



## Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

### A Home in the Sky: The Mayo Clinic Peregrine Falcon Program



Peregrine falcons were once an endangered species, due to the widespread use of the now-banned pesticide DDT. In 1987, at the invitation of the Midwest Peregrine Society, Mayo Clinic placed a hawk box on the roof of the Mayo Building and assisted with the release of 32 young falcons. The species was on its way to recovery!

After these successful efforts, a custom-built wooden nesting box was secured on top of the Mayo Building, providing a home for adult falcon pairs that have claimed the territory and raised their offspring.

The Mayo Clinic Peregrine Falcon Program allows patients, staff and falcon fans around the world to observe the birds, either in person as they swoop above the Mayo campus or online via cameras in the nesting box. Through these majestic creatures, we see that nature can be a vital part of the healing process and a reminder of the wonder of daily life.

#### Discussion Questions

1. The falcons have many fans among patients and staff. Why do you think so many people enjoy learning about the falcons, following their progress, and knowing they're nearby?
2. Why do you think the falcons so readily adopted the Mayo campus as their home?
3. How do you think nature can help with the healing process? What has been your personal experience of that?

4. The falcons are no longer endangered. Do you think Mayo should continue to provide a nesting box for them? Why or why not?

5. What aspects of nature do you find most enriching? How do you make them an ongoing part of your life?

6. What did you learn about falcons in this film that you found most interesting or surprising?