



*"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it.
You remain responsible forever for what you have tamed" - Antoine de Saint Exupery*

December 2007

Dear Friends and Family of The Gabriel Foundation,

From each one of us at TGF - a heartfelt thank-you to everyone for your generous support of the parrots and programs of The Gabriel Foundation this past year. It's our 11th year since The Gabriel Foundation first received its nonprofit status and embarked upon its mission to emphasize and promote parrot welfare worldwide. In October 2006, we celebrated the grand opening of the Aviary and Adoption Center and we had plenty of room to house our growing flock of 350 birds in need. Just fourteen months later we have maximized every space at our Aviary and Adoption Center which now houses up to 450 birds a day as we face ever increasing demands for our services.

In 2007, TGF accepted 230 parrots and more than a dozen doves, pigeons and finches into its care. More than 75% of those birds relinquished came with little or no financial support for their perpetual care. Over 40 parrots came to us from two heartbreaking hoarding situations. YOU helped us to provide for the continued welfare and care for those birds. 30 parrots came to us from traditional animal shelters around the country; two local animal cruelty investigations resulted in 14 parrots that were relinquished to TGF since July, 2007.

Thanks to your continued financial support, two very special birds now reside at the Aviary and Adoption Center. In early summer we received a call about two White fronted Amazons, aged 46 and 47. Their owner had died. Not to be burdened with their care, a family member dumped both birds into a cardboard box and left them at a vet clinic in New Mexico, slated for euthanasia. Cataracts, arthritis and age had taken a toll on these two. Unwilling to have them put to death, a clinic staffer reached out for help. Pepito and Peanut now live their life in a forever home in our Sanctuary program – your support helps TGF to provide this pair with the very best in care.

Just a few months ago, we were alerted to a situation concerning four Greenwing macaws that were crowded



together in a small cage, living outside in the rain, sleet and snow on property about 50 miles from the Aviary and Adoption Center. Neighbors had contacted us about the situation and TGF and animal control intervened. The birds were in appalling condition. Dog kibble was their only source of nutrition. Enrichment was a remnant piece of chain from a toy long gone. Their owner lost his home and job and was living in his vehicle on the property. Red, 27 y.o. and Baby, 26 y.o., had raised Ruff and Lil Stuff since hatching the siblings two and a half years previously. All four macaws entered the Foundation's quarantine. Their lives would forever change. What happened to them? Red and Baby are now ambassadors in TGF's Education and Outreach programs. Ruff and Lil Stuff responded readily to positive reinforcement, an enriched environment, healthy diet and soon began a marvelous interaction with our staff. This exciting development found them an adoptive family and flock where they continue to thrive.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

TGF is delighted to report that in 2007, 115 parrots found caring and committed caretakers through our Adoption program. In order to adopt, every applicant must complete our Beyond the Birdie Basics classes. Our online version of the class has been filled to capacity every month and our in-house live classes have been packed. Because of the increased number of smaller birds, like lovebirds, cockatiels and budgerigars that reside at the Aviary and Adoption center, we now offer a live version of the class which focuses solely on smaller parrot species. One of TGF's recent grads is featured here – he's 9 years old! This delightful young man and his supportive family recently celebrated the addition of 2 cockatiels, Rhett Butler and Pavarotti, to their home.



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Then there's Hazel's story. She's an aged, lutino lovebird with severe beak overgrowth, mandibular occlusion and abdominal hernia from years as a breeder with a feisty and determined attitude. Initially none of us thought she had much time left. With TGF's excellent veterinary care, a vastly enhanced diet and a specially adapted cage, Hazel's life profoundly improved. Nearly a year later a unique adopter who wanted to provide a home for a geriatric bird with special needs settled on Hazel. Both bird and human inspire us with this special relationship.

Clive, a sad, terribly abused and feather-plucked female wild caught Patagonian conure was dropped off at a vet's office to be put to death over 10 years ago. Why? The owners thought that she was so ugly that no one would want her. They were wrong and the vet sent her to us. Clive joined a small flock of Patagonians for a couple of years. Then, she was adopted out to a family that had rescued Leaf, another female Patagonian, with a similar history. Six years later, a death in the family necessitated that Clive and Leaf return to us. Leaf passed away this fall from severe cardiac disease. We were worried about Clive's health because her history had caught up with her. Arthritis, gout and advancing age made her an unlikely candidate for a new home. When one of our fabulous volunteers told us that he wanted to adopt a special needs bird, Clive immediately came to mind. When he heard Clive's story it was clear that this was the bird he wanted to help. After holding Clive, gently wrapped in a towel, and seeing her contentment, the deal was sealed. Clive gets a second chance in a loving home for the remainder of her life. Despite the torture that Clive suffered at the hands of humans, somehow she has not lost all trust in them. When gently wrapped in a towel, she somehow is able to forget her fear of human hands and genuinely enjoys being cuddled and caressed. At 21 years old, this sweet little bird has given humans a second chance.



Stories like these keep all of us inspired to make the lives of parrots better. As a TGF staffer said, "It doesn't matter who you are, rich, poor, celebrity or if you think you're just an average Joe. You change the world by how you choose to interact with lives that you come in contact with. Whether it is a relative, a neighbor, a complete stranger or one little bird. Like a ripple in a pond, one life at a time, you really can change the world."

HELP US GROW

These are the gifts that The Gabriel Foundation gives the birds in our care. But it does not come cheaply. People profess that they love parrots, but we know that love is not enough. Consistent, quality care does not come without a price. Providing quality care for up to 450 birds easily reaches tens of thousands of dollars a year excluding business expenses. The Foundation spends a minimum of \$96 per day to feed the flock and each bird averages \$200 per year for medical expenses. For birds like Red or Baby, The Gabriel Foundation will expend a minimum of \$600 annually to provide basic care. If they live out their expected lifespan of 50-80 years, The Gabriel Foundation will dedicate a minimum of \$30,000 to their care alone.

To be successful for future decades, TGF must distinguish itself. We believe that our mission and purpose stands above the rest. Ninety percent of the support for The Gabriel Foundation comes from private donations. \$.84 out of every dollar goes directly into TGF's seven programs. As you make your year-end giving plans, please donate generously to The Gabriel Foundation. At this time of year, The Gabriel Foundation thanks you for your continued efforts to change the world - one parrot at a time.

As an organization devoted entirely to the welfare of parrots, The Gabriel Foundation is a truly unique resource for parrots living in captivity and struggling to survive in the wild.

Please show that you care for Pepito, Peanut and the rest of our feathered friends. Celebrate this Season to Share with your generous, tax-deductible donation.



With warmest regards,

Julie Weiss Murad
CEO, Founder & President

Yes! I want to support the many wonderful birds living at The Gabriel Foundation.

I want to support a bird for one year!

- \$2,000 Helps support ongoing research and education for the welfare of all parrots.
- \$500 Provides for one year of Sanctuary care for one of our special birds.
- \$200 Pays the annual medical expense for one bird.
- \$100 Feeds the entire flock for one day.
- \$50 Provides much needed enrichment items (toys, perches, swings, bowls, etc).
- \$25 Provides basic grooming for up to two birds.

Other amount \$ _____

Contributions to The Gabriel Foundation are tax deductible and will be acknowledged according to the rules of the IRS code.

Tax Identification: 84-1396085

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