

Foster Parrots, Ltd. & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary



2017 Annual Report



Foster Parrots, Ltd. &
The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary
87 Woodville Alton Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

**Foster Parrots, Ltd. &
The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**

*Protecting parrots both in captivity and in the wild;
Working from the belief that parrots and all wildlife should be free*



Foster Parrots, Ltd. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and protection of unwanted and abused companion parrots and other displaced exotic animals. Working on many levels to bring critical services to birds and animals in transition, we offer life-long sanctuary care for unadoptable parrots and other exotics at our permanent care sanctuary facility, The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, and provide adoption services for well-socialized parrots who desire human companionship. Our educational initiatives seek to connect children and adults alike to animal and environmental issues, to nurture empathy, and to inspire a sense of personal responsibility and accountability toward the care of our earth and our animals. A staunch advocate for parrots as wild animals, Foster Parrots' conservation work in Central and South America keeps parrots and other animals safe in their natural habitat, and also embodies our ultimate message: ***parrots and all wildlife should be free.***

Founded in 1989 and formally incorporated in 1999, Foster Parrots, Ltd. is the largest avian rescue organization in the northeast. We are accredited by **The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries** and are a founding member of the country's leading avian advocacy and information organization, **The Avian Welfare Coalition**. One of the most widely recognized and reputable parrot rescue organizations in the country, Foster Parrots has worked collaboratively with organizations like **The Jane Goodall Institute, Born Free USA** and **The World Society for the Protection of Animals** in our quest to bring assistance to captive parrots who have long suffered the consequences of pet trade exploitation and public misinformation.

In 2007 Foster Parrots established the **New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary** on 15 acres of land in rural Hope Valley, Rhode Island. With 8 additional acres acquired in 2013, the facility now encompasses 23 acres and serves as the permanent sanctuary arm of the organization and the center for our regional humane education initiatives, student internships, and adoption program. Nearly 400 parrots, representing more than 50 different avian species, currently reside at the sanctuary.

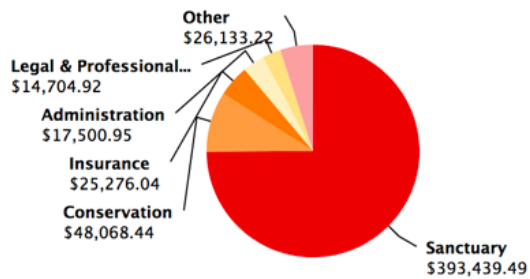
2017 Financial Disclosure

Overview of Financial Activity

Beginning Year Balance	= \$108,280
2017 Revenue	= <u>\$484,831</u>
Total	= \$593,111
Total 2017 Expenses	= \$525,123
Net Revenue	= \$67,988



Foster Parrots, Ltd.
Expenditure By Category



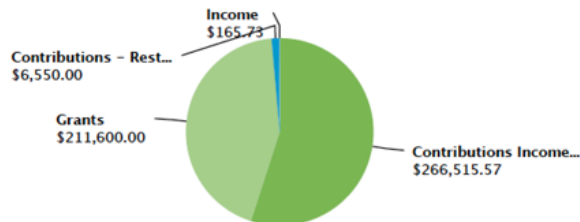
%	Category	(\$)Amount
74.92%	Sanctuary	393,439.49
9.15%	Conservation	48,068.44
4.81%	Insurance	25,276.04
3.33%	Administration	17,500.95
2.80%	Legal & Professional Services	14,704.92
4.98%	Other	26,133.22

Additional Financial Highlights

- Humane Education - \$12,456 = 2.37%
- Adoption Program - \$18,000 = 3.44%
- Fundraising - \$12,791 = 2.43%

Income spent on programs = 89.88%

Foster Parrots, Ltd.
Revenue By Category



%	Category	(\$)Amount
54.97%	Contributions Income - Unrestricted	266,515.57
43.64%	Grants	211,600.00
1.35%	Contributions - Restricted	6,550.00
0.03%	Income	165.73



Foster Parrots' Fundamental Philosophy holds the right of all wild animals to live their lives in freedom and to be recognized as sovereign and sentient individuals.

Sanctuary: \$393,439



It is estimated that over 20 million parrots live in captivity in the U.S. With life spans that can exceed 30 to 70 years and natural behaviors that frequently introduce untenable levels of stress to the home environment, the typical pet parrot is passed from home to home many times over the course of his life. Because few human guardians are equipped to meet the social, physical and psychological needs of these flighted wild animals in captivity, and because pet industry standards of care for parrots have been fashioned for the benefit of humans, not for the welfare of the birds, incidents of unintended abuse of parrots kept as pets is common.

In 2017, Foster Parrots logged 700 requests for the surrender of parrots that people were no longer willing or able to care for. Averaging 600 - 1000 requests annually for placement services, it is important to assess which birds are truly suited for life in sanctuary, which birds are facing emergency circumstances, and which birds' needs can best be served through adoption.

Sanctuary Activity 2017

- 63 - Parrots were surrendered to the NEEWS
- 75 - Parrots received adoption services
- 3 - Parrots were returned
- 15 - Parrots passed away
- 700 - Requests for relinquishment were logged



2017 Sanctuary Expense Highlights

Direct Care Employees	- \$188,037
On-Site Employee Cabins	- \$ 58,580
Produce, Nuts & Pellet Diets	- \$ 47,303
Aviary & Facility Construction	- \$ 22,884
Veterinary Expense	- \$ 10,220

The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary was established on the site of the former "Chickadee Farms", a chicken egg and meat factory farm. Once a place of unspeakable suffering, the property is now a place of peace and safety for hundreds of birds and animals.



The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary sits on 23 acres of land and our building spans an impressive 20,000 sq ft. Close to 400 parrots and other displaced exotic animals are permanent residents of the sanctuary. Here we work to assess the individual needs of every new arrival, and to integrate parrots into large aviaries with compatible mates or communities. Currently, the sanctuary offers 43 large interior aviaries, 3 open concept spaces, and 25 corresponding outdoor aviaries. In 2017 the following facility upgrades were completed:

- A dozen new windows were installed or enlarged, helping to increase light and ventilation throughout the facility.
- Two new interior aviaries were constructed.
- 1/3 of the facility floors were tiled for ease of maintenance and durability.
- Electrical upgrades were completed.
- On-site workshop was established for enrichment projects, toy making and construction projects.



Our 23 actor property is under development as a regional center for humane education and a nature retreat.



With Board Certified Avian & Exotics Specialist, Dr. Hank Wietsma, at the helm as our sanctuary vet, all NEEWS residents are guaranteed outstanding routine and emergency veterinary support. Pictured here, Dr. Wietsma examines NEEWS resident, Zilla, a green iguana.



Sanctuary residents benefit from customized diets based in fresh produce, whole, healthy human-grade nuts and nutritionally complete pellets.

2017 Sanctuary Residents

- Parrots - 389
- Tortoises - 6
- Aquatic Turtles - 12
- Iguana - 1
- Rabbits - 2
- Patagonian Mara - 1
- Hedgehog - 1
- Crows - 3
- Ducks & Geese - 3
- Chickens - 2
- Peacock - 1

Adoption Program: \$18,000

Through our adoption program we work on behalf of the birds to locate homes capable of meeting the challenge of providing high quality care for parrots. Adoption applicants are thoroughly screened and home checks are performed to ensure the safety of each prospective home environment. Guardian education brings adopters critical information about avian behavior and the issues that are likely to arise to complicate the human-avian relationship. We prioritize ample social support and limited cage time as prerequisite adoption requirements.



Grant support from **Rhode Island Foundation** and **Ahimsa Foundation** in 2017 revitalized our adoption program by enabling us to employ Rachel Defronzo as our new Adoption Coordinator.

A lifelong animal lover with a keen interest in wildlife conservation, Rachel's passion for parrots began when she was employed as a bird trainer and education coordinator at the Southwick Zoo, where she worked for two years prior to coming to Foster Parrots. As her relationships with parrots deepened, so did her awareness about captive parrot issues. She knew she needed to dedicate her life to helping birds. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in non-profit management in order to enhance her career skills, and is happy to be a part of the Foster Parrots team.

Behavior Training

Having known and worked with certified avian behaviorist, Sheila Blanchette, and her agency, Heart of Feathers Education, for many years, in 2017 Foster Parrots formalized a professional collaboration with Ms. Blanchette for behavior training services. Understanding avian behavior is critical to the success of human-avian relationships. Foster Parrots provides referrals and contact information for Sheila's services to all new adopters as well as to parrot guardians who reach out for assistance with their parrot's behavioral issues. When guardians cannot afford professional behavior training services and if birds are at risk of losing their homes, Foster Parrots may cover the expense for in-home training sessions.



The Northeast Parrot Placement Cooperative

Founded by Foster Parrots in 2013, NEPPCO is a regional network of parrot rescue organizations, humane shelters, veterinarians and bird clubs working together to expand adoption opportunities for parrots in need of services. Participation continues to increase as does solidarity within the rescue community. When organizations link arms, more animals can be helped!

In 2017

36 parrots seeking services through Foster Parrots, Ltd. found homes through the NEPPCO network

Conservation: \$48,068



Macaw Conservation Costa Rica – \$43,335

2017 was a pivotal year for our conservation partner, **Macaw Conservation Costa Rica**. Early in the year, UK Biologist, Dr. Rob James, joined the MCCR team, and Rob's extensive background in conservation together with his administrative skills added balance and momentum to the project, helping to catapult the groundwork and professional collaborations laid down by MCCR Founder, Chris Castles, over the previous years. One such collaboration has now culminated in a contractual agreement for the establishment of MCCR's first release site in the Guanacaste region of northern Costa Rica. Details for the management of this new release site and the

necessary infrastructure are now being worked out, but the partnership represents a major step forward in MCCR's goal of creating the Pacific Coast Macaw Corridor, and introduces a stream of funding for MCCR that will be instrumental in the future growth of the organization.

In November of 2017, 14 new parrots, including 3 breeding pairs of scarlet macaws, were scheduled to arrive, representing an opportunity to jumpstart MCCR's breeding program. Foster Parrots helped to raise \$17,000 toward the construction of a series of breeding and holding aviaries to accommodate the project's new residents. MCCR initiated a partnership with Dr. Otto Monge, head of the Conservation Genetics Laboratory at the University of Costa Rica, and veterinarian Dr. Ricardo Alfaro, in order to establish strategies for managing the genetic integrity and geographic distribution that distinguish Costa Rica's two scarlet macaw sub-species (*Ara macao* and *Ara cyanoptera*).

Since its inception, MCCR has played a critical role as a resource for the rescue and rehabilitation of injured, orphaned and confiscated parrots, and these birds have arrived from all parts of the country. Between 2016 and 2017, MCCR has returned dozens of birds to the wild, and some of these continue to visit the compound from time to time. A local flock of orange chinned brotogeris seems to wait and watch in anticipation for the rehabilitation and release of new flock mates. Most of the red lored Amazons rehabbed by MCCR have disappeared into the large Osa population. MCCR's first rescue of a wild scarlet macaw took place at the beginning of the year when an old girl was found emaciated, parasite-ridden and near death in a rice field by a local farmer. Her mate and offspring visited her aviary daily while she was under the care of MCCR. She was released several months later in April to her waiting family.



Return to Guyana: \$4,263



Partnering with our good friend and associate, **One Earth Conservation**, Foster Parrots returned to the South American country of Guyana in October of 2017 in order to conduct parrot population surveys, assess conservation attitudes in villages of the Rupununi, and determine the focus for continued parrot protection efforts in the country. With One Earth as the lead organization, it is the plight of the highly endangered sun parakeet (*Aratinga Solstitialis*) that has riveted our attention.

Once prolific throughout northeastern South America, sun parakeet numbers in the wild have plummeted over the last two decades and populations continue to decline due to on-going trapping activity. One of the last strongholds for wild sun parakeets can be found in the Pakaraima mountain region of Guyana and just over the border into Brazil. Here, One Earth and Foster Parrots will be working closely with the Amerindian village of Karasabai to implement a

conservation strategy that will include population counts, nest monitoring and protection initiatives, and humane education programs that can help connect children and adults alike to the lives and experiences of their precious sun parakeets.



(Left) Wild Painted Parakeets
(Right) Students at the primary school in Rewa Village participate in a parrot presentation. (Below) School children in Yupukari Village listen to Dr. Michael Schindlinger sing his song, "Fly, Parrot, Fly"

Humane Education: \$12,456



Children from the Providence After School Alliance's "After-Zone" summer program

Foster Parrots provides educational programming throughout New England. Working with schools, universities, community groups and other non-profit organizations, we offer age appropriate information that can be customized to complement curriculum or to support a wide variety of program topics. Our work with the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association's "Pets & Vets" program inspires middle schoolers to pursue careers in animal care and science. Articles written by Foster Parrots' Executive Director, Karen Windsor, are featured in a variety of publications and tackle issues ranging from avian social dynamics to challenges in conservation, or critical topics like abuse and the limitations of legal protection for parrots. Veterinary students and vet techs utilize the sanctuary as a learning resource, and undergraduates take advantage of internship opportunities that provide hands-on experience while earning college credit.

2017 Education Highlights

Brown University - Foster Parrots partnered extensively with Brown University in 2017, with Brown taking advantage of sanctuary tours for student groups, student internship opportunities and curriculum development. Brown University professors Dr. Thalia Field and Dr. Nancy Jacobs collaborated with Foster Parrots on a four week winter session course focusing on wild animals living as "refugees" in the human world. The course looked at the various ways in which animals are under human surveillance either through conservation and preservation, or for entertainment. Foster Parrots brought together several other exotic animal sanctuaries to participate in the class, organizing remote presentations, digital tours and discussions with **Mission: Wolf Sanctuary** in Colorado, **The Tennessee Elephant Sanctuary**, and the **Big Cat Sanctuary in Florida**.

Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine - Foster Parrots' longest standing academic relationship, Tufts University utilizes the sanctuary as a learning resource for Advanced Avian Elective Students, scheduling student tours and discussions each semester. As an alumni of the Masters in Animals & Public Policy (MAPP) program, NEEWS Sanctuary Director, Danika Oriol-Morway led sanctuary tours and in-class lectures at Tufts on avian welfare issues during the 2017 spring and fall semesters. Additionally, the Worcester Tech High School Veterinary Technician program, which partners with Tufts University, connected with Foster Parrots in 2017 to begin programming that brings Worcester Tech students to the sanctuary to broaden their learning experience.

MET High School Program - The MET High School is an alternative education program that offers experiential based learning opportunities by connecting students with internships. In 2017 Foster Parrots hosted its first MET intern who worked at the Sanctuary one day a week for a semester. We will be working to expand our relationship with MET High School and other alternative education models.



Brown University Student, Bradley Kay, received a small grant to conduct a study at the NEEWS

Feral Arts: \$10,000

In 2017 a grant from the **Bafflin Foundation** in the amount of \$10,000, enabled us to complete critical upgrades to the Feral Arts workshop. Renovations included:

- Installation of a waste oil furnace and duct system for heating
- Roof and ceiling repair with ceiling fans for air circulation
- Installation of new lighting systems and power sources
- Insulation and wall repair
- Establishment of metal and wood work shops
- Storage areas and shelving for metal, wood, paint and materials
- New front entry



Feral Arts is a community art cooperative forging the essential connection between people, animals and the natural environment through art. Artists are invited to utilize the space and to draw inspiration from resident birds and animals and from our beautiful grounds, which offer fields, forest and wetland and an abundance of native wildlife. Guest artists contribute time, resources and art to benefit the NEEWS.

In the year ahead, Feral Arts will host on-site art events and "Movie Nights" featuring nature based films as well as films exploring issues like equality, diversity and intersectionality. Local individuals, families and students will be invited to gather in the spirit of the Feral Arts mission and to connect to the work of Foster Parrots.

The Feral Arts studio is still under construction, but offers access to tools, equipment and specialty space supporting a variety of mediums including metal sculpture, woodworking, painting and drawing, glass art and printmaking.

Feral Arts:

Forging the essential connection between people, animals and the natural environment through art.

2017 Special Events



Global Federation of
Animal Sanctuaries

A charter member of the GFAS family since 2007, Foster Parrots is proud to announce that we were re-accredited by GFAS in September of 2017.

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries facilitates excellence in the international animal sanctuary community, supporting outstanding sanctuary organizations by initiating model standards in animal care, facilitating financial and operational success, and enhancing effectiveness, recognition and collaboration in animal welfare.

Dr. Jane Goodall in the NEEWS

On September 19, 2017, The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary was honored by a visit from our good friend, Dr. Jane Goodall. Having had a deep love for parrots since childhood, Jane has been a Foster Parrots friend and advocate since her first visit to the facility in Rockland, MA. in 2004. In 2008, Dr. Jane cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the NEEWS. A world renowned primatologist and animal advocate, Jane Goodall has dedicated her life to the protection of primates and animals worldwide, and works to connect a global community in the celebration and preservation of animals and the earth.



*"For me, the sight of a
parrot living alone,
living in a cage,
deprived of flight,
miserably bored,
breaks my heart.
And the parrot's, too,
perhaps."*

~ Dr. Jane Goodall ~

Our Dedicated Staff:



Monica Armstrong
Sanctuary Manager



Rachel DeFronzo
Adoption Coordinator



Joanne Colsen
Bird Care Specialist



Brian Jones
Photography & Graphic Design
(Volunteer)



Dorian DeSimone
Graphic Design
(Volunteer)



Rick VanTuyl
Bird Care Specialist &
Facility Maintenance



Jimmy Dushkewicz
Bird Care Specialist



Patrick Schofield
Enrichment & Maintenance Mgr.



Barbara Moscato
Gardener (Volunteer)



Travis Moonschein
Feral Arts Director



Sean Maze
Resident Artist & Construction



Stephanie Young
Volunteer Coordinator (Volunteer)



Danika Oriol-Morway
Sanctuary Director



Karen Windsor
Executive Director



Marc Johnson
Founder/CEO

Our Board of Directors

Marc Johnson
Board President

Hank Wietsma, DVM, ABVP
Sanctuary Veterinarian

Susan Sheridan
Psychologist

Danika Oriol-Morway
Board Secretary

Gary Block, DVM, MS
Veterinarian

Lucy Spelman, DVM
Veterinarian

Stephanie Young
Volunteer Coordinator

Dr. James Hahn
Optometrist

Roy Dubs
Retired Business Exec.

Joseph Correia
Media & Marketing

Our Incredible Volunteers

At the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, every bird and animal is known, loved and treated like a unique individual. Every bird's personal experience matters. Our incredible volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization. It is because of them that Foster Parrots is able to provide the level of love and care that every bird and animal deserves.

Amy Abajian
Mary Beadle
Matt Borys
Alyssa Christian
Jess Cotter
Bill Cram
Wendy Davis
Dorian DeSimone
Marjorie Drew
Michael Emma
Ryan Fairfield
Thalia Field
Jennifer Gagnon
Brittney Gianquitti
Lara Gordon
Frances Hester
Brian Jones
Elizabeth Joss

Bradley Kay
Zofia Keksz
Michaela Kennedy
Gina Kornblith
Joann Lambrecht
Bob LeBoeuf
Julie Leusner
Beverly Lewis
Mary MacDonald
Ann Macht
Ashley Macht
Donna McAdams
Amy Melanson
Neal Messier
Barb Moscato
Tracy Newell
Ashley Nutini
Emily Pepin

Valerie Perkins
Andrew Reiter
Freyja Riley
Pam Roberts
Rita Rooney
Rich Schoer
Laura Serbin
Susan Sewell
Adrienne Shaw
Chris Sheehan
Alan Snyder
Liz Trupin
Mike Whelan
Della Whiteneck
Carol Wills
Sylvia Windhurst



Our Supporters

Foster Parrots relies on the compassion of hundreds of contributors and foundations whose support links us all as a family crusading for parrots. Together we work to provide care for nearly 400 parrots who have lost their homes. We provide adoption services for birds in transition, and we protect the freedom of wild parrots in their natural habitats. Together we work to shape a new, empathetic awareness of our roles and responsibilities in the lives of birds and all animals on the planet, and we hope for a future where the sight of a parrot in a cage will cease to be acceptable to everyone. Every donation to Foster Parrots, no matter how big or small, is critical to our mission. Here we wish to recognize those whose generosity has been instrumental in helping us to reach our goals on behalf of the parrots in 2017.

\$500 - \$999

Cornell Bialicki
Gladys Cofrin & Daniel Logan
Lance & Kelly Connolly
The Dolan Family Foundation
Mike Emma
Angel Ferreira
Suzanne Freeman
Patricia Haederle
Lisa Johnson
Susan Kaemmerlen
Joanne Kostka
Jennifer Layton
Carter Luke
Jon & Deb Madsen
Bob & Elva Matheisen
Dawn McCall
Tom Murray & Julie List
Michael Palasz
Carrie Pantazelos
Kenneth & Rebecca Phillips
Tara Richards
Mou Shome
Cynthia Slaughter
Cynthia Speiss
Lawrence Swezey
Gene Taft
Tattered String Music
Deborah Turner Kochevar
Kate Van Dine
Roland Vieta
Anton & Bonnie Wroblewski
Isabella Zagare

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Paul & Resina Brennan
Carris Reels, Inc.
Cheryl Castonguay
Chouinard Family Trust
Kevin Clark
Dr James & Stephen Coady-Hahn
David Comb
Craig Cowles & Irene Sinteff
Dorian DeSimone & Tracy Newell
Yena Do
Rita Eisman
Gale Greiner
Natalie Grigg
Juana Ham
Don & Pam Hawley
Mary Hibbs
Sarah Hoess
Paula & Frederick Hooper
Alison Ishimaru
Island Foundation
Mrs. Jo Kurth Jagoda
Mike Kanarek
Jamie Mercurio
Kimbirly Moriarty
Barbara & Phil Moscato
On Shore Foundation
Nancy Oriol
Ocean State Veterinary Specialists
Carol Parks
Pet Rock Festival
The Pickwick Foundation
Melanie Pien
Chris & Emily Reese
Sandra Roerig
Adrienne Shaw
Theresa Smith
Roxanna and Ronald Smolowitz
Ed and Ann Snape
Kirsten Waerstad
Diana White
Julie Whiteneck
Anne Williamson

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ahimsa Foundation
Gary Block
Linda Comb
Sanjay Das
Elizabeth Grinnell
Jon and Andrea Gruber
Ed & Marcia Kremasanka
Ed & Sharon Malley
The Martha Morse Foundation
The Sawyer Parks Foundation
The M.S. Worthington Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

The Bafflin Foundation
Donna Burrell & Jane Eggerstedt
Roy Dubs
Levy Persis & Will Barron
Rhode Island Foundation
Albert Schweitzer Foundation
Wyss Charitable Endowment

\$30,000 - \$50,000

Vincent J. Coates Foundation
The Pat Palmer Foundation

\$100,000 - \$200,000

Susan & Richard Sheridan

In-Kind Donations

Broadway Wine & Spirits
Gryphon House - Cambridge
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Liz Ickes & Mike Deem
Jeanne Kennie
Will Mays
Skip & Fran Mays
Brian Wood & Stephanie Young