

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA SHOWCASES UNIQUE OFFERINGS IN ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Fundraiser supports veterinary services, wildlife rehabilitation, and public education programs.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – October 14, 2022 The Wildlife Center of Virginia is hosting its annual Benefit Auction now through October 22rd. Again this year, the event is virtual and can be visited at www.wcv.givesmart.com or through links featured on the organization's homepage at www.wildlifecenter.org.

This year's auction includes a dazzling array of items from around the world, including works by talented artisans and crafters, gifts for kids and kids-at-heart, estate jewelry, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Bidding on all of those items will close on the evening of Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 p.m.

Of particular interest to fans of wildlife and supporters of the Center are the many fun, whimsical, wildlife-themed offerings. Visitors to the auction site are able to view items by categories that include some of their favorite creatures: owls, bears, eagles, and more. Viewers will find jewelry, artwork, ceramics, and textiles adorned with their favorite critters. The Wildlife Center of Virginia's resident opossum and raptor ambassadors are not to be outdone. In addition to paintings OF the fan-favorite animals, bidders will be able to bid on paintings BY them, as well.

A set of education ambassador-created artwork was a collaborative effort this year -- four <u>artists-in-residence</u> -- Maggie the Peregrine Falcon (working in dark blue), Hudson the Gyrfalcon (in white), Marigold the Virginia Opossum (in purple), and Violet the Virginia Opossum (in orange) -- worked on the two panels over the course of four weeks.

The four contributed their paw and talon prints to make modernistic paintings for the auction, a creative explosion featured in a video posted to the Center's <u>YouTube</u> and <u>Facebook</u> pages.



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Also featured in the auction are a collection of unique getaways and experiences, including a private bourbon tasting at Buffalo Trace Distillery and picnic lunch with famed author and raconteur Rita Mae Brown. Long-time friends of the Wildlife Center will also find a few insider experiences that they are sure to find appealing, including a hands-on experience with patient treatments at the Center's veterinary clinic, and a catered picnic in one of the Center's bear towers.

"We are glad to have the chance every year to share our expertise and our mission with the public through the Auction," said President and co-founder Ed Clark. "Year in and year out the staff and our auction donors do an amazing job of offering up a selection of items that give everyone the opportunity to participate and show their care and concern for wildlife."

Auction access is available at www.wcv.givesmart.com. Gala tickets are not necessary to participate in the Auction.

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The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 90,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.