



features







get closer

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phoenixzoo.org

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Meet Alba and Tipu.

It costs \$89.98 per week and \$389.92 per month to feed Alba and Tipu. Please give what you can to help Alba, Tipu and their friends. Your generous donation helps offset the cost of feeding our animal collection. The total cost to feed all of our animals is approximately \$675,000 annually!



Meet Kima.

It costs \$14.55 per week and \$63 per month to feed Kima. Please give what you can to help keep fish on Kima's plate. Dear Zoo Friends,

All of us at the Phoenix Zoo hope that this issue of Wild Times finds you and your families in good health. These are unprecedented and challenging times. Our world seems to change from day to day and the uncertainty makes the future unpredictable. As we move through this together, we want you to know the steps we are taking to be there for the animals in our care, for our staff and volunteers, for our members and for our community. Our community is at the core of everything we do, and we pride ourselves on being a great community asset.

Our animals are still receiving the excellent care they have always had from our dedicated staff. We were saddened to say goodbye to Reba, our Asian elephant, during what was already an emotional time for all of us. Our closure has had a huge impact on the operation of the Zoo. We have had to make some significant adjustments in the areas of staffing, operational spending and events. Those of us who are coming to the Zoo every day are practicing social distancing and we are getting used to meeting virtually. Our outstanding volunteer force are standing by for the time when they can, once again, welcome our guests. For our members, please know that the time you are missing from the Zoo during our closure will be added to your membership. For our community, we're taking this time to tackle some much-needed projects. We have remodeled the Cavern Café and are moving forward on building a new parking lot. This additional area will provide nearly 600 new parking spaces and we are deep in the design phase of our new Africa Trail expansion.

While we're closed, we're exploring new ways to engage you with the Zoo. We're conducting Digital Safaris that are providing opportunities to see the animals and behind-the-scenes like never before. We just recently launched Cruise the



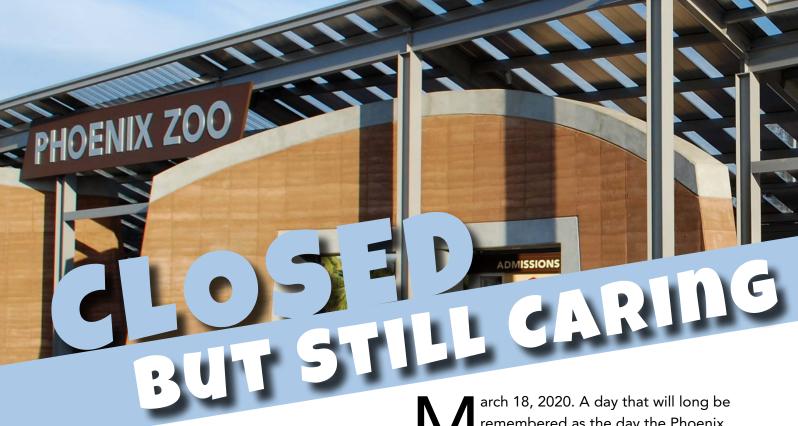
Zoo, a drive-thru experience that allows vehicles to travel the Zoo's trails and pass by a variety of our animal habitats. This has been a tremendous boost to our staff and animals to once again see guests inside Zoo grounds.

We are meeting daily to discuss potential strategies for our eventual reopening. We're talking to our Board of Trustees and many other people and organizations to determine what reopening will look like. We want to protect the health and safety of the animals in our care, our staff and volunteers and all our guests, so we will be closely following guidelines that we're given and open when the time is right.

Please stay safe and I can't wait to see you at the Zoo.

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro

President/CEO, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation Phoenix Zoo/South Mountain Environmental Education Center



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remembered as the day the Phoenix Zoo closed...indefinitely.

To help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Zoo made the decision to shut its gates during its peak season, the busiest month of the year and a time of year that sustains the Zoo throughout the slow summer months. With approximately 80 percent of the Zoo's revenue coming from guests enjoying a day at the Zoo, it was certain that staff would lose jobs, some would be furloughed, budgets would be cut and we would never be the same.

The financial impact to the Zoo is significant, and will continue to be for years to come. We are not alone, this virus has impacted millions of businesses, large and small, and everyone around the world has been affected in one way or another. Our friends throughout the Association of Zoos & Aquariums are also feeling the pain. Therefore, we are sharing ideas, content and reopening plans so we all can come back stronger together.

Silver Lining

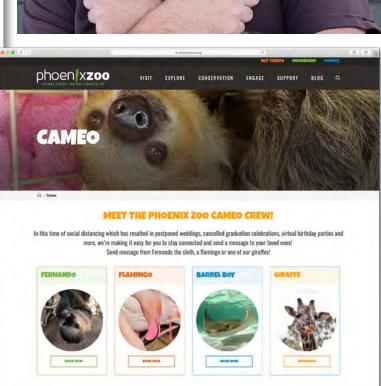
But even during our closure, we have discovered a whole new way to connect, engage and



interact with our members and supporters, and have welcomed many new friends! The Zoo is keeping the community inspired through daily Facebook live segments full of trail tours, chats with keepers, behind-the-scenes experiences and lots of animals! In addition, portions of the live segments are featured on Instagram stories and new photos and videos are posted daily. For those children suddenly learning from home, we are offering fun educational activities at phoenixzoo.org.

Thinking Outside the Box

The Zoo has also been getting creative in terms of fundraising. To reach a broad audience and be able to offer something in return for a donation, the Zoo needed to diversify our efforts. Cameo is a website and app that allows the public to "book" a celebrity to read a message to a designated person. Fernando, the Linnes two toed sloth, is Cameo's first sloth! Fernando was so incredibly popular, that he quickly rose to "top tier talent" and the Zoo followed with adding giraffe and flamingo as options. Local KNIX



celebrity DJ, Barrel Boy, has a stingray named after him in our Stingray Bay, so he hopped on the Cameo bandwagon to voice messages for his ray. The Zoo is also offering ZOOM animals to appear in your online meetings. Imagine the excitement of your coworkers as they tune in to a meeting with an aardvark, tortoise or a porcupine. It will be the best attended meeting of the year!



Generous Giving

Wildlife Champions proves to also be a unique and meaningful way for our supporters to donate to the Zoo. Wildlife Champions allows you to sponsor an animal for a loved one, or yourself! This program has skyrocketed during this closure with a more than 700% increase in package sales, offering the Zoo much needed funds during this unprecedented time.

We also launched a monthly giving opportunity, allowing our supporters to set up an automatic



once per month, benefitting the Zoo. This has proven to be a quick, easy and generous way to support the Zoo.

withdrawal,

Animals Missing Guests

Keepers have noticed that some of the Zoo's more "social" animals have not been fans of the stay at home and social distancing orders. Primates especially have noticed our guests are gone and they are looking for them. Keepers are trying to spend as much time as possible giving them the enrichment they need, and other staffers are doing their part. Jax, a mandrill, is enjoying his daily "lunch dates" with staff who eat their lunch at his window. Elephant keepers do the same with the orangutans. Team members of the accounting, membership and guest services departments are also spending a bit of time each day in the goat yard scratching and loving on the

goats as they are used to hundreds of happy children petting them this time of year. The Zoo's Tropical Flights Aviary is home to a very special, and social bird; Dynah the Bali Myna, who is also missing the attention of guests. Bird keepers are visiting her frequently to curb her loneliness. Stingrays also know attention is missing so staff is coming to the Bay to pet the rays. Operations and maintenance staffers are taking a break from their daily duties to ride the horses at the equine center to keep them conditioned as they are part of our Horse Hands riding classes and are missing those kiddos

and adults on a daily basis.

once again hearing the gleeful squeals of children enjoying the Zoo, the sounds of the Cruiser winding its way through the pathways and most importantly, seeing the faces of our guests light up with magic and emotion as they are inspired by the beautiful animals they love.





Based on Arizona Academic Standards and available on-demand, you'll find videos and activities to create a Zoo field trip, right from your own home.

START YOUR FIELD TRIP HERE!





virtual learning with the Phoenix Zoo!

You will be guided through hands-on and fun educational activities through a combination of pre-recorded videos and live interactions with a Phoenix Zoo educator.

From shorter one-time programs to our virtual summer camp, we have the perfect program for all ages.

Visit phoenixzoo.org and stay tuned to our social media channels for updates on upcoming sessions.



DIGITAL SAFARI:



e know the Phoenix Zoo means so much to so many. So, when we closed, we went into overdrive to explore new ways to connect, entertain and interact with our faithful members and supporters.

Presented by SRP, the aptly named Digital Safari is featured on the Phoenix Zoo website and links to exclusive YouTube videos, blog posts, photos, animal facts and activities that bring the Zoo to you.

And this comprehensive digital content is creating quite a buzz! Thousands tune in daily and are treated to new photos, videos and expanding educational content such as virtual field trips and unique ideas for crafts and games.

Live from the Phoenix Zoo

One of the most popular features has been our interactive Digital Safari Live presented every weekday at 10 a.m. on the Phoenix Zoo's Facebook page. This format allows guests to ask questions and interact with zookeepers and educators while enjoying virtual trail tours, behind-the-scenes experiences and, of course, visiting our many animals!

BRINGING THE ZOO TO YOU

The original Digital Safari Live on May 18 featured a peaceful swim with the stingrays. Since then, over 60 videos have been created. From a birthday party for Fernando the sloth to a Safari Cruise tour, the Digital Safari not only allows us to reach our loyal supporters but provides a pathway for new friends to explore the Zoo!

Virtual Ed-Zoo-Cation

Educating the public about nature and wildlife conservation is an integral part of the Phoenix Zoo's mission, and incorporating various learning opportunities into Digital Safari was a natural fit.

Sadly, for kids, parents and educators, our closure has meant the cancellation of our extensive educational programming including camps, field trips, keeper talks, Zoomobile and much more. Luckily, our quick-thinking educators have devised new virtual ways to deliver this uplifting and important content.

Recently, the Zoo began offering virtual field trips where our education staff take children to different habitats along our Arizona and Tropics Trails while meeting academic standards for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Students can even download activity worksheets to enhance their experience.

Moving forward into our summer schedule, the Digital Safari will continue to offer a mix of live and prerecorded videos, engaging content and unique activities, but will not be daily at 10 a.m. If you haven't already, visit our website and check out Digital Safari. Because there's always room for a little more "wild" in these wild times!



he Phoenix Zoo loves and misses all of our guests. Lately, however, we're asking them to "hit the road!" Though we are unable to open our doors to foot traffic, we are now welcoming guests to enjoy a four-wheel adventure called "Cruise the Zoo."

This one-of-a-kind experience allows visitors to drive their own vehicles along the popular Africa and Tropics trails. Lasting approximately 60 - 75 minutes and maintaining safe social distancing measures, guests are requested to embrace their inner sloth and cruise at a leisurely 4 mph pace.

Start Your Engines

Though Cruise the Zoo is a relaxed ride, the preparation to make this happen was fast-paced. Conceptualized on Monday, May 4, our Executive Team hustled with logistical planning, having online tickets on sale by Wednesday and launching Cruise the Zoo on Friday, May 8 – only two days later.

"We keep hearing from our guests and members that they can't wait to get back out and visit the Zoo," says Phoenix Zoo President and CEO Bert Castro. "This seems like the best way to offer the community a safe activity they can do with their families and loved ones, while also benefitting the Zoo financially throughout our closure."

To say this has been a hit is a huge understatement, with media coverage ranging from local to national and even international. Originally planned for Friday through Monday on only two weekends, pre-purchased tickets were sold out in 48 hours. Currently, max capacity has been increased from 600 to 650 per day and 18 days are now designated for Cruise the Zoo. Remarkably, every day has sold out!

Sights and Sounds

The route itself is a one-way circuit that passes by some of the Phoenix Zoo's most popular animals such as flamingos, giraffes, cheetahs, elephants and rhinoceros.

"We chose a path that would allow for optimal viewing of as many animals as possible," explains Castro. "This is great enrichment for our animals – some of who have missed our guests – and our

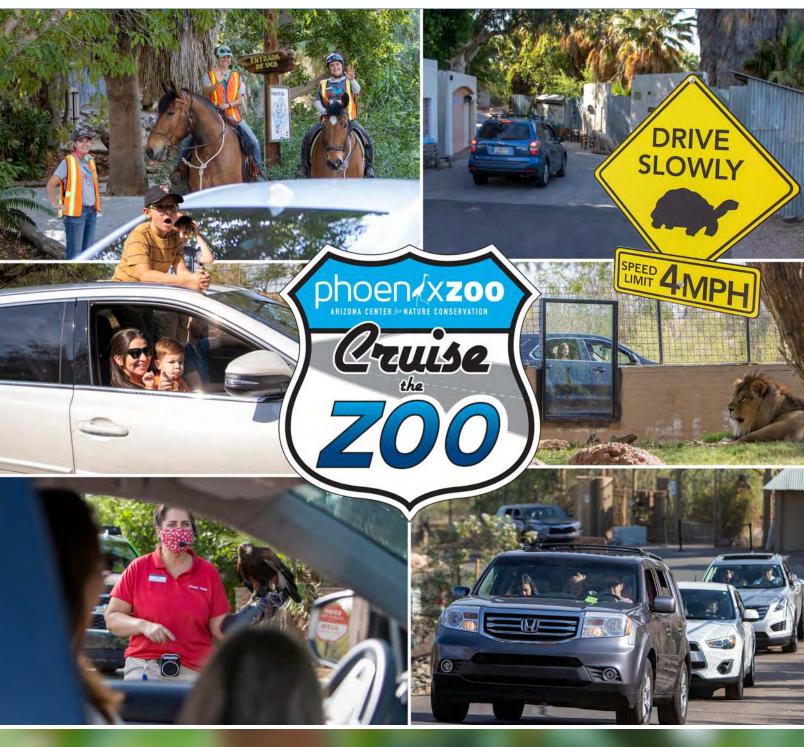
dedicated staff is thrilled to have the Zoo filled with the sounds of people once again enjoying the Zoo."

Visitors can further boost their experience with prepurchased food, souvenir photos and our free audio narration offering insights, information and facts about the animals along the route. This audio tour is available on the Zoo's Cruise the Zoo webpage at phoenixzoo.org/cruisethezoo along with a map of the route and an FAQ document.

Down the Road

It remains to be seen if we will add more dates or expand this adventure in the future.

One thing is for certain: The popularity of Cruise the Zoo has shown us how much people miss being here, seeing the animals and connecting with nature. This gives us even more motivation as we drive toward our ultimate goal of finally reopening the Phoenix Zoo.





challenging TIMES

hese are trying times for everyone. Luckily, the Phoenix Zoo is very fortunate to have dedicated supporters who love a challenge.

Our Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary was one of the first to help supplement the Zoo's loss of revenue. They extended a \$10,000 challenge match in conjunction with a video message from our CEO Bert Castro. Within 24 hours of sending this video to the Zoo's email database, an estimated \$80.000 was raised. We thank our wonderful Auxiliary for this incredible achievement. Great job ladies!

As a loyal volunteer for over 17 years,

Andy Harper considers

the Phoenix Zoo her "happy place." Andy and her husband Gary recognized the challenges the Phoenix Zoo was facing and decided they needed to do something about it. Through the end of May, for every \$1 donated by our volunteers, the Harpers will match all donations. They encourage gifts big and small and are already over halfway to the final goal of \$15,000! Thank you to Andy and Gary for their generous support and being such valuable members of the Phoenix Zoo family.



On Earth Day, Swire Coca-Cola, USA sponsored our Andean bear keeper chat and announced that they would match up to \$5,000. Additionally, anyone that donated during the chat, would be entered to win a beloved Coca-Cola polar bear plush.

Finally, despite the Zoo's closure we have maintained daily operations of our Joyce Corrigan Animal Care Center (ACC) which provides the highest level of care for the thousands of animals that call the Phoenix Zoo home.

Recently, a very special friend committed \$100,000 towards funding the ACC and challenged us to match this gift with new contributions. Our goal of \$200,000 will fully fund the ACC for the next four months and we are determined to reach it.

Help us meet this challenge!

DONATE NOW

For these efforts and the many more donations that we have received, we send a heartfelt thank you for all you do for the Phoenix Zoo!





Commemorate the love you have for your pets

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add your pet's pawprint and name to the Etched in Glass Donor wall.

Purchase yours today before they are gone! Tiles are \$500 each.

Proceeds will benefit The Pride Campaign's new African Lion and Spotted Hyena Habitat. Pawprint kits are available for sale through the Zoo's Call Center at 602.914.4333.



For more information, email phoenixzooprints@gmail.com or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



















Meet Roberto Gato.
It costs \$18.42 per week

It costs \$18.42 per week and \$79.83 per month to feed Roberto. Please give what you can to help Roberto and his friends.



Meet Fernando.

It costs \$3.04 per week and \$13.18 per month to feed Fernando. Please give what you can to keep roses on the menu for Fern. We miss our trips to the zoo with our grandkids.

Take good care of the animals while we are away.



We are humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support you have shown the Phoenix Zoo. In this trying time, for everyone, it means even more for our animals, operations and future. We appreciate your encouragement and look forward to welcoming you back to the Zoo!

We love our zoo critters!

In these unique circumstances we wish the Phoenix Zoo will use this donation in the best way they see fit - whether to upgrade enclosures, food, or keeping your staff employed. Be safe.

We love you! Keep up the

great work!! XOXO

You guys are doing a great job! I'm praying

Thank you for taking care of all animals and great videos on

social media

for the zoo.

Thanks a million to everyone who is working so hard to keep our zoo going and the animals well-cared-for! We all appreciate you so much!

My family can't wait till the zoo opens again! We all need to keep pushing forward and helping each other out.









3 Amigos Tequila	Diageo Beer Company	Kobrand Wine and S
Andrew's BBQ and Catering	Don Sebastiani & Sons	Lancer Catering at Phoenix Zoo
Arizona Taste Catering	Dos Equis	

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Dos Equis	
	Luc Por
Dragoon Beer	101
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elements at Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain	

Fabulous Food Fine Catering and Events	
Fairytale Brownies	
Firehouse Kettle Corn	

Frost Gelato of Phoenix	
Gertrude's	

Francis Ford Coppola Winery

The Halal Guys
Heineken
Henry's Hard Sparkling Water

nop valley brewing	
Hopdoddy Burger Bar	
Hubert's Lemonade	

Tempe

Hopdoddy Burger Bar	
Hubert's Lemonade	
Hungry Howie's Pizza -	

Kobrand Wine and Spirits	Rubio's Restaurants
Lancer Catering at Phoenix Zoo	Ruth's Chris Steak House
Luci's Urban Concepts,	Saint Archer Brewing
Pomelo at the Orchard	Santan Brewing
Modern Market	Seasons 52
Mudshark Brewery	Shake Shack
Nekter Juice Bar	Smirnoff Seltzers
Nico Heirloom Kitchen	Strongbow Cider
Noodles & Company	Swire Coca-Cola, USA
Nothing Bundt Cakes	Toasted Mallow
O.H.S.O. Brewery & Distillery	unbaked, edible cookie

Nekter Juice Bar	Smirnoff Seltze
Nico Heirloom Kitchen	Strongbow Cic
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Nothing Bundt Cakes	Toasted Mallov
O.H.S.O. Brewery & Distillery	unbaked, edib
OneHope Wine	dough & ice cr
Oskar Blues Brewing	Uncle Bear's B
Pedal Haus Brewery	Wagner Family
PHX BEER Co.	Western Stand
Pillsbury Wine Company	WHATABURGE
Portillo's	White Claw Ha
Press Coffee Roasters	Wilson Creek V
Rancho Rossa Vineyards	Winery 1912
Haneno Rossa Villeyaras	Yoasis Self-Serv

	Smirnoir Seitzers
	Strongbow Cider
	Swire Coca-Cola, USA
	Toasted Mallow
illery	unbaked, edible cookie dough & ice cream
	Uncle Bear's Brewery
	Wagner Family of Wines
	Western Standard Brewing
	WHATABURGER
	White Claw Hard Seltzer
	Wilson Creek Winery
	Winery 1912
	Yoasis Self-Serve Frozen Yogurt
Contract of the second	

Creations in Cuisine Catering

Atlasta Catering & Event Concepts

Big Cupcake Truck

Bites Mini Donuts

Caduceus Cellars & Merkin Vineyards

The Capital Grille

Cayman Jack Premium **Prepared Cocktails**

Cigar City Brewing

Crook & Marker

Café Agave Spiked Cold Brew

Boochcraft

Bubble Bee

Caketini

Cellar 433

Ballast Point Brewing Co.

ARE OO THE

3,000+

Animals that need care

5,000

Animal meals prepared weekly

212,000

Guests who visited the Zoo March 18 – April 30, 2019

0

Guests who visited the Zoo March 18 – April 30, 2020 March

Phoenix Zoo's busiest month

364

Program Reservations Cancelled

Acres to keep safe and secure

Field Trips Cancelled

The Phoenix Zoo is eager to welcome back our members and guests with open arms but until that time, we need your help.

Please consider donating today because **there's no Zoo without you!**

\$4.5 million

Lost revenue from March 18 – April 30, 2020

DONATE NOW

Spring Is in the Air:

Phoenix Zoo Johnson Conservation Center Updates

Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation Conservation Center. This means we're pairing black-footed ferrets for breeding, celebrating the arrival of the first pygmy-owl hatchlings of the year, moving adult narrow-headed gartersnakes into our outdoor enclosure to initiate their breeding season and providing Zoo-raised leopard frogs and topminnow to our wildlife agency partners for their first releases to the wild of 2020. As some of our AZA zoo and aquarium colleagues say, "Conservation never closes." That's certainly true for our work at the Johnson Center. With so much uncertainty in the world, we're taking comfort in these seasonal

milestones and welcome the opportunity





laid 23 eggs so far this season, with six hatchlings arriving to date. The first clutch of five nestlings is nearly ready to fledge, as the owlets grow rapidly. While some of the remaining eggs were infertile, we're hopeful that the adults will lay again before the hatching season is done for the year. We're working closely with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and private partners to learn as much as we can about the behavior and reproduction of this species.

Chiricahua leopard frog releases

In April, our partners at AGFD collected several adult Chiricahua leopard frogs (CLF) from the Johnson Center for release to important sites in CLF recovery units in Arizona. We'll share more information about these efforts soon; keep an eye on the Zoo's social media channels and our website. In addition, we have over 1,200 tadpoles growing rapidly at the Johnson Center, so more

releases of this threatened species are planned later this summer.

Gila topminnow release

Also in April, AGFD biologists and other collaborators collected

~500 Gila topminnow from the Zoo for release to the wild. These fish will augment an existing topminnow population in Arizona. Once considered the most abundant fish in the Gila River Basin, Gila topminnow are now endangered due to the effects of habitat loss and competition from non-native fish. At the request of our field partners we are careful not to share specific information about where the fish are re-stocked in order to safeguard this species in its natural habitat.



grow and plans are made for transfers to other breeding facilities and releases to the wild in the fall. We've had a couple of years in a row of reduced kit numbers, so while we're not counting our ferrets before they've whelped, we're very optimistic about this season.

Stay tuned...

While initial indications are not encouraging, we're still hoping to see more signs of reproductive readiness in the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrels in the Zoo's care this year. We hope to have additional positive updates to share from the Johnson Center as spring turns to summer and breeding behaviors hopefully result in new arrivals that will help us continue to contribute to native species conservation and recovery efforts in our state.

Black-footed ferret pairings

Ten female ferrets have been paired with males for breeding at the Johnson Center so far this season. Four out of the five initial pairings resulted in ovulation, which is great news. Each pairing is based on a recommendation from the AZA Black-footed Ferret Species Survival Plan® and is based on the genetic and demographic profiles of each animal. When a pairing doesn't result in ovulation, we introduce the female to a different recommended male in hopes of a more successful outcome. While not all ferret pregnancies result in kits, we're encouraged by how things are going this year. We hope to have lots of good news to share this summer as the kits



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our state, federal and university partners and our members, volunteers and private donors for their tremendous support during the Zoo's closure. Whether reaching out with a kind word to check on how we're doing or providing funding or in-kind support to relieve some of the financial strain we're going through, your belief in us and commitment to what we do together are humbling and inspiring. Thank you.



Meet Lady.

It costs \$79.93 per week and \$346.78 per month to feed Lady. Please give what you can to this lovely Lady.



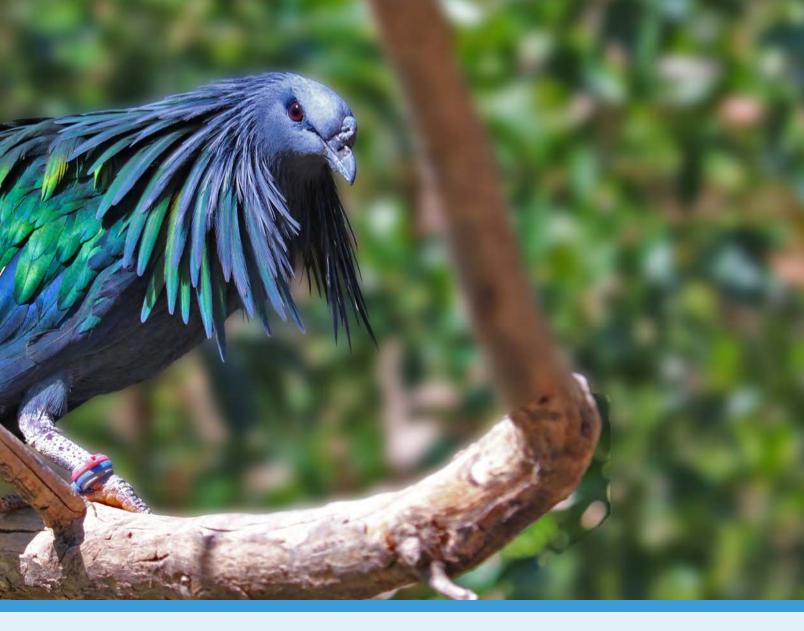
Meet Noah.

It costs \$12.17 per week and \$52.75 per month to feed Noah. Please give what you can for Noah and his friends.



Take your support of the Phoenix Zoo to the next level!

Help ensure a bright future for endangered species, educate audiences about the importance of conservation and play an essential role in the future of the Zoo.



Supporting Memberships

- Starting at \$500
- Includes Base level benefits
- Special access to select Zoo venues, guest admissions, on-grounds donor recognition and more!*

Guardian Conservation Society

- Starting at \$1,500
- Includes Base and Supporting level benefits
- Special access to guest experiences, guest admissions, exclusive Society events, an annual behind-the-scenes tour and more!*

Upgrade your support today!

For more information contact Shannon Kinsman at 602.914.4346.
*Benefits vary depending on level of membership selected. Visit phoenixzoo.org/membership to learn more.

On behalf of the Phoenix Zoo, we send a heartfelt thank you to all of our Guardians and Supporting Members. Your support during this time is greatly appreciated.



BE A ZOO

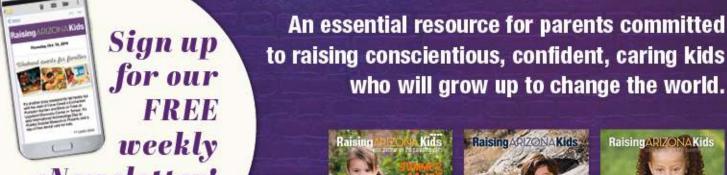
Adopt an animal for your Dad this Father's Day.

> Amazing adoption packages start at \$25, with plush options starting at \$75.





Raising ARIZONA Kids your partner on the parenting path



eNewsletter!

ralsingarizonakids.com/newsletter





who will grow up to change the world.













How SRP Worked to Preserve Critical Nesting Habitat



he mark of a true community partner is its commitment to preserving local resources and serving those who call it home. Roosevelt Dam is the largest of seven reservoirs that store water for the Phoenix area. In the mid-1990s, the dam was raised to increase water storage at Roosevelt Lake to ensure a reliable water supply for the Valley.

Knowing that increasing the lake volume would impact wildlife along the water's edge, SRP developed a Habitat Conservation Plan for the area prior to the expansion. As part of the plan, a 20-acre area of land known as the Rockhouse Demonstration Site was developed near Roosevelt Lake. In 2003, SRP began planting native trees to recreate nesting habitat for wildlife that had been affected by higher lake water levels.

About six years later, the trees began attracting Western yellow-billed cuckoos, a protected bird species that had also once nested near the lake. By 2010, the Southwestern willow flycatchers, a federally endangered bird species, returned, along with more than 40 other migratory bird species.

Preserving and protecting Arizona's natural resources and native inhabitants is a priority for SRP. Through ongoing site surveys and coordination with state and federal agencies, SRP is ensuring a brighter future for our communities and our native wildlife.



LDTIMESJUZ D R K E U X 0 K E U D V Α V T E R UR V D T Y E U X Y E 0 G L S L Η R X L S W D D R 0 OLOUUC A D E ARD D H D S KUA J R G V Ι D OWKI U B L D T J K I K W M Z L Q D D A N D 0 Z 0 U 0 D B O B C A T A S X Ι G 0 U I X RRE TA V R E UL G R I C UA 0 N K E Y 0 0 F R Z UE N A K T E C R A D A X S R U P U A G N BAAN T KAL D



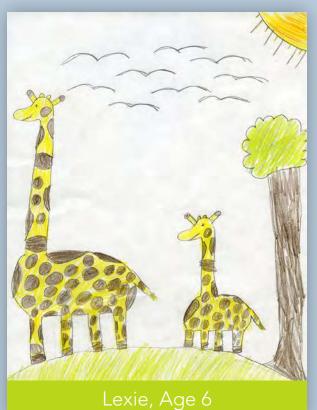




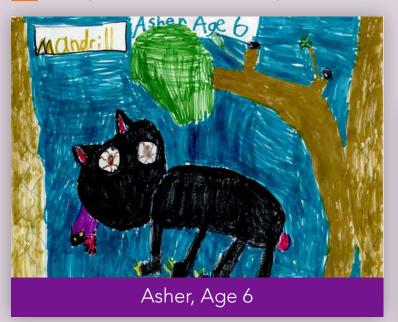


Share your animal drawings with us. Parents - please write your child's name legibly along with their age.

Send to: WT – Wild Child | Attn: Linda Hardwick 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. Phoenix, AZ 85008

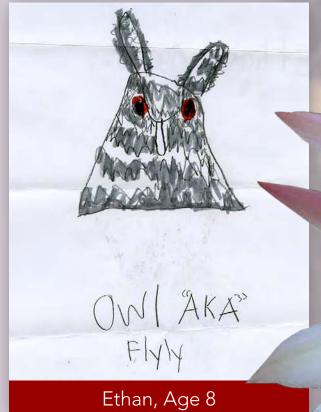




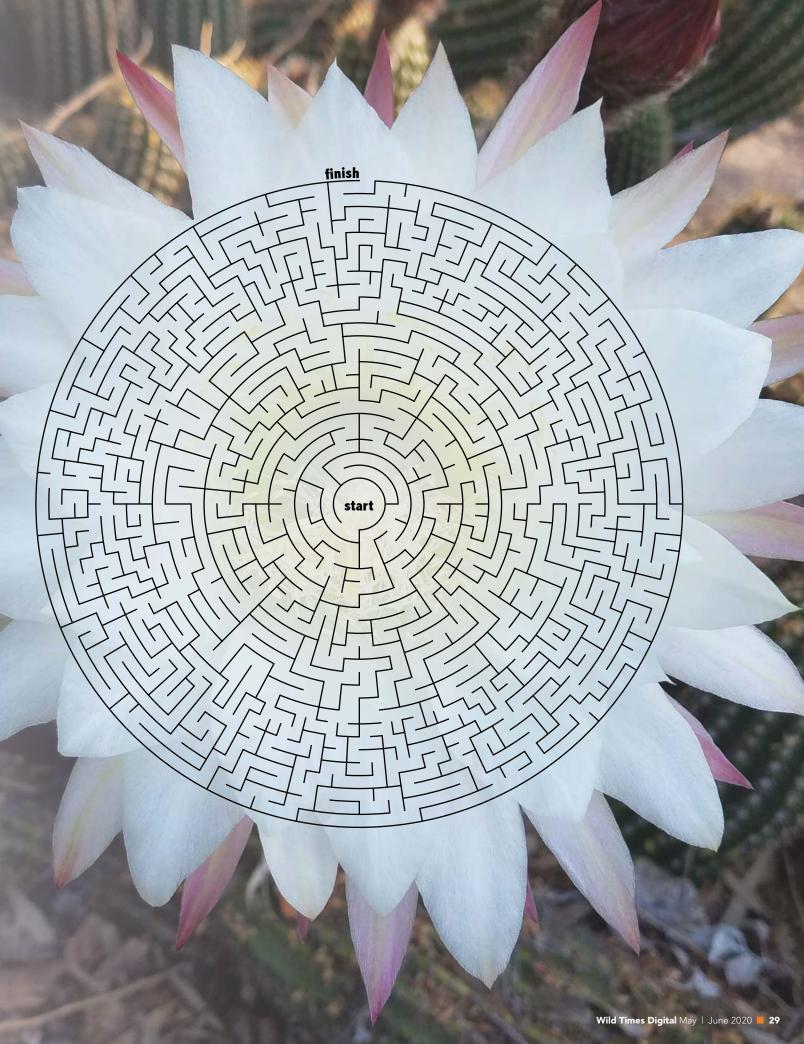














Arizona Center for Nature Conservation advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.



