

Sisters of Social Service

Rooted in the social teachings of the Church, we are sent to be pioneers



Celebrating 88 years of
Inspiring changes and
transforming our world through
social services and advocacy.

Freedom Ducks By Jamey Fitzpatrick



Above: Our ducks on the Fourth of July in their new home in a nearby park.

On a sweltering July day, HSRC volunteers and San Fernando Valley Audubon Society volunteers helped catch and relocate three flightless ducks. It was no easy task - with at least 14 people involved in different points outside, while Sisters and other staff peeked out the windows of the Villa to laugh and watch the near misses as one by one the ducks outsmarted us for part of the day.

Thanks to the facile work of the Audubon folks, Sr. Chris, Linda and others caught up in the chase, the three domestic ducks were netted and transported in carriers to a nearby park.

Unlike other ducks on our grounds, these three ducks can't fly, and so they would have had trouble getting to Lake Balboa as water became scarcer in our pond.

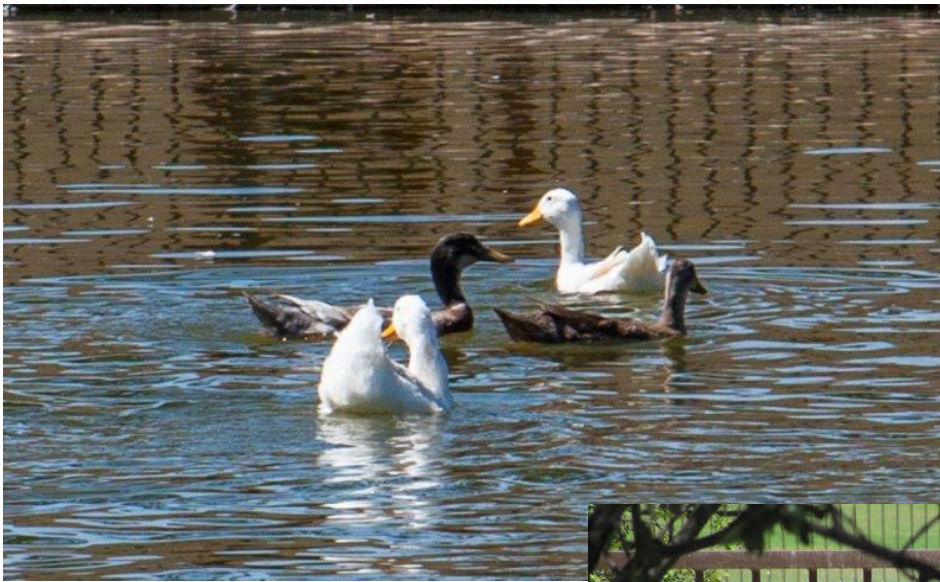
With the local drought helping us all consider our water use, an environmental sustainability project is being researched to help trap and hold more water in our man-made lake in Encino. Our lake, trees and surrounding grounds serve as home to various wildlife, including water fowl and other birds on their migratory path through Southern California. With its proximity to the Sepulveda Basin and Lake Balboa, it is a vital natural habitat for animals in the area.

As our lake water evaporates, the ducks and turtles have been relocated to fuller ponds nearby. We will let you know more about the lake project as it unfolds, and more details about the plan and partnerships develop.



Right: Dave (pictured) and Pat, both local Audubon volunteers, helped cage the ducks for relocation. (photo from Pat Bates)

We are so grateful for all who helped in our ducks moments of need – and especially to Dave and Pat, the local Audubon members, who really persevered until the ducks were safely at their new home.



**Left: Our three ducks made friends quickly in the new pond.
(photo from Pat Bates)**

Right: Our ducks keeping cool on the Fourth of July!



**Left: Our spunkiest duck seems to have found a fine feathered friend.
(photo from Pat Bates)**

Excerpt from our Sisters of Social Service E-news – August 2015

Sisters of Social Service

4316 Lanai Road, Encino, CA 91436

(818) 285-3355

sistersofsocialservice.com