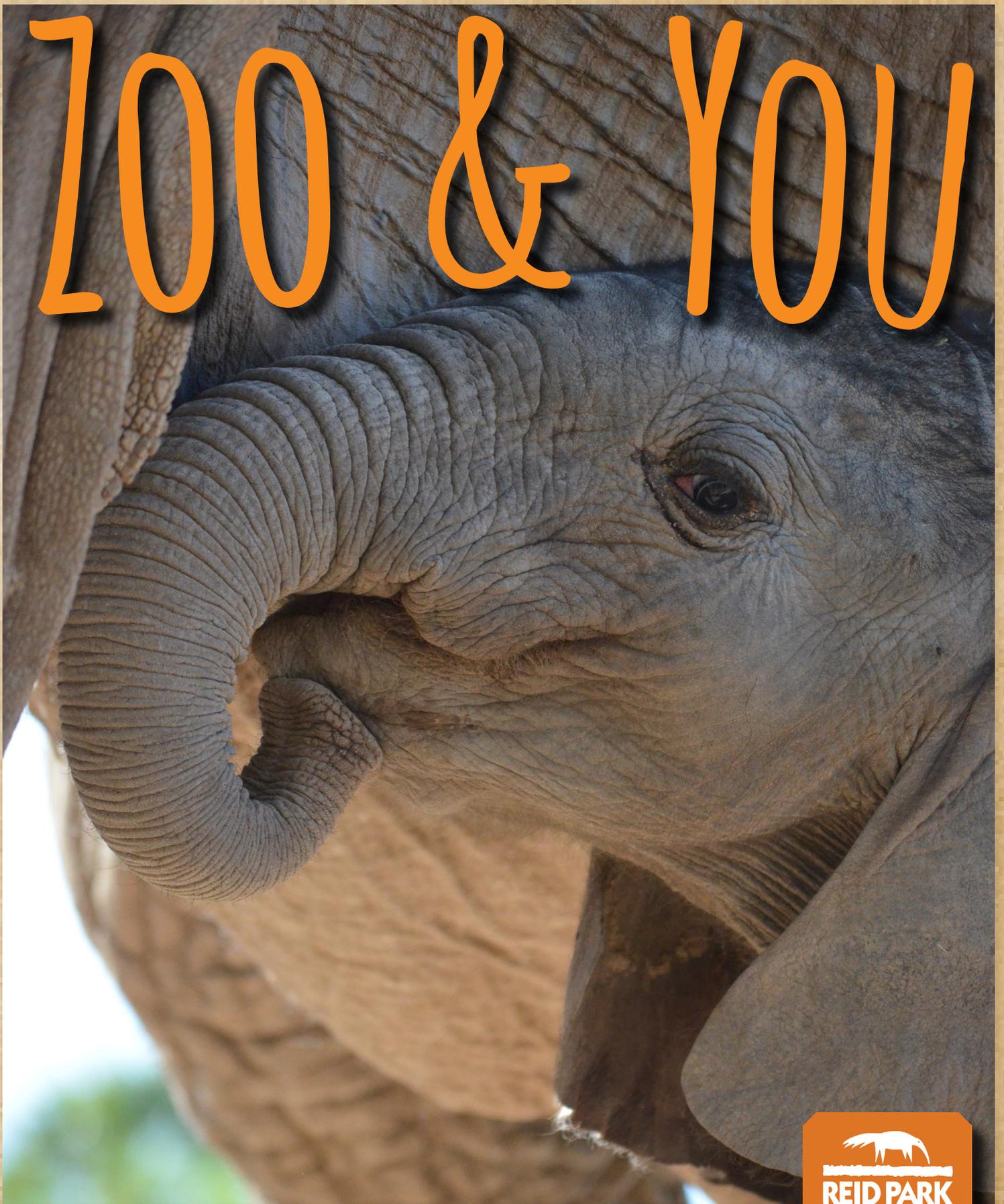


# ZOO & YOU



Spring 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.

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

**Reid Park Zoological Society**

1030 South Randolph Way  
Tucson, Arizona 85716  
P: (520) 881-4753

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Gail Brown

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1030 S Randolph Way  
Tucson, AZ 85716

**ZOO HOURS:**

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
June-September 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**To our Reid Park Zoo members,**

This has been such a difficult time for many. Our hearts go out to those affected by the COVID-19 virus in so many ways and we are especially grateful to those on the front lines in this battle. Reid Park Zoo closed to the public on March 17 and our dedicated professional staff has continued their work since that time, never compromising our commitment to providing the highest quality care to ensure the Zoo's animals are healthy and thriving.

As an organization that is responsible for the care of more than 350 animals, we routinely walk through plans for various emergencies. We have plans for if the water goes out, if there is no electricity, if there is a major weather event, and more. These plans have served us well in this emergency to give us a basic roadmap of what to do. What we have been challenged with is the ongoing uncertainty on a day-to-day basis of the situation.

One of those aspects has to be a thorough financial analysis. Again, with our huge responsibility of caring for the amazing animals at the Zoo, we have set aside reserve funds for emergencies. Many of those funds have come from planned gifts - gifts from those generous donors who wanted to make sure Reid Park Zoo thrives beyond their lifetime.

We are trying our best to stay on top of the ever-changing and often conflicting advice we see from scientists, government officials and the news. Throughout all this, it is you, our loyal members, who we think of for the long-term. Your support, whether financial or in cheering us through this, means more now than ever. We know that many of you have been affected and our hearts go out to you. We hope that some of the videos we are able to provide bring a bit of cheer during this uncertain time. And we hope that the children who are out of school can have some fun and entertainment with the worksheets our Education staff has put together.

What I do know with certainty is that when we re-open, it will be a great day. I can't wait to see the smiling faces coming through the gates and watch the children jump for joy when they see the squirrel monkeys swinging through their trees.

I look forward to seeing you on that day. Until then, be safe, be well and be sure to find something to smile about every day.

**Nancy J. Kluge**  
Reid Park Zoological Society  
President & CEO





## SOMETIMES MOMS NEED A HELPING HAND

Have you ever visited the giant anteaters in the Zoo's South America loop? Sometimes it's hard to get a good look at them if they are curled up sleeping with a giant hairy tail covering them. Their relative, the Southern Tamandua, is a similar species but lacks that coarse long hair. However, tamandua tails are equally impressive. While not as hairy, they are prehensile and can be used like an extra hand. Reid Park Zoo has a long history with breeding and raising tamandua as part of a Species Survival Plan.

On December 21, a male Southern Tamandua pup was born at Reid Park Zoo. Although his mother, Xochi, was taking excellent care of the new pup, Animal Care staff noticed a few days after his birth that he was not gaining weight and appeared to be sluggish. Staff began around the clock care: health checks and weigh-ins multiple times day and night, supplemental feedings to help him gain weight, and tracking his behavioral development.

Today, he is continuing to grow and reach many milestones! One big one: While Animal Care staff are still continuing multiple daily weigh-ins and supplemental feedings, the pup has grown enough to no longer need middle of the night care!



Staff chose the name Oso for him because he has spent so much time traveling on his plush animal which happens to be a bear (Oso is Spanish for bear). When Animal Care staff take Oso for feedings he is most comfortable riding on the plush animal, similar to his mom's back. It won't be long until Oso outgrows the plush animal bear and outgrows rides on his mom's back!

Oso is a great ambassador for his species and allows the staff to talk about threats to wild tamanduas, like habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade. Supporting sustainable harvesting from their native habitats, and understanding and speaking out against the illegal pet trade industry are a few easy ways to help protect this amazing species.

# BIGGER SPACES. SMILING FACES. UPDATE



## EXCITING NEWS FOR REID PARK ZOO'S MASTER PLAN, PHASE I

Soon, the space beside the Zoo's Conservation Learning Center will be transformed into an immersive play area that will allow kids to travel the world from their hometown! Children will travel through play areas from the frozen ice caps of the Antarctic, to the rainforest of South America and end up in the North American redwood forest. They will learn about the continents, their habitats and animals through play.

The Zoo's upcoming World of Play Adventure Zone is the recipient of two incredible community grants! Angel Charity for Children has approved a grant of \$265,000 for the Zoo. Angel Charity for Children is an amazing group of 150 devoted volunteers representing a cross-section of the Tucson community. Through innovative fundraising, these dedicated 'Angels' are committed to providing Pima County's children the vibrant future they so richly deserve. Founded in 1983, Angel Charity has helped over 1 million children in Pima County. Thank you **Angel Charity for Children!**

Zoo & You 4

The Rotary Club of Tucson donated \$35,135.61 from their 2019 Tucson Classics Car Show to the Zoo. The Rotary Club of Tucson is a dynamic group of over 250 professional men and women who share their knowledge, skills and talents in service to others. Thank you **Rotary Club of Tucson!**

Other areas of the Master Plan are also underway: repairs and maintenance continue with the paving of the backroads that are utilized by staff to travel behind-the-scenes. Construction is set to begin in April on the new flamingo habitat and the renovation of our front entry. While the Zoo is currently closed to guests, we will continue to minimize the impact of construction on our visitors once we can re-open to the public with food locations and other amenities spread throughout the Zoo.

We are excited about these projects and will keep you up to date with photos once we break ground!



# CONSERVATION

## GET OUTSIDE: IT'S GOOD FOR YOU, IT'S GOOD FOR THE PLANET!

### BUZZING FOR 50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! This milestone is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments made so far to protect wild animals and wild places, and to look forward to actions we can take for the next 50 years.

The first Earth Day took place in 1970, with over 20 million Americans lending their voices to protect our planet. This first step in our country's conservation history led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

Now as we approach the 50th celebration of Earth Day - more than a billion people around the world each year speak up for action to change human behavior and on topics such as global warming and clean energy.

As a conservation organization, Reid Park Zoo is committed to using resources in a responsible, mindful, way that protects the environment. Two years ago, Reid Park Zoo established a staff-run Green Team to reduce the impact of daily Zoo operations on the environment. Our accomplishments include reducing single-use plastic on Zoo grounds, reducing paper use, purchasing responsibly made products, producing solar energy, and building "green" buildings. You can learn more about the choices for conservation Reid Park Zoo has made and learn ways you can make those same choices by visiting [reidparkzoo.org/conservation](http://reidparkzoo.org/conservation).

Through the commitment of the passionate Green Team members, we will continue to challenge ourselves to achieve our goals, in an effort to make every day Earth Day.

**Like us, you can make every day Earth Day too by:**

**Planting native trees in your yard**  
Check out the Trees for Tucson program from Tucson Clean and Beautiful.

**Learning how to recycle properly at home**  
Discover tips on the Tucson Environmental Services Facebook page.

**Reducing use of single-use plastics**  
Bring a reusable water bottle when you visit the Zoo or bring reusable grocery bags with you to the store.

**Supporting solar and/or saving energy at home**  
Contact your local energy provider to learn how to go solar and ways to reduce your home energy use

Walking, biking, and playing outdoors keeps bodies physically well, but also stimulates the mind. Studies show that nature reduces anxiety and stress, improves mood, energy, sleep and boosts the immune system. Being out in nature also supports concentration and promotes critical thinking, creativity, and discovery in children. Spending time outdoors helps the planet too, because as we experience the world through our senses a connection to nature is formed which may lead to increased appreciation and desire to protect the Earth. Our friends at the Children and Nature Network have abundant resources available to learn more!

<https://www.childrenandnature.org/>



# It's a girl!



April 6, 2020



3:33 a.m.



295 lbs



Before the sun even rose early on Monday, April 6 Reid Park Zoo had welcomed a new addition. At 3:33 am, Semba the African elephant gave birth to a female calf, weighing 295 pounds.

“Semba appeared pretty comfortable for most of the labor, but she was moving more than a normal night and pressing her sides into the barn,” said Cassie Dodds, Elephant Care Supervisor. “Right before birth she was almost running and the calf landed on the ground quickly. Semba immediately began trying to clean the area of wet sand around the calf so she could get to her feet.”

The calf spent her first day following her mom around the elephant habitat, nursing, and getting to know her family! Nandi, her big sister, was so curious and quickly ran to greet the calf. Semba slowed her down by blocking the calf with her head and then allowed Nandi to meet, smell and gently touch her.

On Tuesday, the calf was bright, alert, and nursing well. However, the elephant care team noticed that the calf was experiencing

some diarrhea. The Zoo veterinarian had concerns about the diarrhea at this young age, so the team consulted other professionals in the field. Together they made a plan to give the calf the best chance at recovering from the diarrhea: they needed to treat her. The team worked quickly to administer fluids, antibiotics and anti diarrhea medications to the young calf while she was briefly separated from Semba. Mom and baby were reunited quickly, and we are happy to report that the calf is improving.

Now, at just over two weeks old the calf is full of energy. Her enthusiasm is unmatched. A door opens to the habitat or a different bedroom in the barn and it's a whole new adventure. She does not walk cautiously but runs from place to place. Her trunk is all over everything in her reach, even though it is not under much control. Rather than gently lying down for a rest, she bows her head, stretches her front legs forward and slides forward into a lay down. She is curious and fast moving. While bigger and maybe less coordinated than her sister, this calf is just as curious!

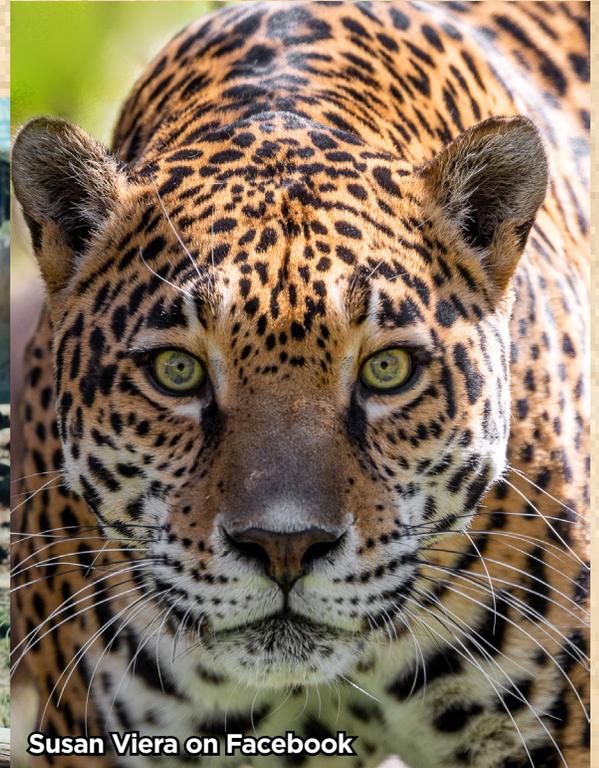


# THE ZOO BY YOU

We miss seeing your faces at the Zoo! Thank you for tagging us in photos from your visit. We look forward to being open for the community again soon.



@avery\_james106 on Instagram



Susan Viera on Facebook



@taylor\_ann\_ on Instagram



@m8m.014 on Instagram

## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

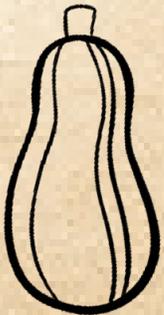
**aetna**<sup>™</sup>

Caterpillar, Inc.  
RAB Properties AZ, LLC  
The Namaki Living Trust u/d/t June 27, 2002  
Susan Denis, Realtor with Tierra Antigua Realty  
Sabbagh Tax & Accounting, LLC

## HELP FIND THE MONKEYS AND THEIR SNACKS!

Parker the squirrel monkey, our troop's only male, has been very active in recent months! Parker turned two in October, and is starting to gain more confidence in the troop. He currently has LOTS of energy and is often seen playing "tag" with Dazzle, Glitter, and Sparkles. His keepers have been giving him new, challenging puzzles to solve to keep him busy! A type of puzzle that seems to keep him occupied is one where he has to "open" or "unwrap" an object to get a treat. Keepers put a few seeds or worms in a pouch made of palm leaves, and he has to figure out how to open it in order to get the treat!

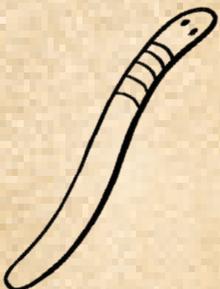
**Find all four squirrel monkeys, a strawberry, a squash, and a worm!**



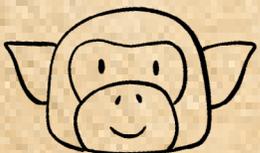
SQUASH



STRAWBERRY



WORM



SQUIRREL MONKEYS





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**ZOO  
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.....



Looking for something to pass the time at home? Let us bring the fun of the Zoo to you - virtually! Follow our website for stories from the Zoo.

**ReidParkZoo.org**