



NEWS RELEASE: Exotic Bird Rescue Facing Threat of Closure

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Money Problems Force Downsizing, Threaten Future of Milo's Ranch

LOXAHATCHEE, FL – Milo's Ranch, a Florida parrot rescue, is facing a financial crisis that could threaten the seven-year-old organization's future.

The rescue recently lost its permanent home and had to move to a much smaller location where the rent is \$1000 a month. Founder Mary-Jo Meyer says the costs associated with housing the ___ exotic birds in her care could drive the organization into the ground.

"After a pretty good run, we are out of resources. Due to the birds' health status, they cannot be adopted out. If we can't make the rent, our only option will be euthanasia. This is something I just cannot bear!"

The financial crisis is only the latest in a series of disasters that have plagued Milo's Ranch since its inception in 2000.

In 2003, an incurable bird disease called Macaw Wasting Disease struck the area and infected Meyer's flock. It meant the birds at Milo's Ranch could no longer be adopted out or exposed to other birds due to the highly contagious nature of the disease.

Then, in the summer of 2006, birds started disappearing from the sanctuary. Police are still investigating the thefts but nobody has been charged. So far, ten birds have been stolen.

With all these challenges to cope with, Meyer hopes that Milo's Ranch is due for a break soon. What the rescue needs urgently is financial help so they can keep paying the rent and saving birds. She's appealing to businesses and individuals to make donations to help keep the not-for-profit rescue afloat.

But ideally, Meyer says, a new home would be the best gift of all.

"I would love to have someone donate land or use of some land so Milo's Ranch can get back to work, and we can continue rehabilitating birds and teaching the public about Florida's native wildlife."

For more information or interviews, contact:

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