

That same volunteer brought some raptors out to Dr. Funnell's house one week-end, in which I was invited to come out and see them. I fell in love with them! I began doing rescues, and decided that when I retired I would devote more time to working with these magnificent birds. I then joined an animal care team one day of the week and got involved with cleaning their pens and serving food. This gave me a chance to be around the birds more often. I then got trained to hold them on a glove and take them to presentations. I am now a trainer and train other volunteers to handle the birds at programs. Another job I have is creance flying the birds who have come from the ICU, to get them ready to be re-introduced to the wild if they are able. I am also the presentation committee chair who sends out our programs for each month and makes sure that we have enough bird handlers to do each presentation. I am now doing animal care two days of the week. My favorite activity is releasing birds back into the wild, knowing that our teams of dedicated volunteers took an injured or sick bird and advanced them to the point that they can be released.

I've been asked what my favorite raptor is. Of course, I love all of them, but there is something special about Great-Horned owls to me. Maybe it is their eyes that seem to look right into my soul.

I don't have hobbies besides caring for raptors and taking a spin class at Spiece and lifting weights. I have a cockatiel for a pet at home, and a husband who does some volunteer work with Soarin' Hawk also. We have a daughter who lives in Colorado. She was involved with Soarin' Hawk when she lived here, and wanted to stay connected, so she helps with stories about rehab birds on our website.

This is a fun and caring organization, and we welcome new volunteers any time!