

CINCINNATI ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN

2018 DONOR
MAGAZINE. VOL. I



CORA

And Access For All



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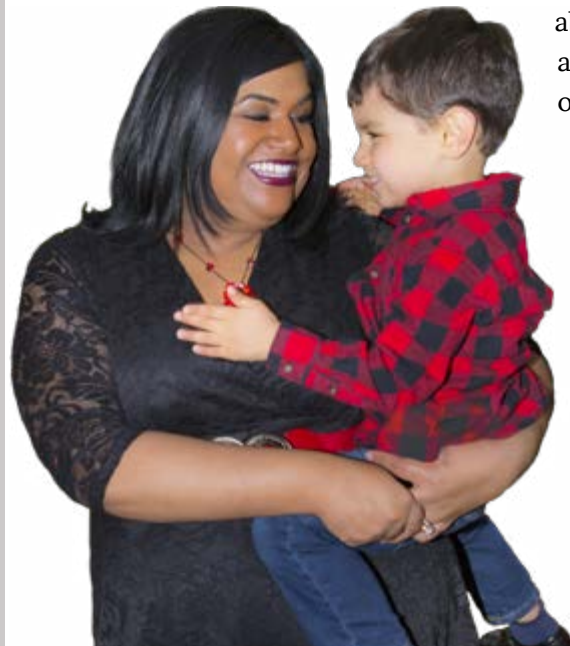
I am proud of our Zoo for so many reasons. As a young child, I visited the Zoo with my family. From grade school through high school, I eagerly looked forward to field trips. For my college cultural anthropology class paper, I observed Japanese macaques, bonobos and gibbons for two full days. And who could forget summer date nights at the Zoo with my husband?

While these are some of my favorite memories, since I became a mom in 2014, treasures like the Zoo – places that spark wonder and curiosity in children – mean even more to me. Watching our three children make their way through the park, staring with wide-eyed wonder and laughing with excitement at each new discovery, fills me with joy.

Our elder son has autism spectrum disorder. While I worry about each of my children like any mother, I'm always watchful for challenges specific to him. I'm grateful that our Zoo, its leadership, staff, and volunteers, recognize that these challenges are real and watch for these things, too. They show tremendous commitment to making sure every person, of any age or ability, can have a great experience.

This commitment is growing in an incredible way. As an organization, we are taking a huge step forward with our "Access for All" effort. Our Visitor Services team has visited parks around the country and met extensively with local families and professionals, many of whom are facing the challenges of developmental disabilities. They're taking the best of what they've discovered and making it part of our Zoo. We aim to be the most accessible Zoo in the country.

It is my fondest wish that every child in Cincinnati gets the opportunity to visit the Zoo and be inspired by wildlife. Please enjoy this issue of our donor magazine, which highlights some of the ways that we strive to give everyone, of every ability, a great experience; from our accessible Giraffe Ridge (page 2) to our forthcoming calming rooms.



And we couldn't do any of this wonderful work without you. Thank you for supporting our Zoo.

Reba George Dysart
Chief Development Officer

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Since November 2012, the Zoo's Living Classroom Education Access Fund (LCEAF) has provided nearly 70,000 deserving students and their teachers with free, science-based educational programming at the Zoo, leveling the playing field for schools in our community.



Photo Fran Carlisle



Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, Nairobi, Kenya Photo Aaron Davis

Access for All

We talk a lot about native Cincinnatians bringing their families to the Zoo generation after generation. But it's great to know that newcomers to the Queen City feel like part of the Zoo family, too.

Jenny Jansen, with her family of four, moved to Cincinnati in 2015 so her husband could take a new job. All of them, including 14-year-old Erin and 12-year-old Jack, love learning about animals. "We learn something new every single time we come to the zoo," Jenny says. "The Zoo treats the animals with so much love and care, and this shines through in every conversation we have with keepers, staff, and volunteers. We feel as though we are part of the 'Zoo family!'"

Unfortunately, Jenny's husband was laid off last year. "I was very worried that we wouldn't be able to renew our membership to the Zoo. It's difficult to imagine our lives without that connection to the Zoo, but I couldn't justify the cost when we were having trouble paying basic bills," Jenny says.

That's when the Zoo was just launching Access for All, a program that extends discounted admission and membership to families with limited income. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience and cultivate a positive connection to wildlife and wild places. So with this program, we hope to include all members of our community regardless of economic status or other limiting factors.

"When I heard about the Zoo Access for All program, it was a godsend. For us, it was further

proof that the Zoo cares not just for the animals, but also for the people in the community."

This active bunch also frequents the Cincinnati Museum of Art, public libraries in the area, arts and craft fairs, and local seasonal festivals, and they're active in their church, too. They still find plenty of time for the Zoo, though. "We have gone to special member events, volunteered for family community service days, spent the night as part of a school group, and participated in a focus group for the Wings of the World renovations," Jenny recounts.

"The Zoo has totally changed how we see the world--we are far more ecologically conscious, and we feel a personal investment in the success of the species we have come to know through our visits to the Zoo."

Families like theirs bring the vibrancy and enthusiasm that make our Zoo special. The relationship we have with our community is integral to our mission, and the Jansen family perfectly reflects that!

Making All Voices Heard

Jenny Jansen was among several parents who spoke about their experiences with the Zoo at a hearing with the Hamilton County Commissioners in early 2018. The hearing was to determine whether voters would get to decide on increasing the Zoo's property tax levy.

She talked about how grateful she was that her family gets to enjoy the Zoo. Another mom talked about how much our education programs have shaped the life of her son, who has Autism. He has been attending classes here for several years and it has taught him focus and sparked a true passion for wildlife. Other parents shared how much the Zoo has touched their family's lives, including people of all ages and abilities.



The Zoo strives to make ALL families feel like part of OUR pride.

Photo DJJAM

Close Enough to Care

The young girl's face is a mix of apprehension and wonder as she moves closer to the giant head of a giraffe looking at her over the railing. Its eye is as big as her fist. A member of the Wild Encounters team, clad in a green Zoo polo shirt, stands smiling with a bucket of lettuce leaves. The child's grandmother pushes the six-year-old child

To say a giraffe is an incredible animal doesn't convey their majesty, their beauty, and their personalities, things you can't fully appreciate until you're up close with one.

in her wheelchair, checking in as she goes. "Are you ready to feed the giraffe, Riley?" she asks. The child nods. "She's been so excited to do this," her grandmother says, "but when she saw them up close she got a little nervous."

Riley is nonverbal and needs help getting around, but she's just like thousands of other kids and adults who display a whole range of emotions when they reach the gazebo at Giraffe Ridge. The Zoo team

member hands her a lettuce leaf and shows her what to do. Since reaching the railing is a stretch, she can simply hold the leaf to the fence and Tessa will pull it through with her enormous tongue. As this happens, Riley gasps then smiles so big it looks like her face might burst. Grandma, so caught up in the moment, has forgotten to get out her camera. "Wait! I want to take a picture of the next one," she declares. The team member offers to take the picture, so that both Riley and Grandma can be in it. In the coming months, Grandma will show that picture to everyone she meets.

The Zoo offers giraffe feeding daily from mid-March to late October. Giraffe feeding is truly an experience for everyone. It's not just little girls who light up. It's babies in their parents' arms, boisterous school groups, tribes of teenaged friends, middle aged couples, elderly folks, people of every color and culture, from Mennonites to Chinese tourists, English-speaking or not, and individuals with all ranges of ability.

Construction of Giraffe Ridge kicked off the Africa exhibit back in 2007. Its giraffe-level deck is accessible by ramps from either side, one from the main path and one descending toward the rest of

Africa near the flamingoes and lions. From the gazebo, guests get face-to-face with the four adults in the herd, Tessa, Kimba, Jambo, and Cece. It won't be long before Cora and Zoey can reach the deck, too.

To say a giraffe is an incredible animal doesn't convey their majesty, their beauty, and their personalities, things you can't fully appreciate until you're up close with one. You don't even have to be able to see them. A blind woman broke into tears at the sensation of Kimba's breath on her arm and his wet tongue brushing her hand.

Sometimes retirement-aged people walk up and say things like, "I don't have a child with me or anything, but this is on my bucket list." No problem! Teenagers who are clearly over hanging out with their parents all day can't resist a grin.

For some people, for example those with sensory issues, feeding a giraffe can become overwhelming. That's okay, too. A team member might show that person a good spot to stand and observe while others feed, or suggest that they feed one of the more "dainty" eaters if possible. (Kimba's lack of "table manners" can be a bit much for anyone.) Zoo leadership ensures that all staff and volunteers—not just those at Giraffe Ridge—learn to welcome and accommodate all kinds of visitors.

So this spring and summer, be sure to put giraffe feeding on your agenda when you visit the Zoo. Whoever you are and whomever you bring, these gentle giants will give you an experience you won't forget.



Monica and Isabella Battle feed Kimba
Photo Cassandre Crawford



Extended Family

YOU REALIZE WHEN YOU TRAVEL THAT PEOPLE ARE PRETTY SIMILAR ALL OVER THE WORLD,” SHEILA COLE SAYS. “ALL THE MOMS AND DADS JUST WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE HAPPY AND HEALTHY AND EVERYONE WANTS TO BE LOVED AND RESPECTED FOR WHO THEY ARE.”

Travel has shaped Sheila’s life but life always seems to bring her back to the Cincinnati Zoo. This warm and generous woman talks about the Zoo as if the animals and staff are all part of her large, extended family. Now a member of our Board of Trustees, she first visited as a child and even worked a couple of summers at the Zoo during her teens.

Sheila recalls, “Back then King Tut in the ape house was the big attraction, along with the elephants.” Years later, she would fall in love with giraffes. She was on a safari led by the Zoo in 2011. She tells the story: “We were leaving the town for our first encounter in the wild. We were

Photo: Cassandre Crawford

in jeeps looking for wild animals. I was the first to see a herd of giraffes on the hillside. It was thrilling! They are so graceful and beautiful.”

The youngest child in a big family, she credits her parents with this sense of adventure. Her parents drove the family all over the country, instilling a sense of “excitement about going places.” As a young adult, her love of travel grew when she worked for the airlines, visiting wonderful places all over the globe.

Some of her favorite destinations include Costa Rica, where she woke up to the sounds of monkeys calling, and the Galapagos Islands where she marvelled at the incredible biodiversity. She’s taken whale watching trips in Alaska, Hawaii, Maine and her favorite encounter in Cabo. She recommends the wonderful beaches of Rio de Janeiro. Here in the U.S., she’s visited multiple national parks with her husband and children, seeing bears, moose, bighorn sheep and much more.

Sometime after that African safari, “the fantastic, knowledgeable Thane,” as she calls him, mentioned the Zoo’s desire to bring in more female giraffes. “After seeing them in the wild, you understand that a male usually accompanies an entire herd of females,” she says. “So my husband Chris and I helped bring the two younger females, Cece and Jambo, here.” The newcomers joined the male, Kimba, and a slightly older female, Tessa.

Sheila feels a bond especially with Jambo (rhymes with combo) whom she named. “Jambo means hello,” she explains, “I named her Jambo so anyone visiting the Zoo would learn to say hello in Swahili.” Cece is named for Sheila’s husband, Chris, whose initials are C.C.

“Jambo is pretty friendly. Being prey animals, they’re usually skittish, but thanks to our Zoo’s giraffe feeding experience they’ve become comfortable with people.” After the completion of Giraffe Ridge, the Zoo began offering the feeding experience and it’s become one of the most popular attractions during the warm months. “It’s very

special,” says Sheila. “People can have this amazing encounter with a wild African animal. Giraffes will actually make eye contact while eating lettuce out of your hand. They have this adorable face, these long eyelashes, and this fantastic long tongue.”

She adds that Jambo is the most genetically valuable giraffe in the AZA’s Species Survival Plan. Jambo gave birth to her daughter Zoey just two months after Cece gave birth to Cora. “I’m officially a grandmother,” laughs Sheila.

“Giraffes seem to be family oriented. They’re good moms,” she says of Cece and Jambo, adding, “Tessa [also] takes care of Cora and Zoey like



Cora's heart

they’re her own.”

The Zoo brings together Sheila’s two fondest loves, animals and children. “There’s something about animals that people connect with, particularly younger kids. There is a bond that we have with animals. There’s total acceptance, no pressure.”

She adds, “Children--and many adults--don’t often get to travel to exotic places, but when you visit the Zoo the world comes to you. I think that makes

us all a bit more interconnected. On any given day, walking around the Zoo, you see all kinds of people there. It’s one destination in Cincinnati that can accommodate all the differences whether it’s age, physical ability, or emotional ability.”

A true advocate for our organization, Sheila hosts numerous private parties and behind-the-scenes animal encounters. “I love to make sure that family and friends appreciate the Zoo,” she says. “I also highly recommend going on any trip organized by the Zoo. You can’t travel with better experts.”

Her friendship with Thane Maynard has grown over the years as Sheila and Chris have faithfully supported the Zoo. She says, “Thane and his team are the reason we have such an incredible Zoo. Thane is such a wonderful man, and he attracts wonderful people to work with him.”

Sheila’s generosity extends throughout Cincinnati. She is on the board of the Cincinnati Opera and a member of Tiffany Circle, which raises money for American Red Cross. She and her husband sponsored the baby giraffe on Carol Ann’s Carousel at Smale park downtown.

So is there any place Sheila has yet to visit? “Plenty of places,” she says. “Later this year, I am travelling to Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.” And she would love, eventually, to see some Australian animals like koalas, kangaroos, and Tasmanian devils at our Zoo. Maybe one day that can happen.

In the meantime, we’re all incredibly grateful for Sheila and Chris and we think of their generosity each time we see Cece and Jambo sauntering gracefully across the giraffe yard.



Photo Aaron Davis

Cincinnati Zoo International Travel Program Kenya Trip, 2017

From the Heart

Corazon would like to thank you for supporting the Zoo, from the bottom of her enormous heart!

She got her name because of the heart-shaped spot on her left shoulder. The word "corazon" is Spanish for "heart." But you can call her Cora.



Photo: Aaron Davis

Acceptance for All

“**M**ental health is the leprosy of modern-day,” according to my friend Tyler Pettigrew, a pastor in West Chester and former director of our region’s largest soup kitchen. In ancient times, it was believed that leprosy, a painful infectious disease that can cause loss of extremities, was a curse and highly contagious. Those who had it were shunned and quarantined outside of society. Now we know that leprosy isn’t highly contagious, and is treatable. Science today teaches that mental health, while sometimes environmental, can happen to anyone and is also treatable. Charlie Shor (pictured left with his horse Dallas) knows how profoundly the stigma of a disability can affect the way others see you.

Aaron Davis, M.Ed. Special Education

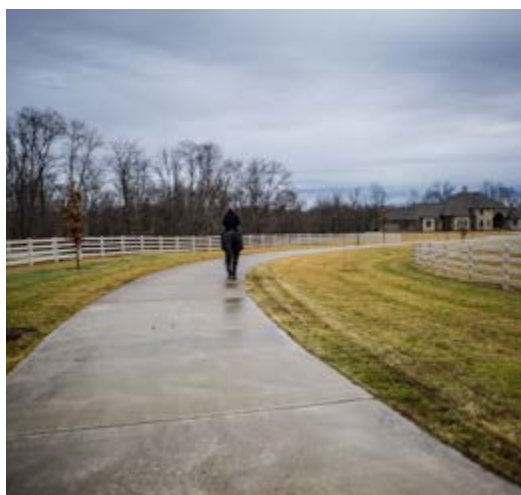


Photo Fran Carlisle

Aaron receives animal therapy at the Grayvik Pet Care Center, Key Largo, Florida

I (Aaron) have been diagnosed with a type of anxiety disorder. For years I refused to get treatment or believe that I had a problem. For many, diagnosis can make it difficult to receive affordable insurance, keep a stable job, or even get promotions at work. At minimum, knowledge of it can cause acquaintances to treat me differently. Yet, after years of struggle and through the encouragement of friends, I finally went to the University of Cincinnati's Lindner Center of Hope for treatment -- a decision that saved my marriage!

Successful businessman and philanthropist Charlie Shor can relate. At twenty-five years old, he experienced his first seizure. Soon after, he was diagnosed with epilepsy, a neurological disability that can cause seizures and unusual behavior. These episodes greatly affected his life and those close to him.

As Charlie sees it, many years ago at onset of the disease, the only treatment being prescribed

was medication. It helped, but it was addictive and wasn't working as promised. A kid in medical school warned him that a lifestyle change was needed more than medicine, but Charlie didn't listen. In Charlie's case that meant coping with stress and changing his environment. This wasn't easy and to put it mildly, his job and responsibilities were intensive. He bought Duro Bag, a company that was near bankruptcy, and was able to guide it to becoming the largest producer and supplier of paper bags in the world. With 2,500 employees, the stress of work and constant achievement was creating all sorts of health problems, which made addressing his epilepsy even more complicated. Medication became an addiction. He needed a reboot to make life work again. In his case, this didn't happen until retirement, but better late than never. Today he studies nutrition and diet solutions to help with epilepsy. And- thankfully, because of Charlie's love of helping others, finding economic solutions for vulner-

able and low-income populations, and therapeutic horseback riding, many are benefitting from his life's second act.

As Charlie began to meet with former Zoo staff Russ Doyle, he learned that his love of animals and desire to serve families of those with disabilities could co-exist at the Zoo. Riding and caring for horses gives him perspective on his disability, and he knows the power that animals have to reduce stress and teach empathy for others. It came to Charlie's attention that some kids can't afford to come to the Zoo. By making a gift to the Zoo's Living Classroom Education Access Fund (LCEAF) from his foundation, he made it possible for low-income children to have an amazing Zoo experience -- and one that they will remember for life.

Charlie saw an opportunity to do even more with his gift. He and others at the Charles L. Shor Foundation for Epilepsy Research understand the challenges that those with similar and different disabilities faced. Overstimulation, crowds, lack of quiet space -- things that many enjoy about the Zoo -- could make it a stressful place for those with a disability. The Zoo worked together with Charlie to create a Disabilities Awareness Day at the Zoo -- which will happen as soon as the Zoo has the infrastructure and training in place to make it a success.

According to Harvard Psychologist Jill Hooley on NPR's *Invisibilia* podcast, science has lately been showing us that the best fix for loved ones with certain disabilities is to not criticize them or try to fix them. Says Hooley, "in our fully recovered depressed participants, when they heard criticism from their mothers, there was less activation in an area of the brain called the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex" - a brain region that can help regulate emotion. It's been shown that once someone has received treatment for anxiety, depression, or even schizophrenia and had success, they are much more likely to recover if they don't receive criticism, hostility, or emotional overinvolvement. Treat loved ones nor-

mally, and they will be much more likely to recover or at least live a happier and more fulfilling life.

The message to all of us is clear. If we provide those with disabilities, whether mild or severe, mental or developmental, an opportunity to experience all the Zoo has to offer, similar to any of our guests, we can give them the acceptance, dignity, and love that we all deserve.

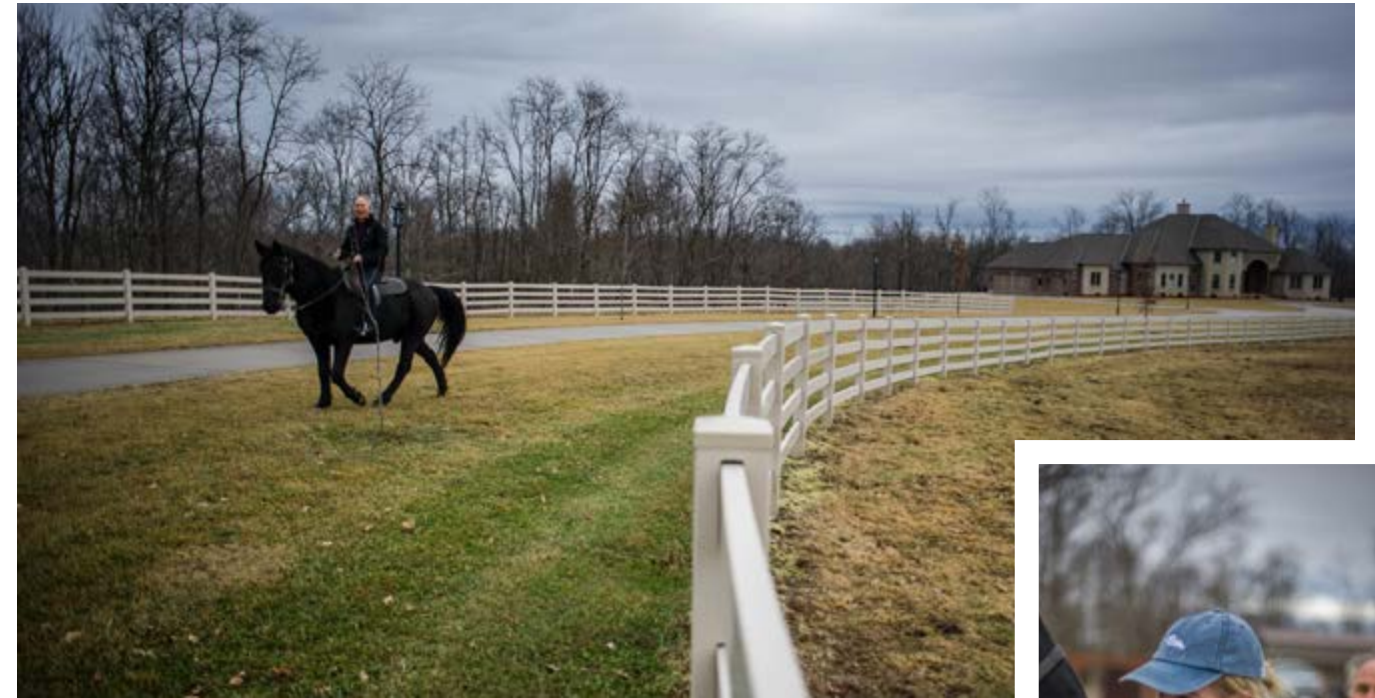
As Charlie was helping to create experiences for kids, the Zoo's Vice President of Visitor Experience and Fun, Rhiannon Hoeweler, was formulating a project in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to help our Zoo become the most accessible zoo in America. Together with the Zoo's Grants Manager Jane Horine, they wrote and the Zoo was awarded a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Over three years the grant will provide \$415,852 to help us become a more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive zoo for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

To help us implement the needed changes, we have assembled an advisory council made up of 20 families. Cincinnati Children's Hospital helped us make connections in the community. With their help, our goal is to gain input from families representing a full range of developmental disabilities.

The council has already proposed the addition of adult changing tables in Zoo restrooms and calming rooms for children with sensory stimulation issues.

With input from Cincinnati Children's, all of the Zoo's full-time staff, as well as 75 seasonal employees and 50 volunteers, will receive training. Together, we will prepare individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for better engagement at the Zoo. We will also test and evaluate what works and what doesn't and share those results with others who can learn from our experience.

The result of this work will be a Zoo staff that better understands the unique needs of those with a wide range of needs and disabilities. We will be able



to welcome even more members of our community with the same smile and service that we give to all.

Today, Charlie is doing what he can to make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities. He funds an organization in Israel that uses horseback riding therapy and funds many epilepsy research organizations. Says Charlie, "those without disabilities often only look at you as if something is wrong with you. Kids with disabilities already look at themselves as lost. The social stigma makes it worse. They all ask the question, *why did this happen to me?*"

But he believes we can flip the script. Just because things like that can happen, doesn't mean that other things can't happen. The seizures could have kept him from being one of our region's most successful businessmen. The Zoo could have seen efforts to accommodate and provide more access as too expensive. But none of these things happened. Charlie has been successful with epilepsy. Because of his generosity and resolve, he is helping others have success in many ways.

We all look forward to a special day at the Zoo later this year, among the many new changes for those with developmental disabilities. Charlie's giving inspires us. He encouraged me to write this article and share my own struggle with anxiety. His connection with horses reminds us of the health and well-being that respectful relationships with animals can have for each of us.

It doesn't matter how much money you have or if others see you as powerful or popular. More important is that you accept others for who they are, and others accept you. This is our hope for this new program and those it will benefit. At the Zoo, we can all belong.

Since 2012, the **Living Classroom Education Access Fund** (LCEAF) a.k.a “EL-seeef” has provided nearly **70,000** deserving students and their teachers with free, science-based educational programming at the Zoo. You may want to be seated when you hear this. We’ve now discovered that more than 20 % of the participating schools had never attended a field trip to the Zoo before. It’s no exaggeration to say that, over the last 5 years, the LCEAF has leveled the playing field for schools in our community. Because of it, field trips are no longer a luxury that only affluent schools can afford. For \$130, you can send an entire class of 20 students to the Zoo. We believe that every kid should experience the Zoo at least once in their lifetime. At \$6.50 a kid, wouldn’t that be awesome!

YES



Play Video 1

Click yes to donate



Cora the Explorer

Destination Jinga, Uganda. Winding roads sped on dangerously, if you or I could have called them roads. A truck slammed into the back of the all-terrain vehicle. Disorientation rushed through bodies like a rag-doll. Violently, the Jeep flipped down the hill. The almost-trusted local guide and scrappy posse climbed out to face the offenders. Fight averted, but she was in too much pain to watch. Dr. Cora Ogle, the only American for



Article and Photos by Aaron Davis

ART VAN DEN LOOP DER RIVIERE MENAM

Opposite page - Left to right: 1. Berber ceramic pottery. Morocco, 1990's. 2. Wiseman representing wealth and prosperity. Backstreet Beijing, 1980's. 3. Lion. Chiang Rai, Thailand, 1990's. 4. Copper ceremonial monk horn made of copper. Nepal, 1990's. 5. Cora Ogle in Thai jacket. Chiang Mai, Thailand. 6. Cora in a dancer's headdress. Bangkok, Thailand, 1990's. 7. Berber ceramic pottery. Morocco. 8. Chinese bronze horse, commemorates the time when Cora's 18 hand horse Tonka was bitten on the backside by a horsefly. He then threw her four feet in the air. She broke five ribs upon landing. Cincinnati, Ohio, 2000's. 9. "Bula Bula" elephant made of melted oyster shells. Fiji. This page: Tomb artifact from the Valley of the Kings. Cora traded a local boy her watch for this sculpture depicting the burial of a pharaoh.

miles, couldn't get out. Men reached into the cab and lifted her, through the throbbing pain.

A week ago, Cora was fancy feasting in Paris -- land of crème brûlée and petit macarons -- for a wedding -- and thereafter scheduled to arrive in Cincinnati. Changing plans, by sky-voyage, she continent-hopped to surprise her Cincinnati friends. Two days later, she found them at a local Tanzanian market. "Bonjour! La Trouvaille! What a lovely surprise!!!...it's Cora the Explorer!" Sue Lawrence thought the reunion marvelous and invited Cora to join her to go to Rwanda to see the highly endangered mountain gorillas. Cora ferried a separate coach across the border. Sue never made it through customs, despite extensive plans. Undiscouraged, Dr. Ogle decided to press on. The steep jungle terrain was grueling but soon rewarded her with one of the most fascinating animal encounters of her life. On the morrow, with sore muscles, she hiked again. The wind, now humid, rushed through the dense canopy and carried her north to Uganda... which is where she was now, in an overturned Jeep.

Cora has the type of presence that causes friends to loosen up and be themselves. Intellectually brilliant, she sometimes has a habit of stirring curiosity even in the most settled of souls. Cora's name was popularized from the heroine in James Fenimore Cooper's classic novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. It's also my (Aaron's) favorite 90's movie. Who can forget wild-haired Daniel Day Lewis running through the forest, with scenes of epic cinematography breathlessly moving with rushing heartbeat in buckskin leather. Often, when hiking, whether Pisgah National Forest or the local nature preserve, I leave the trail. Though less athletic these days, I'm a youth again, and twenty pounds lighter. My joints stop hurting. I jump nimbly across rocks, fallen trees, and through the thorny mist of underbrush without missing a step or spraining an ankle. The epic soundtrack from the screenplay plays in my head, choreographing my steps and filling my eyes. That's

the best I know how to describe what it's like to be around Cora.

Since Rwanda borders Uganda, Cora thought this was the chance to see the source of the Nile. At 4,132 miles the Nile is the longest river on earth. Starting at the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda, it meanders through warring nations, the Valley of the Kings, and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Perhaps it's the birthplace of civilization as we know it. From the start her new guide left her at the Rwanda/Uganda border, alone and without communication. Thankfully, he returned hours later with a permit to enter. They drove for hours. That's when the truck hit them.

After the men pulled her out, they found a ride to a nearby doctor. The doctor wasn't allowed to treat Christians. After intense negotiation between her swashbuckling guide and the apprehensive doctor, a deal was made. Due to the covert nature of the transaction, a local street guy was called over and asked to hold the X-ray screen. She was asked to take off her top for the procedure. And... Her right arm was broken...top returned...spirit intact. Luggage stolen, but she kept going. Going. Going. Over mountains, oceans, and toward the horizon.

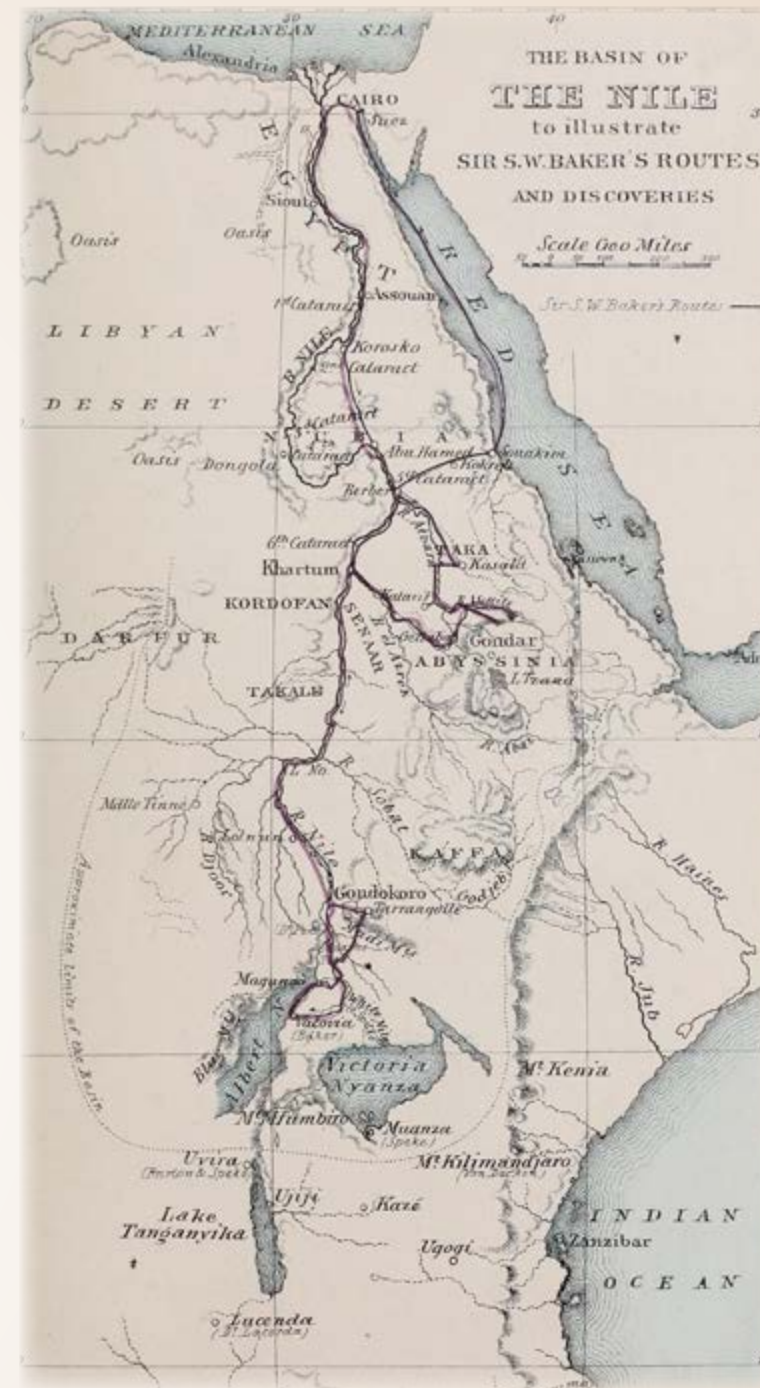
Cora and I meandered around her condo the week before Christmas, the year of Fiona and hope. She poured me a black cup of coffee. It was of the instant variety, which I'd last tasted at an overpriced curio travel shop in Western Kenya. Hundreds of artifacts were scattered about her condo, each with adventures and stories, increasingly fantastic. We evaluated artifacts to photograph. From the Nile, from China, from Mongolia, Nepal, and so on. My eye settled on a golden headdress from Bangkok, Thailand.

"Cora, since we are going to tell a story about Africa, let's photo curios of the East." To which she gladly brought more symbols than we could pose. We moved the Christmas tree, laden with ornaments, some knit, stitched, some dolls, that her grandmother placed on trees, now living in memories. Ornaments fell off as I accidentally broke

the pole. That would have been the perfect photojournalistic shot as Cora and I strained through sweat to get it back together again.

We gathered our eastern theme in the middle of the living room for the natural light. After sunlight's rays departed for a scheduled noontime ascent over the Ohio River, we tried different poses from multiple angles. Archimedes, her nineteen-year-old orange cat companion, joined the occasion. As he curled in her arms, with heartfelt charm, he spoke of his love for a doctor who treks to faraway lands without him. She brings him beautiful world treasures for his den.

Of all the items in this photo, one stands out. It's a rare treasure, a golden-topping show-stopping piece that can only be found in Cincinnati. Dr. Cora Ogle. Retired from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, her work as a research professor has saved lives and brings happiness to all who know her. Though it's been years, she still misses her late husband Jim, with whom she traveled for decades. And just by being herself and moving forward she courageously brings us closer to the world, nature, and each other. It's this spirit of spontaneity and surprise that continues to endear her to us. So, here's to Cincinnati Zoo Board member and our friend, Cora the Explorer. May your best adventures be yet to come.



Epilogue

At time of writing, Cora is traveling to South America with Zoo friends Paula Comisar and Linda Maier. Since the Uganda incident, she has cruised down the Mekong River and trekked Hanoi. To evade pirates, she traveled four days by darkened ship from Rome to Abu Dhabi - Yemen port side and Somali starboard. She's heard the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in Edinburgh, Scotland and Hong Kong. To name a few, she has returned to Laos, Thailand, Singapore. Last summer she visited Harapan, the Sumatran Rhino, born at the Cincinnati Zoo and critical to his species' survival in south Sumatra. As Cora has run out of space for large treasures to bring home for Archimedes, she has resolved to only gift smaller items. He is ok with that.

Year-Round Access

As a zoo, our business is caring for animals. Our team members have learned to observe animals, study their needs, and adapt however possible to improve their lives. Working in a zoo takes empathy. So it makes sense that we're deepening our ability to accommodate the varying and changing needs of human beings, too.

The new Gorilla World was built to balance the changing needs of two closely related species: *homo sapiens* and *gorilla*. We share 98% of our DNA with those hulking, hairy fellow primates. With our thumbs, binocular vision, and numerous other similarities, we're prone to many of the same ailments including the effects of aging.

“Gorilla World features a wide range of new features that encourage natural behavior and choice . . .”

Samantha, one of the first gorillas born here at our Zoo, celebrated her 48th birthday on January 31. Some others aren't far behind. Gorillas in human care tend to live well beyond their 35-year wild life expectancy, some reaching into their fifties. Sharing all of those traits with humans means that, like us, they experience more barriers to mobility as they age.

Gorilla World features a wide range of new features that encourage natural behavior and choice for the animals. But another important aspect in its design was accessibility for aging gorillas. For example, they can access their “bedrooms” via staircases now instead of ladders, which is easier on older joints and bones. The deep mulch substrate provides a softer surface to walk on. As always, our gorillas (as well as other animals) are trained to voluntarily participate in routine medical procedures using operant conditioning. This new facility even features special built-in sleeves for measuring blood pressure and drawing blood.

We want our humans to benefit from the experience, too. The new habitat is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, indoors and out. The viewing windows are nice and low so people of all heights, including those who use wheelchairs, can see easily.

As our Zoo moves toward its 150th anniversary, we will build all new projects with an eye to accessibility for all species. We will adapt to the needs of those who live here and those who visit.



Photos by: Fran Carlisle (top), Amber Davies (bottom, left), Lisa Hubbard (bottom right)

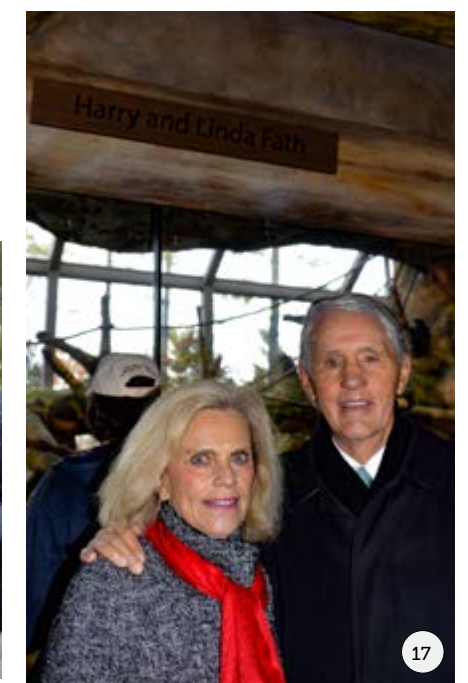


Gorilla World Ribbon Cutting

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden welcomed our donor family to the unveiling of the new Gorilla World indoor exhibit, which allows year-round access.



- 1) Joseph and Laura Haas
- 2) Karen Crane, Mary Farmer, Reba George Dysart, Scott Farmer
- 3) Craig, Alexander, and Anne Maier
- 4) Linda Marlow, Laura Dunderman, Jim Marlow, Lisa Prather
- 5) Rhiannon Hoeweler, David Jenike, Margaret Lafley, Eileen Barrett
- 6) Theo Tucker and Linda Cajka
- 7) Kevin Jones and Dewitt Cook
- 8) Thane Maynard, Harry Fath, Eric Ragland
- 9) Nick and Marty Ragland, Harry and Linda Fath
- 10) Pete Ragland, Erin Ragland, Nick and Joelle Ragland



- 11) Elisabeth, Cheryl, Jeremy and Reagan Hilton
- 12) Mary and Scott Farmer
- 13) Jan Portman, Craig Young, and W. Stuart Dornette
- 14) David and Linda Stentz
- 15) Thane Maynard, Carol Horn, and Ron Evans
- 16) Adam Lane, Maureen Lane, and Nicholas Lane
- 17) Linda and Harry Fath
- 18) Coleen Ireton and Ruth Bucher
- 19) Honorees cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the new Gorilla World Indoor Exhibit

Survival for All

It was just months after we welcomed the two most recent additions to our giraffe herd, Corazon (Cora) and Zoey, that we learned that their species is experiencing a “silent extinction.” The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added giraffes to the Red List of Threatened Species in 2016.

Giraffes have lost significant habitat to human population growth. Drought increasingly threatens the savanna as global temperatures become more unstable. Wild populations have dropped by 30% in the last 10 years. That makes our involvement with the giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP) all the more important.

Through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), we partner with other zoos seeking to sustain a healthy giraffe population in the U.S. In the interest of protecting genetic diversity, AZA zoos move giraffe among institutions to create the best breeding matches. That is why not all babies born at our Zoo stay for life – they have an important role to play! No announcement has been made about our current herd, but any decision we make will be in the interest of saving this magnificent species.

We want to keep giraffes around for many future generations to enjoy, whether on safari in Africa or in their own hometown.

Legacy for All

Betty and Morse Johnson frequently brought their children to the Zoo when they were growing up, not only to visit the animals but also to see the Opera, which performed on site from 1920–1971. You may recognize the name Morse Johnson, the founding president of Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. A family who cared about both the arts and wildlife, they taught their children the value of giving back.

Daughters Beth and Judith both became teachers and dedicated decades of their lives to helping young people grow and thrive. Betty passed away a few years after suffering a major stroke, and directed an estate gift to the Zoo. She left the decision to her daughters as to what the gift would fund.

As teachers, Beth and Judith understand the need to provide children with a supportive environment. They chose to direct their mother’s gift toward creating a calming room at the Zoo.

As part of the Zoo’s drive to welcome people with physical and cognitive disabilities, Zoo leaders have visited other parks that provide calming rooms. These quiet spaces allow a child who is struggling with emotions or overstimulation to rest and recover. Such a resource can “save the day” for a family whose child faces challenges with visiting a fun but busy place like our Zoo.

We are grateful to the Johnson family and their dedication to the Zoo. Because of them, many families may reap the full enjoyment of a Zoo visit.

To choose the best way to ensure your legacy helps the Zoo, please contact the Zoo’s Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy, Sally Alspaugh at Sally.Alspaugh@cincinnatiatizoo.org or (513) 487-3342



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- 1) Janet Manning and Judy Bradford
- 2) Aaron Davis and Richard Behrman
- 3) Dave and Erica Johnson and Lisa and Raju Patel
- 4) Maribeth and Martin Rahe
- 5) Event Chairs, John and Eileen Barrett
- 6) Laura and Joseph Haas
- 7) Derbhile and Robert Levin
- 8) David Jenike, Eileen Barrett, Reba George Dysart, Christina Anderson
- 9) Jeralyn and Bill Barrett, D. J. Hildebrand, John Ruthven
- 10) Dr. Dotty Shaffer
- 11) Local artist Billy Tackett creates custom splatter artwork to be auctioned at event
- 12) Brenda and Len Weakley
- 13) 2017 Event Chairs, John and Eileen Barrett, on stage with Zoo Director Thane Maynard

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every kid in our region
can experience
science come to life.

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