

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"  
Published April, 2018

## Featured Volunteer: Renee Lierly By Shauna Hill



In this newsletter I want to introduce one of our newer species coordinators – Renee Lierly is our new Caique coordinator. She has been huge help and jumped right in to help out when there was a need. In her comments below, she gives us good reminders about how we can include our feathered family members in our daily routine and adventures safely with the use of flight suits, harnesses, and travel backpacks/cages. [NOTE: In the picture of Renee and Angel at left, at NO point was the contents of the glass ever offered to Angel. It is never appropriate to offer alcohol to birds.]

SH: Tell us about yourself, Renee.

RL: I'm from Little Rock, Arkansas. I made my way to San Francisco as a traveling nurse and fell in love with the Bay Area. This is where

my journey of love started with birds and where I first learned about Mickaboo.

My bird family consisted of 3 cockatiels: Sweetness, Baby and Angel. We had many adventures together but our family was not complete until we met Maryam, the love of our life. Maryam is my partner and the best bird mom ever.



Baby



Angel



Sweetness with Maryam

It's been almost a year since our little Sweetness passed away from egg binding. We thought the best way to honor her gentle and kind presence was to adopt a bird from Mickaboo.

We chose Rhona, a lutino cockatiel. In the beginning, she was very challenging and terrified of us. She has been with us for seven months and has learned to trust us enough that she puts her head down and allows us to kiss her on the head. We have learned that consistent love, patience and interaction with Rhona has helped her feel safe and secure with us and her new birdy family.



Rhona and Baby

SH: What would you say to those who read our newsletter about volunteering?

RL: Birds are complex, intelligent and intuitive creatures that can bring years of love and happiness to your life. I volunteer for Mickaboo because I can help find loving homes for these beautiful creatures. Birds understand when you help them. Falling in love with birds has been an unexpected and very sweet experience. If you have ever fallen in love with a bird or you are just “bird curious”, become a Mickaboo volunteer. There are so many birds that need our love and support.

Our cockatiels are members of our family and we include them into our daily activities. Baby loves to go to the Farmer's Market. Rhona loves to shower with us. Angel insists that we sit down to dinner with her every evening. We have a family vacation planned for Mendocino over the Easter weekend. This will be Rhona's first overnight vacation and we are so happy to have her in our family. Birds love to have fun too!!



Angel checking out the bounty after a trip to the Farmer's Market



The birds with Renee in wine country



Baby in her harness, enjoying the sunshine at the lake

SH: Thank you, Renee, for all you do for the birds and Mickaboo! It sure looks like you have some awesome adventures with the whole family.