

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"  
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## Featured Volunteer: Pamela Lee By Shauna Hill



In this newsletter we are featuring one of our volunteers who does a huge amount of work to keep our organization financially fit - our CFO, Pamela Lee. Being a nonprofit organization means we rely on donations to help us keep doing what we do...helping birds in need. It's a challenge when donations are low and requires creative fundraising and sharing about our organization as widely as possible. Please take a few moments to hear more about this and get to know Pam a little better.

SH: Tell us about yourself, Pam.

PL: I arguably have three occupations at present: as a business intelligence analyst at Bank of the West, as the owner of my own accounting firm, and as a personal technology consultant.

SH: How did you get involved with Mickaboo and what volunteer opportunities have you had in the organization?

PL: I was introduced to Mickaboo by Bay Area Bird Hospital ("BABH") when I was birdsitting my manager's manager's flock of two cockatiels and three budgies during a summer. The female tiel was acting abnormally - it turned out she had mites – and since all of the birds were in the same cage, they all had to be given oral medications for ten days. My owner did not want to pay for the treatment, and I did not know how to give oral meds at the time. The resulting set of conversations with BABH led to Mickaboo's offering to medicate the birds if I paid for the medicine.

I have been (and still am) a foster parent, Mickaboo's finance department, and Mickaboo's development department. I am also on the Board of Directors.

SH: As our CFO, what are our organization's biggest expenses and what challenges does Mickaboo face in dealing with those expenses?

PL: Veterinary expenses comprise our largest category of costs - 99% of our operating expenses, per our last IRS filing. Our cost for everything else is low because we house our foster birds in volunteers' homes, and we are an all-volunteer organization.

The medical expenses are spent to heal the birds in our care and keep them well enough to be adopted out. These costs have grown dramatically over the years, as the level of avian medical technology has grown and as our rescue flock has grown (more birds in our custody means more of them may need care at any time). The vets we generally use give us generous discounts; in spite of that, our 2017 vet expenses will likely be around \$450,000. The growth in our expenses has strained our ability to fundraise – and that is why we have a partial moratorium in place and a renewed emphasis on adoptions.



Pam sharing good news on our fundraising goal at the 2016 Mickaboo Holiday Party.

SH: What are some of the steps taken to try to meet those challenges?

PL: Grants for animal welfare organizations catering to birds, without a brick-and-mortar shelter, are almost non-existent. Accordingly, we are very dependent on the generosity of the many individuals who support us. We are also grateful for those organizations (like GlobalGiving) and individuals who create matching gift opportunities to help make the funds we do raise go further.

SH: What are ways our supporters can help out?

PL: There are two ways they can help: adopt our birds (or help a friend adopt!) and, if they are financially able, consider donating monthly. Dependable recurring donations form the bedrock of our finances, allowing us to better manage our limited funds.



At Sunday Streets event in San Francisco's Mission District

SH: Ah, yes, very true. For those who have not had a chance to look on our website there are many ways to help financially! [This link](#) will take you to the "How to Donate" section of Mickaboo's website. Final thoughts on our financial status as we near the end of 2017?



2017 Adoption Fair at For Other Living Things, Sunnyvale

PL: I would like to express my gratitude again to all of those whose financial support allows Mickaboo's volunteers to care for the beautiful, intelligent, feathered beings in our custody.

SH: Well said Pam, we all echo those thoughts as we reflect on another year coming to an end. We certainly could not do it without our supporters! Thank you, Pam, for all your hard work and tireless efforts to coordinate all the fundraising efforts and events that go on throughout the year! It's important to share the financial side to the organization because it does take a lot to run a rescue and the need for financial support is always present.