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# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT







Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc.

# MISSION STATEMENT

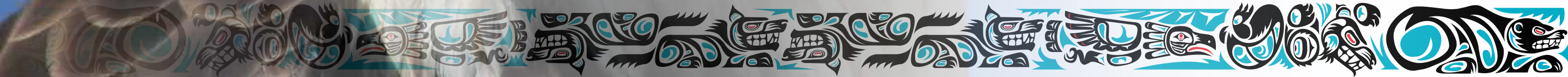
*The Buffalo Zoo promotes wildlife conservation through up-close animal encounters, engaging educational experiences, and participation in regional and international programs for endangered species.*

# VISION STATEMENT

*The Buffalo Zoo will be a regional leader in inspiring visitors to respect, protect and restore natural habitats for wildlife.*

## Zoo Attendance

2015	485,377
2014	460,253
2013	511,884
2012	455,283
2011	411,194
2010	423,887
2009	456,414







## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donna M. Fernandes, Ph.D.

Arctic Blast are two words that come to mind when I look back on 2015, not only because that was the theme of Catillion, our black tie fundraiser, but because it was one of the coldest winters on record. Lake Erie was completely frozen over by mid-January and the temperature never rose above 32 degrees for the entire month of February. This harsh weather and the continued construction activity associated with Arctic Edge negatively impacted Zoo attendance. When the new exhibit finally opened in September, we had a 26,000 visitor deficit to make up. The multiday celebration included a Members' Preview Party on September 10th with 3,000 guests and the official ribbon cutting ceremony on September 11th with community leaders, local politicians and more than 600 donors. Thank you to the Development and Marketing Departments for organizing the opening events and media coverage. Thank you to the Art Director and Education Curator for their countless hours spent on exhibit signage and interactive elements. Kudos to the Animal and Veterinary Departments for coordinating the transportation and logistics of all of the animal moves involved in populating the new exhibit. Last but not least, thank you to the Horticulture and Maintenance teams for a terrific job sprucing up the areas on the fringe of Arctic Edge so everything was ready for the grand opening including the elephant yard viewing area, the Shelter House restrooms, and the Black Forest picnic area.

The Maintenance and Grounds Departments completed several other projects in 2015 to enhance the visitor experience including a new sluice for the Hidden Treasures mining station, repairs and repainting of the Heritage Farm Canal Boat, construction of a nature playground within

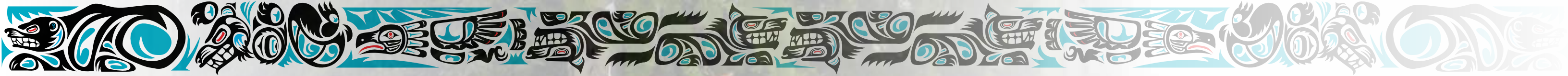
Heritage Farm and a "symbolic" holiday tree for our Tree Lighting event in December.

Last year, we began design work on our new Amphibian and Reptile Center. This renovation of our historic Reptile House will include some charismatic species such as Komodo dragons as well as many conservation focused exhibits. In December, we received a \$500,000 grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, bringing the Reptile Campaign to \$1.35 million of the \$2.5 million needed by year end.

We are so grateful for the capital and annual operating support we receive from New York State, Erie County and the City of Buffalo. In November, we hosted our first Government Partners Appreciation Day for local legislators, their staff, and families. About 80 guests were in attendance for tours and the behind the scenes open houses. The comments were so positive that we plan to make this an annual event.

Attendance at the Buffalo Zoo definitely rebounded by the end of the year. On the heels of the Arctic Edge opening, we had the best fall ever thanks to our wonderful guest services department. Final attendance came in at 485,377 visitors, up 25,124 (5.5%) from 2014. Admission income was up by \$110,000 and we did a great job managing expenses allowing us to take care of some deferred maintenance projects, beautify the former Backyard Wild area, and purchase new digital menu boards for our Beastro.





# ANIMAL COLLECTION AND INVENTORY

## Species born or hatched in 2015

Blue-crowned motmot, boat-billed heron, Chinese three-striped box turtle, common vampire bat, dama wallaby, desert grassland whiptail, dyeing poison frog, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, giraffe, golden lion tamarin, green-and-black poison dart frog, Japanese macaque, mangrove snake, Mexican lance-headed rattlesnake, red-rumped agouti, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, southern tamandua, speckled mousebird

## Species or specimens acquired in 2015

Black vulture, Black-capped squirrel monkey, Chestnut-mandibled toucan, Chuckwalla, Desert iguana, Domestic ferret/polecat, Dominique chicken, Giant African millipede, Giant anteater, Gray wolf, Indochinese box turtle, Matamata turtle, Polar bear, Prehensile-tailed skink Puerto Rican crested toad, Reindeer, Sussex chicken (speckled), Yellow-banded poison dart frog

## Species removed from the collection in 2015

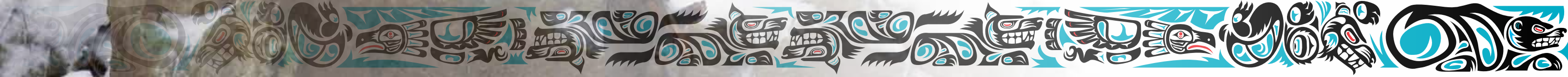
Black-necked swan, shama thrush, Egyptian spiny-tailed lizard, Harris' hawk, modest day-gecko, Nicobar pigeon, northern pintail, chiloe wigeon, Oustalet's chameleon, red piranha

	2015 Species / Specimens
Mammals	55/203
Birds	41/112
Reptiles	49/145
Amphibians	13/104
Fish	6/315*
Invertebrates	9/208*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>173/1,087*</b>

*All species and specimens physically at the Buffalo Zoo are counted.*

*Counts indicated by \* are estimated.*

Gray Wolf  
(acquired 2015)







## ANIMAL/VETERINARY

Births and hatchings in 2015 included agouti, bighorn sheep, blue crowned mot-mot, blue dart frog, boat-billed heron, Chinese three-striped box turtle, Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, giraffe, Japanese macaque, mangrove snake, Mexican lance headed rattlesnake, Southern tamandua, tamar wallaby, vampire bats, and whiptail lizards. While giraffe Zuri's birth received the most media coverage, our Massasauga rattlesnake births are the most significant because this is the third year in a row that our female Spitfire has reproduced, a feat not yet documented in the wild.

• The Buffalo Zoo participated in numerous research projects with local university faculty and students, and supported multi-institutional studies by Zoo colleagues from around the country. In 2015, behavioral research was conducted on Asian elephants, giraffe, Western lowland gorillas, Sulawesi crested macaques, Japanese macaques, polar bears, river otters, snow leopard, agouti, vampire bats, mot-mots, Australian parrots, Dumeril's monitor, reticulated python, and Eastern hellbender. Biological samples were collected for research on greater one-horned rhinoceros, zebra, Western lowland gorilla, polar bears, river otters, hyena, prehensile-tailed porcupine, tamandua, Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake and Indochinese box turtle. One of the more interesting projects is work being done at Cornell University to generate tissue cell lines from exotic species using samples collected at the Buffalo Zoo. If successful, these efforts will be useful in future exotic species medical diagnostics.

• A new species of snake discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Dr. Eli Greenbaum, a former Zoo employee, was named *Boaedon radfordi* in honor of Keeper Larry Radford who mentored Dr. Greenbaum when he volunteered at the Zoo.

• The Herpetological and Veterinary Departments worked with Seneca Nation to capture eggs from wild caught Blanding's turtles for artificial incubation and hatching. Blanding's turtles are a native to New York State and listed on the IUCN Red List of endangered species. Dr. Volle and Herpetological Manager Penny Felski also assisted DEC wildlife biologists with hellbender salamander health monitoring at the release sites in September.

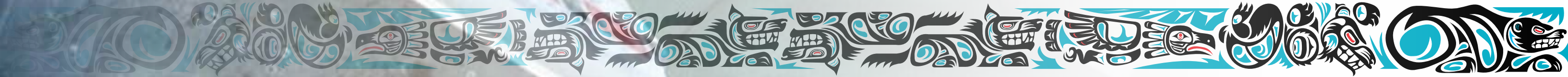
• Dr. Volle served as one of the instructors for a conservation medicine course (called Conservet) at the Soltis Center near La Fortuna, Costa Rica. Veterinary students from various universities in the United States and Grenada were trained in bat and bird restraint techniques, physical examinations, blood collection and ectoparasite collection and identification. In addition, students were trained in fish diagnostic sample collection and necropsy, frog restraint techniques and Chytridiomycosis sampling as well as avian necropsy and avian influenza testing. At multiple local farms, students were taught blood collection techniques and diagnostic sampling techniques for horses, cattle, goats and chickens. These clinical training activities are only a sample of the experiences participating students gained during the course with the goal of giving them an understanding of the interconnections between animal (wild and domestic) health, human health and environmental health.

• The Buffalo Zoo hosted the Association for Zoos and Aquarium's Best Practices in Animal Keeping course from April 27 – May 2, 2015. Approximately 15 keepers from around the country participated.

• The Buffalo Zoo's Bowling for Rhinos (BFR) event took place at Transit Lanes on August 14th, raising nearly \$10,000 for wild rhino conservation in Africa and Asia. Zoo keepers also hosted the biannual Art Gone Wild event on September 24th. Proceeds from this event are used by keepers to augment discretionary funding for their areas.

• The Buffalo Zoo hosted the Upstate NY Zoo Conference on October 16th. Approximately 80 attendees from across the region joined us for a day of discussions and presentations. Staff from a variety of departments presented or led roundtables on a wide variety of topics related to Animal Care, Education, Marketing/Development/Business, and Conservation. Many animal areas also participated by hosting behind-the-scenes open houses for guests.

Monitoring the health of a hellbender salamander at a release site in New York State.





# RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2015

The Zoological Society of Buffalo recognizes that important contributions are made to the Zoo and to the profession by research efforts. The Society also recognizes that research benefits society at large by contributing to our collective knowledge of nature. Research projects conducted or contributed to as a result of Committee approval and/or cooperation with AZA requests in 2015, and those projects continued from previous years are listed below

**Amur Tiger**  
Tara Harris, Minnesota Zoo  
Doug Armstrong, DVM/Julie Napier, DVM, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

*Necropsy report(s) from deceased tigers were shared with the SSP and advisors for a study on the morbidity and mortality of tigers*

Erika Crook, DVMUtah's Hogle Zoo

*The primary goal of this project is to determine the incidence of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the tiger population. The researchers also evaluated gastrointestinal diagnostics, successful IBD treatments, as well as tried to identify risk factors and possible familiar predisposition to IBD.*



**Andean Bear**  
Russ Van Horn, PhD, San Diego Zoo

*Longitudinal retrospective on chronic hair loss among captive Andean bears*



**Asian Elephant**  
Katie Edwards, Smithsonian National Zoo

*As a continuation of a previous multi-institution IMLS funded project examining elephant health and welfare, updated veterinary records and serum samples collected during clinical signs of illness were submitted.*

Chase LaDue, Western Kentucky University

*This study seeks to quantify the behavioral patterns of Asian elephants over various concentration of biological relevant chemosignals and how life history and physiological condition influences such responses.*

International Elephant Foundation  
AZA Elephant SSP  
AZA Conservation Endowment Fund.

*Study to reduce elephant deaths caused by Endotheliotropic Elephant Herpes Virus (EEHV). Historic data and blood samples provided to determine prevalence of EEHV in collection animals. Sample submission continued in 2015.*



**Greater One-Horned Indian Rhino**  
Beatrice Steck, Zoo Basel

Eva Heidegger, University of Zurich

*A survey of body condition of greater one-horned rhinoceros in the EAZA EEP*

Monica Stoops. PhD, Cincinnati Zoo- CRES

*Samples submitted for the determination of estrus cycles in captive Asian one-horned rhinos. The accurate determination of estrus is used to time natural and artificial breeding attempts. Sample submission continued in 2015.*



**Eastern Hellbender**  
Zachary Cava, Amy McMillan, PhD. SUNY at Buffalo State

*The objectives of this study are to investigate the behavioral response of hellbenders to native versus non-native crayfish and to use the resulting data to infer how crayfish population demography might influence hellbender abundance at the local scale.*

Ken Roblee, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Penny Felski, The Buffalo Zoo

*Agreement with NYSDEC to hatch and rear hellbenders for release at age three into present and former range sites in New York State. Rearing of captive animals and monitoring of 2012 released hellbenders continued in 2015. Sample releases of hellbenders were conducted in 2012, 2013, and 2014.*

Robin Foster, Amy McMillan, Ph.D., SUNY at Buffalo  
Penny Felski, The Buffalo Zoo

*A consolidation of information on hellbender physical abnormalities and injuries from field studies in the Allegheny watershed. Because the zoo hellbenders came from this watershed, data on deformity rate at hatching was used as a baseline for comparison to field data.*

**Eastern Massasaugua rattlesnake**  
Lisa Faust, Ph.D., Lincoln Park Zoo

*Penny Felski, Herp Manager, served as a team leader in the field study survey of Massasaugua rattlesnakes in their natural habitat. The yearly study aids in the conservation of wild populations. Surveyors collect data on survey methods, search efforts, basic site information, and weather information. 2015 was the seventh year in the ongoing mark/recapture effort in Michigan. Every snake is processed for general health assessment, and samples are collected for future research needs. Environmental, spatial, and habitat assessment data are also collected for each capture or sighting. Penny also serves on the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake's SSP Research Committee.*

Randall Junge, MS, DVM, Columbus Zoo

*Veterinary Advisor, Esastern Massasauga Rattlesnake SSP  
Documentation of Chrysosporium (now Ophidiomyces) in 4 massasaugas in 2008 was the first report of this fungal infection in this species. Nutritional assessment (serum chemistries, vitamins, minerals) have been done for this population. This project intends to monitor trace mineral values (nutrition) and protein electrophoresis (health) in EMR.*

Lisa Faust, Rachel Santymire, Lincoln Park Zoo

*This project aims to characterize the reproductive hormones of Eastern massasauga rattlesnakes (EMR) with an ultimate goal of assisting zoo managers with assessments of reproductive status (gravid/non-gravid) and reproductive maturity.*

**Indochinese Box Turtle**  
Lauren Augustine, Smithsonian National Zoo

*This project intends to perform genetic analysis of the captive Cuora population to confirm accuracy of the morphologic identification currently used. Mitochondrial and nuclear genes will be sequences and microsatellite loci used for inferring genetic differentiation and gene flow among the three taxa involved. This will help ensure proper breeding recommendations as well as support the basis for elevating C. bourreti and C. picturata to full species as was suggested in 2003.*

**Maned wolf**  
Nucharin Songsasen, Marieke Kester, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

*This research aims to better understand the role of urinary compounds that act as semiochemicals to regulate reproduction in maned wolves and to then utilize this information to develop a non-invasive method of inducing estrus in singleton females.*

Laruen Henson. Nucharin Songsasen, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

*Captive maned wolves are highly susceptible to gastrointestinal disorders, specifically inflammatory bowel disease. This project is investigating the genetic basis for IBD in maned wolves used methods developed in domestic dogs to extract, amplify, and sequence specific genes in hopes of investigating the potential diagnostic value.*





RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2015 cont.

North American River Otter  
Robert Pisciotta, DVM, Candyce Paparo, Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center

The goal of this project is to gather baseline data on Von Willebrand disease in healthy North American River Otters to compare with a individual who may possibly have the disease.

Polar bear  
John Flanders, DVM, Kathryn Gamble, DVM, Lincoln Park Zoo

Multiple bear deaths, including multiple polar bears, have been attributed to recombinant equine herpesvirus infection, necessitating a survey of all captive polar bears and exotic equids in the US to determine the potential prevalence of the disease.

A Keith Miles, Ph.D., Liz Bowen Ph.D., Todd Atwood, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey  
Michael Murray, DVM, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Randi Meyerson Dinon, DVM, Toledo Zoo

The overall goal of this project is to develop a gene transcript panel for polar bears that can describe physiologic changes and thus identify potential environmental perturbations or stressors within individuals and populations.

Erin Curry, Ph.D., Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

This ongoing project seeks to monitor sexual maturation in polar bears via non-invasive fecal analyses.

Prehensile Tailed Porcupine  
Kim Thompson, DVM, Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Gastrolithiasis in Prehensile-tailed porcupine is a well-known health problem. The goal of this study is to determine if this risk can be decreased or reduced via dietary supplementation of taurine thereby eliminating the need for surgical intervention.

Spotted Hyena  
Lily Johnson-Ulrich, Michigan State University

The purpose of the study is to test two aspect of cognition in carnivores (inhibitory control and flexibility) by presenting animals with a food reward in either a cylinder or multi-access box and recording time to retrieval of food item.

Sulawesi Macaque  
Alison Vitale, Carol Berman, PhD, SUNY at Buffalo

This project aims to study three facial expressions used by Sulawesi crested macaques to provide insight into their function. These expression are known to be used frequently during friendly interactions; however, it is unclear whether they are redundant signals or whether they have more precise functions.

Vampire Bat  
Sydney Chertoff, Susan Margulis, Ph.D., Canisius College

Common vampire bats have become increasingly popular as zoo exhibit animals, however, little is known about the impact that the zoo environment may have on their behavior. The goal of this project is to determine the possible effect of feeding locations on bat activity budgets. This study is a continuation of previous work on the effect of visitor density and noise on bat behavior.

Western Lowland Gorilla  
Stefan Rhul, PhD, DDS, SUNY and Buffalo

Isolation and identification of oral stetococci from higher primates with a binding specificity for nonhuman sialic acid

Anneke Moresco, DVM, PhD, Denver Zoo

Denver Zoo staff and research associates in conjunction with the Oregon Primate Center will assay serum levels of anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) in archived samples of adult gorillas in order to



validate the assay as a tool to predict potential fertility. Such a tool would help managers of the captive gorilla breeding program make decisions about lifetime reproduction and recommendations for complex transfers between social groups and institutions with the goal of more successful breeding recommendations for individual gorillas.

Susan Margulis, Ph.D., Canisius College

Continuation of a project initiated in 2012 to evaluate how different contraceptives influence hormonal patterns and estrous behavior.

Mallory Abel and Susan Margulis, Ph.D., Canisius College

While some studies have identified zoo visitors as a potentially enriching stimulus for primates, other studies have found no effect, and still others suggest that visitors may have a stressful impact on primates. This study aimed to explore these possibilities by installing a temporary visual barrier (in the form of camo mesh) over the exterior of one of the viewing windows at the Zoo's gorilla exhibit.

AZA Ape TAG  
Great Ape Neuroscience Project

Agreement to provide the brain of deceased western lowland gorillas for processing where upon a standardized and consistent set of post-mortem analyses will be performed on the brains.

Dr. Hayley Murphy, Pam Dennis, DVM, PhD, DACZM; Rita McManamon, DVM; and Linda Lowenstine, DVM, PhD, DACVP  
AZA Ape TAG

The Great Ape Heart Project (GAHP) is the world's first effort to target cardiovascular disease in all four great ape species. Mortalities, especially in the middle age sector of the populations has been on the increase. EKG and echocardiogram results are provided to the study as well as husbandry and nutrition data.

Multiple species

Various Felids  
Tim Georoff, VMD, Philadelphia Zoo

A retrospective investigation of the effects of canine distemper virus (CDV) vaccination in large felids

Various Primates  
Natalie Laudicina and Jeremy DeSilva, Ph.D., Boston University

In studying birth, neonatal brain size is an important factor to consider, as head size can complicate birth in humans and in small-bodied monkeys. Although there are over 300 species of primates, the database for neonatal brain size is severely limited. This project seeks to produce a more thorough database of neonatal brain size in primates to be made available to all researchers who would find the information useful.

Various Species  
Robert Ossiboff, DVM, PhD, DACVP, John Parker, BVMS, PhD, Cornell University

To improve diagnostic capabilities in wild and captive exotic species, researchers plan to develop a diagnostic pipeline for the rapid identification of causative agents of infectious disease by developing immortal tissue culture cell lines of non-traditional species.

Christy Hoffman, Ph.D., Canisius College

Continuation of an ongoing class project to compare the attention paid to simple and complex visual stimuli across various species.

Caroline Funk, Ph.D., University at Buffalo

The remains of Zoo animals, as well as their naturally shed biomaterials, are to be added to the Zooarchaeology Laboratory Osteological Reference Collection in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Buffalo.

Dr. Stephen Wallace, Eastern Tennessee State University

Whole deceased animals provided for the Osteology collection of the Neogene Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory at East Tennessee State University for preservation and study.

AZA Contraception Advisory Group  
Dalen Agnew, Ph.D., Michigan State University

Agreement to provide pathology samples for any animals involved in chemical contraception. Sample provision continued in 2015.



# Conservation Projects Supported in 2014



## Cars for Conservation Fund

A method to secure funding for conservation projects was implemented in 2006. The “Cars for Conservation” program receives \$0.25 from each parking fee collected. The funds generated are distributed to national and international conservation programs.

## Financial support was provided to the following conservation organizations in 2015:

**Anteater, sloth, armadillo specialist group IUCN** - Contributions to support the in situ conservation of edentate.

**AZA Ape Conservation Initiative** - Contributions to support the in situ conservation of apes via research, education, and law enforcement.

**AZA Eastern Massasaugua Rattlesnake SSP** - Support of in situ conservation programs for the endangered eastern Massasaugua rattlesnake.

**Association of Zoo Horticulturists (AZH)** – Contributions distributed by the AZH to support plant endangered conservation.

**Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER** – Support the protection of local waterways by cleaning up pollution, restoring habitat, and enhancing public access.

**Caribbean Wildlife Alliance** - Support of the reintroduction, conservation, education, and research programs for the Puerto Rican Crested Toad.

**El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center (EVACC)** – Support for in situ and ex situ Panamanian amphibian conservation. The Goals of EVACC are to save 12 species of Panamanian endemic frogs for education, display, and the future maintenance of the species.

**Friends of Laguna Atascosa Refuge** – Support for in situ ocelot conservation and education.

**Giraffe Conservation Foundation** – Support for in situ giraffe conservation, research, and education.

**International Elephant Foundation** - Financial support of in situ conservation projects.

**International Rhino Foundation** - Financial support to help conserve rhinos in the wild.

**Pacific Marine Mammal Center** – Contributions to support the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine mammals as well as promoting ocean stewardship.

**Polar Bears International** - Contributions to this non-profit organization dedicated to the worldwide protection of the polar bear.

**Sahara Conservation Fund** - Funding provided to aid in the re-introductory program for Addax antelope.

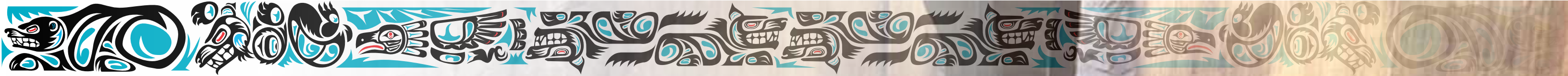
**Snow Leopard Trust** - Financial support of in situ education, community building, and research efforts.

**Turtle Survival Alliance** - Contributions for turtle in situ conservation and education in Asia and South America.

**Vicuña in Bolivia** – Financial support for in situ vicuña conservation programs.







# EDUCATION

On January 24th, the Education Department held a "Cabin Fever Reliever" event at the Zoo. The event highlighted our variety of family and community group offerings (e.g. workshops, camps, snoozes, etc.). Patrons participated by doing a "scavenger hunt" that took them through the Zoo to stop at tables to complete various activities/crafts and answer questions related to the programs. Participants who completed the scavenger hunt were entered into a drawing for free Zoo passes.

Several new Education programs for young children were launched in 2015. Our six week long "Strolling Around the World" program for children under 2 was offered in both the Spring and Fall due to its popularity. We also began a new Preschool program for three and four year olds offered on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays in our Zoo School.

Summer Zoo Camp ended its seven-week run on August 21st. We served a total of 557 campers this summer. This year was the pilot year for "Cub Camp", a camp for children ages 4 and early 5. There were approximately 60 participants during the week of July 27th. The camp was a big success. We will continue to grow this aspect of our summer camp in the years to come.

In August, the Zoo's new nature playground at the Heritage Farm opened to the public. The playground was made possible through a 2014 grant from AZA and The Walt Disney Company to support innovative ways to establish and/or enhance family-centered nature play experiences in the community. In 2015, we received another Disney grant to support a project entitled "Nature Play at Urban Community Places and

Waterfront Spaces". It focuses on exposing urban families to unstructured, outdoor nature play at some of Buffalo and Niagara Falls waterfront areas. Partners in this endeavor include: Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve and Environmental Education Center, the Aquarium of Niagara, Gloria J. Parks Community Center, and the Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club.

For the second year in a row, the Buffalo Zoo earned a coveted Pinnacle Award for the 2014-2015 school year from the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) for our distance learning programming. The Award is given annually by the CILC to organizations that receive outstanding scores on program evaluations submitted by educators and end users. Receiving the award indicates remarkable quality of educational content and exceptional skill at program delivery.

The Buffalo Zoo was the host site for a meeting of the WNY Master Teacher Program on October 17th. Approximately 60 Master Science Teachers from across WNY came to the Zoo for their meeting where Dr. Donna Fernandes served as their keynote speaker on Research in Zoos.

On October 15th, the Education Department held an Educator's Night Out for teachers in the WNY area to come to the Zoo to gain an understanding of how they can utilize the resources of the Zoo to help their students fulfill State standards and cross-disciplinary curricula. More than 40 teachers were in attendance.

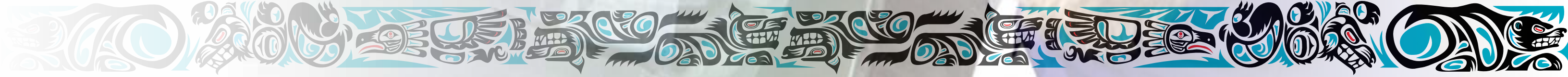
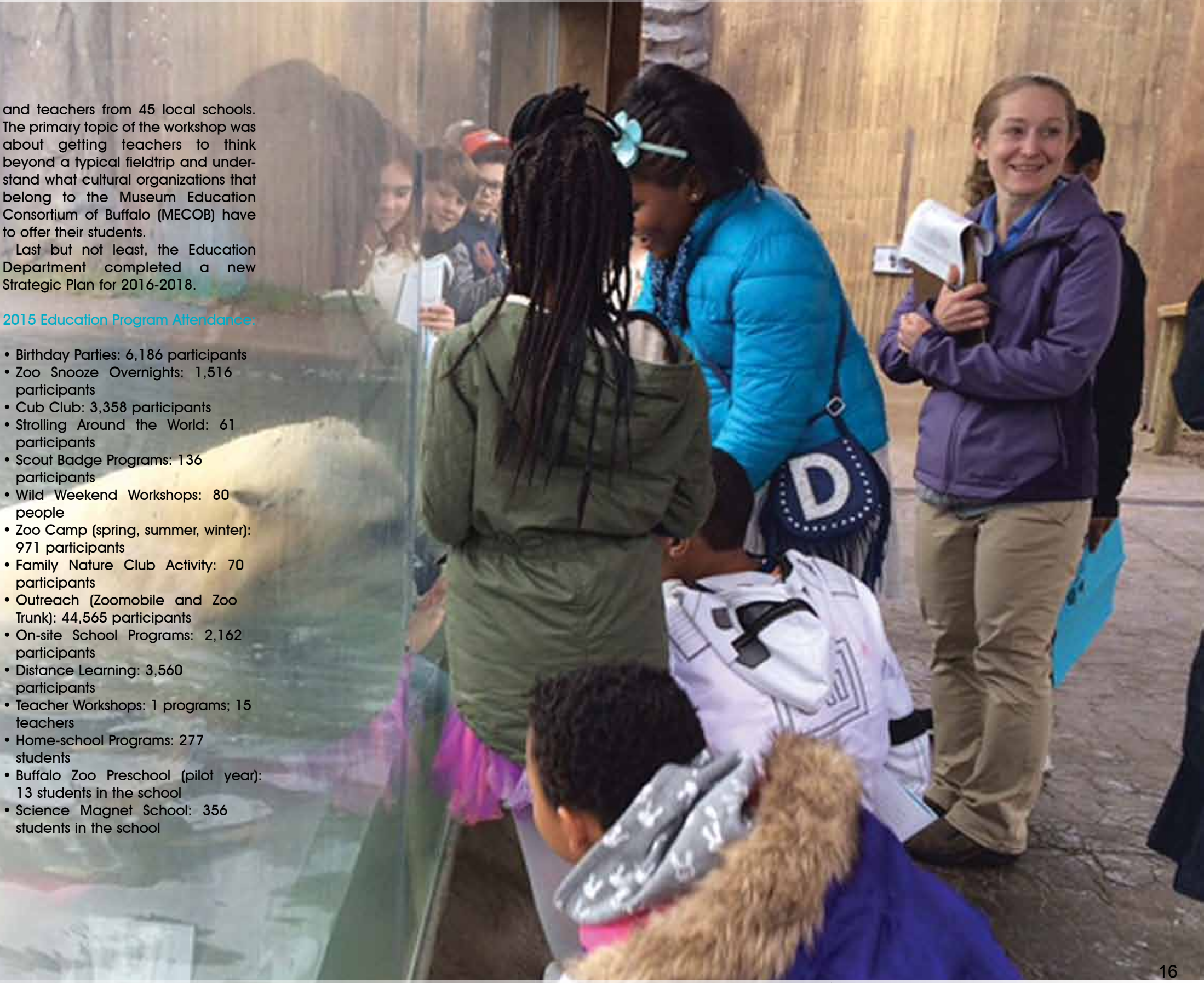
On November 5th, the Zoo was the host-site for a teacher professional development forum through Buffalo State College. The group included faculty and practicing teachers from Buff State, as well as administrators

and teachers from 45 local schools. The primary topic of the workshop was about getting teachers to think beyond a typical fieldtrip and understand what cultural organizations that belong to the Museum Education Consortium of Buffalo (MECOB) have to offer their students.

Last but not least, the Education Department completed a new Strategic Plan for 2016-2018.

## 2015 Education Program Attendance:

- Birthday Parties: 6,186 participants
- Zoo Snooze Overnights: 1,516 participants
- Cub Club: 3,358 participants
- Strolling Around the World: 61 participants
- Scout Badge Programs: 136 participants
- Wild Weekend Workshops: 80 people
- Zoo Camp (spring, summer, winter): 971 participants
- Family Nature Club Activity: 70 participants
- Outreach (Zoomobile and Zoo Trunk): 44,565 participants
- On-site School Programs: 2,162 participants
- Distance Learning: 3,560 participants
- Teacher Workshops: 1 programs; 15 teachers
- Home-school Programs: 277 students
- Buffalo Zoo Preschool (pilot year): 13 students in the school
- Science Magnet School: 356 students in the school







*The John R. Oishei Foundation, recieved the Friend of Wildlife Award at Catillion 2015.*

# DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

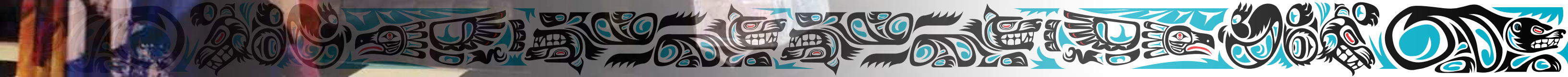
The Development and Marketing teams had much to celebrate in 2015. Zoo membership income grew by \$80,000 while Annual Fund donations were up by \$40,000. Sponsorship income was up \$45,000 and we would like to thank all of our exhibit sponsors including 2FindYourHome, Anthony C. Leone CPA, Buffalo Exterminating, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Community Papers of WNY, Dunn Tire, FOXY Delivery, GEICO, Inspire Dental Group, Linden Properties of WNY, MASH Urgent Care, NOCO Energy Corp, Northeast Collision, Perry's Ice Cream, Rainforest Café, Rhino Linings of Buffalo, Saihen's, TC Technologies, Tops Markets, TreeHouse Toy Store, and Wegmans Food Markets. We also appreciate the support of our event sponsors including Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth, Buffalo Metropolitan Credit Union, First Niagara, J.W. Danforth, M&T Charitable Foundation, New York Life Insurance Company, RedLine Rentals of Buffalo, Tonawanda Bowling Center, Try-It Distributing, and Winthrop Financial Services.

Income from Special Events increased by \$30,000 last year fueled by the continued success of Polar Bites in February, BuffaLoveFest in May and Wines in the Wild in July. We are grateful to the ProZoo Board for their work on Polar Bites and Wines in the Wild as well as the Women's Board for the terrific Basket and Silent Auctions. Special thanks to all of the participating vendors, sponsors and the development, marketing, grounds and maintenance staff for a terrific job of coordination and execution. The 2015 Catillion was also a great success netting more than \$100,000 for the Zoo Foundation. Thank you to Chairs Nancy Ware and Acea Mosey and the entire Catillion committee for their hard work on this event.

The Women's Board also had a very busy year. They hosted their second annual themed party on April 19th with a 50's night at the Foundry Hotel. The 3rd Annual Zumbathon "Groove for the Gorillas" was held on April 26th raising over \$4,800 to benefit our gorilla troop. The Women's Board also assisted us with our annual TOPS Shop for the Animals on August 15th, where shoppers were asked to purchase a wide array of specialty food and enrichment items for our animals. And the Women's Board had their biggest and most successful Holiday Luncheon ever on December 10th at Samuel's Grande Manor.

Other major initiatives in Development and Marketing include:

- Opening a new Membership Satellite Office in the Security/First Aid area to encourage regular visitors to become annual members and to sell ride tokens, parking tokens, and face painting vouchers.
- Partnering with Mash Urgent Care on a new shuttle service for both overflow parking and to promote visitation by guests staying at downtown hotels.
- Working with Premier Liquor and Cape Classics wine for a promotion that generated \$5,000 in revenue to support our new Preschool program.
- Participating in a Cyber Monday Sale on November 30th that offered a deep discount for on-line purchases for NEW members only. More than 400 memberships were sold that day, bringing in \$22,000 in revenue.
- Creating two new special events – a Trick or Treat weekend with over a dozen themed treat stations that brought in nearly 10,000 visitors and the first ever Tree Lighting celebration on December 5th.
- Collaborating with Community Papers of Western New York on a car raffle to raise \$29,600 for a giraffe shade and feeding structure.
- Receiving a \$10,000 grant from the East Hill Foundation for the purchase of a Gator vehicle for the Animal Department.







# FRIENDS OF THE ZOO 2015

The board and staff of The Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations listed below. Leadership gifts made during the 2015 calendar year are acknowledged here. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If you notice any mistakes or omissions, please notify the Development Office at the Buffalo Zoo (716) 995-6158. We are grateful to all of our donors for their continuing support and generosity.

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### Capital Campaign Gifts 2015

The Buffalo Zoo embarked on a two-year, \$2.5 million capital campaign in 2015. Plans to renovate our 75 year old Reptile and Amphibian House include an exhibit for a first-ever species at the Zoo - the Komodo dragon. Our gratitude to the donors listed below who are assisting us with new homes for our reptile and amphibian friends.

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The Annual Fund supports the daily operations of the Buffalo Zoo. Unrestricted gifts from all segments of the community are received which assist us in carrying out the Buffalo Zoo's mission of conservation, recreation and education. In 2015, more than \$300,000 was given to support the Zoo. Listed below are the leadership donors who supported the 2015 Annual Fund.

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Stephen T. Swift  
*HealthNow New York*  
James F. van Oss  
*Moog Inc.*  
Nancy Ware W.  
*EduKids Inc.*  
Lixin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Dent Neurologic Institute*

## Ex-Officio Members

Timothy A. Ball  
*Buffalo Corporation Counsel*  
Byron Brown W.  
*Mayor, City of Buffalo*  
Mark J. Grisanti  
*New York State Senator*  
Janice Hodge R.  
*President, Docent Council*  
Scott Horton P.  
*President, ProZoo Board*  
Michael LoCurto J.  
*Delaware District Council Member*  
Mark Poloncarz C.  
Erie County Executive  
Darius Pridgen G.  
*President,*  
*Buffalo Common Council*  
Sean Ryan  
*Member,*  
*New York State Assembly*  
Peter Savage J. III  
*Erie County Legislator*  
Michael Siragusa A.  
*Erie County Attorney*  
Gail Warner P.  
*President, Women's Board*  
Donna M. Fernandes, Ph.D.  
*President/CEO*

Emeritus  
Donna M. Gioia  
Robert M. Greene  
Wayne D. Wisbaum

## ProZoo Board

Christina Barone  
Linda Clough  
Jennifer Costanzo  
Steve Culliton  
Amy Fuchs  
Adam Haney  
Colleen Heidinger  
Sean Heidinger  
Scott Horton  
Joshua Jacobs  
Christopher Kulpit  
Mara McCabe  
Jeff Monaco  
Brian Pimm  
Beth Potozniak  
Matthew Riscili  
Wendy Scott  
Bethany Sickler  
Abigail Size  
Samuel Smith  
Ed Sullivan  
Erin Ware

## Women's Board

Sally Allen  
Clare Atkinson  
Lucy Betz  
Jeanne Binner  
Jo Bissell  
Donna Bohan  
Betty Brewster  
Barbara Bronkie  
Sharon R. Bryk  
Lynn Clark  
Marcia Cleary-Walker  
Lauren Della Penna  
Ann Fries  
Ronda George  
Janet Gorfien  
Diane Josefiak  
Patricia Keller  
Terrie Kelly  
Colleen Koehn  
Rhea Mathien  
Sandy Mendel  
Audrey Mitchell  
Rose Monte  
Sally Munschauer  
Jeannette Newman  
Valerie Pierro  
Gretchen Porcher  
Candy Porter  
Karen Rudnicki  
Deborah Saia  
Patricia Schafer  
Jan Schworm  
Deanna Sciole  
Anne Seereiter  
Dorothy Sheldon  
Carol Vaughan  
Gail Warner  
Heather Warner  
Becky Welte





# STAFF

## Administration

Donna Fernandes, Ph.D.  
*President/CEO*  
Rachel Syracuse  
*Executive Assistant*  
Denise JB Maloney  
*Director of Administration and Finance*  
Eric Marshall Penoyer  
*Information Technology Manager*  
Carol Yetto  
*Business Manager / Facility Rentals*  
Alicyn Ringle  
*Administrative Assistant / Switchboard Operator*  
Jessica Turner  
*Accounts Payable Clerk*  
Neil Coletta  
*Administrative Assistant / Switchboard Operator*  
Shabar Rouse  
*Administrative Assistant / Switchboard Operator*  
Vincent Tagliarino  
*PT IT Assistant*  
Alan Trauscht  
*PT IT Assistant*

## Animal Collection

Malia Somerville  
*General Curator*  
David Brigham  
*Assistant Curator*  
Kelly Brown  
*Registrar*

## Keepers

Caitlyn Bruce  
Illa Caira  
Catherine Carroll  
Robert Dempsey  
Shanna Dempsey  
Emily DeTine  
Alicia Dubrava  
Penny Felski  
Ronald Geiger  
Kristi Glovack  
Kyle Grace  
David Gritzmacher  
Joseph Hauser  
Vicki Hodge  
Lynn Hougle  
Stephanie Hurst

Melissa King  
Kayla Krajna  
Jamie Kranz  
Jacob Lange  
Courtney Macklin  
Katrina McIntosh  
Katie Meegan  
Megan Monaco  
Larry Radford  
Kathryn Scime  
Gary Steele  
Hayley Thoma  
Mindy Ussrey  
Steve Ussrey  
Lori Vanderwalker

## Part-Time Keepers

Kalina Bracco  
Beth Huss  
Allison Killam  
Robert Krywalski  
Jessica Shean

Jill Odachowski  
*Water Quality LSS Operator*

## Apprentices

Jordan Hollenbeck  
Donald McGuire  
Kris Porterfield  
Charlene Roe

## Veterinary Staff

Kurt Volle, DVM  
*Veterinarian*  
Alice Rohauer  
*Veterinarian Technician*

## Food Service

Jaymison Walter  
*Food Services Manager*  
Laurie Hope  
*Kitchen Manager*

## Associates

James Armstrong Grice  
Aaron Barraclough  
Alexander Barraclough  
Kevin Boldt  
Carter Brents  
Che'la Brown

Hank Clark  
Davis Damorrio  
Julian Druar  
Labis Eyoto  
Unique Hernandez  
Carl Johnson  
Michael Kelly  
Devin Lewis  
Salvatore Mordino  
Camilo Pabon  
Ija peters  
Ahmad Randall  
Taylor Robertson  
Nicollette Santiago  
Eric Seifert  
Janice Sessions  
Ashley Ulaszko  
Tonya Warmley  
Ridgleye Williams  
Lamilah Woods

## Development And Marketing

Adair Saviola  
*Director of Development and Marketing*  
Anita Clark  
*Office Assistant*  
Todd Geise  
*Marketing Manager*  
Rachel Gottlieb  
*Public Relations Coordinator*  
Katie Jordan  
*Senior Events Coordinator*  
Denise Lanz  
*Development & Membership Manager*  
Eric Lee,  
*Art Director*  
Dian Lewin  
*Development Projects Coordinator*  
Ronald Reynolds  
*Development & Graphics Associate*

## Membership Satellite Office

Kerrie DeJac  
Frank DeJesus  
Printice Latson

## Education

Tiffany Vanderwerf  
*Curator of Education*  
Rebecca Balk  
*School Programs Specialist*  
MaryCarol Elliott  
*Animal Care Specialist*  
Sarah Gemmer  
*Animal Care Specialist*  
Shannon Goodell  
*Animal Care Specialist*  
Matthew Johnson  
*Animal Care Specialist*  
Scott Lawson  
*Science Magnet School Liaison*  
Jackie Levinson  
*School Program Specialist*  
Donna McIntosh  
*Education Registrar*  
Rebecca Muffoletto  
*School Program Specialist*  
Maureen Pantera  
*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Robin Sanecki  
*Outreach Programs Specialist*  
Lisa Thibault  
*Onsite Programs Specialist*  
Elizabeth Thompson  
*Onsite Programs Specialist*

## Education Support Staff

Kathryn Baglio  
Laura Beauregard  
Isadora Bevan  
Trisha Brenner  
Rachel Brzezinski  
Sara Butzbach  
Melina Campbell  
Eleni casseri  
Samantha D'Orsaneo  
Anastasia Flynn  
Maryann Galluccio  
Dakota Grantham  
Nicholas Jones  
Patricia Lannon  
Brittany Lewis  
Zoe Lohnes  
Donata Lorenzo  
Thomas Naber  
Krystal Plyler  
Carly Polisoto  
Elena Puccio  
Sean Resetar

Allison Rickey  
Joseph Riso  
Angelica Saunderson  
Rhiana Schwartzott  
Kaylee Smith  
Dylan Trolli  
Kelsey Weigel  
Barbara Woronowski  
Monica Wrobel  
Rachel Zakowski

## Horticulture and Grounds

Steven Mead  
*Director of Horticulture and Maintenance*  
Melanie Anderson  
*Grounds Manager*

## Grounds Keepers

Aerielles Davis  
Diane Fleming  
David Goehle  
Jakob Murray  
Michael Sawyer  
Michael Shanahan  
Walter Whitcomb  
William Brigham  
Kyle Brown  
Kelsey Lowery  
LacyRose Seiders  
Emily Simms  
Griffin Tritto

## Maintenance / Engineers:

Joseph Call  
Larry DePietro  
William Dowling  
Christopher Galas  
Randy Grupp  
Brion Hall  
Mark Knight  
Jonathan Pappagallo  
Richard Prims  
Ronald Zunner  
*Chief Engineer* ✨

## Guest Services

Wanda Hurley  
*Guest Services Manager*  
Michael Paluch  
*Guest Services Assistant Manager*

## Guest Services Associate

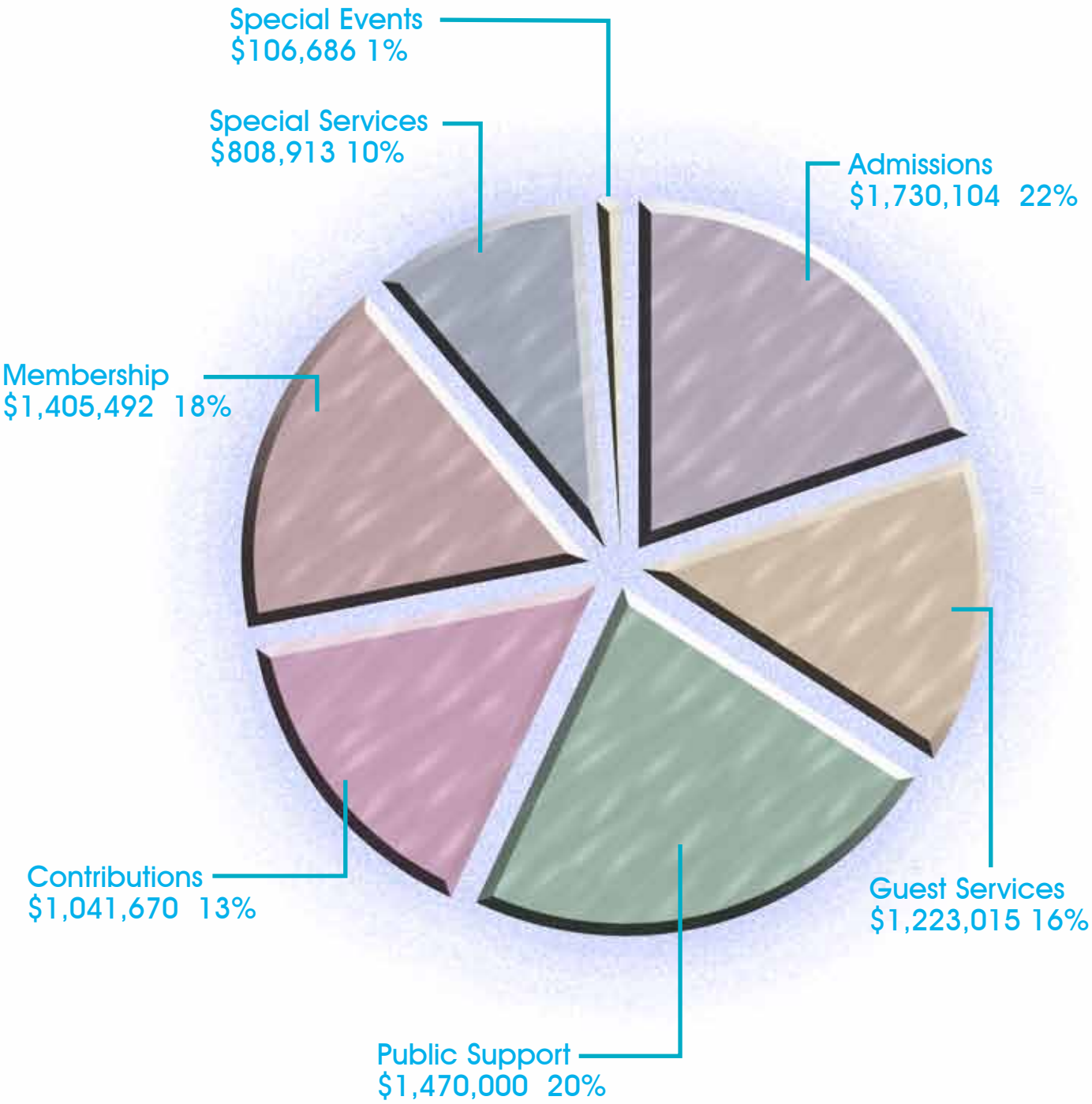
Justin Arrington  
Elizabeth Bailey  
Karen Bailey  
Andrew Case  
Sam Cavalleri  
Grace Clauss  
Sofia Crus-Nastin  
Kayla Czubaj  
Alexandra Fairbanks  
Michael Franko  
James Gugliuzza  
Genevieve Hagerty  
John Xanthe  
Kristian Johnson  
Steven Kawski  
Kevin Lambert  
Matthew Mangione  
Patrick McDonnell  
Catherine Navagh  
Anthony Panetski  
Leah Powers  
Natassia Rifenour  
Christian Ross  
Amelia Schroeder Parisi  
Cathleen Smith  
Nicholas Smith  
Michael Szczur  
Katie van Oss  
Dominique Washington  
Ryan Zunner





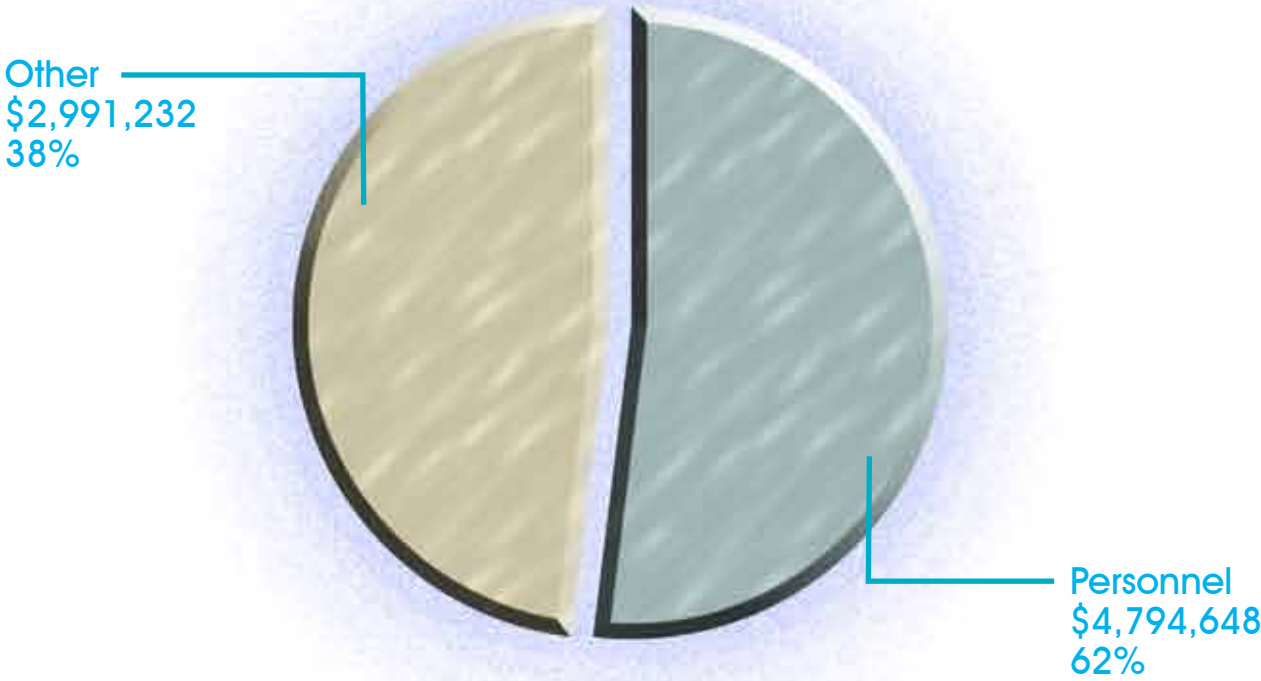


2015 OPERATING STATEMENT



Total Revenue \$7,785,880 100%

Expenses Total \$7,785,880 100%



Total Expenses by Program \$7,785,880 100%

