

**International Wolf Center** 

#### PHOTO: Grayson is one of two arctic wolf pups that arrived at the International Wolf Center in 2016. Photo by Heidi Pinkerto

# 2016 OVERVIEW

#### ARCTIC PUPS ARRIVE IN ELY!

The news of two new, rare arctic pups' arrival at the International Wolf Center in Ely began a year of excitement, unique pack dynamics and remarkable organizational commitment to their round-the-clock care. Our youngest educators arrived from Canada, becoming just two of 100 arctic wolves in captivity.

Our international connections continued with the naming of educator and wolf advocate Kirsty Peak of Dartmoor England as the winner of the Center's Who Speaks for Wolf Award. Planning for the Center's international 2018 symposium was fully underway and titled "Wolves in a Changing World."

At home, a building addition provided an improved wolf lab for the pups and pack, and the attraction of pups Axel and Grayson brought increased numbers of visitors to the Center, at 43,998, even higher than our last pup year.

Our mission—To advance the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in our future—continues to guide us. You will see, in reading this 2016 Annual Report, all of the ways our work—and your contributions—carried that mission forward.

Just one example: Pup Care Volunteers, all 85 women and men coming from 15 states and Canada, nurtured the weeks-old wolves day and night. With their help, Axel and Grayson met Center visitors in 280 indoor entertaining and educational programs.

We thank our members, donors, staff, board members, volunteers and communities for the priceless time, energy, donations and spirit that helped make 2016 an outstanding year for wolves.







**ABOVE:**Axel and Grayson each try to get hold of a bone

#### RIGHT:

Axel is pictured while a pup. Soon after this image was taken, his coat began to change white.



2016's highlight was certainly the arrival of two new arctic wolf pups. The pups, which were later named Axel and Grayson, were flown to the United States from a facility in Canada and arrived at the Center in May. The pups travelled well, accompanied by specialists who monitored their health the entire trip. After permits were reviewed and the two male pups passed their medical examination, they made the final leg of their journey to the Center's new Wolf Care facility in Ely. "Adding arctic pups from the remote regions of Canada allows us to teach people about another subspecies of wolves-one that people would never see in the wild." said Lori Schmidt, wolf curator. Arctic wolves live north of the Arctic Circle and survive some of the most extreme conditions on earth.

All summer long, huge crowds flocked to the Center in Ely to see the two pups. The two were introduced to the Exhibit Pack on Aug. 7. The multi-phase introduction process followed months of socialization to ensure that the pups were comfortable with the sights and sounds of the exhibit and the visiting public. Since their arrival on May 25, the pups had around-the-clock attention by staff and more than 85 volunteers who assisted with their care and gathered behavioral data.

#### Also:

The International Wolf Center presented its 500th Wolves at Our Door classroom program in 2016. The occasion was celebrated in April with second graders at Zimmerman Elementary School in Zimmerman, Minnesota. More information on this can be found on Page 4.

In Gardiner, Montana, in March, the International Wolf Center presented the 2016 "Who Speaks For Wolf" award to Kirsty Peake of the United Kingdom. As an international advocate and educator, Kirsty has spent many years sharing her knowledge of wolves and fulfilling her commitment to their long-term survival in the wild. She has written numerous articles about wolves for popular magazines, and her speaking engagements include a variety of audiences in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world. Kirsty serves as a Specialist Advisor for the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, and she has contributed articles to International Wolf magazine.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

4,732 Members from 25 countries support our mission

44,381 Visited the organization's Interpretive Center in Ely, Minnesota

2,166 Participated in group visits and single- and multi-day programs

547 Students participated in live Minnesota WolfLink interactive videoconferences

1,644 Students participated in live WolfLink global interactive videoconferences

1,681 Students used Wolf discovery kits in their classrooms across the country

1,648 Experienced the popular What's for Dinner? program

76,268 Fans followed us on Facebook.

601,255 Unique visitors to wolf.org, up from 542,454 in 2015.

#### LEFT: This sign marks the entrance to the International Wolf Center in Ely.

CENTER:
Axel looks
through the
windows.
Photo by Heid
Pinkerton

### RIGHT: The exterio

The exterior o the Center in Ely is pictured







#### **FDUCATION / OUTREACH**

• The International Wolf Center celebrated its 500th Wolves at Our Door program in April 2016 with a classroom of second graders at Zimmerman Elementary in Zimmerman, Minnesota. Funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the program is free to K-12 public schools and nature centers in nine counties in the metro area and is aimed at helping young people understand wolf management issues.

"Many of our students come from low-income families and the only thing they know about wolves are the myths they've heard in fairy tales and movies," said Outreach Director Tara Morrison, who presents the programs in Twin Cities schools. "They are the students who are really eager to learn about wolves, and their role in the environment."

The Wolves At Our Door program provides science-based information about wolf biology, behavior, pack dynamics, predator/prey relationships, the loss of Minnesota habitat, and the complex issues surrounding wolf management and changes in legal status as they return to more areas of the state. Students are able to examine and study wolf and prey animal artifacts.

• The education staff in Ely presented more than 1,600 WolfLink videoconferences to schools across the country and the world in 2016. The videoconferences are a fantastic way to dispel common myths about wolves.



#### WOLF CARE

The wolf care staff spent most of 2016 socializing, integrating, then adapting the newest ambassador wolves, Grayson and Axel to life in the Exhibit Pack. There were some significant challenges that required both physical and behavioral assessments of Luna, the Exhibit Pack's dominant female. Luna had some medical issues when she was a pup, and wolf care staff and consultants were concerned that her behavioral fixation on the pups may have been related to her vulnerability due to her medical condition of a poorly developed femoral head in her right leg.

The introduction day for the pups was tense and Luna's defensive behavior towards Axel was concerning for the safety of the pups and their social bonding within the pack. We were also extremely concerned about how Luna's high tension energy would make her a weak target by the rest of the pack members. After consultation with Wolf Care Staff and the Veterinary team, we made the decision to transition Luna into retirement. Once settled into retirement, we hired a consultant to assess Luna and train staff on some body work techniques to help reduce pain and discomfort. We discovered a whole new Luna. Instead of the high intensity, aggression driven Luna that would spar with every pack member, we interacted with a calm, relaxed Luna that presented her right leg for body work sessions from staff. We were so impressed with her new found calmness that we decided to introduce her to Grizzer, our 12-year old retiree who had been living alone for five years. The introduction was a success and the newly formed retired pack of Luna and Grizzer provided a great benefit for both parties.

Back in the Exhibit Pack, the arctic pups thrived and formed some great bonds with the pack, especially Grayson who has the strongest bond with pack leader Aidan.

### LEFT: Scouts review material in the temporary exhibit space

CENTER: Sculptures at the Center are lit by the

RIGHT: Los Schmidt is pictured in the wolf lab giving a behind-thescenes tour.





#### MEMBERSHIP / DEVELOPMENT

- Achieved a four-star rating with Charity Navigator—the highest rating possible!
- Raised nearly \$70,000 via Give to the Wolves Day 2016. This one-day fundraising event is our biggest single donation day each year.
- Participated in the Twin Cities bracket for a fun, online "March Madness" style fundraising tournament called Brackets For Good. We made it to the final four round and raised \$31,500 for ongoing wolf education efforts.
- Held our 3rd Howl at the Moon gala with guest emcee KARE 11 personality Sven Sungaard. More than \$28,000 was raised to help with ongoing wolf education work.
- Added 701 new memberships throughout the year. Total membership was over 4,400.
- Filled two tour buses, one in June and another in July. A special "Behind the Scenes" tour to see new Arctic wolf pups Axel and Grayson, wolf videos, trivia, programs and more made the day-trips memorable and fun.



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Retail

Kirstin Nephew, Retail Manager Jennifer Riley, Retail Manager

**Exhibits** 

Lori Schmidt, Curator

Donna Prichard, Assistant Curator

Plus eight seasonal interns and six retail associates

#### **AWARDS**

The International Wolf Center received a fourstar rating from Charity Navigator and a Top Rated Nonprofit badge from Great Nonprofits.











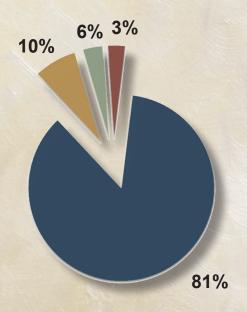
### **OUR MISSION:**

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.

# 2016 FINANCIALS

A summary statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, with comparison to 2015.

#### 2016 Expense Distribution:



- Program
- Membership and Development
- Fundraising
- General Administration

Baker Tilly International completed an external audit of the International Wolf Center's 2016 financial statements.
A copy of the full audit report is available upon request.

ASSETS  CURRENT ASSETS  Cash and cash equivalents  Certificates of deposit  Accounts receivable  Grants receivable  Interest receivable  Inventory  Prepaid expenses	\$ 761,770 274,451 5,277 66,881 - 58,860 16,497	\$ 569,061 274,271 16,836 20,833 983 120,251
Cash and cash equivalents Certificates of deposit Accounts receivable Grants receivable Interest receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses	274,451 5,277 66,881 - 58,860	274,271 16,836 20,833 983
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Certificates of deposit Accounts receivable Grants receivable Interest receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses	274,451 5,277 66,881 - 58,860	274,271 16,836 20,833 983
Accounts receivable Grants receivable Interest receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses	66,881 - 58,860	20,833 983
Interest receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses	58,860	983
Inventory Prepaid expenses		
Prepaid expenses		120 251
	16,497	120,231
TOTAL CURRENT ACCETS		22,342
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 1,183,736	\$1,024,577
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (net)	641,210	718,078
OTHER ASSETS		10,070
Deferred rent asset	10,262	
Security deposits	3,617	3,617
Security deposits	3,017	3,017
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,838,825	\$ 1,746,272
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	17,325	49,438
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	50,191	39,945
Accrued retirement contribution	2,126	2,349
Credit card payable	12,893	2,762
Deferred revenue	8,432	2,719
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 90,967	\$ 97,213
NET ASSETS	¢ 1.114.206	¢ 012.241
Undesignated Board designated funds	\$ 1,114,396 468,083	\$ 913,341 602,538
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 1,582,479	
		1,515,879
Temporarily restricted	165,379	133,180
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,747,858	1,649,059
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,838,825	\$1,746,272

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### \$10,000 plus

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Staff in the Twir Clties office, as well as board members, pose for a group photo in front o the new office. The move was made in the fall РНОТО:

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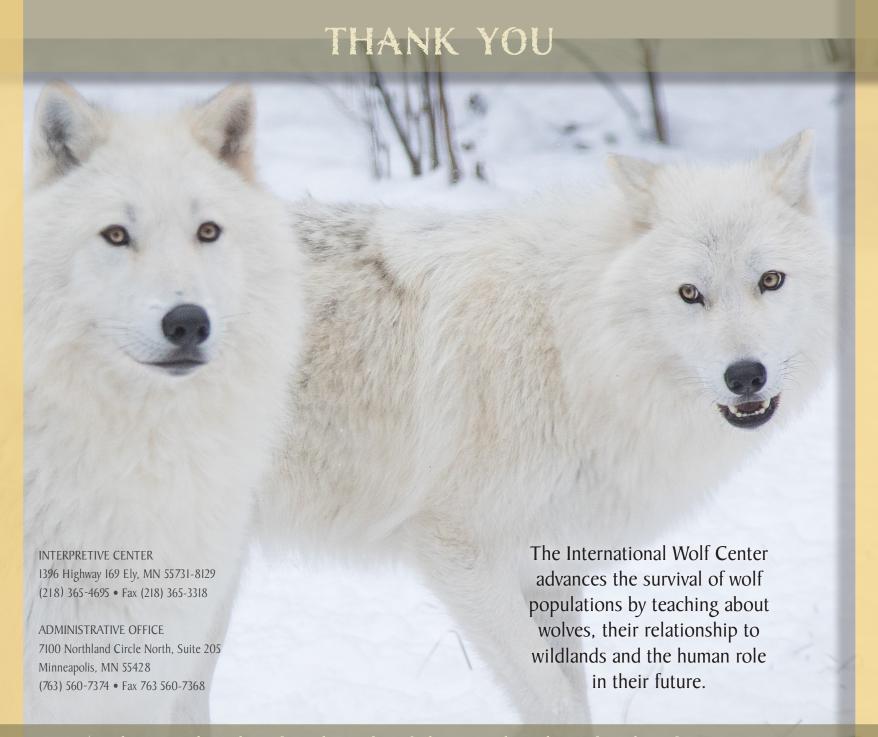
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PHOTO: Students in a program at the Internatioa Wolf Center in Ely are watched closely by Boltz.



"For the strength of the wolf is the pack and the strength of the pack is the wolf." –Rudyard Kipling