Dear Members,

Since the earliest days of WRR, the fall and winter months meant that more and more deer would be in need of our help. White-tailed deer are very active during this period and due to the increasing presence of humans, and everything that comes with us, one of the most frequent calls we receive concerns adult deer hung up in fences. Tragically, their injuries in this situation are often fatal. For every deer who is able to run away when we cut the fence, there are dozens who fall to the ground unable to move because they suffered a dislocated hip, pelvic fracture, or permanently crippling nerve damage. For deer, who spend most of their time walking while nervously on the watch for predators, being unable to stand and move about is simply not an acceptable way to live even in a sanctuary. At WRR, we believe the humane thing to do in these cases is to put an end to their suffering. In over forty years of pulling deer out of fences, the WRR staff know how few survive such entanglement. This is the story of one who did (an old story, which I first recounted to you many years ago).

Winters in the 1980s were often bitterly cold. I remember going out on calls in the middle of the night to rescue frozen birds who had fallen to the ground, still alive, but so cold they were unable to move. There were other animals in trouble as well and when a call came in early one January morning, just before sunrise, I was not optimistic about its outcome. A college student visiting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
This holiday season, will you help us save more lives?

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank you for being such a valued member of the WRR family. Your generous spirit and commitment inspire us all. Your financial gifts allow us to fulfill our mission of providing all animals who enter our doors with the dignity and respect they deserve and giving them every chance possible to live their lives as intended in the wild or, for those who are unreleasable, a life in sanctuary.

So far in 2019, Wildlife Rescue has received nearly 10,000 wild animals including hundreds of baby opossums, squirrels, songbirds, foxes, and skunks. From the mother opossum who almost lost her life when she and her young were assaulted by a dog; to the newborn fawn found in a San Antonio park who had been kicked and abused by teenagers; to the fledgling hummingbird brought to WRR after his nest was destroyed in the storms—every day, thanks to the kindness of individuals like you, WRR is here to help animals in need. What would have happened to these lives otherwise?

We simply cannot do it without you. Every gift, large or small, is important to WRR and will save lives. Would you be willing to make a special year-end gift of $50, $100, or any amount you are comfortable with to help us bring additional wild lives in from the cold?

You can also support Wildlife Rescue in other ways:

• Become a WRR Sustainer with automatic recurring monthly or quarterly donations
• Gift of stocks or bonds
• Designate WRR as the beneficiary in your planned giving/estate planning

If you would like to talk about how you can help WRR or if you have questions, please give me a call at 830-336-2725, ext. 315.

To make a debit or credit card donation, please visit our website at wildlife-rescue.org/donate.

We are grateful for your continued trust and support, and we wish you a very joyous Holiday Season!

Thank you for your commitment to saving lives.

Diana Reyes, CFRE
Chief Executive & Development Officer

Drawing From Our Community Resources

Since its inception, WRR has relied on compassionate individuals, local businesses and socially conscious organizations to help make possible the work we do for animals. Day after day, year after year, financial contributions, in-kind gifts and the gift of time from hundreds of volunteers have made Wildlife Rescue what it is today—one of the largest and most respected wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitation hospitals in the country.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want to send our sincere thanks to all who contribute to Wildlife Rescue and our meaningful work. It is with your help that we accomplish so much.

This year WRR received a contribution from our friends at H-E-B in the amount of $20,000 to help cover the costs of produce and other animal food expenses as well as providing weekly donations of produce. Additionally, Imperfect Foods joined our list of donors, contributing thousands of pounds of produce to Wildlife Rescue since June of 2019, saving us more than $20,000.

We are so thankful for the gifts that each of you bestows upon WRR. They truly make a difference in the lives of the orphaned opossum, the fragile injured fawn, the majestic cougar, and so many others we have the privilege to help.

To learn more about Corporate Charitable Giving Opportunities visit Wildlife-Rescue.org/CharitableGivingPartners

Through our partnership with Imperfect Foods, you can get $5 off your produce! Find out more at: Wildlife-Rescue.org/ImperfectFoodsDiscountCode
Every move I made only terrified the injured deer, but the superficial wounds, inflicted by the wire fence, were not a threat to his survival. The buck's face was scarred with age and experience; I could tell he had survived many hunting seasons. It was too much to think that this fence would be the death of him. There was nothing to be done but cut him free and wait to see if he could stand. As I silently approached to the frozen ground, he tensed and his huge cinnamon tail moved up. It was impossible to know the severity of the damage done to his hindquarters and his spine, or that he was in pain but he fought to get up on all four legs and to stay there. With one rear leg less than cooperative and an aching back, he must rely on his other legs to stand firm. The white-tailed buck knew what he had been through. He knew that if he was to survive, he had to stand. He had to be able to follow the doe as she walked ahead of him.

I grabbed heavy blankets, wire-cutters, and medications and rushed to the site. She ran back to her house and called WRR. I knew there was no time to waste. If he had been suspended there for long, his chances of survival were not good.

For two hours they lay there quietly, breathing in unison, looking out into the barren pasture that surrounded them. I knew that the more time he spent on the ground, the less hope there was of his ever getting up again. Three hours passed. The doe seemed anxious; she could wait no longer. She rose to her feet, licked the male twice, and turned to walk away. The desperate male cried out to her, looking down with her piercing gaze. She stopped at his side and began to nuzzle his face as he rested his head on the ground. As the doe comforted him she nudged and encouraged him to stand. But he would not budge. For twenty minutes she tried to coax him to follow her, but he would not move. Finally, perhaps in frustration, she joined him on the frozen turf. For several snips of the sharp instrument, the buck was free. His heavy body dropped, almost strong and steady as they rose up under him but his left rear leg trembled and strained and his right one seemed damaged and weak. As he made every effort to stand he could only collapse again and again. By now his time and his ability to walk were diminishing by the minute.

Suddenly, slowly, this magnificent creature found the will to try once more. You could see in his face that he was in pain but he fought to get up on all four legs and to stay there. With one rear leg less than cooperative and an aching back, he must rely on his other legs to stand firm. The white-tailed buck knew what he had been through. He knew that if he was to survive, he had to stand. He had to be able to follow the doe as she walked ahead of him.

The big deer took several shaky strides, his three legs carrying most of his weight. He did not falter; he simply moved along and watched as the doe, stopping only to nibble on some dried leaves, looked back to see if he was following. She had stood by when he had little hope of seeing another tomorrow. Because this persistent doe did more than any drug or therapy could, the white-tailed buck would once again stand silently in winter's cold mornings and walk majestically through the coming seasons.

**All new Animal Sponsorships available now!**

This holiday season, give the gift of helping a wild animal. With three giving levels you can sponsor a variety of animals at WRR and receive:

- An 8x10 photo of the animal you are sponsoring
- A fact sheet with information about their species
- A personalized card for the recipient of this gift
- A certificate of sponsorship

**Twelve different sponsorship opportunities are available on our website at Wildlife-Rescue.org/Sponsor-A-Wild-Animal**

- Red-tailed Hawks
- American Black Bear
- Ring-tailed Cats
- Sulcata Tortoise
- Mountain Lion
- Animal Enrichment
- Yellow-headed Amazons
- Troop of Capuchins
- Flock of Pelicans
- American Red-tailed Boa
- Troop of Capuchins
- Sulcata Tortoise
- Animal Enrichment

Each sponsorship directly benefits the animals at WildLife Rescue & Rehabilitation by helping to pay for their food, medical care, rehabilitation, and more!

**Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation by helping to pay for their food, medical care, rehabilitation, and more!**

[Image of sponsorship options]

**Lydia Curry**
Though the hot days of summer are barely behind us, we are already planning for the cold months of winter. In the weeks ahead, the number of orphans in need of our help will diminish as the birthing season for most native species will have passed. However, there are still over 600 permanent residents at the sanctuary in Kendalia who need our care year round. Many of these animals are not native to the Texas Hill Country and we must take special precautions to keep them warm and safe through the winter. Before the cold temperatures arrive, WRR staff will stock up on alfalfa and hay for warm bedding, check our heaters and propane lines, and assess any necessary seasonal changes in diet for each resident. Some species, such as the black bears and bobcats, are accustomed to the winter temperatures and need only to be provided with extra bedding hay for warmth. Others, such as the many primates and non-native birds living at WRR, are not naturally prepared for the cold weather. For these species we must make sure every enclosure includes a heated warm-house in addition to the large, natural outdoor space where these animals spend most of their time. Once the temperatures start dropping below 65, each of these warm-houses will be checked at least twice a day to ensure the heater is still functioning properly, the temperature is within an appropriate range, and that all residents of that enclosure are safely able to access the warmth should they desire to. We also provide fleece blankets for the primates who often like to use them as wraps while sitting outside. We do everything we can to make sure the wild animals in our care are given the most natural and autonomous life possible while still providing all the protection and warmth they may need.

**Winter Expenses**

Though the winter months are a slower time of year at Wildlife Rescue with fewer animals being rescued and cared for at our rehabilitation hospital, there are still many season-specific expenses:

- The 46 "warm-houses" at the Kendalia sanctuary are heated using propane heaters. WRR spends around $3,000 each month on propane in the winter.
- Additional hay for bedding and warmth costs around $1,200 for the season. This is used throughout the winter and given to all the animals for extra warmth and insulation in their hide boxes, dens, and heated houses.

2019 By The Numbers:

In addition to the animals shown in this diagram, WRR rescued animals representing over 50 other species in smaller numbers including foxes, toads, bats, and armadillos. Nearly 10,000 animals have been brought to our doors since January.

2019 Admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl</td>
<td>734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptors</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoons</td>
<td>1,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skunks</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songbirds</td>
<td>2,942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottontails</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>320</td>
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<td>Deer</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opossums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squirrels</td>
<td>868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songbirds</td>
<td>2,942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though the number of wild animals needing rehabilitation increases every year due to continuous habitat destruction and depletion of resources, the most staggering increase this year was seen in raccoons. At this time last year we had rescued 587 raccoons whereas this year we have received over 1,133.

#GivingTuesday

Support Wildlife Rescue and participate in a global day of giving: December 3, 2019

Learn more at Wildlife-Rescue.org/Giving
Workshops and Volunteer Trainings

WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex Education Center
1354 Basse Rd., San Antonio, TX 78212

DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Information Session; 6PM - 7:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Information Session; 10AM - 11:30AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Living With Urban Wildlife Workshop; 6PM - 8PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Introductory Orientation; 6PM - 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Introductory Orientation Kendalia; 10AM - 11:30AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Friends of Wildlife Rescue Club members will explore different topics within wildlife rehabilitation, advocacy and conservation and will complete group volunteer activities each month.

Upcoming Exploration Sessions:

DECEMBER: Wildlife Behavior Through the Seasons
Wednesday, December 18, 6PM - 8PM

REGISTER TODAY:
Wildlife-Rescue.org/services/wildlife-education
(830) 336-2725