

Fall 2017

CENTER FOR GREAT

APES



2016 Fiscal Year Annual Report

It takes a village.....

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Our Mission

The Center for Great Apes' mission is to provide a permanent sanctuary for orangutans and chimpanzees who have been rescued or retired from the entertainment industry, from research, or from the exotic pet trade; to educate the public about captive great apes and the threats to conservation of great apes in the wild; and to advocate for the end of the use of great apes as entertainers, research subjects, and pets. The Center provides care with dignity in a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for great apes in need of lifetime care.

Message from the Founder

This summer marks the 20th year of our move to Wauchula in 1997 and the start of construction in building our sanctuary for great apes.



"The Council" by artist James Fox

development would not overtake us in a few years... and that was dry, shady, and affordable wasn't happening. But then finally in 1997, one of our Miami volunteers told me about 15 acres she had seen in Wauchula that already had two homes built on it. The minute I drove in the driveway, I knew it was just right for us!

And, it has been a beautiful location with wonderful people coming from all over the world to help us build and provide care for our residents – 23 orangutans and 35 chimpanzees over the years.

So, I am feeling very grateful as I reflect on the past two decades here. Grateful for the community we live in and grateful for the thousands of people who have helped us as members, donors, volunteers, board members, staff, and vendors to build the Center and to manage the daily duties of running the sanctuary.

With 120 acres now and plans to expand to help other great apes, I am especially thankful for those who have looked ahead to the future care needs of these wonderful primates and have included the Center for Great Apes in their wills, trusts, and estate planning. Long into the future, youngsters like Stryker, Kodua, Archie and Jam could live another 40+ years and will still need people to help them.

So from my heart, thank you for helping us help these apes!

Patti Ragan

As we put together this "Gratitude Report" - we are thankful also for the many talented artists and photographers who donate their work to the Center out of love for our apes and our work. (Note the painting above of Pongo and Christopher by James Fox and the cover drawings of Linus and Ellie by Sue Buck)

When I established the Center for Great Apes as a nonprofit organization 24 years ago (in 1993), I thought it would be quick and easy to find property and provide care for a few young orangutans and chimpanzees who I had volunteered to care for at a Miami tourist attraction. But four years later, I had searched and looked at over 200 "For Sale" properties in Florida (from Homestead to Ocala and from the Gulf to the Atlantic) without success.

I was very close to giving up in discouragement because finding property where we could acquire the necessary zoning... in an area where



Gratitude.

The quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful.

I'm grateful for being a part of this sanctuary family for 10 years. Over time I've built many personal relationships and friendships with staff members, volunteers, and donors. I've witnessed first-hand the many emotions at the sanctuary from when the orangutans and chimpanzees first arrive to their new forever home, their many celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries, and finally being there as a calming comfort as they take their last breath. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the growth and expansion of the sanctuary: building new habitats, bringing in new residents, and reforesting our old citrus grove.

While these are a few of the things that I'm grateful for, I wanted to share a gratitude list on behalf of the sanctuary.

10. We are thankful for the Florida climate. It closely mimics that of the tropical native habitats of the orangutans in Southeast Asia (Borneo and Sumatra) and of the chimpanzees in Africa.
9. We are grateful for the beautiful sanctuary grounds. They are a glimpse of "Old Florida" and the way the land was before growing development. We enjoy the native flowers and trees, and we enjoy the native wildlife (foxes, otters, snakes, turtles, birds and more) that also call the sanctuary their home.
8. We are thankful for our great ape habitats. Large 40' tall enclosures along with almost two miles of aerial trailways. We look forward to the future open-top grassy roaming area for our chimpanzees and orangutans to explore.
7. We are grateful for our special-needs residents. We are so fortunate to have updated facilities and knowledgeable team members (staff, veterinarians and volunteers) helping our special needs residents (Knuckles, Allie and Mari) live their lives in the best possible manner.
6. We are thankful for our six new orangutan residents. We are grateful that we are able to provide them with a safe and enriching environment, with access to the outdoors, nutritious food, and companionship with other orangutans.
5. We are grateful for our competent and compassionate staff and team members. It takes a village and teamwork to keep the sanctuary functioning. Every team and every team member, whether it is maintenance, administrative, fundraising, or ape care, plays a significant role in the day-to-day operations.
4. We are thankful for our wonderful volunteers. From our board of directors and advisory board members, to our office volunteers, ape care support volunteers, and interns. We couldn't do this without your support.
3. We are grateful for our donors, members, and advocates. Without your generosity and support we wouldn't be able to take care of the orangutans and chimpanzees. Nor would we be able to continue our vision of expanding and making room for great apes still in need of a sanctuary home.
2. We are thankful for all of the orangutans and chimpanzees who have touched our lives in more ways than we could ever mention.
1. And, most of all... we are grateful for our Founder, Patti Ragan. Without her vision of a sanctuary for orangutans and chimpanzees over 24 years ago, 58 great apes would never have known a true sanctuary home.

Diane Beatty

Donor Relations Manager



As the only accredited orangutan sanctuary in North America we are thankful for your support which allows us to provide compassionate care for our 21 orangutan residents.



Ten Years Helping Great Apes

This year we celebrate the anniversaries of two of our hard-working staff members who have devoted their efforts for the past decade to helping the Center for Great Apes fulfill its mission to protect and care for orangutans and chimpanzees who need a sanctuary home.



Shannon Snead started her job at the Center right after her graduation from Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo. She is a duty officer as well as a primary caregiver for our chimpanzees (although she enjoys working with the orangutans too). Shannon also assists our veterinarian in health care procedures for the apes. She is married to Tony Snead (our Supervisor of Maintenance), and they have a beautiful 5-year-old daughter, Olivia.

Diane Betty manages the Center's office support activities as well as membership development, special events, and the CGA Legacy Society. Diane, her husband Rob, and their son Brandon moved to Wauchula from Iowa twelve years ago, (and they are devoted Disney fans on the weekends). Diane's favorite ape at the Center is orangutan Popi, although the newest arrival (Archie) has also stolen her heart.



We're very grateful for the dedication and support Shannon and Diane have given to the sanctuary for the past ten years!

Comments by the Caregivers



Kenya is a girl who loves “secrets” and also likes to be told she is pretty. When I walk past her habitat, I sometimes hear her making kissing noises at me. She’ll jump up and down making those kissing noises and wait for me to whisper secrets to her. I’ll cup my hand towards her ear and whisper “psst, psst, psst, psst”. Then, at the very end, I’ll whisper “you’re pretty!” Finally Kenya will run off down the chutes happy as can be!

~ Brea Woodhouse, Caregiver

My relationship with Brooks’ group goes back about 15 years ago when I became their caregiver. This group of youngsters won me over from the start. As I was learning how to care for them, and trying to find out all the little intricacies of their group dynamics, they were also learning about me. It was so amazing to watch them developing their skills as chimpanzees while I was trying to develop into the best caregiver I could be for them. Every new day brought a new experience and new skills to learn for both chimpanzees and their human caregiver.

Our relationship in the last few years has changed. I am no longer one of their caregivers, but today when I pass by them, they call out to me to ask for some attention, and I feel honored because I know they still call me a friend.

~ Joy Hernandez

Special Projects & Volunteer Coordinator

Kenya,

One of my favorite moments with Brooks was when we were doing blood pressure training with him. (We use a finger cuff and a little machine, no bigger than an iPhone to get a reading.) I asked him to stick out his finger, and he did so very calmly. I placed the blood pressure cuff on his finger, and he didn't even blink an eye. Now for the tricky part, I did a "pretend squeeze" and rewarded him with a very special treat - some cashews. He did great! The next time, we pressed the button on the machine, and he sat calmly the entire time. After we were done and we got we got our first reading, my coworker Brea and I were very excited and said "Good job Brooks" quite loudly. He promptly threw his hands up in the air and made a very silly squinty face! Brea and I burst into laughter and Brooks just stared at us like we were crazy. Now, whenever we do a training session with the blood pressure reader, it usually ends with laughter, and Brooks' hands held at high as they can be in the air.

~ Nicole Geffner, Caregiver



Mowgli is a young, adolescent male chimp who is coming into his own. He can usually be found playing with a friend in his group (Kenya, Noelle, or Brooks) or playing with his toys. Mowgli loves Wubbas, anything edible, and firehose drop down "vines" which he holds and spins on for long periods of time. Mowgli is a goofy chimp who likes to make silly faces to get a reaction out of his caregivers. Caring for Mowgli is very fulfilling and as well as entertaining!

~ Christopher Godfrey, Caregiver



Noelle loves her friends both human and ape. She can frequently be found tickling with Mowgli, playing slow chase games with Brooks (when they are supposed to be shifting), or grooming with Kenya. When one of her caregivers has a scratch or some sort of injury, she will look at them with a concerned face and make the sign for "hurt" touching both index fingers together. She is a sweet girl with a big heart!

~ Brea Woodhouse, Caregiver

Mowgli, Noelle & Brooks

Ways to Get Involved

Lauren Burditt, Education & Outreach Coordinator

With your continued attendance, interest, and support we've been able to offer several different educational programs over the last year to engage our community and allow for special visits to the sanctuary.

Our **Ape-ology** workshops have highlighted some unique topics this year, such as great ape caregiving, social structure, infant development, and communication. These three-hour long workshops have also allowed visitors to have a more intimate experience at the sanctuary when visiting and observing our orangutans and chimpanzees and talking with our caregivers during the "field" portion of the workshop. Ape-ology will continue to be offered monthly next year with a few new and exciting workshop topics in addition to some fan favorites!

Afternoon with the Apes is a group tour opportunity offered on once a month from September through May. The tours are by reservation only for a limited number of the public to visit and learn more about our great ape residents during the 90 minute walking tour.

The newest addition to our programs is **Art with the Apes**, a fun and educational painting class where you can learn to paint one of our great ape residents. The class is three-hours long, and afterwards, those joining the class will have the opportunity to meet their "primate muse" in person during a tour of the sanctuary. We're hoping to offer more ape-themed art classes in the future (such as scrapbooking, sketching, photography, etc.) as interest builds and we find art instructors to teach these classes.

For more information on any of these programs or to sign up for a class, contact Lauren at 863-767-8903 ext 222 or email Outreach@CenterforGreatApes.org. You can also visit our website for dates and subjects of these various programs.



Thank You Volunteers!

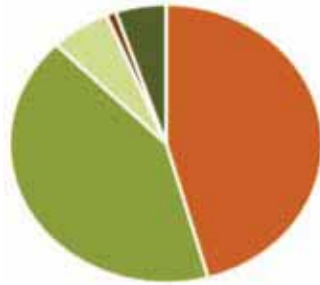
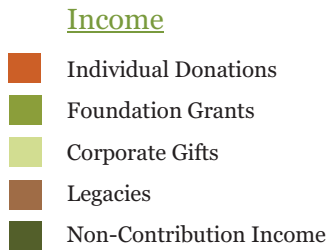
Our volunteers play an integral part in helping to provide the utmost care to our great ape residents. We are so appreciative of the hard work and commitment that our volunteers offer day after day and year after year. Volunteers are vital to the daily care of our great ape residents and assist with cleaning ape habitats, processing ape laundry, helping with grounds work and gardening, maintenance projects, diet preparation, events, ape enrichment, office mailings, and other special projects.

We can't say it often enough... Thank You!

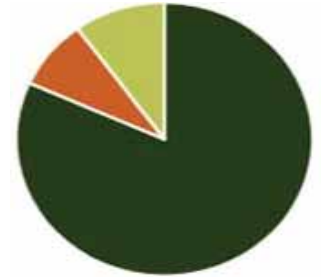
Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Fiscal Year End 2016

OPERATING INCOME



OPERATING EXPENSES



Individual Donations	651,315
Foundation Grants	598,498
Corporate Gifts	87,705
Legacy & Bequests	14,698
	1,352,216
Non-contribution Income	74,061
Total Operating Income	1,426,277

Program - <i>Great Ape Care & Education</i>	1,095,755	82%
Development	111,144	9%
Administrative Support	133,501	9%
Total Operating Expenses	1,340,400	
Change in Net Assets	85,877	

Planned Giving

Philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others. Every person, regardless of financial means, has the ability to make a difference and change the world!

The impact of planned gifts, legacy gifts and bequests to a charity helps ensure its continued existence. A bequest to the Center for Great Apes will mean you will be remembered for making life better for the orangutans and chimpanzees at the sanctuary.

Properly planned charitable giving can also provide substantial tax benefits to you and your family, both now and in the future. There are a number of ways to invest in the future of the Center such as:

- Bequests in your Will
- Revocable Living Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Endowments
- IRA - 401K - Life Insurance
- Stocks, Bond & Annuities

Your financial advisor, attorney, or tax professional can advise you on which alternatives may be best to accomplish your charitable goals.

To learn more about Planned Giving to the **Center for Great Apes** please contact us at (863) 767-8903 or email Legacy@CenterforGreatApes.org



Legacy Society

The Center for Great Apes Legacy Society is a distinguished group for those generous supporters who have chosen to include a gift to the Center in their will or estate plans. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank donors during their lifetime, and ensures that your wishes are properly documented. **Only a letter or statement of intent to leave a gift to the Center is required for membership.** If you have already included the Center in your planning, we encourage you to let us know so that we may honor you as a Charter Member of the Center for Great Apes Legacy Society.

If you would like to learn more, or join the Center's Legacy Society, please contact our Donor Relations Team at (863) 767-8903 or email Legacy@CenterforGreatApes.org



The Center for Great Apes is a Four-Star charity - an exceptional rating by Charity Navigator for accountability, transparency, and sound financial management.

In Loving Memory

*Over the past year, two of our lovely chimpanzee ladies have passed away: **Casey**, in August 2016 and **Toddy**, this past June. Each one started their captive lives as a pet in a human home, and even though they were dearly loved by their owners, each family realized that chimpanzees could not successfully live in a human household. We are grateful that we could accept Toddy and Casey for sanctuary care living with their own species in habitats more suited for great apes. Our staff also grew to love these sweet chimpanzees as we do each of our residents, and the loss of each great ape due to illness or to advanced age is heart-breaking for all of us. But we know that their lives have been enriched and compassionately cared for at the sanctuary, and that is comforting to us.*

CASEY 1988-2016

The most difficult part of caring for our residents is losing them. Last year Casey, a very beloved chimpanzee, passed away after a respiratory illness, and she left behind many human and chimpanzee friends who still miss her today.

Casey was born in Missouri and then sent to a private family in New York where she lived in their home with a younger chimpanzee named Murray. As Casey and Murray grew, their owners could no longer manage them in their home, so they were both moved to the Center for Great Apes in 2010. In New York, they had lived in separate cages but close by where they could see each other and interact from a distance. A few days after they arrived at the sanctuary, Casey and Murray were finally introduced in the same habitat, and they immediately ran to each other and hugged for a long time. They were at last able to touch, hold, tickle, groom, and play with each other.



Casey and Murray made other chimpanzee friends here and enlarged their chimp family to include Mickey, Daisy, and Katie. In fact, Casey became Katie's first "best girlfriend", and Casey's friendship with Katie was one that touched us all. Katie had lived alone for 18 years in a small cage in New Jersey, and after her arrival at our sanctuary she was very afraid of the other chimpanzees here. But when she was introduced to Casey, Casey immediately hugged Katie and stayed close to her those first few months. Casey was patient and kind to Katie, and these two sweet girls frequently sat together out in the aerial trailways just holding hands. Shortly after Casey passed away early one morning in August 2016, we gave Murray and Katie special private time to say goodbye to Casey. When Murray and Katie came into Casey's bedroom, they hugged each other and then sat very close together next to Casey and touched her gently. The most moving moment was when Murray put his arm around Katie and patted her on her back comforting her.



Casey was a friendly and social girl who had a special "greeting face". Whenever Casey saw her favorite people she would close her eyes very tightly in a squint and give a huge toothy smile. At first, we thought she had difficulty with her eyesight and was squinting to see better, but we found that she only did this as a special way of greeting people! Casey touched our lives in a special way as each of these precious apes do. She will always be in our hearts, and we will miss her sweet nature and adorable "squinty-eye" smile.



TODDY 1978-2017



After her capture in Africa 45 years ago, Toddy started her captive life as a pet living with a human family. Although her owners loved Toddy, they could not keep her in their home after she grew stronger and more independent as a 7-year-old juvenile. Over the next few years, Toddy had several homes until she ended up at a breeder's compound where she gave birth to at least 6 infants. Her living babies were all pulled from her and sold as pets or entertainers.

Toddy finally was sent to the Center for Great Apes in 1998 when she was 26 years old and was the first adult great ape to arrive at our sanctuary. She joined a group of youngsters here and was finally reunited with her last offspring, 5-year-old Kenya. But Toddy was most interested in little Noelle (then 3 years old) and had a close motherly relationship with her over the years. She also bonded with the males in the group including Grub, Brooks, and Mowgli.

Toddy was always happy to groom and play games of “chase and tickle” with the boys.

As she aged, Toddy could not safely navigate the four-story tall habitat where her group lived, so was moved to a safer habitat where our cerebral palsy chimpanzee Knuckles lives. She still continued her relationships with her original group in the aerial trailways at the sanctuary, but Toddy also became a companion to Knuckles and was wonderfully gentle with him. With all her experience with chimpanzees, she knew how to handle his awkward efforts to be friends with her. Toddy made a huge difference in Knuckles' life giving him the opportunity to have chimpanzee companionship that was safe for him with his physical disabilities. Toddy's friendship with Knuckles was a great gift and a wonderful blessing for him.

While Toddy had many chimpanzee relationships throughout her life, one of the most moving was her late-life romance with the older chimp Clyde. She was the only chimpanzee friend Clyde had in his 49 years after he was captured from his mother in Africa. Toddy and Clyde, two elderly wild-caught chimpanzees, spent four wonderful years together at the Center before Clyde passed away two years ago. Their time together was a happy time for both Clyde and Toddy, and these two dear chimpanzees captured the hearts of all our staff, volunteers, and friends.

While Toddy had a number of homes in her past, the best part of her life was here at the sanctuary for 19 years. Even though we grieve over this loss, we feel fortunate to have had this remarkable chimpanzee lady in our lives.



Sadly we had to say goodbye this past year to some of our devoted members and friends.

We are grateful to those who included the Center in their estate planning providing for the future care of the apes. We are also grateful to their families for thoughtfully asking for donations to the Center for Great Apes in lieu of flowers and in memory of their loved ones.

*Roseanne Andrews
Eleanor Fox
Jill Hogan
Juan Carlos Riverol*

*Joel Bostic
Robert & Audrey Gallow
Elizabeth Nutt
Joel Rasmussen
Tom Silva*

*James Davis
Steve Goodman
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P.O. Box 488
Wauchula, FL 33873
863-767-8903
CenterforGreatApes.org
Center@CenterforGreatApes.org
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Front cover: Linus
Back cover: Ellie
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and donated by Sue Buck