participants to take action.
- **Fundraisers:** We engaged the community at unique fundraiser events like those hosted at Cove Brewery, which brought people together to support sea turtle conservation through fun and meaningful experiences.

Educational Initiatives

Education has been a cornerstone of our work in 2024, and we expanded our efforts to engage with students, professionals, and the public:

- **Plastic People Screenings:** Hosted Q&A sessions following multiple screenings of this impactful film to highlight solutions to plastic pollution.
- **Environmental Science Center and Manatee Lagoon Lecture:** Delivered talks on marine conservation and safety to local groups.
- **Coast Guard Aux Guest Lectures:** Guest lectured during Boat America and Boater Safety courses to emphasize marine conservation and safe boating practices.



YEAR IN REVIEW

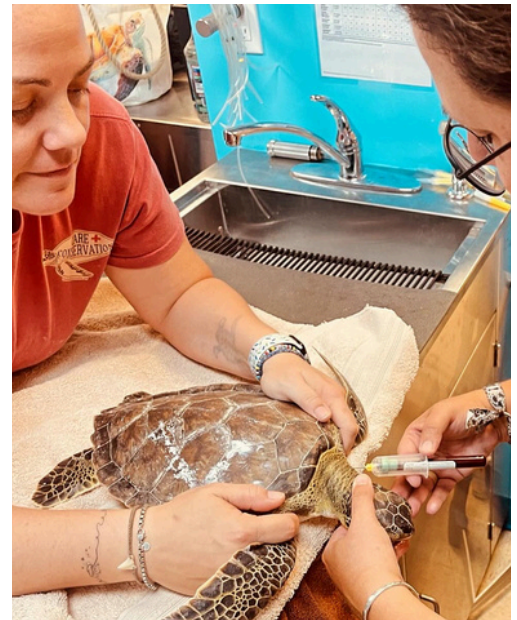
Research Highlights

In 2024, STCCS contributed to impactful research projects aimed at protecting sea turtles:

- **Fishing Pier Impact Study:** Partnering with Inwater Research Group near Boca Raton, FL, we assessed juvenile green turtles near the Deerfield pier and nearby reefs. The study evaluates the impact of fishing piers on sea turtles through health assessments like radiographs, bloodwork, and acoustic monitoring of movements and behaviors. The results will guide conservation strategies to reduce fishing-related interactions.

Meetings & Professional Contributions

- **International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) 42nd Annual Symposium:** Our remarkable veterinarian, Dr. Maria Chadam, co-led the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Workshop and shared her expertise at a local sea turtle hospital in Sattahip, Thailand. Dr. Chadam's global contributions to sea turtle care and conservation highlight her dedication to improving outcomes for sea turtles worldwide.
- **Permit Holder's Meeting:** STCCS participated in this important meeting, collaborating with state leaders to share knowledge and refine conservation practices.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Events

Cove Brewery Fundraiser
1/21/24
Environmental Studies Center:
Grandparents Day
2/10/24
FAU (Plastic People) Q&A
03/14/24
Round-Up Cove Brewery
3/16/24
Margaritaville Earth Day
4/20/24
JM Fam. Earth Day Event
4/23/24
Lexi Hidalgo Event
5/17/24
Cox Science Center (Plastic People)
7/1/24
Deerfield Beach Cleanup/screening
8/21/24
International Cleanup Day w/ Deerfield Beach
9/21/24

Education

Environmental Studies Center Lecture
02/20/24
Coast Guard Boat America (guest speaker)
04/06/24
Manatee Lagoon Lecture
7/14/24
Coast Guard Aux Flotilla Meeting (guest
speaker)
09/05/24
Coast Guard Aux Boater Safety (guest speaker)
10/05/24

Meetings

Permit Holder's Meeting (attend)
03/16/24
International Sea Turtle Symposium
03/24/24
RACE Pilot Workshop (hosted)
09/14/2024

Research

Inwater Research Group: Using Acoustic
Telemetry to Study Pier Interactions of Sea
Turtles in South Florida (collaboration)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2024, STCCS made significant strides in sea turtle conservation, thanks to the support of our donors, sponsors, and community. Your generosity allowed us to rescue and release sea turtles, educate the public, and begin construction on our sea turtle rehabilitation facility.

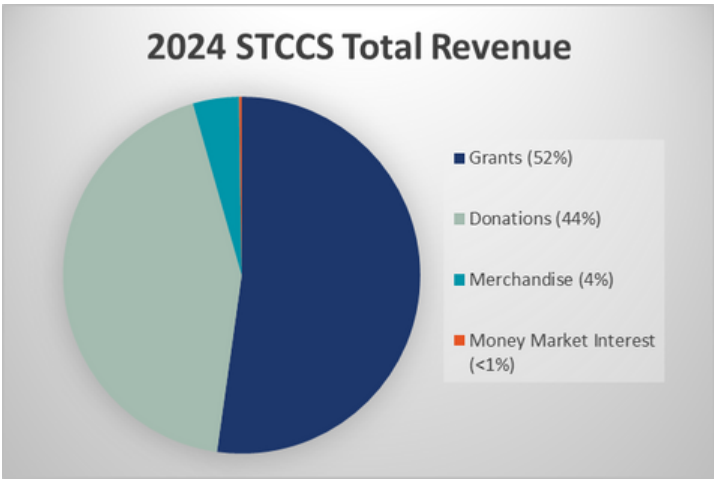
REVENUE PERCENTAGE BY BRANCH

In 2024, STCCS received 5 major grants making up 52% of our total revenue. These funds were allocated to key projects, including the construction of the rehabilitation facility, setup of the hatchling tank, purchase of an educational trailer, and acquisition of essential life support system equipment.

Individual donations made up 43% of total revenue and were raised through fundraisers, our website, online campaigns, and outreach events. Merchandise sales contributed 4%, while interest from our money market account added less than 1%.

This diverse income stream highlights the commitment of our supporters and enabled us to achieve significant milestones in sea turtle conservation and education.

Revenue		
Item	Total	% of Revenue
Grants	\$32,149	52.0%
Donations	\$26,706	43.0%
Merchandise	\$2,567	4.0%
Money Market Interest	\$149	<1%
Total Revenue	\$61,571	



EXPENSES		
Item	Total	% of Expense
Advertising/Promotional	\$48	0.1%
Conferences/Meetings	\$200	0.3%
Fuel	\$64	0.1%
Grant Spending	\$21,962	35.7%
Legal & Professional Fees	\$1,755	2.9%
Merchandise Supply Purchased	\$3,512	5.7%
NP Operation Expense	\$5,729	9.3%
Outreach Supplies	\$609	1.0%
Printing	\$529	0.9%
Shipping	\$172	0.3%
Subscriptions	\$986	1.6%
Technology	\$178	0.3%
Volunteer Support	\$63	0.1%
Total Expenditures	\$35,807	
Net Operating Revenue	\$25,764	
Net Revenue	\$25,764	

DONORS

\$1-\$99

Lisa Schapiro
Alex Hoey
Kelly Thorvalson
Sarah Hirsch
Diana Medeiros
John Melia
Mark Domzalski
Joan Hornig
Tobin Chappell
Lisa Schapiro
Heather Barnhart
Hillary Smith
Lauren Floyd
Bobi Lyon
Rebecca Mott
Robert W. Bentley
Lisa Esposito
Barbara James
Joanne Ryan
Heather Schaefer
Hazel Rudich

\$100-\$499

Karen Swinkey
Mirowski
Philip Hoey
Deborah Clark
Emily Cherenack
Mary Szabat
Steven Calabrese
Maura McGloin
Karen Degnan
Susan Todres
Timothy Hassett
Barbara Briggs
Dave Mercier
James Secor
Shanon Gann

\$500-\$999

Patricia & Alan Vollweiler

\$1000-\$4999

Michele & Thomas Peel
Kirt Rusenko

\$5000 & up

Dr. Maria Chadam
Anonymous

Corporate Sponsors, Foundations, & In-Kind

National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation
Sea Turtle License Plate Grant
Sea Turtle Preservation Society
JM Family Enterprises, Inc.
The Binky Foundation
Island Watersports
Cove Brewery
RCC Associates
Fuentes Barrio Schutt
Ben Hicks Photography
J Dog Towing
A & M Construction Service LLC



VOLUNTEERS

At STCCS, our volunteers are the backbone of our mission. This year, they stepped up in countless ways to help us move forward with our ambitious goals. From moving heavy tanks and assisting with renovations at our new rehabilitation facility to supporting outreach and education events, their dedication and hard work have been truly inspiring.

We are deeply grateful for the incredible team of individuals who share our vision of a better future for sea turtles and their habitats. Thank you to each and every one of you for making a difference!

2024 Volunteers:

Willi Harreys
Cary Boudreau
Rebecca Germany
Nick Harnamji
Coyt Germany
Marcia Newman
Rick Newman
Andrew Crowder
Joe Mercier
Michal Ella



LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the next chapter, STCCS is focused on achieving several key milestones to further our mission. Our immediate next step is to finalize the updates to our marine turtle permit, allowing us to officially open our sea turtle rehabilitation facility and begin accepting patients in need of care. In addition, we are completing the renovation of our outreach trailer, the "Sea Turtle Learning Shack," which will serve as a mobile education space. Once finished, we plan to debut the trailer at an upcoming event, bringing interactive sea turtle education directly to our community. We are also seeking funding for a dedicated rescue vehicle, equipped to safely transport injured turtles, ensuring swift and efficient response to strandings. These initiatives mark exciting progress as we expand our capacity to protect and preserve Florida's sea turtles.



CALL TO ACTION

Join Us in Protecting Sea Turtles

As we look toward the future, the need for conservation has never been greater. Sea Turtle Care and Conservation Specialists (STCCS) is committed to expanding our efforts in rescue, rehabilitation, education, and advocacy—but we can't do it without your support.

Here's how you can make a difference:

- **Donate:** Your contributions fuel our work, from saving injured sea turtles to educating the next generation of conservationists.
- **Volunteer:** Join us on the front lines of conservation through events, beach cleanups, and outreach programs.
- **Advocate:** Spread the word about reducing single-use plastics and protecting marine habitats.
- **Partner with Us:** Collaborate with STCCS to create impactful programs that benefit sea turtles and their environment.

Visit our website to learn more, get involved, and support our mission.



THANK YOU

To our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters—we can't thank you enough. Your support is what keeps us going, from rescuing sea turtles to educating communities about conservation.

Every turtle we help, every lesson we share, and every step forward is because of you. Your generosity and dedication make a real impact—not just for the turtles, but for the future of our oceans.

As we look ahead, we're incredibly excited for what's to come. With sea turtle rehabilitation on the horizon, big things are happening, and we can't wait to take this next step together. Thank you for being part of this journey!



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email: info@careandconservation.org
social tag: @careandconservation

