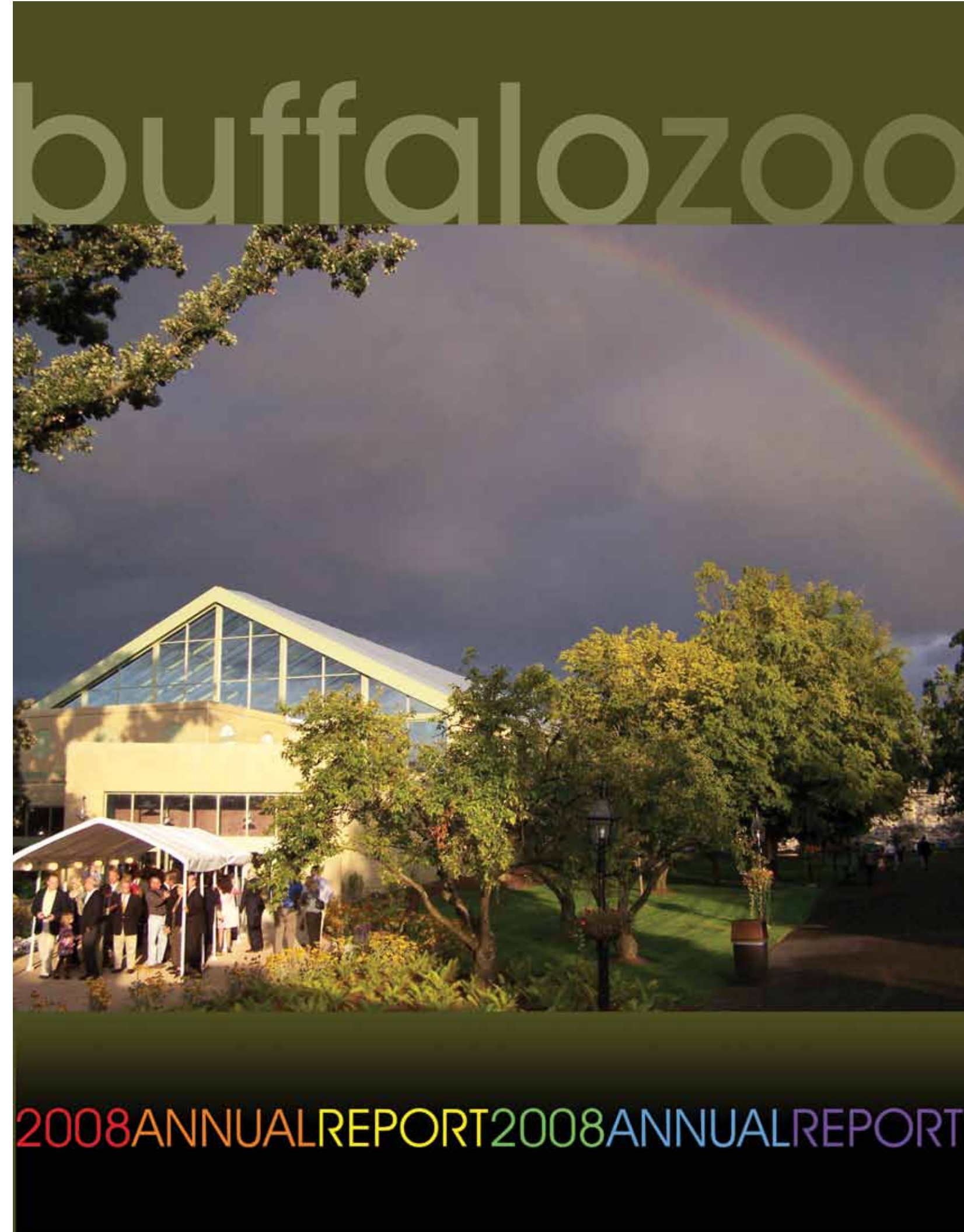




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Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. MISSION STATEMENT

The Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. is an independent, non-profit corporation organized for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Zoological Gardens; for the education and recreation of the people and visitors of the Niagara Frontier; for the advancement and encouragement of the science of zoology; for the practice of conservation of the world's wildlife; and for the exhibition of diverse species of animals from throughout the world.



Zoo Attendance

2008	414,794
2007	412,369
2006	391,729
2005	370,311
2004	363,182

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donna M. Fernandes, Ph.D.

Each year, I am always amazed at how much we accomplish, and 2008 was no exception. Of course, the biggest event of all was the opening of M&T Bank Rainforest Falls. The opening reception on September 9 welcomed more than 600 of our Capital Campaign and Annual Fund donors. All of our government partners were in attendance, and a rainbow appeared over the Rainforest right on cue as we began our ceremony.

This year, we also renovated and expanded our historic Elephant House. Construction began in April and was completed by mid-July, allowing for an early return of our beloved elephants after their “summer vacation” at The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Powell, Ohio. Our horticulture department did a wonderful job planting the lawn and garden areas to complement the building’s restored exterior. The return of the elephants gave the Zoo a great public relations boost with wonderful coverage by all of the major news outlets.

Design work on our veterinary hospital was also completed with a considerable amount of value engineering to bring the budget into an affordable range. Construction began on November 24, and a temporary animal hospital was set up in a spare room of the Rainforest so veterinary care could be provided to the collection during construction.

In 2007, Zoo staff held several workshops with our architects and Zoo-planners, PJA and Foit-Albert, to revise the Zoo’s Master Plan for Phase II of construction with updated cost estimates for the major project components: new entry complex, Arctic habitat, African savanna, outdoor gorilla area and bird of prey exhibit. Although we were prepared to launch Phase II of our Capital Campaign in October of this year, market forces caused us to delay those plans.

We did, however, complete funding for our new Children’s Zoo with a \$500,000 commitment from the Benderson Family/Delta Sonic. Half of their gift will be used for construction of the Heritage Farm while the other half will be used as endowment to partially fund an education position for that area. We also received a \$100,000 grant from the NxGen Program of the East Hill Foundation for the project.

The development and marketing department had a banner year in 2008. For the first time, we hit \$1 million in membership revenue, and we now have more than 19,000 members. All of our major fundraising events also did quite well this year.

The marketing department created a new e-mail newsletter, ZooNews, which continues to gain subscribers. The depart-

ment also stayed busy securing new sponsors and renewing old ones. Wegman’s Food Markets took on the role of presenting sponsor for the 2008 map and guide for the Zoo. The NFTA sponsored the annual Labor Day at the Zoo. BlueCross BlueShield sponsored the giraffe feeding station. Tops Friendly Markets renewed their agreement for another two years, continuing to be the driving force behind EcoStation, Howl-O-Ween Hayrides and taking on a bigger role in the annual Labor Day celebration. Renewals were also completed with Fisher-Price and Univera.

The marketing staff also hosted two national television productions last year. A crew from “The Rachael Ray Show” produced pieces hosted by Jarod Miller on five different venues around Zoo grounds. The “Aqua Kids” syndicated television show, hosted by Molly McKinney, also shot a segment at the Otter Creek exhibit.

The animal department was extremely busy with the opening of M&T Bank Rainforest Falls. More than 30 new species were acquired for the exhibit, and most of them arrived this year. It was quite an ordeal to receive, quarantine and acclimate so many different animals over such a short time span. Credit goes to Jerry Aquilina for oversight of the building’s construction, as well as his curatorial duties, particularly given that Animal Curator, Kevin Murphy, accepted a position at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

In addition to the Rainforest animals, we received a pair of golden lion tamarins for EcoStation, adding another Species Survival Plan (SSP) animal to our collection. A black-and-white lemur and a ruffed lemur were also acquired for our Vanishing Animals exhibit, and we received a trio of Eurasian lynx for the pavilion adjacent to the bighorn sheep mountain. The meerkats were relocated from the Reptile House to an exhibit near the gorillas. Our mouflon herd was moved to the Erie Zoo, while our guanaco herd was moved to two other Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) zoos in preparation for the new Heritage Farm Children’s Zoo.

We were also pleased to support a number of professional development opportunities for our animal staff. The Buffalo Zoo was represented at conferences around the country, including the Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators conference in Baltimore, Herp TAG meetings in Oklahoma City, Felid TAG meetings in Cincinnati, Bear TAG meetings in Toledo, the Elephant Management School in Wheeling and the Elephant Managers Association conference. Dr. Kurt Volle, the Zoo’s veterinarian, also attended the Midwest Zoo Veterinarians

conference at the Cincinnati Zoo, the Regional Zoo Vet meeting at Michigan State University, the Macaque Herpes Viral Risk Assessment Workshop at the Lincoln Park Zoo, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians Conference in Los Angeles and the Sloth Workshop at the Minnesota Zoo. He also accompanied our elephants to and from Columbus and traveled to the Henry Vilas Zoo to evaluate Nanuq—the polar bear we received as a mate for our female, Anana.

The grounds and maintenance department also had another busy year. To save money, we had our own staff do all of the planting of the interior and exterior of M&T Bank Rainforest Falls. They did an amazing job in a very short period of time! Staff also built a stone wall at the end of the Reptile House to hide the concrete vaults installed to the feed the new electric service between the main building and the Rainforest. The train cars underwent a major overhaul, and all of the wooden “ties” on the train tracks were replaced. The Pizza Post was totally gutted and renovated. New token booths were constructed for the parking lot and giraffe feeding station. Finally, the crew had to add metal piping all along our perimeter fence to increase the height to eight feet—the USDA standard.

Financially, we were close to breaking even, despite a \$42,000 cut in our 2008 County funding. This was quite an achievement given the delayed opening of Rainforest Falls. At the end of August, our attendance was down 30,000 visitors from the previous year due to a rainy summer. Thankfully, the opening of Rainforest Falls in September allowed us to catch up with—and eventually pass—the previous year’s attendance.

As always, I would like to thank the dedicated staff, board members and volunteers who make it possible for us to achieve so many goals year after year. With only two construction projects going on in 2009—the Vet Hospital and the Heritage Farm Children’s Area—I think we can take a well-deserved break before we gear up for Phase III!



ANIMAL COLLECTION AND INVENTORY

Species born or hatched in 2008

Black howler monkey, Japanese macaque, prehensile-tailed porcupine, capybara, agouti, vampire bat, Indian rhinoceros, mouflon, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, addax, gemsbok, Mexican lance-headed rattlesnake, blue poison dart frog

Species or specimens acquired in 2008

Rock hyrax, ring-tailed lemur, red-ruffed lemur, black-and-white ruffed lemur, golden lion tamarin, brown capuchin, white-faced saki monkey, black howler monkey, Japanese macaque, African crested porcupine, vampire bat, Eurasian lynx, spectacled bear, scarlet ibis, roseate spoonbill, fulvous whistling duck, sunbittern, Lady Ross' plantain-eater, white-tailed trogon, yellow-spotted Amazon River turtle, monkey-tailed anole, yellow-banded poison dart frog, scorpion, Chilean fire tarantula, goliath bird-eating tarantula, centipede. Education Department: pouter pigeon, speckled mousebird, domestic rat.

Species removed from the collection in 2008

Mouflon, guanaco, black Jersey giant chicken, blue-gray tanager, white-rumped seedeater (finch), strawberry finch, orange-breasted waxbill (finch), black-crowned waxbill (finch), cordon-bleu finch, belted chameleon, Parson's chameleon, yellow-throated day gecko, eyelash palm pitviper, Pratt's poison dart frog, yellow-and-blue poison dart frog, bicolored poison dart frog, golden poison dart frog, robber frog, Madagascar tomato frog, Malayan leaf frog, Antillean pink-toed tarantula, giant centipede. Education Department: marine toad, nanday conure, white dove.



Black howler monkey (born 2008)



Indian rhinoceros (born 2008)



Vampire bat (acquired 2008)

Yellow-banded poison
dart frog (acquired 2008)

2008 Species / Specimens

Mammals	64/230
Birds	39/105
Reptiles	42/190
Amphibians	10/179
Fish	5/219*
Invertebrates	5/304*

TOTALS 165/1,227

These numbers do not include Education Department animals; otherwise, all species and specimens physically at the Buffalo Zoo are counted. Counts indicated by * are estimated.

South American Rainforest

Construction continued on the Zoo's M&T Bank Rainforest Falls. Affectionately known as the "crown jewel" of Phase One of the Zoo's master plan, the \$16 million fully-enclosed rainforest exhibit is designed to be a memorable and educational experience unlike any other in Western New York.

M&T Bank Rainforest Falls is modeled after the tepui region of Venezuela, which is home to Canaima National Park and Angel Falls—the world's tallest waterfall. A variety of South American species will be housed in the 18,000 square foot rainforest, including ocelot, giant anteater, tamandua, capybara, dwarf caiman, vampire bat, anaconda, piranha, squirrel monkey, brown capuchin, black howler monkey and white-faced saki. Visitors will also be able to spot dozens of free-flighted bird species, including the scarlet ibis, roseate spoonbill, boat-billed heron, sun bittern and blue-crowned motmot.

The exhibit's "visitors' center" will support the Zoo's mission of conservation and education through games, sounds, lift and drop signage (with key words in both English and Spanish!) and touchable models. This new exhibit opened in the fall of 2008.

Elephant House

Built in 1912, the Zoo's Elephant House is a fine example of classic zoo architecture, but the facility's interior holding area fell short of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) updated regulations by 150 square feet. While the building's exterior did not undergo any major changes, the interior was redesigned to increase the holding area from the current 1,050 square feet to 1,800 square feet, which is well above the new standard of 1,200 square feet to house three female Asian elephants.

The estimated cost of the project was approximately \$1 million, and thanks to the generosity of the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation and members of the Western New York community, who supported the "I Love Elephants" campaign, the Zoo met its financial goal for the Elephant House and was re-accredited by the AZA for another four years. Renovations were completed over the spring and summer of 2008.

Veterinary Hospital

In addition to securing funding for the renovation of the Elephant House, the Buffalo Zoo was also required to raise money for the expansion of the veterinary hospital to maintain its accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Named after the long-time Zoo veterinarian who also helped establish The Western New York Veterinary Medical Association, the Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society and the Buffalo Academy of Veterinary Medicine, the Frank E. McClelland, Sr. Veterinary Hospital was built in 1967. At that time, it was considered to be one of the finest veterinary facilities in the country. To meet the updated standards recently developed by the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV), the Buffalo Zoo needed to increase the hospital's quarantine space and add an aseptic surgical suite, as well as an air handling system to reduce the spread of infectious disease.

The renovations, which are estimated to cost approximately \$1.5 million, will expand the Hospital by 2,300 square feet. In addition to doubling the size of the Hospital's laboratory facilities, the renovations will also triple the amount of available quarantine space. Separate areas for animal preparation, surgeon's scrub and post-operative recovery will also be established.

Thanks to a challenge grant from Peter Vogt and the Vogt Family Foundation, the active participation of many local veterinarians, their practices and clients, and several grants from corporations and foundations, the Zoo was able to move forward with the expansion project. Work began in the fall of 2008.

RENOVATIONS AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS



Research and Conservation



"Gauging Bite Strength at Different Gapes of Lions and Tigers"

Frank Mendel, Ph.D., SUNY Buffalo Department of Anatomy

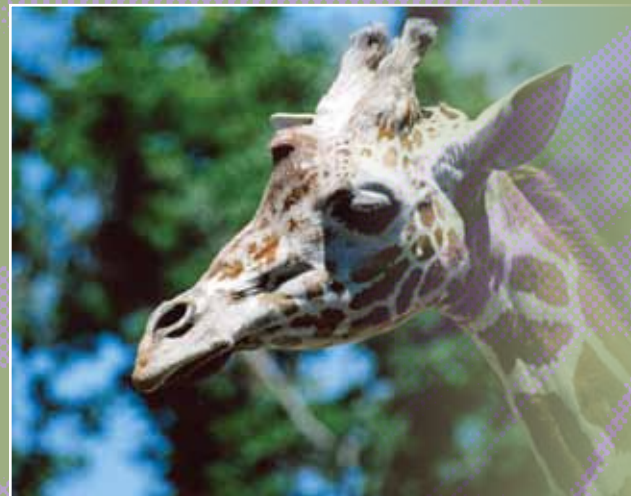
Fluid-filled, gauged, puncture proof, non-toxic hoses of different diameters were presented to lions and tigers in order to gauge their bite strength. Refinements of the puncture proof devices were accomplished in 2008. Data collected will be applied to extinct sabertoothed cats.



"Olfactory Enrichment for Ring-Tailed Lemurs at the Buffalo Zoo"

Katie Struck, SUNY at Buffalo

The study tests the effect of scents on the behavior of ring-tailed lemurs. The study continued into 2008 so a statistically significant number of samples could be obtained.



"Pregnancy Diagnosis Through Urine Hormone Analysis in Giraffes"

Janine Brown, Nichole Abbondanza, National Zoological Park Conservation and Research Center; Gerald Aquilina, Vicki Hodge, Buffalo Zoo

The purpose of this pilot study is to determine if pregnancies in giraffes can be accurately diagnosed through urine hormone levels. Data collection continued in 2008 with the pregnancy and delivery of a female calf.

"The Effects of Puzzle Feeders on Foraging Behavior in a Captive Group of Mandrills at the Buffalo Zoological Gardens"

Sara Everson, SUNY at Buffalo

This study tests the effect of puzzle feeders on the percentage of time the mandrills spend foraging in their outdoor enclosure.

Education

The education department was very productive in 2008. Countless hours were devoted to completing the interpretive program and text for all of the graphics in Rainforest Falls.

The staff and docents developed a three-year strategic plan to address 2009-2011. The distance learning program was upgraded to IP technology to improve picture quality, which allows students to see much more detail as we display specific animals, biofacts and information. The new cameras in Rainforest Falls are also a real hit with schools all over the country.

The education department's free programs were popular and welcomed 233,667 visitors. These programs include tours, sidewalk safaris, Zoo Quest exhibit interpretation, Treehouse visits, shows, Lorikeet Landing, the Children's Zoo contact pen and Children's Hospital visits.

The Zoo's fee-based programs, including birthday parties, Zoo Snoozes, Nature Camps, Scout Badge Programs, Cub Club, Wild Weekend Workshops, school programs, teacher workshops, distance learning and outreach programs, were also extremely successful. The programs brought in \$268,473, and approximately 75,760 people participated.

The department expanded its fee-based program offerings this year in response to the need to broaden its audience base, fulfill patron requests and meet the goal of centering more programming around the Zoo's theme of "water." Wild Winter Animals debuted as a new distance learning program focusing on winter adaptations of native and exotic animals while Aquatic Antics was developed as a fun and educational on-site school program about the Zoo's aquatic wildlife. Lastly, Senior Safari came on board in April as an outreach program for senior citizen audiences.

In September, the Zoo's Curator of Education, Tiffany Vanderwerf, moderated a session at the Associations of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) National Conference on the topic of out-of-school/after-school programming for disadvantaged youth and gave a paper on our Mentoring Young Scientists program. The presentation of the Mentoring Young Scientists program at the AZA conference was the concluding activity of a multi-year federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that funded the development, implementation, documentation and dissemination of this after-school style program.

The education department also continued to be a partner in the Buffalo Public School's three-year "Math and Science Partnership Program" grant. This federal formula grant program is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Zoo staff provided teachers in the Buffalo Public Schools with professional learning experi-

ences about a variety of topics, including genetics, vertebrate zoology and animal behavior to help them better understand and teach science.

This year, the Buffalo Public School (BPS) district proposed closing the Charles R. Drew Science Magnet School Zoo site (BPS #59) in an effort to consolidate schools. Due to this proposal, the education department began working on a plan to use the facility to broaden its reach to more students within the school district. Using the Zoo as a living laboratory, the development of rigorous and scientifically meaningful, extended-experience programming is underway.

The Buffalo Zoo has a dedicated staff, and even the animals have their own talents. Ethel, one of the chickens in the education collection, made her acting debut in the Irish Classical Theatre's "Servant of Two Masters" and was a hit!

The year's success is also due in large part to the support of the Zoo's generous volunteers. In 2008, the Zoo's 550 volunteers, including the 115 docents, dedicated a total of 40,155 hours of their time to help educate the public about the wonderful world of animals.



A Zoo docent explains some biofacts to young visitors.



Signage in M&T Bank Rainforest Falls notes the importance of rainforests to everyday life.

Development and Marketing

Events and Programs

Polar Bites was held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

Valentine's Day Adopt an Animal Program

The Valentine's Day Adopt an Animal program hit another record this year as approximately 1,200 valentines were sold! Partnering with Fowler's Chocolates, we offered special \$10 valentines, which included an adoption certificate, 4 oz. chocolate heart and two guest passes to the Zoo.

Polar Bites

Because last year's Polar Bites was such a success, this year's event was again held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. On February 21, approximately 1,200 guests attended the fundraiser, which was hosted by the ProZoo Board. The event featured food, beer and wine samples from 37 of the area's finest establishments. Polar Bites brought in more than \$30,000 for the Zoo and was sponsored by Phillips Lytle LLP, Ten Eleven Group, M & T Bank, Try-It Distributing, Entercom, Fox 29/My TV 49, Buffalo Spree and the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

Catillion

The Zoo's annual black-tie gala, Catillion, was held on June 13. The event was oversold with 51 tables and netted more than \$120,000 for the Zoological Society of Buffalo Foundation. The theme of this fundraiser was "Rainforest Rumba," and highlights of the evening included a delicious dinner catered by Rich's Renaissance, dancing and live and silent auctions. Karen and John Sanderson were honored with the Friend of Wildlife Award for their many years of service on behalf of the Zoo and its Foundation.

Wines in the Wild

Wines in the Wild, hosted by the ProZoo Board and Women's Board, welcomed more than 2,500 people to the Zoo on July 30. This year's event was sold out a full month in advance! Guests enjoyed sampling delicious food, beer and wine. More than \$65,000 was raised for the Zoo's Adopt an Animal program, which helps feed the Zoo's 1,000 animal residents.

NFTA Labor Day at the Zoo

This event, presented by the NFTA with support from Tops Markets, FOX 29 and WBEN 930 AM, was a great success! The beautiful weather, combined with the \$1 admission coupons that were distributed at local Tops locations, brought more than 6,000 visitors to the Zoo on September 1. Highlights included a bounce house, games, animal feedings and discounted food items.

Jungle Cruise

New for 2008, the Women's Board hosted a Jungle Cruise on the Miss Buffalo II. The twilight cruise welcomed 200 guests for a three-hour tour that took place on September 14. Tickets for this fundraiser were \$35 per person and included snacks, beer, wine, soda and entertainment.

More than 2,500 people attended Wines in the Wild, hosted by the ProZoo Board.

Selected Special Events

Howl-O-Ween Hayrides and Breakfast with Santa are popular among Zoo patrons.



Year of the Frog

Launched by organizations, including Amphibian Ark, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and other regional zoological associations, Year of the Frog was designed to bring awareness to the dangers threatening amphibians in the wild. Currently, one-third to one-half of the world's 6,000 amphibian species is in danger of extinction, and more than 120 species have already disappeared due to habitat loss, climate change, pollution, pesticides, and a fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), which is sweeping through their native habitats. Zoos and aquariums across the world are working together to help protect these species from mass extinction.

In 2008, the Buffalo Zoo held one Year of the Frog event per month (starting in February). Events and activities included a kick-off party featuring guest speaker, Ken Roblee, a Department of Environmental Conservation senior biologist, keeper talks, a "Make a Toad Abode" craft, studying frog calls and taking day and evening fields trips.

The events were a success and well-received by Zoo visitors.

Warm Up With the Cold-Blooded

On Saturday, January 12, reptile fans enjoyed a variety of activities featuring their favorite scaly friends. Highlights included keeper talks, feedings, photo opportunities and raffles. Sysco Food Services generously provided hot chocolate and coffee for the event.

Family Valentine's Day

The third annual Family Valentine's Day event was held on February 9. More than 150 visitors participated in animal enrichment activities, crafts and story-time. The event also included docent presentations and snacks.

Mother's Day Brunch

Mothers were treated like "royalty" during this event, which was centered around a "Queen For a Day" theme. The event was held on May 11 and featured animal demonstrations, gifts for the mothers, crafts for the kids and a delicious buffet breakfast, catered by the Akron House.

Earth Day Expo

Along with the WNY Earth Day Committee, the Buffalo Zoo hosted the fourth annual Earth Day Expo on June 21. The event was sponsored by the New York Power Authority and was designed to help teach visitors how to take better care of our planet. More than 30 area environmental groups participated. Other activities included a children's scavenger hunt and the chance to win a free kid's bicycle, donated by Ski Market, as well as Buffalo Zoo memberships. Additionally, the Niagara Frontier Reading Council distributed free books as part of the "Wild About Reading" program. Local celebrities, including Mayor Byron Brown, read to visitors during storytime. Visitors also received \$1.00 off regular Zoo admission per cell phone they donated during the event. This promotion supported the Zoo's Eco-Cell program, which collects cell phones for recycling and refurbishing purposes.

Report Card Weekend

On July 12 and 13, children ages 14 and younger received free admission with a paid adult if they presented their latest report card. No specific grades or averages were required. On July 12, Holland Speedway brought four race cars and their "pace car" onto Zoo grounds. Their special appearance received a great response from visitors. Perry's Ice Cream mascot, Perry Winkle, also greeted visitors and posed for photos.

Elephantastic Weekend and Tops/Martin's Bonus Card Weekend

This year, the annual Elephantastic Weekend coincided with the elephants' homecoming. From April until July, the Buffalo Zoo's three female Asian elephants were temporarily housed at The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Powell, Ohio while the interior of the Elephant House was renovated. On July 26 and 27, the Buffalo Zoo and Perry's Ice Cream teamed up to celebrate the return of the elephants. Activities during the ever-popular event included elephant shows, keeper talks, enrichment activities, games and free Perry's Ice Cream samples.

Tops/Martin's Bonus Card Weekend also took place on these dates. Visitors who showed their Tops Friendly Markets and/or Martin's bonus card at the Zoo's admission gate received one free child's admission with each paid adult admission.

Party For the Planet

This celebration, honoring our planet earth, was held on August 2. Presented by Fisher-Price, this party gave visitors the opportunity to learn more about conservation and how to take better care of our planet. The youngest visitors also enjoyed meeting Fisher-Price friends, the Planet Heroes™, as well as viewing the newest toys and trying out the Prehistoric Planet Racetrack featuring the new Power Wheels® A.T. Rex™! The event was free with Zoo admission. More than 3,700 visitors attended this fun and educational event.

Wild About Wellness Health Fair

Held on August 23, the Wild About Wellness Health Fair gave visitors the chance to visit with area health and wellness practitioners, who specialize in physical training, alternative medicine and the health industry. This annual event is free with Zoo admission and designed to help teach visitors how to lead a healthier lifestyle.

Howl-O-Ween Hayrides

The Buffalo Zoo's 12th annual Howl-O-Ween Hayrides were held on October 17, 18, 24 and 25. This family-friendly event was sponsored by Tops Markets and Fisher-Price and drew a total of 1,952 visitors, who enjoyed hayrides, treat stations, games, apple cider and donuts.

Breakfast With Santa

Our annual Breakfast With Santa event took place on December 13, 14, 20 and 21. Highlights included a visit with Santa, prizes for the children, docents with animals and a wonderful buffet breakfast, catered by the Akron House. The event received rave reviews and was nearly sold out.

Friends of the Zoo

The Board and Staff of The Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations listed below. All leadership gifts made during the 2008 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. We are grateful to all of our donors for their continuing support and generosity.

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Show Us your Stripes, The campaign for The Vet Hospital Expansion

In order to expand and update the Frank A. McClelland Veterinary Hospital, once again the Western New York community assisted the Buffalo Zoo with its generosity. Assisted by many local veterinarians, the Zoo was able to secure the funds necessary to enlarge and enhance this all important facility. Leadership donors are listed here.

Anonymous (2)
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2008 Annual Fund

Dorothy T. Ferguson, chair

The Annual Fund supports the operation of the Buffalo Zoo. The unrestricted gifts from all segments of the community assist in carrying out the mission of conservation, recreation and education for the all Zoo visitors. In 2008, more than \$306,000 was given to support the Zoo. Listed below are the leadership donors who supported the 2008 drive.

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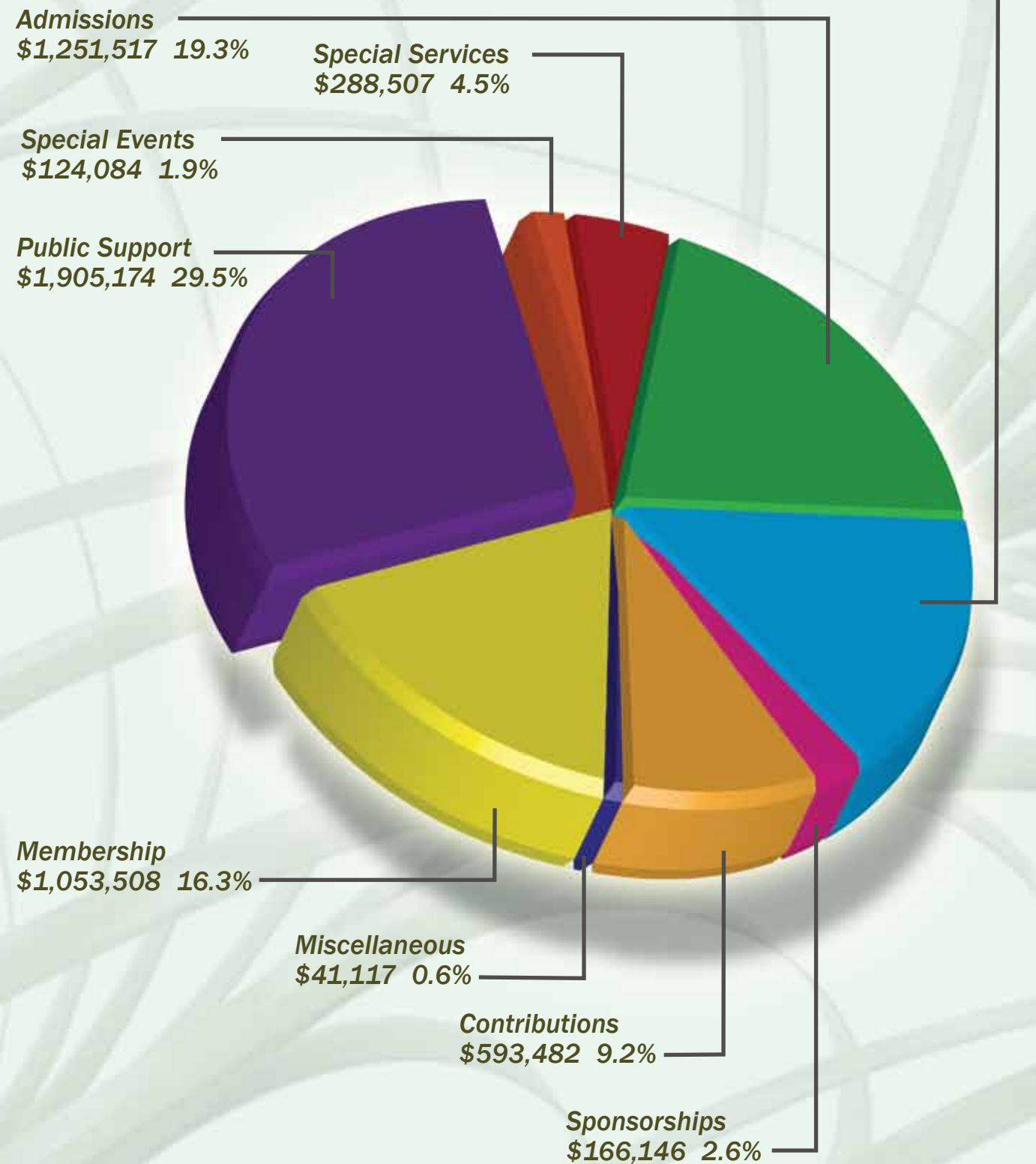
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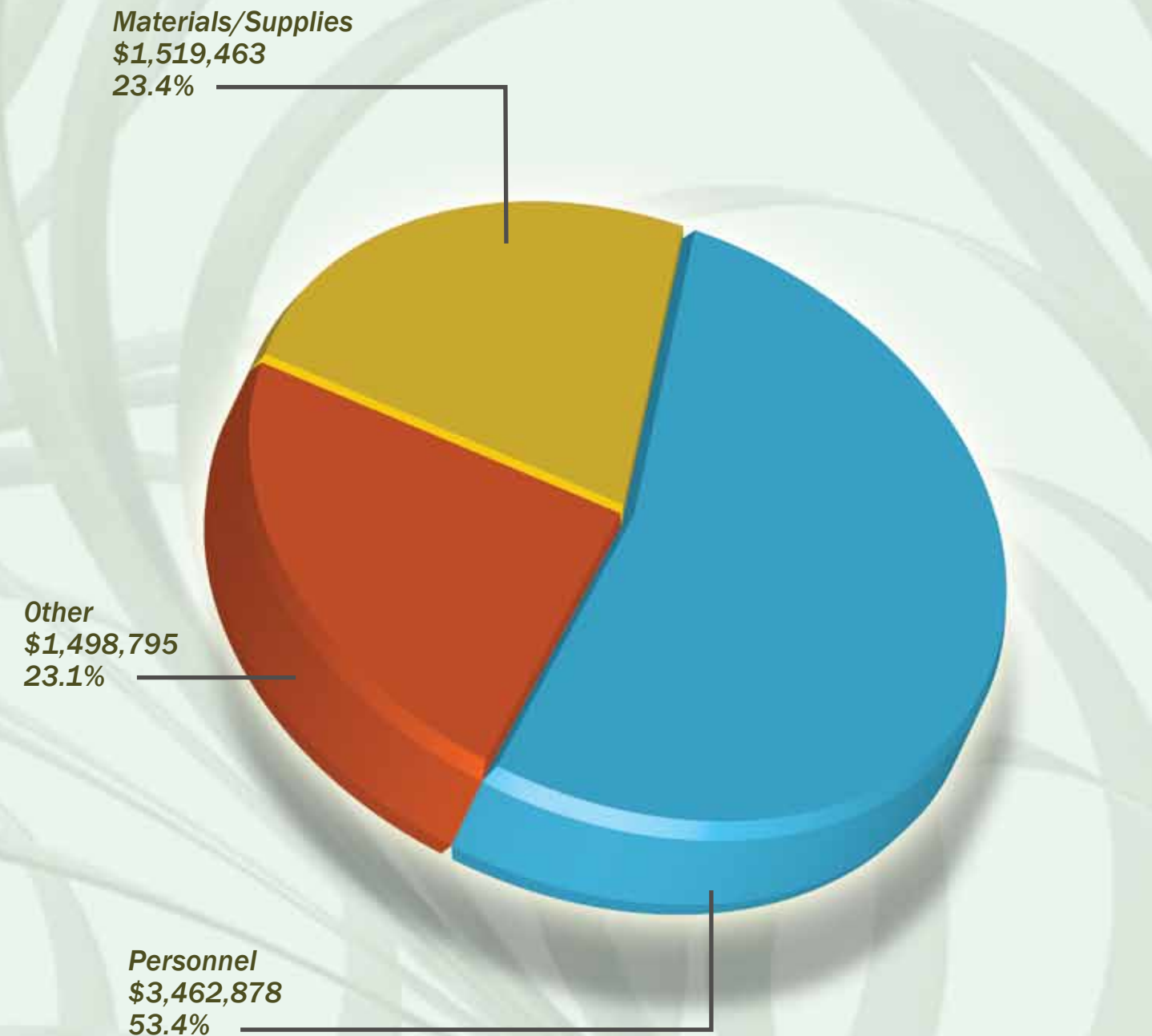
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Revenues Total \$6,469,968



Expenses Total \$6,481,136



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