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ONE YEAR SINGETHE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENED DISASTER RESILIENCE AND THE POWER OF MOVING FORWARD

Re-Designing (Again!) for Safety and Quality of Life by Karen Windsor Executive Director, Foster Parrots Ltd.

Birdy is destroying the orange couch in the Ed Hall at the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. It's ok. It's an old hand-me-down couch that we knew would be subject to abuse, but as I watch her work through the fibers of the couch with her sharp little beak while sitting contentedly beside Sanctuary Manager, Stephanie Young, all I can think is, "What a fun form of enrichment for an Amazon."

Foster Parrots Founder, Marc Johnson, is also sitting on that couch, and while he is normally a target for Birdy's aggression, she is mercifully distracted by her mission to redesign the couch. Goffin's cockatoo, Watusi, however, has had her eye on Marc, and she gleefully climbs down from her cage, bounces across the floor and climbs up Marc's leg. Unlike Birdy, Watusi loves Marc. He has been caring for her for over 20 years.

Birdy and Watusi are two of the nine parrots who now occupy the Ed Hall since losing their sections of the sanctuary last April, and despite having been displaced by a tragic event, these birds are now living their best lives at the sanctuary. The presence of people in the Ed Hall is constant, as this is a primary work and social area for staff and volunteers. And as I watch the parrots enjoying - and sometimes tormenting - their people in this comfortable, home-like environment, I understand that this is what works for so many parrots, and all I can think is, "Damn. I need to re-work the new sanctuary design. Again." This will be the 3rd re-design. It will also be the last.

Many sanctuary residents at the NEEWS prefer avian companionship to that of humans and do well in aviaries that support flock-life while providing a desirable degree of separation



Birdy, tearin' it up! Photo by Brian Jones

from people. An equal number of resident parrots, however, thrive in the presence of people and crave the comfort of a home-like experience. This we have always known, and staff and volunteers have always worked to support the social needs of our human-bonded birds within the limits of our physical sanctuary structure. But the contentment of the parrots now living in the Ed Hall has become the inspiration for a new sanctuary design that not only offers beautiful aviary environments for unsocialized birds, but also accommodates human-avian social support to the highest possible degree. Integrated bird & people work/lounging areas are being created, and open concept spaces are being increased. Aviaries are spacious and provide easy access to outdoor aviaries. Increased natural and supplementary lighting will better accommodate plants, providing birds with more a natural experience. Improving the quality of our residents' lives is worth re-working the new sanctuary design. Again.



We cannot do the work we do without YOU.

Thank you for your support!

* All donations received on or before March 31, 2022 will be generously matched up to \$20.000!

Foster Parrots launches 3 fundraiser events every year. We hope you will choose to support at least one.





Rebuilding for Safety: New Sanctuary

Designed with Extensive Safety and Fire Prevention Features

by Danika Oriol-Morway Foster Parrots Board Member

Over the last several months we have worked in partnership with an expert team of architects, engineers, and builders to design a structure that meets the complex needs of our animals with robust advanced safety engineering. We are excited to share with our community the first images of our rebuild and the extensive safety measures we have included in the new design.

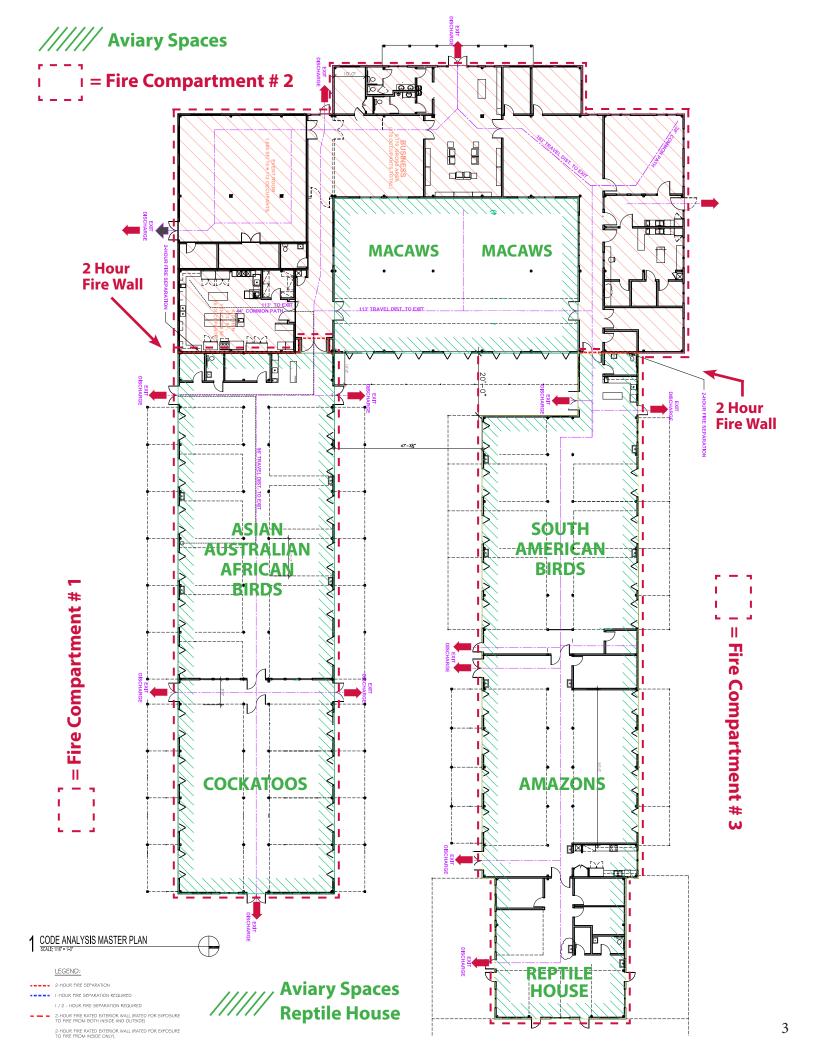
One of our most significant lessons is the humbling fact that despite rigorous evacuation and disaster response plans, the only way to truly be prepared for a disaster, such as a structure fire, is to create a space where fire conditions are impossible. We must avoid the misconception that the goal is to simply respond and survive a fire, but rather the goal is to ensure the prevention of a fire in the first place.

The new structure will be a completely fire rated building, meeting all IBC codes and municipal regulatory codes. We have gone to extreme lengths to consider every and all variables within the structure to create a truly fire rated building. The substantial size of our structure and lack of a municipal sewer system renders a sprinkler system financially prohibitive, due to the engineering requirements. Because of these parameters, our engineering team has focused on creating a building in which combustion or fire spread is virtually impossible. In addition to the structural and internal fire prevention elements, we will also be creating natural fire breaks surrounding the outside of the structure, with added consideration to both flood and hurricane proof construction.

Here is a list of some of the many safety features we have included in the new building:

- · Steel enforced framing and structural engineering
- Fireproof and soundproof insulation throughout interior and exterior walls
- Metal ceiling with fireproof sound reduction paneling
- Eliminated attic space
- Class A fire rated FRP board for all interior treatments
- Fire-stop compartments throughout the entire structure with fire-stop walls and steel doors
- Whole house alarm system connected to fire department
- Fire evacuation routes and access points throughout the building and from aviaries
- With the exception of a few specific places, wood has been dramatically reduced throughout the planned facility
- Fire suppression devices placed throughout the structure and outside of aviaries

These design elements are just a short list of the many conditions considered in the new structure. Our team is still poring through the design features with a fine-tooth comb and will continue to refine and develop the safety protocols to the fullest extent possible.



TRIGGER WARNING:

This article contains content that may be upsetting to some, as it revisits details of the devastating Foster Parrots fire.







Photos by Brian Jones

Anniversaries by Susan Sheridan, Foster Parrots Board Member

We are coming up on the One Year Anniversary of the fire at the NEEWS on the morning of April 1st 2021. Anniversaries are important benchmarks — opportunities to look back and to look forward, to revisit events, assess movement forward and look toward the future. We hope that we shall be breaking ground to move ahead with the first stages of the rebuilding of the sanctuary very close to this first anniversary.

I can remember as if it were yesterday (as many traumatic events become cemented in detail in memory), learning about the fire. Somewhere between 10 and 11 am Danika Oriol-Morway left me a voicemail. It was a Thursday morning when I typically have six appointments in a row and only listen quickly to messages in between sessions in case there is an emergency needing immediate attention. I said to my 11:00 patient in the waiting room, "I just have to get a guick message," to which he nodded his head and said, "No problem." I wish. I heard the message, opened the door again and said, "I need another minute." I had heard every word, and in a tone of voice that didn't even require words, what she had said, "Susan, there has been a fire, and it is bad." But I needed to hear it again. As it happened, this patient had seen a newsletter from Foster Parrots in my waiting room and inquired about the sanctuary in the past, so I brought him into my office and told him what I had just learned.

I recount this story to illustrate the beginning of just one person's journey processing the disaster at the NEEWS. The people who were at the sanctuary when the fire broke out, Karen and Danika who were awakened by the news and then had to drive hours to reach the scene, firefighters, volunteers who mobilized, people who had birds there who had perished, supporters of the NEEWS who learned from a variety of sources, the town and the larger community of Rhode Island... everyone had the initial bomb dropped upon them in some way. Then the process of integrating and coping with the immediate crises — safe spaces, water, electricity, food, avian medical needs, both physical and

psychological, Human needs both mental and physical began. And it continues... but we have moved forward in all arenas.

Anniversaries sometimes force us to revisit traumatic events, but people do survive trauma and they find a way to move forward. The gentleman whom I was lucky enough to have scheduled when I got the news from Danika (not so lucky for him) was soon to encounter the 40th anniversary of having his pancreas removed in a very risky procedure at a very young age due to Type 1 Diabetes. His prognosis for a full, long happy life was not good, but he has flourished with appropriate care. After 9/11, in order to be available as a mental health worker, I volunteered Saturdays at St. Paul's church next to the site of the towers where excavation was still in full swing. In March of 2002 I met a woman who had lost three family members in the collapse. I continued to develop a relationship with her. She wore leg braces and had great difficulty getting around, so I got permission to accompany her to the One Year Anniversary of the collapse of the World Trade Center exclusively for family members. Over the years we lost touch, but at this past 20th year anniversary of 9/11, I made an effort and finally located her since my search began in September of 2021. Despite her trauma, she has found a way to move forward.

The sanctuary will be rebuilt. We are on our way.

It may not be a fast enough or direct enough journey, but we will get there. Plans are being drawn up, revised here, expanded there, meetings are being held. The timing is upon us for this first anniversary — time to put all of our energy into the process of rescuing the birds who never stopped needing us but for whom we have not had the adequate space to accommodate. Last year's fundraiser was at a farm in Massachusetts and was a significant event — anguish as well as healing — for all of us. We need your support emotionally, spiritually and financially, to move ahead so that we can hold our next fundraiser (maybe not 2022, but by 2023) in celebration in and of our own backyard.

Where Did My Family Go? by Amanda Coleman Adoption Program Director







Left to right: Romeo and Juliet, blue and gold macaws; Congo, green-winged macaw. Photos by Brian Jones.

In early October of 2021, we received a surrender request from a family in Vermont that had three macaws in a dire situation; their mother had passed and the birds were left alone in the home. The relinquishment form stated "Needs real medical attention 2 birds are very plucked. No tails. The home is filled with mouse poop and urine." The woman lived alone and after her passing there was no one left to care for the birds. The birds are two seven-year-old blue and gold macaws named Romeo and Juliet and a ten-year-old greenwinged macaw named Congo. We quickly responded, offering assistance and placement for the birds, and within two days, the family delivered them to Foster Parrots.

Juliet was in the worst condition, her body was severely plucked leaving her without any tail feathers and few chest feathers. The birds were all underweight on arrival and ate ferociously when offered food. Today the trio, along with one of our own green-winged macaws, **Bob**, are thriving in an aviary in the Central Park portion of our facility. They will never again need to worry about food, sanitary conditions, medical care, or loneliness.

Tragically, this story is not unique. In early December we received another

request. **Rocco**, a blue and gold macaw of unknown age, arrived at Foster Parrots after his guardian was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a terminal condition. Rocco was left alone in his cage with minimal food, no heat or light, and moldy peanuts to subsist on. Luckily for

Several species of parrots can live into their 60's, 70's, and 80's, far outliving their human guardians. It is incredibly important when considering adopting a parrot to have a long-term care plan. This is why Foster Parrots offers a Life-Long Care program, to ensure your birds have a place to go when the time comes.

Rocco, a woman who had frequently cleaned his guardian's home reached out to Foster Parrots for assistance. We will never know what would have come to pass for Rocco had she not stepped in to help him.

Rocco appeared to be well taken care of prior to his guardian's decline, and he is currently available for adoption in our adoption center! He can be shy when meeting new people but

seems to enjoy the company of both men and women. Rocco does not do well being confined to a cage (likely resulting from his time spent left alone). Instead, he spends his days on top of his enclosure and prefers to sleep on it rather than inside of it. Rocco's ideal adopter will need to have patience with him and allow him to live a fully cage-free lifestyle.

Several species of parrots can live into their 60's, 70's, and 80's, far outliving their human guardians. It is incredibly important when considering adopting a parrot to have a longterm care plan. On our adoption application, we ask "What kinds of arrangements are you prepared to make for the care of your parrot if you are unable to take care of the bird due to age, sickness, disability, death, etc." Almost always, this question is answered with "My kids will take the bird, my brother or sister will take the bird." The reality is that when the time comes, this is not likely to happen and should never be relied on as your "Plan A" for the future care of your bird. This is why Foster Parrots offers a Life-Long Care program, to ensure your birds have a place to go when the time comes. Having placement pre-arranged for your birds will keep your beloved birds out of emergency situations, like Rocco's.

Scenes From the Sanctuary...









The needs in avian rescue and welfare do not stop even in the face of unusual human circumstances.

Foster Parrots also could not stop despite the events of last April. Calls for birds needing rescue or placement continued to flood in through the year. Some parrots requiring placement services are safe with their current guardians and can be placed on our waiting list. Other parrots find themselves in situations that threaten their safety or well-being. Bonded pairs of parrots can be at high risk for being separated, particularly if they are a difficult species to accommodate in the home

environment, are not well-socialized, or if they end up in hands that will separate them to better facilitate adoption.

Parrots in need of medical intervention are admitted immediately for services. In recent years, situations in which parrots have been abandoned in empty homes have become disturbingly frequent. These are the birds that Foster Parrots prioritizes for rescue. But urgent rescue situations like these are not exclusive to Foster Parrots. Despite shortages of space and resources, rescue organizations everywhere must wade through a constant flood of unwanted parrots, and triage their services.

Above, clockwise from top: Gabby bathes in her water bowl; Beckett preens Bossa, reinforcing their bond; Lily grasps his favorite treat; Edith adores being bathed and brushed. Next page, clockwise from top: Sanctuary Director Jennifer Yordy works in the Ed Hall, observed by Rose and Buddy; Adoption Program Director Amanda Coleman in the Adoption Room with Kokomo and other birds awaiting adoption; Avian, Enrichment & Animal Care Specialist Briana Robertson medicates a lovebird; Construction & Maintenance Manager Michael Teets; Kelly Duker, Avian & Animal Care Director, prepares Volan for a pedicure while her mate Woodstock watches to make sure no harm comes to his BFFI; Reptile, Animal & Avian Care Specialist Danielle Cope works at the sink while Lola supervises. There's never a dull moment at Foster Parrots!

...and Foster Parrots Staff at Work













Photos by Brian Jones and Foster Parrots staff



A Parrot-dise in Costa Rica

Humans Living as a Part of Nature, Not Apart From Nature

by Paul Brennan, supporter & friend of MCCR





s the sun begins to drop behind the mountains of Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica, twelve Scarlet Macaws make a series of large, sweeping circles over the trees at Finca Paradiso, screaming loudly and unabashedly at the setting sun before finding their night perches high in the "Big Tree" that towers over all others in the middle of the property. Dozens upon dozens of red-lored Amazons also announce their arrival with a cacophony of exuberant whistles, crescendoing chortles and growly squabbles as they settle into their roosts in various fruit and nut trees that have been planted just for them.

A Conservation Partnership

Eight years ago, Foster Parrots Founder, Marc Johnson, had a novel idea to bring people and parrots together for what has grown into a model for community-driven conservation efforts. Foster Parrots worked to facilitate the launch of Macaw Conservation Costa Rica (MCCR) and a sister community for conservation support known as Finca Paradiso. Now, on 4 hectares (12 acres) of what was previously a scorched-earth, toxic rice field seemingly devoid of any life, there is a successful macaw conservation project, and an abundance of wildlife is thriving in a newly reforested habitat.

Macaw Conservation Costa Rica (MCCR)

Foster Parrots worked alongside Chris Castles for the filming of the PBS Nature documentary "Parrot Confidential" and witnessed his amazing skills with wild macaws, which he has honed after more than two decades of conservation work in Costa Rica, and he continues to demonstrate this every day at Macaw Conservation Costa Rica (MCCR), working to rehabilitate and release injured or orphaned scarlet macaws (Ara macao) back to the wild, and providing permanent sanctuary to more than a dozen disabled Scarlets and other exotic macaws. The property has been planted as a food haven for the birds that have been released, as well as their completely wild flock mates.

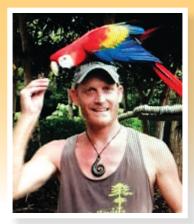
Twelve scarlets are full-time residents on the property, coming and going throughout the day to explore the river corridor into the mountains or down to the coast. Eight of those birds are releases from MCCR, and four of those have pair-bonded with wild local birds. At any given time of any day there could be up to 30 macaws gathering in the shade of massive figs and enjoying the bounty of almonds and other food trees provided for them.

Scarlet macaws are threatened in Central America, with the primary threats being poaching for the illicit exotic wildlife trade and habitat loss. Macaws only nest in very select hollow cavities within tropical hardwood trees. Suitable nest sites are naturally guite limited in the jungle, and continued clearing of forest habitat has significantly reduced their ability to breed even in areas where populations may be surviving, such as in Costa Rica. MCCR has begun a program to erect artificial nest boxes in hopes that resident birds might be encouraged to breed. Already in the first box, two of MCCR's released macaws who have formed a monogamous bond, Monster and Mila, have claimed the site as their own!

Foster Parrots is dedicated to continuing our partnership with MCCR as they provide permanent sanctuary for displaced birds in need, construct more nest boxes, and expand educational awareness and conservation through ecotourism endeavors.

Finca Paradiso

The "Finca Paradiso Conservation Society" was established as an Intentional Community to offer support and assistance for the growth of MCCR. Separated from MCCR's property by no more than a hibiscus hedge, Finca



Chris Castles, President and Co-Founder of MCCR











Paradiso's land has been developed to mirror the wildlife food forest painstakingly hand-planted at MCCR. Once a toxic dirt field polluted by rice farming, just like MCCR, Finca Paradiso has been transformed over the past 8 years, and the lush landscape is now a parrot and wildlife paradise.

If You Plant It, They Will Come

Throughout the day the macaws can be seen feeding, playing and zig-zagging between the trees — but it's not just macaws that inhabit the property. There are Amazons and parakeets, toucans and aracari, hawks and falcons, kiskadees and curassow. Howler monkeys, squirrel monkeys, sloths, anteaters and iguanas are commonly seen. Timid or nocturnal species like jaguarundi, ocelots, coati and tyra are regularly photographed by the camera traps positioned strategically around the property by Dr. David Morimoto, who heads the biology department at Lesley University. Even glimpses of rarely seen tapir and grison have been captured on film, demonstrating the resilience of wildlife when we support the rejuvenation of natural environments.

The mission is Reforestation, and Finca Paradiso is laying the groundwork for a community-based conservation project where people can coexist harmoniously with wildlife, and where nature can be preserved and protected with human conservators included in the equation. The future for many endangered species — and the planet as a whole — rests in new approaches like this that engage humans as a part of nature, not apart from it. The Finca Paradiso conservation model is proof that this approach can achieve long-term, sustainable success.

A Bright Future

MCCR and Finca Paradiso continue to evolve separately but in unison as sister organizations. The purposely planted trees are rapidly growing taller each season. More and more animals are calling this spot home and raising their families here, and the people are here to act as stewards of the land in what has become, essentially, a private wildlife reserve. The government agency MINAET, which is responsible for overseeing and regulating natural resources and wildlife in Costa Rica, has granted permission for MCCR to install macaw nest boxes on the Finca Paradiso property, furthering our conservation partnership. It will be

exciting to monitor the next generations of macaws, hatched to fly free and to inherit the skies as Mother Nature intended. Because No Cage Is Big Enough.

Now, just 8 years after MCCR and Finca Paradiso joined together and planted the first beach almond tree in the dirt on the farm, the sun is beginning to set and to drench the sky in pastel colors, and we are watching dozens of Amazons flying in to gather in the trees around us. These birds used to roost at night in the trees on the waterfront in Puerto Jimenez, located 5 miles away. Now, what used to be merely a pit stop on the way to town is their new chosen home. "They have begun to roost here at the farm instead," explains MCCR Founder, Chris Castles, "because they feel safe here."

The only thing more incredible than hearing these rambunctious Amazons settling in for the night is what the next day shall bring: the dawn chorus when all of them erupt at once in their gargled morning song that greets the sunrise as they fly off in pairs toward the forested mountains of Corcovado.

For more information or to make a donation to support MCCR's work with scarlet macaws, please visit macawconservation.org

Adoption Corner Spotlight



Fletcher

Fletcher is a 20+-year-old yellownaped Amazon who loves to be the center of attention. Due to changes in his guardian's home, Fletcher had spent the last few years in a cage, so abundant freedom from caging is important. It takes Fletcher time to warm up to new people. He tends to bond well with women but can be reactive toward men. Fletcher has a vast vocabulary and an incredible singing voice. He enjoys roaming around on the floor where he can explore his surroundings. He would do best in a home that understands Amazon behavior, will be patient, and respect his boundaries.

Rocco

Rocco is a blue & gold macaw who was recently surrendered to Foster Parrots due to his guardian's failing health. Rocco is a very independent bird who will self-entertain given the proper enrichment. He loves to chew and shred wooden and paper toys. Rocco tends to be shy and takes a while to warm up to people. He will do best in an environment in which he can live free

from the confines of a cage, so we are looking for an adopter who will allow Rocco to live a cage-free lifestyle while being able to meet his social, and behavioral needs. Rocco is a spirited bird who will need a macaw-experienced home.

For more on Rocco's story, see page 9.



Lola



Lola is an extremely affectionate and attention-seeking umbrella cockatoo! She does well with almost everyone she meets and loves nothing more than being cradled in your arms for hours on end. Although this sounds ideal, life with Lola does not come without its challenges! Lola doesn't understand why her family might not be able to spend ALL DAY, EVERY DAY with her. She will often scream (loudly, and

for a long time) when her people leave the room. Lola can bite if you aren't paying close enough attention to her body language and are not giving her the attention she demands. Lola can be a complete love bug and wonderful companion for a person or family who is home more often than not and who will understand and accommodate these behaviors. If you can provide Lola with the love and attention she needs, she'll reward you every day with her infectious personality and loving nature.

Objective to the content of the c

Welcoming a parrot into the family is a challenging but rewarding, life-long commitment. If you think you have the love, time, patience and resources to invest, please visit www.fosterparrots.com/adoption-rescue

to learn more about our requirements for adoption and to fill out an online application. There are so many parrots in need of loving forever homes! We encourage you to adopt, don't shop.









Photos by Brian Jones

Opportunities to Support Foster Parrots!

Foster Parrots holds 3 Fundraisers annually in support of the birds and animals at the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary and all of the programs of Foster Parrots. We hope you will choose to support at least one of these important events!

The March Matching Fund Drive!

With nearly 25 years under its belt, the annual March Matching Fund Drive is Foster Parrots' first and longest running fundraising initiative, and it is one that many long-time donors choose to support. A generous matching pool is a compelling incentive that doubles the value of donations up to \$20,000! This fund drive helps ensure the success of our work through the upcoming year.

The World Famous Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza!

Foster Parrots' World Famous Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza is a festival-style event held on-site at the sanctuary each September. The fall Fundraiser is an opportunity for us to give back to our supporters by welcoming guests to tour the sanctuary and meet the birds, and by providing an unforgettable day of fun, food and festivities!

Giving Tuesday & Our Year-End Fund Drive!

"Giving Tuesday" kicks off our Year-End Fund Drive, and with year-end giving being such a compelling incentive for philanthropic support, our year-end drive is growing as one of our most essential fundraising initiatives!

Your support enables Foster Parrots to provide outstanding care for over 300 sanctuary residents at the NEEWS, facilitates emergency rescue services and ensures our ability to offer unconditional veterinary care for parrots in need. Because the plight of unwanted parrots is important to you, we are able to offer valuable educational programs, lectures and tours that are critical to the future of parrots everywhere. Because you embrace wild parrot conservation

and habitat restoration as critical components of avian welfare, you help to ensure the continuation of our work in Costa Rica

And now, more than ever before, we need your help as we work to rebuild the NEEWS and to create a safer, more beautiful sanctuary environment for all of our resident birds and animals. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Please donate online at www.fosterparrots.com

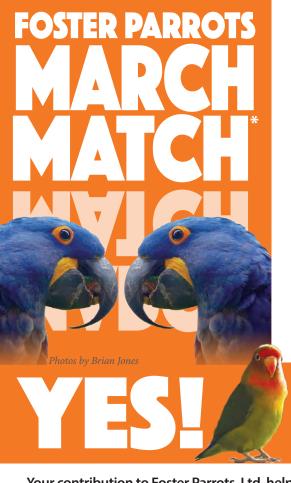


by check, payable to Foster Parrots Ltd. PO Box 34 | Hope Valley, RI | 02832

Stock donations are welcome! Contact Marc@fosterparrots.com **Bequests, endowments** and **estate planning** are wonderful ways to ensure the success of Foster Parrots' work for generations to come. Contact Karen@fosterparrots.com



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Your contribution to Foster Parrots, Ltd. helps provide care for over 400 parrots and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. It supports our humane education and adoption programs, and it helps to protect the freedom of wild parrots and natural habitat. Help us rebuild our sanctuary and provide homes for animals in need. Thank you for your support!

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