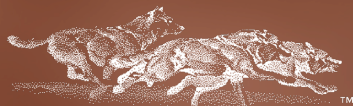


# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



International Wolf Center



# 2018 OVERVIEW

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coincidentally this year's major strides toward meeting our mission focused on two parts of our organization's name.

First, was an "International" aspect. The "Wolves in a Changing World" symposium brought wolf experts from 22 nations to Minneapolis in October. There, we welcomed 462 avid participants to see the latest research, and learn about how societal shifts, habitat loss, recovery efforts, climate change and management decisions are affecting wild wolf populations.

It was a place to hear the pros of wolf management debate the pros and cons of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. We saw a Bob Landis' brilliant video documentary of Yellowstone wolves. Presentation topics ranged from wolf attacks to wolf poisoning. From wolves in the Bible to wolves on cardiac monitors. From Denmark to Mongolia to Germany and India. There you could learn what wolves eat, how they appear in fairy tales and how to use guard dogs to protect your sheep from them. If you enjoyed it or missed it, please join us from October 13-16, 2022 for our next international symposium in Minneapolis. We can't wait to see you.

Also, the "Wolf Center" part of our name drove our 2018 work. The year sparked intense planning for the 2019 opening of the Ely interpretive facility's Wolf Discovery Center. Board and staff members worked with a design firm to create an innovative exhibit to introduce kids and adults to the latest wolf science, management and controversies.

There, family members will have fun and experience the thrill of a wolf howl under the night sky. They'll climb aboard an airplane replica to catch a rare researcher's panorama of a Minnesota wolf pack. They'll peek into a pup's den, clock the speed of a running wolf and come away from the new gallery with an inspired understanding of a misunderstood predator.

The new exhibit will open in May, 2019, thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. For this, the Center's Board is deeply appreciative of support for the project from Representative Rob Ecklund, Senator Tom Bakk, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, and the Ely City Council.

We hope to see you here in 2019 to watch our resident wolf pack, talk with educators, enjoy films, shop for fun gifts, and to learn from our adventure programs.

*Nancy Jo Tubbs*

WWW.WOLF.ORG

PHOTO:  
Axel

COVER  
PHOTO:  
Axel





# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



**ABOVE:**  
Shannon Barber-Meyer speaks at the 2018 International Wolf Symposium about Isle Royale.

**RIGHT:**  
Debbie Hinchcliffe and Judy Hunter were honored during the symposium for their countless hours of hard work as the event's co-chairs.



Without question, the highlight of the 2018 year at the International Wolf Center was the International Wolf Symposium. The event was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during October and attracted more than 450 biologists, researchers, enthusiasts and students. Not long after the 2018 symposium, work began on the next one, which is scheduled for October 2022.

The highlights in 2018 were not limited to just the symposium.

During 2018, the Center secured funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for a brand new exhibit in Ely. The new exhibit also received a major commitment from the board of directors at the Center and its donors. By the end of the year, a design firm had been hired and work had begun on developing the new exhibit, which was scheduled to open in May 2019.

Meanwhile, the Wolves at Our Door presentations continued across Minnesota. More than 15,000 students had presentations in their classrooms about wolves. Educators from the International Wolf Center conducted the presentations, which teach the truth about wolves. The engaging and unbiased programs help students and their families better understand the complicated issues that surround wolves.

The 2018 Minnesota State Fair was also a highlight worth mentioning! The International Wolf Center has a booth at the fair that is staffed by volunteers and staff members. There are a total of 96 three-hours shifts required to staff the booth during the 12 days of the fair, but the commitment was worth it in 2018 as we spoke with more than 12,000 people about wolves at the event.

WolfLink videoconferencing programs continued reaching students across the world. This popular program allows us to connect with schools using technology, ensuring we can cover the globe with our science-based wolf education.

More great news came in the summer of 2018 when the Center learned it had been awarded yet another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, their highest award.



# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 39,612 Visited the organization's Interpretive Center in Ely, Minnesota
- 1,756 Participated in group visits and single- and multi-day programs
- 853 Students participated in live Minnesota WolfLink interactive videoconferences
- 2,852 Students participated in live WolfLink global interactive videoconferences
- 1,855 Students used Wolf discovery kits in their classrooms across the country
- 2,041 Experienced the popular What's for Dinner? program
- 81,952 Fans followed us on Facebook.
- 795,862 Sessions on our website, wolf.org.

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**LEFT:**  
The Minnesota Twins Winter Caravan stopped at the International Wolf Center in January 2018.

**CENTER:**  
Dr. Dave Mech speaks to a crowd of researchers in Yellowstone National Park.





# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## EDUCATION / OUTREACH

- The education team led WolfLink virtual field trips for nearly 2,900 students in 2018. These interactive presentations broadcast from our Ely facility were seen by students in 16 states and 3 countries.
- Artifacts and props in our Wolf Discovery Kits provided experiential learning opportunities to over 1,800 students in 10 states.
- More than 2,000 people attended our weekly program, What's for Dinner? They learned about the hunting and feeding behavior of wolves while having the opportunity to observe our Exhibit Pack and ask our education team questions.
- Audiences all over the world are able to access current, science-based information through our educational programming about wolves and wildlands.
- A seasonal exhibit titled Moose of the Bold North was installed in the temporary exhibit space at the interpretive center in Ely. The exhibit included a massive mounted moose, as well as photographs and text about moose in Minnesota.



Axel turned 2 years old in 2018. He is an arctic subspecies wolf.



# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## WOLF CARE

After a contentious winter of testing behavior, our pack leader Aidan was retired on July 25, 2018. Aidan became the pack leader in February 2011, when Maya, the dominant female at the time, chose Aidan over Denali and Grizzer to be the successor of our former pack leader, Shadow who was retired at 10 years of age due to health reasons.

This decision to retire Aidan was months in the making. There was no single event that made this change happen, but rather it was a series of interactions that affected his confidence and ultimately resulted in a pack that started to form around him. The first sign of testing for status started with the maturation of the Axel and Grayson, who began testing for rank in September 2017 and continued as they reached maturity by their 2nd birthday in May 2018. Transitions out of the pack have happened before, but it is always more challenging when it is a pack leader change. As the summer turned into fall, there was no clear leadership in the Exhibit Pack, but Denali, by his size, age and tendency to guard a carcass was keeping the pack stable.

Luna and Grizzer welcomed Aidan into retirement. The bond with Grizzer and Aidan was strong as Grizzer was an adult that adopted Aidan as a 2008 pup. It was interesting to watch the dynamics and social behavior re-form in retirement, but the reality was, Aidan was likely deposed of his status due to the weaknesses observed by his struggle with mast cell tumors.

2018 was definitely a year to assess animal health and prepare for the potential struggles as the Exhibit Pack moves forward with no clear leadership. The wolf care department continues to do webinars, YouTube videos and wolf logs to keep members updated on pack dynamics.

**LEFT:**  
Boltz is an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center.

**CENTER:**  
The International Wolf Center van is pictured in Yellowstone National Park.





# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## MEMBERSHIP / DEVELOPMENT

- The Center achieved a four-star rating with Charity Navigator—the highest rating possible!
- Donors contributed an impressive \$71,000 via Give to the Wolves Day 2018. This one-day fundraising event is our biggest single donation day each year.
- We participated again in the Twin Cities bracket for a fun, online “March Madness” style fundraising tour-nament called Brackets For Good. We made it to the sweet sixteen round and raised \$23,500 for ongoing wolf education efforts.
- We held our 5th Howl at the Moon gala at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville, Minnesota, with keynote speaker Rolf Peterson. More than \$45,000 dollars were raised to aid ongoing wolf education work.
- Several donors and members traveled with International Wolf Center staff to Yellowstone National Park in March to watch wolves. The group met with Dr. David Mech, heard a compelling series of stories from Rick McIntyre and saw an exclusive presentation by Doug Smith and Bob Landis.



Lisa Daniels was the 2018 recipient of the Leader of the Pack Award, which was presented at the Howl at the Moon Gala.



# 2018 BOARD & STAFF

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Maddie McHugh, Executive Assistant  
Sharon Reed, Director of Administration and Finance  
Debbie Howell, Finance Assistant

Administration-Ely  
Linda Frisell, Operations and Finance Manager

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Chad Richardson, Communications Director

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Susan Ricci, Development Director

Education  
Krista Harrington, Interpretive Center Manager  
Cameron Feaster, Wolf Specialist

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Jessy Klein, Data Entry & Membership Assistant  
Rachel Rolland, Membership and Development Specialist

Outreach  
Misi Stine, Outreach Director  
Cassi Camara, Educator

Retail  
Jackie Sundeen, Retail Manager

Wolf Care  
Lori Schmidt, Curator

*Plus eight seasonal interns and six retail associates*

## AWARDS

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



## OUR MISSION:

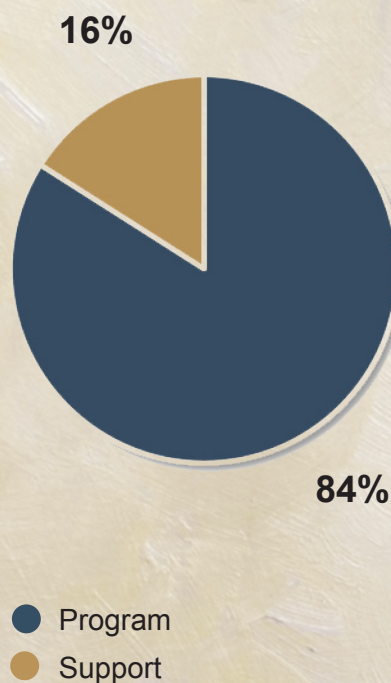
*The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.*



# 2018 FINANCIALS

A summary statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018, with comparison to 2017.

2018 Expense Distribution:



*Baker Tilly International completed an external audit of the International Wolf Center's 2017 financial statements. A copy of the full audit report is available upon request.*

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,242,867	\$ 997,150
Certificates of deposit	24,253	274,451
Accounts receivable	4,452	4,027
Grants receivable	868,000	47,254
Inventory	165,756	93,208
Prepaid expenses	30,408	33,828

### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

2018	2017
\$ 2,335,736	\$ 1,429,918

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (net)

923,892	638,134
---------	---------

### OTHER ASSETS

Deferred rent asset	15,848	15,757
Security deposits	3,617	3,617

15,848	15,757
3,617	3,617

## TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 3,279,093	\$ 2,087,426
--------------	--------------

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	119,080	25,855
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	60,000	43,162
Accrued retirement contribution	4,046	954
Credit card payable	10,674	12,428
Deferred revenue	16,803	11,397

### TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

\$ 210,603	\$ 93,796
------------	-----------

### NET ASSETS

Undesignated	\$ 1,368,604	\$ 1,051,005
Board designated funds	406,781	771,978
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 1,775,385	1,822,983
Temporarily restricted	1,293,105	170,647

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

3,068,490	1,993,630
-----------	-----------

## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$3,279,093	\$2,087,426
-------------	-------------



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PHOTO:  
Luna howls  
in the  
retirement  
enclosure  
in July  
2017.





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## \$250 to \$499

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This massive moose mount is on display at the International Wolf Center. It was used as part of the Moose of the Bold North temporary exhibit.



# 2018 DONORS

**PHOTO:** Narumi Nambu was presented with the Who Speaks for Wolf Award at the 2018 International Wolf Symposium. She is pictured with her husband, Hiroshi.

Photo by Kelly Godfrey

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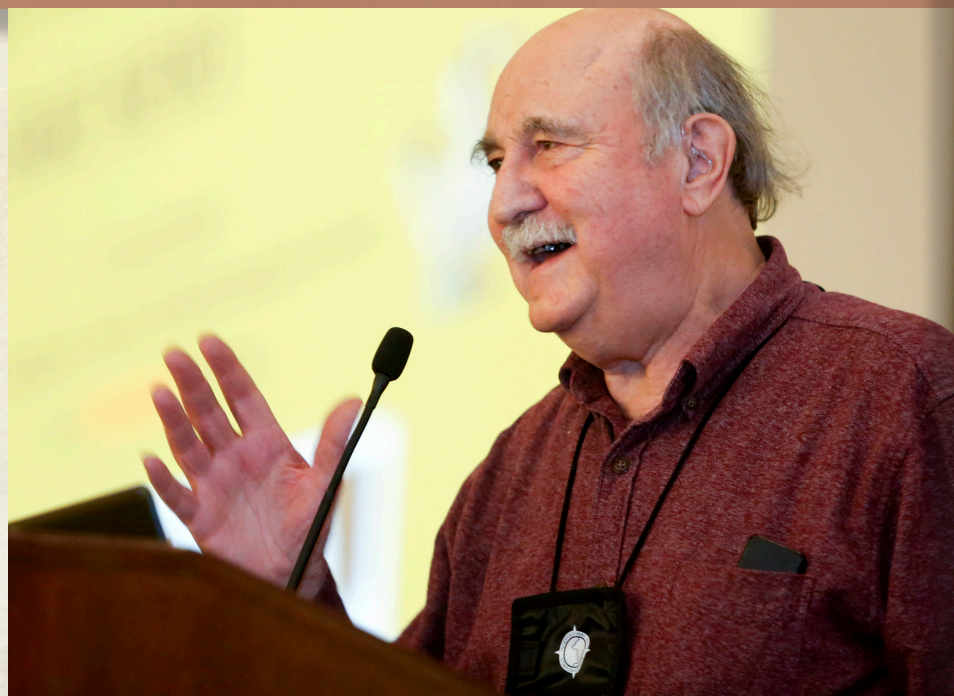




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Brian Zupan

International Wolf  
Center founder  
Dr. L. David  
Mech delivers the  
keynote address  
at the 2018  
International  
Wolf Symposium  
in Minneapolis,  
Minnesota.



# THANK YOU



#### INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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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.

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