

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"
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Featured Volunteer – Joan Zweben By Shauna Hill



The volunteer we are featuring this time is Joan Zweben, on our Home Visit Team. As mentioned in the previous article, we are highlighting the awesome team that manages our home visits. Home visits are a critical part of the approval process for potential adopters and foster parents. Let's get to know Joan a little better.

SH: Tell us a little about yourself.

JZ: I grew up in Washington D.C. and went to school outside Boston and in Michigan. I moved to California in 1970 and worked in mental health and substance abuse treatment until I mostly retired in 2018. I teach one day a week in San Francisco and keep up with my other activities the rest of the time. I have had birds almost my entire life and found Mickaboo when my beloved cockatoo Pearl died unexpectedly. I now have three parrots adopted from Mickaboo: Lila (Amazon), Charisma (Cockatoo), and Bijou (African Grey). I also have budgies in an outdoor aviary.

SH: What happens after the Mickaboo home visit has been completed?

JZ: The home visit report is sent to the species coordinator(s). After the species coordinator has the potential adopter's application, phone screen and home visit reports, and if those reports indicate the potential adopter would make a good bird caregiver, they submit the information to the adoption approvals board.

SH: We all appreciate the hard work you and the Home Visit Team do to keep those home visits moving! Have you had other areas you have volunteered with for Mickaboo or experiences that you want to share?

JZ: I have done phone screens for some time with Mickaboo, and occasional home visits if they are nearby. I have a strong interest in health care policy, and am on the steering committee for veteranspolicy.org, a group fighting an uphill battle to preserve comprehensive, high quality, integrated care for veterans.

SH: We can only continue to keep Mickaboo functioning to help the birds that need us through our awesome volunteers. What would you like to say to those who might be contemplating volunteering with Mickaboo?

JZ: Volunteering with Mickaboo is rewarding because you can make an important difference in the life of a bird or birds and bring joy and new experiences to individuals and families. The Mickaboo community is very diverse and you can get to know people outside your usual orbit.

[Editor's note: Express your interest in volunteering by emailing volunteer@mickaboo.org.]



Lila, Charisma, Bijou