Dear Zoo Friends,

For nearly 125 years, the Zoological Society of Pittsburgh has been dedicated to promoting the well-being of animals in the wild and here in our care. When we look back in history years from now, 2021 will be seen as a turning point in the Zoo’s history: a time when the Zoo went from the brink of closure and rebounded to have one of its best years ever. Thanks to the tenacity of the Zoo’s leader, Dr. Barbara Baker, who refused to let her institution fail and the unwavering perseverance of staff, the Zoo survived and is now poised to further accomplish great things. Barbara’s retirement after 31 years at the helm is a significant moment in our Zoo’s long and storied history, and the entire region benefited from her vision.

As the sun sets on my first few months here in Pittsburgh, I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to lead this cultural gem of western Pennsylvania into the next chapter. Animals need our help now more than ever, and our Zoo can’t fulfill our mission without you. In fact, donor support fuels critical conservation worldwide, cares for countless animals and plant life at the Pittsburgh Zoo, and offers hope to the world’s most extraordinary wildlife relying on us to survive — and thrive — each and every day.

Together, we must tackle the world’s most pressing conservation challenges for the next 125 years: the ongoing zoonotic pandemic, climate change, and the massive decline in the world’s biodiversity. Our community’s steadfast dedication to our Zoo is truly life-sustaining. From our tiny endangered Australian Rainbow fish, to our iconic African elephants, your support sustains every Zoo resident, no matter how big or small. Simply put, we can’t do it without you! Together, we’re making a real and tangible difference for wildlife.

Best,

Dr. Jeremy Goodman
President & CEO

WHAT WE DO

Whether through our exhibits, educational programs, or our many conservation projects, our goal is to make certain the Earth remains a suitable home for all life by our discovery of the interconnectedness of the natural world.

When visitors come to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, they see animals whose wild cousins are walking across frozen sea ice at the top of the world, congregating on rocky islands off the African coast, chilling at the bottom of fast-running streams in western Pennsylvania, prowling the open savanna, and adapting to life everywhere in between. These animals inspire visitors to think beyond the streets of Pittsburgh, imagine a vast and varied world, and wonder at the Earth itself, the only planet known to sustain life. The Zoo’s mission is not only to inspire wonder, but also to inspire action on behalf of wildlife and wild places. Every day, Zoo staff members provide the best possible care to all animals at the Zoo, educate hundreds of thousands of people annually about issues that affect wildlife and the environment, and work harder than ever to advance conservation efforts around the globe. Guided by the Zoo’s Conservation Education Department, we tie exceptional in-house husbandry, medical care, research, and education programs to conservation action in the field through our summer camps, Sea Turtle Second Chance program, Junior Conservationists, and more. This annual report highlights the work of the Zoo over a 12-month period from January 31, 2021 through December 31, 2021. During that time, 970,661 guests visited the Zoo and nearly 25,000 Member families supported the Zoo.
In the early pre-dawn hours of July 18, 2021, a miracle arrived at the Pittsburgh Zoo’s International Conservation Center in Somerset County. Born to first-time mother Sukuri, a 218-pound African elephant calf took her first breaths. But in the coming days, joy turned to concern as the Zoo’s newborn pachyderm struggled to thrive. Understanding the elephant calf infant mortality rate is 30% in their first year of life, our team quickly sprang into action.

The Zoo team flew in elephant experts from around the country to provide months of around-the-clock care, intensive medical treatments, and four plasma transfusions – absolutely no expense has been spared to save the life of this little fighter. Aply named Tsuni by her caregivers (the diminutive form of Tsunami, after the power of her personality and her whirlwind entrance to the world), she finally began to gain weight last fall. While we celebrate the turning tide, we understand the first several years of life for an elephant calf can be very precarious.
Late in 2021, aquarists at the PPG Aquarium noticed swelling near a young penguin’s shoulder. Floppy, a gentoo penguin, was given an X-ray, which confirmed that he had broken a wing bone. The Zoo’s vets and aquarists provided care and monitored the injury for signs of natural healing for several weeks, but it became apparent that the bone was not healing properly. Surgical repair was ruled out due to the location of the break, so the Pittsburgh Zoo’s Animal Care staff diligently consulted with other institutions before it was decided that the best avenue of recovery was to have the wing amputated. While amputation was the best option for Floppy, he had to re-learn how to swim, dive, float, navigate his habitat, and exit the water.

The Animal Care team has closely monitored his progress and has been pleased every step of the way. He is able to perform most activities fairly well, and the staff of the PPG Aquarium has installed a ramp so that he can better enter and exit the water. The life expectancy of penguins in the wild is 10-25 years, but living in aquariums, they can reach over 30 years of age. Floppy and his fellow penguins can be seen in their habitat at the PPG Aquarium year-round.

How does one test a big cat for COVID? With a rapid antigen test! Thanks to the bonds forged between keepers and animals, the regular training our animals receive allowed us to collect voluntary nasal swabs to quickly confirm the results.

After 3 years of planning, the Zoo hosted our first Asian Lantern Festival in the fall. Tianyu Arts & Culture brought lanterns and staff from China and installed the entire display throughout Zoo grounds in just three weeks. In partnership with the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Zoo provided a glimpse of a 2,000-year-old festival, featuring local dance groups, martial artists, and culturally-rich musicians. Over twelve weeks, more than 120,000 guests were immersed in this amazing experience, and the reviews were fantastic. In 2022, we plan to dazzle Pittsburgh once again with larger, even more awe-inspiring lanterns.

Rounding out a year of lights, we welcomed nearly 40,000 visitors to our second annual holiday-themed Zoo Lights. Holiday revelers enjoyed a slow drive through the Zoo from the comfort of their cozy vehicles, gazing at the entrancing light show, listening to holiday music on the Zoo’s podcast, and sipping a warm hot chocolate along the way.
new faces
The Zoo was delighted to welcome new faces to our Zoo family in 2021.

Alexandria Babilon
Scott Balian
Heather Berkey
Mark Camerota
Alexandra Canley
Madison Clark
Colton Cooper
Shawn Felsing Jr.
Stephanie Fisher
Kaitlyn Gibson
Dr. Jeremy Goodman
Dunya Hassim
Megan Hoock
Katherine Hughes
Ian Hunter
Dr. Lauren Kane
Scott Kasperowski
Herman Kirk
Katelyn Labos
Brad Lang
Samantha Jo Leverde
Nicholas Mantia
Gretchen McCormick
Kendra Roetman
Dr. Justin Rosenberg
Mariissa Ross
Shelly Titmus
Katherine Vandegrift
Jonathan Walborn
Jason Waugaman
Noah Zaken

The Zoo recognizes and thanks the following employees who retired in 2021:
Jeanne Burek
Volunteer Coordinator
45 years of service
Andrew O’Lear
Conductor
20 years of service
Dr. Barbara Baker
President & CEO
31 years of service
Dr. Jeremy Goodman

Kaitlyn Gibson
Dr. Lauren Kane

Megan Hoock
Katherine Hughes
Ian Hunter
Dr. Lauren Kane

Samantha Jo Loverde
Nicholas Mantia
Gretchen McCormick
Kendra Roetman
Dr. Justin Rosenberg
Mariissa Ross
Shelly Titmus
Katherine Vandegrift
Jonathan Walborn
Jason Waugaman
Noah Zaken

New members of External Relations team

Dr. Lauren Kane and Dr. Rosenberg, sea otter procedure

Noah Zaken

Dr. Justin Rosenberg

RETIREMENT UPDATES

The Zoo recognizes and thanks the following employees who retired in 2021:
Jeanne Burek
Volunteer Coordinator
45 years of service
Andrew O’Lear
Conductor
20 years of service
David Pater
HVAC
18 years of service
Suman Pierce
Gardener
26 years of service
Glenn Zuger
Gardener
25 years of service
Dr. Barbara Baker
President & CEO
31 years of service
Jackie Vincunas
Chief Financial Officer
20 years of service
**by the numbers**

**6 MILLION PEOPLE** engaged with our Zoo Facebook page in 2021.

**$371,000+** was spent in the first few months caring for Tsuni, our newest African elephant calf.

**6 SEA TURTLES** were rehabilitated and released back into the wild through the Sea Turtle Second Chance program.

**833 GIFT MEMBERSHIPS** were purchased over a four-day period from Black Friday through Cyber Monday.

**4,600 PEOPLE DONATED 10,000 POUNDS OF FOOD** for Donation Day, a partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

**250 POUNDS** is the year-end weight of our male lion cubs, Daniel and Chadwick. At full size, they’ll tip the scales at more than 400 pounds.

**35 NEW AQUARIUM ID SIGNS** were written and designed, including a staff favorite, Atlantic Lumpfish.

**1,200 HOMESCHOOLERS FROM 5 STATES** participated in the Zoo’s on-site homeschool conservation education events.

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**Revenue**

**TOTAL REVENUE:** $25,916,691

- 45% OPERATIONS & ADMISSIONS
- 15% ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET DISTRICT
- 14% MEMBERSHIP
- 13% SPECIAL EVENTS
- 7% UNEARNED REVENUE
- 4% COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MARKETING
- 2% CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

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**Expenses**

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $18,785,149

1. **ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS OPERATIONS** 40%
2. **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY** 32%
3. **MAINTENANCE, HORTICULTURE, LANDSCAPING** 16%
4. **UTILITIES** 9%
5. **EDUCATION** 3%
thank you for your support