



*Helping Animals. Healing our Planet.*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am both humbled and inspired by what our community has accomplished. While 2024 brought significant changes to our leadership and presented no shortage of challenges, it also demonstrated the strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment of those who stand behind VI's mission.

Transitions are never easy, and this year marked a pivotal moment in our organization's journey. With the departure of our founding president and a period of organizational restructuring, we were met with both uncertainty and opportunity. Yet, amid those growing pains, one constant remained: our deep dedication to empowering veterinarians working on the front lines of conservation and One Health.

Thanks to your steadfast support, we continued to make critical progress in fragile ecosystems across the globe. We trained future veterinary leaders, supported urgent field responses, provided essential tools and resources to underserved communities, and helped protect countless animals facing threats from disease, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict.



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2024, we also witnessed the power of collaboration. and every milestone was made possible by people working together toward a shared vision: a world where animals, people, and ecosystems can thrive together.

Looking ahead, I feel an immense sense of gratitude - and a renewed sense of purpose. We are stronger for the challenges we've overcome, and we are entering this new chapter with clarity, resolve, and hope.

Thank you for believing in this work and for being a vital part of our story.

With love and gratitude,



**Lauren Steinberg**

Chief Executive Officer  
Veterinarians International



# Our Mission

We're committed to enhancing the health and welfare of wildlife and domestic animals by fostering and empowering an international community of veterinarians to increase the worldwide capacity for care. Veterinarians International's work is focused on education, training and empowerment of vets and communities on a local level. Together, we can create a healthy, harmonious, and sustainable world where humans and animals can survive and thrive together.



Helping Animals. Healing our Planet.



# Our Impact in Kenya



## Laying the Groundwork for the Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Veterinarians International (VI) made significant progress in preparing for the launch of the Mobile Vet Clinic (MVC)—a transformative initiative that will soon bring essential veterinary services to underserved communities across Kenya. Designed to reach livestock, companion animals, and wildlife in remote areas, the MVC will ensure more animals receive the care they need, regardless of location.

This year, key foundational steps were completed. The branding process was finalized, with all magnetic logos installed on the vehicle, and spay/neuter instruments were procured and branded for use in future field operations. To further strengthen the clinic's diagnostic capabilities, an ultrasound unit was delivered to Dr. Grace Watene, ensuring the team will be equipped with essential tools once the clinic is operational.



# KENYA

Generous support from a **Lush Cosmetics** grant helped secure funds for the MVC's deployment, while additional funding from the **Horne Family Foundation** provided critical support to move the project forward. Working closely with Dr. Grace Watene, VI defined the implementation roadmap, ensuring a thoughtful and effective rollout once the clinic is ready to launch.

These preparations, along with the very generous initial donations from **Riki Kane Larimer** and the **Meringoff Family Foundation**, have laid a strong foundation for its future success, bringing us closer to delivering high-impact veterinary care directly to animals and communities in need.



**LUSH** FRESH  
HANDMADE  
COSMETICS



HORNE FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

**Riki Kane Larimer**



MERINGOFF FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

# KENYA

## A New Path for Learning: Canine Rehab at the Core of Curriculum

Investments in veterinary education continued to strengthen the learning environment at the University of Nairobi's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Funding supported critical facility renovations and the acquisition of essential supplies, improving training resources and hands-on learning opportunities for veterinary students.

A key milestone was the construction of a Dog Walking Track & Rehabilitation Area, made possible through the generosity of a dedicated donor. Now fully integrated into the veterinary curriculum, this innovative space offers students practical experience in canine rehabilitation and physical therapy—earning them academic credits while enhancing the well-being of the animals in their care.

This initiative not only elevates student training but also reinforces a long-term commitment to improving animal welfare and advancing veterinary care across Kenya.



# KENYA

## Protecting Lives Through Prevention: Supporting the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign

Each year, rabies claims the lives of nearly 2,000 people in Kenya—a tragic statistic for a disease that is almost entirely preventable. Rabies affects both humans and animals by attacking the brain and spinal cord. It is almost always fatal in humans and proves deadly in up to 86% of infected dogs. In Laikipia County, the virus not only threatens human health, but also causes the death of domestic dogs, livestock, and even wildlife. For rural communities, this means not only emotional loss but also the erosion of livelihoods, especially for farmers whose cattle are at risk through contact with infected animals.

To address this urgent issue, the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign (LRVC) works to eliminate rabies from domestic dog populations, directly supporting Kenya's national goal to eradicate the disease.



# KENYA

The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign (LRVC) has built a strong legacy of impact, reaching thousands of animals and families across Kenya. From its early beginnings, the campaign has addressed a critical gap in rural animal health by delivering vaccines where they're needed most. Each year, LRVC has grown stronger—expanding its reach, strengthening partnerships, and saving countless lives.

Now, as the campaign looks to the future, its mission remains clear: eliminate rabies and protect the health of both animals and people.

The campaign focuses on rural and underserved communities where access to veterinary services is limited, and where surveys show that nearly 100% of animals remain unvaccinated. Despite the Laikipia County Government's efforts, less than 5% of dogs in these areas have received the vaccine—largely due to financial barriers and low public awareness.

Importantly, the campaign also offers vaccination to domestic cats, expanding its impact by protecting all commonly kept animals and further safeguarding households and communities.



# KENYA

Since its inception, LRVC has made significant strides in protecting communities and animals through large-scale vaccination drives:

<b>2017</b>	<b>9,313 animals vaccinated</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>15,265 animals vaccinated</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>13,185 animals vaccinated</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>21,493 animals vaccinated</b>

In 2023, LRVC prioritized expanding vaccination coverage to both high-risk rural areas and semi-urban centers with dense animal populations. The campaign plays a vital role in reducing rabies transmission, saving lives, and supporting healthier communities and ecosystems.

To ensure the continued success of this critical initiative, Veterinarians International provided financial support in 2024 to help fund LRVC's upcoming 2025 campaign. This investment will allow LRVC to reach even more communities with life-saving vaccines, education, and support—bringing Kenya one step closer to a rabies-free future.



## Motorbikes for Mobility: Expanding Veterinary Reach in Laikipia

In collaboration with the **Laikipia County Government Department of Veterinary Services**, Veterinarians International has been working to enhance veterinary outreach in remote regions of Laikipia County. To improve mobility for veterinary professionals in these underserved areas, we expanded our motorbike donation initiative.

The first motorbike, generously funded by **Gentle Giants Elephants**, was donated to the Laikipia County Government Department of Veterinary Services. This motorbike was actively used during the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2024, facilitating **50,988 animal treatments**. The increased mobility enabled veterinary teams to reach remote communities, significantly expanding access to critical care for animals in need.



# KENYA

Seeing the success of this initiative, Gentle Giants Elephants generously committed to funding a second motorbike, further strengthening the capacity of the veterinary teams in the field. Veterinarians International is deeply grateful for the ongoing support from Gentle Giants Elephants and looks forward to continuing our partnership with Laikipia County to ensure lifesaving care reaches even more animals.



## Motorbike Service Reach (Q2 2024)

	Cattle	Shoats	Dogs/Cats	Camels	Horses	All Animal Treatments
Clinical Cases	54	442	6	5	2	509
Vaccinations	3,707	23,714	108	-	-	27,529
Spay and Neuter	-	-	28	-	-	28
Deworming	447	3,437	58	-	10	3,952
TOTAL	4,208	27,593	200	5	12	32,018

## Motorbike Service Reach (Q3 2024)

	Cattle	Shoats	Dogs/Cats	Camels	Horses	All Animal Treatments
Clinical Cases	64	112	3	3	1	183
Vaccinations	4,580	7,900	6	-	-	12,486
Spay and Neuter	-	-	0	-	-	0
Deworming	0	1,700	0	-	-	1,700
TOTAL	4,644	9,712	9	3	1	14,369

## Motorbike Service Reach (Q4 2024)

	Cattle	Sheep & Goats	Dogs/Cats	Camels	Horses	All Animal Treatments
<b>Clinical Cases</b>	23	47	2	1	0	<b>73</b>
<b>Vaccinations</b>	1,200	2,468	-	-	-	<b>3,668</b>
<b>Spay and Neuter</b>	-	-	0	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>Deworming</b>	0	860	0	-	-	<b>860</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,601</b>

# KENYA

## Empowering the Next Generation of Veterinarians in Kenya

Kenya's wildlife faces increasing threats, yet opportunities for veterinary students to gain hands-on training in conservation medicine remain limited. To address this, the VI Kenya Vet Training Program was launched in fall of 2023, providing a rare opportunity for students to develop essential skills in wildlife health. The first cohort successfully completed both theoretical coursework and fieldwork, while a new group of fourth-year veterinary students began their lecture series in fall of 2024, covering critical topics such as wildlife laws and policies, animal welfare, and human-wildlife conflict.



# KENYA

As their training progressed, students gained expertise in wildlife rescue protocols and neonatal care. The program featured a range of esteemed lecturers, including our board member Dr. Dale Smith, who led a compelling module on forensic and postmortem investigations, deepening the students' understanding of pathology in wildlife cases. To strengthen field learning opportunities, Veterinarians International purchased GoPro cameras in December 2024 for future use by veterinarians in the training program. These tools will allow procedures to be documented and live-streamed, helping bring real-world experiences into the classroom and deepening students' practical understanding of wildlife health.



# KENYA

**The program garnered significant support last year, with a GoFundMe campaign rallying strong engagement and grants from the Horne Family Foundation and the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation helping to sustain its impact. By equipping future veterinarians with the tools and experience needed for conservation medicine, this initiative is helping to shape a new generation of wildlife champions in Kenya.**

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**THE WILLIAM AND CHARLOTTE  
PARKS FOUNDATION FOR  
ANIMAL WELFARE**

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**HORNE FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**



## Global Recognition: Elevating VI's Work at the World One Health Congress

Dr. Grace Watene proudly represented Veterinarians International at the 8th World One Health Congress, a globally recognized forum focused on advancing collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

At the event, Dr. Grace shared insights into VI's Vet Training Program, highlighting how it is equipping the next generation of veterinarians with the skills and experience needed to protect wildlife, combat diseases today and build resilience for tomorrow. Healthy Animals=Healthy People. Her presentation spotlighted the program's innovative approach and VI's commitment to the One Health mission.

This opportunity was made possible in part thanks to the generous support of Dr. Dale Smith, whose efforts were instrumental in coordinating the arrangements that allowed Dr. Grace to share VI's impact on a global stage. Together, their efforts advanced awareness of VI's work and its growing influence in shaping the future of veterinary education and One Health.





# Our Impact in Sri Lanka

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# SRI LANKA

## VI GIVES: Helping Sri Lanka's Frontline Caretakers

Our CEO and members of Veterinarians International's Board of Directors traveled to Sri Lanka for the first VI GIVES trip (Global Immersive Veterinary Experiences). This impactful visit had two goals: to support ongoing initiatives and to identify meaningful ways to continue supporting the Elephant Transit Home, Department of Wildlife Conservation (ETH/DWC).

While on-site, the VI team provided hands-on support by accompanying ETH staff into the city to stock up on essential supplies. This included mops, brooms, soap, animal carriers, towels, blankets, and scrub brushes—basic yet vital tools that help ensure the daily care and cleanliness of the facility. In recognition of the ETH team's tireless work, VI also hosted a special luncheon to honor the entire staff. The caretakers expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and recognition, reinforcing the strong connection between VI and the dedicated professionals at ETH.

Additionally, after speaking with local veterinarians and staff, the team identified a strong need for training in ophthalmology, cardiology, and ultrasound, key skills that would greatly improve animal health and veterinary services in Sri Lanka.



# SRI LANKA

## ETH's Impact: Saving Elephants and Releasing Birds

With continued support from Veterinarians International, the Elephant Transit Home, Department of Wildlife Conservation (ETH/DWC) made major strides in wildlife care. The facility received 24 orphaned elephant calves and 754 other wild animals requiring attention. ETH/DWC provided medical treatment to 65 wild elephants and conducted 104 X-rays using a machine donated by VI. The team also released 35 rehabilitated birds—including rare raptors—into the wild, using bird rings provided by VI. A major highlight came in October 2024, when 4 rehabilitated elephants were successfully released back into the wild at Maduruoya National Park—marking a significant step forward in ETH's long-term rehabilitation efforts. These achievements highlight the power of partnership in protecting Sri Lanka's iconic wildlife.





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# VI GIVES

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## Creating Life-Changing Experiences for People & Animals

With the launch of VI GIVES, participants gained unprecedented access to immersive veterinary experiences in Kenya, Sri Lanka, and South Africa. Through two impactful trips to Kenya and Sri Lanka, they worked side by side with local veterinary professionals, gaining first hand insight into the challenges of conservation medicine while making a tangible difference in the lives of animals and communities.

The impact of these experiences was deeply meaningful, as reflected in the words of Julie Koch-Beinke:

***"These trips provide the opportunity to be a participant, not just a spectator. I really felt that I had a chance to help in some small ways, provide support and appreciation to those on the ground that are so dedicated and doing the hard work every day. It was truly special, and it felt like the animals and the staff were able to understand and actually feel how much we cared."***



# VI GIVES

The reach of VI GIVES expanded even further when Dr. Lonnie Kasman, VI's Director of Global Experiences, presented the program at the AVMA Convention in Austin, Texas. His presentation inspired a new wave of potential participants, eager to contribute to meaningful change and deepen their connection to veterinary service around the world.

Beyond creating transformative experiences, VI GIVES also helps sustain the ongoing programs and mission-driven work of Veterinarians International, providing critical support for initiatives that protect animal health and strengthen communities.

By connecting passionate individuals with real-world impact opportunities, VI GIVES is fostering a global community committed to the health of animals, people, and the planet.





# **New Leadership & Programs**

# Welcoming a Visionary Leader

## Dr. Jenna Wallace Joins as Chief Veterinarian

Veterinarians International welcomed a new Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Jenna Wallace, whose deep-rooted passion for animal welfare and global experience mark an exciting new chapter for our organization. A Texas native based in Hawai'i, Dr. Wallace brings a decade of hands-on expertise in wildlife, small animal care, and marine mammal welfare—ranging from co-founding a veterinary course in South Africa, aiding dolphin rescues in the Bahamas and supporting pet care efforts in Lahaina after the devastating fires. Her leadership promises to expand and transform our outreach, not only by strengthening our existing programs but also by championing new initiatives that honor Dr. Scarlett's legacy and elevate global veterinary care. With her guidance, we look forward to advancing wildlife conservation, improving the lives of captive animals, and empowering veterinarians who serve on the front lines of animal health and welfare.



# Expanding Our Reach

## Partnering with Conservation Leaders in South Africa

Veterinarians International has proudly partnered with two trusted and long-standing conservation efforts in the Greater Kruger area of South Africa—Down to the Wire and Mangata Vets—to help expand their impact and deepen their work in protecting endangered wildlife and ecosystems.

**Down to the Wire (D2TW)**, founded by South African siblings Troy and Lilly Otto, transforms deadly snares used by poachers into powerful symbols of hope. Proceeds from their beautifully handcrafted jewelry fund emergency wildlife rescues, including sedation, veterinary treatment, and helicopter transport. Working closely with local rangers, veterinarians, and reserves, D2TW has removed countless snares and saved numerous animals from suffering



# Expanding Our Reach

**Mangata Vets**, led by wildlife veterinarian Dr. Rita Piso, operates a mobile clinic that has provided expert care for more than 3,345 animals—including rhinos, giraffes, and lions—between 2021 and 2023. Her services include rhino dehorning, snare removal, wildlife relocation, and emergency interventions, all delivered in close collaboration with conservation organizations and government wildlife agencies.

Through these partnerships, Veterinarians International aims to:

- Provide critical medical equipment and supplies for field interventions
- Support snare removal and awareness efforts through D2TW
- Back Dr. Piso's mobile clinic to expand veterinary services for wildlife
- Strengthen community-based conservation with sustainable, local solutions

By joining forces with these remarkable teams, we're building on a strong foundation of trust and action to protect animals and the communities that depend on them.





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# Grant Support

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# Powering Progress Through Grants

## \$65,000 Secured for 2025 Impact

Thanks to the incredible efforts of our **Director of Development, Ashley Grimes, and our dedicated volunteer grant writing team, Veterinarians International** secured **\$65,000 in grant funding in 2024**—resources now fueling our programs in 2025 and expanding our reach for animals and communities around the world.

Grants from the **William and Charlotte Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare, Lush Charity Pot, and the Horne Family Foundation** are supporting our work in Kenya—from immersive training for veterinary students to operational needs for our Mobile Vet Clinic. These funds cover essentials like insurance, transportation, medical supplies, fuel, and staffing—ensuring both education and care continue to thrive.

In Sri Lanka, a generous grant from **The Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation** is strengthening rescue efforts for Asian elephants and other wildlife through sanctuary repairs, supplemental food, medical equipment, and vital staff support.

**LUSH** FRESH  
HANDMADE  
COSMETICS

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**THE WILLIAM AND CHARLOTTE  
PARKS FOUNDATION FOR  
ANIMAL WELFARE**

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**HORNE FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

# FINANCIALS

(2024)

# 2024 INCOME

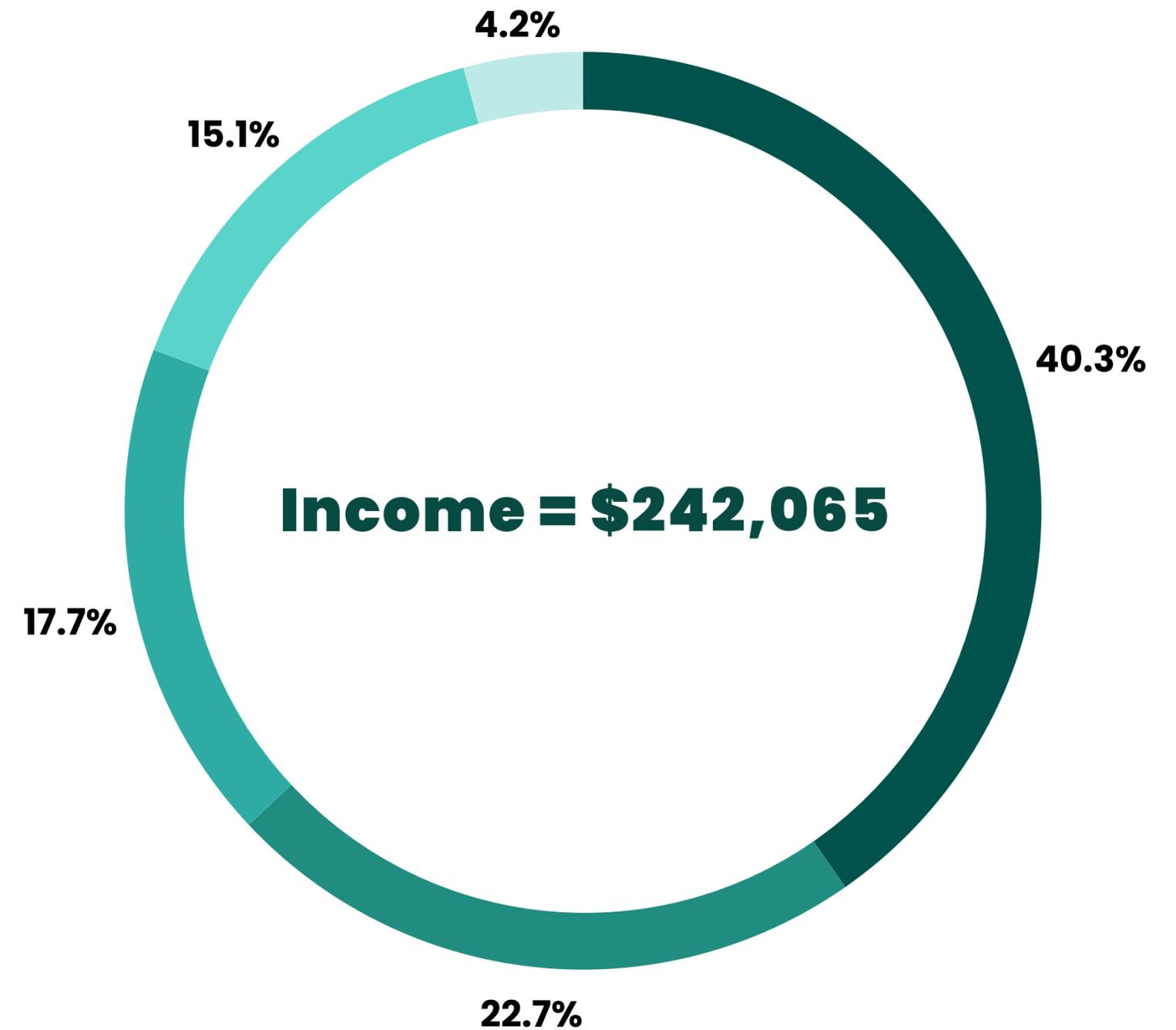
**(40.3%) Foundations/Major Donors**

**(22.7%) Donor Trips**

**(17.7%) Grants**

**(15.1%) Individual Donations**

**(4.2%) In Kind**

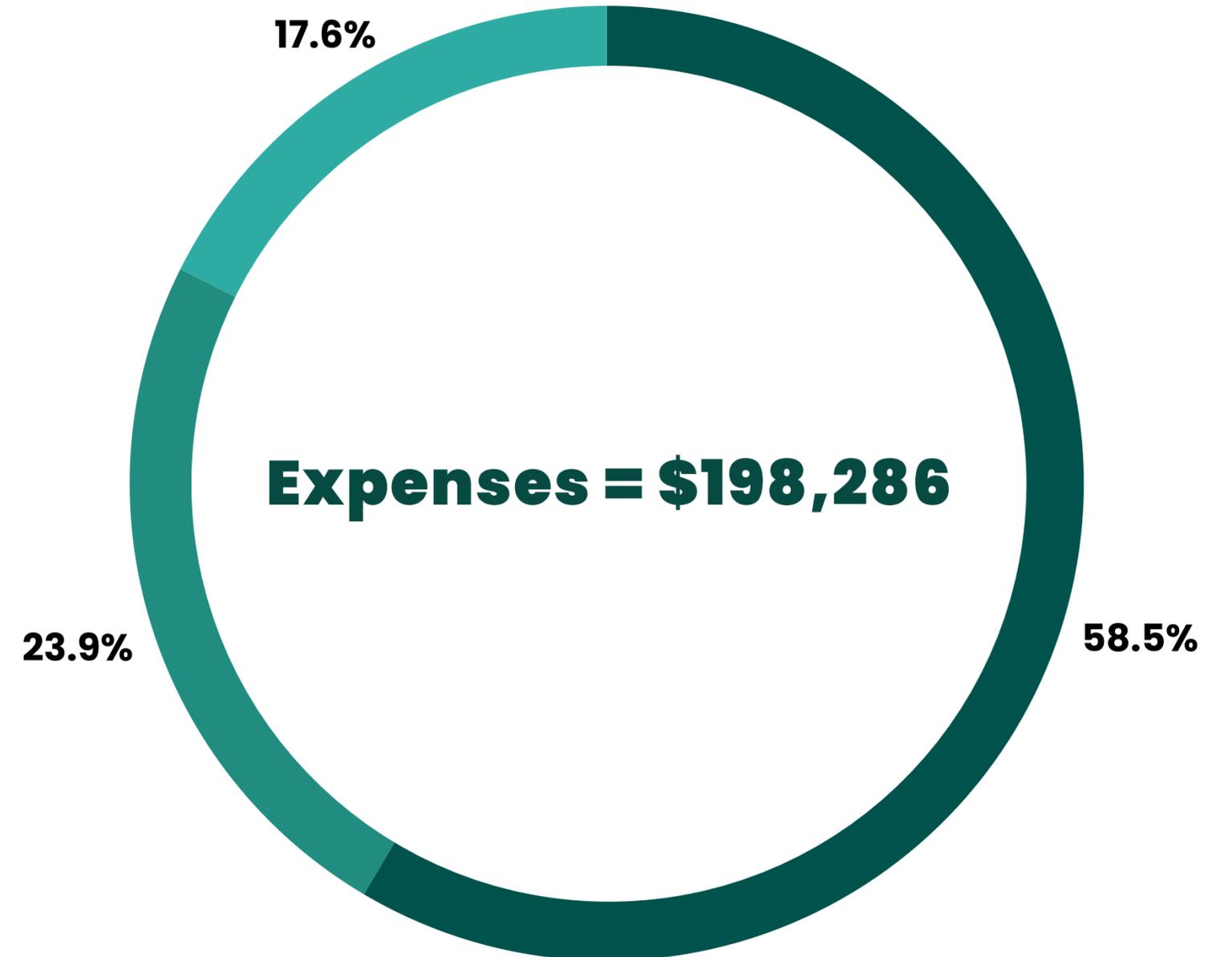


# 2024 EXPENSES

**(58.5%) - Programs**

**(23.9%) - General Administration**

**(17.6%) - Fundraising**



# Meet the Team Behind the Mission

Our work would not be possible without the dedicated individuals who bring our mission to life. From our staff and board members to our incredible volunteers, this passionate team drives forward our vision of a healthier world for animals, people, and our planet. Their commitment, expertise, and compassion power everything we do.



**Lauren Steinberg**

Chief Executive Officer



**Ashley Grimes**

Development Director



**Gift Del Campo**

Executive Assistant



**Jean Fordyce**

Bookkeeper



**Dr. Grace Watene**

Kenya Representative &  
Director of Kenya Veterinary  
Training Program

# Meet the Team Behind the Mission

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Steve Tannehill, MBA**  
Treasurer

**Dr. Gayle Pohl**  
Board Member

**Ilaria Borghese**  
Board Member

**Laura Berger**  
Board Member

**Julie Koch-Beinke**  
Board Member

**Karen Cooper**  
Board Member

**Dr. Dale Smith**  
Board Member

## VOLUNTEERS:

**Amanda Tsai**  
Grant Writer

**Charlotte Moog**  
Youth Ambassador

**Natan Rapaport**  
Grant Writer

**Margot Moog**  
Youth Ambassador

**Larry Young**  
Tech Volunteer

**Dr Lonnie Kasman**  
Director of Global Experiences



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