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Hungerford Nature Center Introduces New Red Fox Ambassador at Annual WinterFest

Berlin, Conn. - February 2, 2026 - The Hungerford Nature Center is pleased to announce the arrival of its newest animal ambassador, a red fox named Pippin, who will make his public debut at the Center's annual WinterFest event on Saturday, February 7.

Pippin was born in the wild but is unable to be released due to significant vision loss caused by an unfortunate accident. As a non-releasable animal, he now resides at the Hungerford Nature Center, where he will receive lifelong care while helping to educate the community about Connecticut's native wildlife and predators.

"It's incredibly meaningful to care for an animal that needed rehabilitation but could not be released, and to give him the opportunity to live out his life here while helping us educate the public about local wildlife." said Kaitlyn Carey-Duclos, Animal Care Manager at the Hungerford Nature Center.

The Hungerford Nature Center provides permanent homes for non-releasable animals and incorporates them into educational programming designed to foster understanding and respect for the natural world. Pippin's presence will allow visitors to learn more about red fox behavior, adaptations, and their role in local ecosystems.

"The Hungerford Nature Center has reached a significant milestone in caring for Pippin, stated Executive Director, Dr. Tami Christopher. "We are the only nature center in Connecticut to have a red fox and it is only due to the incredible preparation, skills, and dedication of our animal care staff that we were able to receive the appropriate USDA licensure to care for this beautiful animal."

WinterFest is a ticketed event open to the public, offering two admission windows from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visitors may pre-purchase tickets online or purchase them at the gate on the day of the event. The event features both indoor and outdoor activities including animal encounters, a bonfire, S'mores, and numerous vendors including free facepainting.

For more information about WinterFest or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/winter-fest-5>.

About the Hungerford Nature Center

Located in Berlin, Connecticut, the Hungerford Nature Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sparking curiosity, nurturing understanding, and encouraging stewardship of our natural world through environmental education, wildlife care, and outdoor experiences for all ages.