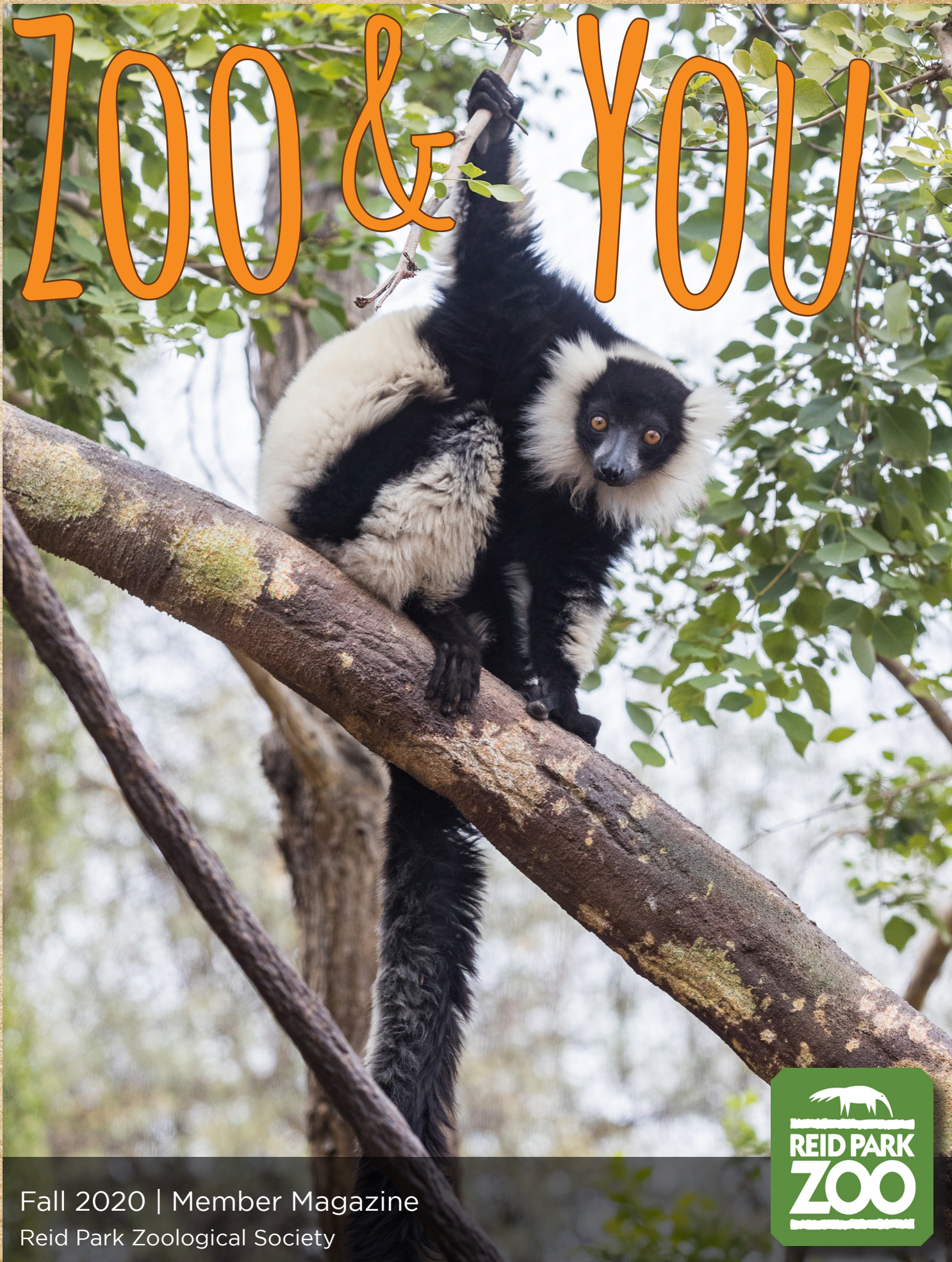


ZOO & YOU



Fall 2020 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





ZooFriendZ is a **very special circle** of people who are invested in the future of Tucson's Reid Park Zoo by donating \$500 or more annually.

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For more information, contact Gail Brown at gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

Reid Park Zoological Society

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ZOO HOURS:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



WELCOMING YOU BACK

The pandemic has been a challenge for so many in our community, and our hearts go out to the individuals and businesses that have been to be affected. We wish you all health and safety.

After over five months of closure, Reid Park Zoo was pleased to reopen on August 26 and 27 with exclusive member-only days, before opening to the general public. Having member-only days was an important way for us to thank our most devoted patrons, our members, for their patience and support during the pandemic. Here are important steps the Zoo is taking to ensure the safety of our guests, staff and animals, and how you can have the best value for your membership during this time.

Memberships Extended!

All memberships active at the time of our closure have had five months added at no additional charge to make up for the time Reid Park Zoo was closed. We hope that you enjoy the extra time to visit!!

Virtual Zoo

We recognize that not everyone is going to feel comfortable or able to visit the Zoo at this time. We are excited to continue our Virtual Zoo program with exclusive member-only virtual events on Wednesdays of each week. These are fun programs that explore different animals each week!

Reservations in Advance

Be sure to plan your Zoo visit ahead

of time! We are limiting the number of people in the Zoo each day to allow plenty of space for social distancing, so members must go online to reidparkzoo.org to reserve their spot to visit. Reservations can be made right before you visit but some days sell out so it is best to plan ahead!

Bring Your Water

Water fountains will be closed for safety reasons so bring your water or purchase water in environmentally friendly non-plastic bottles from our food kiosks.

Mask Up!

In accordance with the proclamation from Pima County and City of Tucson, masks are required to enter the Zoo. We recognize that not everyone is comfortable wearing a mask and we hope that you can enjoy our Virtual Zoo until masks are no longer required.

Cafe and Gift Shop to Re-Open End of October!

Due to construction, the cafe and gift shop are currently closed. Kiosks around the Zoo offer food and beverages, hats, sunscreen and more. Keep your eye out for a re-opening celebration of our cafe and gift shop.

Your support of Reid Park Zoo allows us to connect people and animals to save wild animals and wild places. Thank you, members, for your continued help. With your membership, you are not only making a difference for the animals at your Zoo, you are helping to preserve species and their native habitats around the world.

THE ZOO BY YOU

Here's a look at the Zoo through your eyes! Tag us on social media to enter your own photos for the next issue of Zoo & You!



Tricia Mercogliano on Facebook



Tammy Sheehan on Facebook



@jonesstillshots on Instagram



@ryoko123panda. on Twitter

WHOLE HERD HEALTH: REID PARK ZOO TAKING PART IN NATIONWIDE EEHV STUDY

All-day, every day, our elephant care team is looking after the herd. They clean the habitat, wet the mud wallows, fluff the sandhills, haul in tree trunks for elephants to strip the bark from, hide puzzle feeders, and conduct frequent training sessions. The training sessions help the elephants learn about working well with the animal care team and vet teams.

Elephant health care is a top priority! Health checks include recording weights, physical exams, and blood tests. These blood samples can tell the vet about an elephant's white and red blood cell counts, their organ function, and also if they are positive or negative for an elephant-specific virus. One specific virus the elephant care team is always on the lookout for is elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus, or EEHV.

EEHV is a fast-acting virus that needs to be addressed immediately to help the elephant. That presents a unique challenge, as EEHV symptoms are nonspecific and flu-like. If an elephant has a minor illness, he or she will feel better within a few days with no treatment. However, EEHV's progression is rapid and can become fatal faster than it takes for a positive test result to come back from the lab.

At Reid Park Zoo routine screenings for EEHV have become a standard weekly practice for this herd — specifically the younger members.

Elephants 1 to 15 years old are at a higher risk. Therefore Nandi, six-year-



old female, and Sundzu, eight-year-old male, are tested more frequently than the adults or baby Penzi (who is six months old).

Currently our elephant herd has had great wellness checks!

In addition to formal health care, another way to see herd health is to look at their behavior and dynamics. Elephants playing energetically together on habitat is a good sign of physical health and well-being.

"Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus is a potential threat to African elephants, but we are doing appropriate screening and contributing to research to better understand the virus," explained Sue Tygielski, Director of Zoo Operations.

"The elephant care team maintains positive training relationships with each elephant, so blood can be drawn voluntarily from the elephant. Penzi is still learning but has already had successful voluntary blood draws. This blood sample ensures the vet team can screen for EEHV and contribute to further research on prevention of the virus."

Reid Park Zoo is working in conjunction with San Diego Zoo Global to develop a more clear understanding of how and under what circumstances the virus occurs.

Sharing information about the herd in Tucson helps our partners learn more about EEHV, which in turn benefits all elephants.



POLLINATORS MAKE THE WORLD GROW

Pollinators are animals that help plants reproduce by transferring pollen from the male part of a flower (called the anther) to the female part (stigma) of another flower. As an animal either drinks the flower's nectar or eats some of its pollen, it unknowingly collects bits of pollen on its body from that flower and transfers some of the pollen to the other flowers it visits in search of food.

Some plant species rely on only one species of animal for pollination. The traveler's palm in Madagascar is a great example, as it relies **only** on the black and white ruffed lemur to pollinate its flowers. The black and white ruffed lemur is the world's largest pollinator. Unlike other lemur species, black and white ruffed lemurs are able to tear open the flowers of this palm and can reach the nectar deep inside the flower thanks to their long, narrow snout.

Other plant species rely on smaller pollinators, like bees. Many of the plants we eat depend on bees to pollinate them, including blueberries, almonds and cherries. Unfortunately, bee populations are declining due to insecticide use, disease, climate change, and habitat loss.

Reid Park Zoo is helping honeybees by partnering with Bob's Bee Relocation to humanely trap the bees that start to create a hive on Zoo grounds. Relocation is necessary because once bees establish a hive, they will protect it vigorously (the same as we would protect our home and family from danger). This could pose a threat to animals and guests. Through this partnership, 12 bee boxes have been placed around Zoo grounds, mostly behind the scenes, away from guests. These boxes have been placed in specially chosen locations and have been built to match the bees' specific hive requirements — research has proven that bees are very picky when establishing a new home so relying on this science will ensure that this project is successful.

Once the bees have started to establish their new colony inside one of the bee boxes, the relocation service will remove the box, with the live bees inside, and relocate it



YOU CAN HELP BEES BY:

- **Planting a native flower garden**
- **Going pesticide and insecticide free**
- **Choosing relocation over extermination!**
- **Learning more about honeybees**
- **Supporting your local beekeeping organizations**

to their farm — where the bees can live happily and continue to assist in pollinating our native plants and our food crops. The photo at the top of the page offers a peek inside one of the boxes!



relationship with the keepers and veterinarian allowed for this life-saving intervention.

Junior also has a great relationship with Tally. Females are typically dominant in lemur groupings and Tally reminds Junior of her social status often. They spend time resting together and grooming one another. Tally prefers to be on higher perches and if Junior is in a location that she wants, it is not unheard of for her to gently bop him on the top of his head with her hand.

These gentle reminders help maintain social order even in the treetops.

Forests of Madagascar are where both lemur species can be found. To protect their wild counterparts we can all help by recycling products made from trees to prevent more destruction of the lemur habitat.

years, Junior participated in taking medications from his Animal Care team because of these training sessions. During this time Junior was strong and bright and interacted

well with Tally and staff. However, in 2019 Junior developed seizures. The vet team was able to provide medical care, including imaging of his brain, which revealed a different fungal infection.

He was again provided antifungal medication that he will continue for the rest of his life. His great

like all wild animals, can bite. Also the lemurs have the option to come to the mesh wall dividing them and their care team.

If they choose to work with staff, they often receive treats like bananas or blueberries. If the lemurs prefer not to work with staff, they can just leap away into their habitat. Food treats keep their interest high and allow staff to engage with them in a relaxed setting.

These training sessions helped save Junior's life when he was diagnosed with coccidioidomycosis (valley fever) in 2016. Staff were able to transport him to the Animal Health Center willingly where he had a complete exam. When results indicated he needed daily medication for over two

to the sun to warm up, called sun worshipping. The ring-tailed lemurs have less hair on their bellies than the ruffed and warm more quickly, but both enjoy this behavior.

All the morning activity and sunshine sets them up perfectly for a late morning nap.

Ring-taileds like Elm, Oak and Linden prefer to nap in a "lemur ball" where they all lay on top of one another in a tight puff of fur, often near the ground. Tally and Junior, the ruffed lemurs, will lounge in a variety of places near each other or apart - they can be found in a mulch pit, a hammock or a high tree branch like their wild counterparts.

While lemurs appear fluffy and cuddly, the Animal Care team does not enter the same space with them. Lemurs,

The life of a lemur sounds like vacation all day, every day.

Whether it's our ring-tailed lemurs (Lemur catta) or black and white ruffed lemurs (Varecia variegata variegata), the morning typically starts with athletic leaping and jumping for the lemurs at the Zoo! Both species have incredibly long tails which gives them a sense of flare and a little extra balance when gliding through the air.

After a bit of morning exercise, the lemur troops select their preferred breakfast items including a variety of fruits, some vegetables and primate-specific biscuits.

With their stomachs full, sunbathing is their next morning activity! Both species will expose their bellies

Vacation Like a Lemur

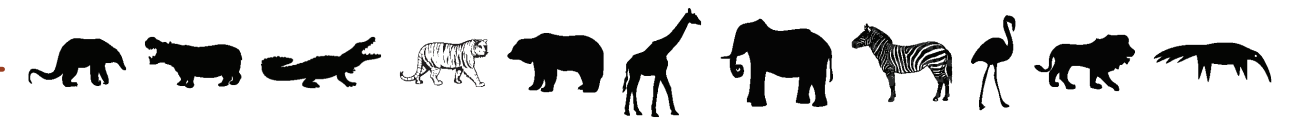
BRICK BY BRICK

We are improving the Zoo and you can too!



Purchase a brick and leave your mark while helping the Zoo! Bricks start at \$250 and will be displayed at the new Entry Plaza opening late 2020!

For more information contact Gail Brown at 520-881-4753 or gail@reidparkzoo.org or visit ReidParkZoo.org



BIGGER SPACES. SMILING FACES.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

We are building the Future of Your Zoo! Thanks to the generosity of our donors and voters of the 2017 Future of Your Zoo ballot initiative, Reid Park Zoo is improving and expanding. Here is an update on the projects currently underway, a small portion of what is to come.

Welcome Plaza - Trees!

The new Welcome Plaza will create an impactful entry experience for our guests. There will be large shade trees throughout the plaza to give more comfort during our hot days. Do you know the benefits of trees? They provide homes for songbirds, combat climate change, help reduce runoff during rainstorms, as well as reduce stress and cool us down! Here at the Zoo, this includes planting trees that will be able to be used for browse (branches for enrichment that the animals at the Zoo can manipulate as they enjoy them as a treat). You can help the environment by planting trees and get more information at tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org.

The Welcome Plaza will be complete in December 2020, with the cafe and gift shop reopening at the end of October!

Flamingo Lagoon

This habitat will give our beautiful flock a new home. Top of Reid Park Zoo's priority list is always providing the highest level of care for the animals and this habitat is no exception. We looked at flamingo habitats at zoos around the country to make sure we selected the best features to give our pink friends a

great home.

A very important part of the habitat is the water filtration system. We want to make sure our birds have the highest quality water and that the exhibit isn't smelly for guests walking by as well. We have done that by hiring an engineering firm that specializes in Zoo and Aquarium Life Support Systems, another way to say water filtration for animals that live in the water.

These birds also spend a lot of their time on land. You may have noticed that over the past couple of years, portions of the flamingo exhibit has been closed off - this was to allow the birds to have access to a portion of what had formerly been people space. In the new habitat, there is 50% more land than they currently have, lots of space for our beautiful flock!

A terrific addition for animal care is the addition of a flamingo off-exhibit building. This small building will have heating for those rare cold nights so we can round up the birds into the building to ensure they are safe when the temperatures drop. It will also provide a space if a bird needs to be



separated from the rest of the flock for any reason.

Next Phases

We are nearing the end of design for the World of Play Adventure Zone, which will begin in early 2021 and be complete by the end of 2021. This unique interactive zone will tell the story of the continents animals live in through play. It will also include a great area for Nature Play - showing kids the fun of playing in and learning about nature.

We are also getting ready for construction at the beginning of 2021 on Pathway to Asia. This expansion to the west of the Zoo will have an exotic bird feeding experience, great home for future tigers, sloth bears, siamangs, red pandas and a reptile house featuring a Komodo dragon and fruit bats.

All of this is thanks to you, our members, and the Tucson community. We look forward to seeing you as The Future of Your Zoo comes to life!

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!



Hard to believe the size difference with baby Penzi at 6 months old and her older sister, Nandi, at 6 years old. Penzi weighs 675 pounds (She was 295 pounds at birth) while Nandi is 3,635 pounds. While Penzi is growing fast she still has a long way to go to catch up to her big sister! And Semba, their mom at 30 years old weighs 7,660 pounds.

Penzi's early milestones included nursing well and keeping up with mom, but Penzi has left those behind and is now hanging with the whole herd! Her sister Nandi is probably her favorite playmate. Elephant play includes traveling together, wrestling and romping in the mud together and sometimes just racing each other! Being close together shows their strong bond with each other.



Penzi's biggest accomplishment lately has been her comfort with crossing the stream. She will play near the edge of the stream, drink from it and cross. Her next big step will be playing in it, but she is still hesitant and not yet a water loving elephant — just mud-loving!

A LIFE OF SERVICE

REMEMBERING A SPECIAL FRIEND OF THE ZOO

One of the best parts of my job is getting to meet a lot of amazing, special people. Jerry Felmley was one of those. I met Jerry in 2009 as we were beginning our campaign for the new elephant habitat. He called us up very excited because he had seen the name of our area was Expedition Tanzania. His granddaughter Kate was serving in the Peace Corps there. Jerry had been a long-time member of Reid Park Zoo (our records go back to 2000) and had adopted a giraffe in Kate's honor. He told me that she had posted it in her living quarters and the kids in Tanzania all thought it was a 'hoot' that she had a picture of an animal that you could see right outside your window.

When Jerry saw that our new elephant habitat was going to be called Expedition Tanzania, he wanted to know about benches. He said he just "had" to have a bench there in honor of Kate and her Peace Corps service. He got that bench, which you can see whenever you visit. He wanted to make sure he was fair and added donations in honor of other family members as well.

Jerry was one of our biggest cheerleaders. When we started the FriendZ of Reid Park Zoo, he wanted to know all about it and signed right up. When he asked about shirts a number of times, we had a FriendZ shirt made up just for him and he wore it proudly to all of our events. He came to the Zoo to hear Jack Hanna, Jane Goodall, Laurie Marker of Cheetah Conservation, and many more. As he struggled with his hearing, he asked about our very inadequate sound system. The Zoo's Jed Dodds told him what we had rigged up and he asked what it

would cost to get a professional system. We asked, and Jerry met with the audio company with Jed and funded the system that we now have in the learning center that allows people to hear, and for us to pipe music or sound to the upper deck, outdoor areas. He has truly made a difference.

Jerry liked to fund items he saw we needed. In addition to the sound system, he funded a new stethoscope with all the bells and whistles for Dr. Roth and his last gift was for Reid Park Zoo to participate in a study to help find a cure for EEHV, a disease that tragically affects elephants in the wild and in zoos. He studied the literature and came in with a list of questions before making his gift.

Jerry passed away in July of this year at the age of 87 after a fulfilling life of service to his country, fantastic trips around the world to see animals, and a great friend to the Zoo. He will continue to make the Zoo a better place for all through his legacy gift. And it is thanks to people like Jerry that Reid Park Zoo is able to spark the imagination and curiosity of children and adults who, like Jerry, will help save wild animals and wild places in their own way.



Thank you for the coffee klatches, Jerry. Reid Park Zoo is a better place because of you.

You can be a part of the Legacy Circle by remembering Reid Park Zoo in your estate plans through your will,

Nancy J. Kluge



as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or your IRA. Contact Gail Brown or Nancy Kluge for more information at 520-881-4753 or development@reidparkzoo.org.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS, VIRTUALLY!



conservation. Because this program is “live”, students have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with Zoo Educators in the same manner as if we were all at the Zoo together.

The second option is pre-recorded Zoo tours which provides teachers with a link to tours that they can share with their class to watch at their convenience. Teachers are encouraged to have their students develop questions for Zoo staff at the end of their program. Each recorded tour includes an activity that can be used by the teacher to enhance their students' learning and invite students to explore each topic more in depth.

Both virtual program options have several grade-specific topics teachers can choose from that align with local and national science standards to enhance the science curriculum teachers are already prioritizing.

Though these new virtual programs were created as a result of the current pandemic, we anticipate continuing to offer virtual programs, even after we can welcome schools back to the Zoo. This is based on the excellent reviews we've received so far and the opportunity virtual programming provides to reach an increased number of schools.

To learn more about our virtual programming, please visit <https://reidparkzoo.org/education/zoo-to-you-online-classroom/>

During this unprecedented time when a school field trip to the Zoo is not possible, Reid Park Zoo is proud to be able to assist teachers in meeting their educational goals by offering FREE virtual programming.

Thanks to generous grants from Wells Fargo, BMO Harris Bank, Target, Cox Communications, the William E. Hall Foundation held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, and an anonymous donor, all school programs, either virtually or in person (once it is safe to offer) are free to any school group this year while this funding lasts.

Though this school year has just started, we have been excited at the demand for these programs, from schools not just in our local community but around the country!

This funding has provided us with a humbling opportunity to support all teachers around our country during this challenging time to enhance their students' knowledge about wild animals and wild places.

Reid Park Zoo is providing 2 virtual programming options.

The first is a 45-minute, LIVE, Zoo Adventure Program which includes close ups of some of our smaller animal ambassadors and exploration of specific topics such as animal habitats, adaptations, or



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