

oregon zoo foundation

gratitude report

2020-2021



**Care.**  
**Conservation.**  
**Connection.**

*their world, your impact*



*a letter for you*

# Thank you to our pack.

## Dear zoo friend,

How do you provide exceptional care to over 2,000 animals daily? How do you bring a species like the California condor back from the brink of extinction? How do you build science and nature connections that will guide the next generation? The answer to all of these questions begins with you.

You sustain work that makes a world of difference — for wildlife and for all the people working at the Oregon Zoo and Oregon Zoo Foundation. This year's annual gratitude report is all about you and your impact.

After years of planning and construction, we opened three new habitats in 2021. Polar bear siblings Nora and Amelia Gray are making a big splash in their saltwater pools at Polar Passage. The chimpanzee family is settled in at Primate Forest. And two eastern black rhinos, King and Jozi, have moved in at Rhino Ridge, heralding a new chapter in the conservation of this critically endangered species. You made these habitats a reality.

When you read about the conservation of Rodrigues flying foxes, or about a young college-bound man who was transformed by his zoo apprenticeship, know that you are at the center of these stories. None of this work is possible without you.

We hope your upcoming visits to the zoo are filled with joy and happy memories because that's what you've brought to so many others with your generosity.

Thank you for sparking hope and helping create a better future for wildlife!

With gratitude,

Julie Fitzgerald,  
Executive Director  
Oregon Zoo Foundation

Sharla Settlemier, Chair  
Oregon Zoo Foundation  
Board of Trustees

you make a world of difference

# The pack impact.

Here are a few examples of the work your generosity sustained this year.

raised

**\$9.6M** FOR A NEW ZOO

Through the Heart of the Oregon Zoo campaign, which launched in 2018 and ended in June of 2021, you supported new habitats, animal welfare, conservation and education.

hatched

**10** CALIFORNIA CONDOR CHICKS

It was the biggest batch yet in the zoo's 18-year effort to save this critically endangered species from extinction.



released

**928** OREGON SILVERSPOT LARVAE/PUPAE

With your support, zoo conservationists are saving an endangered butterfly species along the Oregon coast.

In 2019, the Oregon Zoo became the first facility to successfully breed silverspots, and last summer, 10 butterflies laid a total of 1,855 eggs to produce caterpillars for next year's release.



gave a leg up to

**23** NORTHWESTERN POND TURTLES

You gave 23 northwestern pond turtles now in our conservation lab a fighting chance. After headstarting at the zoo, they'll be released along the Columbia River Gorge in late spring or summer.



improved landscaping led to

**05** HAPPY ROARS IN THE LION YARD

You added new logs, improved drainage and created safer pathways for the lions and their care staff.

Photo: Zawadi Mungu

delivered

**\$856K** FOR CONSERVATION

Your gifts sustained vital conservation initiatives for native butterflies, sea otters, beavers, northwestern pond turtles and more.

supported

**01** NON-LEAD HUNTING EDUCATOR

You supported an educator and outdoor enthusiast who works with hunters in the Pacific Northwest to reduce the unintended impacts of lead ammunition on wildlife.

upgraded monitoring for

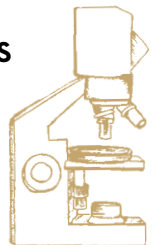
**10** SPECIES AT THE ZOO

Your investment in the zoo's endocrinology lab made it possible for regular monitoring of 10 species, adding important data to care staff's daily behavioral observations for improved animal welfare.

published

**8** PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

You supported important scientific work that is advancing animal welfare and veterinary medicine.



Did you know you can be one of our most invested supporters by joining with a Conservation Circle membership? Annual gifts through this program play an essential role in connecting people with endangered species and investing in projects to create a better future for wildlife. To learn more, visit [oregonzoo.org/donorclub](http://oregonzoo.org/donorclub) or call 503-220-2493.



*Did you know? Rhinoceros derives from the Greek rhinókerōs – with rhīno – meaning nose and -kerōs meaning horned – rhinoceros means nose-horned!*

Photo: King

animal care

# A new chapter for rhinos at the zoo.

**With two new residents at Rhino Ridge, some might say this expanded new habitat was made for royalty!**

King, a 3,000-pound male rhinoceros, came to us from Chicago's Brookfield Zoo in September; he was born at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo in 2013.

Jozi, a 9-year-old female rhino from the Milwaukee County Zoo, arrived the following month. She weighs around 2,400 pounds, and was born at the Pittsburgh Zoo in 2012. Keepers named her after her parents: "Jo-" from her father, Jomo, and "-zi" from her mother, Aziz.

"Jozi's been settling in well behind the scenes and enjoying some rhinoceros spa time," said Michelle Schireman, senior keeper in the zoo's Africa area. "She likes facials and loves warm showers."

Caregivers say the two rhinos will continue to live apart for the time being, but they have had visual access to each other and seemed very curious.

"There was a lot of back-and-forth vocalizing between them at first," Schireman said. "They were like, 'Hey, you! What's going on over there?' Just really nice, positive interactions. They'll get to be in closer proximity soon and see what they think of each other."

Caregivers hope the rhino pair will hit it off and perhaps eventually add to the population of black rhinos. The pair's transfer to Portland was recommended by the Species Survival Plan, a cooperative program among accredited zoos to promote

genetically diverse, self-sustaining populations of threatened and endangered species.

King and Jozi represent a species that's among the most endangered on the planet, according to Kelly Gomez, who oversees the zoo's rhino area. They belong to the eastern subspecies of black rhinoceros, which is considered critically endangered. In 2011, the western subspecies of black rhino was declared extinct.

"Poaching and the illegal wildlife trade have wiped out 96% of the world's black rhino population," said Gomez. "In South Africa alone, we're losing almost a rhino a day. Hopefully, we can help inspire a new chapter in the conservation of this incredible species."

*Rhino Ridge was fully funded by Oregon Zoo Foundation donors. To support animal care at the zoo or to learn more about our programs, email [foundation@oregonzoo.org](mailto:foundation@oregonzoo.org) or call 503-220-2493.*



**“Hopefully, we can help inspire a new chapter in the conservation of this incredible species.”**

*Kelly Gomez, Africa area supervisor*

conservation

# Every little bat helps.

## 3 bat babies are living proof that people can make a difference for wildlife.

In 2021, three Rodrigues flying foxes – Phil, Prince and Rocky – were born at the Oregon Zoo, adding to the growing population of a bat species once considered the most imperiled on the planet.

“Each new arrival is significant for this species,” said Amy Cutting, the zoo’s interim director of animal care and conservation. “Forty years ago, Rodrigues flying foxes were at the very brink of extinction. The fact that they’re still around shows how people can make a difference for wildlife.”

These pups serve as a testament to one of the most inspiring conservation stories in history: living proof of the impact people can have – both positive and negative – on wildlife and species conservation.

The Rodrigues flying fox, native only to a remote island near Madagascar, plays an important ecological role where few other pollinators or seed dispersers exist.

By the 1970s, much of the bats’ forest habitat had been cleared, and the species was perilously close to disappearing.

After a cyclone hit the island in 1979, fewer than 100 individuals remained, making the Rodrigues flying fox the rarest bat in the world.

Today, thanks to a collective effort by zoos and other conservation organizations, the Rodrigues flying fox population has increased to around 20,000.

According to keeper Luran Hunter, all three of the zoo’s pups are doing great – navigating the bat habitat on their own, but on occasion still returning to their moms for support.

## These pups serve as a testament to one of the most inspiring conservation stories in history: living proof of the impact people can have – both positive and negative – on wildlife and species conservation.

*Gifts to the Oregon Zoo Foundation support daily care for all the animals and make conservation wins like this possible. To learn more, email [foundation@oregonzoo.org](mailto:foundation@oregonzoo.org) or call 503-220-2493.*

# A sky pup primer.

## *flying foxes*

Rodrigues flying foxes are actually bats; their name comes from their fox-like ears and muzzles.

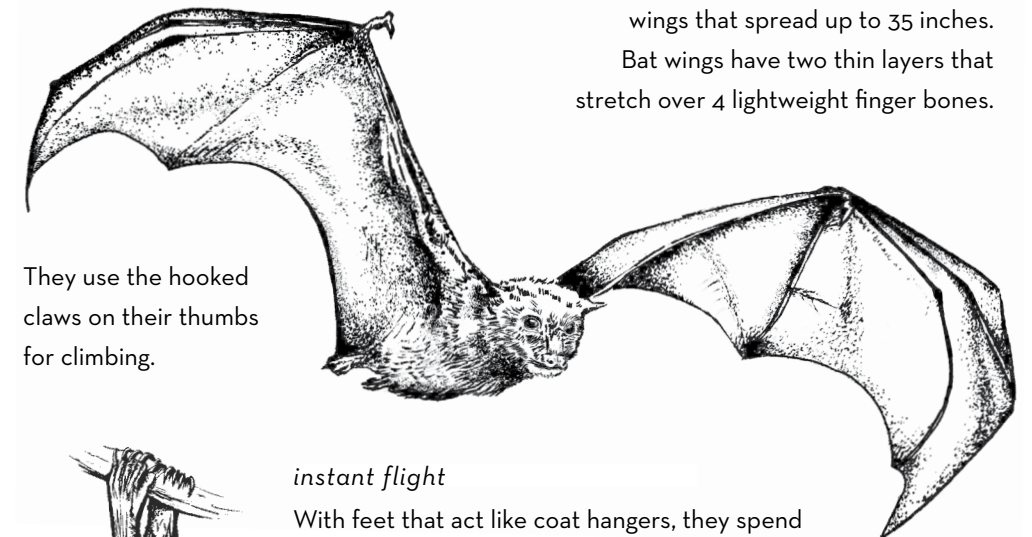
Classified as megabats, they feed on fruit, nectar and pollen. They crush the food in their mouths, swallow the juice, and spit out the seeds and pulp as a pellet. This helps the rainforest to regenerate.



## *unique bodies*

Adult bats are 6 to 8 inches long, with wings that spread up to 35 inches.

Bat wings have two thin layers that stretch over 4 lightweight finger bones.



They use the hooked claws on their thumbs for climbing.

## *instant flight*

With feet that act like coat hangers, they spend no energy hanging upside down and can be instantly airborne by simply letting go.



## *pest controllers*

A recent scientific paper estimated the value of bats' nontoxic pest-control services to be around \$53 billion per year. Another study from Indonesia, one of the world's top suppliers of cacao beans, found that bats saved farmers nearly \$800 million per year by eating bugs.

**Over 300 species of fruit depend on bats for pollination – if it weren't for bats, we might not have lush rainforests, tequila or chocolate!**

*Did you know?  
Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight.*

connection

# Zoo Animal Presenters.

## Three-year paid apprenticeship builds skills and community for area youth.

Zoo Animal Presenters, or ZAP, is a grant-funded program that employs young people as educators at the Oregon Zoo.

ZAP teens serve for three years, receiving training and mentoring to hone their leadership and job skills and while exploring job and career opportunities.

For 22 years, ZAPs have: provided outreach to partner organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs; taught outdoor recreation skills and environmental concepts while camping at local natural areas; and held intern positions at the zoo, in areas such as the veterinary medical center, animal nutrition center and butterfly conservation lab.



Here's what one parent had to say about her son's experience in the ZAP program.

The ZAP apprenticeship program is funded through the generous support of Oregon Zoo Foundation donors. To learn more about supporting education at the Oregon Zoo, email [foundation@oregonzoo.org](mailto:foundation@oregonzoo.org) or call 503-220-2493.

August 26, 2021  
Pam McElwee  
ZAP Program Coordinator

Dear Pam,

In 2019, my son had his first job interview, and it led to a three-year relationship he would not change for anything. The Zoo Animal Presenters program provided him with experiences and skills that will last a lifetime.

I will never forget the morning of his first outreach experience. He memorized his "part" and felt very prepared. His nervousness reminded me of every first day of school as a teacher. When I picked him up afterward, he was elated. Not only has he realized that he loves working with animals, but he also now loves working with kids.

Overnight camping, a ropes course, kayaking and day trips to the beach have resulted in my son having a full respect for his bosses and friendships with his co-workers that extend outside of the workday.

While the world became dormant during COVID-19, ZAP managed to stay alive with virtual outreaches, Zoom meetings, trainings and a hopeful plan for the future. Once things reopened, he spent more time at the zoo, and came home with stories about the curious zoo-goers and stubborn yet adorable goats.

As my son is about to start college, I can say that his ZAP experience has contributed greatly to his maturity, composure and motivation to create a solid future for himself. To see this program firsthand — and what it does for the kids, the community and the zoo — is to see an impactful program that needs to endure and thrive.

Thank you for what you have done for him, and for the countless people whose lives have been touched by ZAP.

Sincerely,  
Aminah

### ZAP facts

22 YEARS  
est. 1999

236 teens from the greater Portland region have served as ZAPs.

2,200+ OUTREACH VISITS

ZAP outreach visits have engaged 120,612 children and 52,254 adults.

22 ZAP-TO-ZOO "IN-REACH" VISITS

In-reaches have brought 421 youth and 125 adults to the zoo since 2018. Generous donors made ZAP-to-Zoo possible, supporting transportation needs, admission fees, lunch for participants and \$10 gift store vouchers.



financial report

# Statement of financial position.

Years Ended June 30	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & equivalents	1,868,031	2,519,089
Investments	16,393,029	16,366,170
Receivables	1,143,457	1,114,961
Other assets	126,026	109,941
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>19,530,543</b>	<b>20,110,161</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; net assets</b>		
Accounts payable	58,003	21,198
Grants payable to the Oregon Zoo	2,082,904	4,998,648
Deferred revenue	148,470	90,000
Gift annuities payable	3,065	28,621
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,292,442</b>	<b>5,138,467</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	5,415,570	5,147,470
Board designated - operating reserve	3,200,000	2,200,000
Board designated - endowments	7,551,163	6,362,248
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<b>16,166,733</b>	<b>13,709,718</b>
With donor restrictions	1,071,368	1,261,976
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>17,238,101</b>	<b>14,971,694</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</b>	<b>19,530,543</b>	<b>20,110,161</b>

# Statement of activities.

Years Ended June 30	2021	2020
<b>Public support &amp; revenue</b>		
Membership	3,857,797	4,391,315
Contributions	4,547,367	4,315,809
Special events	38,062	29,993
Investment return	3,070,295	261,591
<b>Total public support &amp; revenue</b>	<b>11,513,521</b>	<b>8,998,708</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services	7,340,766	8,458,142
Management & general	612,002	592,733
Membership development	133,815	222,320
Fundraising	1,160,531	952,159
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>9,247,114</b>	<b>10,225,354</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>2,266,407</b>	<b>(1,226,646)</b>
Net assets, beginning of year	14,971,694	16,198,340
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>17,238,101</b>	<b>14,971,694</b>

## Cash distribution to and on behalf of Oregon Zoo FY21/FY20

Zoo operations & programs	6,202,559	4,189,144
Conservation & science	856,474	891,852
Capital projects	2,601,698	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,660,731</b>	<b>5,080,996</b>

membership matters

# Members help us do more!

**Joining our pack is one simple action that makes a big difference for wildlife.**

As a member, you sustain animal welfare, conservation and education efforts, all while enjoying rich zoo experiences and creating a lifetime of memories.

You belong to a pack that includes over 34,000 households, and we couldn't do this work without you.

Your membership directly supports the care of around 2,000 animals. When you see Asian elephant Samudra joyfully swimming at Elephant Lands, or chimpanzees foraging for snacks at Primate Forest, know you're helping these remarkable animals thrive!

To join, renew or give a membership, email [membership@oregonzoo.org](mailto:membership@oregonzoo.org) or call 503-220-2493.



*Did you know beavers have recently been credited with reducing wildfire and drought impacts by creating wetlands with their determined dam-building?*

from the new zoo director

# Grateful for you.

Greetings!

For those of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, my name is Heidi Rahn. Last year, I took on the role of Oregon Zoo director, and while the title is a new one, I've been with the zoo for some time now.

From 2013 on, I led implementation of the community-supported zoo bond measure to advance animal welfare, conservation education, and sustainability. Last year, we celebrated the completion of all the improvements made possible by that measure – a decade's worth of projects that included a state-of-the-art veterinary medical center, award-winning habitats like Elephant Lands and our Education Center. You played a major role in each of these projects, and together we have transformed nearly 40% of the zoo!

Naturally, there is still much to do. Like most places, the Oregon Zoo has weathered some tough times these past couple of years – but the resilience and innovation I've seen have been inspiring. My passion has always been conservation. My first internship was at the Center for Marine Conservation in San Francisco, analyzing policy to safeguard sea otters. And I met my husband when we were working to protect endangered butterfly habitat in Wisconsin. I am thrilled to see that same passion among all of our staff, volunteers and supporters. It fills me with optimism.

**With your continued support, we will deliver on our mission of creating a better future for wildlife.**

This is a pivotal moment, for the Oregon Zoo and for the planet, and I am so grateful that you – our partners and donors – are with us on this journey. I know that with your continued support, we will deliver on our mission of creating a better future for wildlife.

Heidi Rahn,  
Director, Oregon Zoo

# A community of support.

## Board officers

Sharla Settlemier, *Chair*  
 Raimund Grube, *Immediate Past Chair*  
 Bob Maloney, *Vice Chair*  
 Debby Deering\*, *Treasurer*  
 Jeremy Horner, *Secretary*

## Board members

Charissa Anderson	Laura Imeson
Melanie Billings-Yun	Josef Kiesenhofer
Michael J. Brag*	Allen Kim
Jinn Brunk	Deb Mrazek*
Sigrid Button	Kim Overhage
Laurie Christensen*	Laura Rosencrantz*
Tracey Clark	Hannah Smith
Katharine Coakley	Kim Van Syoc
Karin Edwards*	Nidhi Thakar
Nan Heim	Nancy Jo Visenberg
Deborah Herron*	Barbara Wegner

\* Thank you to these immediate past trustees, whose service ended June 30, 2021

## Ex-officio and emeritus members

Christine Lewis, *Metro Council District 2*  
 Gerritt Rosenthal, *Metro Council District 3*  
 Juan Carlos González, *Metro Council District 4*  
 Rob Erickson, *Trustee Emeritus*  
 C. Kregg Hanson, *Trustee Emeritus*  
 Nancy Hinnen, *Trustee Emeritus*  
 Dan Jarman, *Trustee Emeritus*  
 Mark Loomis, *Trustee Emeritus*  
 Julie Fitzgerald, *Oregon Zoo Foundation Executive Director*  
 Heidi Rahn, *Oregon Zoo Director*

## Staff

Julie Fitzgerald	<i>Executive Director</i>
Tonia Nelson	<i>Board Administrator &amp; Executive Coordinator</i>
Jenny Woodman	<i>Communication Manager</i>
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Ruth Walkowski	<i>Director of Finance &amp; Operations</i>
Kristine Caldicott	<i>Controller</i>
Ana DeBrock	<i>Finance, Operations &amp; Culture Analyst</i>
<hr/>	
Christine Alexander	<i>Director, Membership &amp; Development Database Systems</i>
Kym Amador	<i>Lead Membership Specialist</i>
Katelyn Abraham	<i>Membership Specialist</i>
Rebecca Dixon	<i>Membership Specialist</i>
Linda Seeley	<i>Membership Specialist</i>
<hr/>	
Maria Reyes	<i>Director of Development</i>
Susan Daigle	<i>Major Gifts &amp; Planned Giving Manager</i>
Ashley Hardt	<i>Annual Giving Manager</i>
Amber Morrison	<i>Foundations &amp; Corporate Giving Manager</i>
Micaela Lueders	<i>Development Coordinator</i>
Lesley Rodell	<i>Stewardship &amp; Events Associate</i>
Randy Siebert	<i>Development Database Administrator</i>