

May 2016 - April 2017

ANNUAL REPORT

President’s Message

Dear Friends, Supporters and Donors,

As a member of our extended Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Family, you have likely heard the term “defining moments.” These are moments facilitated by our staff that allow our guests to experience something special while at the Zoo. These experiences help to clarify not only how a guest feels about an animal, but what they will do to ensure its survival in our world. Not only were we able to facilitate more defining moments than ever due to record-setting attendance last year, we also created a ripple effect. Those moments contribute to more conservation opportunities, and solidify CMZ’s dedication to our mission.

We have set Zoo attendance records the last three years — a fact we’re exceedingly proud of. We believe this is a result of constantly striving to improve, as well as continuing to provide the best guest experience via our incredible staff. We have also been keeping an eye on the 40 percent increase of adult guests attending without children. Our Zoo has something for everyone – a fact that we hold true as we look toward future growth.

Creating something for everyone is the goal for a new exhibit funded by “Making Waves,” our current capital campaign. We’re just \$260,000 shy of our \$10.4 million goal to build new, state-of-the-art habitats for our hippos, penguins, gazelles, lemurs and more. We’re also excited to say this project will include a new and improved EdVenture building to accommodate and increase our animal and outdoor-themed education programs for children.

We welcomed many wonderful new animal ambassadors in the past year, but the biggest — and soon to be tallest — addition came at the very end of the fiscal year. We all refer to baby Rae as our “ray of sunshine,” and that couldn’t be more apt. This little giraffe continues to grow strong and interact beautifully with her mom, Msitu, and the rest of the herd. As the 199th giraffe born at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo since 1954, Rae is representative of our historic, successful legacy of giraffe breeding, husbandry and conservation efforts.

Our extensive experience with giraffe helped the Denver Zoo with a male giraffe calf that needed a lifesaving plasma transfusion. Led by Dr. Liza Dadone, our veterinary staff donated giraffe plasma from our own supply. This was only possible due to the excellent training and husbandry skills of our animal care team. This cutting-edge vet care not only saved Dobby’s life, it also helped boost our reputation as a leader in groundbreaking medical care for giraffe.

Through our Quarters for Conservation initiative, we donated over \$485,000 to global conservation efforts just last year. For the third year in a row, our members contributed an additional \$75,000 for conservation.

In addition to financially supporting other organizations’ conservation programs, we also ensured our staff had opportunities for hands-on and in situ field conservation work. In the past year, members of our staff helped translocate wild giraffe in Uganda, re-release extinct-in-the-wild Panama frogs back into their natural habitat and radio-collar critically endangered wild mountain tapirs in Ecuador.

The accomplishments of our staff and the backing of our many supporters always astounds me. As a Zoo that does not receive any tax revenue, we rely on each and every one of you for your support, whether it’s through simply visiting, or becoming a member or making a generous donation. We cannot thank you enough for your active and unwavering support of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Warmly,

Bob Chastain, *President & CEO*

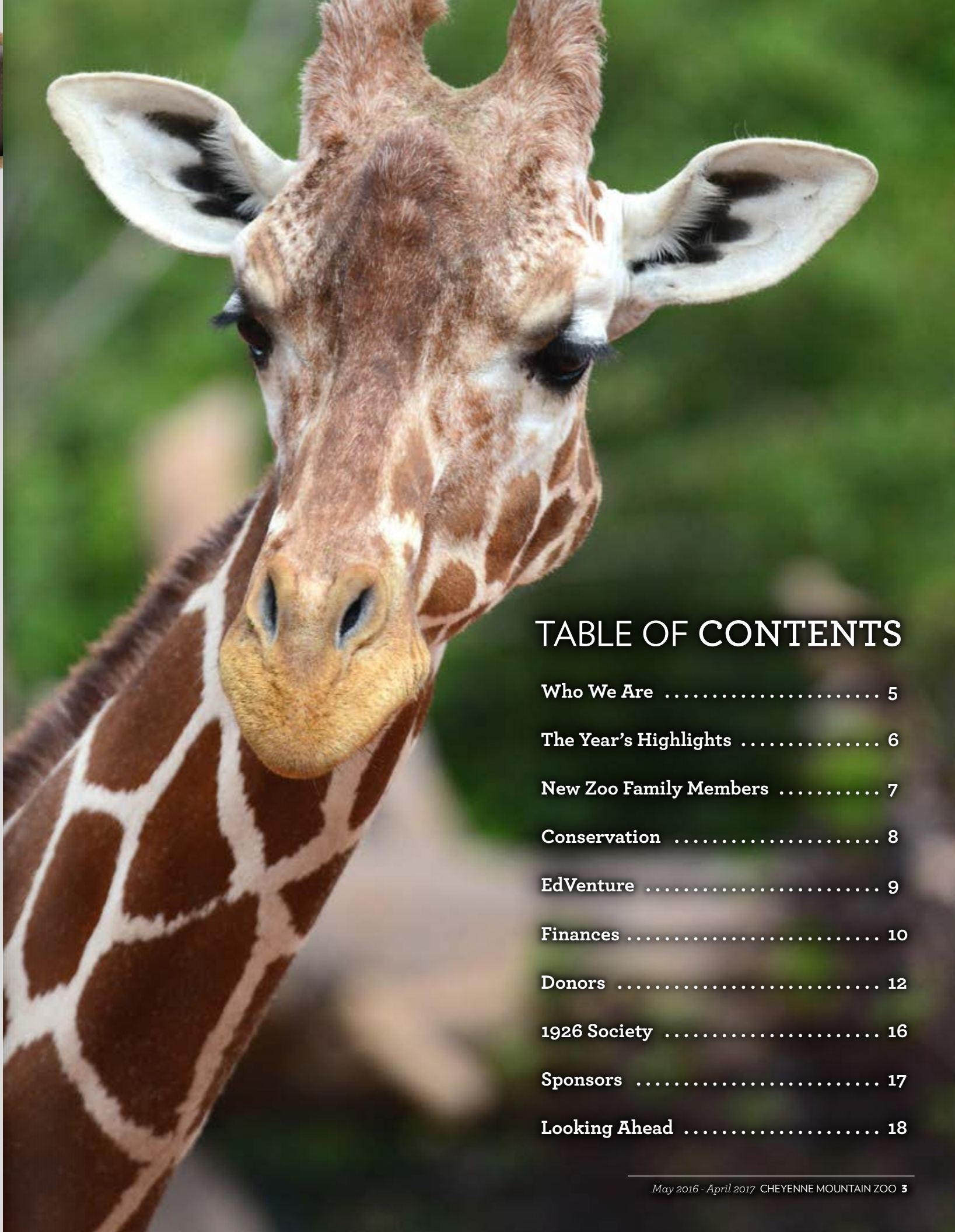


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Who We Are

OUR MISSION A leader in conservation, captive breeding and animal care, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo connects people with wildlife and wild places through experiences that inspire action.

OUR VISION **Every Kid. Every Time. Goosebumps!**
Every kid, of any age, will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit.

OUR LEADERS With only a mission and vision to guide them, these are the people who volunteer their time to make sure the greatness of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo continues.

2016 - 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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Sally Veitch, *Vice Chair*
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Bob Chastain, *President & CEO*

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Katherine H. Loo

The Year's Highlights

New Zoo Family Members

1 HIPPO VACATION



We continued to pave the way for our upcoming home for hippos and penguins! In October 2016, we sent our hippo girls Zambezi and Kasai "on vacation" to Dickerson Park Zoo in Missouri. We are excited to take another step on our journey to construct a dynamic new exhibit space and bring our hippos, as well as a new flock of African penguins, home. Funded by our Making Waves capital campaign, this upcoming exhibit is slated to open in Spring 2019.

2 CMZ ON TV



In Fall 2016, CMZ was featured on two popular reality shows, "Tiny House Nation," and "Ben & Lauren: Happily Ever After."

3 PENGUIN LEGACY



We welcomed and then sadly said goodbye to African penguin chick, Penny. Penny hatched in December 2016 and was the Zoo's first penguin chick to survive past 10 days. She passed away in early February. Though her passing was tragic, it helped us gain new information about rearing chicks. Penny left a legacy that will help us improve our penguin care with future flocks. We're hopeful our upcoming hippo and penguin exhibit will improve the health of the flock and the viability of chicks in the future.

4 5TH BEST LIGHTS



In December 2016, our Electric Safari holiday light festival won fifth place in USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice travel award contest for "Best Zoo Lights," proving that CMZ shines bright in many ways.

5 6TH BEST ZOO



In March 2017, CMZ was proclaimed sixth best accredited zoo in the nation in USA Today's 10Best Readers Choice travel award contest 2017 for "Best Zoo!" This voter-generated result put us alongside other great organizations like the San Diego Zoo and the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium.

6 LIFE-SAVING PLASMA



Also in March, our expertise in giraffe medical care allowed us to help local friends in need. Denver Zoo's newest giraffe calf, Dobby, needed a plasma transfusion, and we were able to donate directly from our own supply to help save his life. Head Veterinarian and VP of Mission & Programs Dr. Liza Dadone continues to help CMZ lead the way in plasma-banking. We have since partnered with the Columbus Zoo in banking efforts and have donated plasma to five more giraffe calves around the country.

7 PAIN MANAGEMENT




In April 2017, Dr. Dadone and staff of the Colorado State University veterinary program grew stem cells from giraffe blood to then inject back into Mahali, a 14-year-old male giraffe at CMZ who suffers from chronic arthritis. CMZ's vet team had previously tried a combination of different medications and treatments to aid Mahali, but to no avail. The vet team took thermographic images a month after the treatment and noted a marked difference in inflammation. This was a world first and it happened at CMZ!

8 GIRAFFE BABY




Our little "Rae" of sunshine was born April 26, 2017. Rae was giraffe #199 born at CMZ since 1954 and the second calf for mom, Msitu, and dad, Khalid.

ZOO BIRTHS




RETICULATED GIRAFFE
April 2017 | Rae


ZOO ADDITIONS



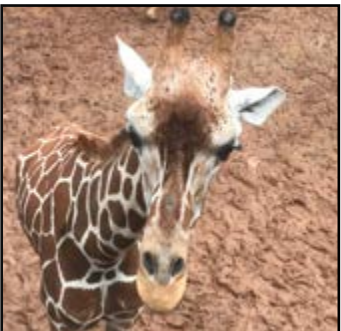
WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA
May 2016 | Goma




BLACK AND WHITE RUFFED LEMUR
May 2016 | Fleur




AFRICAN CAPE PORCUPINE
July 2016 | Waffles




RETICULATED GIRAFFE
September 2016 | Bailey



AMUR TIGER
October 2016 | Chewbacca (Chewy)



MEXICAN GRAY WOLF
October 2016 | Luna



OKAPI
November 2016 | Bahati

May 2016 - April 2017 CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO 7

MEMBER CONSERVATION VOTE

Top three conservation projects, chosen by members:



AFRICAN LION
\$3,000 to fund local field protection



Vaquita Porpoise
\$10,000 to support efforts to prevent extinction



AFRICAN VULTURE
\$13,200 to fund power line location surveys



MOUNTAIN TAPIR
Provide critical radio-collaring in Ecuador



PANAMA FROG
Fund the building of conservation & research facilities



AFRICAN PENGUIN
Support SANCCOB's* efforts to bolster wild populations



SIAMANG
Fund the building of rehabilitation & reintroduction facilities

*the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds

QUARTERS FOR CONSERVATION

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, we raised \$485,546 for conservation, three quarters at a time! Of this amount, 50% supports ongoing flagship field conservation programs at the Zoo, such as black-footed ferret and Wyoming toad breeding and reintroduction programs. The other half of the funds, plus donations, is dedicated to the Quarters for Conservation field programs that Zoo guests show their support for every time they come to the Zoo.

FIELD PROJECTS



TSAVO TRUST | May 2016
We began financially supporting Tsavo Trust, a Kenyan nonprofit that uses aerial surveillance and field efforts to protect wildlife in Tsavo National Park, the largest national park in Kenya. The organization was founded to protect the last of the big "tuskers," a group of elephants considered to be the last viable genetic pool of African elephants with tusks heavier than 100 pounds each.



PANAMA AMPHIBIAN RESCUE | October 2016
Associate Veterinarian Dr. Eric Klaphake traveled to Panama to continue the Zoo's work with and support of the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation (PARC) project, which the Zoo helped create in 2009.

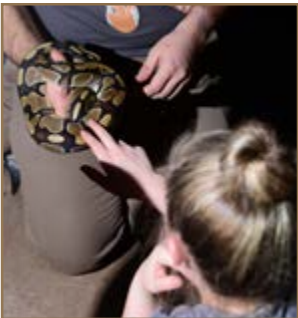


MOUNTAIN TAPIR | November 2016
Animal Care Manager Joanna Husby and Veterinary Technician and Hospital Manager DeeAnn Wilfong traveled to Ecuador to work with a field conservation team to track and radio collar wild mountain tapir, the most endangered of the four species of tapir.



SAVING SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION (SAFE) | February 2017
CMZ and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo were named as co-chairs for AZA's first member-sponsored SAFE initiative, which will focus on conservation. AZA rolled out the opportunity the year prior for individual SAFE members to champion conservation efforts for a specific species. CMZ is excited to be part of this historic initiative in which AZA institutions will strategically work together to have a larger impact in the field for endangered animal populations.

WILD NIGHT



\$104,161
WILDNIGHT REVENUE
1,706
PARTICIPANTS

89
PROGRAMS

ZOOMOBILE



\$56,802
ZOOMOBILE REVENUE
36,762
OFF-GROUNDS PARTICIPANTS

23 MONTHLY AVERAGE
280 TOTAL PROGRAMS

THE LOFT



>200,000
LOFT ANIMAL INTERACTIONS
20,000
AVERAGE VISITORS PER MONTH

ZOO CAMP



\$158,603
SUMMER CAMP REVENUE

1,175
TOTAL ZOO CAMP PARTICIPANTS

390 SCHOOL BREAK CAMP PARTICIPANTS
68 BEST FALL BREAK ATTENDANCE EVER!

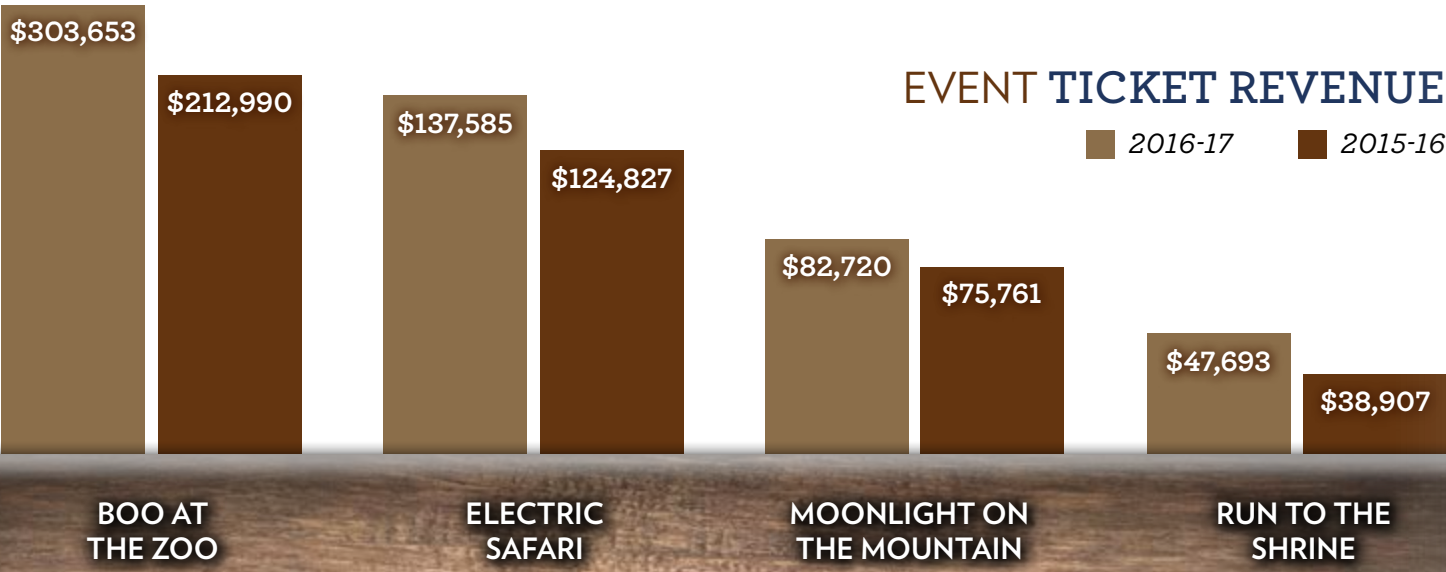
\$588,581 TOTAL REVENUE (\$88,881 OVER ESTIMATED BUDGET)
\$479,238 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$30,272 UNDER ESTIMATED BUDGET)

\$109,343
EDVENTURE NET REVENUE

Numbers at a Glance

NUMERICAL HIGHLIGHTS

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS	Zoo Attendance	778,863	750,659
	Membership Revenue	\$2,383,368	\$2,022,621
SOCIAL MEDIA	Facebook Fans	105,801	86,871
	Instagram Followers	17,400	11,917
	Website Visits	1,048,583	916,684
OTHER NOTABLE NUMBERS	Sky Ride Revenue	\$603,295	\$593,751
	Animal Artwork Revenue	\$9,232	\$11,277
EDVENTURE PROGRAMMING	Logged Docent Hours	17,013	15,625
	Teen Participants	92	83
ANIMAL FEEDING EXPERIENCE REVENUE	Elephant Snack Time	\$59,605	\$44,445
	Rhino Snack Time	\$23,645	\$9,125
	Giraffe Feeding	\$721,727	\$680,049



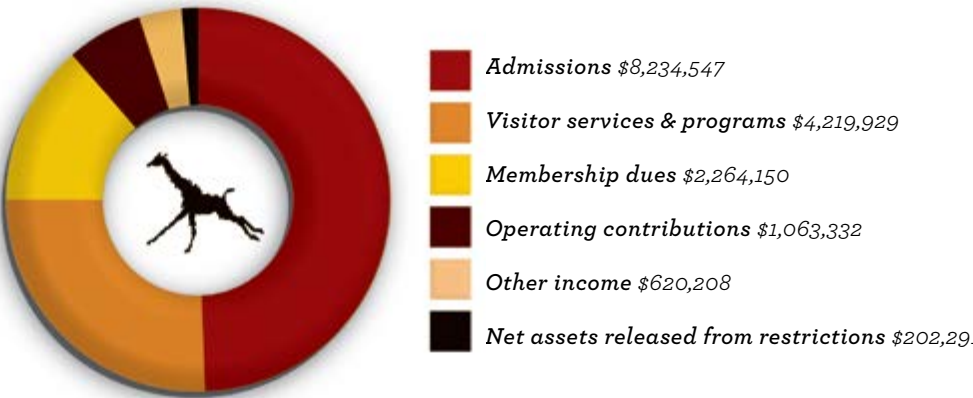
Financial Summary

MAY 1, 2016 - APRIL 30, 2017

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of only ten of the more than 200 AZA-accredited zoos that does not receive any tax support. The Zoo relies solely on donations, membership dues, admissions and grants for funding. Figures are from 2016-17 audited consolidated financial statements, which are available on the Zoo's website.

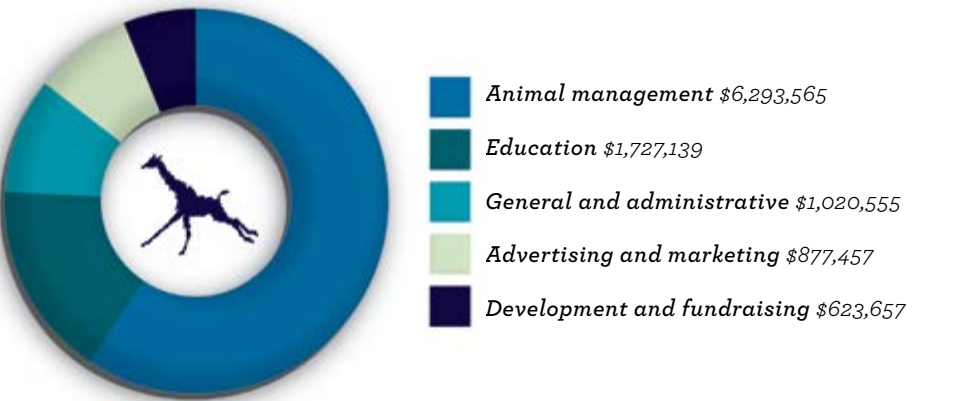
SUPPORT & REVENUE

Total Operating Income
\$16,604,457



ZOO EXPENSES

Total Operating Expenses
\$10,542,373



NET ASSETS

Total Net Assets
\$47,872,170

Net Assets, May 1, 2016	\$43,516,473
Net Surplus from Operations	6,062,084
Add Net Assets Released for Capital Assets	772,249
Less Depreciation this Period	(2,478,636)
Net Assets, April 30, 2017	\$47,872,170

Supporting our Cause

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is grateful to all of our patrons who support our vision of inspiring caring and stewardship of the natural world. As a self-funded facility, our donors and sponsors are critical to our success. Although all gifts are deeply appreciated, space precludes us from individually acknowledging all of our generous friends.

The following supporters contributed gifts of \$2,500 or more (cash or in-kind) from May 2016 to April 2017.



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- Mr. Alan Wright and Mrs. Susan Hall-Wright
- Mrs. Barbara Wright
- Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York
- Mr. Rich and Mrs. Pennie Young
- Mrs. Joann Zelins

**Deceased*

Making Waves Campaign Donors



A wave of change is washing over Cheyenne Mountain Zoo as we continue in our endeavor to build modern homes for our hippos, penguins and other species! Part of this campaign includes funding a new EdVenture complex near the Zoo's main entrance that will also provide public ADA restrooms.

We are very near our goal of \$10.4 million, thanks to generous donors who are already "Making Waves" at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Gifts of \$2,500 or more to the Making Waves campaign are recognized below.

Anna Keesling Ackerman Fund

Dr. Charles and Mrs. Celine Afeman

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Mrs. Barbara Wright

Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York

Mr. Rich and Mrs. Pennie Young

**Deceased*



1926 Society

The following are members of the Zoo's 1926 Society, generous friends who have provided for the Zoo in their wills or estate plans. To learn more about planned giving at the Zoo, contact Tracey Gazibara at (719) 633-9925 x153.

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Ms. Jeanie Baratono
Mr. Dick and Charla Bertrand
Dr. John and Mrs. Joanie Bishop
Mr. Jim* and Mrs. Janis Brewster
Mr. Kent* and Mrs. Ann Brosh
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Dr. Glenn* and Mrs. Joan* Williams
Mr. Randy and Mrs. Audrey Woodard
Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York
Ms. Kristine Zabrusky and Mr. Tim McAndries

*Deceased

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The following corporate sponsors recognize the mutually beneficial partnership that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offers. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Jenny Koch at (719) 633-9925 x114.

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Pepsi
Sam's Club
Toyota
United States Olympic Committee



Looking Ahead

Dear Friends,

As we look back on the past and how we’ve grown, I can’t help thinking what is next. Growth is not only key to our animals’ health and well-being — it’s crucial to us as an organization.

That growth involves constantly asking: What can we do better? Many visitors enjoy dining at our Grizzly Grill and The Overlook, but want even more options. We are now planning to add yet another indoor restaurant to further diversify our dining options and satisfy our guests’ hunger for more.

The upcoming pizza restaurant is slated to open no later than spring of 2019 and will provide guests with high quality, European-style thin crust pizza, as well as beer and wine. The plan is to build right beside The Overlook and to have the dynamic indoor heated and air-conditioned space seat 100 people.

We’re close to completing the campaign phase to help give our hippos and penguins a new home. Included in that project is also a brand new EdVenture complex for our multiple outdoor and animal-related programs for children. These popular programs, ranging from award-winning summer camps, to international Teen Adventure excursions are a key component of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo’s mission to inspire conservation action on behalf of wild animals and wild places. The complex, which will be located near the Zoo’s main entrance, will feature ADA-accessible bathrooms for the benefit of all our guests.

To continue making conversation top-of-mind for our visitors, we plan to construct a new conservation center to replace our former building, which was damaged by the previous summer’s downpours. The center will not only house black-footed ferrets and Wyoming toads, but will also highlight the Zoo’s work with amphibians in Panama. We plan on celebrating the conservation center’s grand opening no later than 2020.

Thank you for helping make our past year another successful and memorable one. We might encounter some growing pains from time to time, but that is the cost of constantly looking toward the future.

Warmly,

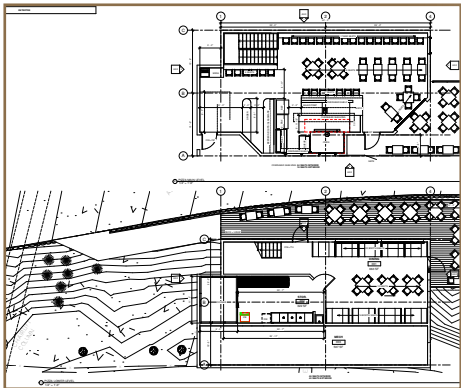
Bob Chastain, *President & CEO*



MAKING WAVES



CONSERVATION CENTER



PIZZA WITH A VIEW





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