

# COUNTY OF MERCER

McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
P.O. BOX 8068  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-8068

BRIAN M. HUGHES  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: Jan. 23, 2009

CONTACT: Julie Willmot  
(609) 278-7137

## MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER SEEKS VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

**TRENTON**—Mercer County Wildlife Center, which accepted nearly 2,000 birds and other wildlife in 2008, is seeking individuals who would like to volunteer their time to care for animals brought to the Hopewell Township facility.

The Center's staff and volunteers care for native birds, mammals, and reptiles that are injured, ill, or displaced, and provide medical treatment and a temporary refuge to prepare the animals for release into an appropriate, wild habitat. The Center is staffed 365 days a year by one full-time licensed wildlife rehabilitator and two full-time assistants and receives more than 11,000 phone calls annually.

“Without its dedicated volunteers, including three veterinarians, our Wildlife Center could not exist, and that is why I am asking animal lovers who are willing to give of their time to consider assisting us,” said Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes.

The Mercer County Wildlife Center, a facility of the Mercer County Park Commission, has scheduled its 2009 volunteer orientation for **Sunday, March 22, and Saturday, March 28, 2009** from **10 a.m. to noon** at the center. **Those who are interested are required to attend only one of the two sessions.**

To work directly with the animals, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, have had a current tetanus vaccine, and are required to attend one orientation session. No other sessions will be offered this year. The Center requires that volunteers that work with animals make a commitment to a regular, once-a-week, four-hour shift from April through October. This commitment is necessary because of the feeding schedule requirements and housing demands of the animals.

The Mercer County Wildlife Center is located on Route 29, approximately 3 miles south of Lambertville and 12 miles north of Trenton. Anyone interested in registering for either orientation session or needing more information can call Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Bencivengo at (609) 397-8435.

*Visit Mercer County on the web at [www.mercercounty.org](http://www.mercercounty.org)*