



# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT



In Cooperation with the City and County of Denver

# DENVER ZOO'S MISSION:

Secure a Better World for Animals Through Human Understanding.

## VISION:

Continuously innovate to inspire life-changing human and animal connections.

## CORE PILLARS:

Animal Care • Conservation • Education • People

## VALUES:

|          |
|----------|
| PROTECT  |
| HONOR    |
| INNOVATE |
| ENGAGE   |
| EMPOWER  |
| SERVE    |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                   |                                     |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>02</b><br>YEAR IN REVIEW                       | <b>07</b><br>NEW ARRIVALS           | <b>18</b><br>SHARED IMPACT |
| <b>03-04</b><br>CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT/CEO MESSAGES | <b>09-16</b><br>LASTING CONNECTIONS | <b>19-24</b><br>DONORS     |
| <b>05</b><br>BOARD OF TRUSTEES & EXECUTIVE TEAM   | <b>17</b><br>AWARDS AND RECOGNITION | <b>25-26</b><br>FINANCES   |

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## CONSERVATION

involved in  
**60 FIELD PROJECTS**  
supported by  
**43 STAFF MEMBERS**

welcomed  
**2 LAKE TITICACA  
2 FROGLET**S

TO THE TROPICAL DISCOVERY EXHIBIT

DENVER ZOO IS THE ONLY NORTH AMERICAN ZOO  
TO HAVE THESE AS A COLLECTION SPECIES.

## HOSTED THE

**20TH ANNIVERSARY  
CONSERVATION  
CONFERENCE**  
INCLUDING MORE THAN  
**300 CONSERVATIONISTS**  
FROM **25 COUNTRIES**

SERVED MORE THAN

**1,200  
SCHOOLS**

Total attendance reached  
**2,037,036**

## EVENTS

### ZOO LIGHTS

attendance reached  
a record-breaking  
**212,795 VISITORS**  
during its 39 day run

HOSTED THE ZOO'S FIRST TRAVELING EXHIBIT  
NATURE CONNECTS,® ART WITH LEGO® BRICKS,  
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GODDARD SCHOOLS  
**ENGAGING 475,962 VISITORS**  
with **38 SCULPTURES**, 10 OF WHICH were  
**SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED** for Denver Zoo

## MASTER PLAN APPROVED

by City and County of Denver City Council

## ATTENDANCE

**64.9%**

OF ON-SITE VISITORS CAME FROM  
**SCFD COUNTIES**  
SURROUNDING DENVER

**15 PAWS Partners**  
and **23 Mentors**  
volunteered in 2015

PAWS (Partners Advancing  
with Support) Volunteer  
Program provides volunteer  
opportunities for adult  
individuals who are differently-  
abled and have unique physical  
or cognitive needs

**REACHED 65,891 HOUSEHOLDS**

including **50,890 ACTIVE SCFD HOUSEHOLDS**

## EDUCATION

Provided education experiences  
to over **225,000 school children, adults and families**

Welcomed more than **150 new animals**  
through **births and hatchings**

**696**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

CONTRIBUTED  
**80,959 HOURS**

EQUIVALENT TO  
**\$1,867,723**  
**OF PAID TIME**

EMPLOYED  
**465**  
INDIVIDUALS

02

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Denver Zoo has a rich and meaningful heritage, and, with more than 2 million visitors each year, has earned the distinction as the most visited cultural destination in Colorado. The Zoo is also a fluid organization. As the world changes in respect to animal care, conservation efforts, education and community outreach, Denver Zoo adjusts to address those issues with a thoughtful, relevant and fiscally responsible approach.

In 2015, after many community and neighborhood meetings designed to gather feedback and support, the Zoo formally presented the buildings contained in the new Master Plan to the Denver City Council for review and approval. I am thrilled to say that the Council voted to approve the building plan and the Zoo is looking forward to great things in the future that will benefit many generations of the local community, guests from near and far, students with a thirst to learn and ultimately, the well-being of wildlife on a global plane.

Staying within its current footprint in Denver's beautiful City Park, the Zoo will enhance its space in phases to provide innovative habitats with the best interest of the animals at the forefront, while enhancing the guest experience and further providing educational opportunities for visitors of all ages.

Denver Zoo continues its efforts to have an environment that is safe for guests, staff, volunteers and resident animals. To that end, it is now one of only four zoological institutions in the world, and the first in the Western Hemisphere to achieve the highest international distinction for its environmental, health and safety management systems. After an intensive audit, Denver Zoo was reaccredited with ISO 14001 certification (International Organization for Standardization) in 2015 and, for the first time, awarded the OHSAS 18001 certification (Occupational Health and Safety Standard). Both prestigious certifications commit the Zoo to the utmost level of sustainable practices, health and safety.

The Denver Zoo Board of Trustees continues to support President/CEO Shannon Block as she guides the Zoo forward through a myriad of complex issues. When Shannon joined the Zoo's Executive Team in 2014, she was instrumental in formulating three Strategic Imperatives to chart the Zoo to future success. I am proud to say that 2015 showed tangible results of the beginning stages of the implementation of these imperatives. See how the initiatives are already having an impact detailed in her message. We look forward to Denver Zoo's continued success and its achievement of goals under her leadership.

**LOUIS L. CLINTON III**  
Chairman, 2015



# PRESIDENT/CEO MESSAGE

2015 was a year filled with memorable experiences, opportunities that sparked imaginations and meaningful conservation projects supporting our mission to secure a better world for animals through human understanding. I am continually amazed by the wonderful world of Denver Zoo.

Significant progress was made on the three Strategic Imperatives designed to guide the Zoo's operations and philosophy for the next 3-5 years. These "call to action" statements have already served as the catalysts to some very exciting changes.

The Zoo is committed to accomplishing the Strategic Imperatives as we cultivate an atmosphere of engaging educational programs, promote global responsibility and ensure the safety and well-being of the animals in our care, all while providing an awe-inspiring guest experience.

In alignment with the Zoo's core pillars, we continue to provide the best care to the animals that call Denver Zoo home. Last year, the Zoo hired a full-time animal nutritionist, Jennifer Parsons and this year Emily Insalaco, who serves as our animal behavioralist is concentrating her efforts on the feelings and emotions of the Zoo's animals to ensure they are provided with the finest attention our organization can offer.

**To support our First Imperative, to inspire a sense of awe, and human and animal connection by continually improving our guest experience,** we introduced two very special interactive exhibits last summer. The *Giraffe Encounter, Made Possible By Toyota* allows guests to get an eye-to-eye view of our magnificent giraffes as they gently pluck a lettuce leaf from an outstretched hand. The *Be a Zookeeper Zone* is an interactive area that allows children ages 2 to 10, and their parents and guardians, a chance to learn about zookeepers and explore the science of animal care. We also welcomed the first-ever traveling exhibit, *Nature Connects, Art with LEGO® Bricks, Made Possible By The Goddard Schools* in August consisting of 38 sculptures, allowing guests to connect with art and animals in our collection.

Denver Zoo has demonstrated its dedication to be a leader in informal science education programs. **These programs support our Second Imperative to create positive ever-changing learning experiences through onsite and outreach educational initiatives.** The Zoo is uniquely

positioned to extend a vibrant venue to students to complement their classroom curriculum. The programs reinforce the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) modality to inspire the next generation of scientists, biologists and medical professionals.

In 2015, we welcomed Charlie Wright to our Executive Team as Chief Financial Officer. Charlie brings more than 30 years of experience in finance and public accounting. He possesses leadership skills and financial expertise that will guide the Zoo in the accomplishment of the **Third Strategic Imperative's call to develop an operating model that meets the Zoo's needs and ensures future growth.**

Our Zoo has oversight from many regulatory bodies – including the AZA, USDA, ISO, and OSHA. We continue to excel in being nationally recognized leaders in safety and operational excellence as evidenced by our certifications (ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001). The Zoo has been audited by an external accounting firm for many years, and our current auditors, Kunderling, Corder & Engle, P.C., gave the zoo an unmodified ("clean") opinion for the year ended December 31, 2015. This means we do a proper job of recording and reporting our financial information.

As you can see, we have been very busy this past year. And with the support of our community, we are committed to continue this journey of innovation that will make a positive regional and global impact.

**SHANNON BLOCK**  
President/CEO

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Front row Left to Right:** Veronica Barela, Marynelle Philpott, Lyne Andrich, Edward Robinson, Shannon Block, Elizabeth Soberg, Roy Palmer, Kathy Ogsbury, Jo Ann Semple, Andi Freyer  
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**Back row left to Right:** Charles Scoggin, Paul Freeman, Sid Wilson, Roger Bohart, Louis L. Clinton III, Kelly Matthews, Jack C. North III, Sherri Koelbel, Patrick Green

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

Louis L. Clinton III, **Chairman**  
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## EXECUTIVE STAFF

Shannon Block, **President/CEO**  
 Brian Aucone, **Senior Vice President for Animal Care and Conservation**  
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 Charlie Wright, **Chief Financial Officer**  
 Andrew Rowan, **Government Relations Manager**  
 Pat Moredock, **Executive Assistant to President/CEO**

# ANIMAL COLLECTION 601 SPECIES | 4,048 SPECIMENS

**MAMMALS 105 | 570**



**FISH 180 | 1,460**



**REPTILES 107 | 239**



**BIRDS 144 | 535**



**INVERTEBRATES 35 | 1,063**



**AMPHIBIANS 30 | 181**



DENALI



GASBY, SHUG, BU



GUNNISON



DUKE, MAVERICK



KALU, KAMARA



BOSLEY

# JOINING THE LEGACY

**Denver Zoo welcomed many animal births this year. Animals at Denver Zoo are bred under the recommendations of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP), which ensures genetic diversity and healthy populations.**

What better way to celebrate New Year's Day than with the birth of Grevy's zebra, **Denali**! Grevy's zebra are considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with a wild population estimated at fewer than 2,000 individuals. Their largest threats come from loss of habitat, competition with livestock and poaching. They have disappeared from most of their former habitats and are now only found in dry deserts and open grasslands in northern Kenya and southeastern Ethiopia.

**Gasby, Shug** and **Bu**, three adorable, Asian small-clawed otter pups, were born at the Zoo on May 29. Father Bugsy, and mother Asha,

received considerable help caring for the pups from their older brother, Jilin, born in 2014.

Resident California sea lions, Nick and Luci, celebrated the birth of their second pup, **Gunnison**, on June 11. A sea lion has not been born at the Zoo since the 2010 arrival of Ady. In July, the Zoo provided a forever home to two male yearling California sea lions, **Duke** and **Maverick**, who were unable to survive on their own in the wild. Denver Zoo's animal care team went to California to retrieve the yearlings from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, which is a nonprofit organization that specializes in the rescue and rehabilitation of beached marine mammals. These pups have been together since their rescue and Denver Zoo agreed to bring both to Colorado because of their obvious bond.

Neliah, a South African lioness and first-time mother, successfully gave birth to **Kalu** and **Kamara** on the morning of September 10. Residents from each of the seven counties that

make up the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) were invited to submit names for the cubs for consideration. The contest was held to thank voters who support SCFD, which provides nearly one-quarter of the Zoo's annual funding.

Imagine seeing a zebra born right before your eyes. That's what happened on October 8, when Grevy's zebra, Farasi, gave birth to male foal, **Bosley**, in the zebra yard as guests watched in awe. Farasi is not a new mother, but this is the first time she has given birth at Denver Zoo.

Soon to follow was the arrival of a Przewalski's horse male foal, named **Batu**, born the morning of October 29. Batu was born to mother, Yisun, and father, Bataar. This is only the second birth of this species at Denver Zoo since 1991.



BATU



BERTIE



BABY



RAJAH



CASTOR



MSHINDI

# LEAVING A LEGACY

**Denver Zoo is all abuzz when a new baby animal is born. Conversely, when the Zoo loses a cherished animal family member, a sense of sadness and reminiscence is acutely felt. In 2015, the organization said goodbye to several animals including five longtime animal friends that served as ambassadors to many generations of Zoo guests. Denver Zoo provides the best, state-of-the-art medical care to all of its animals, regardless of age or condition. Many of the Zoo's animals live well beyond the lifespan of their wild counterparts. Though it is sad to say goodbye, we would like to celebrate these remarkable animals and acknowledge the impact they had on our entire community.**

Denver Zoo and visitors far and wide bade goodbye to our 58-year-old hippopotamus, **Bertie**, on May 4. At the time of his death, he was the oldest hippo in accredited North American zoos. He was a longtime favorite

of guests who grew up watching him. Subsequently, these guests brought their children and grandchildren to the Zoo through the years. Bertie also taught our Zoo staff many things over the years that served to further the Zoo's mission. Hippos live 30-40 years in the wild, and usually up to about 50 years in zoos. Bertie had a long life filled with love and care.

The Zoo lost two 17-year-old South African lions; female **Baby**, in March, and male **Rajah**, in August. They were both treasured members of our Denver Zoo family and part of the first pride of lions to live in the Benson Predator Ridge exhibit that opened in 2004.

On July 9, we said goodbye to **Castor**, our 21-year-old Komodo dragon that called Denver Zoo home for more than 20 years. The 8-foot-long, 118 pound Komodo dragon was a valuable ambassador that helped dispel some negative connotations of these magnificent

reptiles. At the time of his passing, Castor was one of the 10 oldest Komodo dragons in North American zoos.

**Mshindi**, a beloved 21-year-old male black rhinoceros, passed in September. The median life expectancy for this species living in North American zoos is 17.8 years; however, with premier animal and veterinary medical care afforded to all of the Zoo's animals, Mshindi lived well beyond that benchmark.

# LASTING CONNECTIONS

**Denver Zoo is a four-season, family-friendly destination where every visit is unlike the last – it is ever-changing, ever-moving and alive with endless encounters to be discovered.**

Many schools have incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs in their curriculum. Denver Zoo is leading the way in implementing several educational programs, as well as guest experiences exhibit to support that philosophy. Research suggests that a love of science can begin through nature play and connections to animals at an early age.

## NATURE CONNECTS®, ART WITH LEGO® BRICKS

*Nature Connects, Art with LEGO Bricks, Made Possible By The Goddard Schools*, was an award-winning traveling exhibit that made its Colorado debut at Denver Zoo this past summer. This exhibit featured life-size, and even some larger than life, animal and plant sculptures made from LEGO® bricks. Thirty eight sculptures were positioned throughout the Zoo's grounds, including 10 specially-commissioned pieces. They represented species that can be found in North America and abroad. The number of brick pieces used ranged from 530 for a small frog to more than 130,000 for a polar bear and its three cubs.

Guests were able to connect with animals and nature through art, as well as build a fondness among children for STEM learning. Workshops were available for children to build their own sculptures. LEGO® pieces allow for an array of play opportunities. The brightly-colored, easily interlocking combinations provide hours of patterning practice, sorting and fine-motor development. LEGO® bricks also teach how to think in multiple dimensions – a precursor to physics.

Denver Zoo's horticulture team created incredible landscaping designs that enhanced each sculpture. Planning and design began in February, with approximately 12,000 flowers and trees installed to complement the exhibit.

Traveling exhibits are carefully evaluated and chosen to ensure that they promote an educational message, reinforce the Zoo's mission and explore new opportunities that enhance the human-animal connection.

Nature Connects had a reach far beyond the gates of the Zoo. A family of self-proclaimed LEGO aficionados were visiting from Michigan when they discovered that Denver Zoo was hosting a special LEGO preview night. They extended their vacation just to attend the event and meet Sean Kenney, the artist who created the sculptures. The wide-eyed look of wonderment in one of the son's eyes, as he clutched LEGO books written by Sean, was evidence of the impact these exhibits produce.



# BE A ZOOKEEPER ZONE

The Zoo opened its *Be a Zookeeper Zone* in the summer of 2015 as an additional method to inspire awe and create life changing human and animal connections. The interactive activity area allows children and adults a chance to learn about zookeepers and explore the science of animal care. Located in the Zoo's original outdoor pachyderm exhibit, next to the hippopotamus yard, the zone features three different exhibits and a presentation area to immerse kids in up close views of education program animals and their animal keepers.

Guests have hands-on opportunities to use scientific methods with animals, such as guinea pigs. Children are first introduced to an animal and then are allowed to test

different components in its habitat, like where to place a food bowl or shelter box. Then the kids observe the animal's behavior, make adjustments and learn how this method helps zookeepers tailor their care towards the individual animal's needs.

Visitors learn that caring for animals, whether it is at home or at the Zoo, begins with asking questions, trying things and observing what happens. This sparks an interest in how science helps zookeepers every day.

Two South American llamas, Fernando and Jorge also enjoy a yard where guests learn about these friendly, familiar animals and how zookeepers take care of them.



# GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER



Denver Zoo enhances compelling experiences between staff, animals and guests. An example of this is the *Giraffe Encounter, Made Possible By Toyota*. At designated times throughout the day, guests can hand-feed lettuce leaves to resident reticulated giraffes Dikembe, Heshi, Masika and Kipele. This is a place for visitors to interact with staff and volunteers to learn about giraffes, discover their personalities through an up-close encounter with these giants and experience a sense of wonder. These types of interactions create awe moments and lifetime memories with these majestic animals that spark caring and action.

This exhibit was designed and constructed by the Zoo's planning and facilities staff. By utilizing the expertise of our in-house professionals, the Zoo was able to complete the project in a timely and efficient manner. Additionally, by using Zoo staff, the cost of the project was significantly lower than if it was outsourced.

## NUTRITION

In 2015, the Zoo added a new specialized position, a full-time zoo nutritionist, to enhance its ability to provide the best care for more than 4,000 animals. The field of zoo nutrition is relatively new and very small. To date, there are only 28 zoo nutritionists with post-graduate training in North America. Adding an animal nutritionist to the Zoo's staff is significant, as it demonstrates Denver Zoo's continual efforts to enhance our expertise in the zoological realm.

Denver Zoo is committed to providing the best species-specific diets that ensure the health and welfare of the animals in the collection. Many considerations are factored into the diets, such as each animal's unique needs or the desire to replicate the food found in the species' natural habitat.

Denver Zoo made the choice to expand its browse program in 2015. Browse is unprocessed plant material, such as leaves, flowers or wood portions of trees and shrubs. Much of the browse consumed by our animals comes from the naturally-grown vegetation on the Zoo's campus. In addition to its nutritional value, browse provides enrichment as animals nibble on leaves, strip bark and chew on stems like they would in the wild. Browse is also essential for healthy digestion of many Zoo animals. This need doesn't change throughout the year and the Zoo is committed to this type of care 365 days a year. During colder weather months, when the Zoo is unable to harvest browse on campus, it is shipped in from southern states of the U.S.

# VOLUNTEERS

Denver Zoo is proud of the **more than 650 volunteers** who are essential to the operation of the Zoo. In addition to the vast knowledge they possess regarding the Zoo and its animals, these volunteers are storytellers. Many of them have been Zoo volunteers for numerous years and their supply of anecdotes, intriguing tidbits and overall hands-on activities has added a dimension to guests' experiences.

Volunteers help with a myriad of Zoo tasks, from completing administrative processes that free up the time of staff, to assisting with animal care, to educating guests about the interesting attributes of the animals in our care, to helping out with summer camp and educational programs. The Zoo couldn't do it without their support.



**696**

ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS DONATED



**80,959**

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS, EQUIVALENT TO



**\$1,867,723**

OF PAID TIME.



Zoo Crew is the Zoo's teen volunteer program that is open to young people ages 13-18. Teen volunteers serve in different capacities at the Zoo during the summer months. Many who have gone through the program have been inspired to pursue a career in animal care, zoology, veterinarian care and education.

Denver Zoo is proud that some of these teens have chosen a career at a zoo or animal conservation center here or elsewhere in the U.S. once they obtained their degrees.



# ACCESS FOR ALL



**66% OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED  
FREE OR DISCOUNTED ADMISSION**



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The **Denver Zoo Scholarship Fund** makes Zoo experiences accessible for all individuals, regardless of their economic circumstance. The fund provides access to environmental science education for schools, individuals, groups and families, and assures that students from Pre-K through High School are able to enjoy and learn more about the living world, the conservation of animals and the environment by reducing program fees.

**Denver Zoo Scholarship Fund provided \$220,500 in financial assistance.**

**42,873 facilitated learning experiences and self-guided field trip experiences were supported through this valuable program.**



WY

## EXPANDED GEOGRAPHY

**Denver Zoo educators bring the Zoo to schools, community centers, libraries, senior centers and community events.** Animal ambassadors travel with Zoo staff to teach participants about wildlife, the environment and their connection to humans. Each year the Zoo's learning experience team educates students, teachers and families that reside in rural areas, including **Colorado's Western slope, Wyoming and northern Colorado.**

CO

## 5 BY 5 PROGRAM

Denver Zoo supports the 5 By 5 Program, a program of the City of Denver Mayor's Office which provides free access to the city's young children with at least 5 cultural experiences by the age of 5 to spark their imagination and learning. In 2015, the Zoo reached 13,779 individuals. Additionally, the Zoo offers Bilingual education programming, and advances the mission by providing paid internships through the Minority Apprentice Program.

# LEARNING EXPERIENCES

## REPEATED EXPOSURE

As schools are placing an increased emphasis on bringing community partners into their curriculum, the Zoo's outreach team is rising to the occasion with a new multi-contact enrichment program model. Through this, students participate in six to eight hands-on, inquiry-based classes focused around the themes of habitats, life science and animal classification.

The Zoo anticipates serving almost 500 students each school year through multi-contact programming.

The Zoo delivers content to roughly 10 venues in the metro-Denver area, including schools and community centers.

## ADVANCED INQUIRY PROGRAM

In December 2015, Denver Zoo was thrilled to graduate its first Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) class. Co-delivered by Denver Zoo and Miami University's Project Dragonfly, the program combines graduate courses at the Zoo with web-based online classes that connect participants to a broad network of educators, conservationists and community leaders. Professionals who are passionate about conservation can earn their master's degree conferred by Miami University,



Oxford, Ohio. Advanced Inquiry Program Master's students practice the skills of investigation, critical reflection, leadership and collaboration required to effectively address vital issues.

## HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns work in a variety of areas around the Zoo and perform duties such as working alongside zookeepers, preparing diets, feeding animals, cleaning enclosures and learning about the animals themselves. Additionally, there are interns who work in the planning department, assisting with sustainability initiatives. During the school year, the Zoo accepts roughly 12 teens into the program. Denver Zoo aims to remove barriers for underserved and disadvantaged youth interested in animal-related careers.

# CONSERVATION

**Denver Zoo has identified specific geographic areas where efforts are concentrated. The areas include Botswana, Mongolia, Peru, Bolivia, Rocky Mountain/Great Plains and Vietnam.**

## MONGOLIA

Denver Zoo's Conservation and Research department continues to make great strides in the study and protection of both wildlife and vegetation in key areas around the world. Significant work has been conducted at the Ikh Nart Nature Preserve in Mongolia that includes tracking the flight paths of Lesser kestrel, monitoring Argali sheep and in-depth vegetation research. Ikh Nart has been recognized as a model conservation area by the United Nations. In 2015, the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia and the United Nations Chief Country Office Support and Quality Assurance representative visited the projects conducted by Denver Zoo researchers.

Zoo staff members were able to recapture two Lesser kestrels equipped with geolocators in Mongolia during the summer. The maximum distance covered by these birds is about 12,000 kilometers (7500 mi.) when measured from the northeastern-most to southwestern-most points. To the amazement of Zoo staff, the distance recorded on this pair is roughly 10,000-11,000 kilometers (6,200-6,800 mi.), spending summers in Mongolia and winters in Africa.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN/GREAT PLAINS

November 1, 2015 marked the successful reintroduction of Colorado's newest bison herd, the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd. This herd was released in the protected grasslands in northern Colorado, in the City of Fort Collins' Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Larimer County's Red Mountain Open Space.

Denver Zoo played a role in this project by providing social science research resources in support of the organizations that spearheaded the successful reintroduction. This partnership demonstrates the Zoo's willing collaboration with outside organizations towards a positive environmental impact; and its conservation focus on the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains endangered grasslands.

## PERU

Denver Zoo became the first North American zoo since the 1970's to have Lake Titicaca frogs (*Telmatobius culeus*) in its collection. Twenty froglets, second-generation offspring from frogs confiscated in Peru, arrived at Denver Zoo on November 18, 2015. Denver Zoo has worked with Peruvian and Bolivian partners since 2007 to protect this unique amphibian. Establishing a population in captivity in AZA accredited zoos is an important step in the conservation of this critically endangered species.



# CITIZEN SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) distributes funds, generated by a 1 penny on \$10 sales and use tax, to more than 300 nonprofit cultural organizations throughout the seven-county region of metro Denver. The goal of SCFD is to make accessible to the public a myriad of opportunities for enlightenment, education and entertainment. Big or small, SCFD-recipient organizations contribute to the overall enrichment of metro Denver residents and visitors.



SCFD's support of Denver Zoo continues to make a profound impact. This significant support creates meaningful experiences for visitors, both at the Zoo and offsite in the community, engaging SCFD citizens of all ages with impactful encounters that inspire a lifelong love of science learning. Denver Zoo is a place where visitors make local, regional and international connections linking people, animals and nature. The funds provided by SCFD help the Zoo continue to provide the highest level of animal care, conservation programs, educational outreach, and innovative guest experiences.

- **ENABLES** access to students, teachers, children and caregivers to Denver Zoo's transformative human – animal encounters across the metro region. As a result of nine SCFD-sponsored free days in 2015, Denver Zoo welcomed more than 89,700 guests.

- **PROVIDES** state-of-art zoological care to more than 4,000 resident animals. Species-specific diets are created by an animal nutritionist; and innovative animal enrichment keeps animals engaged, mentally stimulated and promotes behavior they would exhibit in the wild.
- **ENGAGES** more than 225,000 students from over 1,000 schools through intentional and engaging educational experiences for students of all ages.
- **COORDINATES** conservation research projects regionally and internationally, protecting over 25 species, and impacting the stability and preservation of ecosystems throughout the world.

## ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION 16

Denver Zoo is committed to conservation and was privileged to host the 20th anniversary of the Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference in 2015. This was the first time the conference was held at Denver Zoo, and the first time in its history the event sold out, with 310 attendees.

Participants represented 26 countries and more than 166 organizations, composed of 63 zoos, 12 universities, 42 field projects and 49 conservation-related affiliations.

The mission of the ZACC conference is to encourage and promote increased involvement of zoos and aquariums in support of field conservation – locally, nationally and internationally.

ZACC conferences bring together field researchers and zoo colleagues every two years, enabling them to network, forge relationships and work together to mutually benefit and protect wildlife species and wild places.

# AWARDS AND HONORS

## ANIMAL CARE

**Vice President for Animal Care, Hollie Colahan, was selected** to be the Chair of the AZA Professional Development Committee that oversees all of AZA's professional development and training programs.

## CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

**Denver Zoo and Tonkin snub-nosed monkey conservation collaborators Fauna and Flora International and the University of Colorado Boulder announced** that joint conservation efforts have led to the designation of a new national park in Ha Giang Province, Vietnam, for the primary purpose of continued Tonkin snub-nosed monkey conservation success in the region.

**Gana Wingard, Mongolia Program Director, received** a Certificate of Appreciation from the Grupo Medicina de Conservación of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. Gana also received spotlight in the 2015 Field Research Expedition Guide Mongolia by Earthwatch Institute.

**Dr. Rebecca Garvoille, Conservation Social Scientist, was elected** to serve as an at-large member on the Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group Board. She is currently the Board Secretary and Communications Committee Chair.

**The Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge watershed, which is managed by Denver Zoo, was identified as one of the best landscapes in northern New Mexico for migratory grassland bird species,**

in terms of habitat connectivity and quality, by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) through a habitat suitability analysis.

## EDUCATION

**Marley Steele-Inama, Director of Audience Research and Evaluation was elected** as Chair of the American Alliance of Museum's Committee on Audience Research and Evaluation, a professional network designed to advance visitor studies and program evaluation in museums, zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens and science centers. Steele-Inama also published a chapter in the Journal of Museum Education about the Denver Evaluation Network (DEN), a consortium of metro-area cultural organizations building evaluation capacity in staff.

## FACILITIES

**Denver Zoo is now one of only four zoological institutions in the world, and the first in the Western Hemisphere, to achieve** the highest international distinction for its environmental, health and safety management systems. After an intensive, four-day audit in February, Denver Zoo was reaccredited with ISO 14001 certification and, for the first time, awarded the OHSAS 18001 certification. Both prestigious certifications commit the Zoo to the utmost level of sustainable practices and health and safety.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

**Marketing and Public Relations each won a Gold Hermes Creative Award** for the identity design package for the Zoo's annual fundraiser, Do at the

Zoo, and for the best media placement for a Denver Post article about our LEGO® exhibit, respectively.

## ORGANIZATION

**Values Based Leadership professional development training offered to management staff was featured** in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Connect Magazine. The program arms participants with tools to empower, motivate and hold teams accountable; manage tasks, people and themselves; and communicate more effectively with one another.

**The following Zoo-affiliated individuals successfully completed Denver Zoo's Advanced Inquiry Program.** Brittney Weaver, Ali Young, Colby McElrath, Heather Batts, Sharon Garrison and Sara Shanahan. Each earned a master's degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Dr. Gwen Jankowski became board certified** in zoological medicine, by successfully passing the certification examination for the American College of Zoological Medicine.

**Dr. R. Scott Larsen completed a two year term** as President of the American College of Zoological Medicine.

**Dr. R. Scott Larsen was elected as President-elect** of the American Associations of Zoo Veterinarians.



# SHARED IMPACT

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Multi-generational learning starts with natural curiosity and Denver Zoo is a living classroom that taps into that curiosity and inspires authentic learning like no other in the metro community. Denver Zoo is collaborating with Educare Denver School, at Clayton Early Learning, to deliver a comprehensive, nature-play program that provides hands-on inquiry to engage young children, teachers and caregivers in nature play. This program affirms that nature exploration is relevant, creating a foundation for developing science-literate citizens and a generation that cares for the environment.

Targeting community early child care programs that may not traditionally have access to the Zoo and its experiences, the program encourages free exploration that is child-directed and guided discovery that is child-centered. The platform encourages caregiver and teacher challenges, as well as the development of a child's questioning skills and opportunities to "think and do like a scientist," through the lens of animals and nature. *Nurturing Scientists through Nature Play* combines at-school and at-Zoo components to connect students, families and teachers to community-based locations for nature play. It also infuses an attention-grabbing element that most other institutions cannot provide: up close interactions and exploration of live animals from around the world. This holistic program not only serves students but also encompasses teacher professional development and family engagement events.

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Denver Zoo Veterinary Medicine Department has an ongoing professional relationship with the Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The Zoo routinely works with veterinary specialists in surgery, cardiology and ophthalmology who consult on Denver Zoo animal patients to provide the best possible medical care. Denver Zoo veterinarians lecture to, and facilitate learning experiences for CSU veterinary students. The Zoo also partners with CSU's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Upon death, all animals receive a full necropsy that includes microscopic examination of organs and tissues. These examinations help veterinarians, animal caretakers and students learn more about the animals in our care, diagnose diseases and improve medical treatments. Denver Zoo is extremely proud of this partnership as it augments the expertise of our board-certified veterinary staff, providing the resources and expertise of a world-renowned veterinary school.



# A THOUSAND THANKS

## AND ROARS, AND CHIRPS AND GROWLS

Denver Zoo is extremely grateful for the countless supporters who donated to the organization in 2015. These gifts enrich the lives of our animals and their species around the world and help ensure a quality experience for each of our guests.

### CRYSTAL LION AWARD

Denver Zoo presented its highest honor to longtime supporters Scott and Katie Schoelzel. The Schoelzels were recognized for their unwavering financial support, time commitment and engagement to help further the Zoo's mission to secure a better world for animals through human understanding.

The complete list of donors can also be found on Denver Zoo's website at [www.denverzoo.org/donors](http://www.denverzoo.org/donors) and the donor wall located on the walking path west of the main entrance.

Denver zoo has made every effort to accurately list the organization's 2015 donors and supporters. Please accept our apology if there are errors and contact the development department at **720-337-1460** and we will make the proper changes in our records.





## MICHAEL FAMILY BENCH UNVEILINGS

"In Heaven, angels ride horses and play guitars." A plaque bearing this inscription pays witness to the love of a family for two of its cherished own. Andrea "Andee" and Taylor Michael, ages 17 and 15 respectively, lost their lives in a tragic car accident in November, 2009. Jim Michael, who is the girls' uncle, and his fiancé Lisa Lutz, a Zoo docent, wanted to make a visible gesture to memorialize their nieces, so they dedicated a bench in their honor.

"The Zoo was a great opportunity for us because Andee wanted to be a vet and Taylor wanted to be a teacher. What better place to have education, kids and animals come together than the Zoo," says Jim Michael.



The bench is located in a grassy and shaded area adjacent to the Conservation Carousel where guests can rest during the day. Both girls loved music and animals, especially horses, so a spot by the carousel was perfect. During the 2015 ceremony, a musical duo played guitar and sang "Beam Me Up," by Pink and "He Lives in You," from the musical "The Lion King." Many family members attended the beautiful dedication ceremony. The grandparents and parents were surprised by the presentation of a second bench in their honor. It was an emotional day, but at the end the girls' mother, Shelli, said "This is so special to us. I guarantee the girls were here with us today."

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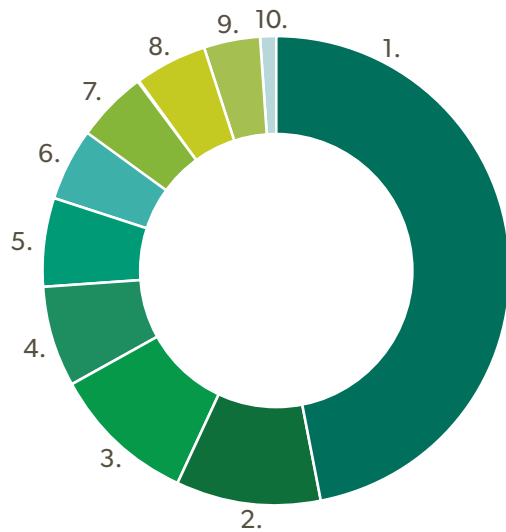
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 Pamela and Brian Tuerffs  
 D. and Mark Turner  
 Kristen and Manfred Uebelhoer  
 Bob Valerio  
 Marilyn and Dick Veazey  
 Scott Vickrey and Michael Baughman  
 Heidi K. Wadas  
 Marianne and Joseph Wagner  
 Sandra and Jack P. Walmsley  
 Charles L. and Emma J. Warren  
 Ann and Dean Weaver  
 Patricia Wellinger  
 Alden M. Whittaker  
 Cherrie L. Wilkie  
 Gayle and Bill Witmer  
 Barbara A. Van Buskirk and Fred C. Wolf  
 Hannah Yaritz  
 Genevieve Young  
 Toni Zagarella  
 Linda and Robert Zapanick  
 Karen M. Zarlengo  
 In memory of Joe and Louise Zaro, Ms. Gina  
 Zaro and Mr. Guy Ohl  
 Jan Zinkl  
 Kathleen M. Zipp

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: **\$42.4 M**

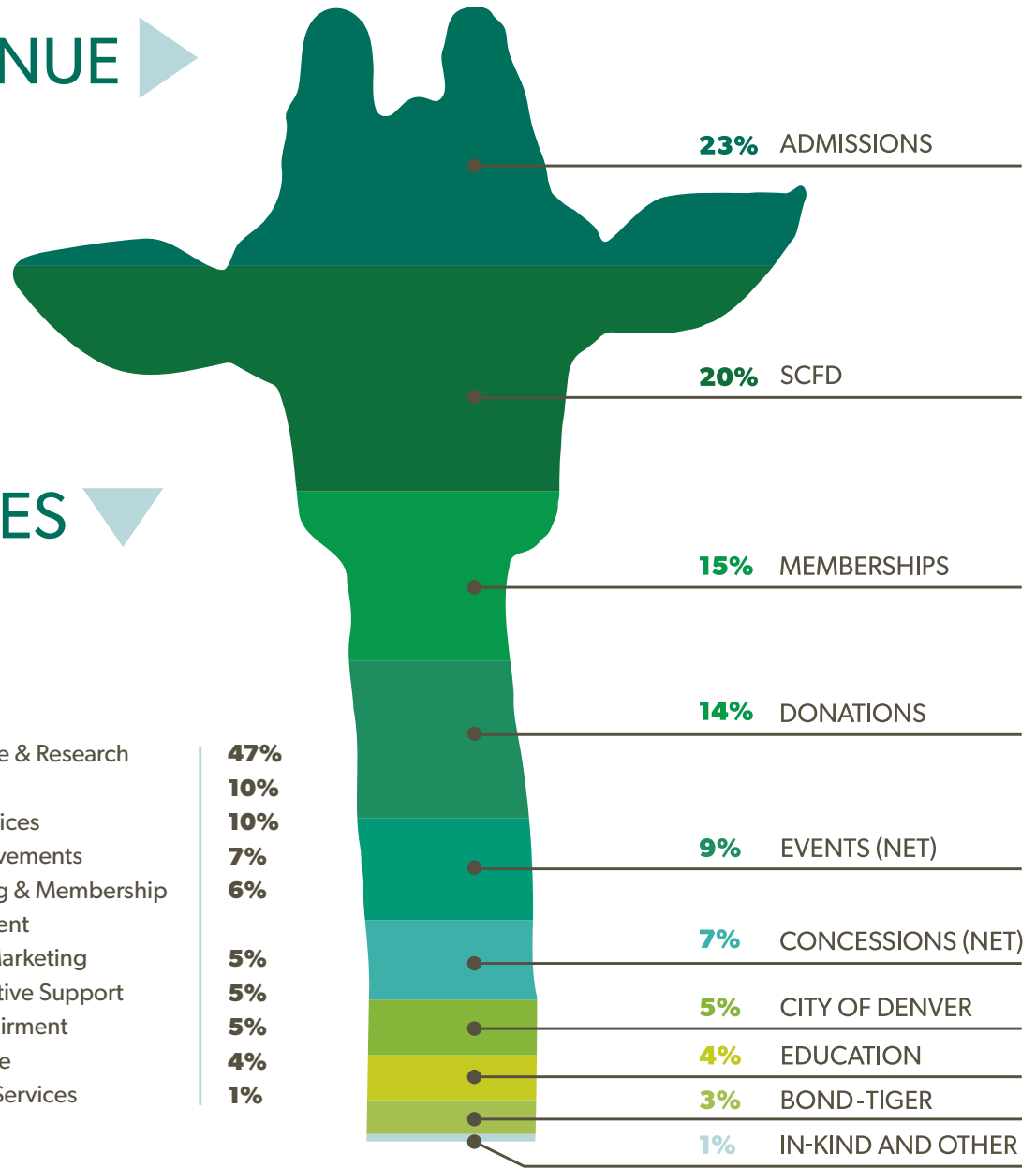
## OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$38.1 M**



1. Animal Care & Research
2. Education
3. Guest Services
4. Zoo Improvements
5. Fundraising & Membership Development
6. Events & Marketing
7. Administrative Support
8. Asset Impairment
9. Horticulture
10. Member Services

**47%**  
**10%**  
**10%**  
**7%**  
**6%**  
**5%**  
**5%**  
**5%**  
**4%**  
**1%**



# DETAILED SCHEDULE OF REVENUE, SUPPORT & EXPENDITURES

|                                                     | Denver Zoological Foundation, Inc. |                        |                   | Colorado Zoological Trust |                        |                        |                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                     | Unrestricted                       | Temporarily Restricted | Total Foundation  | Unrestricted              | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total CZT         | Total 2015        |
| <b>Support and Revenue</b>                          |                                    |                        |                   |                           |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Memberships                                         | \$ 6,228,370                       | —                      | 6,228,370         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 6,228,370         |
| Donations, gifts and grants                         | 905,682                            | 4,864,607              | 5,770,289         | 79,259                    | —                      | —                      | 79,259            | 5,849,548         |
| Bond income                                         | —                                  | 1,284,299              | 1,284,299         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 1,284,299         |
| City and County of Denver support                   | 2,113,000                          | —                      | 2,113,000         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 2,113,000         |
| In-kind contributions                               | 149,536                            | —                      | 149,536           | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 149,536           |
| Fund raising events revenue                         | —                                  | 983,788                | 983,788           | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 983,788           |
| Fund raising events expenses                        | —                                  | (426,430)              | (426,430)         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | (426,430)         |
| Admission revenue                                   | 9,779,527                          | —                      | 9,779,527         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 9,779,527         |
| Concessions commission                              | 2,953,049                          | —                      | 2,953,049         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 2,953,049         |
| Investment return                                   | 18,349                             | —                      | 18,349            | (71,763)                  | (111,556)              | —                      | (183,319)         | (164,970)         |
| Marketing and membership events                     | 3,205,450                          | —                      | 3,205,450         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 3,205,450         |
| Education revenue                                   | 1,511,355                          | —                      | 1,511,355         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 1,511,355         |
| Other revenue                                       | 402,966                            | —                      | 402,966           | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 402,966           |
| Scientific and Cultural Facilities District revenue | 8,507,980                          | —                      | 8,507,980         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 8,507,980         |
| Transfers from CZT to the Foundation                | 701,000                            | 54,000                 | 755,000           | (701,000)                 | (54,000)               | —                      | (755,000)         | —                 |
| Net assets released from restrictions               | 2,331,490                          | (2,331,490)            | —                 | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | —                 |
| <b>Total support and revenue</b>                    | <b>38,807,754</b>                  | <b>4,428,774</b>       | <b>43,236,528</b> | <b>(693,504)</b>          | <b>(165,556)</b>       | <b>-</b>               | <b>(859,060)</b>  | <b>42,377,468</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                                 |                                    |                        |                   |                           |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Program services:</b>                            |                                    |                        |                   |                           |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Zoo improvements                                    | 2,587,545                          | —                      | 2,587,545         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 2,587,545         |
| Certificates of Participation                       | 630,482                            | —                      | 630,482           | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 630,482           |
| Member services and promotions                      | 272,487                            | —                      | 272,487           | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 272,487           |
| Animal care and research                            | 17,914,473                         | —                      | 17,914,473        | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 17,914,473        |
| Horticulture                                        | 1,534,523                          | —                      | 1,534,523         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 1,534,523         |
| Public education                                    | 3,904,899                          | —                      | 3,904,899         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 3,904,899         |
| Guest services                                      | 3,323,894                          | —                      | 3,323,894         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 3,323,894         |
| Impairment loss on long-lived assets                | 1,747,738                          | —                      | 1,747,738         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 1,747,738         |
| <b>Total program services</b>                       | <b>31,916,041</b>                  | <b>—</b>               | <b>31,916,041</b> | <b>—</b>                  | <b>—</b>               | <b>—</b>               | <b>—</b>          | <b>31,916,041</b> |
| <b>Support services:</b>                            |                                    |                        |                   |                           |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Office and administration                           | 2,023,430                          | —                      | 2,023,430         | 30,872                    | —                      | —                      | 30,872            | 2,054,302         |
| Fund raising                                        | 2,041,055                          | —                      | 2,041,055         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 2,041,055         |
| Marketing                                           | 1,833,609                          | —                      | 1,833,609         | —                         | —                      | —                      | —                 | 1,833,609         |
| <b>Total support services</b>                       | <b>6,193,940</b>                   | <b>—</b>               | <b>6,193,940</b>  | <b>30,872</b>             | <b>—</b>               | <b>—</b>               | <b>30,872</b>     | <b>6,224,812</b>  |
| <b>Total expenditures</b>                           | <b>38,109,981</b>                  | <b>—</b>               | <b>38,109,981</b> | <b>30,872</b>             | <b>—</b>               | <b>—</b>               | <b>30,872</b>     | <b>38,140,853</b> |
| <b>Change in net assets</b>                         | <b>697,773</b>                     | <b>4,428,774</b>       | <b>5,126,547</b>  | <b>(724,376)</b>          | <b>(165,556)</b>       | <b>—</b>               | <b>(889,932)</b>  | <b>4,236,615</b>  |
| <b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>              | <b>11,466,300</b>                  | <b>3,809,104</b>       | <b>15,275,404</b> | <b>8,084,011</b>          | <b>7,474,452</b>       | <b>3,934,103</b>       | <b>19,492,566</b> | <b>34,767,970</b> |
| <b>Net assets at end of year</b>                    | <b>\$ 12,164,073</b>               | <b>8,237,878</b>       | <b>20,401,951</b> | <b>7,359,635</b>          | <b>7,308,896</b>       | <b>3,934,103</b>       | <b>18,602,634</b> | <b>39,004,585</b> |



**PROTECT**

**HONOR**

**INNOVATE**

**ENGAGE**

**EMPOWER**

**SERVE**

**SECURE A BETTER WORLD FOR ANIMALS THROUGH HUMAN UNDERSTANDING**