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Dear Friends,

It has been a busy fall!

Much of our activity has been related to designing and fundraising for our new home on the Silveira Ranch. In early October, staff and volunteers gathered for a design “charette” – to brainstorm ideas about the look, feel and future of our new home. It is exciting to be a part of this process, to advance from concept to architectural design, and ultimately, to the build out of our plans.

We also hosted a wonderful groundbreaking event – WildCare Taking Root – which you’ll read about in this issue of the newsletter. More than 200 people, including Congressman Jared Huffman, came together to celebrate the promise of all that is to come.

We continue to actively seek the needed funding to build our facility. Most of the money spent to date has been used for studies, plans and permits to get us to this point. We will need significant additional contributions before we will be able to begin actual construction. Our second annual WildCare Environmental Award ceremony, honoring Jamie Redford and the Redford Center, officially launched the more public – and visible – phase of our capital campaign. While what has been accomplished to date has been impressive and gratifying, WildCare’s new facility needs an additional $5.5 million to complete.

Autumn marks a seasonal drop in the number of our wildlife patients, as well as an increase in the number of kids participating in our Terwilliger Environmental Education programs. Our research continues on wildlife poisoned by rodenticides. Thanks in part to WildCare’s innovative and original scientific work, legislation has been enacted to prohibit state, regional and local parks from using these lethal poisons, further safeguarding wildlife, pets and humans.

We have added two people to our staff: Amy Woodward joins WildCare’s Education Department as Van Naturalist, to take the Terwilliger Nature Van to schools throughout the Bay Area. Marienoelle Marquis has joined our Wildlife Services team. Please join me in welcoming them to WildCare’s growing family.

We now enter the all-important end-of-year fundraising season, and are working to secure enough operating income to insure the continuation of our ongoing programs in the coming year. With an annual operating budget of $2 million, and a capital campaign goal of $5.5 million, I ask all of you to consider increasing your support to WildCare this season! This is a transformational time for WildCare, and this transformation will not be possible without your very generous support.

Best wishes for a very happy holiday season. I look forward to a new year filled with peace, joy and prosperity, as we work together – locally and globally – for a better future.

Sincerely,

Karen Wilson
Executive Director
wildcare raccoons in ranger rick!

Seems like raccoons are everywhere this year, and thanks to internationally acclaimed wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas, WildCare’s raccoons are giving movie star Rocket Raccoon (Guardians of the Galaxy) a run for his money!

Suzi spent many hours last year photographing orphaned baby raccoons growing up to be healthy and wild at WildCare.

Her stunning photos are the centerpiece of an article in Ranger Rick magazine called “Growing Up Racoon,” published in October 2014.

volunteer service recognized

Some WildCare volunteers have been with us for more than 20 years! This year we acknowledged loyal volunteers like Anne Ardillo, Cindy Dicke, Shirley Gans, Vanessa Glidden, Pat Kvam, Margaretta Luff, Barbara Novak, Marianna Riser, JoLynn Taylor and Mara Unger at our annual Volunteer picnic.

Attendees each received a button for their first year, and one for every five years thereafter. The button artwork is that of our own Barbara Stikker (www.barbarastikker.com), who has volunteered for WildCare for 5 years! Special awards went to attending volunteers who had 20 years or more.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation party got great support this year from the many businesses and individuals who made generous donations of food and gifts: Barnes & Noble, Debra Blum, California Pizza Kitchen, Campari America, Comforts, Good Earth Natural Foods, Juniper Ridge, Marin Brewing Company, Nina Design, P. F. Chang’s, Patagonia, Slide Ranch, Sloat Garden Center, Starbucks, The Counter Custom Burger, The San Francisco Symphony, Veggie Grill Inc., Whole Foods Market No. 67 and Woodlands Pets.

youth winter bird count

Join WildCare and the Richardson Bay Audubon Center for Marin County’s Fifth Annual Bilingual Youth Winter Bird Count, scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2015, 8:30am-12:30pm at Pickleweed Park in San Rafael.

This event will give aspiring young birders an opportunity to contribute to conservation while they learn in both Spanish and English. Participants will work in small teams with experienced birders to become familiar with a variety of local birds.

Data they collect will be added to eBird, an international database of bird sightings. For more information visit wildcarebayarea.org, or contact Marco Berger at 415-453-1000 ext. 17.

February volunteer orientations

Our annual orientations for new volunteers, ages 15 and up, will be held on February 7 and 8, 2015, to be followed by a series of training classes. Wild-Life Hospital volunteers work directly with injured and orphaned wildlife. If you would like to help feed and care for wild animals in our hospital, this will be your only opportunity to learn how in 2015.

This is also your chance to learn more about our volunteer Nature Guides and their work with kids.

Orientation dates will be available on WildCare's website in December, 2014. Sign up for our FREE eNewsletter now to receive the latest information. Don't miss this once-a-year chance to learn about WildCare!
wildcare takes root

A young Northern Red Oak tree, planted at the future site of WildCare on October 10, 2014, marks both a beginning and the culmination of years of hard work by Executive Director Karen Wilson, and the WildCare Board that stands behind this huge undertaking. The official Groundbreaking festivities took place at the new site on a beautiful autumn day, and were attended by nearly 200 loyal WildCare supporters, eager to see this long-held dream become reality.

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman joined us as we planted a tree at the site and had a “sledge fest” to pave the way for the new future hospital building. In addition to Congressman Huffman, other guests included Renée Silveira, whose family owns the property, members of WildCare’s board of directors, staff and volunteer corps, major donors to the capital campaign, and members of the community. A teacher from Star Academy brought his seventh grade class with him to the event!

The 15-gallon Northern Red Oak (Quercus Rubra) was generously donated by Sunnyside Nursery in San Anselmo. Northern Red Oaks provide good cover and nesting sites (including cavities) for a wide variety of birds and mammals. Deer, elk, moose and rabbits commonly browse leaves and young seedlings and the acorns are eaten by a wide variety of large and small mammals and birds, so this is a great fit for our new property!
Black-tailed Deer fawns are challenging to rehabilitate. One specialist advised, "...never underestimate how much time and effort is required. My suggestion is to avoid hand-rearing deer calves unless it is absolutely necessary." WildCare makes every effort to do that. Each year, we are able to successfully reunite healthy fawns accidentally separated from their healthy mothers.

Avoiding orphaned fawns isn’t an option, but we have found the best possible caretakers in our Fawn Team in West Marin, Stacy and Eric Johnson. The Johnsons were already experienced caretakers of large animals through their years of work on their sanctuary for abandoned and retired horses, Greener Pastures, but Stacy hit the ground running in 2013 after Cindy Dicke recruited her help.

In 2013, a high percentage of premature fawns were admitted. Through research Stacy and Cindy were able to identify the cause: an opportunistic Fusobacteria infection linked to copper deficiencies related to the dry conditions in the environment.

Many of the more than 30 fawns that arrived in 2014 showed acute neurological symptoms that included seizures, blindness and ataxia.

Pneumonia was also a common problem. Oral and injectable antibiotics seemed ineffective. Six fawns were lost before Stacy and Cindy were able to identify a successful treatment.

Pneumonia was the first thing to tackle. Stacy located an oxygen crate that would allow her to deliver the antibiotics directly into a fawn’s lungs via the moist mist of a nebulizer. With support from our donors, WildCare was able to purchase this equipment and to save the first of a number of severely ill fawns from near death.

Working closely with cattle breeders and veterinarians, Stacy changed to nipple shapes that better mimic the anatomy of ruminant animals. These nipples allow the esophageal groove to properly close during nursing, which cuts down on the amount of fluid directed toward their lungs, and directs the formula toward the digestive system.

goat polio in fawns

Polioencephalomalacia, commonly called goat polio, is caused by a lack of thiamine, and is common in domestic ruminants. The preventive treatment is easy and very cost-effective – if you know what you are treating.

Necropsies (animal autopsies) on fawns Stacy and Cindy sent to the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) laboratory at UC Davis provided the diagnosis, and Stacy was able to alert the local farming communities of the potential threat to livestock. In a classic example of “One Health” (wildlife, people and domestic animals), knowing that goat polio is present in wildlife allows ranchers to be proactive in treating their herds.

improved diet

In 2013, Stacy worked with the wildlife veterinarians at Purina Mills to acquire a feed source made specifically for cervids, one also far more cost-effective for WildCare. Because it is illegal for people to provide food for wild deer in California, special permits were required to allow a local feed store to order the cervid diet.

The fawns have access to a mineral block designed specifically to target key vitamins and minerals vital to their overall health and development. An added copper source solved the problem that plagued last year’s fawns, and this year, expired fawns sent for necropsy showed no copper deficiency.

Stress from prematurity, illness, and other factors may contribute to an immature or simply nonexistent immune system. A supplement called Transfer Factor emulates the immune system.
system fawns would normally acquire from their mothers.

**strategic networking**

An achievement Stacy is especially proud of was connecting with a local veterinarian with extensive cervid experience through his work on deer farms in New Zealand.

At Stacy’s urging, the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) implemented the “leave wildlife alone” campaign, creating signage, and partnering with public schools to prevent healthy fawns being taken from their mothers by mistake.

Goals for next year include plans to advocate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to address the issues facing California’s Black-tailed Deer population. The continued drought is taking an enormous toll on these animals. Dr. Woods, a veterinarian with UC Davis, has done extensive field research logging the die-off of deer in Northern California. Through the partnership between WildCare and DFW, we will be able to provide them with pertinent information regarding the most acute issues facing native Black-tailed Deer, and with cost-effective means to offer immediate support to the species as a whole.

**future challenges**

Funding and volunteer help continue to be the main challenges to continuing our work with fawns. Deer are one of the highest stress species we treat, and while fawns start out small, they quickly grow into the largest of our patients. Space in a peaceful environment is the gift that the Johnsons can give.

As in the treatment of many other diseases, human and animal alike, there is no silver bullet. With continued research, we can provide a multi-faceted program of medical, nutritional, physical and social care for native deer, while working to improve environmental conditions that will support wild populations of many species.
Spectacular photographs! Our eighth annual Living with Wildlife Photo Contest was open to entries from throughout the state of California, and more than 200 entries in this year’s contest provided special glimpses of the wide diversity of wildlife in California, and the stunning natural spaces they call home.

We extend special thanks to our hard-working professional photographer judges Frankie Frost, Marin Independent Journal; Tim Porter, Marin Magazine; and to WildCare’s Director of Wildlife Solutions, Kelle Kacmarcik, for contributing their time and expertise. The photographs judged to be the top five in each category are listed and shown in the gallery at right, and at wildcarebayarea.org/photocontest.

Best In Show:
Raccoon Swimming
Marianne Hale

California Wild Animals (other) in Their Natural Settings:
Two Juvenile Raccoons
Marianne Hale

California Wild Birds in Their Natural Settings:
American Kestrel
Carlos Porrata

Living with Wildlife:
Bobcat and Bike
James Polack

General Nature:
Fall on the Merced River
Laura Milholland

See larger versions at wildcarebayarea.org/photocontest

Plan now to enter WildCare’s 2015 competition!
Likewise, veterinarians are not permitted to hold wildlife for more than 48 hours – to stabilize an animal before transfer to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility, like WildCare. Wildlife rehabilitation centers provide the specialized nursing care, diets and caging that calls upon the natural history of the many different species that veterinarians don’t normally encounter. These regulations and care specialties create an optimum path to recovery and release for the more than 200 different species of wild animals that come to WildCare.

**northern raccoon #1389**

While trying to cross Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Greenbrae, this young raccoon was hit by a car and left trapped on the median. A caring motorist had seen the accident, and stopped to prevent her from getting hit again. The Marin Humane Society arrived to safely capture and transport her to WildCare. Here we discovered a serious leg fracture that would require immediate orthopedic surgery.

**dr. james farese**

Dr. James Farese learned about WildCare when his daughter attended a summer camp here, and we were thrilled when he agreed to perform emergency surgery on this little animal on the Labor Day weekend.

Our staff Registered Veterinary Technician Nat Smith prepared the raccoon for surgery, performed anaesthesia, and monitored the patient during the three-hour procedure.

Dr. Farese made an incision and reseated the bone. He then placed a surgical plate over the fracture site and used six stainless steel screws to secure it. The doctor sutured the layers of tissue, and used surgical glue to close the skin. The plate will stay in for the rest of the raccoon’s life.

The total cost for this raccoon’s surgery would have been around $2,000. We are so grateful to Dr. Farese for taking time on his holiday weekend to operate on this patient. We also thank Dr. Chris Rodi of Pet Emergency and Specialty Center of Marin, and the East San Rafael Vet Clinic for donating materials and supplies.

Wild animals in general, and raccoons especially, heal quickly. A domestic dog would have been put on limited activity for weeks, but this raccoon was using her leg the next morning. She remained on cage rest long enough to medicate her for pain and to limit the risk of her redamaging the leg, then moved to a larger enclosure in the companionship of other raccoons. She was released with her foraging group in early November.

**Northern Raccoon #1389 required orthopedic surgery after being hit by a car. The operation was generously donated by Dr. James Farese. Visit wildcarebayarea.org/updates to see a video of her moving around in our outdoor enclosure. Photos by Alison Hermance and Kate Lynch**
we looked for ways to raise money, Mohave’s “Guardian Angel” Terri Tienken immediately came to his rescue. (Read about her on page 22.)

dr. guzman

Dr. Guzman, the initial veterinarian to evaluate Mohave at Davis, told us that if the stones were too big or unwieldy, he would have to cut the plastron. If so, the recovery could take up to a year, but the less invasive prefemoral procedure would only require several months to heal. Thankfully, the veterinarians were able to remove the stones without cutting his shell.

He stayed in Davis for several days after surgery, and then went with staff RVT Nat Smith for post-surgical foster care. Recovery took several months, and Mohave needed a specialized feeding tube, since reptiles are often not interested in eating for a period of time after surgery.

Over the next month, tubed feeding was gradually decreased, and he began to enjoy his favorite foods – dandelion flowers – again.

The feeding tube was removed on November 1. He continues to be monitored by the medical staff, and is expected to make a full recovery.

dr. rebecca duerr

Dr. Becky Duerr is the staff veterinarian at International Bird Rescue and WildCare’s volunteer avian orthopedic surgeon. With the assistance of WildCare staff RVT Nat Smith, Dr. Duerr surgically pinned the ends of the femur into the appropriate position.

Two weeks later, she removed the pins, and two weeks later, the bird was flying, perching and walking normally in an outdoor aviary. We released her in San Francisco on September 20.

desert tortoise ambassador Mohave

Our Desert Tortoise Mohave is over 55 years old. In a routine exam in 2011, radiographs displayed two bladder stones. Dr. Debra Scheenstra, our consulting veterinarian, altered his diet, and monitored his behavior and the growth of the stones.

By 2013 the stones had grown larger, and needed to be removed. Traditional surgery required the partial removal of a portion of his lower shell (the plastron) to access the organs. However, advances in reptile medicine have developed a surgical technique requiring only a small incision between his back leg and the bridge of his shell (the prefemoral area).

Doctors at UC Davis could perform this new technique, but the cost of $3,000 was prohibitive. When we looked for ways to raise money, Mohave’s “Guardian Angel” Terri Tienken immediately came to his rescue. (Read about her on page 22.)
HELP WILDLIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

MAKE A GIFT BY MAIL OR ONLINE
Directly support our wildlife hospital, advocacy and education programs by mailing the included remit, or donate online at wildcarebayarea.org/donate.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
Be a hero for wildlife and sign up for monthly giving today at wildcarebayare.org/monthly

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Call (877) 999-8322 to donate your vehicle to WildCare.

GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK
Call (415) 453-1000 x13 to learn how to donate securities to WildCare.

For more ways to make a difference, go to wildcarebayarea.org/donatenow
We continued the course of treatment that Gold Country Wildlife Rescue had begun, with antibiotics and a daily eye flushing. We removed fox tails from deep within the conjunctiva, medicated his eyes, and treated him with pain medications.

After he became more stable, we performed a closer examination, which revealed that his left eye was missing. However, even with one good clear eye, the otter displayed behaviors that led us to believe he was blind in that one as well. We continued to treat him as if for head trauma and eye infection. Because he was so bright, active and aggressive, we did not want to anaesthetize him for radiographs, but when it became clear that his vision problems were not clearing up we decided to go ahead.

The films revealed more than 20 birdshot pellets in his head alone. We concluded that the eye injuries were due to the pellets and that he was, in fact, permanently blind. A life in captivity for a once-wild, now blind animal would not be humane, and sadly we euthanized him on September 3.

Western Gull (#1432) had fallen into a restaurant grease barrel in downtown San Rafael, was picked up by MHS Officer Stapp, and brought to WildCare on September 2.

The bird was so covered in oil he couldn’t stand, and could hardly lift his head. He was initially bathed by medical staff, but his stress level was so high that we stopped the cleaning process to let him rest.

Because an oiled bird cannot regulate his body temperature, he had to be kept warm. He was put in a cage with a heating pad and lamp, given food and water and allowed to rest.

The next morning he was stable enough to transfer to IBR for washing in their oil spill facility. WildCare is hoping to build such accommodations in our new facility, so that we can properly wash oiled wildlife without the stress of transferring the patient.
Amy Shipley and Bob Lundstrom have one thing in common besides being WildCare volunteers: they’re tenacious. In addition to their regular volunteer shifts and busy schedules, Amy and Bob have each donated 200 hours of their time in the last two years to update essential WildCare manuals.

As a Clinic Supervisor, Bob had the first-hand experience necessary to modernize the Hospital Procedures Manual, while Amy drew on her seven years at WildCare to standardize the Clinic Menu Book. WildCare would like to recognize Amy and Bob for their hard work with a big “Thank you!” The newly improved handbooks will be well-used by WildCare’s 350-plus volunteers and staff in their continued efforts to rehabilitate wildlife.

Amy and Bob’s tenacity translates into other parts of their lives, too.

Outside of WildCare, Amy teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) at a university in San Francisco, and expends her boundless energy on a surplus of activities. Biking, hiking and running keep her further connected to the outdoors.

Bob is a retired Fire Marshal, a title well-earned in his career of Fire Prevention, Arson Investigation and Public Education. He enjoys his home in secluded Inverness, pleased to host whatever wildlife passes through.

**Aleutian Disease in Skunks**

Dr. Federico Giannitti has submitted his manuscript entitled *Aleutian Disease: an emerging disease in free-ranging Striped Skunks (Mephitis mephitis) from California* for publication in the scientific journal *Veterinary Pathology*. His research was based on laboratory work performed on skunks submitted by WildCare to the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

In part, the paper “...describes the epidemiological and pathological findings in seven cases of Aleutian Disease in free-ranging Striped Skunks from California, and the diagnostic investigations conducted to confirm the diagnoses. All seven cases showed clinical disease, and were found in a 46-month-period (2010-2013) within a localized geographical region of a 67.3 km radius in Northern California.

“The tight temporal and geographic clustering of a disease not previously diagnosed in free-ranging Striped Skunks in California suggests either that Aleutian Disease is an emerging disease in this species or that it has remained unreported.”

**Pelican Dreams**

In a story of friendship, survival and the spirit of flight, filmmaker Judy Irving (The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill) follows a starving juvenile California Brown Pelican from her rescue on the Golden Gate Bridge into care at WildCare. From there she explores pelicans’ nesting grounds, Pacific Coast migration and their survival challenges. Judy Irving shadowed our hospital staff, some of whom appear in the film.


**Oiled Wildlife Care Training**

On November 15, WildCare hosted an Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) Field Stabilization Level 2 training.

This course was a requirement for people who will be working at a Field Stabilization (FS) Center during oil spills. Enrollment is limited to active volunteers or staff who are associated with an OWCN member organization or an affiliated agency as WildCare is.

Participants needed to be able to restrain, perform physical examinations, gavage, give subcutaneous fluids, bandage and draw blood from seabirds. This training focused on familiarizing personnel with paperwork and organizational schemes to provide efficient and consistent stabilization care to hundreds of oiled birds.

Volunteers from WildCare, Lindsay Wildlife Hospital, Peninsula Humane Society and Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue attended.

**Nature for Kids (and Adults!)**

WildCare Family Adventures will join Marin County Parks Naturalist David Herlocker for a morning of nature exploration and education, looking for birds at the Las Gallinas Wildlife Ponds on Sunday, January 25 from 10am to noon.

The ponds are a magnet for ducks swimming in colorful breeding plumage, hawks soaring over the surrounding fields, and songbirds that flit about the bushes along the levees. Bring binoculars if you have them! WildCare Education Program Manager Marco Berger will share his expertise in both English and Spanish.

This is a fantastic place for new birders to see a variety of...
I living with wildlife

space for squirrels and owls

Public outcry and pressure encouraged the Berkeley City Council to abandon a proposed Rodent Abatement Pilot Plan to lethally control California Ground Squirrels and Botta’s Pocket Gophers at César Chávez Park. The Plan did not take into consideration current scientific understanding of California Ground Squirrel population dynamics and humane management alternatives.

nonlethal alternatives

A Community Stakeholder Group, consisting of representatives from the City of Berkeley’s Department of Public Works (DPW), Golden Gate Audubon Society, In Defense of Animals, WildCare and members of the public provided the City Council with proven alternatives to killing the rodents. Since early May, the group has shared expertise and discussed nonlethal alternatives to reducing the population of squirrels and gophers at César Chávez Park.

bring on the owls

Squirrels and gophers aren’t the only ones to benefit from this success. Western Burrowing Owls, one of the only diurnal owl species, have been designated as Endangered in Canada and Minnesota, Threatened in Mexico and Colorado, and a Species of Concern in nine states, including California. These owls are inextricably linked to the squirrels.

The owls are burrow nesters, but they can’t dig. They rely on abandoned ground squirrel and gopher tunnels to raise their young. Heavy-handed removal of the rodents would further reduce the established colony of owls at César Chávez Park. Finding a balanced approach was a better way to manage the needs of all the species involved.

feeding wildlife

The first step toward managing rodent populations in the park is to educate park visitors about the dangers of feeding wildlife. On July 1, 2014 the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously to approve a new ordinance prohibiting the feeding of wild animals on public property, adding Chapter 6.50 to the Berkeley Municipal Code.

progress

New signage has been installed at the park informing visitors about the no feeding ordinance. Brochures have been printed, and kiosks erected. Volunteer docents are there to educate people about the ordinance, about the animals themselves and the very real danger they are facing due to the

unnaturally large population created by people feeding them.

The animals’ lives depend on our compliance with the no-feeding ordinance. WildCare is pleased to have been a part of this successful resolution.

killing with kindness

People who feed wildlife may have good intentions, but might be unaware of the consequences. Here are some of the negative consequences to the animals:

- loss of foraging skills
- loss of fear of humans
- inadequate nutrition
- spread of disease
- interference with migration
- overpopulation of urban species
- creates nuisance wildlife
- can result in the animals’ death

Feeding wildlife may make people feel good, but there are some negatives for people here as well:

- habituated animals may become aggressive toward people or pets
- feeding may be illegal and result in a fine
WildCare Legacy Gifts

You’d like to help build the long-term financial strength of WildCare, but feel you cannot make a significant gift today?

Your solution may be a charitable bequest.

A bequest is a gift from your estate - a transfer of cash, securities, real estate or other assets made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest by including WildCare in your will or trust by leaving a portion of your estate, or by designating WildCare as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

The benefits of making a charitable bequest include:

- Controlling where to ultimately direct your hard earned dollars and assets
- Receiving an estate tax charitable deduction
- Lessening the burden of taxes on your family
- Leaving a lasting legacy of your love for wildlife

Including WildCare in your will or trust memorializes your lifelong commitment to wildlife and nature education for years to come.

It’s easy to support WildCare tomorrow by making a bequest commitment today. Please contact Jan Armstrong at 415-453-1000 ext. 13 for more information.
new family adventures
by Marco Berger, Education Program Manager

You may already know about the great success of WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital. You may even know that WildCare’s Education Department offers Center Tours, Nature Van Programs, Ambassador Programs, and Nature Hikes to carry on Mrs. T’s legacy, teaching communities how to Live Well with Wildlife. But you may not be aware of another little gem of a program called WildCare Family Adventures (WFA).

Thanks to a grant from the Marin Community Foundation, this program’s objective is to get families out to Marin’s beautiful parks and open spaces, especially those families who may not have regular access to nature. Transportation is provided from the Canal area of San Rafael, and naturalists leading the hikes deliver interpretation in English and Spanish.

new faces and friends

We have spotted Ospreys, River Otters, Wild Turkeys, Black-tailed Jackrabbits, Brush Rabbits, Black-tailed Deer, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Red-shouldered Hawks, Gopher Snakes, Western Skinks, Fence and Alligator Lizards, and the controversial Barred Owl.

As an added benefit, participants not only see the wonders of nature firsthand, they also get a chance to meet new people too! In April of 2014, WildCare Family Adventures, in collaboration with the Point Reyes Birding Festival, visited the Bahia Drive end of Rush Creek in Novato. We had expert birder Melissa Witte identifying bird songs and flying patterns, much to everyone’s delight.

environmental awareness

WildCare naturalists lead fun family outings that deepen our commitment to caring for our planet. We have partnered with Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, Marin County Parks and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

In September WFA joined the National Park Service for the California Coastal Cleanup. Families from diverse Marin County neighborhoods met at Muir Beach, and together we filled buckets and bags of trash that could have been harmful to wildlife.

After the morning clean-up, we took a well-deserved lunch break at the beach, where the children could play and run around. We ended the day with a short hike that meandered across the hillside, and found some horses munching on hay. A highlight of the day was to watch five-year-old Lily Rose walking with her arm around her brand new friend, six-year-old Omar.

To find out more about WildCare’s Nature Programs, including Family Adventures, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/FamilyAdventures
WildCare strongly encourages carpooling. To join us, and to reserve space in the shuttle from the Canal, contact Marco Berger at 415-453-1000, ext. 17 or email him at marco@wildcarebayarea.org.

WildCare’s Family Adventures encourage a love for nature, increase stewardship for our planet and build community.

Right, a dad with one son on his shoulders and another by his side, attempt to identify the kind of bird we had just discovered.

Below, a Family Adventures group joined the National Park Service for California Coastal Cleanup.
wildcare environmental award salutes the redford center

On November 12, WildCare presented the 2014 WildCare Environmental Award (WEA) to the Redford Center and its Chairman, James “Jamie” Redford.

Founded in 2005 by Robert Redford and his son James, the Redford Center exists as a way for the family to consistently and thoughtfully work to help solve some of the most critical issues of our time. They get involved where there’s a pressing need for awareness and hope, and where public engagement and good timing can make all the difference.

capital campaign
Prior to the award presentation, WildCare’s Board President and Capital Campaign Chair Susanne Lyons formally announced the beginning of the public phase for the capital campaign and saluted all of the donors that have contributed a total of more than $2.5 million during the quiet phase of the campaign.

surprises
Karen Wilson introduced the Redford Center with a compilation video of some of its films, then surprised Jamie by reading a note of congratulations to him from 2013 WEA honoree Dr. Jane Goodall.

The letter from Dr. Goodall was the second surprise Jamie received that evening; the first was the performance by the band This Old Earthquake from Bolinas during the sponsor reception. The band is a favorite of Jamie’s and has worked on projects with the Redford Center.

highlighting positive change
After accepting the award, Jamie told the audience that the Redford Center makes films in order to celebrate the potential we all have to solve a range of environmental and social issues. He understands that issues such as climate change can seem daunting and overwhelming, and too often we are left feeling helpless and hopeless in the face of them. By focusing on what we can do, the Redford Center’s films and campaigns inspire action.

Jamie also discussed his recent visit to WildCare, and commended the staff and volunteers on their passion and commitment to wildlife and nature education. Jamie explained that he has a special concern for the health and conservation of habitats that sustain humans and wildlife, and he shared stories about the changes he witnessed at his family’s home in Utah. As a child, wildlife was scarce, but when his kids were growing up, wildlife had returned to the area in significant numbers. On the drive to their home this fall, he and his wife Kyle encountered a majestic herd of elk.

Jamie concluded his remarks with a rousing pitch for support of WildCare’s new facility (he still cannot believe the work that takes place in the small hospital on Albert Park Lane!) and that was the perfect set-up for Susanne to return to the stage for the Fund-A-Need!

fund a need
The goal for Fund-A-Need was $25,000 for WildCare’s nature education programs, and the final total committed was nearly $40,000, and it was all raised in under five minutes! During the Fund-A-Need, Susanne donned her Terwilliger Nature Guide Vest and shared stories of her experiences taking schoolchildren on nature hikes at China Camp. The Fund-A-Need was bolstered by special challenge grants made prior to the event by the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation and the Wells Fargo Foundation.
WildCare gratefully acknowledges these sponsors who helped to make our 2014 WildCare Environmental Award a resounding success.

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Supporting Sponsors
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Susanne & Jeff Lyons

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Alexandra Morehouse & Zach McReynolds
Karen Wilson & Todd Tash

Board member Julie Allecta is impressed by the new site plans for the future facility that were unveiled at the event.

Ed Rossi of Marin Subaru (second left) is joined by WildCare’s Executive Director Karen Wilson (second right) and board members Susanne Lyons, Kate VanGytenbeek, Julie Allecta, Aaron Canale and Steve Kimball.

The Redford Center’s guests for the event included Mindy Marin, Executive Director Jill Tidman, Jamie Redford, Kyle Redford, Rachel Minard and Douglas Philips.

Representatives from one of the event’s Supporting Sponsors Union Bank: Monica Brazil, Yusuf Hansia, Elaine Cramer, Herman Badgett, and Lia Economopoulos.

Representatives from one of the event’s Supporting Sponsors PG&E: Jimi Harris, Jason Butler, Laura Butler, Linda Cheng (also a WildCare board member), Tracy Manheim and Bill Manheim.

Representatives from one of the event’s Supporting Sponsors, PG&E: Jimi Harris, Jason Butler, Laura Butler, Linda Cheng (also a WildCare board member), Tracy Manheim and Bill Manheim.

Jamie Redford addressing the audience after he accepted the award.

WildCare's guests for the event included Mindy Marin, Executive Director Jill Tidman, Jamie Redford, Kyle Redford, Rachel Minard and Douglas Philips.

Jamie Redford with Maureen Groper (Bronze sponsor) and Camilla Smith.

Susan Beech, Bill Beech, Susan Rusche (Silver sponsor and WildCare board member) and Kiki Pescatello.

Kate VanGytenbeek, Karen Wilson and Susanne Lyons presenting the award to Jamie Redford.

They came from Canada, Australia, Ukraine, and all over the United States – more than 3,500 hand-knitted, crocheted or crafted bird nests from nearly 400 caring knitters. Already so generous with their time and skill, many of these crafters also sent monetary donations to help support our work. We are honored by, and grateful for, their thoughtful support.

These beautiful nests supplied WildCare’s hospital, as well as more than a dozen other songbird rehabilitation organizations throughout the United States. Many of the bird rehabilitators with whom we shared nests are individuals who work out of their homes. These people simply don’t have the resources to publicize their needs. They were very grateful for the nests and, thanks to our wonderful knitters, we were thrilled to be able to share them.

why knitted nests?

Orphaned baby birds need to be kept as warm as their parents would have kept them with down feathers. Textile nests provide them with warmth and cushioning while they’re cared for in WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital. Textile nests are perfect.

Trained volunteers work in shifts to feed the baby birds throughout the summer daylight hours, frequently replacing soiled nests with clean ones. Our volunteers loved the variety of colors, sizes and fibers of the hundreds of nests from which they could choose.

why knitted nests? (continued)

Now the orphaned baby songbirds that needed the warmth and comfort of a knitted or crafted nest have grown up to be healthy fledglings, and have returned to the wild to establish their own territories, or to begin their fall migrations.

The nest project was covered by NBC Nightly News, the San Francisco Chronicle, Huffington Post, KPIX Channel 5 News, KTVU Channel 2 News, the Marin Independent Journal, and dozens of other television stations, independent blogs and websites, helping to educate people about WildCare’s mission.

To learn more about our Baby Bird Nest Project, and find out how you can help, visit www.babybirdnest.org

who’s making nests

Kristen McDonnell (below), from Studio Knit in San Francisco, made several nests for us, and she also created a step-by-step video on how to knit baby bird nests!

Kristen explained; “I could put my YouTube channel Studio Knit to great use by spreading WildCare’s mission while helping beginning knitters understand the patterns.”

Dinka Velcich (below, center) is a knitting star! Dinka moved to Marin County from Cres, an island in the Adriatic Sea. Now nearing her 90th birthday, Mrs. Velcich has so far knitted 46 nests by simply studying the pictures in the Marin Independent Journal article that a friend gave her.

The McCoyer family (top right) from Washington D.C. is a whole family in on the knit-one, pearl-two rhythm. Sarah-Lydia’s baby bird nests were her very first knitting project.

Residents of the Star Community Home of San Francisco (below), some with no previous crafting experience, were given materials and lessons in how to make nests and pouches. They contributed eight pouches to WildCare, and knitting is now one of their regular program choices.
who's using nests

Sparrows, finches, titmice, bushtits, pigeons, jays, robins, flycatchers, starlings, towhees and phoebes all appreciated the warmth and comfort of hand-knitted nests in 2014.

Pictured at left are just a few of the nearly 400 people who contributed time, services, money and nests to help thousands of orphaned birds grow up healthy, and return to the wild lives interrupted when they were orphaned. WildCare extends our deepest gratitude on behalf of the many birds who benefitted. Learn more about the Nest Project at www.babybirdnest.org
Mohave, our 60-plus year old Wildlife Ambassador Desert Tortoise, has an angel, and her name is Terri Tienken!

When we learned that Mohave needed surgery to remove a large gall stone, we called on our cadre of wonderful veterinarians. After many exams and much discussion, it was determined that only UC Davis could perform the delicate surgery without cutting through Mohave’s beautiful shell; the cost would be $1,600, and could go to $3,000.

Without the funds budgeted for this unexpected surgery, our plan was to reach out to donors until we met the $1,600 mark. Within minutes of our first request, Terri Tienken vehemently replied “Schedule Mohave’s surgery, I’m putting $3,000 in the mail today!”

Terri’s passionate response touched our staff and volunteers to the point of tears!

Becoming Mohave’s angel was not the first time Terri has shown her love for WildCare. After her first tour, she pledged a generous amount toward our Capital Campaign for our new facility, and when Volunteer Appreciation Day came around, she donated $500 toward the festivities!

Terri claims that if she lived closer, she’d be at WildCare every day, she so appreciates the work we do. She is our esteemed “honorary volunteer!”

Mohave is comfortably recuperating at WildCare.

THANK YOU TERRI!!
Who am I?

Write the name of the animal below its picture. Then match it in Spanish!

Find the answers on page 22.

____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________

English:
Northern Raccoon
Pallid Bat
Barn Owl
Western Rattle-snap

Brown Pelican
Turkey Vulture
Anna's Humming-bird
Desert Tortoise
Coyote

Red-tailed Hawk
Bobcat
Alligator Lizard

Spanish:
Mapache
Coyote
Colibrí coronirojo
Lagartija lagarto
Lince rojo
Pelícano café

Lechuza de campanario
Zopilote
Vibora de cascabe
Aguililla parda
Murciélago pálido
museum and courtyard programs

Wildlife Ambassadors FREE
Ambassadors in WildCare’s Courtyard
- Pool bird feeding
daily at 12:30 & 4:30pm
- Meet the Ambassador
daily schedule at wildcarebayarea.org/daily
- Ambassador Enrichment
daily schedule at wildcarebayarea.org/daily

wildlife conferences

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium 2015
Mercer County Wildlife Center,
Princeton, NJ
March 10-14, 2015
320-230-9920 www.nwrawildlife.org

nature education programs
Call 415-453-1000 ext.12 to register.

Winter/Spring Nature Camps*
Dec 22-24, 2014, 9am-3pm
  Winter Wonderland, grades 2-3
Dec 29-31, 2014, 9am-3pm
  Winter Wonderland, grades K-1
April 13-17, 2015, 9am-3pm
  Kids Helping Wildlife, grades 2-3

Family Adventures
Saturday mornings, 10am-noon, FREE
December 13
  Bay Model, Sausalito
January 10, 8:30 am
  Youth Winter Bird Count, Pickleweed Park, San Rafael
January 25
  Las Gallinas Wildlife Ponds

wildlife rehabilitation programs

New Volunteer Orientations*
FREE Orientation for adult volunteers and students ages 15 and up to be held on February 7 and 8, 2015.
Visit our website for more information and to register, or call 415-453-1000 ext. 21.

Training Classes for Volunteers*
Series of four classes $40 to be scheduled in February - April, 2015
Class fee includes one-year WildCare membership

*Pre-registration is required; call 415-453-1000.