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Visit us at www.wildliferescueinc.org

“Helping Marylanders and Maryland Wildlife”

Dear Friends,

Wow, what a winter we had. This winter was an especially tough one on the animals and all the structures at Wildlife Rescue, Inc. We lost the large duck and geese enclosure which collapsed under the weight of the snow. Thank goodness we had moved the ducks and geese out before the worst storms. The canopy enclosure that held the hay was crushed and our star volunteer Bill Bottner spent hours repairing it. Caging gave out and structures had to be taken apart and discarded. We moved wonderful caretakers into the house to help care for the animals around Thanksgiving and are we glad we did! Our caretakers Debbie and Sabino dug out path after path to the farm animals, the rabbit house, cats, ducks, geese, deer and birds so no one went hungry. Since this was the worst Winter in many years, we know we made the right decision. During snow storm after snow storm no one could get there for days at a time and our caretakers did a wonderful job, feeding and cleaning as well as plowing and shoveling the animals out.

Now spring is here, it is getting warm and we are getting calls about baby bunnies, squirrels, opossums and more. We know you may be wondering what is going on and who could possibly fill Gerda's shoes. Gerda made that decision before she passed away. She told the Board of Directors she wanted Barbara Connor to take over for her at Wildlife Rescue. She could think of no one else who could carry on with her level of compassion and caring. This was our plan and Barbara and her husband, Bill worked hard taking



Barbara Connor feeding the first baby of 2010!!

care of the animals at Wildlife Rescue all winter. Unfortunately the Maryland Department of Natural Resources had a different plan and refused to allow her to rehabilitate wildlife at our address without moving there. So Barbara and her husband Bill generously offered Wildlife Rescue, Inc. the use of their beautiful farm which is only 15 minutes away. So that is where we will continue to help our wildlife in need.

It was an extremely difficult winter for everyone at Wildlife Rescue, Inc., not only because of the weather. We miss Gerda. She was our founder, our President and our dear friend. Her experience, guidance and her friendship are missed everyday. We cannot begin to thank volunteers like Bill and Jean Bottner, who stuck by us and have been instrumental in taking down and moving caging, buildings, fencing, etc. to set Barbara up. It is a huge task to move the large cages and housing over to Barbara's which we are still in the process of doing. It took front end loaders, flat bed trailers and a lot of volunteers hours to make this happen.

We also lost our beloved resident Porcupine Ripley, to old age, even though Dr. Keith Gold did everything he could to extend his life. Many, many thanks to Dr. Gold and all the veterinary staff at Chadwell Animal Hospital for the tremendous

amount of help we received from you since Gerda passed. The Board is so grateful that we could count on you time and time again. Special thanks to Mary Martin who Gerda always referred to as our Wildlife Rescue annex. She has been helping Wildlife Rescue with raccoons for years and she was there for all the wildlife this past year. And to Bill Walters, a dear friend of Gerda's. It was so comforting to know you were a phone call away with wisdom and help. Thank you to all of the volunteers who were there for us and the animals, week after week, never letting us down. All of you know who you are.

Wildlife Rescue, Inc. will continue to keep Gerda's dream alive by helping our wildlife and by helping other rehabilitators in Maryland, as long as we have your financial support and the volunteers to do so.

Sincerely, *The Board of Directors - Meredith, Lierra, Enid, Dave and Gerda's sister, Hanne*