

— 2024

OWLS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT



1,360

MEMBERS

1,600

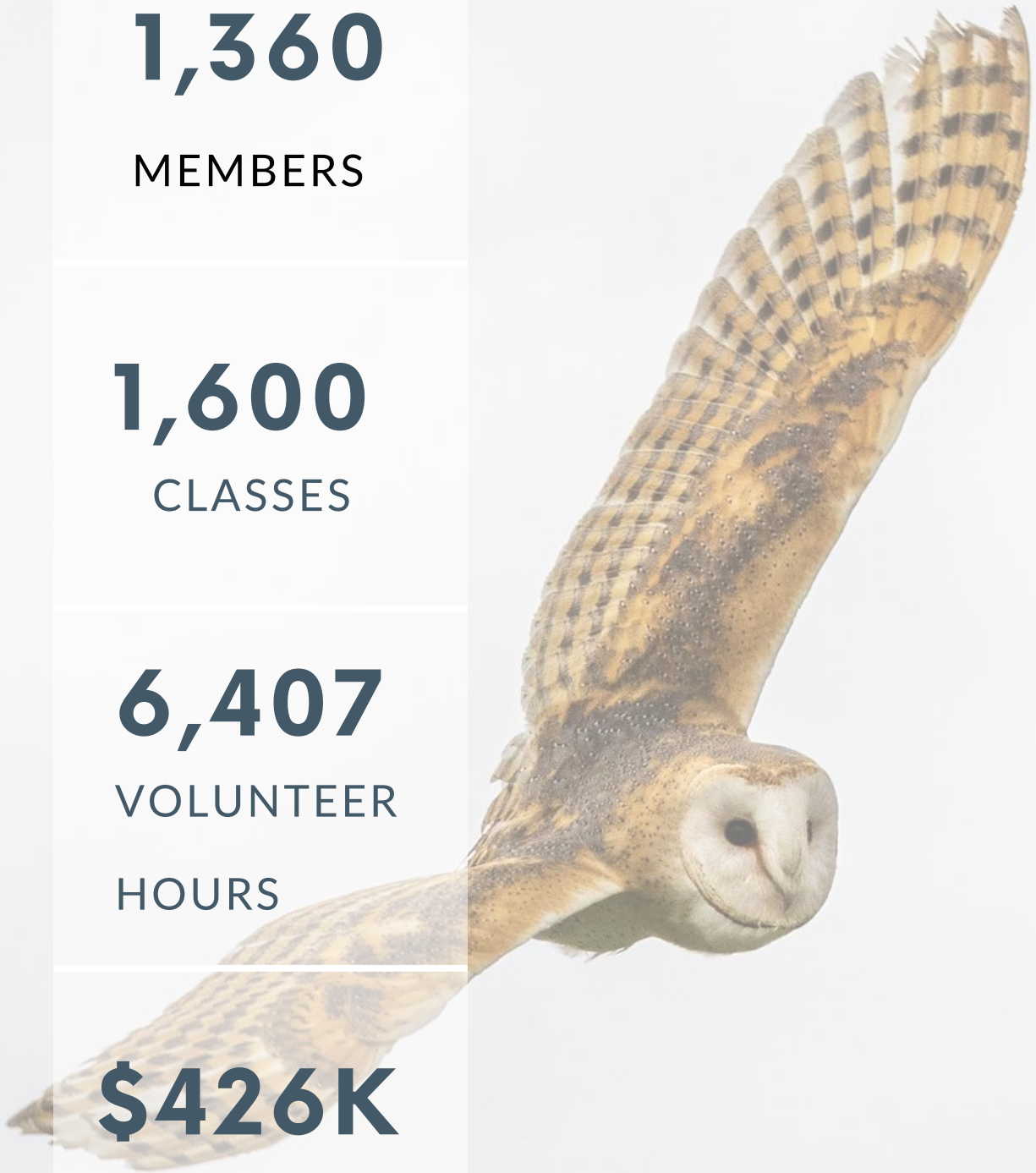
CLASSES

6,407

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

\$426K

RAISED



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from the chairman

Dear Members and Friends of Owls Club,

On behalf of the Owls Club Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for our pioneering nonprofit organization. Dedicated to enhancing the lives of adults aged 55 and older in Elkhart and its surrounding communities, Owls Club has soared past our initial expectations.

When we officially launched our programs and services in May of 2023, we were like a fledgling owlet leaving its nest for the first time. Our aspirations for this experimental and independent model were modest. We hoped to welcome 100 to 200 members by year's end. Remarkably, more than 850 area senior residents had joined Owls Club just seven months later. Today, with 1,360 members, we are taking flight—gaining momentum and following our mission to serve, connect, learn, and play.

UNIQUE ECONOMICS OF SHARED SPACES

As opposed to a stand-alone facility, Owls Club's campus is located at Trinity on Jackson, where it utilizes valuable space during the weekdays. This partnership brings compelling benefits. Owls Club has access to excellent, low-cost facilities, while Trinity enhances its appeal to its congregants through Owl's diverse programs that have attracted 112 Trinity members. This partnership is uncommon. According to MySeniorCenter (MSC), the nation's leading software provider for senior centers, Owls Club is MSC's only independent nonprofit client operating on a church campus in its 2,100-center network. Whenever there's a new idea, somebody has to be first.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2024, we were awarded a \$100,000 conditional matching grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County (CFEC). The Foundation pledged to match donations, dollar-for-dollar. By year-end, we had exceeded our goal by raising more than \$200,000 for operations and programming from members, nonmembers, and foundations other than CFEC. Additionally, the Owls Nest Endowment was created at the CFEC and at year end totaled \$228,609, including a \$25,000 CFEC match. This overwhelming support reflects the community's belief in our mission. While we are encouraged by these results, we understand that achieving long-term financial stability depends on consistently delivering excellence in our programs and operations.

INCLUSION AND OWNERSHIP

Our decision not to charge membership fees produced the most encouraging of unintended consequences. Members felt and acted like owners, not customers. Instead of expecting to be served, they willingly became servants, selflessly giving their time, talents, and treasures to their club. Because members volunteer to lead them, most of our programs and activities remain free.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OWLS

At the core of Owls Club is a remarkable virtuous circle. Volunteers who serve receive something invaluable in return—a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Our model of reciprocity aligns volunteer roles with activities that individuals find meaningful. Volunteers serve as welcoming hosts, inspiring teachers, and skilled facilitators, building a supportive community where giving begets giving. In 2024, volunteers contributed an astounding 6,407 hours, which, at \$20 an hour, is equal to our payroll for paid staff. More importantly, this generosity is the heart of Owls, strengthening our mission and transforming lives.

GROWTH WITH PURPOSE

We intend to optimize member engagement as we leave the nest and gain altitude. While rapid membership growth is gratifying, encouraging broad participation in our diverse programs and services is essential to fully meet the needs of the community we have pledged to serve. Because of vast differences among social service organizations, there is no standardized definition of “optimized member engagement.” Our ambitious goal is for 25% of our members to participate in at least one program or activity each week.

BUILDING A REPLICABLE MODEL

The last bullet point in the 2023 report reflected the board's evolving vision for Owls Club's future beyond Elkhart County. The [loneliness epidemic](#) affecting seniors across Indiana continues to demand attention, and our Elkhart model has proven to be a highly effective response. Owls Club has been built on a foundation of carefully considered programs, creative member engagement, and a commitment to sustainable operations. These building block elements cannot be rushed. While the need for senior-focused centers is urgent, creating an impactful and replicable model requires forethought, time, patience, and precision. We will continue refining internal and external marketing content and documenting systems and processes to make it possible to extend our model throughout Indiana. To stay informed of our progress, contact us at info@owlclub.org.

TOMORROW AND BEYOND

The following pages highlight key aspects of our growth, including member development and program successes. Having overcome some of the challenges of launching a new organization, we are encouraged by the solid foundation we have built and the promising future ahead.

With gratitude and optimism,

Sincerely,

Frank Martin

Chairman of the Board



our purpose

At Owls Club, our mission, vision, and values are more than just statements—they are the guiding principles that shape our decisions and drive our daily efforts. In 2024, these foundational elements remained at the heart of everything we did, ensuring that our programs and initiatives fostered a sense of belonging, purpose, and growth for our members. Whether expanding opportunities, strengthening partnerships, or refining our services, our commitment to these core values has continued to influence our path forward.

"To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination."

STEPHEN COVEY

OUR MISSION

Owls Club is an inclusive community organization dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors in Elkhart County and surrounding areas. Our mission is to enhance the health and well-being of adults 55 and older by providing meaningful opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, recreation and service.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a vital community resource that empowers older adults to navigate and embrace every stage of aging with confidence and fulfillment. We envision a community where seniors 55 and older have access to engaging programs and services in a welcoming environment that fosters well-being, encourages connection, and promotes an active and purpose-filled life.

OUR VALUES

We believe older adults are individuals who:

- have ambition, experience, talent, wisdom, and creative capacity
- are capable of continued growth and development
- can be vital contributors to community life and to the lives of others
- thrive when given opportunities to stay active, curious, and connected



our team

STAFF

Maggie Okponobi
Executive Director

Kristen Smith
Director of Volunteer Services

Shannon Wilson
Marketing Director

Diamond Kelley
Digital Marketing Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

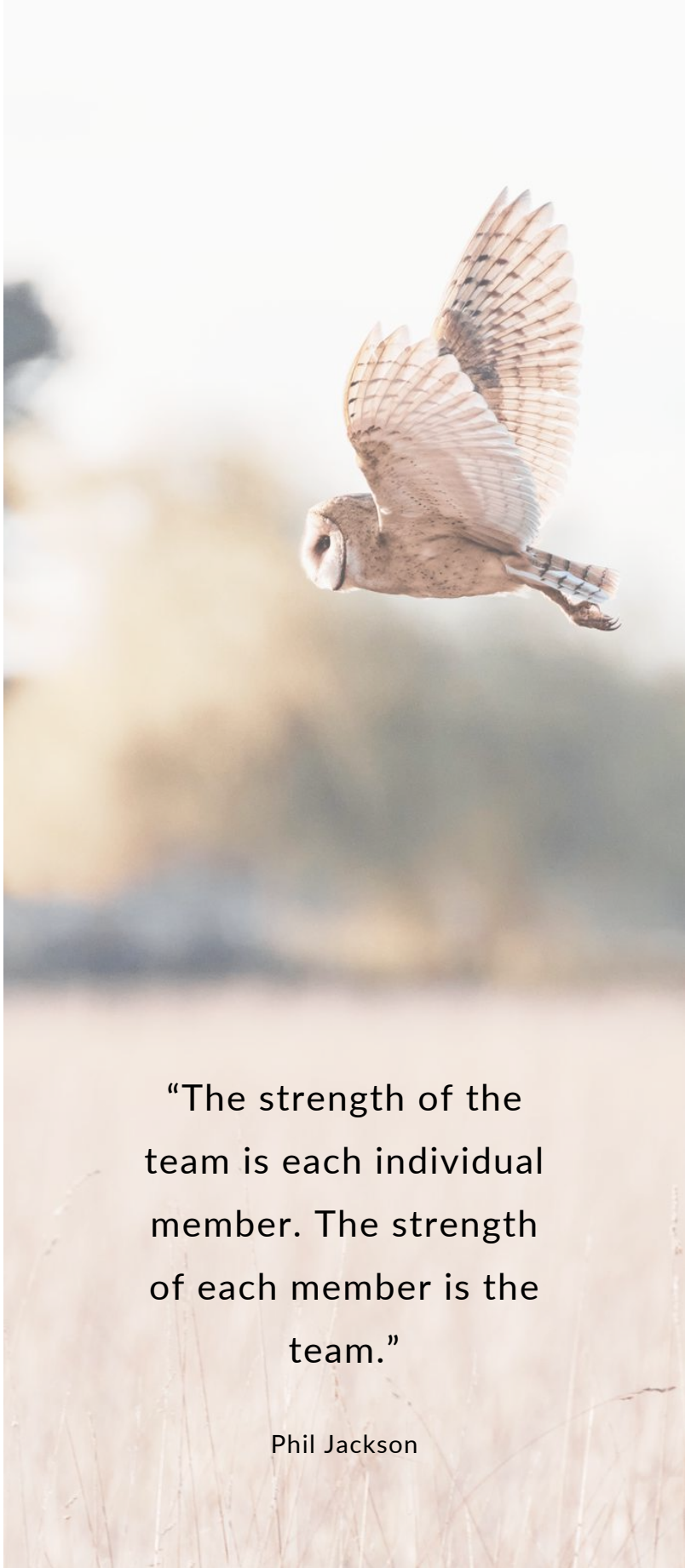
Frank Martin
Chair

Connie Fulmer
Vice Chair

Gary Gill
Treasurer

Marsha Martin
Secretary

Art Bowers
Richard Heiss
Karen Koelsch
Tom McArthur
Cyneatha Millsaps
William Rieth
Dave Rowley
Susan Rowley



“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

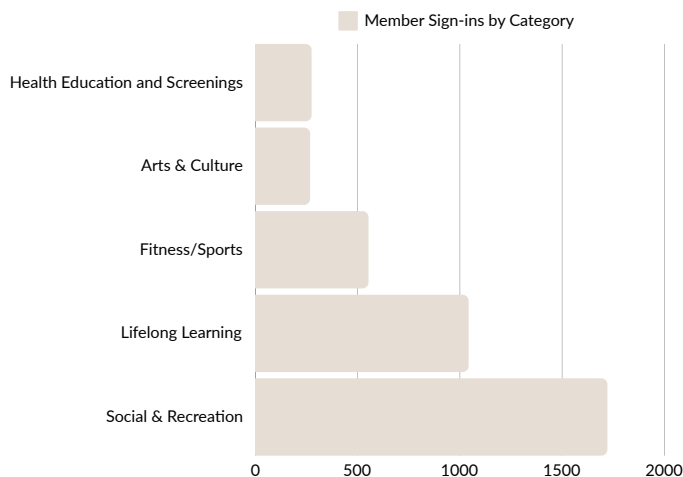
Phil Jackson

our year in review



In 2024, Owls Club continued its upward trajectory, taking significant strides in program development, membership engagement, and community collaboration. Guided by our mission to enhance the well-being of adults 55 and older, we expanded opportunities for service, connection, and growth. This year, we introduced new programs, welcomed key leadership, and established meaningful partnerships—all reinforcing our commitment to helping members take flight.

680 members
signed in
11,238 times
for classes



PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Owls Club introduced several new programs in 2024 that enriched our members' experience and expanded opportunities for learning and connection:

EXPERT SPEAKER SERIES

We welcomed Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, as our first annual guest lecturer. [The discussion of his latest book](#), *The Pursuit of Happiness*, was the result of one of our most popular ongoing classes, *The U.S. Constitution Through History*, which continues to thrive.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHTS

This new initiative connected members with local organizations such as Joy Blooms, Habitat for Humanity, and Church Community Services, encouraging volunteer engagement beyond Owls Club.

SUPPORT GROUPS

In response to member needs, we introduced support groups focused on caregivers, grief support, essential tremors, and grandparents raising grandchildren, offering vital spaces for connection and shared experience.

PICKLEBALL EXPANSION

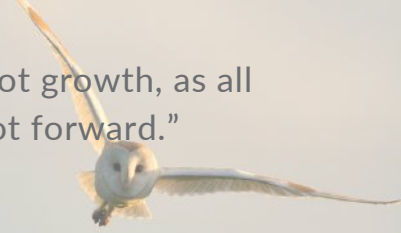
Our indoor pickleball program solidified its presence in 2024, with 69 members participating in 2,413 hours of court time, from beginner classes to competitive play.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

Expanding our commitment to wellness, we introduced valuable services such as MoCA Alzheimer's testing, blood pressure screenings, and First Aid/CPR training, empowering members to prioritize their well-being.

"All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward."

Ellen Glasgow



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Owls Club membership continues to expand, reflecting the growing demand for our programs and services. We proudly serve seniors from ages 55 to 90, offering a diverse range of programs that align with the needs of members at every stage of aging. Our commitment to providing relevant and engaging opportunities has contributed to steady growth across all age demographics. Figure 1 shows our monthly growth trends and figure 2 provides a detailed breakdown of membership by age group, offering valuable insights into our evolving community.

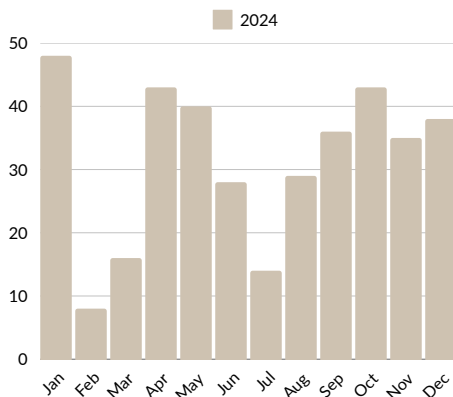


figure 1

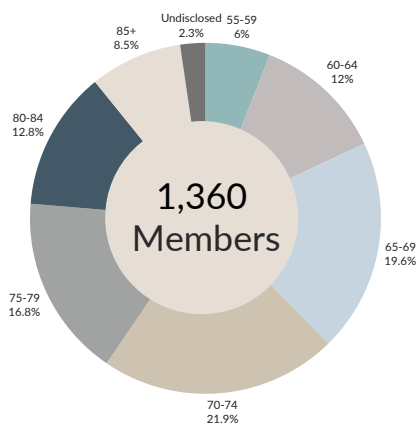


figure 2

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

While membership numbers have grown significantly, true success lies in the level of engagement. Encouraging new members to take that critical first step onto our campus has been a priority in 2024, leading to several key initiatives:

NEW MEMBER MINGLE

A monthly event designed to foster connections and ease newcomers into the community.

"WHOO" TAGS

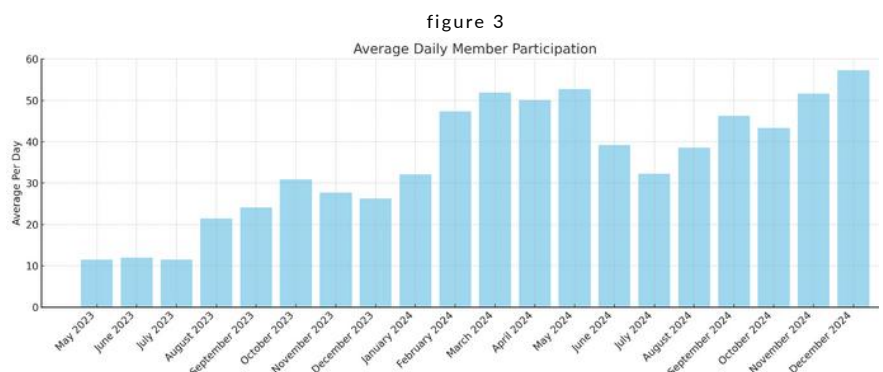
Encouraging members to wear personalized name tags, creating an inviting and familiar atmosphere where "everybody knows your name."

TAILORED COMMUNICATION

Owls Club is testing and implementing various communication methods—including broadcast emails, text messages, printed calendars, and phone calls—to keep members informed about new classes and programs.

TRACKING ENGAGEMENT TRENDS

Since Owls Club opened its doors in May 2023, average daily participation has shown steady growth. From May to December 2023, participation averaged 21 members per day, rising to 45 in 2024, despite natural seasonal fluctuations. This data, illustrated in Figure 3, demonstrates the success of our efforts to engage both new and returning members.



REACHING OUR PARLIAMENT

NEW DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Recognizing that volunteer engagement is central to our mission, Owls Club welcomed Kristen Smith-Myers as our Director of Volunteer Services in August. With more than 200 members expressing interest in service opportunities, Kristen is matching members with roles that align with their skills and passions, further strengthening our culture of service.

MEMBER ADVISORY FORMED

In 2024, Owls Club established a Member Advisory Council, consisting of 15 actively engaged members who serve as a liaison between the membership and leadership. Their insights and recommendations have already contributed to program enhancements and operational improvements, ensuring the Club remains responsive to member needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ONLINE

In today’s digital landscape, effective communication is key. Owls Club has strengthened its online presence through our website, Facebook, and new YouTube channel to ensure members stay informed. At the same time, we remain committed to accessibility by providing program details in traditional formats for those who prefer them, ensuring all members stay connected—regardless of their comfort level with technology.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most common collective noun for a group of owls is a parliament. The term comes from the idea that owls are wise, and is a reference to ancient Greek parliaments.

FIND US ON:



[Our Website](#)

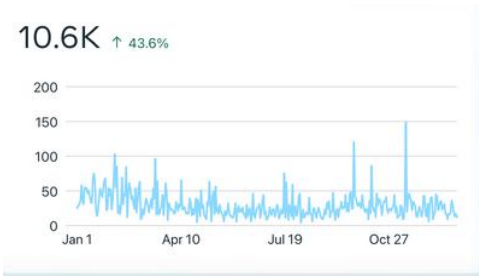


[Facebook](#)

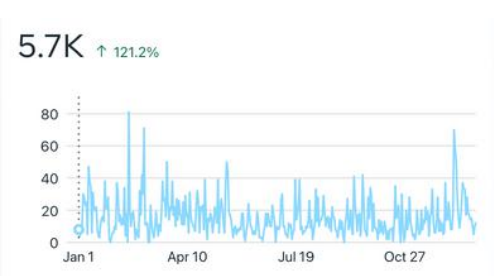


[YouTube](#)

Organic Visits to our Facebook Page



Facebook Content Engagement



Website Top Pages/Views in 2024

PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN ...	VIEWS
HOME - Owls Club	11K
CALENDAR - Owls Club	7.7K
MEMBERSHIP - Owls Club	2.1K
ABOUT - Owls Club	1.7K
Membership Form - Owls Club	1.4K
Jeffrey Rosen Author Talk - ...	1.3K
ONGOING CLASSES - Owls C...	916

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Owls Club's 2024 programming reflects the interests of our growing member base and is a testament to our mission of enriching the lives of our senior adults. See the detail below for our most-loved classes and activities of the past year.



PROGRAMS	TYPES OF CLASSES OFFERED
Lifelong Learning	Our educational programming expanded in 2024, with 323 classes and more than 400 hours dedicated to lifelong learning. Highlights included classes on topics such as The Aging Brain, Democracy, Propaganda and Persuasion, and Wellness Initiatives.
Health & Wellness	Health and wellness remained a cornerstone of our programming. Members participated in over 3,000 hours across 871 classes. Popular activities included Chair Cardio, Pilates, Pickleball, Tai Chi, guided walks with Elkhart Parks, and HealthRHYTHMS. Health education expanded with services such as MoCA Alzheimer's testing, CARES ID bracelets, blood pressure screenings, and First Aid and CPR training.
Social and Recreation	In 2024, members enjoyed 245 social and recreational events. Popular activities included Trivia Nights, Book Club, weekly Euchre games, evening Bingo, and monthly movie screenings, fostering strong community connections.
Special Events/Trips	This year's trips included local outings and larger day trips such as visits to the Ruthmere Museum, South Bend Chocolate Factory, and Holland, MI. We also hosted 22 special events, including New Member Mixers, a Thanksgiving celebration, and an evening performance by the Zephyr Quartet from the Elkhart Symphony.
Support Groups	Support groups provided vital connections for caregivers, those with essential tremors, grieving members, and grandparents raising grandchildren. These groups offered spaces for sharing, support, and resources, reflecting our commitment to the well-being of members.

our finances

Funding is dramatically shifting from its founders to community investors as the Owls Club transitions from the startup phase. In 2024, individual members, unaffiliated benefactors, and foundations demonstrated their confidence in the Owls Club model, affirming it is ready to soar. We don't take that trust lightly, and are committed to transparency and results-oriented reporting.

INVESTMENT APPEAL

Accordingly, we are happy to let you look under our hood. Our appeal to individual and corporate investors is grounded in these key attributes:

FACILITIES COST
\$25,000

1

MINIMAL OCCUPANCY COSTS

The in-kind contribution of Trinity for our 9,793-square-foot campus is valued at \$54,965 annually. In 2024, Owls Club began voluntarily paying Trinity \$25,000 to offset the church's costs incurred on our behalf. Additionally, Owls Club reimburses Trinity for all printing costs and other consumables. This partnership significantly reduces the cash outlay for campus facilities compared to a stand-alone facility. Note: The in-kind donation from Trinity and the corresponding Owls Club expense are disclosed in our financial statements as required.

MONETIZED VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS
\$128,140

2

ROBUST VOLUNTEER BASE

Although not required for financial disclosure, we estimate that monetized volunteer time contributions were equal to our total in-house and contract employee payroll expenses. At \$20 per hour, 6,407 hours of volunteer time equals \$128,140. These savings represent significant volunteer human capital value and enhance our return-on-investment proposition for potential investors.

1

EMPLOYEE
ON STAFF

3

CONTRACT
STAFF

120

VOLUNTEERS

3

LEAN STAFFING

Owls Club operates with a streamlined administrative core consisting of one full-time Executive Director and three part-time contractors. This structure, combined with our volunteer-driven model, allows us to allocate more resources to member services and engagement.

4

OPERATING EFFICIENCY & SCALABILITY

Our business model is intentionally scalable, allowing for membership, program, and service growth without proportional cost increases. The organization is asset-light, lean, and efficient by design.

DIGITAL EFFICIENCY TOOLS



MySeniorCenter (MSC) / MyActiveCenter (MAC)

MSC/MAC is a centralized database and class scheduling system we use to track class attendance, member participation and volunteer hours while ensuring accurate records of who is in the building at any given time. This data-driven approach supports informed decision-making and reinforces a safe and well-managed environment for our members.



Owls Club Website / Online Calendar

Our interactive and dynamic website has become a key tool in enhancing operational efficiency and member experience. In 2024, we introduced an integrated online calendar that serves as a centralized hub for class registrations, allowing members to register with ease and quickly discover new offerings and real-time schedule changes.



AI Integration

This year, our organization leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) tools to streamline key communications and administrative tasks, enhancing our operational efficiency and reducing the time and resources required for manual tasks, enabling our team to focus more on mission-critical activities.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND NET ASSETS

The accompanying table provides key financial data to help investors assess the organization's stewardship. Owls Club officially launched its programs and services in May 2023, but organizational and startup costs date back to the fall of October 2022. The Statement of Activity & Net Assets includes data from Q4 2022 and the 2023 and 2024 calendar years.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY & NET ASSETS

Calendar Years 2024, 2023 and 2022 (3 months)

	2024	2023	2022
Revenues			
Corporate & Foundations ¹	\$119,000		
Founder Donations	\$80,000	\$171,180	\$29,480
Individual Donations	\$227,130	\$8,280	
In-Kind Donation of Facilities ²	\$29,965	\$41,224	
Total Donations	\$456,095	\$220,684	\$29,480
Interest Income	\$861		
Other Revenue ³	\$12,032	\$2,054	
Total Revenue	\$468,988	\$222,738	\$29,480
Expenses			
Operatating Expenses			
Exec Director Salary & Benefits ⁴	\$89,372	\$60,315	
Building & Facilities ⁵	\$54,965	\$41,224	
Program Support ⁶	\$61,835	\$19,415	
Other Admin & Gen Exp ⁷	\$20,889	\$17,405	
Total Operating Expense	\$227,061	\$138,359	
Other Expenses - Start Up Costs		\$38,965	\$39,935
Total Expenses	\$227,061	\$177,324	\$39,935
Net Revenue	\$241,927	\$45,414	-\$10,455
Net Assets			
Beginning Net Assets	\$34,959	-\$10,455	
Net Revenue	\$241,927	\$45,414	-\$10,455
Ending Net Assets	\$276,886	\$34,959	-\$10,455

FOOTNOTES

1. Includes CFEC matching grant of \$100K.
2. Fair rental value of Trinity-contributed Owls campus space minus rent payment.
3. Member prepayments for special events and merchandise.
4. Expenses are directed toward providing programs and administrative support.
5. Includes \$25K payment to Trinity in 2024 for use of space. 2023 was a partial year.
6. Includes internal and external member communications, program expenses, special events, and volunteer program.
7. Includes strategic planning, office expenses, insurance, printing, and donor support.

1,360
MEMBERS

4,643
HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING

\$227,061
TOTAL EXPENSES

\$468,988
TOTAL REVENUE

OWLS NEST ENDOWMENT

As a footnote to the Statement of Activity & Net Assets, in 2024, Connie Fulmer and Frank Martin contributed \$100,000 each to the Owls Nest Endowment at the CFEC, which provided a 25% match, capped at \$25,000 per year. At year end, the fund's balance is \$228,609. Owls Club will receive distributions from the endowment of approximately \$12,500 in 2025.

ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS

For more detailed financial information, stakeholders are encouraged to review our comprehensive IRS Form 990, which must be filed with the IRS by May 15, 2025, but is typically not immediately available to the public. In the meantime, we will provide members with a copy of our draft 2024 Form 990. Email gary@owlsclub.org.



**OWLS NEST
ENDOWMENT**

\$228,609

our investors

A SHIFT TOWARD COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The remarkable one-year transition from internal funding by the board of directors to community investors is captured in the list of donor/investors that follows. The impetus behind the ascent of community investors was the incentive and validation implicit in the Community Foundation of Elkhart County's \$100,000 one-for-one matching grant awarded in July.

MEMBERS GIVE BACK

Owls Club has built a culture of inclusivity by not charging membership fees. This has fostered what's known as "owner-based engagement," when members perceive themselves as owners rather than customers and develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the organization's success. In 2024, 108 Owls Club members invested nearly \$125,000 in their club in 2024. That is in addition to the monetized value of member volunteer hours of \$128,140.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENDORSEMENT

The investments from foundations and generous individuals who are not members, approximating \$300,000, telegraph the importance of support from the broader private sector community. Their willingness to invest in Owls, stepping up in the absence of funding from the State of Indiana, is why we are writing to you again this year.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead

UP TO \$500

Barbara Adcock
 Randy & Karen Aupperle
 Michael Baker
 Paul Becher
 Linda Bergstedt
 Mary Ann Bloomingdale
 David Borneman
 Ronald Bowman
 Delores and Rhonda Bradshaw
 Susan Broadus
 Susan A. Burns
 Randall and Gale Burtch
 Arthur and Rebecca Campbell
 Thomas Canarecci
 Robert and Janice Carrico
 Mary Lou Cassel
 Regina Chew
 Jack and Karen Cittadine
 Roy and Bonnie Clark
 Harold and Joan Clayborn
 Susie Cooper
 Phyllis Davis
 Martha Delio
 Beth Dooley
 Roscoe and Donna Enfield
 Lois Flynn
 Betty Foltz
 Mark and Jean Gasper
 Jan Gilbert
 Don and Terry Hall
 Danny Hertel
 Loretta Hochstetler*
 Gordon Hostetler
 Ollie Hurt
 Terry and Cynthia Kaser
 John and Elizabeth Krom
 Rebecca Kuczmanski
 James and Tammy Looney
 Dr. Ryan and Amy Matherly
 Robert and Denise McAndrew
 Tom and Debra McArthur
 Stacy McCully
 Diana McDowell
 Fikre and Ritva Menbere
 Daryl and Laurie Meyer

*non-members

supporting Elkhart's seniors

UP TO \$500 (cont.)

Michael Miller
 Mary Ann Miller*
 Judy Minnich
 Thad and Rachelle Naquin*
 Ronald Neher
 Phil and Jean Nelson
 Nancy Nesbitt
 Verlyn and Marjorie Nofziger
 Connie Northam
 John and Marilyn Nymeyer
 Mary Perron
 Martha Perry
 Personal Caregivers of
 Elkhart: Visiting Angels*
 Lynn Pletcher
 Ethel Ramsey
 Crystal Snow-Schmatz
 Cynthia Stark
 Sharon Stauffer
 Debra Steinke
 Robert and Susan Stemm
 Ellen E. Stenberg
 Gilbert and Judy Streeter
 Walter and Donna Temple
 Michael and Mary Titus
 Richard Trowbridge
 Mark and Becky Troyer
 Paula Turk
 John and Sherry Weaver
 Brian and Suzanne Wilkin

\$501-\$1000

Dale Baldridge
 Diane Carroll
 Marc and Kay Dosmann
 Don and Mary Ellen Florea
 Don and Dianne Frandsen
 Dennis Guillaume
 Heritage Financial*
 Jane Kopp

\$501-\$1000 (cont.)

Scott Lickteig and Kristi Preyer
 Violet Sailor-Goodsene
 Brian and Lauri Smith
 Walter and Nila Wells*
 Wade and Eunice Wenger

\$1001-\$2500

Bill Deputy Foundation*
 Robert Deputy
 Steven and Karen Cripe
 Dave Geyer
 Gary and Gloria Gill
 Richard Heiss
 Dave and Susan Rowley
 James Tibbets (Dave)

\$2501 - \$5000

Brian and Jeannelle Brady*
 David Doenges
 Bob and Edna Homan
 Irions Foundation*
 Kash Family*
 Karon Ludwig*
 Marsha Watson
 Drew and Shannon Wilson*

\$5001 - \$10,000

National Christian Fund/The Steve
 and Yvette Huggins Family Fund*
 Todd and Chris Martin*
 The Rex and Alice A. Martin
 Foundation Inc.*
 Scott and Kim Welch*

\$10,001 - \$25,000

Fred Martin*
 Dan and Jan Morrison Family*

\$25,001 - \$50,000

Connie Fulmer
 Frank and Marsha Martin

\$100,000

John Collins
 Community Foundation of
 Elkhart County*



*non-members

our volunteers



THE HEARTBEAT OF OWLS CLUB

Members are both the driving force behind and the embodiment of Owls Club's mission, serving as teachers, facilitators, and hosts and playing many other critical roles. This innovative membership model invites and empowers members to have an impact in ways that shape and sustain the community. By contributing their time and talents, members transform Owls Club into a hub of collaboration and lifelong learning, fully embracing the very principles of active aging.

BUILDING BONDS THROUGH SERVICE

As Owls Club volunteers work side by side at the welcome desk, plan special events, host game nights, and serve coffee together, friendships naturally form, turning shared efforts into genuine connections. This sense of camaraderie is transforming the experience of aging for many of our members, moving them from isolation to community. Visit our [impact page](#) to hear volunteers describe this experience firsthand.

EXTENDING IMPACT

This year, Owls Club members have expanded their volunteer efforts beyond the walls of the Club, making a meaningful impact in the broader community. By collaborating with local nonprofits, members have discovered new ways to contribute their time and skills to causes they care about. From building homes with Habitat for Humanity to supporting food drives through Church Community Services, and creating flower arrangements through Joy Blooms, these opportunities have allowed members to extend the values of service and connection that define Owls Club.

120
MEMBERS
CONTRIBUTED
6,407
VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer Service	Hours
Activity Leader	1068
Admin Support	1641
Board Meetings	119
Host	1868
Member Advisory	85
Off-campus prep	929
Special Events	514
Teaching	183
TOTAL	6407

92

AGE OF OUR
OLDEST
VOLUNTEER

15

AGE OF OUR
YOUNGEST
VOLUNTEER

you help us soar...

1 TO 25 HOURS

Karen Aupperle
Randy Aupperle
Ruth Berger
Susan Bossung
Ann Bowers
Faith Brummet
Kris Carpenter
Regina Chew
Amy Chupp
Jack Cittadine
Nell Cobb
Susie Cooper
Karen Cripe
Kelly Daugherty
Kevin Deary
Connie Deuschle
Laura Doty
Arthea Estridge
Mary Ellen Florea
Karin Frey
Constance Fulmer
Rick Gerver
Karen Gerver
Violet Goodsene
Janis Grindel
Janice Grodnik
Linda Hebel
Joyce Heiss
Richard Lee Heiss
Allen Jackson
Grace Johnson
Rick Johnson
Cindy Kaser
Karen Koelsch
Gayla Konaz
Greg Lantz
Cynthia Lewis
Scott Lickteig
Malana Maher
Cheryl Martin
Deb McArthur
Tom McArthur

Janet Lou McCraner
Rich Meyer
Leslie Michael
Cyneatha Millsaps
Ann Moore
Snow N.
Ronald Neher
Jean Nelson
Phil Nelson
Barb Nifong
Michael Okponobi
Martha Perry
William Reader
Rusty Richie
Ann Rick
William (Bill) Rieth
Paulajean Ritzmann
Thomas Rose
Kathy Royer
Diane Smith
Sherri Snider
Rebecca Steffen
Wallace Stoelting
Nancy Stoelting
Dulee Testo
Mary Titus
Michael Titus
Julia Van Arsdale
Guy Van Arsdale
Pam Weinland
Sue Wilkins
Maria Wogomon
Clifford Yehle

25-50 HOURS

Arthur Bowers
Susan Broaddus
Randy Burtch
Gale Burtch
Estella Cox
Don Florea
Dennis Guillaume
Bill Hooper
Eldon Nifong
Kristi Preyer
David Rowley
Susan Rowley
Karen Shantz
Gilbert Streeter
Patricia Yehle

50-100 HOURS

Ron Bowman
Diane Carroll
Mary Lou Cassel
Steven Cripe
Pat Denlinger
Terry Kaser
Jane Kopp
Kathy Lantz
John Nymeyer
Roger Pletcher
Pat Rezutko
Sharon Stauffer
Dave Tibbets
Deborah Zimmerman

100-250 HOURS

Dale Baldrige
Mary Ann Bloomingdale
John Krom
Stacy McColly
Lynn Pletcher
Karleen Richter
Dawn Singleton
Rebecca Troyer
Wade Wenger

250-500 HOURS

Mary Carpenter
David Geyer
Gary Gill
Edna Homan
Suzanne Johnson
Marsha Martin
Frank Martin

thank you!





our impact

Owls Club has become a place where members not only grow but also discover their potential to take flight. Here, we present heartfelt reflections from members whose journeys have been transformed by our programs, community, and shared mission.

SUSAN BROADDUS

After retiring from the federal government, I moved to Goshen to be closer to relatives. Once I found my new home and got it set up, I was lost on how to fill my days. I spent two years reading, planting flowers, and watching endless TV. I was a lonely slug. One day, a miracle happened. An anonymous angel mentioned on my neighborhood app that a new organization for folks over 50 had opened in Elkhart - The Owls Club. I got up the courage to go explore what it had to offer and I have never looked back! I now participate in 3-4 classes a week. I have made wonderful friends. Being an introvert, it was hard to take that first step, but now I even volunteer as the co-host for BINGO. As many other people have stated, the Owls Club saved my life and my mental acuity.

MARY PERRON

My friends who I play bridge with go south during winter. If they had not found Owls for me, I might have gone crazy last winter!

DAVE TIBBETS

In early 2023 I found myself alone after 50 years of marriage, depressed, and struggling to cope with my new realities. AND THEN CAME OWLS with a mission that was an excellent match for my needs! It was hard to make myself attend a class or activity for the first few times, but the results have made the initial efforts pay off many times over.

Owls Club has provided learning opportunities, new social groups, and new friendships. Through Owls I have found ways to make myself useful and pursue new goals in my life and find outlets for my creativity as I organize activities, teach classes, help connect the membership to the board, and was able to contribute to a successful grant proposal to the Community Foundation.

Participation in Owls has directly led to other important connections in my life. I have found two different pickleball groups with which I regularly play. I am a member of the Michiana Juggling Club and the Bethel University Chamber Orchestra. It's kind of a long story, but each of those is a DIRECT result of my participation in Owls.

I would not call Owls a life saver, but it has certainly been a life changer for me as I continue to struggle with grief and find my path forward. I am SO grateful that a few people had the vision, drive, and resources to make Owls a reality.

DIANNE CARROLL

In November 2021, my husband and I relocated to the South Bend area from Pasadena California. We had just retired and were looking forward to a new environment. We did not know any adults in our own age group so it was a quiet beginning.

I immediately registered for Owls Club after attending their Open House. I am so thankful I did because being involved with others has saved me from boredom and loneliness as well as reminded me how much I enjoyed learning about Northern Indiana and how to live in the cold!

Because of all these great opportunities to learn, meet new people and explore new opportunities for adventure, I am a much happier person. Connecting and laughing with others has been a lifesaver. I am a lifelong learner and the friendships and support I have received are so helpful.

And finally, thank goodness for Kristen and Maggie for providing all of us with opportunities to learn, socialize, and connect with others in a safe and fun environment. Your support goes beyond any job description. Thank you.

PAT REZUTKO

People would talk about how much fun they had when they went to Florida in the winter. I said, why can't we do that here? That's when we started the euchre club. It's great fun. No need to stay home and be bored or lonely. Learn new things, make new friends. It's the best in town for seniors!

CAROL MEYER

I play euchre at Owls Club with my dad on Wednesdays; he's almost 90. It's a time for us to be together – we both look forward to it. I really enjoy being with this group of people.

DONNA ANDERSON

I have enjoyed meeting a broad spectrum of enthusiastic Owls. Recently I was hooted to BINGO and had so much fun I didn't give a hoot for it to end.

About a year or so ago, I was introduced to Owls Club during a visit with REAL Services at an OSMC Health Expo in South Bend. While talking about my passion for teaching cardio drumming, they said "Please call Maggie at Owls Club. I know that she is looking for a cardio drumming instructor". Maggie ended up flying in for a mock class and that's how it began. [Dianne leads our cardio drumming classes at Owls Club.] The equipment for the class is there, so Owls members need not carry equipment. If there are new Owls who want to try drumming with us, the gymnasium is a full court nest and we roost our wings to invite new Owls every Thursday at 2:00 pm.

The only one hoot I have is 'smile because if you're movin' you're groovin'.

"The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter—to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all."
— Leo Rosten



our community partners



Our commitment to fostering a strong, vibrant community is strengthened through valuable partnerships with local organizations. These collaborations provide our members with a diverse range of activities and educational opportunities while shining a light on the wealth of support our community offers.

REAL SERVICES

Real Services has been a cornerstone of Owls Club's educational success. As a trusted nonprofit dedicated to promoting nutrition, self-sufficiency, education, and protection, Real Services has woven its mission into the heart of our programs. Their support and expertise continue to enrich the lives of our members and reinforce the values we hold dear.

PURDUE EXTENSION

Purdue University Extension has been a steadfast partner of Owls Club since our early days, enhancing the well-being of our members through practical, research-driven programs. Their contributions have brought a variety of enriching classes to our schedule, aligning perfectly with their mission to improve lives and livelihoods through education and innovation.

TRINITY ON JACKSON

The support of Trinity on Jackson has been pivotal in establishing Owls Club's presence in the community. By providing a dedicated portion of its facility, Trinity on Jackson has given Owls Club a welcoming home to serve as our active aging center. Beyond the space itself, their staff have actively supported our programs, enabling us to serve members with excellence. While we deeply value this partnership, Owls Club operates independently and is not affiliated with any religious organization.

OTHER PARTNERS

Acruity
Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern IN
Beacon Health Center
Bonneyville Mill
Center for Hospice Care
Church Community Services
Community Foundation of Elkhart County
Mary Ann Leinhart Cross
Donate Life Indiana
Dr. Mitchell Daugherty
Dunes Hospice
Elkhart County Genealogical Society
Elkhart County Historical Museum
Elkhart County Parks Department
Elkhart County Symphony Association
Elkhart Fire Department
Elkhart Meadows
Elkhart Parks and Recreation
Forever Learning Institute
Brynn Grasty
Greyt Angels Greyhound Adoption
Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County
Anna Hagen
Joy Blooms
League of Women Voters of Indiana
Michiana Juggling Club
Michiana Mustangs Club
Painting with Tina
Jeffrey Rosen
Ruthmere Museum
SEEL: Solution for Energy Efficient Logistics
Traditions Health
Anna Jacobson Villarreal
Wellfield Botanic Gardens

our 2025 goals

1

LISTEN TO OUR MEMBERS

To ensure our programs continue to meet the evolving needs and interests of our members, gathering member input will be a priority in 2025. We will conduct a comprehensive community-wide survey targeting active members and those with lower participation levels. By exploring communication preferences, optimal scheduling, class interests, and barriers to participation, we aim to create a program that resonates with all members and reaches those who have yet to engage fully.

3

TAKE OUR MISSION BEYOND OUR WALLS

In 2024, members enthusiastically embraced opportunities to engage with the greater community through trips, service projects, and cultural events in Elkhart County. Building on this success, 2025 will see an expansion of these initiatives, including new travel destinations, the formation of a formal “service club” for philanthropic members, and the continuation of our popular “Nonprofit Spotlights” program. These efforts will help members discover their passions and use their unique gifts to serve the broader community.

2

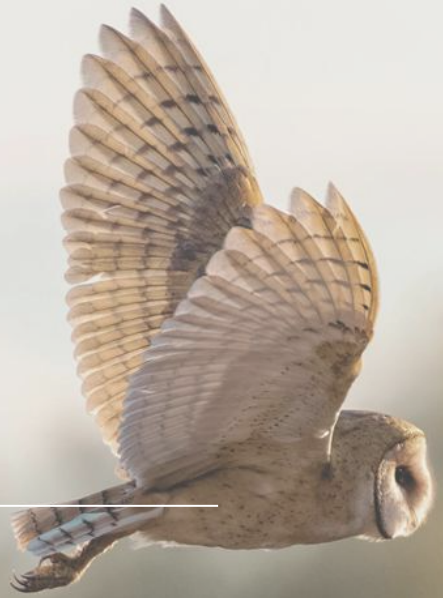
GROW WITH PURPOSE

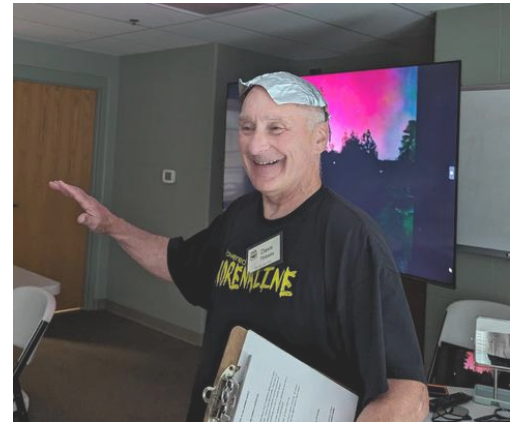
As our membership flourishes, so does the need to expand our capacity and maintain the quality of our offerings. In 2025, we will focus on enhancing organizational efficiency and developing scalable program options. Key initiatives include streamlining workflows, improving communication channels, and leveraging technology to automate routine tasks. Additionally, we plan to grow our base of volunteer teachers by tapping into member expertise and broadening our educational offerings with a new series of pre-recorded video lectures through the Great Courses Plus, enabling us to deliver new topics to more members.

4

STRENGTHEN AND BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Our success over the past two years has been deeply rooted in partnerships with outside organizations, individual investors, and community leaders. In 2025, we will seek to strengthen existing relationships while forging new ones to amplify our impact. Plans include launching an Owls Club legacy society, partnering with Neighborlink to expand volunteer opportunities and support for Elkhart’s seniors, and expanding our course offerings in collaboration with local colleges and universities. Together, these initiatives will further our mission and deepen our ties to the Elkhart County community.





volunteering





out of the
nest







THANK YOU FOR HELPING ELKHART'S SENIORS TAKE FLIGHT



To invest in the Club
and its members

INVEST





contact us



574-336-2652



info@owslclub.org



www.owslclub.org



Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm



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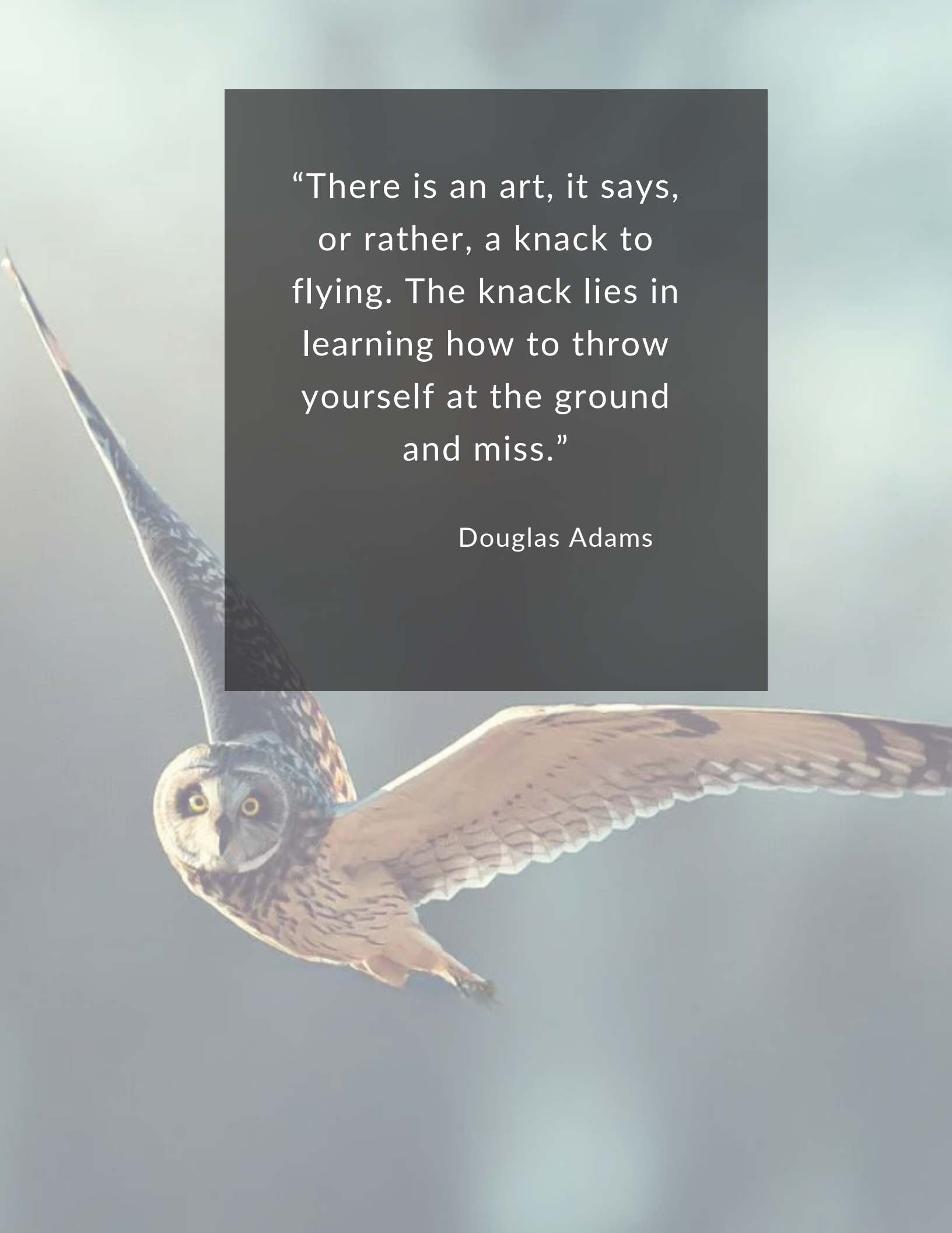


YouTube



LinkedIn



A snowy owl is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The owl's wings are spread wide, revealing intricate patterns of brown, white, and grey feathers. Its head is turned towards the viewer, showing its large, yellow eyes and white facial disc. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

“There is an art, it says,
or rather, a knack to
flying. The knack lies in
learning how to throw
yourself at the ground
and miss.”

Douglas Adams