

# Annual Report 2020 & 2021

Petit Manan Island at sunrise | USFWS



*The mission of the Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge is to support Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in its efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the rich diversity of coastal habitats, seabirds and other wildlife.*

# **Thank you Friends and Donors!**

These past two years have been very different for all of us. We appreciate your continued support of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The seabirds continued to migrate and breed on the Maine islands. And despite the many hurdles, Refuge staff still were able to maintain predator protection and scientific research.

Our team of board members, staff and volunteers at FOMCI have been focusing on providing outreach and education virtually. We invested in equipment and training to make programs accessible to most. By going online, we have connected with people near and far away. We created local outdoor experiences with our birding excursions filled with bird watchers of all levels. It is with your support that we can continue to create and make these programs available to all ages.

We are so grateful for those of you who hung in there with us, or maybe donated for the first time!

Let's all wish our seabirds a successful nesting season!

Penney Read  
Chair

## **Board of Directors**

Carla Skinder  
*President*

Penney Read  
*Chair*

Kevin Adams  
*Vice Chair*

Theo Pratt  
*Treasurer*

Georgie Burruss  
*Secretary*

David Brakke

Kelly Gould

Judy Hengerer

Don Reimer

Carl J. Solberg

## **Volunteer Support Personnel**

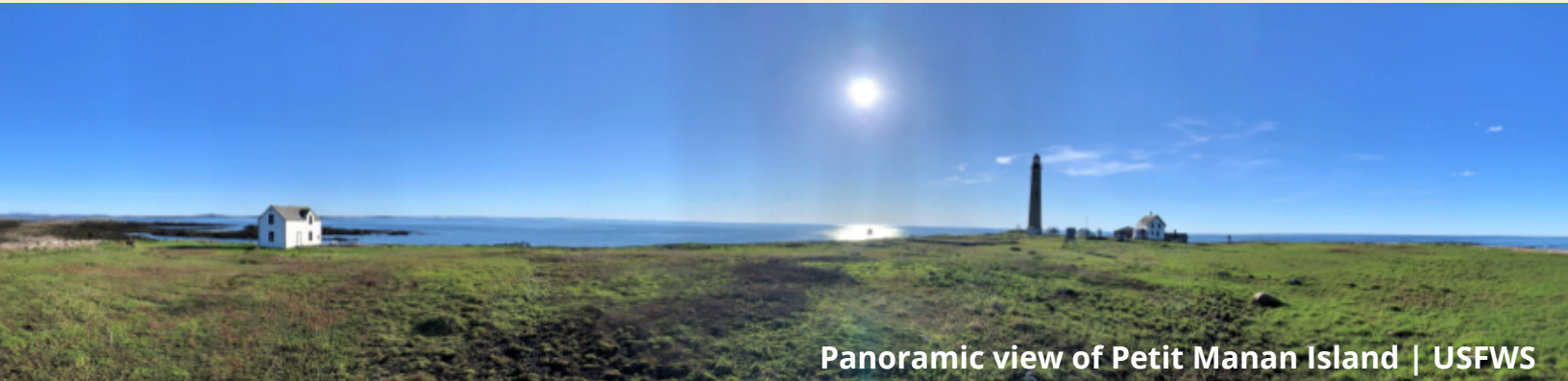
Carol Adams  
*Nature Store Manager*

Jeanne Pipicello  
*Assistant Treasurer*

## **Staff**

Carney McRae  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Tori Tibbetts  
*Interpretive Guide*



Panoramic view of Petit Manan Island | USFWS

## **Our Top Priorities to support Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge**

- Provide funding for Summer Island Technicians on Petit Manan, Metinic and Ship Islands.
- Ensure coverage of the Rockland Visitor Center, including welcoming visitors and providing programs.
- Continue outreach and marketing efforts to tell the story of this wildlife refuge with emphasis on virtual opportunities.
- Begin the process to grow an endowment fund for future needs of this wildlife refuge.





## **Investing in Interns - for their future & the seabirds' future**

Thanks to foundations and donors, we supported several interns over these past two years, and have secured funding for the season coming up. Research technicians are essential to helping keep seabird nesting colonies safe from predators and gathering data that will help sustain these colonies.

These technicians are college students in environmental fields from around the country. The skills they gain help secure permanent jobs in wildlife, marine & other science fields.

Curious about what it is like to live in a seabird colony. Check out this talk from two interns that is on our [website and YouTube Channel](#).

# Rockland Visitor Center Support

Interpretive Guide, Tori Tibbetts, hired.

Virtual programming offered throughout the pandemic extending our reach.

Virtual tours of our environmental art gallery.

Safe outdoor experiences with volunteer-led bird walks offered.

## 2020-2021 Programs

- 40 Education events serving 1,512 people
- 7 Art-related events serving 436 people
- 4 School events serving 31 children



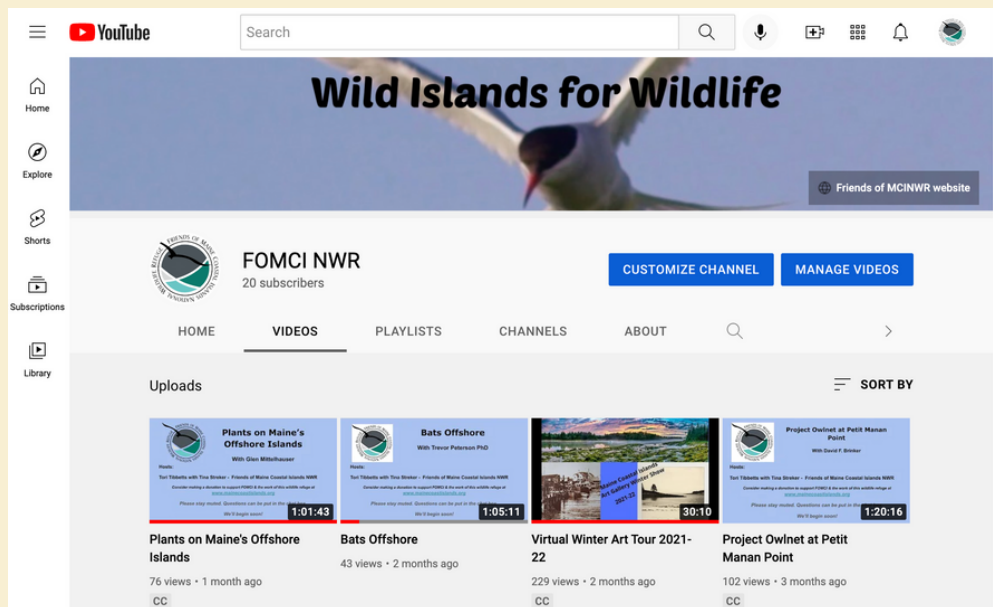
Local students in a summer program and adults enjoyed learning about birds and the joy of birdwatching | FOMCI





# Outreach & Marketing

Check out our new website incorporating videos produced by Timber & Frame. You can learn about filming on our wild islands by checking out the virtual program.



We updated all our social media and created a new rack card for the Visitor Center. Here is a list from our new rack card listing the many ways to find, follow, share and like us!



## Endowment Fund

An anonymous donor provided startup funds to create an endowment. Money from this fund will be used for refuge priorities in the years to come. What a gift! Now we can build this nest egg to ensure that refuge priorities are not compromised by federal budget cuts and unforeseen challenges like a pandemic!



Recently hatched common tern on Petit Manan Island | USFWS

## Other Requests from Refuge that FOMCI Supported

Financial support to maintain the domains of the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) website.

Paid for fees associated with land acquisition on Petit Manan Point.

Secured funding from The First National Bank to create artificial puffin burrows on Petit Manan Island.





# Volunteers

Our volunteer ranks shrank during the pandemic and we are now working to rebuild our volunteer needs for the visitor center. Volunteer efforts primarily focused on administrative needs – strategic thinking, updating systems for tracking, managing finances, social media, securing grants and learning new technologies for programming. We also had expert birders volunteer to lead bird walks through the pandemic.

## Volunteer hours for 2020 & 2021

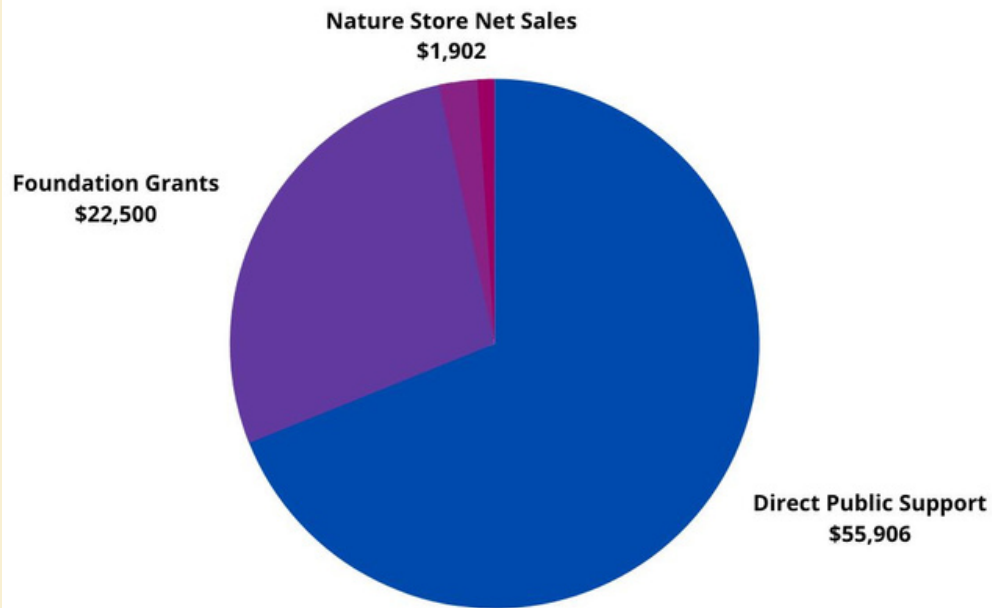
About 25 volunteers helped welcome visitors when the Visitor center was open; gave programs; provided tech assistance; wrote grants; created new experiences both virtual & in-person; created a new website, and updated the Friends' files.

**Direct service hours: ~550 hrs**  
**Indirect service hours: ~1000 hrs**

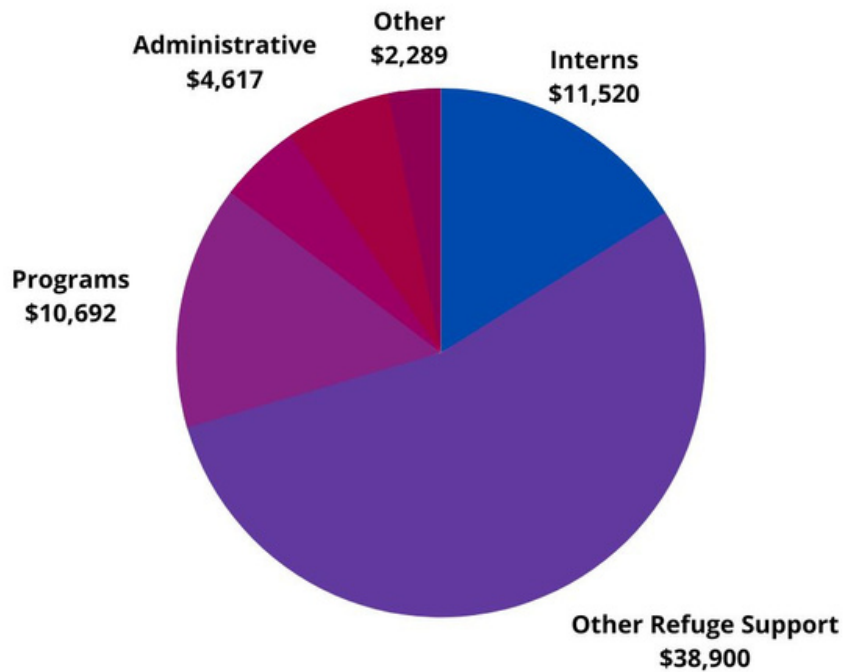


Strategic planning with  
board and staff members

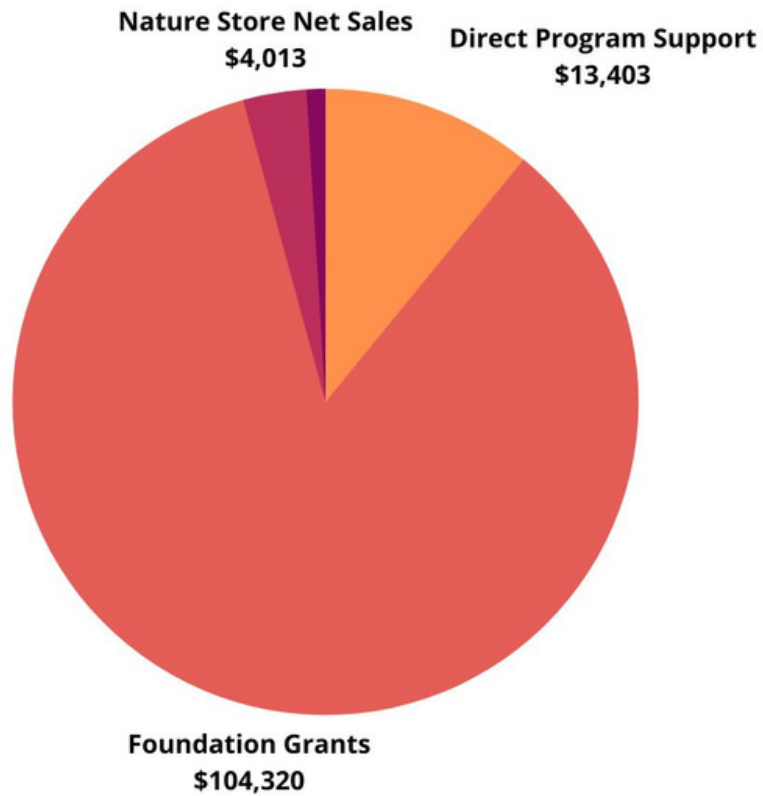
## 2020 INCOME



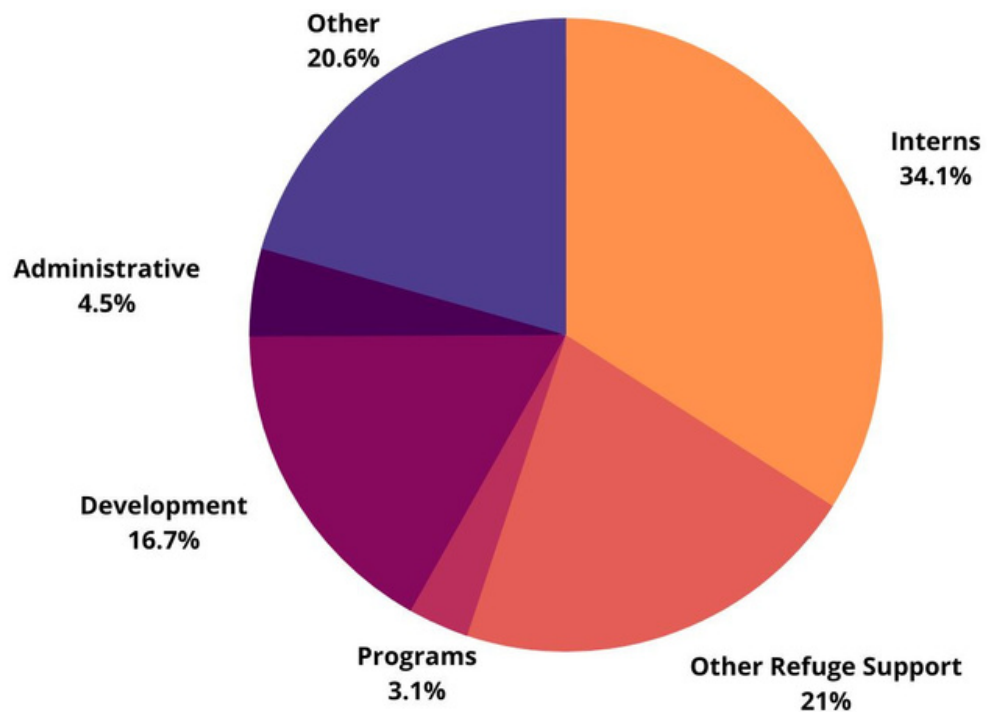
## 2020 EXPENSES



## 2021 INCOME



## 2021 EXPENSES







FOMCI continues to offer programming both virtually & in-person and helps to staff the Rockland Visitor Center. Check out our YouTube channel (FOMCI NWR) and consider volunteering. Thank you for your support!