

Connecting People and Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Education, and Research since 1994

# 2018 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road Oconomowoc, WI 53066 262-965-3090

www.helpingwildlife.org









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# WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

# **Education Internship**

This past summer, our education department was lucky to have a part-time education intern, lackie Sturm. Jackie is a third-year student at University of Wisconsin - Platteville, studying biology with an emphasis in ecology. She was an animal care intern the previous summer, but she wanted to come back to WINC and focus on education. WINC has had education interns in the past but it has been a few years, so we were thrilled to welcome her. All summer long Jackie absolutely excelled in her role at WINC and was a tremendous help

to the education team.

center.

as well as the rest of the

During the summer, Jackie was willing to take on any task handed to her, varying from helping cut down tree branches for our raptor enclosures in the mosquito filled woods to assisting with the daily care and well-being of our animal ambassadors. If extra hands were needed with some of our patients in the clinic, Jackie would stay longer and lend a hand. She also worked on a project over the course of her internship and laid the foundation for something new WINC is offering: owl pellet dissection kits.

Jackie researched the best ways to sterilize the pellets and how to make them almost odorless. These dissection kits are available in WINC's gift shop and can also be made to order.

> Along with caring for many of the animals at WINC, lackie's main role as an education intern was presenting parts of the wildlife education programs. Jackie said her favorite part of the internship was getting other people excited about wildlife by introducing them to our animal ambassadors. Over the course of three months, she tackled public speaking and spoke with great enthusiasm about Wisconsin wildlife to kids and adults. She truly

has a passion for teaching the public about our wild neighbors and how to care for them.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in being a part of the education team, we encourage you to apply! We accept parttime interns in the fall, spring, and summer. For more information, visit

our website and click on the Get

Involved tab. **Story By Madilyn Williams** 



Jackie Sturm, Education Inern holding one of our educational ambassadors, Meadow the Bullsnake

# **Mission Statement**

To provide wildlife rehabilitation to Wisconsin wildlife with the intent to release back to the native habitat, conduct research designed to further the positive impact of rehabilitation, and provide quality community education programs and service.

## Wildlife in Need Center **Board of Directors**

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Mandy Feavel **Director of Animal** 

Wildlife Jen Brei

Rehabilitator

Wildlife Rehabilitator Mitch Ruiz

Madilyn Education

Williams Coordinator

Wildlife Educator Angela Nirk

Jenny Watton Bookeeper

Debbie Verhalen Marketing and

Administrative

Assistant

# **WINC Advisory Board**

Mike Guzniczak Lou Banach Harry Muir, PhD

# WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

# One Year of X-Ray Vision

Just one year ago the Wildlife In Need Center took its biggest step forward in patient diagnostics by securing a digital radiograph machine here on site.

For over twenty years, staff at WINC have mastered skills to help palpate fractures found on patients during initial exams to diagnose a fracture. Depending on the fracture location, how old the fracture is, what species is presenting with the fracture, etc., our vet may be able to perform surgery to repair the fracture. There are also fractures that can heal without surgery, with limited motion wraps and cage rest. When presented with a patient that we could potentially rehabilitate, some get full follow-up

exams with our vet including x-rays, which had to be done at her clinic. Unfortunately, some patients would come in not strong enough or too stressed to make the over 30 minute drive, one way, to the vet. This distance also meant time away from other responsibilities and WINC when our staff went on vet trips. Not to mention, our amazingly dedicated vet has a full-time job at her clinic, so she is not always able to squeeze in our patients.

Now with an x-ray machine on site more patients are getting a quicker, better diagnosis than ever before. We can see fractures that we know our vet cannot fix and humanely euthanize versus having to make them wait to go to the vet for that confirmation. We can also monitor healing better for fractures we are rehabilitating. Time is saved from taking patients to the vet. We can communicate with her and send her x-rays for her opinion within minutes. We can also confirm shot cases by seeing the evidence on x-ray, helping us treat those cases more efficiently too.



Painted Turtle - Fractured shell, still in care,

The quality care we provide to our wild patients has grown incredibly over the last year with our ability to diagnose injuries with an onsite x-ray machine and the numbers prove it:

In 2016 we had about 30 different cases x-rayed by our vet, off site. In 2017 we had about 40 different cases x-rayed by our vet, off site. In 2018 we were able to x-ray 230 different cases on site. Wow!

We are beyond thankful and grateful for the individuals that made it possible for us to make this big step forward, enhancing the care and improving the overall patient welfare here at WINC.

Story By Mandy Feavel



Great Horned Owl - Fractured wing, still in care, healing well



Eastern Gray Squirrel - Fractured spine, able to be humanely euthanized

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

Kim Banach, Board President

# Celebrating 25 years of Saving Wild Lives



We remain both humbled and excited to celebrate our organization's 25th anniversary in 2019! The Wildlife In Need Center (WINC) officially opened its doors on January I, 1994, treating 837 animals in its maiden year. During these first two years, WINC operated from a tiny one-bedroom house in Waukesha then, in the fall of 1995, moved to a farmhouse with five acres of land. Today WINC treats over 3,000 wild patients each year at its expanded center in Oconomowoc.

From these modest beginnings, and due to the passion and commitment of a caring team, frequent obstacles were surpassed throughout the years in order to offer sustainable wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife education. WINC's journey, however, actually began in June of 1993. In the early years there were many key initiatives, including building out a board of directors, recruiting staff and volunteers, training for volunteers, finding a bigger "home," and transforming this home into a wildlife rehabilitation facility. Contributing to our early successes was the grassroots fundraising efforts, including memberships – all before the internet and modern technology. Our opening checking account balance in June 1993 was \$30.00; By then end of the year, passionate fundraising efforts raised \$7,233.00.

I find it absolutely heartwarming that some of the original individuals associated with WINC remain involved. Lisa Rowe, Director of Operations and initially avolunteer, became staff in 2000. Dr. Tom Roberts and Wayne Grandy both have been board members most of the past 25 years. We even have a few volunteers that have been around for the past 24 years: Jeannie Merz, Mary Roberts and Rose Knapp.

Throughout those early years, it was rare to take a wild patient to a veterinarian as surgeries were performed infrequently, as it was difficult to find a veterinarian with experience in treating wildlife. But passionate veterinarians always wanted to help. Today, the veterinarians who treat our wild patients are all experts, perform complex surgeries,

and consult on difficult cases. Before it was more about treating orphans, now it is about saving animals instead euthanizing. Digital x-ray positioned WINC to provide quicker diagnosis as noted on page 2. Our staff and office volunteers receive calls from across the USA in search of guidance, resources or care facilities. Our website gets "hits" from all over the world, reconfirming the passion people have for wildlife. Animal welfare has come a long way; today, it is more of the norm that people want a resource to help injured, orphaned or sick wildlife. WINC stands ready.

Wildlife education started in 1993 too, commencing with training volunteers and educating veterinarians, human societies, schools, pet stores - and the public - about WINC's mission and the best way to live with our wild neighbors. Lisa Rowe shared that some people would say: "Are you crazy?" or "You are doing what!" Now thousands of citizens of all ages attend our wildlife education programs, departing by knowing what or what not to do when encountering wildlife emergences. WINC too deals with wildlife emergency phone consultations each day. These calls result in hundreds of different outcomes such as how to re-nest an orphan or how to bring an injured animal to the facility. Even a two- year old child, who runs to get mom because he found a bird that is on the ground with something around its neck - helped rescue the animal and assist in bringing it to WINC. The passion for our wild neighbors is evident in all ages as the demand for both wildlife education and wildlife rehabilitation grows each year.

For those of you who have helped wildlife - whether as a volunteer, staff, donor, foundation, board member or rescued the animal in need, you are the reason we are celebrating this generational milestone. With our deepest sincerity, we cannot thank you all enough for your past partnership and future support of our mission as we embark upon the next 25 years.

Story By Kim Banach



# Whooo Loves Wildlife?

If you love wildlife, don't miss out meeting Jewel the Ornate Box Turtle and Grace the American Kestrel and fellow Educational Ambassadors Wildlife In Need Center on February 9th, 2019 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 bm. Our Educational Ambassadors will be out in our classroom space with handlers. Guests can see them up close, ask their handlers questions, and take pictures. We only hold a couple of Meet & Greets every year, so this is great chance to get to see these wild animals up close.



# What's the BUZZ?

## Remembering Special People

This year there has been a substantial outpouring of gifts from donors to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives. This issue recognizes these very special gifts.

In Honor of Gabe 87 Leonard Kay Leonard

In Honor of Sally Harthun Donna Herschleb

In Honor of Brad Johansen Jenna Lara

In Honor of Sparky the Chipmunk Jennifer Lezxzynski

In Honor of Alvin Sellers Robin Bolin

In Honor of Becca Richards Cher Matteson

In Honor of Susie and Brian Brigid Riordan and Mark Heumann

In Honor of the wedding of Pam McMurray and Sherry Christian Bill and Pat McMurray

In Honor of Dean Pipito Deb Muraro

In Honor of Hudson Brunner's Birthday Sandra Rice Alounna Goldberg

In Honor of Dr. Tom Roberts 80th birthday Lisa & John Draves All Star Screen Printers

In Honor Sue Skaros birthday Mary & Tom Roberts

In Honor of Sean Hinton's Birthday Frances Rauscher

In Honor of Bruce, late husband of Susan Duszynski Robin Thomas

In Honor of Brooke's birthday Alison & Mark Hanson

In Honor of our Dear Friends, Dr. Richard Grey & Cheri Grey Tom & Mary Roberts

# WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

# Community Impact of WINC's Wildlife Education Programs



Leslie Kiehl with Raenah the Red-tailed Hawk

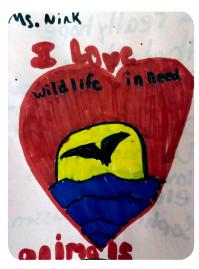
Each year, the Wildlife in Need Center delivers around 160 wildlife education programs to groups of all ages. Our education team travels from Milwaukee to Madison and just about everywhere in between. These programs inform the public about what we do as a wildlife rehabilitation center, ways people can volunteer and help out, ways people can peacefully coexist with our wild neighbors, and then we introduce them to a few of our animal ambassadors.

The diverse education team consists of 14 animal ambassadors which includes: a Great-Horned Owl. a Red-tailed Hawk, a Barred Owl, an Eastern Screech Owl, an American Kestrel, a Bullsnake, a Corn Snake, an Eastern Fox Snake, a Striped Skunk, a Groundhog, a Muscovy Duck, a Western Painted Turtle, an Ornate Box Turtle and an American Toad. Several WINC ambassadors were unable to be released back to their environment because of disabilities such as partial blindness or imprinting on humans. By sharing ambassador stories, the public is able to learn from and connect with these animals. thus gaining a newfound admiration for Wisconsin wildlife. One of the best parts of an education program is watching how excited people get to see and meet our ambassadors. People are given the opportunity to get close to animals they see from a distance in the wild or might never even encounter at all.

Overall the programs focus on information about native Wisconsin wildlife. This consists of topics such as natural species ecology, fun facts, stories, and ways to help specific animals. This might include a lesson on how to help turtles safely cross the road in the Spring and Summer, or how to avoid getting sprayed by a skunk in the wild. A few jokes get sprinkled into the programs as well. Why should you never get into a staring contest with a snake? Because they don't have eyelids, you would lose every single time! By the end of each program, people have learned about WINC's mission, a few of our amazing ambassadors, and ways to help their wild counterparts.

If you are interested in a program, or a wildlife themed birthday party, check out our website and go to the Educate tab. Then if your group would like to enjoy one of WINC's education programs, but cannot afford the program fee, you could apply to the Leslie Kiehl WINC Education Program Fund to help pay for some of the cost! More information about the fund, and how to apply, is also found under the Educate tab. The next deadline to apply by is February 15th, 2019.

Story by Madilyn Williams



A thank you card given to our WINC education team and animal ambassadors

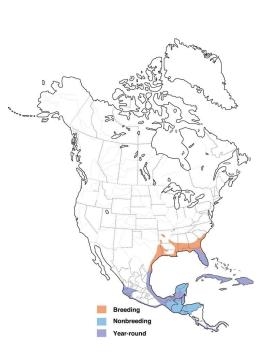
# WINC'S MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

# There and Back Again: A Vagrant's Tale

On October I2th an unidentified bird was found grounded by a Good-Samaritan. With a box in hand, he contained the bird and then proceeded to the Humane Animal Welfare Society. The bird arrived at WINC shortly afterwards with much fanfare for no one along its path to our Center could readily identify this unique bird.

When we cracked open the box to find a medium sized bird with exceptionally large feet, long legs and brown feathers with a notable green sheen, we found we did not immediately have the answer either. With reference material and experience in hand, our animal care staff quickly ruled out the variety of shorebirds typically found in Wisconsin. Thinking outside the box, we found our answer - our newest patient was a Purple Gallinule!

As an adult, the Purple Gallinule is a striking shorebird with bright blue and green plumage. As juveniles these colors have yet to develop, as seen in our patient. Interestingly, the Purple Gallinule's distribution range only extends from South America up to the coasts of Florida.





Purple Gallinule Range Map
s (2002). Purple Gallinule (Porphyrio martinica), version 2.0. In The Birds of North America (A. F. Poole and
U, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Itibaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.21/71/bina.626

Patient Purple Gallinule showing a drooping wing due to his fractured coracoid

What was this bird doing so far from is home? Research into their natural history offers some insight. Purple Gallinule exhibit a behavior that may be more impressive than their colors called Vagrancy. In short, vagrancy is the movement of individuals within a species beyond their conventional species distribution. The Purple Gallinule has had vagrants spotted as far west as California's coast, north as Iceland, and even across the Atlantic Ocean in Italy and into South Africa! The reasons for this behavior vary from habitat destruction to temperature changes, but for our patient we find correlation to our patient's appearance in Wisconsin with hurricane "Michael" that made landfall in Florida on October 10th, 2018.

Our patient, perhaps fleeing from this storm, found itself in Wisconsin with a shoulder fracture. Such an injury can have a lasting impact on a bird's ability to fly, so our initial prognoses was guarded. However, our patient was self-feeding at day-one and even left his wing-wrap in place. In just over a month from its admission date, it is now wrap free and all medical treatments have ended. Now our Gallinule begins its final challenge, flight conditioning. What lies ahead for our feathered friend, be it release or permanent placement at a zoo or wildlife center, it is too soon to tell, but what is sure is that this wayward vagrant's journey does not end at WINC.

Story By Mitch Ruiz

## What's the BUZZ?

Remembering Special People

In Honor Beth Brattset (14th birthday) Mike & Mary Marconi

In Honor of Jen Watton's birthday Kim Banach

In Memory of Monte and Mia Hemani Kim and Lou Banach

In Memory of Lauri Kapanen Maureen Scott

In Memory of Hannah Kohls Steve and Beth Kohls

In Memory of Patricia Clemmensen leffrey and Kara Wunderle Linda Kirchen Susan Williams Gerrit and Leann Gronowski Brian and Leigh Sickinger Kathleen Heidemann Michele Ciardo Amy Winter Kurt and Doreen Heikkinen Laura Miller Christopher and Susan Pitzo Theodore and Christina Andersen Larry and Jean Greves William and Charlene Noelke Randall and Jodi Dobratz Noelke Distributors, Inc. Robert and Nancy Zach Sean and Susan LaRoque Direct Supply Foundation Richard and Teri Bartelt Eric and Sarah Jorgensen Joe and Kris Nowak Theresa Dirud Lynn Bender Lisa Cieslak Kristine Vandenheuvel John Lankas Wendy Haluska Bev Waltz Sheila Hoppe Kathryn Reinders Jason and Shelley Greves

In Memory of John M. Kinjerski S.M. Dunford-Zajac Debra L. Meintz Kimberly Putz Roger and Susan Lilly General Teamsters Local Union No. 200

# What's the BUZZ?

Remembering Special People

In Memory of John M. Kinjerski (cont.) Face It James and Monica Millane Gary and Victora Jasiek Raymond and Meghad Koscak Charles and Mary Knoebel Mikelis Abuls **CGSchmidt** Three Pillars Senior Living Communities

In Memory of Susan Westergren Gail Degner

In Memory of Charlie Wenthur James and Rose Neitzel Beth Hansing Michael and Jaqueline Reidel

In Memory of Abbey Wayne and Beth Krolikowski

In Memory of Eugene "Gene" | Heinz Shelley Gallamore

In memory of our neighbor Barbara who loved wildlife. Mary Molling

In Memory of Mark J. Bemowski Douglas S. Donovan Michael & Virginia Hilton Jenifer Kuczkowski (daughter)



# **KENNETH A. SCOTT** CHARITABLE TRUST

A big thank you to the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust!

In April 2018, WINC received a grant of \$7,500 for its education program!



2019 is my 12th year as staff. But all the talk is about WINCs 25th anniversary! Hard to believe this place lasted so many years before I joined and started guiding things. There are many events planned to celebrate so be sure to come and say hi to me and the rest of the educational team.

Talking about changes since WINC began in 1994, most people have cell phones now. It's so easy to send us a picture of an animal to ID or determine if it's a healthy baby to be left with parents. People have their phones with them so can call when on the trail or in the parks. We get patients via Uber. WINC is well known in our local communities now, but years ago, when we told people we provide free medical care for wildlife, people looked at us like we were crazy and said "Why?" Now thousands of people call us every year to help sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife and to ask questions about wildlife. They tell me WINC didn't even have Educational Ambassadors in the early years. Dakota is the senior Educational Ambassador here and he started as a kid in 2000. We've come a long way and grown so much - helping so many animals and people along the way.

When you get older you start to have more health problems. This past year or so I have been at the veterinarians a lot. Maize, the corn snake, is on hospice care. As Educational Ambassadors we have great health care at WINC, but even at a discount: vets, tests, and medication cost money. And that's in addition to the ongoing costs of our enclosures and daily foods and supplements. Thanks to all of you who donate to help support the education team members like myself.

> When the vets do surgeries, we always hope for a great outcome, but sometimes other problems crop up (bird joke - ha!).

> > A few patients this year had to undergo multiple surgeries to correct their conditions.

Sometimes the final outcome is not what we wish it could be. But Animal Care staff and vets do their best to give our patients a chance to be wild and free again. And turtles, those guys are so slow to

heal we always have a few that stay all winter. One Blanding's turtle is here for his second winter (picture above, photo credit Lauryn Banach). He has a private pool and his own UVB/heat lamp. That guy has it made! But I know he would rather be back home in his swamp. There is always another day, another animal that needs help, another phone call to answer. The staff and volunteers are here at WINC every day taking care of me and all the Educational Ambassadors and wildlife patients - for 25 years! Here's to the next 25!

## **How Can You Help?**

no tinsel. We use them in outdoor caging to

# **VOLUNTEERS**



Baby Bird Feeder Cassandra Nelson (Photo Credit Lauryn Banach)

As a WINC Volunteer, you can make a difference in the lives of our wild neighbors every day! We have a very small staff and over 3,000 wild patients to care for every year. We could not accomplish our joint missions of wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife education without our wonderful volunteers.

Youth Volunteer Opportunity: Baby Bird Feeding and Care- We receive hundreds of hungry orphaned baby birds from May to September that need lots of quality care. You will prepare food, hand feed, clean birds and enclosures. If you are 12 or 13 years old, you can team up with an adult to help us with our baby birds. If you are 14 or older you can volunteer without adult accompaniment. You must be committed to working one 4.5 hour shift each week for about eight weeks. Adults can volunteer in our Baby Bird Feeding program too.

**Adult Only Volunteer Opportunities:** You must be 18 years of age or older and be able to commit to one 4.5 hour shift weekly.

**Animal Care-** If you are interested in working hands-on with wildlife providing routine wildlife care, this is for you. You will receive training on how to safely handle and work with wildlife. Each animal has an individualized chart detailing foods, medications, medical treatments, and cage furnishings that patient needs.

Office- If you enjoy talking with people and want to learn a lot about native wildlife, you should consider working in our office. You will be trained to handle calls from the public regarding sick or injured animals, natural history questions, and wildlife situations. You will greet visitors and admit patients. There are always administrative duties that help keep the Center running smoothly such as computer data entry, filing, mailings, and scanning.

**Maintenance & Grounds-** The facility and animal enclosures that surround it are in constant need of maintenance. Our grounds also include beautiful garden areas that need green thumbs and seasonal maintenance. This is on an as-needed basis so if you cannot commit to a weekly shift, this may work for you.

**Fundraising & Marketing-** Without money, we would not have the facility, food, or medical care for our wild patients. Fundraising volunteers work on various projects throughout the year including Event Auctions, Meet & Greets, Pancake Breakfast and Spaghetti Dinner, and public presentations. We need help in advance to arrange details and help the day of an event. These events occur several times a year so if you cannot commit to a weekly shift, this may work for you.

**Ready to join us? To become a WINC volunteer, you must:** Fill out and return a <u>volunteer application & release</u> available on our website at <a href="http://www.helpingwildlife.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/">http://www.helpingwildlife.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/</a> or you can pick one up in our office 9-5.

Attend a volunteer orientation held at WINC. Please RSVP by calling 262-965-3090

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Dates are noted in the calendar on the last page.

Page 7 Story By Lisa Rowe



# Welcome Debbie Verhalen!

Debbie joined the WINC team in November 2018 as Marketing & Administrative Assistant. She has 25 plus years of marketing experience to share with us. Her nonprofit involvement has included working with The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, Wreaths Across America for Veteran's and Girl Scouts of SE Wisconsin. Deb enjoys nature walks, nature photography and bird watching. She loves seeing the bird and squirrel activity right outside her office window.

If you have questions about membership or fundraising events email <u>dverhalen@</u> <u>helpingwildlife.org.</u>

# Save the Date 25th Annual Banquet

Saturday, April 6th, 2019 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm The Legend I Legend Way Wales, WI 53183



Wildlife In Need Center W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road Oconomowoc, WI 53066 262-965-3090

## www.helpingwildlife.org

# Calendar 2019



# January, 2019

Monday, January 7th 6:30 pm – 8:00pm Adult Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

## February, 2019

Saturday, February 9th 1:00 pm – 3:00pm Whooo Loves Wildlife, Meet and Greet Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday February 16th 9:30 am – 11:00 am Adult Orientation, Wlldlife In Need Center

## March, 2019

Sunday, March 24th, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm Pancake Breakfast Lions Club, 235 N. Main St Dousman, WI 53118

Wednesday, March 27th, 6:30 pm – 8:00pm Adult Orientation, Wlldlife In Need Center

# April, 2019

Saturday, April 6th, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm 25th Annual Banquet, The Legend, I Legend Way, Wales, WI 53183

# May, 2019

**Wednesday, May 15th, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**Baby Bird Feeder Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

**Saturday, May 18th, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**Baby Bird Feeder Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

# June, 2019

**Sunday, June 2nd, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**Baby Bird Feeder Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

# July, 2019

Saturday, July 20th, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm 25th Anniversary Celebration, Wildlife In Need Center

# September, 2019

Saturday, September 7th, 3:00 pm – 7:00pm Wildlife in the Park, Cory Park, Dousman, WI

Saturday, September 28th, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Club 235 N. Main St, Dousman, WI 53118

## October, 2019

Saturday, October 12th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am Feathers In Focus, A Raptor Photography Experience Wildlife In Need Center

Friday, October 25th, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Annual Fine Wine and Dine, Westmoor Country Club
400 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield WI 53005

# December, 2019

Tuesday, December 3rd, All day – midnight Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Holiday Meet and Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

