

NASHVILLE ZOO

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Red Panda

Red pandas predominantly live in trees and have several adaptations that support their arboreal lifestyle. They use their long, bushy tails to help with balance. Red pandas also have an enlarged wrist bone that they use a pseudo-thumb to grab onto branches as they climb.

Conservation Status: *ENDANGERED*

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Conservation Status
Throughout this report, some animals and their conservation status will be highlighted. This graphic, representing the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, is used to evaluate the extinction risk of species, from Least Concern all the way to Extinct.

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Rebuilding

with Rick Schwartz and Ed Goodrich



Dear Friends,

At Nashville Zoo, we strive to be extraordinary in every way - in our award-winning exhibits, in our pioneering conservation work, in our outstanding educational programming, and in the exceptional animal care we provide. So, it is unexpected that we would celebrate being ordinary. But that’s just what we’re doing when we reflect on the past year.

In 2021, we were thrilled to return to a more ordinary year at the Zoo. We were happy to move from what had become the “new normal” – timed ticketing, limited attendance, and virtual programming – back to the old normal, the real normal.

While we still weren’t able to host all of our annual events and programs, we were excited to welcome many of you back, as we put new protocols into place. We surpassed one million visitors and set new records for membership sales. A record number of guests enjoyed an expanded number of evenings of Boo at the Zoo. And we were once again able to host a world-renowned conservationist as the speaker for our Call of the Wild event. Dr. Tara Stoinski shared the amazing work of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund during this third annual conservation dinner.

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, we budgeted conservatively for 2021. But we were pleasantly surprised as the year progressed and the Zoo began to recover financially from the shortfalls of 2020. As always, in good times and difficult times, our donors were there to support us. With your help, Nashville Zoo was able to provide almost \$790,000 in monetary donations to worldwide conservation efforts, in addition to the hands-on work we did here at the Zoo.

We also made some notable improvements last year. We enhanced the Jungle Gym through a major refurbishment and the addition of Thisbe and Noah’s Promise Park. This inclusive playground will provide side-by-side play for children with and without disabilities. And we were honored to welcome several generations of the Morton family, as the Zoo opened a new feature at the Grassmere Historic Farm.

The Morton Family Exhibit tells the story of Frank Morton and highlights his family’s contributions to the Grassmere property as tenant farmers in the 1900s.

2022 marks the Zoo’s 25th anniversary at Grassmere. As we begin to celebrate this milestone, we want to thank each individual who has played a role in building and sustaining Nashville Zoo over the years. We are proud of all that we’ve accomplished as such a young institution, and we have exciting plans for the future.

This year will offer some new entertainment options for our guests, as well as the return of some old favorites. In the spring we’ll bring back DinoTrek along with a new nighttime projection mapping event, Night Visions. We’ll open a 4D theater and conclude the year with the return of Zoolumination.

We also have a few construction projects underway. A koi pond with mosaic artwork is being added near the Jungle Gym, and we’ve broken ground on a new Komodo dragon exhibit along the pathway to the HCA Healthcare Veterinary Center. The Leopard Forest, which will feature leopards, two species of monkeys, klipspringer antelopes, and rock hyraxes, will be located near the giraffe and rhino habitats. The mosaic koi feature will open this year, while both the Komodo exhibit and the Leopard Forest are anticipated to open in 2023.

We hope you will visit the Zoo in 2022 to see all the new and exciting developments that are underway. And please enjoy this 2021 Annual Report, which highlights some of Nashville Zoo’s outstanding conservation work, as well as our excellent educational programming.

Thank you for your commitment to Nashville Zoo during the past quarter-century. With your support, we will continue to do extraordinary work well into the future.

Gratefully,

Ed Goodrich
Nashville Zoo Board Chairman

Rick Schwartz
Nashville Zoo President & CEO

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Komodo Dragon

Nashville Zoo participates in the Komodo Dragon Species Survival Plan®, as ectotherm and veterinary staff work together to develop best practices for successful breeding of this vulnerable species.

Conservation Status: ENDANGERED

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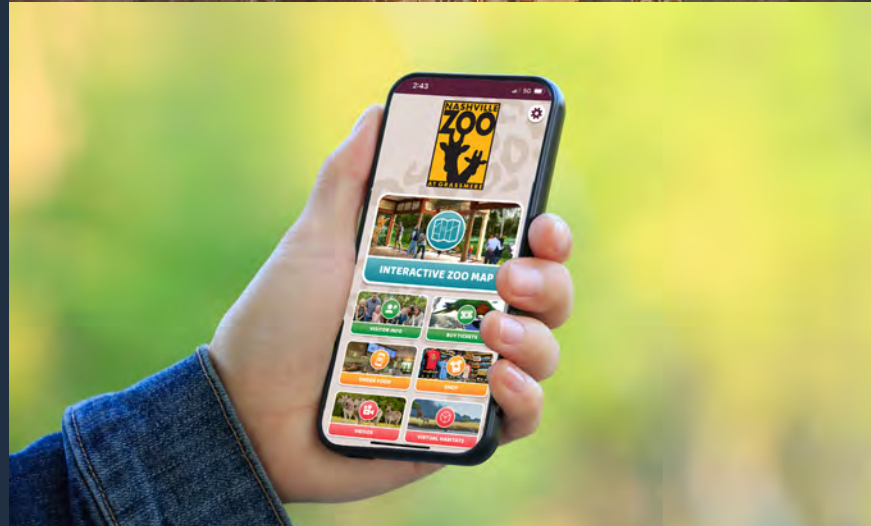
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2021

memorable moments

Despite being a year of rebuilding, 2021 was packed with new friends, new ways to connect and new ways to enjoy the Zoo – all thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

- Tenvision Ultrasound donated a new General Electric ultrasound after learning about the Zoo's outdated machine. The generous gift significantly advanced the Zoo's ability to diagnose and treat our growing animal family.
- The Zoo increased our community involvement in 2021 with a massive "Soup-er Bowl" food drive, multiple blood drives, vaccine distribution, and our continued support of the Metro Police Department's holiday toy drive.
- In March, Nashville Zoo was the backdrop for the "All Together for Animals" virtual benefit concert to help other zoos and aquariums across North America.
- Felix, our male Sumatran tiger, arrived in March from another facility thanks to a Species Survival Plan® breeding recommendation. Because male and female tigers live separately unless mating, Felix and Frances will rotate into Tiger Crossroads and will only be together during breeding season.
- Our giraffe herd changed dramatically during the year. We mourned the loss of Congo, our beloved 16-year-old male giraffe, in April. Then celebrated the arrivals of male Rowan and females Amira and Violet later in the year.
- We found ways of getting our guests closer to animals through an expanded behind-the-scenes rhino touching experience.
- You can now grab a boozy beverage as you stroll through the Zoo, thanks to the addition of craft beer and margaritas on tap at locations around the park. Plus, the beverages are sold in 100% recyclable aluminum cups!
- In September, we launched a new mobile app featuring an interactive map of the Zoo, animal information, virtual habitats and more. So far, more than 15,000 users have downloaded the app.



Clouded Leopard

Clouded leopards may be small in stature, but they have the longest canine teeth relative to body size of any cat species. Their canines are the same as a tiger's, despite the fact that a tiger is 10x larger in body size!

Conservation Status: *VULNERABLE*

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keeping committed TO CONSERVATION

Studying Species

We added three new research endeavors to our conservation efforts in 2021:

- In collaboration with the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA), we fitted 15 eastern box turtles with radio transmitters and began tracking their movement on our 188-acre property to determine how their urban environment affects them.
- We installed a Motus wildlife tracking tower on the Zoo's property as part of an international network of towers that traces the migration and movement of individual birds, bats and even some insects wearing radio telemetry tags. These towers allow scientists to use coordinated data to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.
- As part of our ongoing work with giant galliwasps, Nashville Zoo staff traveled to the Dominican Republic to collect blood samples from several specimens of wild giant galliwasps. This data will help us determine if future translocation of a galliwasp population maintained here at the Zoo is possible.

The Coral Ark

Nashville Zoo is participating in the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project by creating a home for 20 species of coral from the Atlantic Ocean. Along with 30 other organizations, the Zoo is protecting these coral species from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, a deadly affliction that has spread across 96,000 acres of Florida's reefs. While researchers work to identify a cure, the Zoo's team will continue to monitor the coral and support its growth.



“My interest in conservation began when I was growing up in Africa. At that time, unmanaged hunting was becoming an issue. Fortunately, the emerging photographic safari industry began calling attention to the need for conservation efforts worldwide. Progress has been made, but we all still need to diligently work towards protecting our natural world. Nashville Zoo is taking important steps towards this objective.

Charles Sonnenberg

”

Funding Forever

In support of the Zoo's conservation goals, more than \$789,000 was given to conservation efforts around the globe in 2021. Significant donations were made to these organizations and projects:

- Andean Bear Conservation Alliance
- Association for the Conservation of Amazonian Biodiversity – Supporting Amazonian manatee conservation
- Action Indonesia – Supporting babirusa conservation
- Asian Hornbill SAFE Program
- Aussie Ark
- Australia Zoo (Wildlife Warriors, Inc)
- BIOTA – Supporting flamingo conservation in Bolivia
- Cheetah Conservation Botswana
- Cheetah Conservation Fund
- Clouded Leopard Consortium
- Duke Lemur Center
- Friends of the Asa Wright Nature Center
- Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center
- Instituto de Conservação de Animais Silvestres – Supporting giant anteater conservation
- Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas – Supporting tapir conservation
- International Rhino Foundation
- Komodo Dragon Species Survival Plan® Conservation Fund
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy – Supporting okapi conservation
- Minnesota Zoo Foundation's Tiger Conservation Campaign
- Niassa Lion Project
- Point Defiance Zoo's conservation work with clouded leopards
- Proyecto Titi – Supporting cotton-top tamarin conservation
- Rainforest Awareness Rescue Education Center
- Red Panda Network
- Save Vietnam's Wildlife
- Sea Turtle Recovery Plan
- Sia – Supporting eagle conservation
- Somali Giraffe Project
- Sumatran Ranger Project
- Turtle Survival Alliance
- VulPro – Supporting vulture conservation in South Africa
- Wildlife Warriors, Inc., WIRES, and Zoo Victoria – Supporting recovery from Australia wildfires





Sulawesi Babirusa

While babirusa are most known for their striking tusks, which only the males possess, they are also the fastest member of the pig family and can run as fast as deer.

Conservation Status: *VULNERABLE*

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Building Back Populations

Throughout 2021, the Zoo's herpetology team partnered with multiple environmental agencies to help bolster populations of several threatened species.

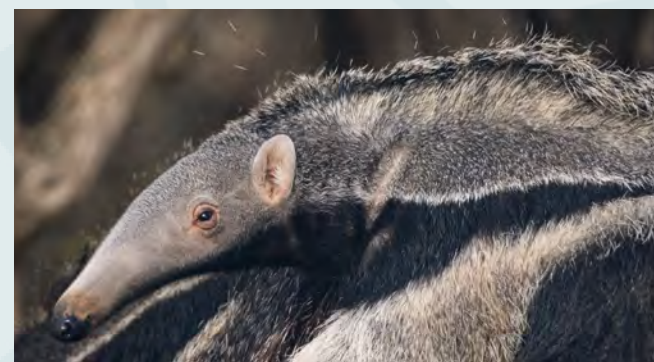
- In February, Zoo staff successfully bred streamside salamanders that produced 100+ fertile eggs that were then released into a local stream. Several days later the eggs hatched. Biologists are now actively improving the habitat by adding additional rocks to create suitable habitats and sites for future egg deposits.
- Over the summer, Zoo team members waded into several Tennessee rivers to release 29 eastern hellbenders and 30 alligator snapping turtles as part of the Zoo's headstart programs. About 140 hellbenders remain in our Native Aquatic Conservation Center with plans to release them over the next few years.
- More than 5,000 Puerto Rican crested toads hatched at Nashville Zoo this year. The tadpoles were then sent to their native home to be released in protected streams. Over the years, the Zoo's efforts with this species have resulted in the release of more than 20,000 tadpoles.

Welcome to the Family

Nashville Zoo participates in more than 50 Species Survival Plans®, an Association of Zoos and Aquariums program to maintain healthy and self-sustaining populations in human care.

In 2021, the Zoo welcomed several notable births including a **banded palm civet**, **cape porcupines**, **caracals**, a **common eland**, **cotton-top tamarins**, a **giant anteater**, **golden frogs**, a **Palawan binturong**, **red kangaroos**, and a **Sulawesi babirusa**.

In addition to these significant births, several adult animals moved to the Zoo as part of breeding recommendations, including Felix the male Sumatran tiger and three new members of our Masai giraffe herd.





Red Ruffed Lemur

Red ruffed lemurs, and all other lemurs, are a type of primate called a prosimian which means "before apes." Prosimians are primarily tree dwellers and possess a longer snout than monkeys and apes.

Conservation Status: *CRITICALLY ENDANGERED*

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education:

Looking towards the Future

Re-engaging

After hosting no in-person programming in 2020, the Zoo's education team worked to bring back safe in-person camps and classes and welcome back on-site volunteers and interns in 2021. With a sellout summer camp season and the return of beloved programs (including the adorable Teddy Bear Clinic), the team achieved their goal of providing the highest quality programs for the community while prioritizing the health and safety of participants, staff and animals. Volunteers and interns contributed a total of almost 30,000 hours to the Zoo during the year, providing support for animal care, special events, education programs, guest engagement and more. The return of students, volunteers and interns brought back a buzz of energy that had been missing from Zoo grounds for a long time, and we look forward to growing these programs in 2022.

The Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation is delighted to provide funding for Nashville Zoo's first-ever paid internship program. This ground-breaking program will make it possible for students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to explore careers in zoology and animal conservation. We're looking forward to helping these students pursue their dreams without having to worry about paying their bills.

Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation

helping our community

The Zoo cherishes our place in the Middle Tennessee community and spent much of 2021 participating in community programs benefiting thousands of individuals and families in our region via donations, appreciation days and volunteering.

- 10 Zoo staff volunteer events were executed in the community, including trail clean-up, tree planting, assembling hygiene kits and more.
- 407 Covid-19 vaccines were administered at four Metro Public Health Department events onsite.
- 852 lives were impacted by nine blood drives with Blood Assurance.
- 2,252 military members received free Zoo Admission on Military Appreciation Day, presented by Regions Bank, in November.
- 3,000 toys were donated for Metro Nashville Police Department's annual Christmas basket program in December.
- 32,000 pounds of food was collected for the Community Resource Center during our first Soup-er Bowl Food Drive in February.

Thank you to all who participated in these events. We are proud to have been able to lend a helping hand and demonstrate our gratitude for our community's support in a tangible way.

Restoring

Thanks to grants and private donations, we were able to create the new Morton Family Exhibit inside a pre-Civil War era cabin at the Grassmere Historic Farm. The exhibit tells the story of black tenant farmer Frank Morton and his family who lived in the cabin from 1919-1973 and were instrumental in the success of the Grassmere farm. More than 100 of Frank Morton's descendants attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 19. We are proud to tell the Morton family's story and ensure future generations know about their contributions to Nashville Zoo's unique history.



Broadening Horizons

In December, the Zoo received significant contributions from the Care Foundation of America, Inc., the Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation, and AllianceBernstein to fund a new paid internship program launching in 2022. By creating paid internship opportunities, we hope to attract a more diverse applicant pool and provide hands-on learning opportunities to those who are passionate about conservation-related careers but are unable to participate in unpaid internships due to financial needs.



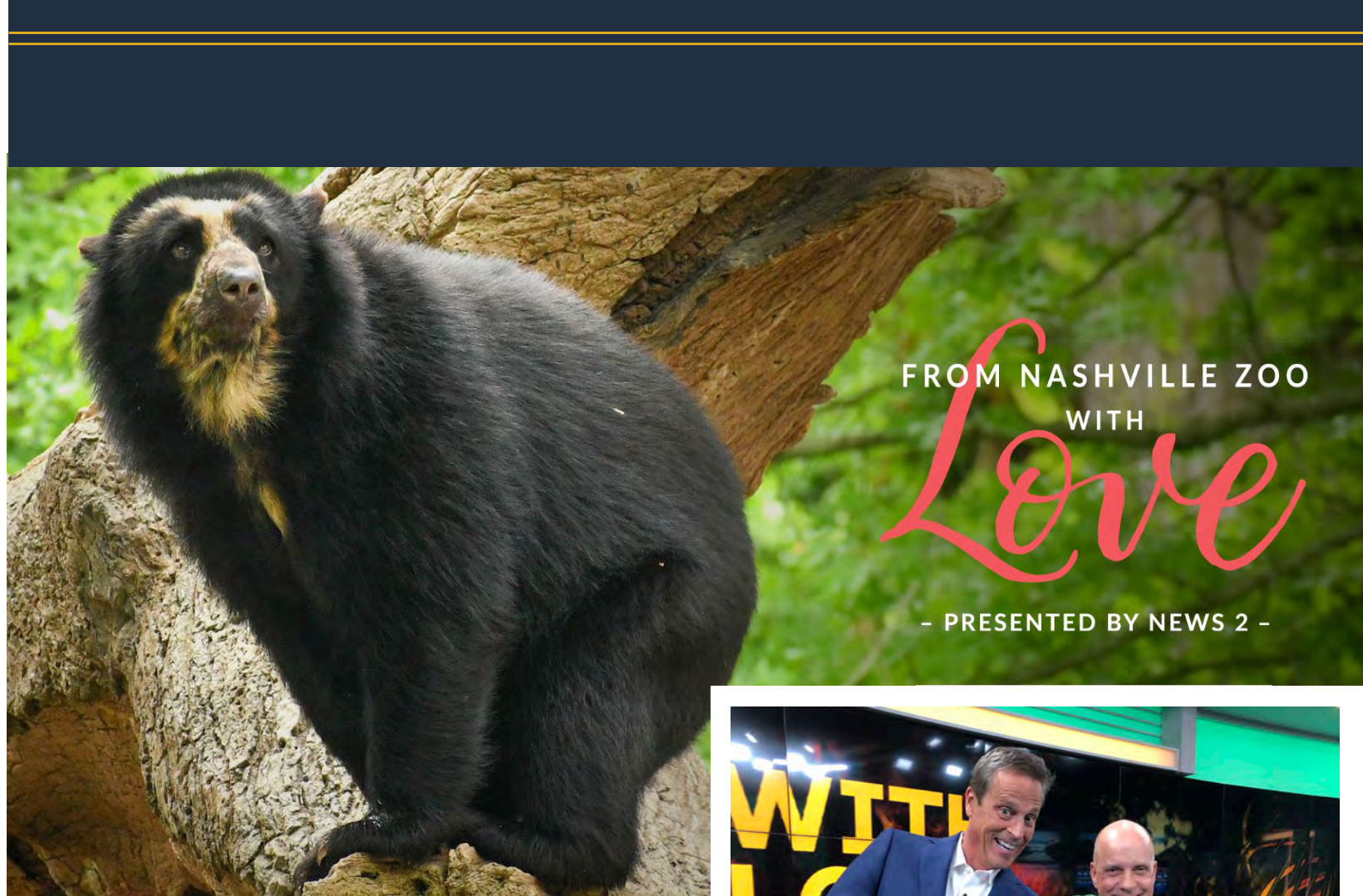


Cuban False Chameleon

The Cuban false chameleon is a type of anole from Cuba that has evolved to specialize in eating snails. Their strong jaws can crunch through snail shells, and molars in the back of their mouths smash the shells open.

Conservation Status: *LEAST CONCERN*

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As the Zoo recovered from a very challenging 2020 and attempted to get back to pre-pandemic levels, our amazing partners at WKRN-TV hosted another primetime television fundraiser to benefit Nashville Zoo. "From Nashville Zoo with Love, Presented by News 2" aired on August 4 and featured amazing performances from Brad Paisley, Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans.



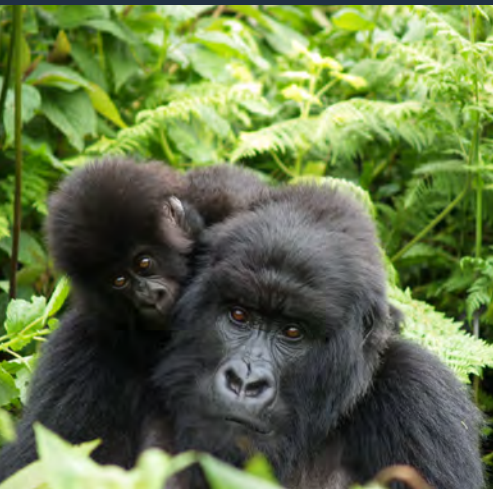
The show was again hosted by our friends Scott Hamilton, News 2 anchor Neil Orne, and meteorologist Danielle Breezy. Scott and Neil hosted in-studio and had some fun animal guests including an adorable kangaroo joey and a very prickly porcupine. Neil graciously accepted a fundraising challenge which resulted in him holding a surprise guest: a friendly tarantula! This year Danielle hosted from the Zoo and showed off our award-winning exhibit, Expedition Peru: Trek of the Andean Bear. She got up close and personal with alpacas, guinea pigs and our cutest new resident, Hugo the southern pudu.

Over 20,000 viewers tuned in for the program, which was also streamed online. Between donations and auction bids, we raised over \$75,000 in support of the Zoo. We are so grateful to all of our donors and supporters!



call of the wild

After having to cancel this annual event in 2020, we were so excited to once again host our Call of the Wild dinner on October 1. Our outstanding co-chairs, Katie Crumbo and Laurie Seabury, were integral in making this event the most successful yet! The exclusive dinner featured a presentation by Dr. Tara Stoinski, President and CEO and Chief Scientific Officer for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Our guests were captivated as Dr. Stoinski shared stories of her important work protecting critically endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda.



Mother and baby mountain gorilla in Rwanda



Toco Toucan

The largest and best-known toucan species calls South America's tropical forests home. Its oversized colorful bill makes it one of the world's most popular birds. While they spend a lot of time in the trees, they're actually not that great at flying. They get around primarily by hopping!


Conservation Status: *LEAST CONCERN*


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with appreciation


Thank you to the following donors who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2021 toward the Zoo's operating and conservation funds.

† indicates donors who are deceased









































 Claws, Paws and Jaws Society is our most dedicated group of supporters, contributing \$1,500+ annually towards Zoo operations.














 Sunset Safari Benefactors contributed \$1,000+ to this annual fundraiser, which helps fund Zoo operations

 Call of the Wild Dinner Patrons contributed \$2,500+ toward the success of the event, which helps fund Zoo operations.

 Donors to Nashville Zoo's Wild Works Global Conservation program support research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives both at the Zoo and around the globe.

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It's a smart decision to include the Nashville Zoo in estate plans. I know first-hand how careful the Zoo is with their funds and with several years of perfect 100% scores by Charity Navigator, I'm confident that the Zoo will use every penny wisely to benefit the endangered animal population, conservation and our community.

Julie W. Walker



croft society

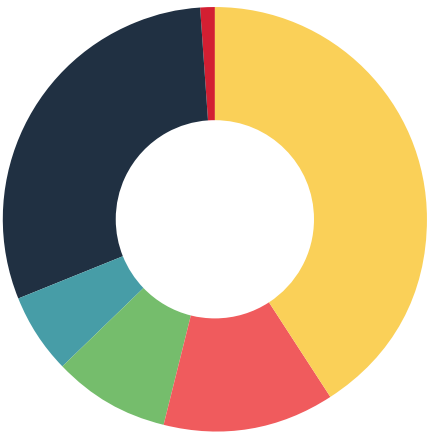
The Croft Society is a planned giving recognition group for individuals who include the Zoo in their estate plans, enabling the Zoo to thrive for generations to come.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Judy Alexander | Landis Gullett† | Stella Marie Smock† |
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† Indicates donors who are deceased

the numbers

As mentioned earlier in this report, we budgeted conservatively for 2021 and were surprised as the year progressed and our attendance rebounded to 80% of our pre-pandemic numbers (reflected below in Public Support and Revenue: Park Income). We also benefited greatly from government programs designed to financially assist nonprofits substantially impacted by the pandemic (reflected below in Public Support and Revenue: Governmental Support). This support helped us recover from the losses we suffered in 2020 when we closed for three months during our busiest season, but even with that support, we cannot thank our donors and sponsors enough. Your generosity carried us over the threshold and helped us continue expanding, bringing in new animals, educating the public and conserving species.

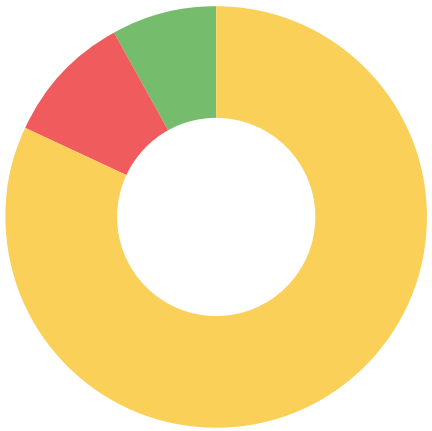


Public Support & Revenue

- Park Income **41%**
- Membership Income **13%**
- Events & Rentals **9%**
- Donations & Grants **6%**
- Governmental Support* **30%**
- Education Programs **1%**

Total: **\$34,336,744.55**

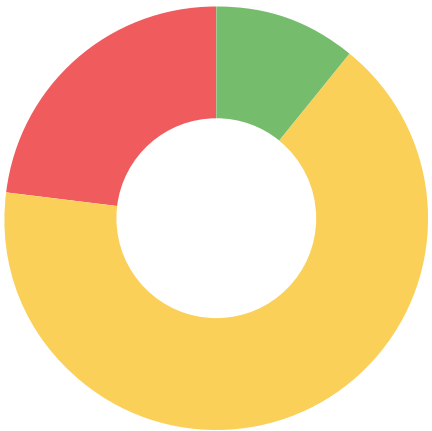
*Government support comes from the Paycheck Protection Program loan which was forgiven in 2021 and participation in the 2021 Employee Retention Credit and receipt of the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant



Expenses

- Program Expenses **82%**
- Management & General **14%**
- Fundraising & Membership **4%**

Total: **\$21,620,245**



Capital Campaign & Investments

- Capital Grants **11%**
- Capital Campaign **66%**
- Investment Income **23%**

Total: **\$6,710,453**

* Financials are unaudited



Caracal

Caracals are supreme hunters and the fastest of the smaller African wildcats. They have more than 20 muscles in their ears, allowing their ears to swivel around and detect the sounds of their prey. Their sandy-colored coats provide excellent camouflage, and the stiff fur around their footpads cushions their steps, making them nearly silent stalkers.

Conservation Status: *LEAST CONCERN*

LC NT VU EN CR EW EX

GROWING WILD

After a pause in 2020, we are excited to be moving ahead again with our Grow Wild Capital Campaign. We’ve broken ground on two exciting new exhibits that are scheduled to open in 2023.

Our Komodo dragon exhibit will be located along the pathway to the HCA Healthcare Veterinary Center. Guests will enjoy views into both the outdoor and indoor habitats of these giant lizards. During cooler weather, winter-hardy cranes will be featured in the exterior portion of the exhibit, while the dragons remain in the interior viewing area.

The Zoo’s African expansion has also begun with our first installment, a multi-species exhibit area located near the rhino and giraffe habitats. The Leopard Forest will include Amur leopards, colobus monkeys, De Brazza’s monkeys, klipspringers and rock hyraxes.

CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS

\$5,000,000+

The Frist Foundation
HCA Healthcare
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

\$3,000,000+

Richard and Judith Bracken, The Bracken Foundation
Stephanie and John Ingram, The John R. Ingram Advised Fund*
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\$1,000,000+

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Thomas Loventhal† and Family
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† indicates donors who are deceased



“We chose to support the leopard exhibit because we’ve enjoyed watching these powerful and graceful animals during our travels. We want to make that experience possible for our whole community. At this new exhibit, families and children will be able to see leopards up close and learn ways they can be good stewards of our natural world.”

- Dorothy and Joe Scarlett

We are thankful to the many donors who have already supported the Grow Wild campaign. If you are interested in learning how you can become involved in the growth of Nashville Zoo, please contact growwild@nashvillezoo.org.



ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
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3777 Nolensville Pike
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Photos by: Sean Brunson, Stephanie Edling, Katie Gregory,
Caitlin Harris, Kate Johns, Bailey Rose Kelly, Amiee Stubbs