



**NEWS**

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## **MISSION**

**A grass roots organization dedicated to providing care, treatment and release for orphaned and/or injured wild animals and to advocate for their welfare while promoting humane values and providing education to the public.**

## **OUR HOPE**

### **message from the president**

As we begin our journey to help wild animals in need, I want to share with you our hopes - and dreams.

This organization is made up of a group of caring, professional, and qualified volunteers who believe passionately in our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and return wild animals back to the life they were meant to live.

All of us have a background in wild animal rehabilitation, and a desire to do even more to help those animals who have no where else to go. We know that often the wild animals who need us most, don't have a voice that will speak for them.

We will speak for them.

We will offer care for those orphaned. We will offer treatment for those injured. And we will offer hope - often the most important thing any living thing desires - giving those voiceless creatures a chance at life again.



We will bring our message of compassion to our community through outreach within our schools and community organizations. We will educate on why even the smallest creature is important. We will show how a small act of kindness can change an animal's life forever, and how that act can also change a person's view on how we all can make a difference.

We will use these pages in our Newsletters to inform you of recent rescues, rehabilitations and releases (RRR) and offer an informative article that we hope will illuminate a new insight into the animals we care for (Educate).

I hope you share in our triumphs, and even in our losses, as it is only through everyone working together that we can offer the hope that every animal who comes to our door can dream of - a chance at life, and to be free to live that life again back in their natural world.

Sarah Devaney

To learn more about our dedicated group of volunteers, please see page 2.

# BOARD of directors

# GET TO KNOW US

## President

Sarah Devaney

## Secretary

Karen O'Connor

## Treasurer

Kimberly Lewicki

## Directors

Dr. Jennifer Azofeifa

Kimberly Poisson

Elise Ramsey

Mike Sivak

## Newsletter Editor

Patti Roman

## HELP4WILDLIFE is based on four important goals:

**Rescue** injured and/or orphaned wildlife

**Rehabilitate** the animals so they may be returned to the wild

**Release** the animals back into the wild to live out their lives

**Educate** the public about living in harmony with Michigan's wildlife

Sarah Devaney has been a wildlife rehabilitator for more than five years. She is also an accountant for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District and is a school board member in Ypsilanti.

Karen O'Connor is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) and a licensed Michigan rehabilitator. She is also a former educator.

Kimberly Lewicki is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) and an educator in Brighton.

Dr. Jennifer Azofeifa is a veterinarian for the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) and the Dexter Animal Clinic.

Kimberly Poisson is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) and a licensed Michigan Rehabilitator. She is the Secretary of the Michigan Wildlife Rehabilitation Association and an organizational legal director.

***Education is the key to wildlife rehabilitation. HELP4WILDLIFE has dedicated and licensed wildlife rehabilitators. We keep their certificates up to date with the State of Michigan and our educational permit provides us with more opportunities to serve the public.***

Elise Ramsey is a Cruelty Officer for the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) and former Medical Technician for Easthaven Animal Hospital.

Mike Sivak is a professional artist/sculptor and a media specialist and designer.

Patti Roman is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR).

For help by species, go to  
[www.info@wildlifehelp.org](http://www.info@wildlifehelp.org)

Contact us by sending an email to  
[Info@Help4wildlife.com](mailto:Info@Help4wildlife.com)

If we are unable to answer a question or help an animal, we will provide you with resources that will.

# Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release

## MILTON'S JOURNEY

It was 8:00 am on August 14, 2010 when I was driving to Indiana and my phone rang. On the line was a woman who was very distraught and wanted to know if I could help her with a pigeon. She was entering a major shopping retailer in Plymouth and was appalled to see the gentleman power-washing the sidewalk in front of the store was using the powerful jets of water to push a pigeon off to the side of the entry way. This was the main entrance of the store and the woman was astounded that people who were witnessing this had no reaction. Not one person did anything to stop the actions of this maintenance man as the poor bird tumbled and scrambled, trying to right itself and escape the water that was spinning and tumbling him.

The woman immediately scooped up the bird and went into the store with the poor, bedraggled creature and demanded to see the manager. The man tried to appear sympathetic but stated the pigeons had always been a problem there. Sensing this was not a plausible argument to justify this act of cruelty, he immediately went to find a box to house the bird. After chastising the manager, the woman went to her car to call her local humane society to see what could be done for the pigeon. After half a dozen phone calls, she was directed to me. I told her yes, I rehabbed pigeons, and would be happy to see to his care. After all these years, it is still exciting to get in a pigeon because they come in so many beautiful colors and breeds. Not all pigeons are wild or feral. A good number are racers, performance, or show pigeons that get lost, tired or released to make it on their own when no longer wanted.

This pigeon was a beautiful pied tumbler but not banded, so there would be no returning

him to his owner. He was very young and very tired and had a fractured wing, likely from the power washer. I put him in a crate with food, water and heat to let him sleep after his ordeal. It took several weeks, but eventually he was capable of short flights around my office. Being that there are no laws affording pigeons protection as there are for songbirds, and I keep a loft of pigeons, I decided that "Milton," as he was now known, would become an ambassador animal for H4W and help people to understand wildlife better. He now shows people that pigeons are not "rats with wings" and assists me in counseling people how to use humane methods to



*Milton (left) and his friend, Henri*

keep wildlife out of homes and buildings.

By Kim Poisson, CWR

# WISH LIST

Since we are a grass roots organization, our most **critical need is funds** to purchase infant formula and medications.

We would also appreciate:

- old blankets
- towels
- paper towels
- vet wrap
- plastic bags
- pine shavings
- vinyl gloves
- wound dressing pads
- 10-20 gallon aquariums
- bales of straw
- squirrel nesting boxes
- help in building release cages
- kitten food (canned and dry)
- nuts (mix raw and raw peanuts)

**THANKYOU!**

## “Adopt” a Wild Animal Today!

By making a donation to cover the cost of caring for one animal until release, you will have helped save a life!

### Adopt a

rabbit	\$25
squirrel	\$35
opossum	\$35
woodchuck	\$65
raccoon	\$130
fox	\$140
fawn	\$300

# EDUCATION

Many educational programs are available through Help4Wildlife including working with schools to provide wildlife education, and educational programs for children and adults at the Humane Society of Huron Valley’s (HSHV) Resource Room. Additional opportunities include field trips at the UM Natural History Museum and various field trip projects for students.

## The Pigeon Watch Program



An international program through Cornell University, the Pigeon Watch Program studies pigeon populations and helps us learn about these fascinating birds and makes us more aware of nature in our own neighborhoods.

Please contact Kim Poisson at 734-368-6608 to book this educational speech for your group or school.

## Book a Fascinating and Educational Program for your School or Group!

Our Certified Wildlife Rehabilitators are available to come to your school or meeting place to give a very informative speech on the wildlife topic of your choosing. To learn more about how you can book a custom program or choose from several programs centering around native Michigan Wildlife, contact [info@help4wildlife.com](mailto:info@help4wildlife.com) for more information and pricing. (Travel limit is 25 miles from Ann Arbor.)



# Michigan's True Hibernators

In every issue we hope to educate and illuminate what makes each of Michigan's native wildlife important and unique to our ecosystem. We thought we'd start with a true hibernator in Michigan - the Woodchuck.

Woodchucks, or groundhogs as they are commonly called, are the largest member of the squirrel family. They have one litter a year averaging four babies and are born March through May. The babies are almost always hypothermic if they leave the den in search of their mom, so finding a baby out of the den is a sure sign that something has happened to the mother and the baby is truly in need of rehabilitation. Woodchucks are one of our few true hibernators in the winter so they must adapt slowly to the changing climates in the springtime. Woodchucks are "edge eaters" and often get hit by cars while looking for and eating fresh new vegetation along the roadsides. They are diurnal animals (active during day) and are often blamed for undermining buildings. Actually, they dig straight down several feet and then tunnel to make a den. They are wise engineers and man does not give them enough credit for their strong designs.

# How to Help

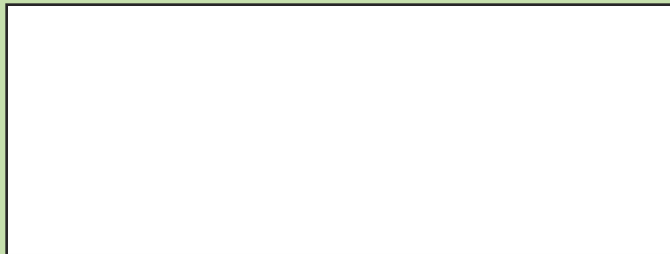
A very frightened animal could bite or scratch you so always wear gloves. Place a thick blanket or box over the top of the animal and, with it facing away from you, put into a box or pet carrier. Make sure it is secure! Keep the animal warm, out of the light, and do not allow it any food or water until speaking with a rehabilitator. Never give a wild animal cow's milk!

## *Signs of orphaned or injured animals*

- A dead mother nearby
- Diarrhea or feces on the animal
- Maggots on animal
- Listlessness or severe dehydration
- Animal is lying on its side
- Animal can be captured easily
- Animal is bleeding
- A bird with a slightly drooping wing
- An adult bird unable to fly away
- An animal limping or favoring a leg
- An animal sitting on the road and not trying to move away from traffic

Keeping a wild animal is illegal! Please contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for help.

***If you would like to learn to become a licensed rehabilitator or volunteer for our organization, please contact us at [info@help4wildlife.com](mailto:info@help4wildlife.com). It is incredibly gratifying to save an animal and watch it return to the wild, healthy and happy, just a short time later.***



Dexter, MI 48130  
P.O. Box 92  
Help 4 Wildlife

ABOUT US   EVENTS   SUPPORT OUR WORK   CONTACT US   SHOP FOR GIFTS   OTHER RESOURCES




**Our Mission:**

We are a non-profit organization in Southeast Michigan working to provide care, treatment, and release for orphaned and/or injured wildlife, and to advocate for their welfare while promoting humane values and providing education to the public.

[Learn more about what we do ->](#)



- [GET HELP](#) for an animal
- [SIGN UP](#) for our newsletter
- [SIGN UP](#) for an event

Please visit our website to learn more about H4W or to make a donation.

**Great gift ideas on the website, too!**

Check out our website at [www.help4wildlife.com](http://www.help4wildlife.com) to get more of the latest News!

Please donate generously to help us prepare for the influx of animals we will be receiving come spring.

**DONATIONS CAN EASILY BE MADE THROUGH PAYPAL!**