

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"
Published July, 2017

Featured Volunteer: Nicole Powers

By Shauna Hill



Mickaboo really has some great new volunteers who are bringing their zeal and energy with them! One such volunteer is Nicole Powers. She joined our group and just hit the floor running. We are so very appreciative of the renewed enthusiasm these newbies bring. Let's take a moment to welcome Nicole and get to know her a little more.

SH: Nicole, tell us about yourself!

NP: Hi! I live in San Jose with my husband Mike, newly-adopted parakeet Bitsy, and cats Hercules and Orion. I'm a jewelry artist and have my own business [Sky Blue Designs] selling my handmade jewelry at art and wine festivals and other events.

I grew up in a suburb of Houston, TX. We had many different pets at various times growing up, including a whole flock of parakeets, two fish, a dog, a cockatiel, an iguana, a peacock, a duck, and a rat. My first parakeet at age 6 was Candy (guess what my favorite food was!). My younger sister also got one named Lupe. We quickly learned that when you put two parakeets together, you get seven more. Oops!

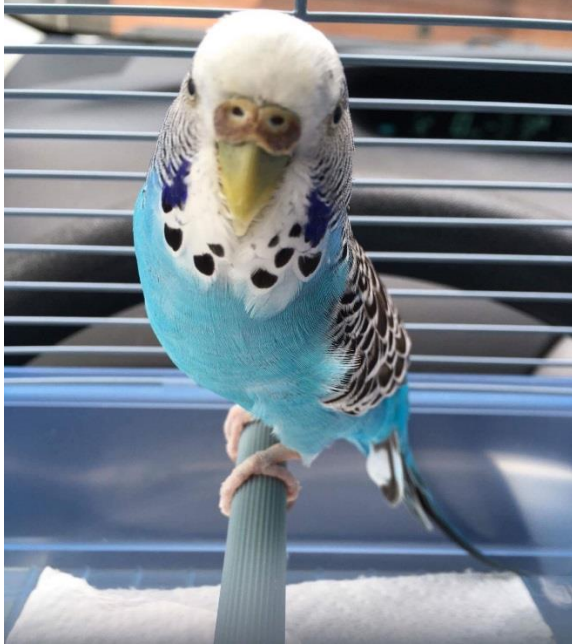
I'm definitely a parakeet person. When I got older, I got Kirby, my super parakeet. She could say 25 words and phrases and fly to my shoulder. She later went to college with me and was with me through my first job. After her, I got Frosty, who also learned a few words and went to farmer's markets with me. He was always so popular! Then I got Sgt. Pepper (the Lonely Heart) and Lucy (in the Sky with Diamonds). They were a male/female pair but never had offspring, probably because they fought constantly. After Pepper died, Lucy learned a couple words and flew to Mike's glasses.

SH: You grew up with quite a variety of animals, wow! So, how did you hear about Mickaboo?

NP: I have no idea! I've known about Mickaboo for at least ten years. When I "adopted" Pepper and Lucy from Craigslist, I refused to pay a fee for them and suggested making a donation to Mickaboo instead. Then when I took Mickaboo's bird care class, I considered volunteering at Andy's Pet Shop. But my schedule changed, and I never had time to volunteer.

SH: Are you fostering or have you adopted any Mickaboo birds?

NP: On May 24th, we adopted Bitsy from Mickaboo. Because we live in a one-bedroom condo with no quarantine area and two cats, we can have only one bird. Otherwise I'd probably foster a flock of parakeets!



Adorable Bitsy!

SH: What volunteer opportunities have you been involved in with Mickaboo?

NP: Because I'm so new, I'm still getting my feet wet. One thing I've agreed to do is create and send a commemorative adoption certificate to new parronts (we're still working out the logistics). I've also transported a deceased lovebird to a vet for necropsy, something that was incredibly sad but incredibly important. I want to take a phone screening class soon to help with that. Finally, I have Mickaboo fliers out when I do jewelry shows, and already several people have expressed an interest in adopting, volunteering, or donating.

SH: What would you say to others considering volunteering with Mickaboo?

NP: Yes, please! Join us! We can use all the volunteers we can get. When people ask about the adoption process, I tell them it takes about a month from start to finish, but it's totally worth it because Mickaboo wants to make sure their birds are well cared for. I'm amazed that an organization as large as Mickaboo works so seamlessly without any central office. Everyone communicates so well, and everyone does their best to fill needs as they arise. It's been a pleasure getting to know so many volunteers, and I hope to volunteer with them for a long time to come.

SH: Thank you Nicole. The lovebird team sure appreciated your help with transporting dear Mint (the lovebird) for necropsy. You and the other new people are a breath of fresh air; those of us who have been around awhile are happy to have you here!

[Editor's Note: Mickaboo asks that potential volunteers complete a [volunteer application](#) and attend one of our free bird care [classes](#) (to learn more about both the organization and Mickaboo's bird care philosophy).]