



Anne Marshall

Members of Sun City's Women Helping Others and members of Sun City's Nature Club presented bird nests to All Things Wild April 15 to help the wildlife rescue group rehabilitate injured and abandoned birds.

# Sun City nests help the birds

By BRAD STUTZMAN

Several civic-minded Sun City groups teamed up to help rescued birds and donated more than 100 knitted and crocheted nests to the animal rescue group All Things Wild.

"It's the power of Sun City women coming together," said Judi Frinsein, vice president of Women Helping Others. "We have three different chartered clubs working to help one organization."

The ladies from WHO donated their knitted nests April 15.

On April 8 about 40 Fabric and Fiber Club members turned out at the club's 1 Texas Drive studio and handed 129 handmade nests to All Things Wild representatives.

Members of Sun City's Nature Club also knitted nests, Ms. Frinsein said.

Sharon Buford, treasurer for the nonprofit group — joined by fellow board members Elisabeth Aulwurm and Roger Rucker — represented All Things Wild. The animal rescue group opened a

2,400-square-foot facility on two acres it leases near Walburg last month.

Mr. Rucker said All Things Wild does not release its specific address, unless someone volunteers at the facility or brings in an injured animal. The group's licenses to rehabilitate animals are through federal and state agencies, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"We're not open to the public because our license does not allow us to be like a zoo and show people around," Mr. Rucker said. "But if you volunteer, the first thing you get is a tour."

He said All Things Wild currently is caring for birds, possums, squirrels, rabbits and a skunk on site.

Representatives from All Things Wild said the nests will provide temporary homes for just about any kind of small bird found in this area.

"I got a sense of how big the need was for birds and baby animals, especially in the springtime," Ms. Frinsein said.

Anticipated grant money will be used to build a large holding pen for raptors such as owls, hawks and falcons, Mr. Rucker said.

Women from two of Fabric and Fiber's subgroups — Sit & Stitch and the Night Owls — helped make the nests. As the name suggests, Night Owls like to do their knitting during evening hours.

"I just made some while I was watching TV at night," Night Owl Jan Miller said. It takes her about two hours to make a nest.

Rose Simone said she made 30 nests.

"I like animals and I'm a caring person, so it's a good fit for me," Ms. Simone said.

Mr. Rucker said the donated nests are appreciated and predicted they will be put to good use.

"We used to use butter containers and things like that," he said. "But these are much softer, like their natural nests."

Volunteers will line the bottom of the nests with disposable tissues to keep them clean and make them last

longer.

Once an injured animal is back in good health — or a young one is able to survive on its own — it will be released back into nature.

"We get ahold of ranchers and farmers and parks and places like that," Mr. Rucker said.

Ms. Buford predicted All Things Wild's Walburg-area facility will be able to help animals beyond the borders of Georgetown and Williamson County. The group was founded in Austin in 2012.

"At one point we probably had 15 different rehabilitation centers in nine different counties," Ms. Buford said. "We felt like we needed to consolidate our operations."

Mr. Rucker said All Things Wild has about 100 volunteers who typically work in three-hour shifts at least once a week as they feed and otherwise care for the animals. He said more volunteers are always welcomed.

For more information about All Things Wild, call 512-897-0806 or go to [www.allthingswildrehab.org](http://www.allthingswildrehab.org).