

Saint Louis Zoo
Endowed Positions and Funds:
A Growing Tradition





About this book

This book is about our wonderful Zoo donors who have established endowed funds and positions at the Saint Louis Zoo. Most importantly, it tells their stories. Stories about people who worked hard, built successful businesses in St. Louis, and wanted to give something back to their community. Stories about people who lived simply and quietly, and gave generous and unexpected gifts. People who made our city and our Zoo what it is today and whose vision will live on tomorrow.



As author Alexander McCall Smith wrote, “A life without stories would be no life at all. And stories bound us, did they not, one to another, the living to the dead, people to animals, people to the land.”

I am inspired by each of the stories in this book. Some are about people and names who might be familiar, some are less known. But I am struck by how each of these donors was touched by the Zoo at some point in their life and how each was inspired to make an investment in our future.

Gifts made to the Saint Louis Zoo Endowment ensure that our Zoo continues to be one of the best in the world — that it continues to be a leader in conservation, as well as provide special moments that connect guests to animals, each other and to this beloved St. Louis institution.

I am deeply grateful to all of the people who are recognized here and who have entrusted us to be a part of their legacies. I hope that their leadership and philanthropy will inspire many more to follow their examples.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Dwight" and "Scott" being capitalized and prominent.

Dwight Scott
Dana Brown President & CEO

Dwight Scott is the second holder of the Dana Brown President & CEO title at the Saint Louis Zoo. In 2008, a gift from the Dana Brown Charitable Trust named and endowed this position, the first for any zoo president.

“You make a living by
what you get. You make a
life by what you give.”

Winston Churchill





Saint Louis Zoo Endowed Positions and Funds

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“I have found that
among its other benefits,
giving liberates the soul
of the giver.”

Maya Angelou



Saint Louis Zoo Endowed Positions

(through 2022)

Dana Brown President & CEO

(est. 2008)



Dana Brown and his famous Safari Brand Coffee

The Dana Brown Charitable Trust named and endowed the top position at the Saint Louis Zoo in 2008. “We believe we were the first in the country to endow the position of a zoo director or president,” said Rhae Yancey, executive director of the Dana Brown Charitable Trust. “Dana Brown was a visionary leader, and this was a perfect opportunity to honor him and Saint Louis Zoo’s unparalleled history of executive leadership, from its first director, George Vierheller, and continuing with such illustrious figures as Marlin Perkins, Charlie Hoessle, Dr. Jeffrey Bonner and now its current President & CEO, Dwight Scott.”

Dana Brown was the founder of Dana Brown Private Brands, Inc., best known for its Safari Brand Coffee. Brown loved animals and took many safaris to Africa. Commercials for his coffee brand often featured tiger cubs, elephants or cheetahs.

Brown came from humble beginnings in West Virginia, working on the railroad, as a lumberjack, a cowboy and a door-to-door salesman before starting his own company. His hard work helped him become successful, and eventually to help those less fortunate, often quietly and anonymously. He especially wanted to help children in need.

Since his death in 1994, the Dana Brown Charitable Trust has continued his legacy through its support of children’s health, education and welfare; animal-related organizations; and arts and culture. The Trust’s support of the Zoo is also recognized at Dana Brown Lords of the Forest elephant habitat, Dana Brown Orangutan Refuge, and the Dana Brown Conservation Canopy at Michael & Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails.

Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D. was the inaugural Dana Brown President & CEO and served from 2002 to 2021. He led the Zoo into the 21st century with a vision to continue to be among the best in the world and to take its role in international wildlife conservation to a new level. Under Bonner’s leadership, the Zoo created the WildCare Institute and the Institute for Conservation Medicine. The Saint Louis Zoo was transformed by several new animal habitats and improvements, while 425 acres was acquired for the development of Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park. To sustain and strengthen the Zoo’s mission, he also led the creation of the Zoo’s Endowment.



Dwight Scott, Dana Brown President & CEO



Dwight Scott speaks to guests at a Marlin Perkins Society event

Dwight Scott was named as Dana Brown President & Chief Executive Officer in October 2021 and joined the staff

in January 2022. “We conducted an extremely thorough international search to find the next great leader for the Saint Louis Zoo,” said Cynthia J. Brinkley, Chair, St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission. “Not only does he bring nearly 30 years of zoo experience to his new role, but he also brings his determined and contagious passion for wildlife conservation. He believes that diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion programs are critical to organizational and community development.”

Scott brings diverse experience with accredited zoos to his position. He started his zoo career in 1994 as an animal keeper at Kansas City Zoological Gardens. Next, he joined the animal management team that helped open Disney’s

Animal Kingdom. Scott then went to Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Garden, where he rose through the ranks from Assistant Curator of Mammals to Curator of Mammals to Director of Animal Management. After that he served as Assistant Director at Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum, returned to Oklahoma to become their Executive Director & CEO, then finally was recruited to San Diego Zoo to become their Executive Director.

Scott grew up in Chillicothe, Missouri, which is 230 miles northwest of St. Louis and 90 miles northeast of Kansas City. “Growing up in Missouri, I was inspired by visits to the Saint Louis Zoo,” said Scott. “I look forward to taking the Saint Louis Zoo to new heights just as Jeffrey Bonner, Charlie Hoessle, Marlin Perkins, George Vierheller and all the past leaders of this world-class organization have done over the years.”

Kevin Beckmann

Curator of Carnivores

(est. 2020)



In 2020, Kevin Beckmann made a leadership gift to name the Cheetah Savanna habitat in River's Edge and to endow the position of Curator of Carnivores.

The Kevin Beckmann Cheetah Savanna provides this vulnerable species with an

expansive area where they have access to the public-facing habitat as well as more secluded spaces behind the scenes. The endowment supports the Curator of Carnivores who, along with their staff, leads efforts to improve the care and conservation of carnivores at zoos and, when possible, in their native habitats.

"A donation like this to support the beloved carnivores at the Saint Louis Zoo allows us to continue to grow our conservation work worldwide and introduce other special carnivores to the public," said Steve Bircher, Kevin Beckmann Curator of Carnivores.

Kevin Beckmann, a native St. Louisan and entrepreneur, focuses his philanthropy on animal conservation, health and wellness, educational institutions, and youth-focused organizations in the St. Louis region. He is a leading supporter of the Saint Louis Zoo, as well as the Endangered Wolf Center and the World Bird Sanctuary.

Kevin's other charitable interests include support of the mobile medical and dental clinics caring for residents in Missouri under the supervision of

Catholic Charities, KidSmart, One Classroom, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf and the Today & Tomorrow Educational Foundation.

Kevin has been actively involved with the Zoo for a number years and has made significant charitable contributions to a number of recent projects, including Sea Lion Sound, McDonnell Polar Bear Point, Centene Grizzly Ridge and Michael and Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails.

Steve Bircher, the Kevin Beckmann Curator of Carnivores, has been on staff at the Saint Louis Zoo since 1978. He began his career working in multiple mammal areas, including the carnivore unit and Zoo Commissary.

Steve has been an active advocate for the conservation of cheetahs at both the Zoo and in the wild. In 1974, the Zoo began a research and breeding center for cheetahs, which was renovated in 2001 with the development of River's Edge.



Top: Kevin Beckmann

Bottom: African Painted Dog

The center still works diligently researching the behaviors of cheetahs in the Zoo's care and coordinates its cheetah breeding efforts with other North American zoos as part of the Species Survival Plan® (SSP). These animals may provide assurance for wild populations in the future, and many will remember the unprecedented birth of eight cheetah cubs in the fall of 2017 at the Zoo.

Outside of St. Louis, Steve directs the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute Center for Conservation of Carnivores in Africa. The goals of this Center are to educate the public about cheetahs and other carnivores' conservation, support sound scientific research, and develop programs in Africa so that the cheetah's race will be one of survival, not extinction.



Top: Cheetah

Bottom: Steve Bircher and Kevin Beckmann



William Bernoudy Vice President, Architecture & Planning and Chief Architect

(est. 2014)

In September 2014, The Gertrude and William A. Bernoudy Foundation announced a gift to the Saint Louis Zoo to endow the William Bernoudy Vice President of Architecture & Planning position. It is the fifth position to be endowed at the Zoo.

The Vice President of Architecture & Planning and Chief Architect oversees the design and implementation of additions, improvements and modifications to Zoo facilities and structures, and helps ensure that they are aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. “In Bill Bernoudy’s memory, the Foundation is pleased to make this gift so that future generations may continue to enjoy architecture that is inspiring, as well as enduring,” said John D. Schaperkottter, Trustee of The Bernoudy Foundation. “It is a tribute to Gertrude and William Bernoudy and their dedication to the cultural richness of our region.”



William A. Bernoudy

William Adair Bernoudy (1910–1988) was a noted 20th century St. Louis architect who was among the first Taliesin Fellows to study under Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s. In his lifetime, he designed more than 100 new structures. He was best known for integrating homes with the natural landscape. His wife Gertrude was a talented art collector and played a vital role in his career.

The Bernoudys were friends with Saint Louis Zoo Director Marlin Perkins and his wife Carol, and also with Howard Baer, then president of the Zoological Board of Control. In 1966, Bernoudy was commissioned to design a new main entrance for the Zoo. He left his mark at the Kiener Memorial Entrance with his iconic curved colonnade and serpentine wall, both still essential and iconic features of the Zoo’s architecture.



Serpentine wall on the east side of the Zoo



McGuire oversaw the design and construction of the Judy and Jerry Kent Family Sea Lion Sound

David F. McGuire, AIA, is the first William Bernoudy Vice President of Architecture & Planning and Chief Architect. He joined the Saint Louis Zoo staff in 1995 as Director of Facilities Management and was promoted to his current position in 2006. McGuire earned a degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis, graduating magna cum laude. An architect certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program, Dave is licensed by the Missouri Board of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Before joining the Zoo, he served for five years as executive vice president of McMahon Group Inc., an architectural services firm based in St. Louis. McGuire is active in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and served as president of the Aquarium and Zoo Facilities Association.

In 2013, the Zoo's sea lion exhibit and arena won the coveted AZA Exhibit Award, honoring the work of McGuire and the team behind the creation of this seal and sea lion habitat that brings visitors nose-to-nose with swimming sea lions in a walk-through, transparent tunnel.



John Schaperkotter and David F. McGuire



Gertrude and William Bernoudy

Bernoudy photos by Karen Elshout | St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the St. Louis Mercantile Library

William R. Orthwein, Jr. Family Animal Nutritionist

(est. 2009)



William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein

William R. “Bill” Orthwein, Jr. passed away in June 2011, but he will long be remembered as a corporate and civic leader and philanthropist. Bill began his career at McDonnell-Douglas in 1942, where he became the first president and chairman of the McDonnell Automation Company (MAC), a pioneer of data processing systems in the aircraft industry. He remained head of the MAC until his retirement in 1982, and he served on McDonnell-Douglas’s Board of Directors for 36 years.

In the community, Orthwein helped guide and support many civic organizations. He served on the Zoological Park Commission in the 1960s and 1970s. “The Zoo has always been a very special place for our family,” said Nettie Orthwein Dodge, the Orthweins’ youngest daughter. Her grandparents attended the 1904 World’s Fair and her parents visited the Zoo in its early days. Later they brought Dodge and her sisters, Laura and Nina, then grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 2009, Bill and his wife Laura announced a leadership gift to establish the third endowed

position at the Zoo, the William R. Orthwein, Jr. Family Animal Nutritionist. This generous gift to the Zoo’s Endowment through *The Living Promise Campaign* is one of many examples of the Orthweins’ generosity and leadership in our community. Their support of the Zoo is also recognized at the William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center, a state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2007.

Four generations of Orthweins attended a special ceremony in June 2010 at the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center to commemorate the establishment of the William R. Orthwein, Jr. Family Animal Nutritionist. Then Zoo President & CEO Dr. Bonner said, “The Orthwein family’s dedication to animal welfare will be felt here in St. Louis and around the world for years to come.”

Laura Rand Orthwein passed away in 2014.

Debra A. Schmidt, Ph.D. is the first William R. Orthwein, Jr. Family Animal Nutritionist. Schmidt was a graduate research assistant at the Saint Louis Zoo from 1997 to 2002, and she earned her Ph.D. in Animal Sciences – Nutrition at the University of Missouri



Nettie Orthwein Dodge, Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., and Deb Schmidt, Ph.D.



Andean bear enjoys a watermelon



Zoo staff preparing food for the animals

in 2002. After completing her Ph.D., she worked as a Research Nutritionist at Lincoln Park Zoo and then as an Associate Nutritionist at the Zoological Society of San Diego before joining the Saint Louis Zoo's staff as Animal Nutritionist in 2009.

The Saint Louis Zoo is on the forefront of zoo animal nutrition science with its excellent staff and facilities. Schmidt is one of only 19 zoo animal nutritionists employed by 14 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) institutions and one of 10 with a Ph.D. Schmidt's department manages food operations for 18,000 animals each day. They work with curators, zookeepers and veterinarians to determine what nutrients each animal needs and which foods best provide them. Schmidt's research focuses on nutrition-related problems of animals in captivity. Through the AZA, she and her staff share their knowledge

with other zoos. Schmidt serves on the AZA's Nutrition Advisory Group and is the nutrition advisor for several Species Survival Plan programs: orangutan, painted dog, gorilla, ruffed lemur and piciformes.



Food storage bins in the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center



William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center

Fred Saigh Curator of the Children's Zoo

(est. 2007)



Fred Saigh

A generous gift from The Saigh Foundation in 2007 created the first endowed curatorial position at the Saint Louis Zoo, the Fred Saigh Curator of the Children's Zoo. The Foundation was established by Fred M. Saigh to enhance the quality of life in St. Louis. It supports charitable organizations that benefit children and youth through education and health care.

Saigh was a native of Springfield, Illinois. He came to St. Louis after attending Bradley and Northwestern Universities and becoming a lawyer. He made his fortune in downtown St. Louis real estate in the 1940s and bought the St. Louis Cardinals in 1947. He sold the team to Anheuser-Busch in 1953, reportedly accepting a lower bid to ensure local ownership.

He was known as an extraordinarily generous man, and he touched the lives of many people he barely knew by offering help at critical times in their lives. He often gave anonymously, without a thought of seeking anything in return. While Saigh passed away in 2000, his philanthropy continues through his foundation and its support of the causes most important to him.

As the Saigh Foundation's Executive Director, the late JoAnn Hejna said, "I worked with Fred Saigh for 44 years, and I know what he cared about. He loved children, animals, education and the Zoo, so he would be very happy with our gift to endow the Children's Zoo Curator." In April 2014, The Saigh Foundation announced a second gift to the Zoo Endowment to endow the Fred Saigh Director of Education. The Foundation's generous support of the Zoo is also recognized at the Wildlife Conservation School in River's Edge.



Top: Children enjoy the bubblers at the former Emerson Children's Zoo

Bottom Left: JoAnn Hejna, The Saigh Foundation; Bottom Right: Families get a hands-on experience at the Emerson Children's Zoo

Fred Saigh Director of Education

(est. 2014)

The Saigh Foundation announced a gift commitment in April 2014 to endow the position of the Fred Saigh Director of Education. This is the fourth position to be endowed at the Saint Louis Zoo, and the second position at the Zoo to be endowed by The Saigh Foundation. In 2007, The Saigh Foundation created the first endowed curatorial position, the Fred Saigh Curator of the Children Zoo. The Foundation's generous support is also recognized at the Wildlife Conservation School in River's Edge.

"In honor of Fred Saigh and his dedication to the growth and development of the citizens of St. Louis, The Saigh Foundation is pleased to make this gift so that future generations may continue to build upon, and expand, the educational programs and opportunities that are available at the Zoo and through its outreach initiatives," said the late JoAnn Hejna, then executive director of The Saigh Foundation.



The Saigh Foundation representatives

In its 58th year in 2022, the Education Department is led by the inaugural Fred Saigh Director of Education Louise Bradshaw. One of the nation's largest zoo-based education departments, the department was established by the legendary Marlin Perkins and was one of the first of its kind. Connecting the Zoo's conservation efforts in the field to the work done on the Zoo's campus, the department offers 3,900 programs and reaches more than 1.7 million guests each year.

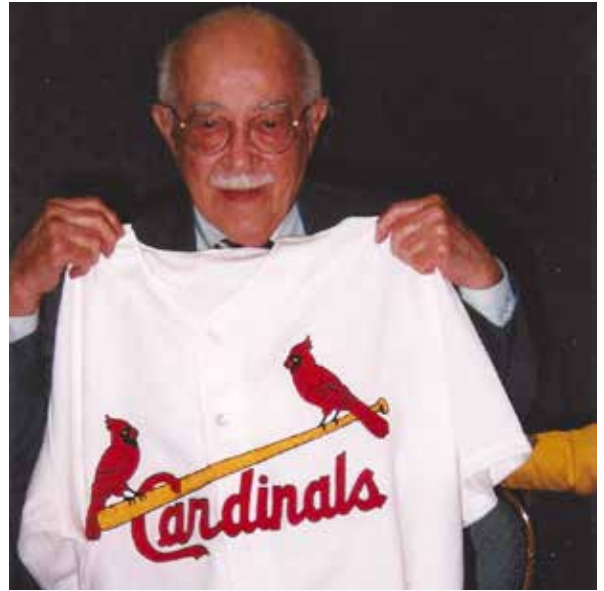
Louise Bradshaw is the inaugural Fred Saigh Director of Education. Bradshaw joined the Zoo in 1984 and has served as Director of Education since 1998. In addition to overseeing the Zoo's educational programs and services, she is also responsible for exhibit interpretation, the Zoo Library and Teacher Resource Center, Conservation Education Research, National Science Foundation and other federal grant-funded programs, and the Zoo's 200+ docents and 70+ teen volunteers.



JoAnn Hejna and Fred Saigh



Louise Bradshaw with husband, Bob Bradshaw



Fred Saigh

Bradshaw's areas of interest include developing teacher training programs in partnership with conservation field projects in Kenya and Nicaragua, effective approaches to audience research at zoos and aquariums, and models for increasing scientific and environmental literacy.

Bradshaw has served on the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Research and Technology Committee, the AZA Conservation Education

Committee, the Meso-American Caribbean Conservation Action Partnership and the Regional Program Committee of the AZA.

Bradshaw holds a B.S. in Biology from Saint Louis University and an M.S. in Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



Educational staff work with young guests in River's Edge

“Philanthropy is almost the only virtue which is sufficiently appreciated by mankind.”

Henry David Thoreau



Saint Louis Zoo Endowed Funds

(through 2022)

Kevin Beckmann Fund for Employee Appreciation

(est. 2022)



Employees are dedicated to keeping animals healthy.

As he became more involved and invested in the Saint Louis Zoo, Kevin Beckmann was particularly impressed with the commitment and longevity of many of its staff. “Zoo guests are often unaware of all that happens behind the scenes, as employees go about their duties and carry out their responsibilities. They are the sinew that holds the organization together,” Beckmann observed. He established this endowed fund to thank and recognize Zoo employees with more than 20 years of service by hosting an annual social gathering or special event in their honor.

Of the 396 Zoo employees in 2022, 88 individuals had given 20 or more years of service (seasonal, part-time and full-time years included). Nineteen percent of employees have 20 or more years of full-time service – an impressive 75 individuals with such tenure. These employees in the 20+ year categories represent almost every area of the Zoo and its operations.

At the Saint Louis Zoo, our three key values are: Animals Always, Operational Excellence and People Matter. What we mean by People Matter is that we care for and about people: our

staff, volunteers, guests, partners and community. We strive to be one of the best places to work, volunteer and serve in the country. We provide an extraordinary guest experience and exceptional customer service. We reach new audiences and establish ties with underserved local communities. And we provide safe, accessible and engaging experiences for all audiences.

“We could not carry out our mission without our dedicated and talented staff, and recognizing and retaining them is one of our highest priorities,” said Dustin Deschamp, J.D., Vice President, Internal Relations & General Counsel. “This program introduces another level of recognition by offering a truly unique and special experience to celebrate those Zoo employees who have reached 20 years of service.”



Kevin Beckmann and Dwight Scott

Bellwether Foundation Education Fund

(est. 2011)



Foundation Trustees Ginger Smith, Robert B. Smith, III, and Sally Duffield

The Bellwether Foundation established this fund in 2011 to provide ongoing support to the Zoo's Education Department. The department provides educational opportunities and experiences at the Zoo and in the community that are designed to nurture respect for animals and their habitats and to promote conservation action. Each year, more than 450,000 people of all ages and backgrounds participate in over 4,300 Zoo education programs.

Robert B. Smith, III, chairman of the board of the Bellwether Foundation, said, "It is critical that people understand the role that zoos play

in conservation and their impact on the world." As a trustee on the Saint Louis Zoo Association Board, Smith became involved with the Zoo when his family relocated here for his post as managing director of Ascension Health.

Smith is no stranger to St. Louis or to the Saint Louis Zoo, however. His great uncle was Robert Brookings Smith, a businessman, entrepreneur and longtime trustee of Washington University. While Smith grew up in Chicago, he was born in St. Louis and returned often to visit his grandmother and extended family. While in town, he always looked forward to visits to the Saint Louis Zoo. Now, he enjoys visiting the Zoo with his wife Ginger and their two children, R.B. and Alex.

Bellwether is a family foundation that was created by Katharine Smith Halls, Wallace Herndon Smith and Robert Brookings Smith in 1985 to invest in St. Louis and in organizations that promote the ideals and aspirations of its founders. "The Saint Louis Zoo and our other world-class institutions are critical economic engines for the city," said Smith, "They are the glue that holds the community together."



Zoo educators work with students in classrooms



Education programs provide many hands-on experiences for young students

William J. Boever, DVM, Fund for Veterinary Residency

(est. 2007)



Bill and Cindy Boever

When William “Bill” J. Boever, DVM, retired as the Saint Louis Zoo’s Director and Chief Operating Officer in 2007, this fund was created by his friends and colleagues to honor his many contributions to the Zoo and his leadership in the field of zoological medicine.

Dr. Bill Boever was the Saint Louis Zoo’s first full-time veterinarian. He joined the staff in 1970 after completing his doctorate in veterinary medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia. During his career here, he helped establish the first veterinary residency in zoo animal medicine as a cooperative program of the Missouri University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Saint Louis Zoo.

As Director of Research and Senior Staff Veterinarian, Boever developed broad-based scientific research and conservation programs at the Zoo. He was instrumental in the design and construction of the Endangered Species Research Center & Veterinary Hospital which opened in 1993. That same year, he was promoted to Director of Zoological Operations.

As Director of Zoological Operations and later as Director and COO, Boever was well respected as a leader and manager. He oversaw not only the Zoo’s day-to-day operations, but also the construction of many new capital projects, such as River’s Edge, the McDonnell Center at River Camp, the Bayer Insectarium and Penguin & Puffin Coast.

During his career, Boever served and was honored by many state and national organizations. The State of Missouri named him Veterinarian of the Year in 1983. He is past president of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians; of the American College of Zoological Medicine, where he was also a charter diplomat; and of the Missouri University College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association, which named him the 1998 Alumnus of the Year.



Veterinary and Animal Care team performing a health exam for a lizard from the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium

Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., Conservation Fund

(est. 2021)

After nearly 20 years at the helm, Dr. Jeffrey Bonner retired as the Saint Louis Zoo's Dana Brown President & CEO in 2021. A visionary leader, Dr. Bonner helped take the Saint Louis Zoo to a new level in its conservation efforts, educational impact and guest experiences.

His leadership guided the Zoo to establish the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute and its centers for research and conservation for critically endangered species and habitats around the globe. He also established the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, which studies diseases that move between wild populations, domestic animals and people.



Dr. Bonner and wife Melody Noel on location in Churchill, Canada, on a polar bear tour

As an anthropologist, Dr. Bonner studied landmark learning experiences – those “aha” moments when a spark is ignited and we are inspired to learn more. He led the Zoo to create such moments, knowing for many it represented a first encounter with a wild animal. Providing something amazing and memorable was his driving force to serve both animals and guests.

“Jeffrey played an instrumental role in modernizing the Zoo’s century-old campus

with world-class experiences and habitats, much of which was made possible by gifts during *The Living Promise Campaign*,” said Alicia S. McDonnell, former President, Saint Louis Zoo Association Board. “Thanks to Jeffrey’s leadership and the generosity of our community, we created some of the most dynamic experiences and habitats currently at the Zoo, including the Judy and Jerry Kent Family Sea Lion Sound, McDonnell Polar Bear Point and Centene Grizzly Ridge.”

Other noteworthy Zoo transformations during Dr. Bonner’s tenure include the Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel, Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation Cypress Swamp in the 1904 Flight Cage, Wells Fargo South Arrival Experience, and the Michael & Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails.

Dr. Bonner was also a champion of the Zoo Endowment, established in 2004 to strengthen and sustain the Zoo’s mission. “These funds help create a permanent, reliable source of income for the future, a living promise to future generations,” said McDonnell.

To celebrate the legacy of his lifelong dedication to the natural world, donors provided tribute gifts to create the Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., Conservation Fund within the Endowment to benefit the Zoo’s conservation efforts through the WildCare Institute.



Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph. D.

Ann Luedinghaus Case Fund for Employee and Volunteer Recognition

(est. 2009)



Ann Luedinghaus Case (center) with local people on a visit to Africa

Ann Luedinghaus Case created this endowed fund in 2009 to help honor and celebrate Zoo staff and volunteers. “They are one of the main reasons that our Zoo continues to be so successful,” Case said, “They deserve to be specially recognized for their service to the Zoo.”

Ann herself is a dedicated volunteer of more than 30 years at the Missouri Botanical Garden,

where she was honored by having a daylily named after her. She is a master gardener who has served on the Members’ Board.

At the Zoo, she and her late husband Mike have been active supporters and participants for many years. They have especially enjoyed the Zoo Travel Program and the opportunity to see animals and plants in their native habitats. Their love of wild things and wild places inspired them to join the Marlin Perkins Society in 1999 and to support capital projects and the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute. They are also members of the Heritage Society.



Volunteers and guests with Guinea pigs in the Emerson Children's Zoo

Their gift to the Zoo Endowment to create the Ann Luedinghaus Case Fund for Employee & Volunteer Recognition helps support the Zoo in perpetuity to sustain an important resource: staff and volunteers.

Volunteers give more than 90,000 hours of service to the Zoo each year. Their contributions are celebrated at an annual dinner with awards for hours contributed and years of service. Full-time and part-time employees are also recognized for years of service at an event.



Volunteers working with children on Zoo grounds

Lt. Col. Charles R. Dearth Family Fund

(est. 2022)

“If I would have known my grandchildren would be this great, I would have had them first,” Lt. Col. Charles R. “Chuck” Dearth often said.



Lt. Col. Charles R. Dearth
and Carolyn Dearth

He was proud of his 28 years in the Air Force serving his country, but the role he cherished most was that of Papa to his beloved grandchildren: Matthew, Raelynn, Lucas, Connor, Lizzi, Caroline, Celiese and Caelyn.

He started bringing his children to the Saint Louis Zoo

when he was stationed at Scott Air Force Base, and then he, his wife Carolyn, and their family stayed in the area after he retired and began a second career as a program engineer at Dell Computers. He was a lifelong learner and loved all things computer related—designing, building and operations.

His daughter Cynthia Hill said that what he loved most about the Zoo was watching the

children and seeing the joy on their faces.

“I’ve got to do whatever I can to keep this Zoo free for everyone,” he told her when he starting making gifts to the Zoo about 25 years ago. “We could come to the Zoo 20 times a year, and he’d always find something new. It was like his second home,” said Hill.

When Chuck passed away in 2021, Carolyn and Cynthia decided to carry forth his legacy at the Zoo by continuing their annual support as members of the Marlin Perkins Society, investing in capital improvements and establishing a named endowed fund in his honor.

“This Zoo is fantastic. It’s always growing, and my grandchildren love it. I can’t think of a better way to use our money and to honor Chuck,” said Carolyn.

The Dearth family is also recognized at Primate Canopy Trails and with a brick in the South Plaza inscribed with Genesis 1:21:

“So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”



The Dearth's grandchildren enjoy a visit to the Bayer Insectarium

Susan W. Dexter – Sue’s Conservation Fieldwork Fund

(est. 2015)

For more than 30 years, Sue Dexter was a dedicated Saint Louis Zoo volunteer and supporter. She and her husband, Phil, both started out in the Children’s Zoo. “Phil was the one who really enjoyed being a docent,” Sue said, “and I was more interested in travel and seeing animals in the wild.” For many years Sue served as co-chair of the Zoo Travel Committee with fellow volunteer Hazel Darlington. She not only assisted in planning and coordinating Zoo-sponsored travel adventures, but she also went on a number of trips herself – to Kenya, India, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania.

Through her bequest gift to the Zoo, Sue’s Conservation Fieldwork Fund was created within the Zoo’s Endowment to help pay for staff travel expenses. “Each year the Zoo sends curators, keepers, veterinarians and scientists to locations around the globe to bring our work from ‘fence to field’ and vice versa,” said Eric Miller, DVM, former Senior Vice President of Zoological Operations & Director of the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute. “Sue’s endowed fund is a tremendous resource for the WildCare Institute and our efforts to save animal species and their habitats.”



Susan W. Dexter

Sue also enjoyed sharing the Zoo with her children and grandchildren. “She loved having the opportunity to introduce them to the keepers and take them behind the scenes,” said her daughter Susan Opdycke. Of her son Chris, Susan says “Like Mom’s other six grandchildren, Chris enjoyed the time he spent with his grandmother visiting the Zoo and hearing about her travels to Africa, which inspired him to study veterinary medicine. Her love of animals is her family’s legacy.”

Sue passed away in May 2015, but her love of wildlife continues on through her family and her endowed fund. The Dexter family’s support is also recognized at a drinking fountain given in Phil’s memory and with a bench at the Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation Cypress Swamp exhibit at the 1904 Flight Cage.



Reintroduction of burying beetles sponsored by the Conservation Fieldwork Fund

Lelia and David Farr Horticulture and Landscaping Fund

(est. 2014)



Guests enjoy the beautiful landscaping throughout Zoo grounds

Lelia and David Farr established this endowed fund to help sustain the Zoo's horticulture and landscaping. "The Zoo uses trees and plants creatively to enhance animal habitats and to improve the guest experience," said Lelia. "The grounds have really been transformed over the past 20 years."

Both David and Lelia are dedicated to St. Louis and its civic and charitable organizations. Lelia was named Variety's 2014 Woman of the Year for her contributions to making St. Louis a better place. She is known for her fiscal expertise and philanthropy. "I wanted to support the Zoo Endowment because I know how important—and challenging—it is to raise funds for endowment," Lelia said.

Lelia J. Farr has a bachelor's degree in economics from Wake Forest University and an MBA from Vanderbilt University. She has held volunteer

leadership positions with the Missouri Botanical Garden Board of Trustees, Opera Theatre St. Louis, Saint Louis Art Museum and Wake Forest University.

David N. Farr is the former chairman & CEO of Emerson. David also attended Wake University where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry, and like Lelia, he has an MBA from Vanderbilt University. Farr joined Emerson in 1981, and was promoted to CEO in 2000.

In St. Louis, David is active in local civic and charitable organizations. He is a past president of Civic Progress. His volunteer leadership positions have included the executive boards of The Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis and the Greater St. Louis Area Council of Boy Scouts

of America. In 2011, he was named St. Louis Citizen of the Year.



Many species of flowers decorate Zoo grounds and the vistas remain colorful into the autumn

George F. Farrell Wildlife Conservation Fund

(est. 2021)



Wendy Knudsen Farrell and her late husband, George Farrell, had a lifelong love affair not only with each other, but also with animals. George fancied turtles most of all. He marveled at their leisurely and steady pace, their strength and singularity in carrying their homes on their backs, and their timeless existence as ancient beings living in a modern world.

regularly stopping his car to move an ambling turtle to safety from the middle of the road, George showed his love and respect for these creatures constantly.”

Several years ago, George and Wendy were at the White Oak Conservation Center in Florida, where they serendipitously met Sharon Deem, DVM, Ph.D., DACZM, and Director of the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine. They connected with Dr. Deem instantly and were taken by the important research she conducts on tortoises.

When the opportunity arose, it was only natural that Wendy chose to honor George’s memory by supporting Dr. Deem’s and the Institute for Conservation Medicine’s research. The George F. Farrell Wildlife Conservation Fund supports conservation and scientific work for turtles and tortoises in the Galapagos and at the Saint Louis Zoo. “I am pleased and honored to establish this fund in memory of my most beloved so that he can play a part in helping these ancient beings continue to survive and thrive,” says Wendy.

Thanks to George’s love of turtles and Wendy’s love for George, the future of conservation efforts for these animals is much brighter.

Top Left: Dr. Sharon Deem working on tracking turtles;
Top Right: Close-up of turtle mouth swab



George F. Farrell with turtle

“George loved creatures, and turtles held a special place in his heart,” says Wendy. “From regularly feeding apples and grapes to his turtle buddy ‘Rusty’ - who lives under our front porch - to

Anita Fiala Veterinary Hospital Fund

(est. 2004)



Veterinarians perform a procedure on a ring-tailed lemur in the Endangered Species Research Center & Veterinary Hospital

Anita Fiala included the Saint Louis Zoo in her estate plans, and following her death, this fund was established to benefit the veterinary hospital. Fiala was a longtime Zoo member and donor to the annual fund.

The Endangered Species Research Center & Veterinary Hospital is a 17,000-square-foot complex that includes a central treatment area, research laboratories, an animal quarantine wing and administrative space. The staff includes three veterinarians, a pathologist, a veterinary resident, five animal health technicians, a quarantine manager and an administrative assistant.

When we're not making "house calls" to specific areas of the Zoo, it is important for us to have a facility like this to care for our animals and to conduct research to understand their reproduction, to improve their health and prevent disease.



Endangered Species Research Center & Veterinary Hospital

Claire M. Fitzgerald Teen Leadership Fund

(est. 2014)



Claire M. Fitzgerald

This fund was established in memory of Claire M. Fitzgerald at the direction of her sister Eve Cooney, the Saint Louis Zoo's Youth Programs Coordinator. Through its support of the Zoo's education department and its work with teens, it honors Ms. Fitzgerald and the Fitzgerald family's commitment to education.

The two sisters' parents, Claudette and Charles Fitzgerald, made this fund possible by designating the Zoo as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The Fitzgeralds were both teachers who grew up in St. Louis. Cooney recalls that the family visited the Zoo often when she was young.

"I always loved the Zoo, and I wanted to work with animals and outdoors," Cooney said. She studied biology at Saint Louis University and earned a Master's in Fisheries and Wildlife at the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Cooney joined the Zoo's staff as a naturalist instructor in 1994. After she was promoted to Youth Programs Coordinator, Cooney helped start Zoo ALIVE, a year-round volunteer program for teens.

Cooney's brother Paul Fitzgerald also shares an interest in science and works in education. He studied evolutionary biology and the fossil record and earned his Ph.D. in Paleobiology at the University of California, Davis in 2006. He teaches at Northern Virginia Community College.

Claire Fitzgerald shared her parents' and siblings' passion for learning and teaching. While working as a librarian at the Cumberland County Library in Fayetteville, NC, Claire created innovative teen reading clubs that became a statewide model. "She valued the contributions of young adults," Cooney said, "This fund honors her and helps us foster teen leadership and volunteerism at the Zoo."



Teen working with younger students



Teens work on projects in Big Cat Country



Teens help Zoo staff reintroduce American burying beetles

Maxine Clark and Bob Fox WildCare Institute Fund

(est. 2013)



Maxine Clark and Bob Fox

Maxine Clark and Bob Fox decided to establish an endowed fund for the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute because they wanted to support its outstanding work and leadership in wildlife conservation and conservation medicine. “If we want healthy human beings, we need healthy ecosystems,” said Bob Fox. “Animal, plant and human health are interconnected, and all are critical to maintaining biodiversity and the web of life on our planet.”

Bob’s interest in the WildCare Institute grew as he served on the Zoo Association Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2014. He is involved in a number of other local and national organizations, focusing most of his energy on improving access to health care and educational opportunities for immigrants and other underserved populations.

Fox is the founder and board chairman of Casa de Salud, a not-for-profit health and wellness center for new immigrants that opened its doors in 2010 and serves thousands of patients each year. Bob was the 2011 recipient of the St. Louis

Award for outstanding service to the development of the city.

Both Bob and Maxine are entrepreneurs at heart, first in business and now in the community. Bob founded NewSpace Closet Interiors in 1984, the first of its kind in the St. Louis region. Maxine Clark is well known as the founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop.

In June 2013, Maxine stepped down from her role as Chief Executive Bear to focus her entrepreneurial skills and passion on improving K-12 education and helping women and minority

entrepreneurs grow their businesses. She serves on a number of corporate and nonprofit boards, including Teach for America, Washington University, KETC Channel 9, Beyond Housing and Parents as Teachers. She currently leads Delmar Divine, a resource for the region’s nonprofits.



From Top: Tagging in Armenia, tracking in Galapagos and observing in Kenya

Walter and Nancy Galvin Education Scholarship Fund

(est. 2009)



Walter and Nancy Galvin

Every summer, hundreds of children participate in Camp KangaZoo, a fun and educational week-long program that promotes learning about wildlife through games, crafts, music, drama, interaction with animals and guided tours. Walter and Nancy Galvin established their endowed fund in 2009 to provide Camp scholarships—and an opportunity of a lifetime—to children whose families would otherwise not be able to afford it.

“The Saint Louis Zoo is one of the gems of this city,” said Walter. “Nancy and I are delighted to

have the chance to give kids from all different backgrounds the chance to enjoy it and to have the special experience provided at Camp KangaZoo.” The Galvins started the fund during *The Living Promise Campaign* with intentions of adding to it during their lifetime. Many children will benefit from their generosity in the years to come.

Walter Galvin is the retired vice chairman of Emerson, a company well known for its leadership and philanthropy in St. Louis and at the Zoo. Walter has served as President of the Saint Louis Zoo Association and was a board member from 2003 to 2013. He and his wife Nancy are Marlin Perkins Society members and have served on numerous Zoo committees, from special events to finance.

Both are active in St. Louis civic and charitable causes. Walter has served on the boards of directors of SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center and the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Nancy has served as a board member of Dance St. Louis, the Saint Louis Symphony and the St. Louis Internship Program.



Camp counselors offers hands-on experience to campers

Garvey Education Scholarship Fund

(est. 2021)



Edward Chase Garvey

The Garvey Education Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Second Lieutenant Edward Chase Garvey, who served in the 738th bomb squadron in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Garvey was shot down by anti-aircraft artillery flak and crashed three miles from Herzogenburg, six miles north of St. Polten, Austria, while on a mission out of Italy to strike the oil refineries at Moosbierbaum, Austria. Garvey was one of five crewmembers killed in the drowning of the aircraft. He was 21 years old.

Edward Garvey, Sr., a St. Louis native who worked in the printing industry, established the Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation in honor of his son's service and sacrifice. Today the fund is entrusted to Bliss Shands and Commerce Bank. It supports local causes related to the arts, youth, animals and the environment.

At the Zoo, the Garvey Education Scholarship Fund provides educational opportunities and experiences that nurture compassion for animals. Need-based scholarships are awarded for Zoo camp, Zoo preschool, and family nature exploration programs at the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park. The Garvey Education Scholarship Fund provides students the opportunity to actively pursue a sustainable relationship between people and the planet.



Top: Camp KangaZoo participants visit the Bird House
Bottom: Campers learn in nature

Carol Schuster Gronau Fund

(est. 2021)



Carol Schuster Gronau

Carol loved words, science, and animals. She found a way to enjoy all three of those passions at the Saint Louis Zoo as a volunteer for the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine (ICM) well after she retired from her career as medical textbook editor. Her legacy fund at the Zoo supports the work of

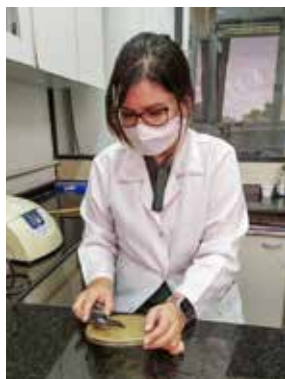
the ICM that she found so compelling: a One Health approach to ensure healthy animals, people and the planet.

The Zoo was a lifelong thread in Carol's life, her first memory being walking her bicycle through the grounds from her nearby home. Elephants were her favorite animals. Carol's love of animals drew her to support the Zoo for over 30 years as a member, 17 of which she belonged to the Marlin Perkins Society. She also enjoyed several international trips hosted by Zoo staff. Her Zoo safari trip to Kenya, however, was special – on that journey she met her husband-to-be,

Dr. Axel Gronau. Although they both lived in St. Louis, worked at Washington University Medical Center and had numerous other common ties, they met and fell in love in Africa. They married in 1987, then sadly Axel passed away in 1990.

In 1993 Carol started volunteering at the Zoo and earned the distinction of docent. As she became introduced to more dimensions of the Zoo's mission, she gravitated to the ICM's research and fieldwork. In 2015, Carol made a gift to purchase an imaging system for the ICM molecular lab, helping make infectious disease testing possible. When she visited the lab to see her gift in action, she decided to focus her volunteer talents there. She organized thousands of images and blood slides, edited fact sheets and research updates for the website, and in so doing became a cherished member of the ICM family.

Carol's legacy of an endowed fund to support the science and research to keep animals, people and the planet healthy is a heartfelt testament of her values. Her power of one will be an everlasting impact through her generosity of time, talent and treasure.



ICM student work with Brazil Bacterial Resistance; Dr. Sharon Deem, Dr. Marin Brenn-White and Jamie Palmer do turtle tracking at the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park; Dr. Deem and Dr. Brenn-White take notes on location

Guerrero Family Zoo Resource Fund

(est. 2011)



The Guerrero family

Anthony and Joanne Guerrero and their extended family chose to support education efforts at the Saint Louis Zoo by endowing a fund to provide materials to teacher education programs.

According to Anthony, his family has long had an appreciation of the Zoo's education and conservation programs. He said, "We are indebted to the Zoo because it provided a haven for our children when they were growing up—an environment where they could run and play in a learning environment and one that fostered a love of the environment and its creatures—and it was open to all."

This family fund ties in perfectly with the Guerrero Family Foundation's core mission to support educational opportunities. "The members of our family are all connected professionally with teaching, science and/or the environment in one way or another," says Anthony.

With this gift, the Guerrerios knew their support would have a long-term impact on the Zoo. When asked why they chose to support the Zoo, Anthony said, "we are fortunate to have this resource [the Zoo] in our community which is free to the general public and we want to do our part to see that it remains that way so future generations can enjoy it the way we did when we were raising our boys here."

Proceeds from the Guerrero Family Zoo Resource Fund support the Zoo Library and Teacher Resource Center, which houses a diverse array of materials for use in the classroom. Through the Resource Center, teachers in the St. Louis metropolitan area have access to slide sets, videos, curriculum guides, activity books and kits. Printed resources include informational leaflets, teacher guides and scavenger hunts. All materials are available for loan free of charge. The Resource Center also houses a collection of more than 5,000 books and periodicals on conservation and zoology.



Teachers perusing articles in the Zoo Library and Teacher Resource Center

Mary Guinn Conservation Fund

(est. 2004)

A generous bequest from the estate of Mary Guinn established this fund to support cheetah conservation. Since the Cheetah Survival Center opened in 1974, more than 45 cheetah cubs have been born at the Saint Louis Zoo. The Guinn Conservation Fund supports the Center for Conservation of Carnivores in Africa, established by the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute in 2004 to expand conservation efforts in the wild.

“Mary came on one of the trips I led to Africa,” said Steve Bircher, Kevin Beckmann Curator of Carivores. “I am pleased that she remembered us in her estate plans. Additional support that we receive will help us do more to save these majestic and endangered cats.”

Guinn put herself through secretarial school and worked for Union Electric Company (now Ameren Missouri) for 43 years until retiring in 1991. Before her passing in 2003, Guinn was involved at the Saint Louis Zoo as a docent, a longtime supporter of the Zoo Friends and the Zoo Parents Program, a member of the Heritage Society, and a participant in Zoo Travel.



Mary Guinn



Cheetah in Tanzania



Cheetah cubs at the Zoo

James B. Guth Animal Enrichment Fund

(est. 2008)



James Guth

This fund was established through a gift from The James B. Guth Foundation in 2009. It supports animal enrichment: improvements or changes to an animal's environment or care designed to bring out natural behaviors and abilities. Examples include creating hiding places for animals

to forage for food or providing balls or ropes to encourage play. Enrichment provides activities, challenges and choices for the animals and promotes well-being.

James B. Guth was a native of Ferguson, Missouri. While he had no children of his own, he was survived by 11 nephews and nieces. "There were three primary themes in our uncle's life: faith, family and philanthropy," his nephew Ed Costigan said. "Uncle Jim was a silent giant of faith, and our job now is to stand on his shoulders and pay it forward."

Near the end of his life, Guth began divesting his assets, and he created the James B. Guth Foundation to support the causes that meant the most to him, especially those for children. "He never spoke of this," Costigan said. "He gave as he lived his life, quietly and

with no frills. By saving and investing, he created a vehicle to support youth and the community. His generosity and benevolence will continue for years to come."

The Foundation is managed by Costigan and Sally Coleman, one of Guth's nieces. Both recall fond memories of visiting the Zoo with their Uncle Jim, and they credit him with their love of animals. In addition to their support of this endowed fund, The James B. Guth Foundation has made other significant gifts to the Zoo for Fragile Forest, Jungle of the Apes and Sea Lion Sound, Primate Canopy Trails and Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park.

In 2012, The Foundation trustees further honored Mr. Guth's legacy with a grant as part of *The Living Promise Campaign*. To recognize his and Guth Lighting Company's longtime success, the Guth Foundation provided funds to purchase and install 21 new light fixtures along Historic Hill, enhancing one of the oldest and beloved areas at the Zoo.



Chimpanzee enjoying materials offered for enrichment in the Donn & Marilyn Lipton Fragile Forest

Jane Freund Harris Fund (In Loving Memory of Whitney R. Harris)

(est. 2010)



Jane and Whitney Harris

It is fitting that this fund be named to honor both Jane and Whitney Harris because both were dedicated to St. Louis and known for volunteerism and philanthropy. The Jane Freund Harris Fund was established in 2010 to strengthen the Zoo Endowment and to support general operations.

Whitney Harris, who passed away in 2010, was a well-known and respected lawyer. He was the last survivor of the three prosecutors from the Nuremberg Trials. While he was a law professor at Southern Methodist University, he wrote about his post-war experiences in “Tyranny on Trial.” For his work, he was decorated with the Legion of Merit, Order of Merit, Officer’s Cross (Germany) and Medal of the War Crimes Commission (Poland). Later, he was Solicitor General of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and practiced law in St. Louis.

From 1964 until her death in 1999, Harris was married to Jane Freund Harris. Together, they volunteered, helped raise money and organized events to support many charitable causes. Mrs. Harris was honored by many local and national organizations for her work. She was a St. Louis Variety Club Woman of the Year and a recipient of the B’nai B’rith International Distinguished Communal Service Award.

The Harrises were also known for their interest in gardening and ecology. Mrs. Harris was rarely seen without an orchid from one of their greenhouses in her hair. Mr. Harris helped found the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Through its partnerships with the Saint Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Center has become a top institution for graduate studies in ecology and biodiversity conservation.

His son Eugene said, “My parents loved St. Louis and dedicated their lives not only to our community, but also to caring for our planet and promoting justice around the world. They would be pleased to see their work continue.”



Guests on the Emerson Zooline Railroad

Harvard K. Hecker African Wildlife Conservation Fund

(est. 2016)

Patricia and Harvard Hecker went on their first African safari in 1956, before there were organized tours. “I’ve been passionate about wildlife since I was a child, but I’m an avid reader and probably would have been content to learn about Africa in books if it hadn’t been for Harv,” Patty recalled about her late husband. “He liked to do things and experience them firsthand. We were so fortunate to see Africa and all of those places when we did. I have Harv to thank for that.”

That first safari was just the beginning of their adventures. The Heckers returned to Africa many times, one trip being the first trip that Charlie Hoessle, now Zoo Director Emeritus, led to Botswana in 1971. Harv was also an amateur filmmaker and a mountain climber, and he would take his equipment wherever he went. After a trip, he and Patty would share his films and their passion for wildlife and wild places with friends and school groups.

By the 1970s, the Heckers were well known as conservationists. They were founding members of the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, now the Endangered Wolf Center, established in 1971 and headed by Marlin Perkins and his wife, Carol. They also became more involved with the Saint Louis Zoo and were among the first to serve on the Zoo Friends Association board of directors. In 1980, Patty was among the first women appointed to serve on the Saint Louis Zoo Commission.

Before Patty passed away in 2021, she noted how the Zoo has evolved and grown over the years, especially how it has deepened its commitment to conservation. “I am impressed with the leadership of the Zoo and what they have accomplished over the past decade,” Patty said. “The Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute is doing critically important work to sustain wildlife around the globe.”

To honor Harv and his love of Africa, the Hecker family established the Harvard K. Hecker African Wildlife Conservation Fund as an endowment benefitting the WildCare Institute’s conservation work in southern and east Africa.

“I don’t have words to express how much this gift means to the WildCare Institute and to our work in Africa,”

said Eric Miller, DVM, former Director of the WildCare Institute and Senior Vice President and Director of Zoological Operations. “It means even more coming from longtime supporters and conservationists like the Heckers. It’s a real vote of confidence in our efforts.”



Harvard and Patricia Hecker with a cheetah



The Heckers on an African safari

Hermann Foundation Outstanding Employee Award Fund

(est. 1999)



Members of the Hermann Family

The Hermann Family Foundation established this fund to create the Saint Louis Zoo's Hermann Employee Awards Program in 1999. In 2008, the Foundation added to this fund, doubling its size. "The Zoo's staff is what makes it one of the best in the world," said the late Bob Hermann, "and I wanted to help reward those who are the most exemplary."

Each year, supervisors and colleagues nominate employees who stand out because of their working relationships, productivity, initiative, accomplishments, safety awareness and/or customer service. The winner, runner-up and two honorable mentions are recognized and receive cash awards.

Bob Hermann was an Emeritus member of the St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission and of the Saint Louis Zoo Association Board of Directors. Bob Hermann spearheaded many important initiatives at the Zoo, including involvement in the campaign for The Living World and the Saint Louis Zoo Foundation, the group that raised nearly \$70 million for capital improvements through the *Saint Louis Zoo 2004* campaign. His outstanding leadership was recognized with the Saint Louis Zoo Award in 1998.

Bob Hermann passed away in 2020, and his two children, Lotsie Hermann Holton and Bob Hermann Jr. continue to be involved at the Zoo and have served in various capacities. Bob Hermann Jr. has served on Board of Directors of the Zoo Association and the Zoo Endowment Trust Board.

In addition to this Employee Award Fund, the Hermann family has made many significant gifts to the Zoo. Their generosity is recognized at the Hermann Fountain near the South Entrance. Their participation in *The Living Promise Campaign* is recognized at the Grizzly Grotto at Centene Grizzly Ridge. "The Hermann family exemplifies philanthropy at its best," said former Zoo President & CEO Jeffrey P. Bonner. "Their leadership and active volunteerism inspires all of us."



Robert Hermann Jr. and Robert Hermann (second row, far left) with Dr. Bonner and recognized employees at the annual Hermann Employee Recognition Award presentation

Charles and Marilyn Hoessle Education Fund

(est. 2014)

Saint Louis Zoo Director Emeritus Charles (Charlie) H. Hoessle and his wife Marilyn established this fund to provide work-study and internship opportunities at the Zoo for students of Harris-Stowe State University. “To this day, Harris-Stowe remains the most affordable and accessible university in the St. Louis area to students of all ages,” Hoessle said, “This is a chance to give back to the community that has given us so much, and to introduce students to the possibility of a zoo career.”

Charlie and Marilyn, both native St. Louisans, were the first in their families to attend college. Both earned degrees at the original Harris Teachers College in 1951. After serving in the Army and operating an exotic animal business for 10 years, Charlie was discovered by Marlin Perkins’ wife Carol. She was impressed by his charisma and hands-on approach to introducing people to animals, especially snakes.



Child enjoying the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium

Hoessle joined the staff of the Saint Louis Zoological Park in 1963 as a reptile keeper. In 1964, he was appointed Assistant Curator and four years later, Curator of Reptiles and Education. In 1969, he was appointed General Curator; in 1972, Deputy Director. In January 1982, he began his 20-year tenure as Director. During this entire time, Marilyn was at his side as an active ambassador for the Zoo.

Charlie’s legacy lives on throughout the Zoo, especially in the education department that he



Charlie and Marilyn Hoessle

established in the 1960s, and in the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium. From 1968 to 1978, he created awareness of the Zoo, its work and its animals as host of the “Saint Louis Zoo Show,” a weekly television program.

Under his visionary leadership, much of the Zoo grounds was dramatically transformed as exhibits became more naturalistic and the first capital campaign was completed. In September 2003, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums presented Charlie with the R. Marlin Perkins Award—the organization’s highest individual honor.

Charlie and Marilyn imparted their love of animals to their four children, and inspire their grandchildren and great grandchildren to have an appreciation for the natural world.



Charlie and Marilyn Hoessle with student intern

Jeffrey Huntington Family Fund

(est. 2009)



Jeffrey Huntington and Elizabeth Green

In 2009, Elizabeth Green established two endowed funds: one in honor of Jeffrey Huntington, the Zoo's Director of Development, and the other in honor of Steven Rosenblum, then the Zoo's Director of Planned Gifts. "Jeff and Steven were instrumental in the creation of the Zoo Endowment, and an endowment is critical to the Zoo's long-term health and success," Green said. "I wanted to thank them for their work and to inspire others to contribute."

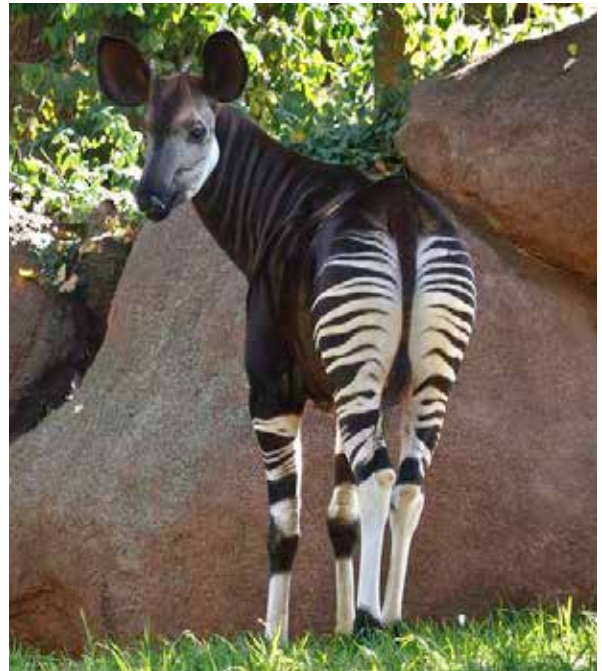
Huntington joined the Zoo's development staff in 2000 and was promoted to Director of Development in 2005. He has played a leadership role in several capital improvement projects, including the *Saint Louis Zoo 2004: Gateway to the Animal World Campaign* and *The Living Promise Campaign*.

A historian by training, Huntington has a M.S. in historic preservation and a B.S. in American history from Ball State University. Before coming to the Zoo, he worked for a number of museums and historic preservation organizations.

Huntington became a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) in 2004 and is involved in a number of local non-profit organizations. He was named as one of "40 Under 40" business leaders by the St. Louis Business Journal in January 2000 and participated in FOCUS St. Louis' Leadership St. Louis program. In 2014, he was named Outstanding Fundraising Executive by the St. Louis Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

"Jeff is a careful steward of the Zoo and its resources," Green said, "and he takes good care of its supporters. I am pleased to be able to do something for him and for the Zoo's future."

Elizabeth Green is a longtime donor and volunteer leader at the Zoo. She was honored with a Legacy Award from the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council for her charitable support.



Okapi in Red Rocks

Barbara W. Hutton Animal Enrichment Fund

(est. 2009)

A bequest from the estate of Barbara W. Hutton created this fund in 2009 to support animal enrichment. Hutton was a native St. Louisan and a long-time Zoo Friend and Zoo Parent. She enjoyed talking about her adopted animals: a Humboldt penguin and a cheetah.

Hutton's niece Jackie Johnston recalls her aunt being interested in animals and in St. Louis history. Later in life, she enjoyed watching television programs about wildlife and keeping up with the Zoo by reading publications and hearing about Johnston's Zoo visits. "When she set aside a portion of her estate to benefit animals," Johnston said, "the Saint Louis Zoo was number one on my list. It is such a great institution."

Johnston directed the funds to animal enrichment because Hutton was always concerned with improving living conditions for animals. "My aunt would have been pleased to know that she was continuing to provide support for our world-class Zoo and the well-being of its animals," Johnston said.



Babirusa playing with an enrichment ball



Zoo staff adding enrichment items to the lion's habitat



Grizzly bear nibbling on an ice cake

Konneker Veterinary and Conservation Sciences Fund

(est. 2011)



Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker

In 2011, Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker's planned gift commitment established the Konneker Veterinary and Conservation Sciences Fund to support the Zoo's ongoing innovation and leadership in the care and conservation of animals.

Wilfred Konneker, a pioneer in the nuclear medicine field, understands the power of scientific discovery and technology. After graduating from Ohio University in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics, Konneker served in the military and was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers' Manhattan Project. After the war, he returned to Ohio University to complete a master's degree in physics in 1947. He and his wife Ann, a 1946 Ohio U. graduate, then came to St. Louis, where he earned a doctorate in nuclear physics from Washington University in 1950.

Konneker and a partner opened a consulting firm called Nuclear Consultants Corp. It was one of the first companies in the nation to develop radiopharmaceuticals for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The company merged with Mallinckrodt Inc. in 1966, and Will Konneker was named vice president of its diagnostic division. In 1973, he left Mallinckrodt to invest in and grow startup companies before becoming president and CEO of Konneker Development Corp. and chairman and co-founder of

Diagnostic Hybrids of Athens. In addition to cultivating new ideas and businesses, the Konnekers have been generous philanthropists, giving back to the community and investing in the next generation.

Will Konneker has served as a trustee for both Ohio University and Washington University. He and Ann have contributed tens of millions to professorships, scholarships, research laboratories, programs and capital improvements at both institutions. In St. Louis, the Konnekers have supported many local civic and cultural organizations, including the Saint Louis Zoo, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and the Center of Contemporary Arts.



Vets monitor the well being of our animals

About his support of the Saint Louis Zoo, Konneker said, "We have made amazing discoveries in the diagnosis and treatment of human disease in the last several decades. It is fascinating to see how Zoo scientists and veterinarians have used these advancements to help animals, both in captivity and in the wild. We are delighted to have the opportunity to support their work."

Will Konneker passed away in 2016 and Ann Lee in 2020.

KSM Research Fund

(est 2021)



Most of us don't look forward to being a year older, but Karen Schaffer Meldrum had her reasons. When she reached 70.5, she could use her IRA to make a tax-wise charitable gift to ensure a legacy for wildlife conservation at the Saint Louis Zoo.



“Our family has loved the Zoo since its inception,” says Karen Meldrum. At the 1904 World’s Fair, her grandparents

were impressed with the Flight Cage that would later anchor the Zoo in Forest Park. In the 1930s, the Zoo brought her parents together when they met on an educational field trip as students.

Growing up, Karen’s family visited the Zoo almost weekly, the most memorable occasions being with her Uncle Charles, a missionary priest stationed in Ghana. On his visits to St. Louis, he would often bring back snakes and scorpions from Africa. Then, they would all pile into the car and take them to his friend Moody Lenz, the head keeper at the Reptile House.

Later on, they met Charlie Hoessle, who began as a reptile keeper, started the education department, and led the Zoo for 20 years. Decades later, Hoessle hired Karen, who had a wildlife management degree from University of Missouri – St. Louis, to work in the Zoo’s education department. Lots of interesting adventures came out of that time in her career!

After she retired, Karen wanted to celebrate her family’s love for the Zoo with a legacy gift honoring her many ties to animal conservation. She is delighted that the KSM Research Fund she established will support students doing conservation biology research each year in perpetuity. To do so in a tax-wise way only added to the joy she felt! “I am blessed to be able to give back the Zoo in a small way for the century-plus years it has given to us!”

Top: Fr. Charles Roesslein, in back, with baby python that he brought back from Africa and later donated to the Zoo. From left to right: Tom Paint (partly hidden), John Paint, unknown, Jim Paint, Bob Paint, Karen Schaffer, June Schaffer and Marysue Schaffer –1967 Post-Dispatch, Saint Louis Zoo.

Left: The Schaeffers riding Miss Jim

Kwame Foundation Education Fund

(Est. 2011)



Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D. and Anthony Thompson

Anthony Thompson established the Kwame Foundation Education Fund at the Saint Louis Zoo in 2011 to create scholarships for children who cannot afford summer camp. Camp KangaZoo has proven to be a hit for children of all ages. The Saint Louis Zoo day camp provides opportunities to interact with animals and participate in an unforgettable weeklong educational program. Upon learning that camp fees often pose a financial barrier for families, Tony Thompson, president and CEO of Kwame Building Group, wanted to provide a chance for those kids to attend without a fee. He believes that “American youth that lack resources should not be denied access to that knowledge.”

The Kwame Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization founded by Kim and Anthony Thompson to develop a doorway of opportunity into the professional world for youth in underprivileged communities through mentoring programs and scholarship opportunities.

Anthony has always had a deep passion for philanthropy and helping others. “It’s truly important to share and give back,” he says. “Kwame Foundation has a sincere commitment to creating opportunity.” Part of the mission of the Kwame Foundation is to provide young people an opportunity to learn and grow. “Summer programs should be fun and educational. I am excited to contribute to the Zoo program which provides both. “

The Kwame Foundation provides approximately \$150,000 a year in scholarships and grants to the community to ensure that deserving students have their chance at success. “Our goal is to ensure a stronger minority presence in the future workforce by helping minority students achieve their higher educational goals,” said Thompson. When kids are able to experience education at the Saint Louis Zoo, it is helping to form long-lasting impact. It is important for kids to have the opportunity to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

Through their generosity, Anthony Thompson and the Kwame Foundation will impact St. Louis area children for years to come.



Camp KangaZoo campers enjoy song and dance

E. Desmond Lee Family Education Programs Fund

(est. 1994)



Des and Mary Ann Lee

E. Desmond “Des” Lee was a St. Louis businessman turned philanthropist who inspired many with his generosity, leadership and creativity. He grew up in Columbia, Missouri, and received a full scholarship to attend Washington University, where he was captain of the basketball team. After serving in World War II, he and one of his college classmates founded Lee-Rowan Co. The company became a leading manufacturer of storage and organizational products.

In 1993, Lee sold the company and began his second career as a philanthropist. He vowed to give away more than \$70 million to charity during his lifetime. Often his gifts were designed to foster collaboration among different people and institutions, to reach out to youth and underserved populations, and to strengthen the St. Louis community.

Lee created the E. Desmond Lee Family Outreach Program at the Saint Louis Zoo in 1994. Through the program, Zoo staff and volunteers visit underserved elementary classrooms in St. Louis Public Schools. Each year, several hundred students benefit from this

opportunity to interact with live animals and participate in hands-on activities related to their life science curriculum. The endowed fund Lee established will support this and other education programs in perpetuity.

Des Lee was the first recipient of the Saint Louis Zoo Award, and he became an *Emeritus* Trustee in 2004. In addition to the Outreach Program, Des supported many of the Zoo’s events and initiatives, many times in partnership with his wife, the late Mary Ann Lee. He is recognized at the Des Lee Waterfall at the River’s Edge and the kitchen in the Emerson Children’s Zoo. He also generously funded a partnership with the University of Missouri–St. Louis through which one of our former curators earned his doctorate degree. He also provided for the creation of a joint professorship in zoology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Before Des passed away in 2010, he achieved his goal of giving away more than \$70 million. His collaborative vision and generous spirit will live on through his many gifts to the Zoo and his community.



Outreach instructors working in the community

Mary Ann Lee Facilities Fund

(est. 2017)

A native St. Louisan, Mary Ann McCarthy Taylor Lee attended John Burroughs School and Clayton High School. In 1945, Lee married Jack C. Taylor, who founded Executive Leasing, now Enterprise Holdings. While both later remarried, they continued to share their commitment to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She married Des Lee, co-founder of Lee-Rowan Manufacturing Co., in 1978. Together they became philanthropic leaders, transforming the community with their vision and generosity, contributing more than \$70 million to local nonprofits.

For her dedication to St. Louis and her involvement in a wide range of causes, Mary Ann was recognized with the St. Louis Woman of Achievement for Philanthropy Award, Woman of the Year Award from Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis and the Hiram W. Leffingwell Award from Forest Park Forever.

Mary Ann was devoted to her family, and she shared her love of St. Louis, Forest Park and the Saint Louis Zoo with them. Mary Ann's support helped make the Zoo the institution it is today, helping us to build world-class attractions and animal care facilities, inspiring others to follow her example.

Mary Ann's generosity is recognized at Emerson Children's Zoo Geyser and Kitchen, the Mary Ann Lee Butterfly Wing, the Mary Ann Lee Animal Nutrition Center Kitchen, and most recently with her family at the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Family Sea Lion Landing.



Ali Hogan, Patty Taylor, Jo Ann T. Kindle,
Mary Ann Lee and Carolyn Kindle

She will also be remembered in the hearts and minds of St. Louisans for the Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel, where many of the young and the young at heart have enjoyed a whirl. Watching children and families have fun at the Zoo together filled Mary Ann with joy.

"Our mother was a great believer in the Saint Louis Zoo and felt its mission was of vital importance to St. Louis," wrote her children Andrew C. Taylor and Jo Ann T. Kindle. Through her estate, they established this endowed fund to strengthen the Zoo and to care for and maintain the facilities that she helped to build in her lifetime.

Mary Ann received the Saint Louis Zoo Award in 2003 and served as an Honorary Chair of *The Living Promise Campaign* from 2007 to 2014. She was also a longstanding President's Circle-level Marlin Perkins Society member.



Anne L. Lehmann Volunteer Operations Fund

(est. 2011)



Anne Lehmann

When Anne Lionberger Lehmann passed away in 1991 at age 96, she was well known for her service to the community and her philanthropy. Her generosity continued through gifts made by the Anne L. Lehmann Charitable Trust for several decades after her passing. A final distribution to the Saint Louis Zoo in 2011 was used to create the Anne L. Lehmann Volunteer Operations Fund.

“She was truly civic-minded,” said Charles Kopman, Mrs. Lehmann’s attorney and Trustee of the Lehman Trust, “She believed in people volunteering and serving the community.” In 1972, Mrs. Lehmann was among the Globe-Democrat Women of Achievement, noted for her creative philanthropy.

A native of St. Louis, Mrs. Lehmann studied painting at Washington University, and her interest in fine and decorative arts continued through her lifetime. Significant pieces from her collection were donated to galleries and museums, and she was instrumental in the renovation of the Tower Grove House at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Her husband John S. Lehmann was chairman of the board and co-founder of Petrolite Corp. and former board president of the Missouri Botanical Garden. After his death in 1967, Mrs. Lehmann continued her involvement in the community as a volunteer, board member and contributor.

Lehmann was a long-time supporter of the Saint Louis Zoo. One of her gifts provided landscaping for the entrance plaza at The Living World when it opened in 1989. “Mrs. Lehmann was impressed with what the Zoo was doing in the community and for the city,” said Kopman, “I think she would be pleased to help support its volunteers.” Distributions from the Anne L. Lehmann Volunteer Operations Fund support volunteer recognition and management.



Docents in the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium offering hands-on learning experiences to young guests

Joseph O. Losos Fund

(est. 2021)



Joseph O. Losos

“To say that Dad loved the Zoo would be an understatement,” daughter Louise Losos reflects. “As children we spent our lives at the Zoo.”

Joe Losos’ enthusiasm was such that, in the early days of his involvement with the Saint Louis Zoo, he helped acquire a baby elephant which

he had the privilege of naming after his wife, Carolyn. She was delighted—to the surprise of her friends—because it positioned her as the petite Carolyn of the two! It wasn’t just elephants with whom he felt kinship. He always stopped by Siegfried the walrus to tickle his whiskers. He would jump at the opportunity to help carry flamingos into their winter quarters. He was one of the Zoo’s most regular guests throughout his life.



Joe indeed loved the Zoo, giving his time as a volunteer leader for nearly 20 years. He served as a Zoological Park Commissioner and a Saint Louis Zoo Association board member, being honored with emeritus status for each. Joe likewise supported the Zoo as a generous donor for more than 50 years.

Elephants and big cats were Joe’s favorite species because of their intelligence and majesty. He

felt a special connection with jaguars, perhaps because he imagined he had been one in an earlier life. Hence, the Joseph O. Losos Fund supports animal care for elephants and big cats, carrying forth his longtime support of them for generations to come. His endowed fund is a testament to the entire Losos family’s spirit of conservation that is deeply embedded in their values.



Following Joe’s passing in 2020 at age 89, the St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission unanimously passed a resolution honoring him, recognizing his lifelong tremendous support and service to the Saint Louis Zoo and the broader St. Louis community.



Left: Joseph Losos interacts with Siegfried the walrus; Right top: Losos enjoys a train ride with family; Right Bottom: Carolyn and Joe Losos pose at one of their recognition monuments at the Zoo

Dr. Marshall S. Manne Fund for Animal Health

(est. 2010)



Marshall and Debbie Manne

Debbie Manne established this fund in honor of her husband, Dr. Marshall S. Manne, as a 25th wedding anniversary gift. “This was the perfect way to honor him and to support something about which he cares deeply: the health of the animals at the Saint Louis Zoo.” A retired periodontist, Marshall used to donate dental equipment to the Zoo. Being a St. Louis native, he remembered visiting the Zoo as a child.

The Mannes have been involved with the Zoo for more than two decades, as volunteers and members of the Marlin Perkins Society and Heritage Society. Together they enjoyed Zoo events and hosted several parties for friends and family at The Living World and McDonnell Center at River Camp, including one for their 25th anniversary at which this fund was officially announced.

The Dr. Marshall S. Manne Fund for Animal Health will help ensure that the Zoo continues to provide the best in veterinary medicine and dental care to our animals, now and in the future. “Many people in our family work in the veterinary and health fields, and we all love animals,” Debbie said, “We are pleased to be able to support the Zoo and share it with those we love.”

In addition to this endowed fund, the Mannes’ support is also recognized at Penguin & Puffin Coast where Marshall made a gift in honor of friends who helped him start his dental career.

Dr. Manne passed away in 2014, leaving a legacy to the community through this fund.



Zoo Research Manager, Karen Bauman, working on efforts to help learn more about the animals in our care

Clifford and Armarie Murphy Fund

(est. 2007)



Armarie and Clifford Murphy

Armarie Murphy made a gift to the Zoo Endowment and established this fund to help support the Zoo's general operations and ensure its success, now and in the future. "As I grew older," Mrs. Murphy said, "I realized what all the institutions in Forest Park had to offer. It's the best park in the world, and I want to do what I can to help it thrive."

Mrs. Murphy and her husband Clifford both were born and raised in St. Louis. Mr. Murphy was a World War II veteran and attended Washington University. In the 1950s, he founded two companies, Drilling Service Company and American Drilling Service Company. He was a leader and innovator in the construction industry for more than 40 years.

In addition to the Zoo, Mrs. Murphy supported the Missouri Botanical Garden and several other institutions in Forest Park, including the Saint Louis Science Center, the MUNY, the Saint Louis Art Museum and Forest Park Forever. The couple was involved with Washington University's School of Engineering, where they endowed a professorship and a scholarship. Mr. Murphy was the 1990 recipient of the Robert S. Brookings Award.

"I love the animals and have very fond memories of the Zoo," said Mrs. Murphy. Before she passed away in 2013, she enjoyed visiting with her goddaughters, her nieces and nephews and their children. "The Zoo is so beautiful and well-maintained," she said, "I like everything about it."



Young guest in awe of moon jellies at the Emerson Children's Zoo

Orthwein Medicinal Plant Garden Fund

(est. 2009)



Members of the Orthwein Family

Laura and Bill Orthwein established this fund in 2009 to maintain the medicinal plant garden at the facility named in their honor, the William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center. Bill and Laura



The garden in front of the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center

established The William R. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation in 2004 to carry on their philanthropy and their interest in education, the arts, health and welfare. The medicinal plant garden is used to provide enrichment for the Zoo's animal collection. The Orthwein family's support of this garden and the construction of the Animal Nutrition Center, as well as their gift to endow the William R. Orthwein, Jr. Family Animal Nutritionist, will have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of the animals in the Zoo's care and ensure that the Saint Louis Zoo remains a leader in zoo animal nutrition.

William Orthwein passed away in 2011, and Laura Rand Orthwein in 2014. The Zoo is honored to carry forth their legacy through this endowed fund.

Piper and Gleason Family Historic Preservation Fund

(est. 2013)

One of Jane Piper Gleason's earliest memories of the Saint Louis Zoo is visiting the original lion house. "I remember the architecture more than the animals," Gleason says, "It was just beautiful." While Gleason understands that the lion house needed to be replaced because it could not be modified to meet today's animal care standards, she is pleased that many of the Zoo's other historic structures have been beautifully updated and maintained.

Gleason established the Piper and Gleason Family Historic Preservation Fund in 2013 to support the Zoo's ongoing preservation efforts. "I would much rather help keep something going than start something new," she said, "Endowed funds are a great way to ensure that the things you care about will continue to thrive in the future."

Vernon and Marion Piper, Gleason's parents, were well-known preservationists in St. Louis. They were leaders in the restoration of Tower Grove Park, and in particular, the historic Palm and Plant Houses, both now named in their honor. Jane Piper Gleason has continued the family tradition as a member and past chairwoman of the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission, as a commissioner of Tower Grove Park and as a board member of the Campbell House Museum.



Guests enjoy the Primate House, one of the original historic buildings on campus

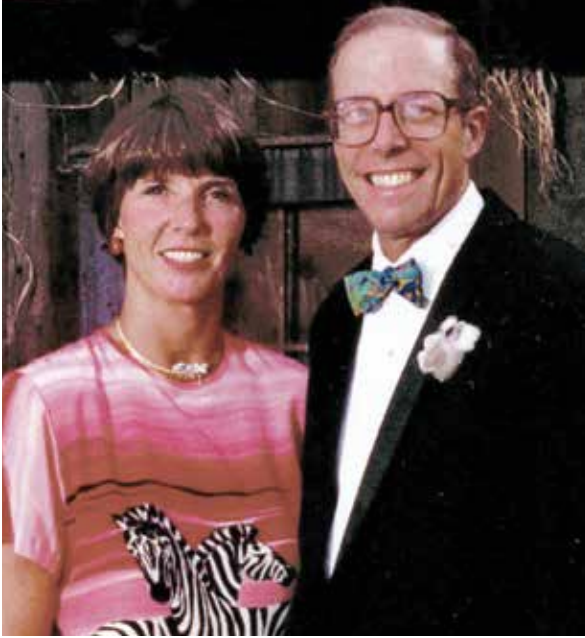
Jane's father grew up in St. Louis and her mother in Highland, Illinois. She and her brother Bill and sister Julie were raised here and have many memories of visiting the Zoo and going on safari, especially their safari with the late Carol Perkins. Gleason also remembers fondly two of the Zoo's llamas, Cortez and Montezuma, which her family "adopted" and kept on the family farm when the Children's Zoo closed for renovation in the late 1990s. The family made a significant gift to the new Emerson Children's Zoo that was recognized at the Goat Yard Pathway.



Carol Perkins photographs (left to right) Vernon and Marion Piper, Jane and Joe Gleason, and Susan and Bill Piper in October 1993 in Chobe, Botswana

T. Randolph Potter, Jr. Bird Acquisition and Transfer Fund

(est. 2009)



Cookie and T.R. Potter at ZOOFARI

T. Randolph “T.R.” Potter, Jr. was a lifelong supporter of the Saint Louis Zoo. Some of his fondest childhood memories were visiting the Zoo on Sunday mornings with his father and brother. His appreciation for wildlife grew as he traveled the world and became an avid bird enthusiast. His two greatest passions were his family and bird hunting.

Potter served on the Zoo’s Board of Trustees for 12 years. “The Saint Louis Zoo was near and dear to T.R.’s heart. I believe that it was his love of wildlife and the outdoors and the freedom that they represented that drew him in,” said his wife Marguerite “Cookie” Potter. He enjoyed raising awareness about the Zoo’s mission and the funds needed to support it. “He would tell anyone who would listen how great the Zoo was,” said Cookie. “He had a great respect for its work and its staff.”

To help raise funds for the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center, Potter served as Co-chair of the Principal Gifts Committee. The Potters are recognized for their generous support of the Zoo at the Ozark Trail in River’s Edge and the Wood Duck Pond and Overlook at the Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation Cypress Swamp exhibit at the 1904 World’s Fair Flight Cage.

Upon T.R.’s passing in 2008, the Zoo received numerous tributes from friends and family. In 2009, Cookie and her sons John and Randy decided to create a lasting memorial and to establish this endowed fund, the T. Randolph Potter, Jr. Bird Acquisition and Transfer Fund, to support the Zoo’s bird collection in perpetuity.



Wood duck



Rosetta Spoonbill in Cypress Swamp

Gale Rahmoeller Fund

(est 2021)



Gale Rahmoeller

Gale Rahmoeller says she has loved the Saint Louis Zoo her whole life. “I like the outdoors and enjoy natural wonders and wildlife,” she said, adding that travel complements her Zoo experiences by “learning about other places and cultures and seeing animals all over the world.” She has been a steady Zoo Parent for decades, adopting lions, cheetahs

and leopards. Her favorite animals are the big cats, bears, and apes. As a child, she begged her parents for a pet. Starting with fish, then gerbils, she finally got a chocolate seal point Siamese cat!

When she was a Girl Scout, Gale remembers her troop helped support the construction of Big Cat Country at the Zoo. Growing up, she enjoyed road trips across the country with her parents. The zeal to explore has continued, and she has traveled to all but one continent to date, which is Antarctica. Her adventures have included viewing whales, polar bears, the Big Five in Africa, grizzly bears, kangaroos and Tasmanian devils.

Gale’s motivation to endow a named fund at the Zoo was to further her deep commitment to education to the realm of excellent animal care. Having endowed scholarship and professorship



funds at her alma maters, Purdue University and Saint Louis University, to benefit women in engineering, Gale extended that education value to animal keepers at the Saint Louis Zoo. Her fund supports professional development for the Carnivore animal care team, providing funds to attend educational conferences and other training opportunities to enhance their skills.

A native St. Louisan, Gale graduated from Kirkwood High School, then earned her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering at Purdue, then later her MBA at Saint Louis University. She began her career in the chemical industry, then served as a civilian for the federal government in the Department of Defense for more than 30 years. Now retired, she is enjoying more time for traveling the world to see wildlife in nature and in zoos, as well as animals in her hometown Zoo.



Left: Gale boards the Emerson Zooline Railroad Right: Gale feeds a giraffe at the AFEW (K) Giraffe Centre in Kenya

Reitz Family Fund

(est. 2014)

“The Saint Louis Zoo has brought much joy to me over the years, and I hope it brings that joy to others for years to come,” said Miss Alma Reitz in her late 90s about making her legacy plan for the Zoo. Through her estate plan, she established the Reitz Endowment Fund in memory of her family: her parents Henry and Edna F. Reitz, her sister Eileen A. Reitz, her brother Henry M. Reitz, and herself. When Alma passed at age 102 in May 2019, family and friends at her memorial service honored her charm, sharp wit, generosity and volunteer leadership to improve lives and make the world better. Also acknowledged were her outstanding gardening skills and fondness for hippos, her favorite Zoo animal.

Alma’s family owned Reitz Brothers Stone Company that provided much of the stonework in Forest Park among other places in and around St. Louis. In the early 1920s, Alma’s grandmother took her and her sister Eileen to the Zoo frequently. While at the Zoo at age 98 with her niece Martha Kratzer, Alma remarked, “When my grandmother brought us to the Zoo, we’d see the animals. Nowadays, when parents bring their children here, it’s both to see the animals and to educate the kids.” In that spirit of educating children, the Reitz Endowment Fund will support the Zoo’s Education Department, helping to provide opportunities to children who may not otherwise enjoy special activities at the Zoo.



Alma K. Reitz



Children connect with hippos

Alma was honored in 2015 by the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council with a Legacy Award for her philanthropy. Martha reflected on her aunt’s inspiration, saying, “Aunt Almie has been an example to our family of what giving one’s time and financial support to others means. A humble person, her nature is to give—not for her own recognition—but to make a positive difference in the lives of others through the places she loves.”

Steven Rosenblum Family Fund

(est. 2009)



Liz Green and Steven Rosenblum

The Steven Rosenblum Family Fund is one of two endowments created by Elizabeth Green in 2009 to honor Zoo staff members Steven Rosenblum and Jeffrey Huntington. “Steven took the Zoo’s planned giving program to a whole new level and helped create the Zoo Endowment,” Green said. “Planned and endowment gifts will strengthen the Zoo for the future.”

Rosenblum served as the Director of Planned Gifts at the Saint Louis Zoo from 2005 to 2013. In 2013, he returned to his alma mater as senior director of development for Washington University’s College of Arts & Sciences and the Library System. He has since been promoted to Assistant Vice Chancellor of University Advancement. Steven is a graduate of Washington University Law School (JD 1992) and has a BA from the History Honors College at the University of Texas at Austin (1989). Through his professional and volunteer work, he has become a leader in the non-profit and legal communities.

Rosenblum served as vice president for communications for the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council and Co-chair of LEAVE A LEGACY, a national public awareness campaign to inspire people from all walks of life to remember charities in their estate plans. He has served as a board member of the Crown Center for Senior Living, an independent living apartment complex for low-income seniors, the Clayton History Society and the Clayton Community Foundation. He lives in Clayton with his wife Andrea and his three sons, Myles, Spencer and Henry.

Elizabeth Green is a longtime donor to the Zoo, active in promoting planned giving and education initiatives.



Indian peafowl

Mary Anne and Anthony F. Sansone, Sr. Family Career Development Fund

(est. 2013)



The Sansone family

In 2013, the Sansone Group established this fund to support career development opportunities for the Saint Louis Zoo's staff, and in particular, professional training courses offered by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. These week-long classes are held at zoos around the country and taught by industry leaders. Participants learn the latest techniques, information and tools available while making important connections with other zoo professionals.

"We have great confidence in the Zoo's leadership and staff," said Anthony Sansone, Sr., "They have helped make our Zoo what it is today: the best zoo in the country."

Sansone was deeply touched when his children decided to make this gift to the Zoo in honor of him and his wife. They both grew up in St. Louis and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2014. The Sansones have eight children, 42 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Many are involved in the family business, Sansone Group, which Anthony Sr. founded in 1957.

Many family members were also present for the opening of Sea Lion Sound and a celebration of the family's gift as part of *The Living Promise Campaign*. "I have many memories of the Zoo over the years, but this is the best one," said Sansone. "It was so wonderful to be here and to see what the Zoo offers to St. Louis and to the country."

One of Mr. Sansone's sons, James G. "Jim" Sansone, served as a Commissioner of the St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict from 2002 to 2020. "Mom and Dad are very involved in the community, and they taught us about giving back," he said. "It's great to have this opportunity to honor our parents and the Zoo that our family has enjoyed so much over the years."

Virginia H. Sassmanshausen Children's Zoo Fund

(est. 2011)



Virginia Sassmanshausen

This endowed fund to help support the Emerson's Children's Zoo was created in 2011 by a gift from the estate of Virginia Sassmanshausen. Virginia was very fond of the Saint Louis Zoo and wanted to do something for area children. "She

was always interested in and supportive of other people," said her nephew Steve Chapman, "She was one of the most unselfish people I have known."

A lifelong St. Louis resident who lived to the age of 96, Mrs. Sassmanshausen had the opportunity to witness much of the Zoo's evolution. She especially liked the Children's Zoo. She was also an avid Cardinals fan, and supported the St. Louis Symphony and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Mrs. Sassmanshausen attended Cupples Grammar School and graduated from Soldan High School and Rubicam Business School. She was predeceased by her first husband Olin Shell in 1963 and her second husband Fred Sassmanshausen in 2005. Mrs. Sassmanshausen worked for Celanese Corporation for many years before retiring in 1979. She was a long-time member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City and the P.E.O. Sisterhood.



Guests enjoying a show in the Emerson Children's Zoo

Schlaflly Fund for Underserved Students

(est. 1987)

This fund was established by Daniel and Adelaide Schlaflly in 1987 to bring together youth from different backgrounds and to promote diversity among the Zoo's visitors and staff. Mr. Schlaflly served on the St. Louis Board of Education from 1953 to 1981, where he fought for racial integration. "His causes were education and racial amity," wrote the St. Louis Post-Dispatch upon his death in 1997, "and he pursued them tirelessly all his adult life."



Daniel and Adelaide Schlaflly

The Schlaflly Fund for Underserved Students has supported a number of different initiatives over the years, including integrated educational programs, outreach to detention centers, Camp KangaZoo scholarships and the John Berry Meachum Fellowship.

The Meachum Fellowship provided work experience at the Zoo for African-American students majoring in education and biology. Several of the Fellows have gone on to become teachers. Jaclyn Johnson was a Fellow in 1995 and is now Education Programs Supervisor at



Zoo interpreters with young guests

the Zoo. Another Fellow, Jamila Harris, is an education specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation in Forest Park.

Most recently the fund supported the Zoo's participation in career days at middle, high and postsecondary schools in the inner city. "The ideals of the Schlaflly Fund have encouraged us to look at how to reach out to underserved youth and how to bring people together," said Louise Bradshaw, Fred Saigh Director of Education.



Adelaide and Daniel Schlaflly

Joan and Erwin Schneider Fund

(est. 2021)



Joan and Erwin Schneider

Joan and Erwin Schneider were lifelong Saint Louis Zoo fans. Growing up in St. Louis, Joan and Erwin both shared fond memories of numerous grade school field trips to the Zoo. Joan fondly recalled riding Miss Jim,

the Zoo's first elephant, and the penny campaign where schoolchildren helped raise funds to purchase her. Erwin was fascinated by watching keepers feed Blondie, the famous python, back when Life magazine called our Zoo "the most entertaining ever known in the U.S."

The Schneiders' appreciation for wildlife evolved along with the times. Animals remained important and interesting to them and were a highlight of many of their vacations. Their favorites included whale watching trips in the Pacific and a memorable mid-winter visit to Yellowstone. Moose, reindeer, caribou, eagles and huskie pups were star attractions in Denali National Park and other Alaskan destinations.

Top Right: Zoo specialist works in the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center; Bottom: The feeding of python Blondie



The couple visited zoos in other cities as well, but found that nothing held a candle to their beloved Saint Louis Zoo. As the years passed, Joan and Erwin shared their passion for the Zoo and its animals with family and friends, including dozens of plush animals gifted to their grand-nieces. To ensure St. Louisans could continue to create memories like theirs, they generously supported the Zoo's operations as members of the Marlin Perkins Society and capital improvements such as the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center.

Through the Zoo's Endowment, their family continues to support the Zoo. Their nephew David Poth and his wife Cheryl established the Joan and Erwin Schneider Fund in their memory to support capital improvements and enrich the public's experience. "Aunt Joan and Uncle Erwin helped make the Zoo a special place for all of us," said David Poth. "We want to ensure that future generations will be awed and transformed by it, just as they were then and we are now."



William F. Siedhoff Fund

(est. 2022)



Bill Siedhoff

William “Bill” Siedhoff has a heartfelt passion for assisting children, families and others in need of help and a lifelong love of the Saint Louis Zoo. A favorite memory at the Zoo was the opportunity to spend time close up with Raja, the first Asian elephant born at the Zoo, to celebrate his first birthday.

He and his sister, Diana Natalicio, made many childhood memories at the Zoo - something they enjoyed for decades. Whether age eight or eighty, they felt the awe and timeless inspiration of the natural world as they immersed themselves in the Zoo’s flora and fauna.

Following a more than a 40-year career devoted to social services following his graduation from Washington University, Bill continues to find ways to help people, particularly those in the City of St. Louis. “I have spent my whole career trying to help kids, families and others - not only meeting basic needs and preventing crises, but also providing opportunities to learn and have fun,” Bill says. “The Zoo is a place where families can spend time together connecting with nature. Being free to all makes the Zoo accessible and welcoming to all people, offering an enrichment experience that lasts a lifetime. I feel good about supporting the Zoo, through a provision in my estate plan as well as endowing this permanent fund that fulfills my wish to benefit others for generations to come.”

In addition to the Zoo, Bill supports many organizations as a volunteer leader on several boards and committees as well as through the William F. Siedhoff Foundation that he established, dedicated to improving lives in our community. He serves as Chair of the Board of Developmental Disability Resources, the St. Louis Senior Fund, St. Louis Crisis Nursery, and the Education/Government Division of the United Way Campaign. He also serves on the Brown School National Council at Washington University and Co-Chair of the Brown School Eliot Society Committee. These organizations along with the Saint Louis Zoo count Bill Siedhoff among their blessings - a single person whose leadership, efforts and generosity help make good things happen in people’s lives today as well as tomorrow.



Raja celebrates his 21st birthday

Anita Siegmund and Nancy Suelflow Family Fund for Animal Health and Wellness

(est. 2019)

A lifelong connection to the Saint Louis Zoo led mother and daughter Anita Siegmund and Nancy Suelflow to create a fund that furthers the personal care for all animals and their well-being. As longtime St. Louisans, they have supported the Zoo along with other charitable causes that make our community a better place to live and visit. Seen frequently at Zoo and community events, they enjoy traveling and will often visit other zoos wherever their travels take them.



Nancy Suelflow and Anita Siegmund

Anita and her husband, Bob, were married in 1950. Soon Nancy was welcomed into the family. Bob, who passed away in 2000, had a successful career at Southwestern Bell. Anita managed their home and remains an active volunteer in the St. Louis community. Anita was the recipient of the Ageless Remarkable St. Louisans Award in 2014. Nancy, now retired, follows her mother's example and is a busy volunteer in the community.

Anita and Nancy have supported the Zoo and its mission in many ways through the years, through the Marlin Perkins Society and the Heritage Society, and by making generous special gifts to various Zoo projects including the Conservation Carousel and the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute. Anita's support goes back to the start of the Zoo Parents Program in 1978, when she adopted the African lion – an annual tradition she continues.

“We love all animals and we know that the Zoo and its staff provide the best possible care for them,” said Anita. “So with this endowed fund we know that our legacy directly benefits the animals.” Their care of animals extends to those in their South St. Louis neighborhood, as the variety of plants in their yard attract all sorts of pollinators, from monarch butterflies to hummingbirds.

Nancy shared their sentiments by saying, “Mom and I want to ensure that our Zoo remains world-class in the care and well-being of the animals, while continuing to be a treasured St. Louis attraction for families like ours to enjoy.”



Lions enjoying enrichment activities

C.C. Johnson and Edith Spink Gallery and Exhibition Fund

(est. 2011)



C.C. Johnson and Edith Spink

Edith and C.C. Johnson Spink's lifelong passion for collecting fine art has resulted in a remarkable gift to the Zoo of original paintings, prints and porcelains as well as the creation of the Edith and C.C. Johnson Spink Gallery and Exhibition Fund.

Both Edith and Johnson Spink leave a great legacy of service and commitment to this community. Edith served as president of several local charities and served as a board member of numerous others. She is probably best remembered for her 20 years of public service as mayor of the City of Ladue.

Charles Claude Johnson Spink, better known as Johnson, served as editor, publisher and owner of *The Sporting News*, which had been in the Spink family since its founding in 1886. Like his beloved wife, he also served on many community boards, including service as a Commissioner of the St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission under his good friend, Robert Hyland.

Edith and Johnson traveled the world together, seeking out art and animal experiences. They traveled to Asia, Africa, India and throughout Europe. They traveled with former Zoo Director Marlin Perkins and his wife Carol on trips to Africa and India, and they also traveled to the Galapagos Islands with Zoo staff.

The first exhibition of part of their collection was "Inspired by Nature," which opened at the Zoo in 2012. This stunning exhibit of Robert Bateman's wildlife art has been a pleasurable viewing experience for our visitors. The Saint Louis Zoo is grateful to the Spinks for their gifts of art and for the establishment of the Edith and C.C. Johnson Spink Gallery and Exhibition Fund. The fund will help curate and house their extraordinary collection of art for future generations to enjoy.



"Majesty on the Wing" by Robert Bateman



"Master of the Herd" by Robert Bateman

Carl, Almeta and Betty-Mae Stienhans Fund

(est. 2009)



Betty-Mae Stienhans

Betty-Mae Stienhans witnessed an amazing transformation at the Saint Louis Zoo since she came as a child in the 1940s. She lived in University City and visited often. The Zoo was smaller then, and they mostly came to see the animals and sometimes to see the shows. One of her uncles helped build the 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage.

Betty-Mae created an endowed fund to support the Zoo and honor her parents, Carl and Almeta. "My parents were the best," Stienhans said, "and very hardworking." Both worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and also had their own business interests. Her father Carl was actively involved in the Chamber and the Kiwanis in University City. Her mother owned a flower shop.

Betty-Mae worked for over 30 years for Anheuser-Busch at the Brewery, Grant's Farm and Manufacturers Railway. Following her retirement, she enjoyed supporting the Zoo and seeing its progress. "I love everything about the Zoo," she said, "I wanted to make an unrestricted gift to the Endowment so that it would grow, and if the Zoo needed something special, they could access it."

In addition to her gifts to the Zoo Endowment, Betty-Mae contributed generously to a number of projects, including the 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage renovation and the Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel.

Upon her passing in 2013, Betty-Mae bequeathed a portion of her estate to the Zoo, which was added to her endowed fund as part of her legacy.



Guests enjoying their connection to animals

Sullivan Family Fund

(est. 2019)

Ron and Wanda Sullivan married in 1962 a few years after high school, having been sweethearts since junior high. They were hard-working, everyday folks who would be astounded to see what their modest earnings, savings and homestead created for an estate gift to their children and grandchildren 57 years later. Their daughter, Lori Sullivan, decided to honor her parents with an endowed fund. “A lovely lesson that families who support the Zoo have taught me is that amidst the sadness of losing loved ones, we can find peace by honoring them with a memorial gift,” she said. “It is in that spirit that my family and I established the



Wanda and Ron Sullivan

Sullivan Family Endowment Fund to honor our parents, James Ronald and Wanda Lee Sullivan.” Joining Lori in this tribute are her husband, G. Todd Rogan; brother Jeffrey and his wife, Carolyn; and their three children Jack, Olivia and Grace.

Lori chose the Saint Louis Zoo for this memorial tribute out of appreciation for the wonderful career opportunity the Zoo provided her as Director of Planned Gifts in 2013. “I am blessed to have the chance to honor my family at such a beloved place where I am privileged to work with countless other families to create their legacies here. We all are casting our votes of confidence for the mission of the Zoo—Animals Always—to continue for generations.”



Front row: Lori Sullivan holding Tallie, Grace Sullivan holding Mr. Mac, Olivia Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan holding Sugar
Back row: Todd Rogan, Wanda Sullivan, Jack Sullivan, Jeff Sullivan

Roland Quest and Phyllis Tirmenstein Fund

(est. 2015)

A native of Evansville, Indiana, Phyllis became a St. Louisan in the early 1960s when she moved here from Richmond, Virginia to work for Reynolds Metals Company. In 1967 she began working at Saint Louis University as business manager for the pathology department. Soon thereafter, she joined an interdenominational group called The Forum where she first met her good friend, Roland Quest.



Roland Quest



Phyllis Tirmenstein

Phyllis and Roland shared many interests. They both enjoyed music and attended concerts together. Phyllis had played violin and viola with the Evansville Philharmonic and became a member of the Bach Society of St. Louis. They also enjoyed attending Cardinals games, boating and taking in the many things St. Louis has to offer, including the Saint Louis Zoo.

When Roland passed away in 1993, he entrusted Phyllis to use his estate for the good of the community. She established the Roland Quest Memorial Fund at the St. Louis Community Foundation in 1995. This donor-advised fund has since supported a number of projects, including the restoration of Graham Chapel and its organ at Washington University in St. Louis, where Roland graduated in 1937 with a degree in physics. He was an engineer and inventor, known for his contributions to the Space Shuttle.



Amur tiger

In 2015, Phyllis decided to direct a significant gift from the Quest Fund at the Community Foundation to the Saint Louis Zoo to create the Roland Quest and Phyllis Tirmenstein Endowment Fund. “The Zoo is important because of the amazing educational and recreational opportunities it provides to the community,” Phyllis said. “I remember going to the Saint Louis Zoo as a child when we came to visit my uncle. I have been a fan ever since.”

The Roland Quest and Phyllis Tirmenstein Endowment Fund provides unrestricted support to the Zoo for its greatest needs year after year. In addition to this endowed fund, Phyllis made a personal gift to the Zoo in 2015 that is recognized at McDonnell Polar Bear Point. For reasons clear to those who know her, in 2011 Phyllis was named an “Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan” by St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors. In September 2016, Phyllis received the Donor Legacy Award from the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council. The Zoo and Saint Louis University co-nominated her for this award, which is given each year to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of philanthropy in the greater St. Louis community. Phyllis passed away in 2022, yet her love and support of the Zoo and St. Louis carries on.

John Dee Valentine (12/21/1952-8/31/2002) and Trudy Busch Valentine and their children: Matthew, Blake, August, Christina, John Jr. and Stephen Education Scholarship Fund

(est. 2012)

In August 2012, Trudy Busch Valentine created the Valentine Family Education Scholarship Fund to provide the opportunity for underserved schoolchildren to visit the Zoo to experience unique classroom activities.

Trudy continues the Busch family's century-long tradition of involvement and leadership at the Zoo. She has served on the board of the Saint Louis Zoo Association and the Zoo's Administration Building is named in honor of her father, August "Gussie" A. Busch, Jr. Like many members of the Busch family, Trudy and her children enjoy animals and being outdoors.

Trudy's civic involvement and philanthropic work unites three passions in her life: children, education and nursing. She has served many organizations as a board member and volunteer, including the Child Abuse Network, Edgewood Children's Home,

Kids Clubhouse, Boys Hope/Girls Hope, Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School, Churchill School and St. Louis University School of Nursing, her alma mater.

Trudy's initiatives include Gateway to GREEN, an event to encourage community dialogue about global climate change. She has also worked with her former classmates at Villa Duchesne to provide a clean, reliable water source to an education and health care facility in Chekalini, Kenya.

Louise Bradshaw, Fred Saigh Director of Education at the Zoo and Villa Duchesne classmate, said "We are grateful for the generosity and kindness of this special gift from the Valentine family. It will ensure that generations of St. Louis children will have enriching and educational experiences at the Saint Louis Zoo."



Trudy Busch Valentine (center) with her children

George Vierheller Fund for Veterinary Medicine

(est. 2006)



George Vierheller with a chimpanzee

The Zoo's first Director, George P. Vierheller, made the Zoo famous with animal shows played on newsreels around the world. He was known as "Mr. Zoo" to generations of St. Louisans and was as familiar to visitors as his stars: Phil the Gorilla, Miss Jim the elephant, Mr. Moke the chimpanzee and Sam the orangutan.

During his 37-year tenure from 1925 to 1962 as Director, Vierheller also was a pioneer in animal care and exhibit design. He oversaw the construction of the beautiful Spanish-style Bird, Primate and Reptile Houses, as well as the creation of naturalistic exhibits such as the limestone Bear Bluffs and the red granite formations in the Antelope Area. With the help of civic leaders and his staff, Vierheller realized his vision of a free, world-class zoo during his lifetime. Today's Zoo leaders have continued to innovate and build upon this vision.

Much of Vierheller's success was attributable to his love for animals. While he had no formal training in zoology, he became an expert in the care, feeding, training and acquisition of animals. In 1952, he oversaw the construction of the Zoo's first building designed specifically to serve as an animal hospital.

Vierheller's granddaughter Lana Mueller Jordan and her family established this fund with a one-to-one match for Zoo donors to honor his legacy and his dedication to animal care. As a child, Jordan went with Vierheller to work at the Zoo almost every Saturday. As they made the rounds, she had the opportunity to interact with the animals and witness her grandfather's special relationship with many of them.

"As I reached my retirement," she said, "I wanted to realize a lifelong dream to honor my grandfather by establishing an endowment in his memory that would provide a meaningful contribution to the 'soul' of this beautiful place that he and our family loved so much, the Saint Louis Zoo. To us, that 'soul' is healthy and happy animals."

The George Vierheller Fund for Veterinary Medicine supports veterinary operations, research and education. Jordan and the LMJ Foundation provided seed money for the Fund and issued a matching gift challenge. Thanks to Jordan and her family and those who responded generously, it has grown to over \$2 million.

"Our hope," Jordan said, "is to help the Zoo continue to be a world leader in zoological veterinary care and to provide the highest standards of care to its animals. We feel the knowledge gained will not only aid animals in captivity, but also extend to those in the wild in many far-reaching places."



Lana Jordan and her children and grandchildren surround Big George's statue at the Zoo

WildCare Institute Fund

(est. 2004)

In 2004, the Saint Louis Zoo “went global” and took its conservation efforts to a new level with the establishment of the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute. With the rate of habitat destruction and species extinction increasing every day, the Saint Louis Zoo wanted to make an even greater impact in the wild. At the WildCare Institute Centers around the world, local and international partners work together to help animals, ecosystems and people all at the same time.

To help fund the Institute’s operations, the Saint Louis Zoo Friends committed \$19 million—\$3 million for the first four years of operations and \$16 million to the Zoo Endowment for ongoing support. Additional funds have been generated from ridership on the Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel and gifts and grants from individuals,



Zoo staff in Punta San Juan, Peru, for a penguin health assessment

foundations and corporations, as well as non-profits and our conservation partners.

The WildCare Institute’s endowment continues to grow—along with the program’s important work—through additional outright and deferred gifts.

Since its establishment, the WildCare Institute

has invested millions in local, national and international conservation. The Zoo also created a jointly funded fellowship with the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at University of Missouri-St. Louis. In the past, our work was “a mile wide and an inch deep.” A focused, holistic approach has enabled the Zoo to make much greater impacts locally and globally.



Zoo staff working with Grevy’s zebra in Africa

WildCare Institute Centers

- The Botswana Center for African Painted Dogs
- Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation
- Center for Asian Elephant Conservation
- Center for Avian Conservation in the Pacific Islands
- Center for Avian Health in the Galapagos Islands
- Center for Chelonian Conservation Center
- Center for Conservation of Carnivores in Africa
- Center for Conservation of Congo Apes
- Center for Conservation in Forest Park
- Center for Conservation in the Horn of Africa
- Center for Conservation in Madagascar
- Center for Conservation in Punta San Juan, Peru
- Center for Conservation in Western Asia
- Center for Native Pollinator Conservation
- Center for Ecuadorian Amphibian Conservation
- Ron and Karen Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation
- Saharan Wildlife Recovery Center

Wise El Santo Company Safety Fund

(est. 2018)



Rudolph and Mary Frances Wise

Rudolph L. Wise Jr. took his family's St. Louis business selling gloves to a national-level safety and environmental company. When he passed away at age 97, he left millions in his estate to charity, most of them surprised by the incredible generosity of a modest annual supporter.

"Mr. Wise was a hardworking and understated man, and he lived a simple life," said Michael Milne, the executor of his estate and former president of Wise Safety & Environmental. "He rarely got emotional, but one time when we were on a long drive home from a business trip to Kansas, he told me he needed to do something to leave a legacy, as the family name would die with him."

Wise El Santo Company was started by Mr. Wise's father, Rudolph L. Wise Sr., in 1892. "Mr. Wise was an excellent salesman," said Milne. "His father taught him the art of the deal and the importance of personal relationships and attention to quality. Your first profit is buying right!"

Following Rudolph Jr.'s service in WWII, he returned to the family business. Soon thereafter, Fisher Body called to request work

gloves. "Mr. Wise said he sold more gloves in 20 minutes than in the past six months," Milne recalled. That marked their shift to being a manufacturer's rep for safety products.

"Through an endowed fund in the company name, the Zoo offered us an opportunity to pay tribute to the business Mr. Wise's father founded and he then grew exponentially. He was really a pioneer in the safety and environmental industry," said Milne.

"The Wise El Santo Company Safety Fund will help provide the equipment, training and services needed to ensure a safe environment for all those who visit, volunteer and work at the Zoo," said Domini Montgomery, the Zoo's Safety & Risk Manager.

"We are happy to support the Zoo and its safety program," said Milne. "Mr. Wise really was a people person, and I think he would have been pleased to see such benefit in the name of Wise El Santo Company."



First aid technician checks the medic cart

Clarence Zacher Family Fund

(est. 2018)



Clarence Zacher

Clarence Zacher was a simple and humble man who had a lifelong love for the Saint Louis Zoo.

During a visit to the Zoo with his mother in 1942, 9-year-old Clarence starred in a short film called “A Day at the Zoo.” That experience began an insatiable thirst for

knowledge of many things, the wonders of the animal kingdom always the foundation.

In 2008, Clarence called the Zoo after reading about its work with endangered hellbenders. After visiting the Zoo’s Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation, Clarence gave a gift to help construct the outdoor streams and propagation rooms for the hellbenders.

After reading more articles, Clarence visited the Zoo again, and other gifts followed – for the benefit of painted dogs, black rhinoceros and the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute. During one of his visits, he met National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. Upon learning that Clarence was a generous donor to the hellbenders, Joel insisted on having their picture taken together – overwhelming Clarence with his appreciation.

Clarence passed away in early 2018. On what would have been his 85th birthday, his family met at the Zoo to celebrate his life and his values. Tears and laughter were shared as they recalled special times with Clarence and his childlike wonder at nearly everything, but especially science- and animal-related topics.

The Zacher family established an endowed fund to honor Clarence that encompasses all of his animal interests. “Dad always liked to help the ‘down-and-outers’—those who barely had a fighting chance.” The fund will support the Zoo’s work with protecting and propagating endangered species.



The Saint Louis Zoo is grateful to Clarence Zacher and his family for the joy of getting to know him and celebrating his life through this memorial fund. His legacy lives on through the animals helped in his name.



Top Right: Hellbender field assessment in central Missouri

Bottom Right: Ozark hellbender

Adding Your Story

Creating Your Legacy with the Zoo

In 2004, the Saint Louis Zoo established a permanent endowment that has become a legacy pathway for hundreds of our donors and friends. The Saint Louis Zoo Endowment provides a permanent entity where legacy gifts are held and stewarded, ensuring a strong and financially independent Zoo for the future.

There are many ways that donors may support the Zoo's Endowment. Outright gifts of cash, stock, and/or other assets and future (planned) gifts such as bequests, life insurance, or trusts make wonderful legacies.

Named endowed funds may be established for \$50,000 or more with annual recognition appearing in Zoo publications. Additionally, specific endowed funds and endowed positions may be named for curator or administrative positions, spaces and named programs.

Donors who let us know about their intentions to include the Zoo in their estate plans may be recognized as members of the Heritage Society. Members receive a special Zoo memento, are invited to attend events and may choose to be publicly listed or anonymous.

We would love to know *your* story. Your legacy is important, and we are honored to carry it forth to reflect your values in perpetuity. We invite you to be remembered forever with a legacy gift.



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Our Mission

The mission of the Saint Louis Zoo is to conserve animals and their habitats through animal management, research, recreation, and educational programs that encourage the support and enrich the experience of the public.



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®