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# TALES FROM THE TREE

*The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center*



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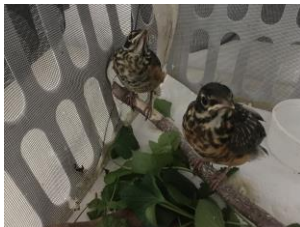
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## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This past year was unusual in many ways – our wildlife rehabilitator friends in Nashville and Chattanooga dealt with the aftermath of tornado damage while all of us learned new ways to keep going during a global pandemic. Here at Ziggy's Tree, we saw wildlife babies coming in unusually early and late – we took in our first songbird babies in March – about 3 weeks earlier than usual, while we were still admitting baby squirrels in December!

We admitted a total 714 orphaned and injured birds, mammals, and reptiles from 33 counties.

In a normal year (although we may never be able to use that term again), our mammal team leads the pack in intakes as well as animals that are over-wintered because they were too young for release before cold weather sets in. This was the first year our songbird team led in the number of intakes, while our reptile team has the most critters still in care.



Our bird admissions were at a record 486 intakes – a 25% increase over previous years. For a good deal of the baby bird season, we were the only organization in middle Tennessee able to take hatchling and nestling songbirds. We admitted 57 species of birds, from hummingbirds to hawks and all sizes in between. Three species accounted for just over one-third of our total intakes – American Robins (91), Carolina Wrens (58) and Chimney Swifts (35). We saw more serious injuries this year from a variety of causes, mostly domestic animal attacks or window strikes, but were still able to release 70% (excluding those that did not survive the first 24 hours) of our intakes back to their free and wild lives.

Our mammal team took in 185 mammals representing 6 species, with Eastern Gray Squirrels representing a whopping 71% of our intakes! Our mammal intakes were down about 50% from previous years – primarily because our cages were at capacity before opossum and cottontail baby seasons were in full swing. Other middle Tennessee rehabilitators that would normally be available in March to admit the spring baby squirrels were affected by the tornados and COVID. Thankfully, those organizations were back up and running and able to take the later babies. Our mammal team had an amazing release rate of 98%!



Our reptile team was also busy this year, admitting 43 patients, with injured Eastern Box Turtles (29) comprising the bulk of the intakes. Turtles have very slow metabolisms so their injuries take a very long time to heal. Turtles brumate (their version of hibernation) during cold weather, so any that have suffered injuries and need to continue to heal must be kept in a warm environment and stay “awake” during this healing process. We have a record 16 turtles in care this winter, but most will be ready for release this spring. We are currently on track to release 95% of our reptile team's intakes!



## Meet our partner ... The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Have you heard that Ziggy's Tree has received a \$5,000 grant from The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee? These funds will be used to support our wildlife rehabilitation program, and will directly help us provide care for the 700+ injured and orphaned native wildlife we admit each year and expand our current capabilities.

The Community Foundation awarded more than \$2.43 million in grants to 350 nonprofit organizations as part of the 2020 annual grantmaking process.



The Community Foundation awards discretionary grants annually from its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds through an open application process to Middle Tennessee nonprofit organizations addressing community needs and benefiting the well-being of citizens through valuable programs and innovative services. The Foundation connects generosity with need in order to build a stronger community for the future. To learn more, please visit [www.CFMT.org](http://www.CFMT.org).

### SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE

- Become a member – just complete the application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website to download and print an application.
- Give a gift membership to a friend!
- Purchase items from our wish list.
- Donate newspapers (we use those to line cages and cover the tables under the cages)
- Contact us about volunteer opportunities, such as transport, animal releases, administrative/office work, fundraising, board membership or contributing to our newsletter
- Like us on Facebook and stay updated on releases, admissions and other news.
- Invite us to speak to your church or civic group – we love to tell people about the work we do!
- Check our website at [www.ziggystree.org](http://www.ziggystree.org) for other ways you can support us!

## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 68 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we received our fourth quarterly check for \$352.59, bringing our annual total to \$1,328.03. The funds we received this past year through this program covered approximately 5 weeks of our operating costs.

If you shop at Kroger and would like to support us through this program, just go on-line to [www.kroger.com/community\\_rewards](http://www.kroger.com/community_rewards), and enroll your rewards card, selecting Ziggy's Tree as your charity. You still get gas points and discounts – and Kroger donates money to us! Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

For privacy reasons, Kroger does not provide names of those who have signed up to support us. So even though we can't thank you personally, please know that we are extremely grateful for your support. And please ask your friends and family to enroll and support us!



### WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- Dried Bloodworms
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Heating Pads (without automatic shut-off)
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini, apples)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-841-9781 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

## ADVOCATE

Charles Wharton

## SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher  
Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund  
Kevin Eastman Studios  
Jeremy & Melissa Shearer

## SUPPORTING

Amy York \* Debbie Bomar  
Julia Carroll \* Sabrina Frank  
Deborah Trimble \* Lisa Stetar  
Robin Mitchell \* Ann Gildemeister  
Lisa McCord \* Charles Parish

## FAMILY

Becky Thomas \* Andret Dinon \* Juanita Nemecek  
Dan & Karen Brown \* Jennifer Lopez \* David & Linda Ranz  
Gina Martell \* Emily Keller

## INDIVIDUAL

Bill Tillman \* Ginger Dunn \* Amy Cotter \* Mike Blackburn  
Suzanne Haas \* Sara Padgett \* Robert Benson

## VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center  
Airport Animal Clinic  
Creekwood Veterinary Hospital

## IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund \* Susan Fuqua  
Kate Walker \* Susan Marlowe \* Cathy Jackson  
Valerie Hayashi

## December 2020 Giving Tuesday

\$680

Bettina Bowers \* Debbie Sykes  
Rachel Singer \* Deborah Trimble  
Angela Hensley \* LouAnn Partington  
Lisa McCord \* Linda Blackwelder  
Linda Huggard \* Aprele Fitzgerald  
Gracie Hollombe \* Tahira Mohyuddin  
Melissa Patton \* Deborah Martinez Ripka  
4 Anonymous Donors

## 2020 RELEASES

### SEPTEMBER

1 Song Sparrow  
3 Carolina Wrens  
8 Chimney Swifts  
1 Northern Cardinal  
4 American Robins  
3 Eastern Box Turtles  
1 Red-eared Slider

### OCTOBER

28 Eastern Gray Squirrels  
2 Eastern Box Turtles  
1 Red-eared Slider  
1 Virginia Opossum  
1 Rat Snake

### NOVEMBER

20 Eastern Gray Squirrels  
1 House Finch  
1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
1 Eastern Box Turtle

### DECEMBER

1 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
3 Virginia Opossums

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For assistance with orphaned or injured mammals or general questions about mammals, text Angela at 615-631-2205.

For assistance with orphaned or injured birds or general questions about birds, call or text LouAnn text 931-841-9781.

For assistance with injured turtles, contact Rachel at 615-587-2977.

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
92 Maple Ave.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388



**NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.**

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

**PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!**

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE, I AM ...**

- A NEW MEMBER**  
 **RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP**

Memberships are for one year  
Gift Memberships are also available.

**Please Mail This Form To:**

**Ziggy's Tree WRC  
92 Maple Ave.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388**

*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.*

\_\_\_ Individual                    \$25.00  
\_\_\_ Family                        \$40.00  
\_\_\_ Supporting                  \$100.00  
\_\_\_ Sustaining                  \$250.00  
\_\_\_ Advocate                    \$500.00  
\_\_\_ Wildlife Champion        \$1000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- \_\_\_ Environmental Education  
\_\_\_ Wildlife Rehabilitation  
\_\_\_ Fundraising/Administration

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card at [Paypal.me/ziggystree](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/cgi-bin/?cmd=_express-checkout&context=express).

Not sure what to get that special someone for birthdays, anniversaries or just because? Consider giving them a one year membership to Ziggy's Tree!

Members receive our newsletter and our gratitude.

Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check the box above or e-mail [ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com](mailto:ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com) to be placed on our mailing list.