
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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ANNUAL REPORT 2021

It's been another busy year here at Ziggy's Tree. Reptile and mammal intakes were up. We continue to feel the ramifications of COVID with some of our local network of wildlife rehabilitation organizations limiting intakes periodically throughout the year based on potential exposures and/or positive COVID tests. We're not sure what's normal these days.

We answered over 5,000 calls in 2021. Some calls were simply seeking information on how to peacefully coexist with their wild neighbors and determine humane methods of encouraging wildlife to move a little farther away from human habitation. Other calls resulted in referrals to fellow wildlife rehabilitators that had more appropriate caging for the species involved. And a good percentage of the remaining calls resulted in successfully reuniting baby birds and mammals with their biological parents thus allowing us to concentrate on wildlife that was truly orphaned or injured.



Birds once again comprised the greatest percentage of our intakes. We admitted 459 birds representing 63 different species. Three species, American Robins, Carolina Wrens and Chimney Swifts, comprised 30% of our intakes. And for the first time, Northern Mockingbirds and Mourning Doves rounded out the top 5. Our bird intakes were down slightly from last year due to our increased efforts to renest and reunite the nestlings and fledglings with their parents. We were able to return nearly 70% of the birds we admitted to their free and wild lives.



Our small mammal intakes were up 24% from last year. We admitted 239 fur kids, with Eastern Gray Squirrels and Virginia Opossums comprising 92% of our intakes. And we were able to release 95% of our mammals back to their natural habitats. We did see a marked decrease in the number of Eastern Cottontails we admitted, in part because of increased efforts to "put the bunny back" as well as a new rehabilitator in the mid-state who is specializing in cottontails.



Our reptile team admitted 48 turtles this year. The majority of our intakes were Eastern Box Turtles, primarily suffering from injuries after being struck by lawnmowers or cars. Twelve of our shelled friends have spent the winter with us, including two unusual patients – a Common Snapping Turtle and a False Map Turtle. We are on track to release approximately 75% of the turtles we've admitted.

Meet the Ziggy's Tree Team

Angela Hensley Founder/Board President/Mammal Specialist

Angela is a Hoosier (Indiana native) who has lived in Tennessee much longer than she cares to say. She graduated with a degree in business administration from Indiana University and a minor in Biology. She lives on a small rural farm just outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Angela started her rehabilitation career after finding a baby squirrel in the mouth of a deceased mother squirrel who was lying in the middle of the road. The tiny pink squirrel was ice cold and barely alive. She put it in her pocket to keep him warm and headed to work. When she arrived at work and started calling vets offices to see who could take this tiny animal, she found there were few resources in the area. She finally got on-line and got some information on raising a squirrel, having no idea that this was illegal in the state of Tennessee. She was determined to become a licensed rehabilitator so that she could take care of this squirrel (Ziggy). After mistakenly identifying Ziggy as a boy (Ziggy was a girl) and realizing how much she had to learn, she was able to volunteer with Walden's Puddle and Tangled Wing Wildlife and complete the hours to become a licensed rehabilitator. Our organization was named after the the huge shagbark Hickory tree that was Ziggy's home after she was released. Little did Angela realize at the time how much this tiny squirrel would impact her life's path.



LouAnn Partington Secretary/Treasurer/Avian Specialist

LouAnn was born and raised in Ohio and graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration prior to moving to California for her corporate job.



LouAnn has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for over 30 years. She began her career volunteering at WildCare in San Rafael, CA. She was immediately hooked when she was asked to foster 2 baby birds on her first day volunteering. While at WildCare she held several volunteer positions including supervisor, animal care technician, foster care program coordinator. She also developed an intern training manual and assisted with several fundraisers. In addition to serving on the WildCare Board of Directors, she filled roles as Interim Animal Care Director and Interim Executive Director prior to her move to Tennessee to be closer to family.

LouAnn obtained her own permit after moving to Tennessee and joined Ziggy's Tree soon after the organization incorporated as a non-profit. She specializes in songbirds but is federally permitted to intake all native species of birds.

Rachel Singer At-Large Director/Reptile Specialist

Rachel has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for only two years but has been caring for animals for most of her life. A lifelong animal lover, Rachel earned her BS from MTSU in Animal Science where she could follow her love of horses to college. After she graduated, she was fortunate enough to enjoy several great jobs with animals including hoof stock keeper at the Nashville Zoo, Horse Wrangler at Land Between the Lakes, Environmental Educator with the US Forest Service, and Coordinator of the Wilderness Station in Murfreesboro. Currently Rachel accepts all reptiles and amphibians for rehab but her "heart" animal is turtles.



**Joy Clay Chrisman, Ph.D., PMP
At-Large Director**

Joy grew up in Tullahoma, and now lives in Franklin, TN. Joy attended Vanderbilt University for her Bachelor's in Communication Studies and TSU's Institute of Government for both her Masters & Doctorate in Public Administration. She worked as the Director of Development and Marketing at several local nonprofit organizations before moving into the nonprofit consulting arena as a Senior Consultant for Blackbaud which allowed her to travel the world and reside in Australia for one year to establish the Australasia consulting division. Now she is a Managing Consultant specializing in healthcare administration and IT project management and no longer travels for work, a choice made 17 years ago to permit her to pursue her doctorate as well as rescue and care for her special needs draft horse Curly Joe who was only 6 months old at the time (pictured current day), plus rescue and adopt 14 special needs guinea pigs to date.



Joy has worked with numerous wildlife rehabilitation centers, zoos, humane societies, university veterinary schools, aquariums, farm sanctuaries, and marine mammal and shark research centers around the world as a consultant and volunteer. Her favorite assignment by far was working with Steve Irwin to create his Wildlife Warriors Foundation as she was allowed to engage with all zoo residents and volunteer in both the Australia Zoo's captive breeding program for endangered species and the emergency veterinary clinic. Steve cured her of her fear of snakes (not an easy task) with his pet rosy boa named Rosy and even allowed Joy to participate in crocodile relocation efforts. He was a true inspiration and opened her heart to love all species no matter how dangerous or scary they may seem! Joy also accompanied Steve and marine biologists around the globe on shark research outings, cage diving with Great Whites and swimming with Tiger, Hammerhead, Bull, Nurse, Lemon, Bonnethead, Sand Tiger, Sandbar, and Black Tip Reef sharks to tag and study these magnificent creatures and their effect on marine mammal populations.

Joy began rescuing animals (turtles and frogs) at the very early age of 3, and has continued to rescue farm animals, domestic pets, and wildlife to this day. She started an animal rights group on Vanderbilt's campus, volunteered at Saddle Up and Nashville Humane, and served as the Board President for Happy Tales Humane in Franklin. She called upon Ziggy's Tree during one of her many wildlife rescues and first met LouAnn to drop off an abandoned baby Robin. Joy was so impressed with Ziggy's Tree she did not hesitate to accept when LouAnn asked her to join the Board! Joy relentlessly rescues wildlife (especially opossum) while advancing the mission of Ziggy's Tree.

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

Have you heard that Ziggy's Tree has received a \$5,000 grant from the St. Francis Fund for Animals of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee? These funds will be used to support our wildlife rehabilitation program, and will directly help us to provide medical treatment, healthy diets and appropriate caging for the small mammals, birds and turtles we will admit in 2022.

The Community Foundation awarded more than **\$2.66** million in grants to **439** nonprofit organizations as part of the 2021 annual grantmaking process.

"Thanks to the support of the Community Foundation, we have been able to continue to grow our capacity and provide care to middle Tennessee's orphaned and injured wildlife" according to Angela Hensley, Board President and Mammal Specialist. "We are expanding our mammal program this year and funds from this grant as well as community support are essential to the success of our wildlife rehabilitation program."

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.



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 Instagram 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 for other ways you can 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.

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, contact LouAnn at 931-841-9781.

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

Looking for a project for your scout troop, church, school or civic group? We'd love to have more squirrel nest boxes, and could also use small bluebird or woodpecker boxes to use with our young cavity nesting birds. Contact us for more information.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

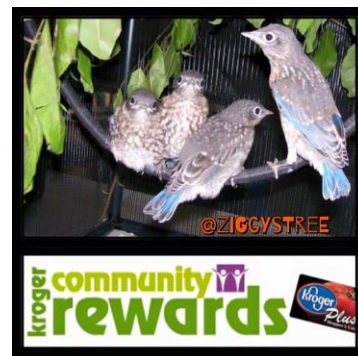
Thanks to our 82 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we received a total of \$1,498.30 for 2021. The funds we receive annually through this program are now covering approximately 5 weeks of our operating costs.

If you shop at Kroger and would like to support us through this program, just go on-line to www.kroger.com/community_rewards, 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!



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

(August 2021 thru January 2022)

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Linda Britt

ADVOCATE

The Bucket Foundation
Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund
Joy Chrisman
Charles Wharton
Barry & Karla Graul

SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher
Karen Curry
Robin Mitchell
Deborah Trimble

SUPPORTING

Amy York * Debbie Bomar * Lisa Burkhart
Thai Nguyen * Jillian Davis * Bonnie Jenkins
James & Martha Richards * Mindi McCormick
Charles Parish * Susan Gruber * Brady Palmer

FAMILY

Nakia Vensel * Terri Templeman * Jonah Malarsky
Ya-Ling Jih * Don & Lisa Rung * Patsy Bauer
Sara Padgett * Angela Bechtel * Cindy Payne
Anthony Wise

INDIVIDUAL

Ruth Ann Henry

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center * Airport Animal Clinic
Creekwood Veterinary Hospital

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Tristen Russo * Maranda Carney * Michelle Lynn
Xavier Johnson * Sarah Hickerson * Selena Matthews
Sara Padgett * David Lodge * Bonnie Augustine
Joanne Masco * Bettina Bowers * Harry Woods
Jennifer Perez

IN MEMORY

Joyce Adams by Ruth Ann Henry
Dr. Russ Hamblin by Ruth Ann Henry
Ruth Luckado by Ruth Ann Henry

2021 RELEASES

AUGUST

18 Chimney Swifts
4 American Robins
2 Barn Swallows
1 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Orchard Oriole
1 Chipping Sparrow
2 Purple Martins
2 House Finches
1 Brown Thrasher
3 Mallards
2 Northern Mockingbirds
1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
4 Carolina Wrens
4 Eastern Box Turtles

SEPTEMBER

14 American Robins
3 Brown Thrashers
4 Chimney Swifts
1 Carolina Wren
1 House Finch
1 Northern Mockingbird
1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
1 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Eastern Box Turtle

OCTOBER

1 Sora
21 Eastern Gray Squirrels
8 Eastern Box Turtles

NOVEMBER

1 Mourning Dove
34 Eastern Gray Squirrels

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
PO Box 713
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
PO Box 713
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.

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 to be placed on our mailing list.