



Foster Parrots, Ltd.

parrot rescue, adoption and sanctuary

December 2004

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From the Foster Parrots Director's Chair a warm holiday greeting and thank you!

by Marc Johnson

As yet another year comes to a close, it is time to reflect on the year's accomplishments and to say "thanks" to all of the dedicated and loyal friends of Foster Parrots. I personally have not celebrated Thanksgiving for many years as most of my relatives have grown tired of me calling the event a "turkey funeral" and showing up dressed in black! It is, however, a good time for me to offer thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, so many of whom have been with us for years and whose dedication to the birds here is unwavering, and to our thousands of supporters.

I would also like to thank Karen Lee, Tami Myers and Ginni Bly for their hard work, dedication, and most of all, for the great sacrifice they make every day for the benefit of ALL captive parrots and the message we all believe needs to be heard. That message has been unwavering and consistent from day one. How many parrots will suffer just to satisfy our need to "own" them? Sure, they can make great companions, but at what cost? The loss of their freedom and the denial of their inherent rights as birds are what we take when we gratify our desires to keep them as captives. A dolphin or monkey might also make a great companion, but I think most of us would realize the injustice of keeping an intelligent wild animal confined to a small space just for our own selfish pleasure.

A very special "thank you" to Susan E. Smith of Apopka, Florida, who has been so generous with her time and dedication to the plight of unwanted parrots. Susan has been designing posters and all of the items available at our Café Press online store, as well as managing the web store. Susan and her partner, Lynn Evans (2 Chix with Ideas Web Design and Graphics) have also been so very generous in the design and execution of a brand new website for Foster Parrots, and we all would like to thank them for such a huge undertaking. Susan is also the most expedient person I know with many of the projects I ask of her arriving on my computer before I even ask for them!

All of us, and I mean all 200+ would like to thank all at Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, Massachusetts. A kind group of people there gets together every year to make toys for our birds. I would like to thank all of them for thinking of us.

A special "thank you" is owed to Ginni Bly and Susan Falkins. Both of these wonderful women have donated multiple days a week to Foster Parrots every week. Ginni Bly was once an employee, and when the funds to pay her salary were no longer available, she continued to work her normal schedule of five days a week. We hope to soon be able to offer her payment for her work here.

Generous acts of holiday giving

Sarah Lutvak recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah and instead of accepting gifts for herself, Sarah asked that donations be made to Foster Parrots. Sarah delivered a check to Foster Parrots on November 14, 2004, for \$2,600.00, and I have to say that it was all I could do to keep from bursting into tears at this amazing 13-year old girl's wonderful gift. Sarah and her father, Larry, volunteered at Foster Parrots, and we have been very fortunate to know this wonderful family. Sarah hopes to be a marine biologist. With her deep compassion for life, I am sure she will be a great one!

Not to be outdone...another grand gesture was made by an eighth grade student named Logan Troppito who donated the proceeds of this year's honey harvest sales to Foster Parrots. Logan and her family have a Triton Cockatoo and a Macaw. We would like to thank this wonderful teenager for such an act of kindness and for showing a wisdom far beyond that of many older people!

Logan writes, "While we were prepared and committed to the task ahead of us, many other bird owners are not. My family and I heard many stories of birds that had been taken home to a sad life that they did not deserve. Many people buy the birds as a novelty and are unprepared for the commitment that they are making. Many birds are returned because people found that it was just too much work for them to handle or the birds were too loud. Neglected birds show their emotions often becoming angry and mean. These events take a toll on parrots'

see GIVING on page 2

Foster Parrots, Ltd.

P.O. Box 650
Rockland, MA 02370
(781) 878-3733
www.fosterparrots.com

Marc Johnson

Director
marc@fosterparrots.com

Karen Lee

Co-Director
karen@fosterparrots.com

Foster Parrots, Ltd. is a
501 (c)(3) corporation
providing safe haven for abused and
abandoned parrots since 1999

The goals of Foster Parrots are:

1. To rescue languishing, abused or unwanted parrots from abusive or neglectful situations.
2. To act as a placement service for friendly, tame birds whose guardians have had to give up their bird(s) in urgent or emergency situations.
3. To serve as an educational resource and advice service for:
 - a. Prospective bird guardians.
 - b. Current bird guardians.
 - c. Schools - as an educational resource on the care and responsibilities of sharing your life with any animal as a pet.
4. To serve as a permanent sanctuary for birds not suitable for adoption. Our long-term goals include building a permanent home for these birds.
5. To protect all parrots in captivity and in the wild.

Donate directly Foster Parrots via Network for Good

Please remember Foster Parrots in your monthly charitable giving. Your support is always needed and always greatly appreciated.

Look for the "Donate Now" button in the upper left corner of each page on our website.

Eco-Tour: Lasting impressions of Guyana, South America

by Kim Moriarty

We arrived on a Wednesday afternoon in September. As we left the airport en route to Georgetown, the nation's capital, I caught my first glimpse of life in Guyana. Having never traveled to an impoverished nation, I was not quite sure what to expect and had to admit I was a bit taken aback. The majority of homes were very old and seemingly poorly constructed. The roadways were lined with adults and children going about their day. Children were dressed for school and all wore uniforms. I have to admit they looked much more presentable than the students I see back home in the U.S. I also observed numerous dogs running about. Many appeared to be malnourished, and it was obvious that spaying and neutering are not a common practice. Most notable were the holding facilities for exporting wild-caught animals. They were enormous, and it haunted me to think about what they contained.

During our stay in Guyana we visited Kaieteur Falls. The Falls are accessible by small passenger plane and are about an hour flight from the airport just outside of Georgetown. In flight I was able to see miles upon miles of rainforest. Virtually undisturbed land and green as far as the eye could see. Guyana is truly a nation full of natural resources. The Falls were exceptional. Notable for having a single drop of more than 741 feet (higher than Niagara Falls), they were beautiful and very peaceful. In addition, it was so refreshing to see wild parrots overhead. Seeing them left me even more conflicted about having one at home. It seems tremendously cruel that we would try to keep these animals in captivity.

We also traveled to Pakuri and were able to take in the Amerindian Heritage Festival, a large celebration of tradition. While the Arawak Indians have nothing in terms of material belongings, they are extremely generous with their hospitality and willingness to make our stay as comfortable as possible. It was both difficult and exciting to stay in a village where there is no running water, electricity or comforts of home and being one-on-one with nature.

On the day we left Guyana, we passed the holding areas again. It took every fiber of my being to not ask the cab driver to pull over so that I could free the animals inside. While I understand that they trappers are just trying to make a living, and a modest one as they only receive US \$8.00 per bird, they

GIVING from page 1

lives and personalities. They are smart and intelligent creatures who can figure out many things, and that includes being unwanted or excluded. I have always loved birds and I applaud the motives of bird sanctuaries where birds are taken in for the proper care they lack. I'm donating this money to you because I think that your efforts should be praised. Birds need care. Because of your help, many birds will have the lives that they deserve because of your organizations's helping hands."

Thank you, Logan!

A very safe and happy holiday to all from your friends at Foster Parrots!

cannot understand or embody the damage they are doing to their nation. It is more evident now that we must do something to stop they export of wild-caught birds, and similarly, to prevent the import of wild-caught birds. These measures will force the trappers out of business. So as not to eliminate their means of survival, we must try to help provide them with a means of sustenance. An eco-tourism program could be one positive step towards achieving this end. With eco-tourism everybody wins. The indigenous people have a means of supporting their families and the parrots have the freedom to do the same.

Your gifts and donations are always needed!

Whether you are able to give financially, give of your time or provide for some of the physical needs of Foster Parrots, your gifts are always very much appreciated. Your gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Foster Parrots' holiday wish list includes:

Full-spectrum lighting
Cotton bath towels
Paper towels
Non-toxic cleaning supplies

All sizes of parrot-safe toys
All types of office supplies
A fax machine
HP 45 and 78 ink cartridges

A dishwasher
A washer and dryer
Plexiglass sheets
Sanctuary volunteers are always needed