

Foster Parrots, Ltd & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary



2019 Annual Report



Message From the Executive Director

If I had to come up with one word to convey the spirit of the 2019 year, that word would be “community.” I don’t think there’s anything more important in the avian rescue sector than solidarity between organizations. When we connect, learn from one another, rely on one another and empower each other, we save more birds.

Rescue work is hard! We don’t always win the fight, there are never enough resources and our failures can sometimes feel bigger than our successes, but the threats faced by parrots on a global scale require the conviction and fortitude of a united community. Every organization, big or small, has a role to play. Whether we’re protecting the nests of endangered species in Central America or pulling parrots out of basements here at home, every individual bird matters and every organization plays an essential role in local, national and global parrot rescue efforts.

In 2019 the new Parrot Conservation Alliance was created, joining together conservation organizations working in the field to save wild parrots, and rescue groups across the U.S. working at home to address the aftermath of the trade in birds. This alliance represents the first opportunity for many avian welfare groups to participate as a part of a community that mobilizes for common values, experiences common struggles, and shares common dreams for the welfare of parrots in the world.

Community is the glue that rivets us to a cause. Whether we are rescue organizations, conservationists, parrot guardians, supporters or funders, our shared values are the ties that bind. We are all a part of this community. We are all rescuers.

~ Karen Windsor ~



Foster Parrots, Ltd. & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary Mission & History

Foster Parrots, Ltd. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and protection of unwanted and abused companion parrots and other displaced captive exotic animals. Working on many levels to bring services to birds and animals in transition, we offer life-long care for unadoptable parrots and other exotics at our sanctuary facility, The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, and provide adoption services for well-socialized parrots who desire human companionship. Our educational programs strive to connect children and adults alike to animal and environmental issues, nurture empathy, and inspire a sense of personal responsibility and accountability toward the care of animals and the earth. A passionate advocate for parrots as wild animals, Foster Parrots' conservation partnerships in Central and South America help keep parrots and other animals safe in their natural habitats, and also embody our ultimate message: *No Cage is Big Enough; parrots and all wild animals should be free.*

In 2007 Foster Parrots established The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary on the abandoned site of what was formerly known throughout southern Rhode Island as "Chickadee Farms", a chicken egg and meat factory farm in operation from 1963 to 1995. Here what was once a place of unspeakable suffering for millions of birds has been transformed into 23 acres of peace and safety for over 400 parrots and other displaced exotic animals. The NEEWS has grown exponentially as a regional center for humane education and serves as home base for all of the programs of Foster Parrots.

2019 Rescue Spotlights



After his guardian passed away, Chester, a 16 year old Blue & Gold Macaw (above), could not be managed by family members and proved to be “spirited” beyond what even our most skilled trainers could handle. With no possible prospects for adoption, Chester was admitted into the sanctuary where he can live his life as a wild bird amongst other macaws.



Echos can live in the walls of an empty house. Blue Fronted Amazon, Bo (above), listened to those echos for a year. After her elderly guardian passed away, Bo lived alone in the house. Family members would come by to feed her. They finally relinquished this gentle bird to Foster Parrots in December of 2019. Bo has since been adopted to a loving family.

Lenore (below) and her partner, Po, two very unusual Vasa Parrots, were survivors of the 2016 Weston, CT, hoarding event in which dozens of birds and reptiles had perished. Our associates at Rhode Island Parrot Rescue stepped in to rescue those who remained. More than 3 years later, without any prospects for adoption, Lenore and Po were transferred to Foster Parrots where they will live out the rest of their lives in peace and safety.



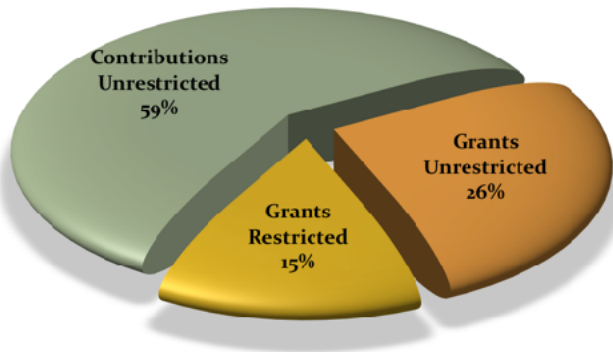
African Grey, Clyde (below), had been through 8 homes in his 16 years. It was time for this dynamic bird to finally land somewhere. Clyde is not a bad bird! He is a typical African Grey. He was introduced to another resident Grey, a female named Sugarbean, and the two have become fast friends.



Organizational Information

Foster Parrots, Ltd. at a Glance

2019 Income



2019 Financial Highlights

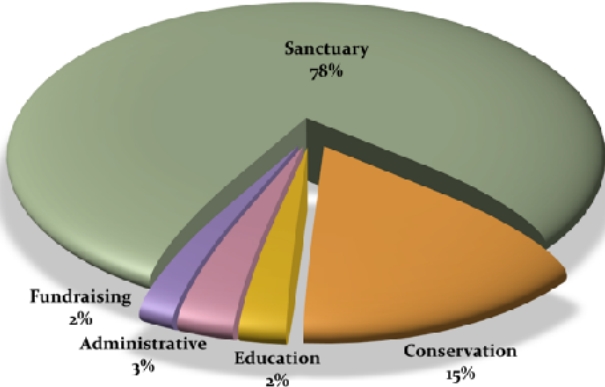
Revenue

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Contributions - Unrestricted | = | \$397,145 |
| Contributions - Restricted | = | \$ 4,850 |
| Grant Income | = | \$179,500 |
| Grants - Restricted | = | \$100,000 |
| Interest Income | = | \$ 846 |
| Total Revenue | | \$681,495 |

Expense Spotlight

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| Sanctuary Program | = | \$445,631 |
| Conservation Program | = | \$ 91,964 |
| Humane Education | = | \$ 14,558 |
| Insurance (Sanctuary Exp) | = | \$ 23,431 |
| Legal & Professional | = | \$ 18,304 |
| Administration | = | \$ 17,955 |
| Fundraising | = | \$ 11,465 |
| Total Expenses | | \$623,308 |

2019 Expenses



| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| Total Program Expenses | = | 95% |
| Administrative | = | 3% |
| Fundraising | = | 2% |

Sanctuary Residents 2019

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Parrots - | 375 |
| Reptiles - | 19 |
| Yard Birds - | 5 |
| Mammals - | 3 |

Total Sanctuary Residents = 409

Sanctuary Review

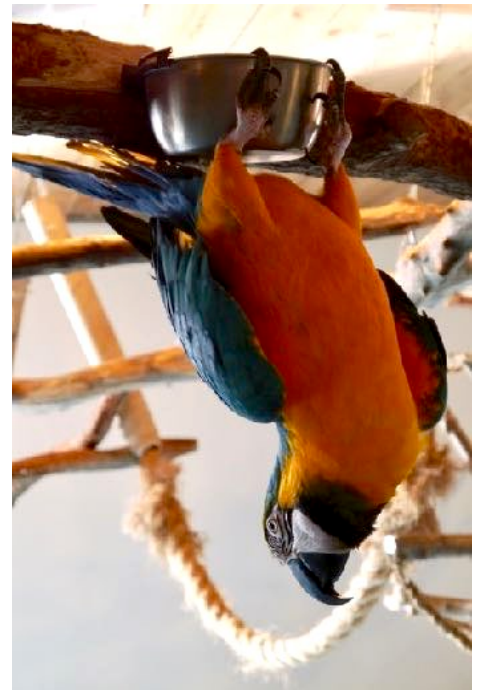
\$445,631

It is estimated that there are between 20 – 40 million parrots in captivity in the U.S. today. The high volume, commercial production of parrots for the pet trade and industry-endorsed low standards of care, established decades ago, have resulted in an overwhelming number of unwanted and maladjusted parrots whose prospects for success as companion animals are extremely poor. Parrot rescue organizations in the United States have grown parallel to the unwanted parrot problem, with the need for permanent sanctuary accommodations becoming an essential part of the equation.



At the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, new resident birds are transitioned out of standard cages and into large aviaries designed to support and encourage natural behavior. Reintegrating parrots into avian society and decreasing the reliance on human socialization is always the goal. It is not always the outcome. Every bird who comes into our care has been impacted by their relationships with humans. Many find it difficult to identify with their own species and to form meaningful bonds with other birds. It takes a full-time staff of seven skilled individuals and a team of over 50 dedicated volunteers to ensure that the unique social profile of each parrot is recognized, and that each bird is transitioned to sanctuary life at his or her own pace.

In order to meet the needs of parrots in a sanctuary setting, it is important to understand what the goals of sanctuary are, and also to define “welfare” as it applies to each individual parrot. Issues of avian social dynamics, nutrition, disease management and environment all must be addressed in order to achieve a high quality of life for long-term or permanent residents.



2019 Sanctuary Activity

Parrots Admitted = 54

Doves Admitted = 3

Turtles Admitted = 1

Sanctuary Manager, Bradley Kay

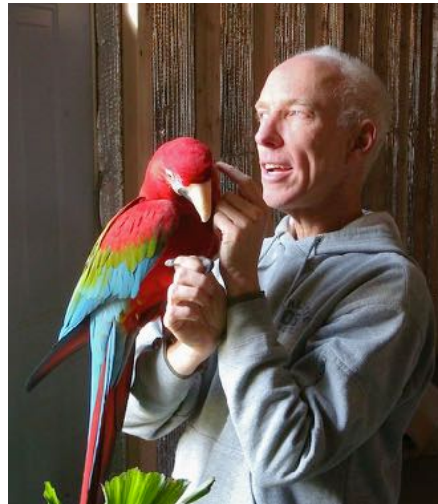


Having studied at Brown University and traveled to South Africa where she researched the status of highly endangered African grey parrots, Bradley Kay knew she had found her home when she visited The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary as a part of a class trip. Starting as a volunteer in 2016, Bradley found herself drawn to the most challenging of all parrot species, the cockatoos! She connected with them on a level we had never before seen, and quickly assumed the role of “Cockatoo Specialist”, taking the lead on every aspect of their care and teaching others how to navigate the complexities of cockatoo behavior. Bradley’s deep personal investment in the lives of the birds, her attention to detail and her drive made her leadership skills apparent. She was promoted to the position of Sanctuary Manager and oversees the daily running of the sanctuary with a special focus on avian health, nutrition and enrichment. When Bradley is not at the sanctuary, she can be found training in competitive May Thai kickboxing, which keeps her strong in mind and body.

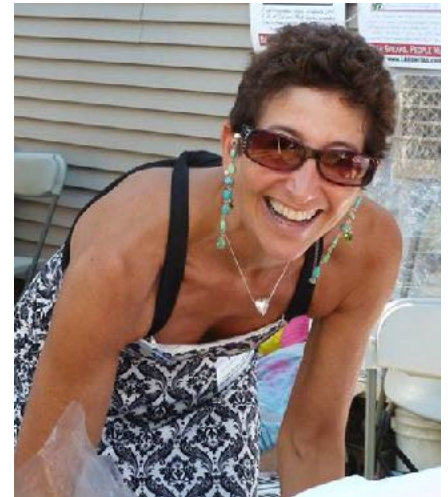
The Unsung Heroes of Foster Parrots Volunteer “staff” who donate their time, talent and professional services.



Stephanie Young serves on Foster Parrots’ Board of Directors, but in her daily life at the sanctuary, Stephanie serves as our Volunteer Manager, responsible for training new volunteers and helping to manage the oftentimes chaotic daily volunteer schedule since 2008.



A professional tap dancer, graphic designer and photographer, Brian Jones provides graphic design work as needed and serves as Foster Parrots’ official photographer. Brian’s photography has documented the lives of the birds since 2008 and is featured in all of our publications.



Joining our team in 2013, Dorian DeSimone’s artistic flair can be seen throughout the sanctuary in the beautiful signage and banners she creates. A professional graphic designer skilled in publication production, Dorian is responsible for producing Foster Parrots’ stunning tri-annual newsletter, “The Flying Monkey.”

Donor Spotlight

**It is the Faith and Dedication of Our Supporters
That Makes This Work Possible**

\$500 - \$999

Jane Bates
Cornell Bialicki
Paul and Resina Brennan
Susana Candia
Laura Castagna
Cherenzia & Associates
Joni Closson
Phillip & Talitha Cunio
Dorian DeSimone
& Tracy Newell
Roy Dubs
Betty Emerson
Uzochi Erlingsson
Angel Ferria
Madeline Gilbert
Morris Haddad
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George Kortyna
Lilliput Foundation
Carter Luke
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Jane Mann
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Robin Newlund-Sharp
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Nancy Oriol
Patagonia, Inc.
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Patrick & Jeanne Peterson
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Susan Thibeault
Pamela Thye
Rolando Vieta
Scott Wagner
Diana White
Marion Xenides
Isabella Zagare

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Katherine Balbot
Chouinard Family
Gladys Cofrin & Daniel Logan
Carris Reels, Inc.
Kevin Clark and Leah Hewitt
Dr. James & Stephen Coady-Hahn
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Feldman Charitable Foundation
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Chantel Miller
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Ralph Palumbo
Alan Pare
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Pickwick Foundation
Sandra Roerig
Sawyer Parks Foundation
Seattle Foundation
Susan Sewall – Liepold Tool & Die, Inc.
Chris Sheehan
Lawrence Swezey
Davis Wages
Ann Williamson
Yardi Systems, Inc.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ahimsa Foundation
Sanjay Das
Jon and Andrea Gruber
Jordan Hoffman
Ed and Marcia Krempasanka
Ed & Sharon Malley
Martha Morse Foundation
M.S. Worthington Foundation

\$10,000 – \$50,000

Dr. Bennett & Lezli Alford
Pamela Abbott & Beth Andrews
Donna Burrell & Jane Eggerstedt
Tracy Elizabeth Grinnell
Dr. Martin & Lauren Hahn
Persus Levy & Will Barron
Pat Palmer Foundation
The Rhode Island Foundation
The Wagmore Foundation

\$50,000 - \$999,000

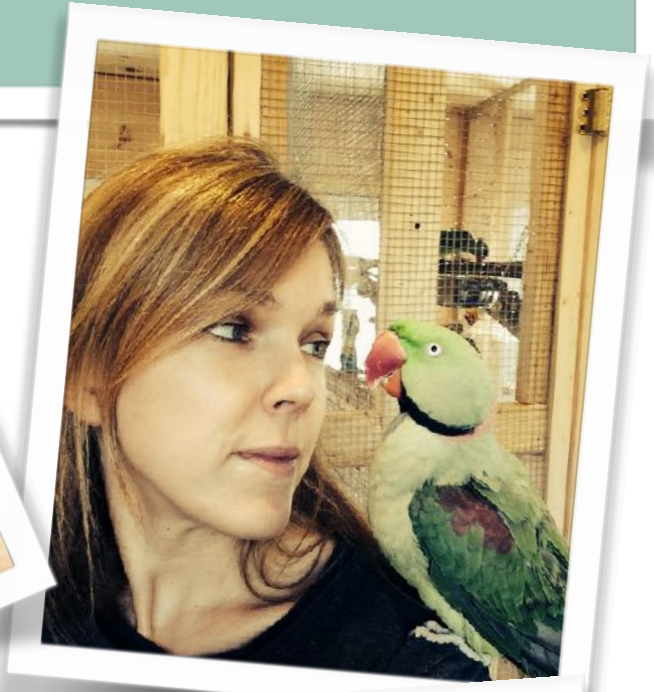
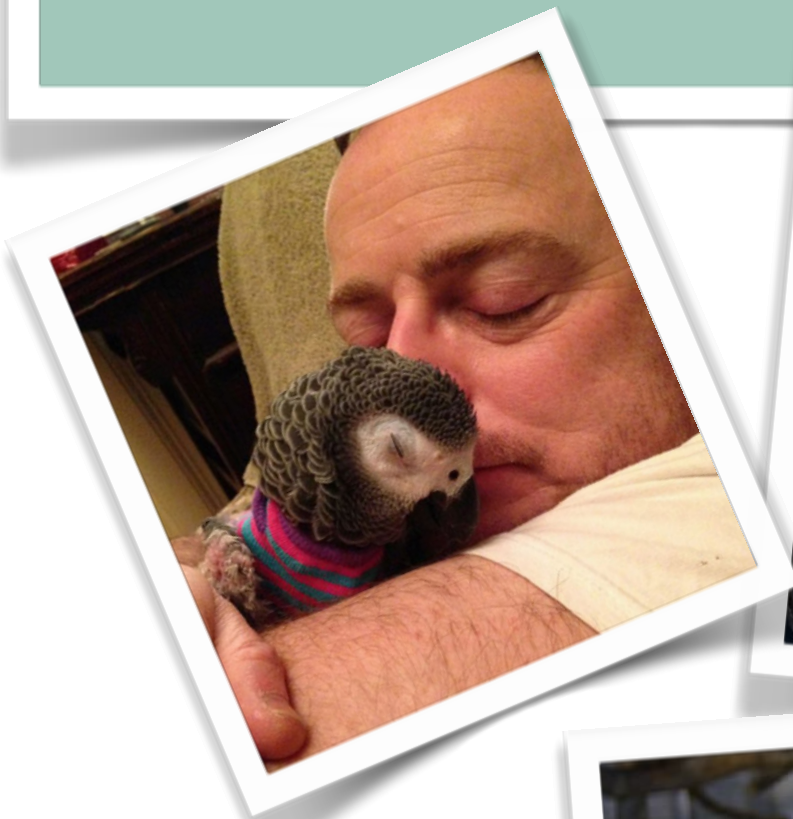
The Sally & Julius Smolen
Foundation

\$100,000 - \$200,000

The Vincent J. Coates Foundation

Foster Parrots, Ltd. Adoption Program \$10,000

Foster Parrots received 662 requests for the surrender of birds in 2019. Most of these would be poor candidates for life in sanctuary. Many parrots - especially those raised by human caregivers - prefer the companionship of humans to that of other birds. Because sanctuary space is limited, it is important that these parrots find placement in loving adoptive homes that can fulfill them socially. One of the biggest catalysts for the development of negative behaviors and the ultimate failure of many parrots as "pets" is inadequate social support. For this reason, to be eligible as an adoption candidate with Foster Parrots, prospective guardians must have ample time for a parrot and have the ability to offer freedom from caging for all or most of each day.



Foster Parrots 2019 Adoption Activity

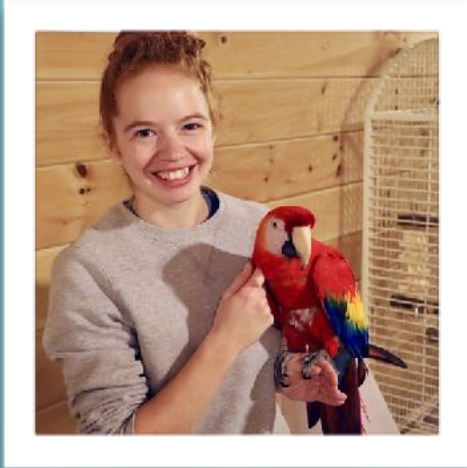
In-House Adoptions - 20

Referral Adoptions/Adoption List - 28

NEPPCO Partner Placements - 15

Total 2019 Adoptions - 63

Director of Adoption & Education Rachel DeFronzo



Evaluating and interviewing applicants, conducting home visits, educating parrot guardians and interfacing with the parrot rescue community, Foster Parrots' Adoption Director, Rachel DeFronzo, heads one of the most demanding programs in the organization. Her years of experience as a bird trainer and educator at Southwick Zoo ignited her passion for parrots and parrot conservation. She joined the team at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary in 2017, and her natural rapport with birds of all species quickly became apparent. Rachel is responsible for managing between 600 - 900 requests for the surrender of parrots annually, evaluating birds for adoptability and orchestrating intakes. Proficient as an educator, she presents for audiences at universities, in schools and community venues. Rachel graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Framingham University and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Nonprofit Management at Northeastern University.

NEPPCO

The Northeast Parrot Placement Cooperative

In response to the overwhelming number of parrots in need of services in our area, in 2012 Foster Parrots and Northeast Avian Rescue of New York co-founded the **Northeast Parrot Placement Cooperative (NEPPCO)**, a regional network of parrot rescue organizations, humane shelters, veterinarians and bird clubs working together to share information and expand adoption opportunities for parrots. This model network is comprised of organizations throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey and stands as a testament to the good work that can be done when organizations link arms.

Foster Parrots, Ltd. - RI
Northeast Avian Rescue - NY
Connecticut Parrot Rescue - CT
Rhode Island Parrot Rescue RI
Under My Wing Avian Refuge - NJ
Nevins Farm - MSPCA - MA
The Center for Avian & Exotic Medicine - NY
Northeast Bird Clinic - CT

Foster Parrots Fundraisers 2019



Foster Parrots' Annual 5K Run was initiated in 2018 by board member, Dr. James Hahn, who, in addition to being a revered optometrist with Harvard Vanguard, is an avid runner, participating in organized running events throughout the region. Taking place in the scenic town of Westerly, Foster Parrots' **5K Sneaks for Beaks** fundraiser invites runners and walkers alike to come out in May to congregate and exercise those leg muscles for a great cause. One of our sponsors, **The Andrea Beach Bar & Restaurant** in Misquamicut, hosts the after-party. This community event gains momentum annually, attracting over 100 runners in its second year and raising over \$5,000 for Foster Parrots in 2019.



The Annual Foster Parrots, Ltd. Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza!



Lagunitas Brewing Company is our beer sponsor, Birds & Beans Coffee sponsors our coffee table, Rippy's Marketplace provides wine and ice, the buffet overflows with a delectable assortment of donated vegan and vegetarian dishes, and Will Evans provides the music! Foster Parrots' Annual Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza is an all-day, festival-style, community-building event featuring open house sanctuary tours, live music, spectacular raffle and silent auction, vegan and vegetarian fare, guest non-profits and sponsored beer and wine bars. Close to 400 people gather each year at the NEEWS to enjoy a day of fun and friendship, and to support the work of Foster Parrots. Our Fall Fundraiser raised nearly \$40K in 2019.

Avian & Humane Education at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary \$14,558

Able to customize educational programs for any age group and for a wide variety of academic applications, Foster Parrots is utilized extensively as an educational resource by universities, schools and community groups. Our programs for children include in-school, after-school and on-site presentations that connect kids to the captive parrot experience and engage them in art projects, toy-making and other activities that can enhance the lives of sanctuary residents.



Branford Animal Camp



Childcare Plus Kids



MET Students, Providence

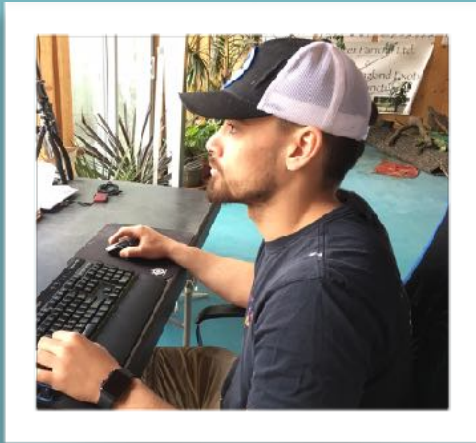
Higher Education

Foster Parrots, Ltd. works frequently with universities throughout New England, offering lectures, tours and presentations that challenge what students thought they knew about parrots and provide a unique perspective on captive wildlife issues. Students from the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Leslie University and other regional institutions pursue for-credit internship and study opportunities at the NEEWS. Students from Tufts University studying veterinary medicine utilize the sanctuary as a living classroom several time each year, and Advanced Avian Elective students from Tufts (*left*) receive vital information about avian disease issues, avian behavior, and the psychosocial impact of the human imprint on every parrot in captivity.



Many people grow up regarding animals as objects, possessions or products without acknowledging that all animals are sentient, intelligent beings who experience emotions like pain, despair, joy, mirth or fear. The objectification of animals opens the door not only to neglect, abuse and cruelty, but also to the destruction of natural environments and fragile eco-systems. It is our hope that instilling empathy and inspiring children and young adults to be earth and animal protectors will help shape life-long values rooted in animal welfare.

Isaiah Duarte, Media & Marketing Manager



Isaiah Duarte joined the team at Foster Parrots in 2018, bringing with him a long history of parrot care and experience that enabled him to jump into even our most precarious aviaries with ease and confidence. It was his technical skills in social media, marketing and branding, however, that grabbed our attention. As Foster Parrots' new Media & Marketing Officer, Isaiah fills a critical need in the organization as we work to increase public visibility, participation and support. His deep connection to the parrots and his commitment to the mission of the organization provide the tools he needs to tell the parrots' stories in a manner that engages supporters and disseminates the values and philosophies of Foster Parrots. When Isaiah is not caring for sanctuary residents or sitting behind his computer, he maintains balance and discipline in his life through his passion for Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and May Thai Martial Arts.

Feral Arts

at

The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary
\$6,275

Feral Arts is a community art cooperative providing a platform for unbridled creativity inspired by animal welfare values and environmental stewardship. Our 3500 Sq. Ft. studio accommodates a wide variety of artistic mediums and invites visiting artists to connect to the lives of the birds and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary and use what they learn as the impetus for arctic expression.

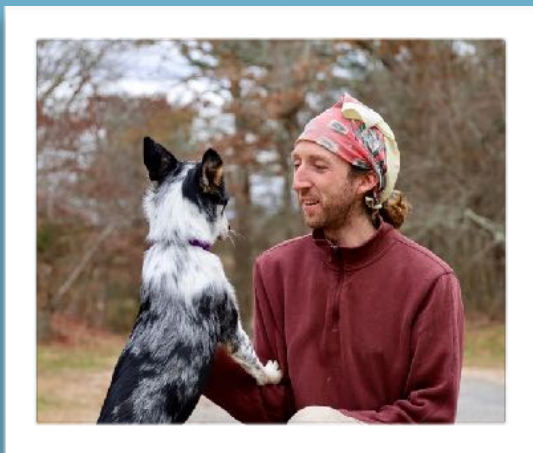


Feral Arts Movie Nights

Feral Arts Movie Nights are scheduled monthly from June through September. This drive-in style, outdoor celebration features popular films that promote compassion for animals, environmental responsibility and cultural diversity. Guests can participate in art projects prior to the film and are invited to sample vegetarian and vegan food items provided by Foster Parrots. Movies begin when the sun goes down!



Dan Tacey: Sanctuary Maintenance & Operations Manager, Feral Arts Program Manager



Dan Tacey wears many hats at Foster Parrots. Joining the team in 2018 as an avian care specialist, he quickly stepped into the role of Sanctuary Maintenance and Operations Manager, making sure that all systems are functioning and maintenance and repair issues are addressed expeditiously. His love for gardening has helped keep our summer gardens in bloom and ensures a welcoming natural landscape at the sanctuary. Dan's true calling, however, is art. In 2019 he stepped up to take the lead on the Feral Arts program and on Feral Arts Movie Nights. He enjoys working with children and is shaping a new schedule of summer art activities designed to instill animal welfare values into the hearts and minds of young visitors.

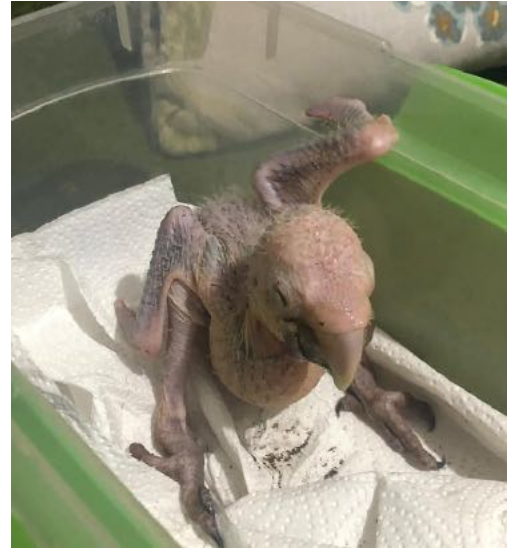


Foster Parrots, Ltd. Wild Parrot Conservation Projects & Partnerships

Foster Parrots, Ltd. is proud to work in partnership with conservation organizations dedicated to the protection and proliferation of parrots in the wild.

Macaw Conservation Costa Rica A Foster Parrots Partnership \$85,735

In May of 2019, a Nature Guide from Happy Feet Backpackers of Drake Bay rushed to MCCR to deliver a tiny baby macaw found on the forest floor by his tour group during a nighttime excursion. MCCR's Director, Chris Castles, did not hold much hope for this baby's survival. Estimated to be only 2 - 3 weeks old, she was cold, skinny and dehydrated. Chris began an intensive, round-the-clock care regimen to try to save her life, and the little macaw slowly began to respond. They named her "Milagro", which is Spanish for "Miracle", and through the summer Mila grew strong and healthy under the care of the MCCR team.



In order for hand-raised chicks to learn how to identify with their own species, it is always best when several babies can be raised together. For her first 3 months, Mila's only macaw companion was a stuffed macaw toy, but at the end of August a local farmer delivered 3 tiny chicks who had somehow survived when their nest tree fell. The babies appeared to be mere hours out of their eggs. None should have pulled through, but once again, Chris' skill in hand raising macaw chick for release back into the wild saved the lives of these babies.

Just like Mila, the 3 chicks have grown into strong, healthy, willful juveniles and have since joined Mila in one of MCCR's "big bird" aviaries where they will all be cared for until they are ready for release.





The Sun Parakeet Project Guyana

A Collaborative Effort:
**One Earth Conservation, Foster Parrots, Ltd.,
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife, The American Bird
 Conservancy and The Village of Karasabai**

\$6,230

One Earth Conservation and Foster Parrots, Ltd. began and ended the 2019 year in Guyana, continuing the population surveys that will determine the conservation status of these brightly colored but elusive little parrots. Taking the lead as the project organizer and scientist, One Earth's co-founder, Dr. LoraKim Joyner, has trained Amerindians from the villages of Karasabai, Rewa and Nappi to conduct population surveys and monitor nesting activity. Crossing rivers and savannas and trekking through dense, untamed forest in search of the birds is hard work, but these young men are committed to the preservation of the species. They call themselves The Parakeet Rangers of Guyana.

Participating in the January 2019 expedition, Foster Parrots board member, Danika Oriol-Morway, noted, "It's hard not to feel as though these birds have gone into hiding, tucking their families far away from human reach in a final attempt to save the last of their species."

The January 2019 surveys documented as few as 137 distinct, individual birds. December's numbers were more encouraging, suggesting between 300 - 400 birds in the Pakaraima Mountain region of Guyana and just across the border into Brazil. That's still not a lot.

Village involvement and educational programs are critical to any in situ conservation effort. One Earth Conservation and Foster Parrots, Ltd. work to provide informational material, posters and program activities for village schools and Wildlife Clubs. Community engagement will continue as we work to connect the minds and hearts of the children of the Rupununi to their native birds and animals, and spark the next generation of conservationists in Guyana.



The Village of Karasabai



Foster Parrots Rep, Dexter Dasilva



**One Earth Conservation's
 Dr LoraKim Joyner**

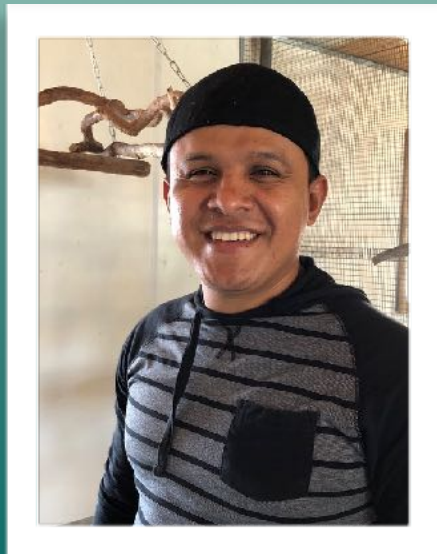


Foster Parrots' Conservation Mini-Conference 2019



Nearly 1/3 of all parrot species on the planet are threatened with extinction. More than 1/2 of all parrot species are in decline.

On March 16, 2019 guests gathered at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary to attend Foster Parrots Mini-Conference, and to learn about the work of parrot conservation groups in Central and South America and in Africa. Speakers included Foster Parrots Sanctuary Director, Danika Oriol-Morway, who detailed the efforts to save the last remaining sun parakeets in Guyana, Dr. LoraKim Joyner of One Earth Conservation who spoke of her organization's work throughout Central and South America. Veterinarian and RISD professor, Dr. Lucy Spelman introduced her non-profit organization, Creature Conserve, which links art and science in an effort to raise global awareness of endangered species issues. Our special guest, Ermenson Urtecho, from Loreros Observando y Conservando en Ometepe (LOCO) in Nicaragua, gripped the audience with details about the work of his organization to stop poaching, protect nests and save highly endangered yellow naped Amazons from the brink of extinction.



Our Special Guest, Ermenson Urtecho

Foster Parrots was honored to welcome Ermenson Urtecho for a 2 week stay at the sanctuary where he participated in the daily care of the resident parrots and gathered information not only about how to care for a large number of parrots in a sanctuary setting, but also about the ultimate fate of so many parrots stolen from their nests and their families to be pets in the U.S. Ermenson's organization, LOCO, is located on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua, one of the last strongholds for highly endangered yellow naped Amazons in Central America. His team works around the clock to monitor and protect active nests from poaching, and to rehabilitate confiscated and injured Amazons for release back into the wild. Like all wild parrot conservation efforts, LOCO struggles to protect their wild parrots with little funding and scant resources.

The New Parrot Conservation Alliance

In October of 2019, international conservation groups and parrot rescue organizations from across the U.S. gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, for the first conference of the new Parrot Conservation Alliance. Spear-headed by nationally renowned animal/avian welfare activist, Patty Finch, and organized under the umbrella of the American Bird Conservancy, the Parrot Conservation Alliance was formed in order to link parrot rescue and parrot conservation groups in solidarity, to raise awareness about the devastating impact of the legal trade in parrots on illegal poaching activity worldwide, and to focus attention and new potential streams of support for wild parrot protection efforts.

As the only parrot rescue organization in the U.S. active in conservation, the work of Foster Parrots, Ltd. was featured prominently at the conference. Foster Parrots Executive Director, Karen Windsor, and Sanctuary Director, Danika Oriol-Morway, were conference presenters, detailing Foster Parrots' work in Guyana and Costa Rica, and spotlighting the value of conservation partnerships as a means of making a real impact in conservation.



Representing four of the most well-respected parrot sanctuaries in the country: Janet Trumble of Oasis (AZ), Matt Smith of Project Perry (VA), Kim Hannah of the Exotic Avian Sanctuary of Tennessee (TN) and Karen Windsor of Foster Parrots, Ltd. (RI)

The Parrot Conservation Alliance Mobilizes! The Petition to Stop the Importation of 4000 African Grey Parrots into the U.S.



In December of 2019, the Parrot Conservation Alliance was alerted to a petition to USFWS by commercial parrot breeders in Florida, seeking federal permits to allow the importation of 4000 African grey parrots into the U.S.. Florida breeders, Paul Marolf, Ray O'Neil and Jason Mitchell claimed that viable genetic stock of African grey parrots had been depleted in the U.S., and the importation of these birds was necessary to revitalize the breeding gene pool. They also claimed that this program has conservation value.

African grey parrots have been driven to the brink of extinction and are now listed as a CITES Appendix I restricted species. At least 40% of the 4000 requested birds were known to be wild-caught. More than 60% of these parrots would be expected to perish during transport. Breeding parrots for lives in cages is not conservation. It is commercial breeding that would inevitably pump many thousands of new parrots into an already saturated American market. In December of 2019 Foster Parrots, Ltd., other Parrot Conservation Alliance member organizations and animal welfare organizations worldwide mobilized to submit letters of opposition to USFWS in an effort to kill the breeder petition. The outcome of this campaign on behalf of African grey parrots will unfold in the year ahead.

Dr. Ann Bourke
Taking the Lead as Foster Parrots' Sanctuary Veterinarian



Known throughout the region as the Traveling Bird Vet, Dr. Ann Bourke has been in veterinary practice for 30 years and has been treating avian patients exclusively for 13 years, bringing her services directly into her client's homes and growing her reputation as one of the best loved vets in New England. Ann stepped in as Foster Parrots' lead sanctuary vet in November of 2019, following the "semi-retirement" of long-time NEEWS vet, Dr. Hank Wietsma. Taking charge of the health and well-being of 400 parrots at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary would be a daunting prospect for most, but Dr. Bourke has embraced the opportunity to work with such a diversity of avian species and feels right at home at the sanctuary. We are happy and honored to welcome Ann as a part of the Foster Parrots team.

Foster Parrots Board of Directors

Many thanks to our board of directors for their tireless service to the organization, and for their vision, guidance and unwavering commitment.



Marc Johnson
President



Danika Oriol-Morway
Treasurer



James Hahn, PhD.
Secretary



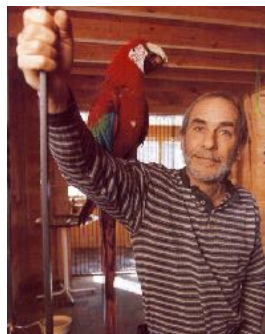
Susan Sheridan, M.S.
Consultant



Stephanie Young
FP Volunteer Mgr.



Joseph Correia
Media Specialist



Roy Dubs
Retired Business Exec.



Gary Block, DVM
Veterinarian



Lucy Spelman, DVM
Veterinarian

The Foster Parrots Family

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization. Their dedication to the lives of the birds, their belief in Foster Parrots' mission and the culture of acceptance, understanding and mutual support they have created at the sanctuary connect us all as Family.



Raymond Aquino
Jane Bates
Mary Beadle
Richard Bender
Matt Borys
Samantha Borys
Chris Buettner
Laura Castagna
Alyssa Christian
Jen Ciardullo
Jess Cotter
Wendy Davis
Dorian DeSimone
Jess DioCenso
Marjory Drew
Michael Emma
Shelby Factor
Maddy Gardiner
Ryan Hart

Ed Hauser
Frances Hester
Lea Janz
Brian Jones
Samantha Kaiser
Michaela Kennedy
Liesa LaJeunesse
Bob LeBeouf
Kaitlyn Levangie
Beverly Lewis
Mary MacDonald
Michelle Mahoney
Lisa Maitoso
Donna McAdams
Amy Melanson
Barbara Moscato
Tracy Newell
Ashley Nutini
Olivia Olmstead

Kendra Pacheco
Valerie Perkins
Michael Petrarca
Sue Reed
Rita Rooney
Beverly Schwartz
Susan Sewell
Adrienne Shaw
Alan Snyder
DeeDee Taylor
Cecilia Thompson
Julian Trilling
Liz Trupin
Adrienne Vergith-Hill
Mary Vican
Mike Whelan
Della Whiteneck
Sylvia Whitehurst
Stephanie Young



