

## **Volunteer Program**

*Volunteers are the foundation of our education program.*

The volunteer program at The Peregrine Fund is crucial to the existence of the organization. With the employment of only four full-time staff members, the volunteer program provides the majority of the staffing at the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center.

### **How Volunteers Help The Peregrine Fund Reach Its Goals**

Volunteers are essential to the success of The Peregrine Fund. Over the years, volunteers have been involved in education, administration, food production, exhibit developments, fund-raising, and many other important areas of operation. Currently our volunteer needs are primarily in leading tours and staffing the gift shop at World Center for Birds of Prey. On occasion, administrative, landscaping, or maintenance projects also become available. Because we are a non-profit organization, the use of volunteers helps the public understand and appreciate our financial needs. We could not afford to have the outstanding education program that currently exists without our capable force of volunteers. Approximately 30,000 visitors go through the facility each year, and nearly all of those people encountered a volunteer in some capacity during their visit.

Volunteers help in the gift shop by collecting admission fees and donations, selling items and assisting customers with questions. Volunteers also conduct tours of the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center (VMIC) and through the Archives of Falconry for the public and pre-scheduled groups such as school field trips. Additionally, volunteers may travel to present programs at an off-site location for those who are not able to visit the VMIC.

By spreading The Peregrine Fund's message to the thousands of people who visit the Center, Volunteers are contributing to the success of the organization while also enhancing the education of people in the local communities, as well as other states and countries. Only when the public understands and appreciates the value of birds of prey to the greater environment will The Peregrine Fund succeed in its goal of *working to conserve birds of prey in nature.*

In return for their dedication, volunteers receive benefits for their efforts. We have found that people get out of the volunteer experience what they put into it. While everyone volunteers for different reasons, sharing knowledge with others is often extremely rewarding. Our volunteers enjoy camaraderie with other volunteers and staff and make lasting friendships. Most important, the work is fun!

The Peregrine Fund greatly appreciates its volunteers. The extensive work by volunteers allows the organization to use more of its funds for breeding and conservation projects. We recognize that the success of any organization is due to the people who contribute their time, knowledge, and skills to that organization.