



birdcalls

This Fall Experience FORESTS at the National Aviary



As the leaves begin to turn, take a trip to the National Aviary to explore **Forests** and the many creatures inhabiting them! From dense forests that span North America, to lush rainforests in tropical climates, forests are home to an incredible abundance of wildlife. Exciting, interactive daily programs—many included with admission—bring visitors closer to gorgeous birds found in forests around the world.

In the steamy Wetlands habitat, experience the thrill of fascinating forest birds flying close by during a **Forest's Edge Feeding**. Stunning birds, like the Critically Endangered Bali Myna of the woodlands of Bali and the eye-catching Plush-crested Jay found in the forests of South America, fly by and perch just feet away. Enjoy a talk led by a National Aviary expert and learn about the adaptations and conservation of the species thriving among the dense vegetation and clear pools of the Wetlands.

Visit the Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater for **Meet an Eagle or Forest Friend**, and see an eagle or another forest-dwelling bird up close and learn about their distinct adaptations as they demonstrate natural behaviors. Understand how different species depend on forests for food, shelter, and nesting, and how to help protect forest birds.

In Condor Court, meet a mysterious owl species with a familiar nighttime call. Given their nocturnal nature, Barred Owls are seldom seen, but these impressive owls are found in forested areas throughout southwest Pennsylvania, including in some of Pittsburgh's parks! Explore the features that enable owls to hunt silently and see owls up close during a **Barred Owl Talk Presented by Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School**.

An **Animal Encounter** with a forest-dwelling bird (or even a sloth!) offers the chance to deepen a connection to nature and create an unforgettable, personal experience. During an Animal Encounter, have a personalized experience meeting a fascinating animal, learn about their adaptations and natural history, and gain an appreciation for the important role they play in nature. Animal Encounters include a general admission pass to visit the National Aviary, and Animal Encounters start at just \$16 more than general admission.

Explore the world of forests this fall at the National Aviary!

Learn about the National Aviary's latest **health and safety policies** before you visit.

Plan Your Visit!

Letter From the Director



Connecting to Nature, Together

This summer, we savored a season that offered moments of normalcy as we reconnected with friends, family, and beloved places. At the National Aviary, we were delighted to welcome back visitors during a lively and exciting summer season. As we transition to our fall season, we continue to provide immersive

programming and activities that allow families to connect with nature, with safety at top of mind, as always.

This fall, visitors are invited to experience Forests, the National Aviary's new season offering dynamic programs and experiences. Forests are as varied as the birds inhabiting them, ranging from lush tropical rainforests home to stunning birds like the Critically Endangered Vietnam Pheasant and the Scarlet Macaw, to the vast boreal forests of North America that provide invaluable habitat for Bald Eagles and Hooded Mergansers.

New daily programs, like a Barred Owl Talk Presented by Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, an opportunity to Meet an Eagle or Forest Friend, and a Forest's Edge Feeding in the Wetlands will introduce visitors to beautiful species from around the world and help them understand how they can protect the forest habitats we all rely on. The National Aviary's exciting outdoor programs connect nature lovers to experts on Owl Prowls and Birdwatching Kayak Tours with L.L.Bean. Our safety protocols allow us to connect to nature, together.

We know that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to present change for all of us, and that we will continue to adapt to those changes. One constant throughout is the healing experience created by being around birds and in nature, and that is needed now more than ever. While we continue to experience this ever-changing situation together, the National Aviary will be here to deliver our mission and to keep all of us connected to birds and their beauty.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Tracy
Executive Director



Stay Connected

aviary.org | 412-323-7235

Twitter: @National_Aviary

Facebook: Facebook.com/NationalAviary

Instagram: @National_Aviary

BirdCalls is published for friends of the National Aviary.

Editor: Molly Toth

Communications & Content Specialist

Molly.Toth@aviary.org

Your donations support the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.





Bob, a Keel-billed Toucan with a beak condition, is at home in his customized habitat full of leaves, hibiscus flowers, and perches in the Avian Care Center.

Specialized Care to Treat Beaks and Beyond

By Dr. Pilar Fish, Senior Director of Zoological Advancement and Avian Medicine

At the National Aviary, a skilled team of experts care for each individual bird's myriad needs. Everything from neonatal to geriatric, and feathers to feet are a part of a comprehensive care strategy. One area requiring veterinary expertise is bird beaks. Bird beaks are made of hard keratin, like fingernails, and are durable but prone to wear-and-tear conditions. As birds age, beaks can become brittle and develop chips and cracks. At the National Aviary, we provide extra care to birds with beak conditions to repair cracks and maintain the beak at its best. Bob, an older Keel-billed Toucan, was the first bird at the National Aviary to receive an innovative technique using light-activated dental acrylics for repairing cracks on his large, colorful beak. The same technique that can repair chips in human teeth can be modified to work successfully on bird beaks! The dental acrylic fills in cracks and keeps the beak strong for daily use.

Beaks are essential for eating, grooming, and even climbing for some species, and are highly specialized for each species' foraging style. Parrots have powerful beaks that enable them to break open nuts. Toucan beaks, like Bob's, are long with serrated edges to help pluck fruit. Egrets have long pointed beaks to probe and pick up small pieces of food. Beaks are in near-constant use.

Today, Bob is enjoying life in the recently renovated Avian Care Center, where this friendly and inquisitive toucan spends his day with his neighbors, Casper the Cattle Egret and Kirby the Scarlet Ibis. Casper is older and has an uneven beak. He receives regular beak maintenance, including dental acrylics, which keep it at its best. As birds age in the wild and in human care, some develop beak conditions where the top and bottom beak do not align evenly.

At the National Aviary, we have creatively designed habitats with features to assist birds in using their beaks efficiently, like specialized feeding areas to aid in easily picking up food with beak disabilities. Food is placed on top of tall grasses and floated in water, replicating a marsh-like area. With this design adaptation, Casper can wade through and effortlessly scoop up food from the customized feeding pans. Birds with beak conditions, like Casper and Bob, are naturally adaptable and resilient, and succeed with customized aides.

Casper the egret shares his marsh habitat with Kirby, the geriatric ibis, who also has a beak condition. Together, with their charismatic neighbor Bob, they socialize, vocalize, bathe, rest, and eat their favorite foods. "The Boys," as they have come to be known, are three very special older birds who are enjoying life in their customized habitats. Their habitats are designed naturally and with comfort in mind. They have padded perches, grass ledges, soft moss, tropical plants, and a misting system. The branches in Bob's habitat are even designed to have some bounce to them as toucans love to hop through trees. Each habitat has unique adaptations to help them use their beaks with ease. All three are thriving in their specially designed habitats at the National Aviary. With innovative treatments and individualized care, birds with beak disabilities can live full and active lives.

Your support helps birds like Bob thrive!

There's Still Time to Hike, Bike, and Explore

It's not too late to hike, bike, and explore in the month of September and support the National Aviary!

Registration remains open for the National Aviary's first-ever **Hike-A-Thon Presented by UPMC Health Plan**. Now through the end of the month, get outside wherever you are, virtually log your miles, compete to win great prizes, and engage your friends and family to raise funds to support the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.

[Register Today!](#)



Presented by UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Thank you to our sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor

UPMC Health Plan

Everest Level Sponsor

Lamar

Kilimanjaro Level Sponsors

Jendoco Construction Corporation
Peoples

Fuji Level Sponsors

Rich Caruso
Chemistry
DICK'S Sporting Goods
Encompass Health Rehabilitation
Hospital of Sewickley
Excel Sportswear
The Wilson Group KW23

Pikes Peak Level Sponsors

Desmone Architects
FHLBank Pittsburgh
goodr
Maher Duessel

Plan a Birdwatching Getaway!

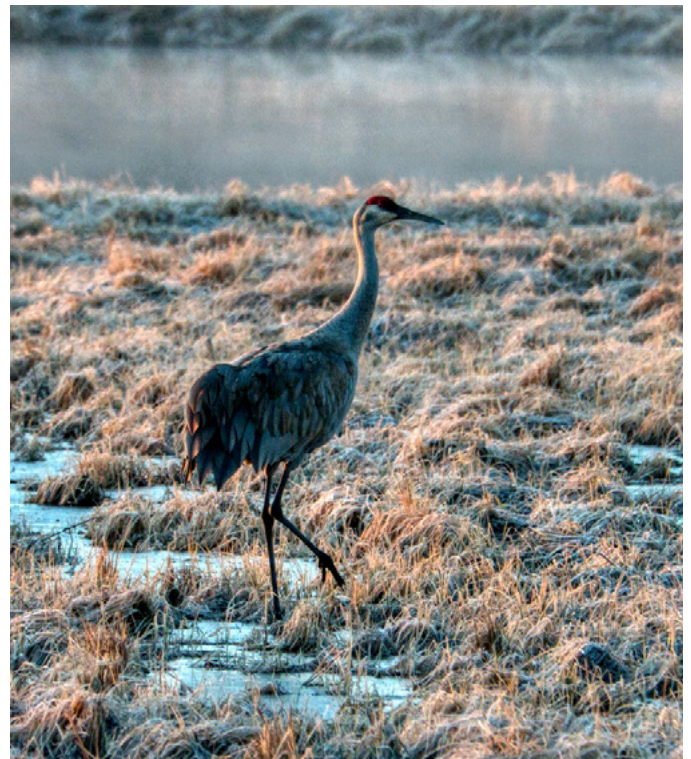
Witness one of North America's greatest **migration journeys** and explore one of the country's most impressive destinations for birdwatching with the experts at the National Aviary and AAA Travel. Enjoy comfortable accommodations, fascinating conversations with travel companions, and the guidance of National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill on these birdwatching getaways.

Experience the wonders of the southwest with stops at Saguaro National Park, Kartchner Caverns, and Cochise County for birdwatching in deserts, mountains, and wetlands on an **Arizona Birdwatching and Tucson Adventure**, January 17-23, 2022.

[Learn More!](#)

Travel to the Heartland to experience the majesty of Sandhill Cranes during migration, when hundreds of thousands of these graceful birds gather on the Platte River on their journey. See a Prairie Chicken lek and enjoy the sights, sounds, and wildlife on **An Adventure in the Heartland**, March 20-26, 2022.

[Learn More!](#)



Renowned Artist Puts Brush to Canvas for Birds

A splash of color is adorning the walls of The Charity Randall Foundation Eagle Hall, where several canvases ranging in size from 18x24" to 48x60" showing dynamic images of birds painted in bright hues are currently hanging. The imaginative artwork, created by Pittsburgh-based artist Johno Prascak, is on display for National Aviary visitors to enjoy, and individual pieces are available for sale, with 50 percent of each sale supporting the National Aviary's mission.

Johno Prascak is no stranger to the National Aviary. His artwork—and that of his wife, Maria DeSimone Prascak, whom he met at the National Aviary in 1988—is on permanent display, and the couple have supported and lead programs and events at the Aviary for years.

"With any show, my hope is when people view my paintings, and that they find a smile," Johno says. "When people see my work at the National Aviary, I hope they will feel inspired by the beautiful birds around them, and that they'll want to support the Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats."

The South Side Slopes artist has earned national attention and acclaim for his work. His artwork hangs in the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University and has been featured on NBC's *Will and Grace*. His oversized canvases featuring scenes from and inspired by nature are rich and textured, utilizing bold colors and a unique painting style using sand from the Monongahela River with enamel paint to give his work depth and dimension.

Johno Prascak's artwork is currently on display in The Charity Randall Foundation Eagle Hall at the National Aviary. Inquire about purchasing artwork by contacting Johno at (412) 481-4208 or visit JohnosArt.com. Fine art reproductions are also available for purchase.

Learn more about Johno's art!



Summer Camp Returns to the National Aviary...and Grows Up

When in-person camps returned to the National Aviary this summer following a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the best-loved aspects of camp were present: the behind-the-scenes glimpses of life at the National Aviary, the engaging and interactive activities, the friendships formed between campers.

Some things were new, however. The setting was one of them. The National Aviary's all-seasons event space, The Garden Room, which opened in October of 2020, served as the home base for camp. With ample space, open-air access to the Rose Garden, and seamless connectivity to the National Aviary's habitats through The Charity Randall Foundation Eagle Hall, The Garden Room provided a welcoming place for campers to learn and explore. In a first for the National Aviary, camp was offered both in-person and online, with a virtual summer camp session returning by popular demand.

Some of the campers were older, too. For the first time, the National Aviary hosted Summer Camp...for Adults! Adults were encouraged to act like a kid again with two options for camp: an outdoor camp in North Park that included a birdwatching kayak tour with L.L.Bean and a ropes course with Go Ape. Adult campers at the National Aviary helped to prepare food for the Aviary's flock of Rainbow Lorikeets, watched bird training sessions with the Aviary's expert staff, and got up close to parrots and falcons during meet and greets.

The fun doesn't end in fall! Learn more about outdoor programs for bird lovers of all ages.

Can't wait until summer?

Stay tuned for registration for the **National Aviary's Winter Camps** on December 28 and 29!

Awareness Day Shines Light on Endangered African Penguins

Saturday, October 9 | 10 am - 4:30 pm

Included with admission

They waddle, swim, and charm with their distinctive "tuxedo" plumage, but the world's penguins are in trouble. African Penguins in particular have experienced a rapid decline over the last century. The most recent count of African Penguins in South Africa showed that only 10,400 pairs remain in the country, down from 13,000 just two years ago.

Without swift action, this beloved species could be extinct in the wild in less than a decade. But, the actions of people around the world who care about conservation can make a difference for African Penguins!

This fall, the National Aviary is joining a global community celebrating International African Penguin Awareness Day. The holiday originated in South Africa and is marked by festivals and events that provide educational opportunities and raise funds to protect African Penguins.

Visit the National Aviary on October 9 from 10 am to 4:30 pm to celebrate all things African Penguin. Visit the colony of African Penguins, including the newest member of the colony, Marge, at Penguin Point during feedings and talks throughout the day.

Add on a **Penguin Encounter** or **Jr. Penguin Encounter** and get nose-to-beak with a penguin during a private interactive experience led by a National Aviary expert. Enjoy fun penguin-themed coloring crafts, a special story time, and more family friendly activities while learning how everyday choices can help create a brighter future for African Penguins.

Plan Your Visit!



Fall Calendar of Events

Birdwatching Kayak Tours with L.L.Bean

Sunday, September 19 and October 3
8 am - 11 am

\$75 per person, per session
Participants must be 8 years or older; under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult companion.



See birds in a new way: from the water! Meet up with the National Aviary and L.L.Bean at North Park Lake in Allegheny County for a birding adventure by kayak. The professional and experienced guides from L.L.Bean will offer on-land instruction on kayaking equipment, basic strokes, and safety guidelines before a National Aviary expert leads

kayakers out on the water to scan the shoreline and surrounding forest for birds. L.L.Bean will provide all necessary equipment, including kayaks, paddles, safety flotation devices, and L.L.Bean Discovery Binoculars.

Sunday, September 19: Back to Birding Basics

Head out on the water and brush up on your birdwatching skills. As you take in the scenery from your kayak on North Park Lake, a National Aviary expert will share helpful hints and tips for identifying the birds you see and hear around you. With fall migration in full swing, you may see birds like Spotted Sandpipers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Indigo Buntings!

Register today!

Sunday, October 3: Fall Flyers and Foliage

North Park Lake in the fall is a sight to behold, and you can take it in from the vantage point of a kayak! Enjoy a pleasant morning on the water looking for birds like Kildeer and Wood Ducks, and listening for the songs of Eastern Towhees along the shore. A National Aviary expert will help you spot these and other species as you experience the beautiful fall foliage.

Register today!

Owl-O-Ween

Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17 and 23-24
10 am - 3 pm

Included with Admission

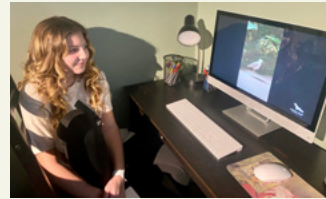
Experience the thrills and chills of the season and meet mysterious owls during a fun and family friendly trip to the National Aviary for Owl-O-Ween. Pick up a trick-or-treat goody bag, get creative with an owl-themed craft kit, packaged individually for every child, and get the chance to meet a beautiful owl in the Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater during a special Owl Meet and Greet!

Plan your visit!

Aviary After School

Thursdays, September 30 - December 16
4 pm - 5 pm EST

Presented via Zoom
Open to students ages 6-12 | \$199 per household



Young nature lovers from across the country are invited to virtually join the National Aviary for Aviary After School. This unique, semester-long, virtual learning program not only allows participants to learn about the wonderful world

of birds, but also they will have the opportunity to make personal connections with other participants!

Learn more!

Brushes & Birds Art Classes featuring Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas Now available in person and virtually!

Saturday, October 9, November 20, and December 18
11 am - 1 pm EST

Presented in person at the National Aviary and live via Zoom

Cost per person for virtual class: \$23 for Members; \$25 for non-Members; plus \$20 per person plus \$10 shipping for optional material kit
Cost per person for in person class: \$60 for Members; \$65 for non-Members; materials and admission included



Create a masterpiece with fun painting classes for all ages, with the option to attend in person or virtually! Learn to paint an animal portrait with step-by-step instructions from local artist Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas, **MariasIdeas.com**. No painting experience required. Optional

material kits for virtual attendees are available for pickup at the National Aviary, with safety protocols in place, or shipped to your home, at an additional charge. Seating for in-person classes is limited.

Saturday, October 9 ■ Learn to paint a Eurasian Eagle-Owl, a gorgeous species with enormous glowing orange eyes!

Saturday, November 20 ■ Pick up a brush and paint a Great Argus, a pheasant with long, ornate tail feathers with designs resembling eyes!

Saturday, December 18 ■ Paint an African Penguin, a famously tuxedoed bird with a charming personality that jumps off the canvas!

Register today!

Fall Calendar of Events cont.

National Aviary Job Shadow Series

Saturday, November 6, 13, 20, and December 4
1 pm - 3 pm

\$299 per person for four sessions
Open to ages 14-18



Aspiring veterinarians and zookeepers ages 14 to 18 can spend four Saturdays exploring careers working with animals under the guidance of the National Aviary's aviculturists. This program is a unique opportunity for participants to get a behind-the-scenes look into what it takes to work with and care for the over 500 birds that call the National Aviary home!

[Learn more!](#)

Avian Medicine Spotlight for Aspiring Veterinarians with Dr. Pilar Fish

Tuesday, November 9
5:30 pm - 7 pm EST

Presented via Zoom
\$23 for Members; \$25 for non-Members



Learn what it takes to become a veterinarian from Dr. Pilar Fish, the National Aviary's Senior Director of Zoological Advancement and Avian Medicine. During this intensive seminar designed for teens and college students, gain insight into the field of veterinary medicine, learn tips for navigating the journey through veterinary school, and discover the unique and rewarding aspects of a career in avian medicine. A practicing veterinarian since 1994, Dr. Fish has worked throughout Africa and Latin America teaching avian medicine and

assisting wildlife rehabilitation centers. Your student can jumpstart their future in veterinary medicine with this amazing opportunity to learn from one of the nation's foremost avian veterinarians!

[Register today!](#)

New! One Day Camp at the National Aviary

Friday, November 26
9 am - 2 pm

\$90 for Members; \$95 for non-Members
Open to ages 6-12

Kick off the holiday season with a fun and immersive one-day camp at the National Aviary! While parents shop on Black Friday, kids can go behind the scenes and learn what it takes to care for the more than 500 birds and mammals at the National Aviary. Enjoy exciting Animal Encounters and activities, and explore immersive habitats!

[Learn More](#)

Meet a Mysterious Owl!



This fall, have the thrilling experience of getting close to a mysterious owl during an Owl Encounter! Learn about the amazing adaptations, like silent flight and excellent hearing, which help them thrive in forests around the world, and hold an

owl on your gloved arm for an unforgettable experience. Animal Encounters include general admission! **Members get 10% off.**

[Learn more and book your Owl Encounter!](#)

Unique Gifts for Nature Lovers



With the holidays right around the corner, the National Aviary's gift shop has one-of-a-kind gifts for backyard birdwatchers, nature-loving kids, serious birders, and everyone in between. Browse in person or **online** to find gifts for your whole list.

Looking for a new pair of binoculars? Visit the National Aviary's gift shop to browse and test a line of high-quality optics from Opticron, vetted by Bob Mulvihill, the National Aviary's Ornithologist!

[Shop online now and find options for every budget and every birder!](#)



Daily Activities Schedule

10:30 am

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

11:00 am

African Adventure Presented by  
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

11:00 am

Lorikeet Feeding 
Canary's Call | Presented by 

11:30 am

Forest's Edge Feeding
Wetlands

12:00 pm

Meet an Eagle or Forest Friend
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

1:00 pm

Barred Owl Talk Presented by 
Condor Court

1:00 pm

Pelican Talk
Wetlands | Toss fish to pelicans for a fee while supplies last.

2:00 pm

African Adventure Presented by  
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

2:00 pm

Tropical Rainforest Feeding
Tropical Rainforest

3:00 pm

Lorikeet Feeding 
Canary's Call | Presented by 

4:00 pm

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

 = Requires Additional Ticket or Fee

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE WITH BIRDLY®

11:00 am & 2:00 pm
\$40 Group Rate

Coming soon: This full-body flight simulator uses virtual reality to let you fly over New York City. You're in control! Available for groups up to 5; fly as much as your group would like for up to a full half hour!

Book at the Visitor Services Desk

National Aviary admission is included with interactive **Animal Encounters!** Schedule your encounter today, starting at just \$16 more than general admission. Ask at the Visitor Services Desk!



Donor Society

Thank you to the following individual supporters who made donations of \$500+ in 2021. Your generosity helps fund the care of our animals. To be a part of our Donor Society, contact Ted.Bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.



2021 Donor Society

Martial Eagle | \$2,500+

Anonymous (4)
Josh and Jacklyn Banyas
James L. Brainard
David and Elizabeth Brown
Richard Caruso
Jane and Michael Dixon
Michael and Eileen Flinn
Ginny Merchant
Leigh Metcalf
Brian and Sandra Moroney
Louis and Kathleen Testoni
Estate of Lucienne Wald
Yarone and Tiffany Zober

Snowy Owl | \$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous (2)
Timothy and Titina Adams
Harold F. Balk, Esq. and Dr. Ingrid Wecht
William and Vivian Benter
Jennifer and Keith Bertetto
Bryan and Katrina Brantley
Verna Corey
Maris Dauer
The Honorable Patricia L. Dodge
Chris and Susan Farrell
John and Suzanne Graf
Thomas and Song Kehoe
Madelyn Kleitch
Thomas and Christine Kobus
Matthew and Salina Kohut
Dave and Courtney Looman
Patrick and Alice Loughney
Saundra E. Lumish

Gary and Michelle Lynch
Thea Manos
Michael and Kathleen Matczynski
Hans and Ella Moravec
Prescott and Katherine Musler
Robert and Susan Obenour
Andrew and Cassandra Oehler
Claire Helen Rex
Jerry and Laure Ritzert
Narahari Sastry
Dale and Coral Sheldon-Hess
Luanne and Jim Shock
Judy and Jim Stalder
Reverend Thomas A. Wagner

Scarlet Macaw | \$500-\$999

Anonymous (3)
Jean Callihan
Lee Cambria and Kathy Haefner
Ed and Sandi Cleary
Sheldon Cohen and Mary L. Miller
Patrick Curry & Susan Campbell
Mrs. Sally Davidson
Thomas and Maryanne Debies
Gennaro and Joni DiBello
Leigh Anne Diccico
David Eger
Jeffry and Karen Fink
Timothy and Joan Goetz
Alan and Marsha Groover
Michael and Lisa Hart
Wyatt Herschell
Dr. Susan Hoppe and Dr. Michael Goodhart
Neal and Becca Huntington

Denise John
The Kalna Family
Jacob Kiss
James and Cathy Lehman
Paula Lockhart
James and Jennifer Martin
Richard T. McCoy and Mary L. Marazita
David and Judy McNally
Sally O. McVeigh
Nagy Nagiub
Jan Ornato
Chris and Christine Patton
Marlin Pease
Jay Pollak and Cheryl Warman
Melvin D. Rex
Robert and Chelsea Rodgers
Rob Rossi
Tracy Rostauscher
The Scaltz Family
Joan Scheinholtz
James Spagnola
Karen and Don Stump
Chere Tiller and Cris Mooney
Cheryl and Rick Tracy
George Weir
Jeffrey and Cheryl Weisband
Sarah Wiggin
Thomas and Barbara Wiley
Mr. John Wojtyna
Gwo Yu
Dennis and Pat Zerega