Dear WildCare Family,

Every day every one of us makes decisions that will affect the environment. We really have no choice in impacting our planet. The only choice we have is in determining the size of our ecological footprint. That's why it's so important to be mindful of our environment, and why we formed our “WildCare Green Team.”

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to the care of wildlife and nature, WildCare understands the value of being environmentally mindful. We realize that it is counterproductive to treat and heal nearly 4,000 wild animals a year, and then release those animals back to habitats that are degraded and unhealthy.

WildCare has a full cycle of programs that all work together to help people live well with wildlife and to forward our mission to advocate for the health of animals and for a healthy environment. (See 2017 stats on our programs in our Annual Report in the center of this magazine.) Our WildCare Green Team is a committee of staff and volunteers whose goal is to evaluate the systems and opportunities in our organization to reduce waste, to responsibly dispose of our trash, and to minimize our ecological impact.

As the WildCare Green Team works to reduce our ecological pawprint we hope you will join us in making choices that minimize your environment impact. For more information on going green, see our article on page 19 and visit discoverwildcare.org/green.

In other news, as you know, WildCare made the decision in March of this year to discontinue our building project at the Smith Ranch Road site. This was a difficult decision but, as construction costs in the Bay Area continue to spiral upwards, we know it was the correct one.

We are actively seeking viable alternatives to that project, as the organization is still in desperate need of a new facility. We look forward to updating you on our next steps as we make them, and we appreciate your profound and ongoing support of WildCare and the work we do.

Thank you for everything you do for the environment, and for WildCare,

[Signature]

Vaughn R. Maurice
Executive Director
our patients need your ride!

Your old car could give them a second chance at life in the wild.

Donate a vehicle to WildCare and help injured and orphaned wild animals in need like these baby chipmunks.

The nest containing these three tiny babies was found in the engine compartment of a Subaru when it was brought to a shop for repairs.

We don’t know why these babies’ mother decided to build her nest in a car, but YOUR old car can help wildlife like them. It’s fast, easy and FREE!

Easy process
Tax-deductible
Free towing
Any vehicle, any condition

Call 855-500-RIDE (855-500-7433) or visit discoverwildcare.org/auto to donate a car (or truck, motorcycle or boat) today!

Our wild friends need your wheels...

Donate your vehicle!

Call 855-500-RIDE for more information
**wildcare news**

**enjoy happy hour with hawks**

Join us on July 12 and August 21 for WildCare & Wine! These lively receptions take place in WildCare’s Courtyard from 5:30pm to 7pm. Enjoy complimentary wine, light hors d’oeuvres and the chance to interact “nose to beak” with our amazing Wildlife Ambassador animals! WildCare & Wine events are FREE to the public, but RSVP is requested. RSVP at discoverwildcare.org/wine.

**wildcare around town**

WildCare and our wonderful Wildlife Ambassadors are getting out and about this summer! Join us for various community events where we will be sharing WildCare’s message and gaining exposure and support for the wildlife in our care. Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/events.

- **Thirsty Third Thursdays at Bon Air with WildCare**
  July 19 and August 16, 5 – 7pm
- **WildCare at Barnes & Noble**
  Saturday, August 11 10am – 3pm
- **WildCare at Marin Country Mart**
  First Saturday of the month (June – September) 10am – 11:30am

**enter wildcare’s photography contest**

It’s an amazing feeling to capture the perfect photo of a wild animal. If you’re skilled (or lucky!) enough to get “the” shot of a wild animal in California, enter it in WildCare’s Living with Wildlife Photography Contest! This is a great opportunity for amateur photographers to share your great photos with our wide audience of nature lovers. Our Best in Show photo wins $500. Deadline for entries is September 28. Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/photo.

**keep birdbaths clean**

With hot weather here and disappointing rainfall during the wet months, drought is once again upon us. If you want to provide supplemental water for wildlife, remember that you’re offering something to attract animals to your property, and you can’t specify who shows up! If animals become a nuisance for you or your neighbors, remove the water source. Also, water sources MUST be kept clean. Empty and refill baths daily, and follow cleaning and bleaching protocols provided at discoverwildcare.org/feeders.

**MAKE IT MONTHLY!**

Be part of a special group making monthly gifts to WildCare, ensuring that we can continue saving wildlife all year long.

You can change or cancel your gift at any time.

Sign up online at: discoverwildcare.org/monthly
Turkey Vultures are amazing birds. If you remember Elizabeth Terwilliger’s mnemonic “V is for vulture,” you’ll be adept at identifying these impressive birds in their tell-tale dihedral flying position.

Turkey Vultures are the best avian decomposers we have in North America. Vultures can safely eat an animal that has died from anthrax or cholera. They will not contract botulism or salmonella from carcasses because they have excellent immune systems.

Their gastric juices are highly acidic (with a pH of almost 0) and are strong enough to kill most bacteria. And vultures defecate on their legs and feet. Why? Their feces are also highly acidic and can kill bacteria that make their way onto the birds’ legs. Turkey Vulture feces will also sterilize the area around the rotting carcass to help stop diseases from spreading. These magnificent birds provide an invaluable service for the environment.

But not much is known about the movements and migration patterns of our local Turkey Vulture populations. Do they stay local year-round? Do they migrate and if so, to and from where? Participating in research studies helps WildCare be a champion for all of our local wildlife species, including those that are considered “common” by most people, “pests” by some, and that go completely unnoticed by others.

A program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) initiated their Project Zopilote (zopilote is a Spanish term for vulture) in July of 2017 to tag live Turkey Vultures to allow their movements to be tracked. The project will also test the birds for exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poisons), lead, and other toxins.

Tagging Turkey Vultures is a difficult thing to do. The birds are wary and skeptical of humans. To safely capture live vultures in order to tag them, GGRO Banding Manager Teresa Ely set up a walk-in trap from a modified dog run. The entry door was altered so that a Turkey Vulture can easily walk in, but can’t walk back out.

The trap was baited with carcasses, a vulture’s favorite food, but there’s more to overcoming vulture skepticism than offering a good meal. The best route to successfully trapping a vulture is the use of a live “decoy” vulture placed in the trap. Since this is not an easy thing to acquire, GGRO used a taxidermied vulture as a decoy, borrowed from WildCare’s museum collection. With some patience, GGRO was able to lure their first vulture into the trap in early December 2017.

**How to tag a vulture**

It is not possible to band vultures the same way that other raptors are banded for identification—by attaching a carefully-fitted metal band to the bird’s leg. If a band is placed on a vulture’s leg, the bird’s excrement will build up inside the band. Over time, this build-up can lead to injury or even amputation. Instead of a leg band, vultures receive a patagial marker attached to one wing, similar to those used on California Condors. This tag can be read with binoculars while the vulture is flying or while he is perched.

[Article continued on page 6]
In January 2018, a WildCare patient became the first vulture to be tracked for Project Zopilote. He was fitted with a blue patagial tag that showed #368, and GGRO Telemetry Manager Step Wilson also affixed a small satellite transmitter “backpack” onto the bird’s back. The transmitter works by collecting a “ping” when the bird flies past a cell tower and reports a wealth of information back to a central database, such as location, the time of day, and the bird’s elevation. In just a few months, the transmitter has provided a lot of data on the vulture’s movements—see map above. As the project continues, GGRO has plans and permits to apply at least two more transmitters to vultures.

To date, GGRO has tagged two additional vultures that were patients at WildCare. Both birds had been hit by cars and suffered from shoulder and clavicle fractures. They had recovered after weeks of treatment in WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital and in the 150-foot aviary at our sister center, Sonoma County Wildlife. We are thrilled at the opportunity to tag our released patients because it offers an invaluable chance to provide information on the post-release survival of birds once they leave WildCare’s hospital.

We are also very excited that the blood taken from the birds during the tagging process will be used to test these vultures’ exposure to rat poisons and lead, both toxic substances for which we treat many animals in our Wildlife Hospital. Stay tuned for the results of those tests.

As of April 12, 2018, GGRO has tagged eight vultures with patagial tags and outfitted one with a GSM transmitter. In the few months after tagging the vultures, GGRO has already received a handful of re-sightings. For the most part, the vultures have remained in the North Bay, and a few have been seen in the Marin Headlands. All of these birds were tagged after the peak vulture migration last fall, so everyone is very interested in tagging additional vultures before the 2018 migration season to see if there are any differences in their movements.

We are excited and proud to know that all of WildCare’s former vulture patients have been spotted, weeks later, doing well in the wild again!

**you can participate!**

spotting tagged vultures is citizen science at its best

Keep your eyes open for Turkey Vultures sporting light blue patagial tags, note the large black 3 digit number on the tag and the wing the tag is on, then visit reportband.gov to fill out a form letting GGRO officials know where and when you saw the bird. If you can get photos of the birds to share with us as well, please do! The vultures that have been patients at WildCare have tags on their right wings, and the other vultures wear tags on their left.
feeding hungry owls

WildCare is delighted to take the Hungry Owl Project (HOP) under our wing! We have been HOP’s fiscal sponsor for the past 16 years, and, in January of this year, Hungry Owl Project Director Alex Godbe made the decision to integrate HOP as a “full-fledged” program of WildCare (yes, the bird metaphors are intentional!) With access to the full resources of WildCare, the Hungry Owl Project will be able to expand its reach and increase the work that the project does to promote owls and safe, non-toxic solutions to rodent problems.

what is the hungry owl project?

Did you know that a hungry family of Barn Owls can consume over 3,000 rodents in a breeding season? This means they are an effective—and completely natural—way to control rodent problems.

The Hungry Owl Project was founded in 2002 to promote and advocate for these incredibly useful predators (and all owls). The presence of Barn Owls in an area is a good indication of a healthy environment. The goal of the Hungry Owl Project is to encourage these beneficial predators, eliminate the usage of rodent poisons and hopefully restore a more natural balance of predator and prey.

The US Department of Fish and Wildlife calls the Barn Owl the creature most beneficial to man when it comes to rodent control. They are incredible hunters, easy to attract, and being cavity nesters, they take readily to man-made nest boxes. Unlike most raptor species, Barn Owls are non-territorial, so as many owls can be attracted to an area as there are nesting boxes for them to use and rodents to eat. This is rodent control with the added bonus of perhaps catching a glimpse of these ethereal birds in your neighborhood!

WildCare has always promoted the incredible work of Alex and her dedicated team, and we are thrilled to have them on board as WildCare’s Hungry Owl Project!
wildcare’s school programs

Do you know a Bay Area teacher? Do you wish your children could have more environmental education opportunities in the classroom? Help us spread the word about WildCare’s exciting nature education programs—at school, at our site, or out in nature!

wildlife ambassadors

There is nothing more memorable than having LIVE wild animals visit the classroom! Students will have the opportunity to meet three of WildCare’s rescued, non-releasable wild animals during this unforgettable presentation. By sharing their rescue stories, these animals act as ambassadors for their species to raise awareness of their plight in the wild.

nature hikes

Immerse students in nature with our exciting discovery hikes led by WildCare’s Terwilliger Nature Guides. Students will use their senses to examine animal tracks, investigate scat and spot wildlife, all while expanding their knowledge and appreciation of local flora and fauna. Hike locations include Muir Woods, Ring Mountain, Spring Lake and Miwok Meadows.

nature van

We bring the wild into the classroom with a visit from our Nature Van full of taxidermy, skeletons and biofacts! Have you ever touched a skunk’s fur or felt a rattlesnake’s scales? This program provides an interactive opportunity to be hands-on with animals you wouldn’t otherwise be able to experience up close.

center tours

Meet our live Wildlife Ambassadors in an engaging guided tour of the non-releasable birds, reptiles and mammals housed in WildCare’s courtyard and museum. Explore the adaptations of each species, learn why each animal ambassador needed rescuing, and discover ways we can help protect their species in the wild. Every tour includes TWO special animal encounters with our Wildlife Ambassadors!

volunteer as a terwilliger nature guide!

Learn about newts and salamanders, hawks and owls, plants and fungi, and other extraordinary things in nature, and share your knowledge with school children on fun exploratory nature hikes!

New Terwilliger Nature Guides receive intensive natural history and interpretive training before hitting the trail with schoolchildren to help WildCare’s efforts to connect kids to nature.

The orientation for our 2018 Terwilliger Nature Guide Training will be held September 15, 2018.

Visit discoverwildcare.org/guides for more information and to register for the orientation.

Scheduling for the 2018-2019 school year has already begun, and the dates are filling quickly! Scholarships are available.

For more information, please visit discoverwildcare.org/education.

summer 2018
wildcare heroes

join our wildcare family by becoming a wildcare hero!

Our wonderful donors have many WildCare Heroes levels from which to choose. Your generous support of our work will give you access to special insider experiences with WildCare.

For example:

- Join as a Naturalist for a $1,000 donation. Receive a membership card, a free gift and VIP invitations to WildCare speaking events.
- Become an Advocate at the $2,500 level to also receive a 20% discount on camps and Nature Hikes and priority booking for our popular Dining for Wildlife event.
- Of the six different leadership levels, the Champion level (a $25,000 donation) gives you the most rare and exciting opportunity to be a part of the very inner circle of WildCare. This membership level includes the chance to witness the release of one of our wild animal patients, a unique opportunity to shadow our veterinarian as she works with injured and orphaned animals in the Wildlife Hospital, and a private dinner with our Executive Director and a WildCare department director of your choice.

Visit discoverwildcare.org/wildcareheroes to review the one-of-a-kind opportunities available to our WildCare Heroes, and make your gift today to become part of this very special group of WildCare supporters! Questions? Please contact Ellyn Weisel, Director of Development, at ellyn@discoverwildcare.org or 415-453-1000 x31.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WildCare Heroes Membership Levels</th>
<th>Naturalist</th>
<th>Advocate</th>
<th>Ambassador</th>
<th>Environmentalist</th>
<th>Guardian</th>
<th>Champion</th>
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<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>WildCare note cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>WildCare newsletter with special insider’s update from Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIP attendance at WildCare &amp; Wine events (three times a year)</td>
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<td>Recognition on Donor Wall during year of support</td>
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<td>20% discount on retail items, camps and nature hikes</td>
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<td>Guaranteed attendance to speaking events (must RSVP)</td>
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<td>“Early bird” priority reservations to Dining for Wildlife event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Wildlife Ambassador Experience at WildCare for up to four people OR private Marin Nature Hike with a WildCare Education Department staff member</td>
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<td>Two VIP tickets to the WildCare Gala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitation to State of WildCare Breakfast: the year’s leading update about WildCare rescues and releases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four VIP tickets to the WildCare Gala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary Experience shadowing WildCare’s veterinarian for four hours in the Wildlife Hospital--limited to two people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience a wild animal release</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIP table for ten at the WildCare Gala (please confirm one month prior to event)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private dinner with WildCare’s Executive Director and a WildCare department director of your choice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Each level includes the benefits from the level above. All benefits and experiences must be scheduled in the calendar year the donation is applied.
Dear Donors, Supporters and Heroes,

Over the past year I have spent time with local wildlife photographers, both out in the field as well as showing printed photos in and around the Bay Area. The abundance of species in the local Northern California environment is astounding. At art and community shows the one comment I hear consistently is, “I did not know we had (fill in the blank) here! Really? Where?” That blank could be a weasel, badger, a variety of owls, including a Burrowing Owl, a bobcat, any number of raptors and migratory birds, a coyote, a rattlesnake, and a Mountain Lion, just to name a few. Those people generally ask all sorts of excited questions, like where the animals live, if they can see them near their homes and how they find them. I love their enthusiasm, joy and interest in the incredible natural bounty we share.

Continuing to nurture both genuine curiosity about the environment as well as the desire to understand wildlife is at the heart of what WildCare does. Our ambassador encounters in our Courtyard, our nature education programs and classroom visits along with our WildCare Family Adventures/Aventuras Familiares all contribute to multiple generations learning how to live well with wildlife.

Our hospital provides the best care possible for those situations where wildlife and people collide. In 2017, we treated over 3,400 mammals, reptiles and birds. Our hotline fielded over 8,000 calls last year alone, and our hope is that each and every call provided insight, solutions and understanding on how to coexist peacefully with our wild neighbors. Baby season is upon us, and our volunteers are working hard to keep up. Every day is different and exciting at WildCare, and we strive to make positive impacts in all aspects of what we do.

On behalf of the WildCare Board of Directors, I extend my wholehearted thanks to our generous donors and supporters, along with our professional staff and our incredible volunteers, the bedrock of our organization. To each and every one of you, we are grateful for your commitment, in whatever form, to WildCare and the important work we do.

Kate Van Gytenbeek
President of the Board of Directors
### Program Presentations and People Impacted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Presentations</th>
<th>People</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>nature van program</td>
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<td>9758</td>
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<tr>
<td>wildlife ambassador program</td>
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<td>2797</td>
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<td>nature hikes</td>
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<td>center tours</td>
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<td>wildcard family adventures/aventuras familias</td>
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<td>nature camp</td>
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<td>nature kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>junior botanists</td>
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<tr>
<td>events</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### WildCare Family Adventures/Aventuras Familiares Program

- **Participants**: 450
- **Low-Income**: 255
- **Spanish Speaking**: 304
- **Free Transportation**: 230

### School Program Demographics

- African American: 13%
- Hispanic: 7%
- Other: 6%
- Caucasian: 34%
- Asian: 13%
- American Indian: 6%

### Center Visitors

- Courtyard ambassador presentations: 7579
- Volunteers: 450
- Rescuers: 4165
- Walk-ins: 1277
- Camp parents: 275

### Impact Statistics

- **36,676** people impacted
- **208** schools & organizations received WildCare programs
- **51%** of school program participants received scholarship assistance
- **20** resident ambassador animals
Starting in 2017, WildCare transferred to a new online database to track our Wildlife Hospital patients. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (or WRMD) modernizes the tracking of WildCare’s patient care, reduces the use of paper, and provides updated statistics to the United States and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife.

wildlife hospital statistics

3,447 total animals in 2017

76% survival rate*

birds
- 2,444
- 74% success rate*
- 160 different species treated

mammals
- 948
- 79% success rate*
- 43 different species treated

reptiles
- 55
- 94% success rate*
- 16 different species treated

* after the first 24 hours in care

46 baby animals reunited with their mothers

top reasons for wildlife hospital admission

- 11% nest destroyed
- 10% caught by cat
- 10% hit by car
- 4% hit window
- 3% caught by dog
Nearly 6,540 individuals, businesses, corporations, associations and foundations provided funding to support WildCare, helping us raise more than $3,392,262 for our Operating Fund.

**Engagement**

- 9,865 Facebook followers
- 351,982 Twitter followers
- 128,412 website visitors
- 16,066 email recipients
- 1,981 Instagram followers
- 26,701 printed newsletter magazines

**Living with wildlife hotline**

- 8,537 hotline calls answered
- 1,707 after-hours emergency calls answered

**Hungry Owl Project**

- 107 nesting boxes sold:
  - barn owl boxes: 75
  - screech owl boxes: 22
  - bluebird boxes: 9
  - bat boxes: 1

- 76 nesting box plans shared:
  - barn owl box plans: 50
  - screech owl box plans: 18
  - kestrel box plans: 3
  - bat box plans: 5
• supported AB 1031 Northern California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund

• supported AB 8 Amendment to Mountain Lion depredation permitting process

• supported AB 18 California Clean Water, Climate and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act (parks bond)

• supported AB 1687, a bill to restrict the use and sale of rodenticides in California

• opposed and submitted comments to National Park Service on the General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore opposing removal of Tule Elk and expansion of commercial livestock farming and/or row crops

• invited to attend HSUS Humane Lobby Day and speak about wildlife rehabilitation work and the importance of AB 1031 to provide funding for licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Led a group and spoke with legislators urging their support of AB 1031 and bills protecting wildlife

• provided data and mapping on wildlife injured by vehicular strikes to the Marin County Public Works Traffic Department in order to optimize location of warning signage. Installation date TBD

• letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters in Napa regarding use of rodenticides on the property

• letters to the editor, Marin Independent Journal regarding:
  - urban coyotes (written by WildCare, signed by the Marin Coyote Coalition)
  - letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters in Napa regarding use of rodenticides on the property
  - effects of pesticides on wildlife (in response to “pesticides aren’t all bad”)

active volunteers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>foster care</td>
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<tr>
<td>transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>young adult community service</td>
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<tr>
<td>veterinarians</td>
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<tr>
<td>hospital interns</td>
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<td>after-hours emergency line</td>
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<td>ambassadors</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>nature guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>wildlife camp assistants</td>
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<td>courtyard tour guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>support</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>junior volunteers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>board of directors</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

inspections completed 92

damaged structures repaired 63

animals humanely & non-lethally evicted 112 approx.
More than 400 volunteers donated over 39,490 hours valued at $475,553.

1,000 plus hours  
Alex Godbe** 1380 hours  
** 20-25 years

500-999 hours  
Jacqueline Lewis 791 hours  
Jenna Debil* 695.5 hours  
Marianna Risier*** 694.5 hours  
Francoise Samuelson*** 625 hours  
Lucy Burlington*** 600 hours  

200-499 hours  
Vennie Yancy 429.5 hours  
Sheely Ross* 417 hours  
Kate Lynch* 407 hours  
Nicole Antigard Parra 380.5 hours  
Tracy Christensen 368 hours  
Natalie Clark 363.25 hours  
Cassandra Miller* 342.5 hours  
Lily Gee 341 hours  
Debbie Fisher* 338 hours  
Brandy Lange 334.25 hours  
Bob Lundstrom* 322.5 hours  
Ellen Sickles-Wells 316.25 hours  
Alix Barby 315 hours  
Steven Morelleale* 311.5 hours  
Vanessa Giddert*** 304.25 hours  
Margarita Montenegro 294.5 hours  
Beth Ridout 280 hours  
Patricia Axxom** 275.75 hours  
Jessica Kwan 273 hours  
Robert Timinen* 272.25 hours  
Heather Gamberg* 261 hours  
Brittany Morse 252 hours  
Jessica Schmid 260 hours  
Mary Blake*** 249 hours  
Gail MacMillan** 246.5 hours  
Robyn Newkirk 245 hours  
Brittany Morse 245 hours  
Martha Conway 241.75 hours  
Melanie Piazza*** 213.25 hours  
Jan Brica 211.75 hours  
Holly Williams 209.5 hours  

150-199 hours  
Andree Souder* 199.5 hours  
Marieoelle Marquis* 198.5 hours  
Rachel Griffiths 194.75 hours  
Terry Bremer 194.75 hours  
Christine Holmes* 194.5 hours  
Alperen Toksoz 193 hours  
Susy Friedman*** 193 hours  
Teri Rockas*** 190.75 hours  
Alexis Bersona 189.5 hours  
Abby Kletz 188 hours  
Victoria Logan-Wright 187.5 hours  
Kristen Winnicki 187 hours  
Debra Bae* 187 hours  
Laine Yukl 186 hours  
Lena Maria Estrella* 186 hours  
Joy Graustark 186 hours  
Anne Barker** 182.5 hours  
Veronica Gezci 179.75 hours  
Ian Noah 177 hours  
Sue Anderson 177 hours  
Margie Heckelman*** 177 hours  
Joyce Andrews* 176.5 hours  
Everett Tilden 176 hours  

50-99 hours  
Eamonn Harvey 96.5 hours  
Kaylyn LeRoy 98.5 hours  
Bill Beech 98.5 hours  
Nicolina Akhaboff 98 hours  
Libby Scott 97.5 hours  
Car Nazzal* 96.75 hours  
Daisy Saavedra 95.5 hours  
Pat O'Daly 95 hours  
Sofie Dinglasan 94.5 hours  
Sandy Zuber 94.5 hours  
Cate Ryan 94 hours  
Mari Litsky* 94 hours  
Kathryn Thai 94 hours  
Maia Goguen 92.5 hours  
Lisa Thwailey 92.5 hours  
Diane Heininger 91.5 hours  
Julie Austin* 90.5 hours  
Kelle Kacmarck*** 90.5 hours  
Zephyr Horowitz-Johnson 90 hours  
Brenda Shea* 90 hours  
Jen Nazzal 88.5 hours  
Katy Wearing 88.5 hours  
Lisa Oliver 87 hours  
Salle Hanselman 86 hours  
Nina Fry 86 hours  
Laine Harrington 85 hours  
Fernando Presiado 84 hours  
Lynette Harris 84 hours  
Molly Kron 83 hours  
Barbara Inwald 83 hours  
Erin Wilson 82 hours  
Sandra Kerjan 81 hours  
Kaili Seekamp 81 hours  
Layne Schneider 80.5 hours  
Rachael Capper 80.5 hours  
Angela Wohlfred 80.5 hours  
Chessa Brown 80 hours  
Braden Szabo 80 hours  
Maia Perry 80 hours  
Emma Page 80 hours  
Marina Nims 78.5 hours  
Tracy Manheim*** 78 hours  
Janet Sinnicks*** 78 hours  
Michael Singleton 78 hours  
Ande Borgman** 78 hours  
Jeremy Axelrod 77.5 hours  
Annika Jackson 77 hours  
Samantha Bernard 76.5 hours  
Lexi Nation 76.5 hours  
Jane Mangold 76.5 hours  
Cathleen Vickers 76.5 hours  
Katie Raffaini 76.5 hours  
Kylie Bradley 76.5 hours  
Andrea Ferrance 76 hours  
Carol Willette 76 hours  
Hannah (Amy) Choi 75.5 hours  
Nicola Shanks 75 hours  
Kayla Hamilton 74.75 hours  
James Phelan 73 hours  
Paige Martin 73 hours  
Barbara Black 73 hours  
Barbara Larrondo-Soto 72 hours  
Snow Lin 71.5 hours  
Gayle Mills 71 hours  
Lines Rodriguez 71 hours  
Karen Sherman* 70.5 hours  
Nicolle Rodney* 70 hours  
Rachel Howard 69.5 hours  
Carolyn McCarthy 69 hours  
Andrea Speraw 66.5 hours  
Kelly Rahe 68.25 hours  
Becky Smith** 66 hours  
Susan Kreibich 64 hours  
Jack Davis 63.75 hours  
Stephanie Belfiore 67 hours  
Illiana Milan 67 hours  
Kaya Ingwersen 67 hours  
Ariene Henriquez 67 hours  
Timia Clark-Shrestha 67 hours  
Kate Grzezka 67 hours  
Sarah Willbrand* 66.5 hours  
Paula Holman 66 hours  
Tania Estrada 66 hours  
Lisa Klein Lesser 66 hours  
Lauren Bacon 64.5 hours  
Nika Padidar 64 hours  
Gillian Thackray* 63 hours  
Tatasha Mesker 63 hours  
Luka Ingwersen 62.5 hours  
Grace Stewart 62.5 hours  
Pamela Harrell 62.5 hours  
Elyen Weiss 62.75 hours  
Ashley Barnes 60.5 hours  
Sophia Stewart 60 hours  
Beverly Libaire 60 hours  
Sonja Bohannon 59.75 hours  
Tara Higgins 59 hours  
Laura Seidenberg* 58 hours  
Elsia Steele 58 hours  
Ben Hodgson 57.75 hours  
Kristina Rodriguez 57.5 hours  
Melanie Castalano 56 hours  
Carissa Gavin 56 hours  
Joanne Arauzo 56 hours  
Bob Flynn** 56 hours  
Fellidra Kapwan* 56 hours  
Kiara Vasquez 55.5 hours  
Thomasin Grim 55 hours  
Megan Arauzo 55 hours  
Natalie Smith 54 hours  
Debbie Flattley 54 hours  
Ted Adams 54 hours  
Abigail Ranghiasci 53.5 hours  
Juliana Sorem*** 53.5 hours  
Makayla Mitchell 53.5 hours  
Claudia Keast* 53 hours  
Katherine Siembieda 53 hours  
Maggie Rufo**** 52.75 hours  
Audrey Gironda 52 hours  
Isabella Dang 51 hours  
Kim Sandholt** 50.5 hours  
Anne Libbin 50 hours  
Alessandra Richardson-Beatty 50 hours  

149 hours  
162 volunteers  

Interns  
Jenna Diebel  
Jessica Kwan  
Margarita Montenegro  
Nika Padidar

summer 2018  

discoverwildcare.org  
wildcare
Debra Scheenstra, DVM began as a WildCare volunteer in 1998, and she quickly earned the respect of all volunteers and staff members. Dr. Scheenstra was always available for consultations on difficult cases and on-call for emergency surgeries such as a caesarian section on a hit-by-car jackrabbit. She also coordinated and assisted other veterinary specialists who donated their time to perform high-risk procedures, and gave critically-ill patients around-the-clock care in her home.

Within a few months of Dr. Scheenstra beginning to volunteer with us, WildCare’s Veterinarian of Record (VOR) retired from WildCare’s Board, which meant that, in order to maintain our State and Federal Fish and Wildlife permits to operate, we had to find another veterinarian who would take on this responsibility. The VOR is responsible for creating and overseeing medical treatment protocols for all species of patients, as well many other responsibilities. It’s a big job!

In order to ensure that WildCare could keep its doors open to the 3,000-4,000 injured and orphaned wild animals that needed care annually, Dr. Scheenstra agreed to step in and to “temporarily” become WildCare’s Veterinarian of Record until someone else could be found. That was 19 years ago!

It is impossible to calculate how many hours Dr. Scheenstra has volunteered for WildCare, all while running her own mobile veterinary practice six days a week, and maintaining other volunteer commitments. We can’t even begin to estimate how many millions of dollars of veterinary care and expertise over the past 20 years she has given us. In 2017, WildCare was able to hire a full-time staff veterinarian for the first time in our history. Dr. Scheenstra finally is able to pass off that “temporary” title of Veterinarian of Record that she picked up as a new graduate back in 1998, and has retired from her regular duties at WildCare. She will still remain a volunteer resource for us in the future.

It is evident to everyone who knows Dr. Debra Scheenstra that she is an amazingly talented and generous woman who does everything within her power to make sure that animals—wild, domestic and exotic alike—have the highest quality of life possible and receive top-notch veterinary care. As Dr. Scheenstra retires from WildCare, we want to publicly acknowledge all that she has done for us and our wild neighbors and thank her for her unparalleled generosity.
never use glue traps

It sounds like a good idea: non-toxic, easy-to-use rodent control product that doesn’t involve poison.

Just buy the inexpensive tray, uncover the “super sticky” adhesive, and set the tray where you don’t want mice and rats. The mouse sticks to the glue and it’s all over. Right?

Wrong! The glue is not toxic and doesn’t instantly kill the animal. Instead, the animal stays stuck, dying over the course of several days from starvation, dehydration and suffocation.

That was the fate that awaited this Western Scrub Jay, stuck to a glue trap... except this bird was rescued! Once he was at WildCare, Medical Staff sedated the bird and carefully lifted him from the glue. The bird’s left leg was hidden under his body, completely stuck, and we worried he might have dislocated or broken the limb, common injuries with glue-trapped animals. Fortunately this was not the case.

With the bird finally free and sedated, Medical Staff used a water-based soy paint stripper (never use oil on birds) to clean his feet and feathers. Several more washings, and after several days in care, this bird was able to be released.

Wildlife Tip: NEVER USE GLUE TRAPS! Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/gluetraps.

they’re small and striped, and they smell like chocolate

At about two weeks old, skunks have a distinctive but not unpleasant musky odor. When combined with the milky scent of the special skunk formula they are fed every three hours around the clock, little skunks like these smell a bit like dark chocolate. When they are about three weeks old, their scent glands have developed enough for us to register the familiar smell of skunk, but at a less eye-watering level.

Four babies were brought to WildCare after their mother died from being poisoned. Whether rat poison or slug bait, these toxic substances kill wildlife and leave babies like these orphaned.

These tiny babies will grow up in foster care at WildCare, becoming healthy wild skunks, until they’re old enough to return to the wild.

Wildlife Tip: Poisons don’t just kill their intended targets! Remove attractants to deter rodents and only use non-toxic slug bait.

tiniest hummingbirds cut from a tree

WildCare tells everyone to check for nests before pruning or trimming trees and shrubs, but it’s easy to see why this nest was missed! As it measured only two inches across, the arborists didn’t even see the nest containing the babies until it was on the ground.

Hummingbirds this tiny need to be fed every 20 minutes from dawn to dusk. These two will grow up in the excellent care of WildCare’s incredibly dedicated hummingbird foster care volunteer, and will return to the wild when they’re old enough.

Wildlife Tip: Delay non-emergency tree work until autumn.
bats in the attic

Marin County is home to 13 different species of bats. Of those, 11 are colonial. Colonial bat groups can be small, or number in the tens of millions, and are found roosting in caves, rock crevices, dead trees or, because of habitat loss, in man-made structures like your attic.

Attics provide all of the roosting requirements for many colonizing bats. The animals feel most secure when they can squeeze into tight gaps—as small as 1/2 inch. A small gap is all it takes to transform your attic into a prime piece of bat real estate.

safe evictions

Bats eat millions of tons of insects each night, and they are extremely important for the overall well-being of the ecosystem. Summer is baby season, so it is not humane to evict bats from June through August. It is also unethical to disturb a colony when they are hibernating in the winter (December through February). With fewer insects for food available in winter, they cannot replace the energy they lose emerging from torpor.

The best times to evict bats from your residence are March through May or September through November. In the proper months, our WildCare Solutions service will humanely and effectively evict bats from your home and prevent their return by thoroughly sealing entry points. For more information, call 415-453-1000 x23.

Contrary to popular misconception, bats are not blind, do not become entangled in human hair, and seldom transmit diseases to other animals or humans. Most bats that enter living areas do so accidentally and are just looking for a safe escape.

If you find a bat, call WildCare at 415-456-SAVE (7283) for advice right away. To protect yourself, and to give a sick or injured bat the best chance for treatment, never touch or handle a bat with bare hands.

salute to kathy cowan

Kathy Cowan was a dedicated Wildlife Hospital and foster care volunteer for WildCare for many years. She also ran her own humane wildlife exclusion service in and around Santa Rosa, saving wild lives inside our hospital and out.

Kathy was a strong supporter of WildCare’s own WildCare Solutions service since its inception in 2006, and she helped us tremendously. From offering advice, to training new technicians in the field, to taking on jobs we couldn’t get to, Kathy was always ready to lend a hand and give us the benefit of her extensive expertise.

One of Kathy’s true loves and specialties was bats. From exclusion jobs to bat foster care, she had a real way with these often-challenging patients. Kathy saved countless numbers of bats through humane exclusion jobs and through her foster care work.

Kathy passed away in February 2018 after a long battle with cancer. We at WildCare will honor Kathy’s legacy by continuing the work to which she dedicated her life. Her family has generously donated Kathy’s humane exclusion work van for our WildCare Solutions service.

Kathy was a most generous, genuinely nice and happy person. Her impression of a mother raccoon giving a warning snort always made us laugh out loud. She will be truly missed. In memoriam, thank you Kathy.
Cafe Arrivederci in San Rafael has fabulous gnocchi. They also have a lovely outdoor patio and an excellent menu of classic Italian cuisine. The restaurant is a staunch supporter of WildCare, participating annually in our Dining for Wildlife event for over 20 years.

And Cafe Arrivederci has recently started helping WildCare in a new way.

WildCare has a lot of events (visit discoverwildcare.org/events for a list!), and most of them require the use of cups or glasses to serve wine and other beverages.

WildCare’s Green Team researched the effects on the environment of plastic glassware, comparing disposable, recyclable and compostable options. Unfortunately, despite their labeling, most cups are neither compostable nor recyclable, and they end up in the landfill.

The best option for the planet is to use washable glassware, but WildCare doesn’t have the resources to wash, sanitize and store glassware. Enter the wonderful people at Cafe Arrivederci, who offered to be our Glassware Sponsor for fundraising events.

For every event, a WildCare volunteer picks up crates of clean glasses. Event attendees enjoy sipping their beverages from nice glasses, and then we bring the used glasses back to the restaurant. This is extremely easy for WildCare’s staff and events team, better for the planet, and so generous of Cafe Arrivederci!

Thank you to WildCare’s Glassware Sponsor, Cafe Arrivederci!

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**green corner**

WildCare’s Green Team has the responsibility of making sure our organization is as environmentally-friendly as possible. Remember to reduce, reuse, refuse and recycle!

Here are ten things we’re doing at WildCare to help the planet. Won’t you do them too?

1. **Use both sides of your printer paper.** Save paper that has only been printed on one side and use it in your printer whenever a clean sheet isn’t necessary.

2. **Bring your own cup or mug to the coffee shop.**

3. **Use one less paper towel or napkin a day.** More than a billion pounds of napkins could be saved from landfills each year!

4. **Recycle your cardboard toilet paper rolls.** More than 17 billion toilet paper tubes are produced annually in the US, and most consumers toss rather than recycle them.

5. **Eat vegetarian (at least) once a week.** It requires as much as 2,500 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of beef. One less meat-based meal a week helps the planet and your diet.

6. **Don’t rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.** Not rinsing dishes can save 20 gallons of water per load!

7. **Rethink frozen dinners.** The tray and plastic film are obviously plastic but the cardboard packaging is also usually plastic coated and not recyclable.

8. **Don’t use straws or lids.** Americans use 500 million drinking straws every DAY! That’s an average rate of 1.6 straws per person, per day. Ditch the straw and the lid!

9. **Avoid single-use plastic bags.** Carry a reusable bag with you, and reconsider plastic produce bags... You’ll wash your fruit and veggies anyway, do they really need to be in plastic to leave the store?

10. **Small plastic items add up big time!** How many of these can you stop using?
    - Plastic coffee stirrers
    - Cotton swaps with a plastic spindle
    - Disposable lighters
    - Facial and body scrubs that have plastic “micro-beads”
    - Disposable razors (use one with replaceable blades instead)
WildCare’s first annual Family Nature Day in honor of Elizabeth Terwilliger was a great success! More than 175 people attended the event on April 21. This was a great opportunity to celebrate Earth Day and learn about our local wildlife “Mrs. T-style!”

Elizabeth Terwilliger, known best as Mrs. T, was an inspiration for generations of Marin County residents. Her multi-sensory approach to teaching children about nature engendered a lifelong love of the natural world, and a desire to protect it, in the hearts of thousands. The children that went on hikes with Mrs. T have grown up to be the environmental advocates overseeing the protection of Bay Area wild lands today.

Marin County is a better place thanks to Mrs. T, and both her legacy and her creative and compelling teaching methods live on at WildCare. This event was inaugurated in her honor, and will be held every spring!

What happened at WildCare’s Family Nature Day? People of all ages took naturalist-led hikes on the Terwilliger Trail where they spotted Pacific Chorus Frogs, snakes (including a King Snake and a Garter Snake), Black-tailed Deer, a baby California Newt, Red-winged Blackbirds, Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures and other species.

Kids of all ages participated in an aquatic study with nets in a pond at Stafford Lake, discovering what lives beneath the carpet of duckweed.

Everyone enjoyed meeting WildCare’s non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors, and between facepainting, the Nature Scavenger Hunt Challenge and arts and crafts, it was a splendid day!

See more photos from the event at discoverwildcare.org/familynatureday.

Welcome Melissa!

Melissa Tofflemoyer moved to San Rafael from her native Colorado to work as WildCare’s new Wildlife Ambassador Program Manager. She holds a Bachelors of Environmental Science and is currently pursuing her Masters of Environmental Policy & Management with a Fish & Wildlife Certification. Melissa previously worked at a non-profit organization with 35 raptors that were educational ambassadors. Her roles there included husbandry, carpentry, training, and educating. Her favorite bird to work with was the Turkey Vulture.

Melissa loves working with all different species of wildlife and educating the public. Her favorite groups to talk to are young children and senior citizens. When she is not working or going to school online, she enjoys hiking, going to the beach, sightseeing, and hanging out with her tiny parrotlet, Wilson.

Melissa is doing great work with WildCare’s Wildlife Ambassadors and all of our wonderful volunteers, and we look forward to seeing all the changes and improvements she will make in our Wildlife Ambassador Program.
amazing monarch butterflies by Alex Godbe

Dazzling Monarch Butterflies float over bright summer flowers, creating a living, breathing garden. These extraordinary insects, with delicate gossamer wings, can fly an astounding 3,000 miles on winter migrations. Local colonies of wintering monarchs can be seen at Muir Woods and in Pacific Grove on the Monterey Coast.

Monarch Butterfly eggs hatch in the San Francisco Bay Area in March. Their tiny caterpillars emerge to grow into fat white, yellow and black-striped, velvet-clad, voracious eating machines. Metamorphosis is completed in just one month after the caterpillars pupate. The insects emerge as glorious adult Monarch Butterflies that sip nectar from various flowers as they pollinate.

Beautiful yet deadly, Monarch Butterflies are poisonous. Their bright orange and black colors signal this to predators. This is a survival strategy very much in the butterflies’ favor.

Like too many species of wildlife around the world, Monarch Butterflies have suffered a devastating decline from loss of habitat, pesticide and herbicide use, and the disappearance of native milkweed plants that the caterpillars depend on for food. A recent study revealed that, over the past 35 years, the U.S. population of Monarch Butterflies decreased from 10 million to 300,000. Butterfly populations like this are an ecologic indicator of the health of our environment.

Early in my career as a gardener and wildlife enthusiast, I wanted to create wildlife-friendly gardens by using only organic materials and no pesticides or herbicides. I also set a goal to use native plants whenever possible. When I heard about the diminishing numbers of Monarch Butterflies, I did some research. It seemed so simple; plant NATIVE milkweed! At that time I only remember seeing a few butterflies in the gardens. That was four years ago; now I am very happy to see that the gardens I tend are increasingly becoming more alive with these beautiful butterflies each year. It just makes me smile.

TIPS

• Research the milkweed species native to your area. NOTE: Planting non-native species to your specific area can do more harm than good.
• Plant Showy Milkweed or Narrow Leaved Milkweed here in the Bay Area. Once established the plants will reseed.
• Plant several milkweed plants at a time. Caterpillars eat enormous quantities of food and can starve with an insufficient supply of the right kind of milkweed.
• Encourage your neighbors to plant native milkweed too.
• Avoid cutting milkweed plants back, unless the plant dies down naturally. A light trim and shaping is fine.
• Make sure there are enough assorted flowers to feed the adult butterflies when they emerge.
• Do not use herbicides or pesticides.
• Use only organic fertilizers.
• Buy one-gallon plants from organic nurseries that do not sell plants treated with systemic neonicatinoid pesticides. These pesticides are deadly for bees, insects and birds.
• You can buy native milkweed at places like Annie’s Annuals, Richmond and O’Donnell’s Fairfax Nursery, Fairfax.
WildCare thanks our AmeriCorps VIP fellows

With one staff person in the WildCare Volunteer Services Department managing and supporting over 500 volunteers, WildCare was very excited to partner with the AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP) in October 2016.

The AmeriCorps VIP program was developed to build the volunteer capacity of non-profit and educational organizations serving California communities. Since 2009, AmeriCorps VIP has placed hundreds of members in community organizations with the specific targeted goal of systematically increasing their capacity to recruit, train, support, and utilize volunteers in order to more effectively serve their clients.

Our first AmeriCorps VIP Member was Jill Jenny, who graduated from the University of Virginia in 2016 with a degree in environmental science and a minor in chemistry. During her 11-month appointment as an AmeriCorps VIP Fellow at WildCare, Jill worked tirelessly in the Volunteer Services Department to improve operations and strengthen WildCare’s volunteer programs.

In October 2017, our second AmeriCorps VIP Fellow, Monica Brady arrived. Monica graduated from Georgetown University in 2017 with a degree in environmental biology and a double major in Italian. With our ever-growing and evolving operations, Monica’s contributions have been essential in recruiting and training volunteers, as well as streamlining and improving Volunteer Services Department procedures and helping to provide a sustainable workplace for our volunteers and staff.

In late March 2018, Hannah Snyder joined the Volunteer Services Department team. Hannah graduated from California Polytechnic State University in 2017 with a degree in education. In addition to helping streamline our operations, Hannah is providing outreach recruitment efforts and is working with volunteers to represent WildCare and our volunteer programs at many community activities and events.

WildCare is thrilled to be participating in the AmeriCorps VIP program and we are grateful for the hard work and dedication from these three diverse, talented and exceptional fellows.

Make your pledge today to protect wildlife tomorrow.

Please include WildCare’s Tomorrow Fund in your will.

discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund
Thank you
Wildcare!
From, __________

Dear Marco,

Thank you for coming to
our class and sharing with all
the animals. My favorite
one was the ferret and I also
loved learning about the
squirrels next. Best,

Elah

Dear Marco,

Thank you for teaching us about Nature.
My favorite fact was when we looked behind folded
and when we get to hold the salamanders. Thank
you for sharing the Magnifying glasses.

From, Samara

Dear Marco,

Thank you for teaching me about Nature and leaving your email. I really think the girl
who made theillary system was already.

From, Mariah

Dear People at Wildcare,

Years ago, when my daughter was little, she found an injured

morning dove near school. We

called, so we brought it in to you
to help it recover.

Later, she received a postcard
from you saying that the dove
had recovered and had been re-
dlaced back into the environment.
She was thrilled to see the least,
and that experience was one of

the influences that has turned her into the sensitive and aware

and helping person who is today.

Thank you for what you do.

[Signature]

Ps. I wish I could give more, look forward to meeting you.

[Signature]
upcoming events

Wine, Wills & WildCare
estate planning seminar

Wednesday, August 29, 2018
6:30pm-8:30pm

Enjoy a complimentary wine tasting experience while learning more about planning your legacy.

For event info and FREE tickets, visit discoverwildcare.org/wills or call 415-453-1000