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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating 25 Years of Caring for Wildlife



PHILADELPHIA, PA (November 20, 2012) The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) celebrated its wildlife clinic's 25th anniversary with two special events this fall, most recently with a dessert reception for clinic volunteers. Participating in the reception—and together for the first time ever—were all three directors of the wildlife clinic. Trish O'Connell (far right) founded the clinic in 1987 in a farm outbuilding on Port Royal Avenue, and helped the clinic grow through 2004. Mary Deroo (left) originally SCEE's bookstore manager, shifted to the clinic as its administrative director after Trish. Current director Rick Schubert (center) has been the Center's director of wildlife rehabilitation since 2006.



Also at the clinic volunteer reception, members of the Lefco family announced their foundation's endowment of a raptor flight cage, the next step in the clinic's ability to serve wildlife. Executive director Mike Weilbacher (far left) welcomes (from left) long-time clinic volunteer Ann Lefco, her husband Terry, and Terry's sister Deborah. The cage will be named in memory of Terry and Deborah's parents, Herman and Helene Lefco. The Schuylkill Center is hugely appreciative of this gift, the inaugural gift of the Lefco Family Foundation.



In late September, the Phillie Phanatic joined over 125 other well-wishers at a 25th birthday party for the wildlife clinic. The free, family-friendly event also featured live animal shows, crafts for children, and a photographic exhibition about the clinic in the Schuylkill Center's new art gallery. After the Phanatic's show, the audience enjoyed delicious birthday cake—courtesy of the Night Kitchen Bakery in Chestnut Hill—more animal programs, and a tour of the Center. (Photo: Rick Schubert treats the Phanatic's "injury.")

The Schuylkill Center's wildlife clinic is the only fully licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility in the four-county area, and the care for animals in need is free. Since its opening in 1987, the clinic has cared for over 80,000 injured and orphaned animals, successfully returning the majority of those animals to the wild.

About the Schuylkill Center

Founded in 1965, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) is one of the first urban environmental education centers in the country. It encompasses over 340 acres of privately held land in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. SCEE's mission is to promote the preservation and improvement of our natural environment through education, outreach and the conservation of its land.

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