

WELCOME 2016....

By Michelle Yesney, CEO



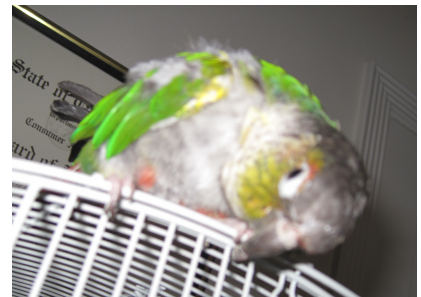
Happy New Year! This is a time for renewal, when we traditionally think of this fresh start as a beginning, with new opportunities. For the 435 birds currently in our care, we hope it will be the year they find a forever home. To make that happen I would ask all of you to think about what you personally can do to help us be more aggressive this year in finding permanent homes for our birds.

As you all know already, Mickaboo **IS** you, all of you. While we meet the state's requirements for a nonprofit in that we have a board of directors, and we depend heavily on a bunch of **very** hardworking people with titles (such as Species Coordinator and CFO), ultimately what makes it possible for us to rescue birds is the day-to-day activities of ALL of our unpaid, hard-working, dedicated volunteers. In other words, YOU.

This last year has seen some strange variations in the pattern of our efforts to find foster homes for birds in urgent need of rescue, and ultimately to find them permanent safe, healthy homes. I don't know why, but the numbers of incoming birds for this past year have been lower than they have been since before the recession, and that is a very good thing (as it happens)! *We still have 350 birds in our care who came in before 2015, and 40 birds were returned to us this year.* As you recall, Mickaboo commits to our birds for all of their lives - so we know that some will return. But for reasons that are not clear, we had a substantial reduction in the number of birds that were adopted into permanent homes. We had only approximately 130 adoptions in 2015, despite having 435 birds in our care. (All of these numbers are approximate because they were compiled before the end of the year.)

We cannot continue much farther down this road of housing so very many birds long term in our foster homes. We are a rescue, not a sanctuary. So I am inviting all of you to consider what you can do to help find homes for Mickaboo's wonderful birds. Some suggestions:

- Recruit your friends and relatives - Do you know people who don't have birds, but used to? Do you know people who have never lived with a bird? Talk to them about considering avian companionship. Reach out to members of organizations in which you are involved and let them know about the joys of rescuing a companion bird.
- HELP OUR SPECIES COORDINATOR TEAMS. Please please please help us speed up the adoption process. Offer to do phone screens the first time a coordinator asks (instead of waiting for the third or fourth time). Offer to "shadow" a home visitor, so you can learn how to do home visits - then volunteer as soon as a coordinator asks for somebody to do a home visit in your city or neighborhood.
- Volunteer to be Species Coordinators (or assistant species coordinators - these are teams, after all). This can mean doing data entry, answering phone calls, picking up or delivering birds. We need help to make the adoption process as smooth, as quick, and as effective as possible. We don't want to send our birds to unsuitable homes - but we do want them to move into good homes as soon as possible.



I am grateful every day to be part of an organization of people who do the amazing work that is Mickaboo. I am inviting all of you that haven't already done so, to reach out a hand to help us continue this work.

Season's Greetings

Like many, maybe most of you, I share my home with birds that came to me through Mickaboo. Like most of you, I cannot imagine a world in which many of these birds would have been euthanized, would have died from malnutrition or disease, or been left to suffer from neglect or indifference. I am thankful to have them here and I am proud to be part of such an incredible group of human beings.

Wishing all of you and your flock (feathered, furry, scaled and human), a very wonderful Happy New Year.