

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"
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Mickaboo Featured Volunteers: Darlene & Bobby Tracy
By Shauna Hill



When people first start adopting/fostering/volunteering with Mickaboo, we always hope the other household members support the decision. This newsletter features a mother-and-son dynamic duo that have taken that a step further and have been working side by side to support Mickaboo. They are Darlene and Bobby Tracy of Brentwood. This mother/son duo joined Mickaboo by submitting their volunteer application at the Walnut Creek Basic Bird Class in August 2012.

Bobby is a full-time student studying computer science. His hobbies include fishing (catch and release), computer games, tending to his two box gardens where fresh veggies are grown for their flock, training birds, making bird play stands and toys.

Darlene is a retired computer technician whose hobbies encompass jewelry making, crocheting, genealogy, bird toy making and bird training using Barbara Heidenreich's techniques.

Darlene grew up in a home where animals stayed outside. That all changed when she married her husband, Tom, who had grown up having pets that lived inside the house. Their children grew up with dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, and guinea pigs as pets until the first feathered companion entered the scene, a Patagonian Conure named Sundance. Other birds of varying species soon followed.

The Tracys have two indoor aviaries that the birds time-share, providing exercise and out time, and play stands in the family areas. The aviaries were built when Darlene worked from home and was called out of the room she shared with the birds often. Birds, like children, when left on their own can decide to misbehave while "Mom's busy" ...so it was felt it was safer for the birds to create their own space.

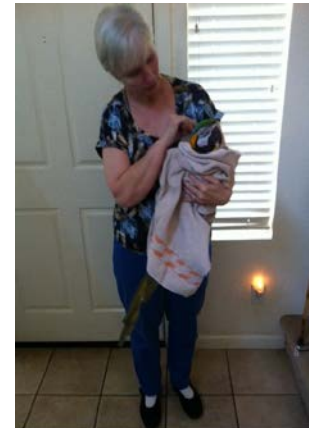
How did the Tracys find Mickaboo? Not surprisingly, the Tracys were looking for bird care education to ensure they were caring for their birds properly. They won a Mickaboo bird care DVD at one of the Contra Costa Avian Society's raffles and as they watched the DVD and viewed our website, they were impressed enough to contact Mickaboo to learn more. As the saying goes, the rest is history and this duo has been doing some wonderful work for the organization. Just take a look!

Darlene & Bobby jointly:

- Phone screens and home visits to help qualify potential adoptors
- Outreach events from San Jose to Sacramento,
- Instructing Basic Bird Care Classes,
- Transporting birds/cages/food donations,
- Fostering

Darlene also:

- Takes incoming Mickaboo voicemail messages once a week and
- Assists the Volunteer Coordinator with email/voicemail messages.



Darlene working on towel training with Coco

Bobby additionally:

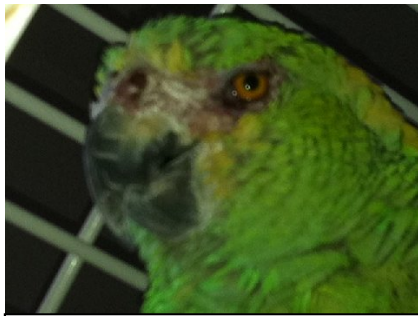
- delivers and posts signs for upcoming Basic Bird Care classes in Brentwood
- has helped search for missing birds.

As if all they do is not HUGE already, they are also introducing and promoting Mickaboo to the Brentwood area, where Mickaboo has had little exposure. This includes representing Mickaboo at H.A.L.O.'s 15th Annual Ramble at the Contra Costa Fairgrounds in Antioch.

The Tracys are also hosting a [Bird Adoption Fair](#) in Brentwood on October 6. If you are in the Brentwood area and can attend, you can meet them both and show your support for their hard work.

Bobby has become Mickaboo's unofficial mascot at events when he puts on his awesome parrot costume and greets visitors. How cool is he to do this!

When asked about their most memorable rescue, it was of the Amazon they are currently fostering, [Maggie](#). Maggie came to Mickaboo with an unknown health issue. She was puffy, had several feathers missing, and eye damage from scratching. With the medical treatment she has been receiving at Medical Center for Birds and a complete conversion from a seed diet to pellets, vegetables and fruits, you can see the improvement below. She continues to thrive under the Tracys' loving care.



Before



After

The Tracys have fostered several cockatiels; Sam, Butter and Philip have all found their forever homes...YAY! Another tiel, [Bandit](#), is still waiting for his turn. He is adorable so hopefully he will find his happy home soon.

As with previous articles the last question always asked of our Featured Volunteer is, why would you recommend volunteering with Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue? Darlene said it is rewarding just knowing that we are finding a new forever home or providing medical care for a bird in need. Bobby said that it's rewarding teaching classes and providing the education for companion birds' parronts that the Tracys were looking for when they found Mickaboo.

The Tracy family has been a great addition to the Mickaboo family.