



## **Partners In Paradise**

*Newsletter for The Tropics Exotic Bird Refuge  
a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization*

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### NEWSLETTER UPDATE, DECEMBER 2010

Well, another year is gone. It's been an even tougher year than last. Donations are down almost 75%. We're hoping that next year isn't worse. We still have birds to feed, and to buy Macadamia nuts for the Hyacinth. He certainly cannot do without them! We've managed to be able to get most items wholesale. No illness of birds this year, either.

There isn't much news to report other than we have placed and kept some really terrific birds this year. Some folks, who thought they had to give up their birds due to their own illnesses, have found happiness knowing they could simply board the birds here and take them back when they recovered. We've been told that these folks couldn't find any other rescues that would do that for them. We can because we have areas for quarantine and the owners have to pay any vet bills that might arise. They also pay a monthly fee for room/board. It's a win/win situation for all.

As hard as it is to find qualified adopters, there is no guarantee that an adoption will be permanent and that if, for any reason, the adopter cannot keep the bird(s), we can't possibly know where the birds wind up. In a recent event, an adopter suddenly decided he/she couldn't keep the bird any longer. Fortunately, the bird is coming back to us. It will NOT be re-adopted. Unfortunately, this happens with ALL animal adoptions. The plight of birds is one thing, but with dogs/cats it is absolutely horrific. Euthanasia has become more common even by pet owners who simply decide they can't keep their pets and rather than adopt them out to the "unknown" they have them put down. It is nothing short of heartbreaking.

Update on a long time volunteer of ours, Angela. We met her 3 years ago during her bout with colon cancer, and a previous pit fall from a brain aneurism. She recovered from both, only to find out she had breast cancer. After double mastectomy, and reconstruction she has been cancer free for over 1 year. Angela began volunteering during the middle of her bouts with cancers and adopted a bird from us. He bonded so closely to her that he became aggressive to others. We had to place him elsewhere as she could not afford injuries due to her weakened state from chemo. So, she re-adopted another bird that she still has, and the first bird was successfully re-adopted out.

John and my health are mixed. I have type II diabetes, a colon disease, and an autoimmune disease. John has fibromyalgia. My problems occasionally send me to the hospital of which I never know when I

may be admitted for care. John's condition is maintained with medications. Twenty one (21) years of 7 days a week, 365 days a year work have definitely taken the toll on us, so we rely more on our partner than ever. She is younger, and has control over the adoption processes.

Meanwhile, John and I are paying, out of our own pocket, backlogged Tropics' bills from times past. As with everyone, this has hit us hard, but it must be done. Personally, we are not liable for these debts, as they are in Tropic's name and EIN#, but we are trying to do the right thing. Anyone seeking to make donations may do so by going to the link below at: [Justgive.org](http://Justgive.org), or mailing your donations to POB 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082

If our government has its way, charitable givers MAY lose their ability to take tax deductions on future tax filings, along with losing our mortgage interest deductions. This will destroy many charities of ALL kinds that are striving to do what others can't, which is to provide services for all. Animals, unfortunately, are hit the hardest. Who wouldn't give to a child with cancer before helping a bird, dog or cat? Bird rescues are seldom, if ever, mentioned in the world of animal rescue. Many of the big charities helping folks in dire need, whether it is financial, medical or any other kinds of needs will be hit hard. Animals, on the other hand, will be last to benefit. So pray over your giving, if you have anything to give then give to whomever, as your heart dictates. We all have problems, and that is why The Tropics has done NO fundraising for the last 2 YEARS! We feel it to be an insult to ask people who are already in need, themselves, to give when they have to take care of themselves, their children, and their pets, also.

Past donors are calling and emailing to see if we are still open.....YES! They are concerned because they are not hearing from us, but economically it is prohibitive to pay for mailings. In order for us to do a non-profit mailing it costs us \$160/yr just for the non-profit bulk mail permit, and we still have to pay per piece prices, at a lower rate. To mail to our mailing list cost thousands a year when we factor in desktop design, writing, printing, folding, stuffing, and labeling. And the return does not justify the work and costs involved in doing the mailings. Our philosophy has always been to do mail, as we feel that people are more aware when they receive something tangible in their hands rather than a message on a computer screen.

Therefore, instead of asking, we are thanking each and every one of you who have faithfully given over the years. Please do not misinterpret this as soliciting funds. It is a warning concerning the future of ALL charities, and we citizens who might lose our ability to give and receive, in return, in the form of tax relief on our income taxes. Most of whom we know would still give regardless. You are the ones who are the greatest blessings to us. Hope 2011 is a better year for all.

Sincerely, The Tropics & The Bradfords,

PO Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28081 or [JustGive.org](http://JustGive.org).