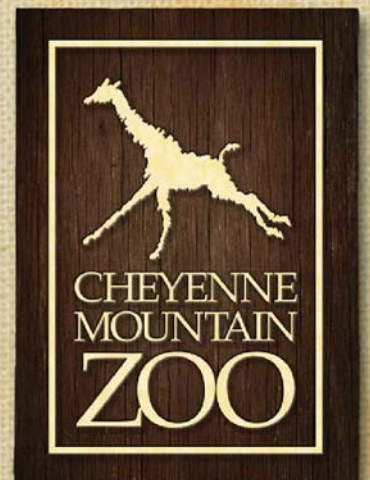


May 2012 - April 2013

# **Annual Report**





# President's Message

Dear friends, supporters and donors,

For the entire community of Colorado Springs, the summer of 2012 was defined by one event - the Waldo Canyon Fire. At the time, it was the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history, and it caused evacuations of 32,000 of our neighbors and complete destruction of 346 homes. Despite the heartache the fire caused our community, it also brought us closer. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo was proud to be a safe place for our community to enjoy in the fire's aftermath and a place that our guests could take a break from the stress of rebuilding.

We took a hit to our attendance in the months following the fire, just as our fellow regional hotels and attractions did. As families began to rebuild, however, our attendance also began to rebound. As excitement grew for our new Encounter Africa exhibit, so did our guest visits. Ultimately, with consistent support from our city's residents, we had our second-highest fiscal year attendance ever, which is a testament to the resilience of our community and to their support of the Zoo.

After two-and-a-half years of fundraising, planning, building and planting, we were thrilled to complete Encounter Africa and welcome guests to our largest expansion ever. We had a monumental Grand Opening; hundreds of donors, members and supporters watched as our elephants marched out of the Wilgruen Elephant Center to "cut" the red ribbon on their new exhibit. Cheers could be heard all over the Zoo, and the feeling of community support was heartwarming.

I am excited about the direction of the Zoo and our plans for the upcoming year. We are beginning to plan renovations to the Australia area, and several of our endangered species have AZA breeding recommendations that could result in amazing new babies. Our flagship conservation programs will be working harder than ever to ensure they keep the species they represent from going extinct.

Thank you for your support of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and for helping inspire conservation action in our community and around the world.

Sincerely,



Bob Chastain  
President & CEO

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# Our Mission

A leader in conservation, captive breeding and animal care, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo connects people with wildlife and wild places through experiences that inspire action.

# Our Vision

**Every Kid. Every Time. Goosebumps!**  
Every kid, of any age, will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit.

# Our Board

With our mission and vision to guide them, these are the people who volunteer their time to make sure the greatness of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo continues.

## 2012 - 2013 Board of Directors

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# New Homes for Reptiles and African Animals

At the end of our 2011-2012 fiscal year, generous donors had given \$13.5 million to the Encounter Africa capital campaign. That money funded the expansion and renovation for Encounter Africa and the Scutes Family Gallery - both exhibits celebrated grand openings this year!

The Scutes Family Gallery is one of the oldest buildings at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. It was the former Bird and Reptile House and, after remaining vacant for four years, crews gutted the space and transformed it into an urban-style art gallery to feature more than 40 species of reptiles. From alligators to monitors and brightly colored constrictors to red-footed turtles, all of the animals featured are displayed in unordinary but extraordinary ways. The Scutes Family Gallery celebrated its grand opening in June 2012 and since then has been helping to educate guests against reptile phobias and replacing fears with the lasting impression that reptiles are beautiful, memorable and understandable.

A majority of the funds from the capital campaign supported our newest and largest expansion in the Zoo's history - Encounter Africa. Over two year's time, the space was transformed from the ground up to provide state-of-the-art exhibits for our four elephants, black rhino, meerkat mobs and lions. In March, Encounter Africa opened for a "Work-in-Progress Preview," and the first week of May 2013, the elephants "cut" a red ribbon on their newly completed outdoor exhibit.

Walking into the new exhibit, you are engulfed by the African savanna, surrounded by realistic life-sized elephant sculptures, a safari tent and tall African grasses. The views of Colorado Springs seen from the exhibit's sky bridge remind you that you're close to the city, but walking side by side with the Zoo's elephants takes you to a different world.

Encounter Africa's outdoor habitats boast state-of-art features including a 20-foot waterfall, specially designed enrichment trees, a restored bush plane cantilevered into the black rhino exhibit, mud wallows for the large pachyderms, an interactive termite mound for the meerkats and a huge new outdoor lion exhibit and holding building that features a spacious day room with guest viewing area. Each one of the new exhibits also provides guests with the opportunity to view the animals from several vantage points, giving everyone the best opportunity to get up-close with some of Africa's most magnificent species.

The remaining funds from the Encounter Africa capital campaign will partially support a new alligator exhibit in the soon-to-be-renovated Australia area. Planning and additional fundraising efforts are underway for our down-under improvements. Wider ADA-accessible walkways, year-around alligator habitat, winter wallaby exhibit, expanded outreach animal holding space and a better budgie experience are all included in the renovation plans.





# Functional & Delicious Updates to Infrastructure

Scutes Family Gallery and Encounter Africa weren't the only big improvements the Zoo made this year. Additional parking spaces and a new food venue were also completed. We redesigned our parking lot to improve the flow of traffic and pedestrian crossings. We also added an additional sixty parking spaces. The redesign of the parking lot included removal of the entrance pillars, which were replaced by a new shuttle-access-only gate. Construction on the parking lot was completed at the end of March, and spring break guests were the first to try out the new parking design.


Spring break guests were also the first to enjoy the new offerings of Elson's Place. Located at the Safari Lodge, across from the new Encounter Africa outdoor lion exhibit, Elson's Place caters to morning guests and to those who like to eat their favorite breakfast food all day long. The menu is full of delicious waffle cakes offered in both sweet and savory flavors; hazelnut, vanilla and caramel flavored coffee; hand-shaken lemonade; soft-serve ice cream and homemade kettle corn.

The café is named after Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's male lion, Elson, who was famous among guests and a favorite among staff. Elson passed away in May 2011 at the advanced age of 16. He was known for being a magnificent ambassador for his species and for his uncompromising personality. It seemed fitting to memorialize him by naming the café Elson's, because it looks onto the new exhibit for his former mate, Angie, and his last litter of cubs, Lomela, Zwena and Jamila, who are now six years old.

Also this year, plans began for a new outdoor restaurant that would overlook the city and cater to our adult guests. The Overlook is located across from Lodge at Moose Lake and was conceived with a daily gourmet, chef-inspired menu. For the first time ever at the Zoo, the public will be able to pair the upscale food with craft beer and featured wines. The newest food offering opened on Memorial Day Weekend 2013.







## New Members of Our Zoo Family

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo welcomed several new additions this year. The first arrival of the year came via unusual transport. A crane lowered Wicket, a 43-year-old Nile hippopotamus, into her new home with her exhibit-mates, sisters Zambezi and Kasai. Wicket came to us from Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, another facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), at the beginning of June 2012.

The following month, the Zoo celebrated its first birth of the year when Jukuu, a male reticulated giraffe, was born. A second male reticulated giraffe was born in January 2013. The Zoo staff named him Kipawa, a Swahili word meaning gift. Kipawa was the first giraffe to be sired by the Zoo's five-year-old bull, Khalid.

Western lowland gorillas Asha and Rafiki welcomed their second offspring on August 14, 2012. The Zoo held a public contest to name him, and out of the thousands of names submitted, the name Dembe, meaning peace, was chosen. Dembe's birth was a great success for Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, since Western lowland gorillas are classified as critically endangered.

The completion of Encounter Africa prompted several new animal additions. Jumbe, a black rhinoceros, arrived at the Zoo in October from Caldwell Zoo in Texas, another AZA-accredited facility. Since his arrival, Jumbe has stolen the hearts of staff and guests. Animal keepers have been working with Jumbe to acclimate him to his new outdoor exhibit, but, like most black rhinos, he is shy and going at his own pace.

Two meerkats, Mojita and Kamikazi, traveled from the Knoxville Zoo in Tennessee to Colorado to complete two mobs of meerkats in Encounter Africa. Mojita was paired with Scotty, a CMZ meerkat born in 2005, in hopes of being the Zoo's new breeding pair.

The last, and loudest, animal to call Encounter Africa home is our new male lion, Abuto. Abuto traveled from Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, AZ in January when he was one-and-a-half years old with the intention of breeding with two of the Zoo's female lions, Lomela and Zwena. His move is part of the lion cooperative breeding program of the AZA.

The AZA also gave us breeding recommendations for several endangered species, including Amur tigers, snow leopards, Canada lynx, Mexican grey wolves, orangutans and African penguins. We hope to successfully breed several of these important species and maintain genetic diversity within captive populations in the future.



# Quarters for Conservation

## Reaches Half-Million Dollars

Since Quarters for Conservation (Q4C) began in 2008 at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, we've contributed more than half a million dollars to wildlife conservation programs around the world. This year's Q4C campaign raised a grand total of \$119,369.16 during the 2012-2013 fiscal year to support conservation programs locally and globally.

Half of the amount collected via Q4C is distributed to projects that are championed by Zoo staff, while the remaining 50% supports ongoing flagship conservation programs at the Zoo, including breeding programs for black-footed ferrets and Wyoming toads.

**Results of the 2012 - 2013 Q4C guest votes:**

- **Help Protect Wild African Vultures: \$6,808.03**
- **Help Protect Wild Orangutans and Their Habitat: \$11,622.82**
- **Help Rescue Amphibians in Panama: \$7,214.40**
- **Help Raise and Protect Wild African Penguins: \$12,722.64**
- **Help Protect Birds Migrating through Colorado Springs: \$8,897.44**
- **Help Protect Elephants and Rhinos in East Africa: \$13,811.79**

In 2010, the Zoo's Director of Field Conservation, Dr. Della Garelle, became the leader in encouraging other Zoos and conservation institutions to launch their own "Quarters"-style programs. This year, four new participants joined the Q4C effort, bringing the total to 11 zoos - together, those zoos donated more than one million dollars in Q4C funds to wildlife conservation this year alone. Our Zoo's goal is to have a total of 30 Zoos participating in Q4C by the end of the 2014-2015 year.







# Conservation in Action

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is steadfast in our commitment to conservation, both locally and globally. This year, several of our flagship conservation programs celebrated successes, including the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project (PARC), the black-footed ferret breeding and release program, and the palm oil crisis awareness program.

After making the decision to join the Black-Footed Ferret's Species Survival Plan effort in 1990, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo built an on-grounds breeding facility. Though not visible to the public, this breeding facility has helped bring a species that was on the brink of extinction back to a foreseeable sustainable future. This year, 30 ferret kits were born - an astonishing number when you consider it is nearly double the number originally trapped in the 80s. Also this year, 11 kits and six adults were released from the Zoo to wild prairie ecosystems in New Mexico and Canada. A total of 413 kits have been born at the Zoo's facility since 1991.

A bit farther from Zoo grounds, the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation project (PARC) expanded their ability to collect, house and breed frogs that are at-risk of extinction by acquiring additional land and adding five new research pods, giving them a total of seven. These events mark an important stage of growth and advancement of the project. After PARC acquired new land needed to house the pods in Gamboa, Panama and the pods were set up, the Zoo sent Jeff Baughman, Lead Conservation Highlands Animal Keeper, to assist in equipping the amphibian isolation pods with water filtration systems, misting systems and glass tanks. The additional pods will help to fight against extinction for amphibian species in Panama.

The Zoo's palm oil crisis awareness team continued their crusade to educate consumers on using their buying power to protect orangutan habitat in Borneo and Sumatra. They advocate doing this by purchasing products containing palm oil only from companies certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). They also attended the AZA national conference to petition other zoos to educate their guests on the palm oil crisis. The increasing number of companies joining the RSPO and the popularity of our Zoo's shopping guide led the team to develop a downloadable palm oil smartphone application, which was launched in July 2013.



# Groundbreaking

## Science at the Zoo

Many of the Zoo's flagship conservation programs' goals are to improve genetic diversity and prevent extinction through captive breeding. For the critically endangered mountain tapir, breeding is of the utmost importance. Populations in the wild have diminished to less than 2,500, and there are only eight mountain tapirs currently living in captivity. Our Zoo's female, Carlotta, is the only female tapir currently in captivity that has successfully reproduced, but she's been unable to conceive naturally in the last nine years.

This year, a decision was made to attempt the first-ever artificial insemination of a mountain tapir at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Additionally, there was a desire to test the effects of cryogenically freezing mountain tapir semen for future use. An expert team was compiled, including CMZ's Dr. Della Garelle, Dr. Liza Dadone and Dr. Eric Klaphake and reproductive experts from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

At the end of March, the entire team gathered at the Zoo's conservation building to conduct the artificial insemination procedure. The team was able to collect a small sample of semen from our male tapir, Mochi, but the amount wasn't enough to inseminate Carlotta. The procedure may not have accomplished all of its goals, but the team made significant medical advances in preparation for future attempts.

Through the procedure, the team has been able to develop a methodology for maximum sperm survival during cryogenics, as well as the optimal thawing technique. Additionally, they learned that a female mountain tapir's hormone cycle can be established via blood draws to determine the exact day she is at peak estrus. Their study also proved that the reproductive tract could be located via ultrasound on a standing tapir to determine if she had a follicle ready for ovulation.

The team continues to discuss how to improve their methodology before making any decisions on a second artificial insemination attempt in the future.



# Education

## for All Ages

Through our educational programs, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo encourages guests to take initiative in protecting the natural world. To accomplish this, our staff provides relevant material to guests of all ages through a number of educational programs, including camps, ZOOM, Wild Nights, teen programs and others. The educational programs that saw the most growth this year were Beastly Birthday Parties, Explore and Learn, and The Loft Exploration Center.

The Loft provides guests the opportunity to interact with birds, snakes, bugs, a skunk and many more. Animal keepers and Zoo Crew gave experiences to 256,805 guests in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Getting up-close and touching an animal, watching a raven recycle, spraying down an amphibian and helping feed a lizard are just a few of the memorable moments guests enjoyed. The Loft added a few species to the outreach program, too - Kira, a tawny frogmouth; Stella, a Burmese star tortoise; and several African millipedes.

Children who have a Beastly Birthday Party at the Zoo receive the gift of conservation education. During their celebration, the birthday girl or boy gets to choose a favorite animal for their friends to meet, and they all get to learn about how to protect their favorite animal's wild counterparts. All messages are custom-presented in a kid-friendly and fun way. Nearly 3,800 guests attended birthday parties at the Zoo last year.

The Explore and Learn program for Boy and Girl Scouts pinned 1,620 badges this year - 800 of those were earned during a special day for Girl Scouts. Badge study subjects include mammals, insects, veterinary medicine, reptile and amphibian study, environmental science and forestry. We also had several Eagle Scouts complete projects on Zoo grounds.

Our education programs enrolled 53,011 children and adults this year. Additionally, our education department started plans to overhaul teen programs to provide more active and enriching outings, like hiking Pikes Peak and camping in some of the beautiful locations Colorado offers.





# Connecting the Community

## With Our Mission



This year, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo welcomed the second-highest number of guests in its history - 577,505. Approximately 63% were local residents from the Pikes Peak region, nearly 19 percent were from the rest of Colorado and about 18 percent visited from elsewhere in the country or around the globe. Although attendance numbers were slightly behind the previous year's, the number of Zoo memberships broke the record books - 16,798 households supported the Zoo by becoming new or renewing members, an increase of 1,432 members over the previous year.

Volunteers donated 38,761 hours of their time - the equivalent of almost 19 full-time employees! A total of 141 Zoo docents gave 14,748 hours of service this year volunteering, giving tours, providing interpretive education and assisting with ZOOM outreach programs.

Zoo events assist in providing funding for the care of Zoo animals while reaching a wider demographic of Zoo guests. Moonlight on the Mountain, Run to the Shrine, Military Appreciation Week and Electric Safari all saw an increase in attendance numbers. The Zoo's Annual Plant Sale had another great year raising a total of \$22,946, and the annual e-waste recycling event prevented 10,702 pounds of electronics from going into landfills.

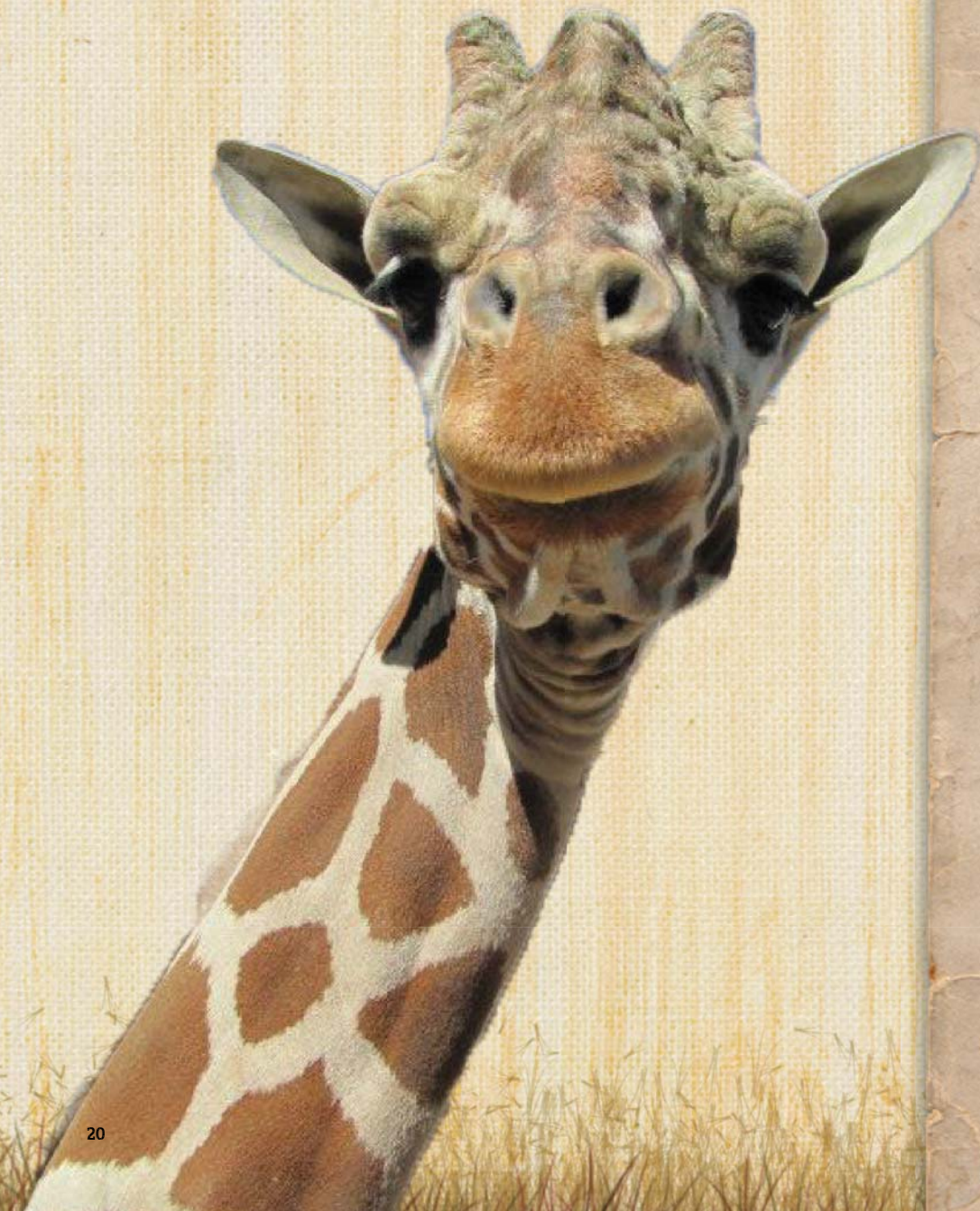
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of only nine of the more than 200 AZA-accredited zoos that does not receive any tax support. The Zoo relies solely on donations, membership dues, admissions and grants for funding. We cannot fulfill our mission without our enthusiastic guests, donors, volunteers, docents and passionate staff. Thank you for your support of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo!





# Supporting Our Cause

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is grateful to all of our patrons who support our vision of inspiring caring and stewardship of the natural world. As a self-funded facility, our donors and sponsors are critical to our success. Although all gifts are deeply appreciated, space precludes us from individually acknowledging all our generous friends. The following supporters contributed gifts of \$2,500 or more (cash or in-kind) from May 2012 to April 2013.



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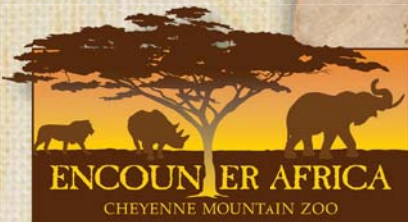
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# Encounter Africa

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# 1926 Society

The following are members of the Zoo's 1926 Society; generous friends who have provided for the Zoo in their will or estate plan.

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| Mr. Kent* and Mrs. Ann Brosh            | Mr. Bob and Mrs. Judy Mollo                     |
| Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Patty Cameron        | Mr. Ted and Mrs. Gail Neher                     |
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| Mr. Paul Deery                          | Dr. Ed and Mrs. Mary Osborne                    |
| Mr. Howard and Mrs. Ruth Dutzi          | Ms. Lovice Riffe                                |
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| Dr. Mike Edmonds                        | Mr. Bill Ryan                                   |
| Ms. Susan Engfer                        | Ms. Louisa Sprague                              |
| Mrs. Betty Francis*                     | Mr. Bob and Mrs. Jane Sterritt                  |
| Mr. Dan Freeley                         | Ms. Sue Switzer                                 |
| Mr. Bill* and Mrs. Dorothea Gruenerwald | Mr. Jack and Mrs. Michel Tomsic                 |
| Mr. Brian and Mrs. Linda Hall           | Mr. Dave and Mrs. Kay Van Dykman                |
| Mr. Bill and Mrs. Helen Holmgren        | Dr. Glenn* and Mrs. Joan* Williams              |
| Mr. Michael and Mrs. Emily Jones        | Mr. Randy and Mrs. Audrey Woodard               |
| Mr. Ken Keene                           | Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York                    |
| Mr. Brian and Mrs. Karen Kirouac        |   |
| Mrs. Margot Lane                        |   |

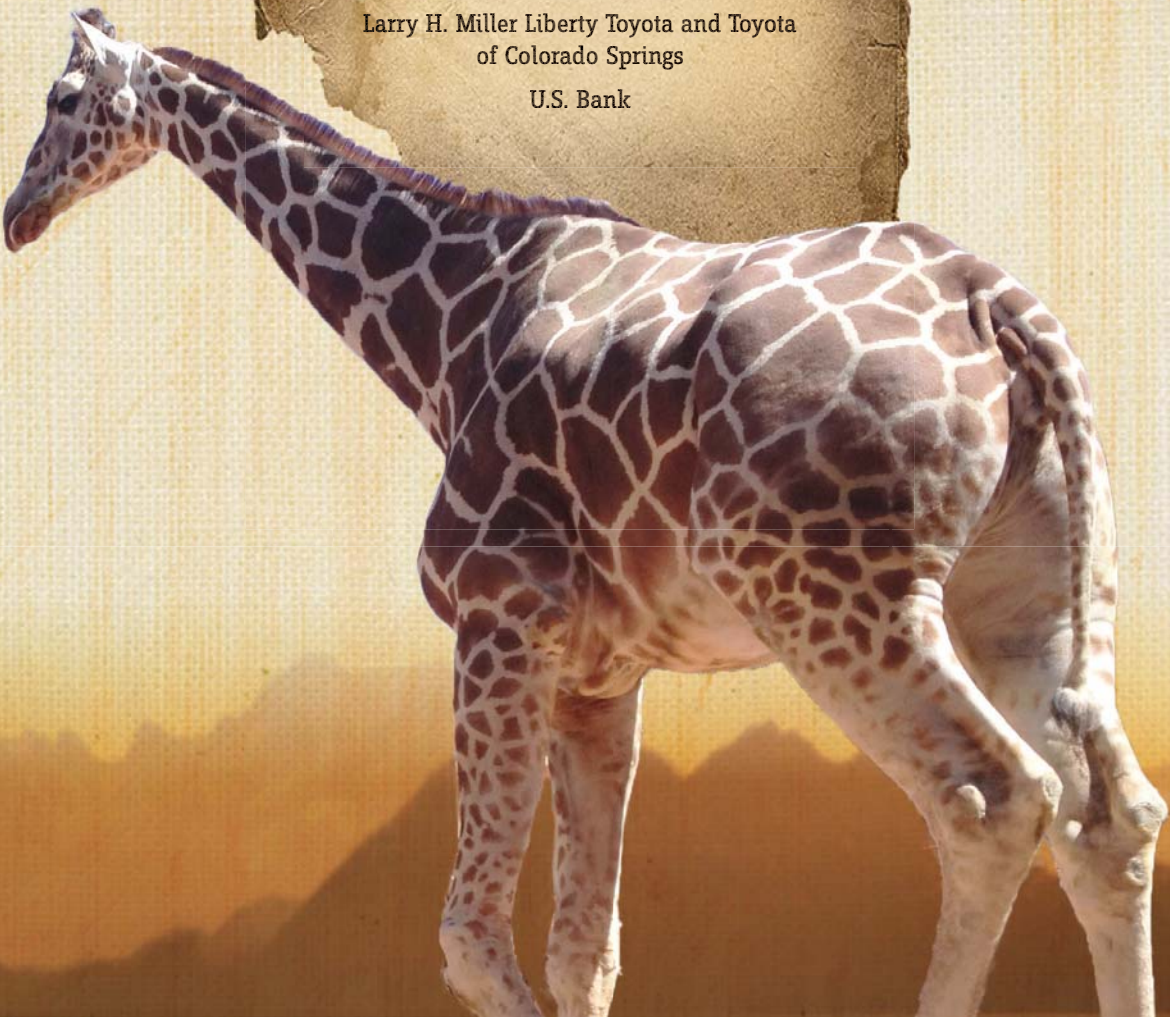
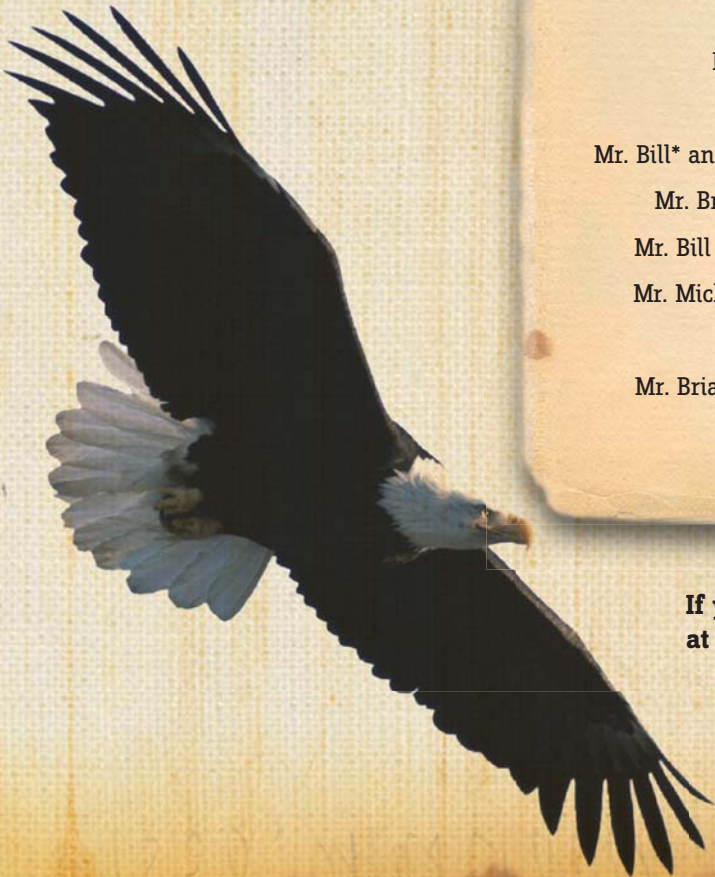
\*Deceased

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving at the Zoo, or to inform us of your future provisions, please contact Kelley Parker at (719) 633-9925 x164.

# Sponsors

We would like to thank the following corporate sponsors, who recognize the mutually beneficial partnership that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offers. Sponsorships offer area businesses the opportunity to accomplish their marketing goals while supporting the important conservation work of the Zoo.

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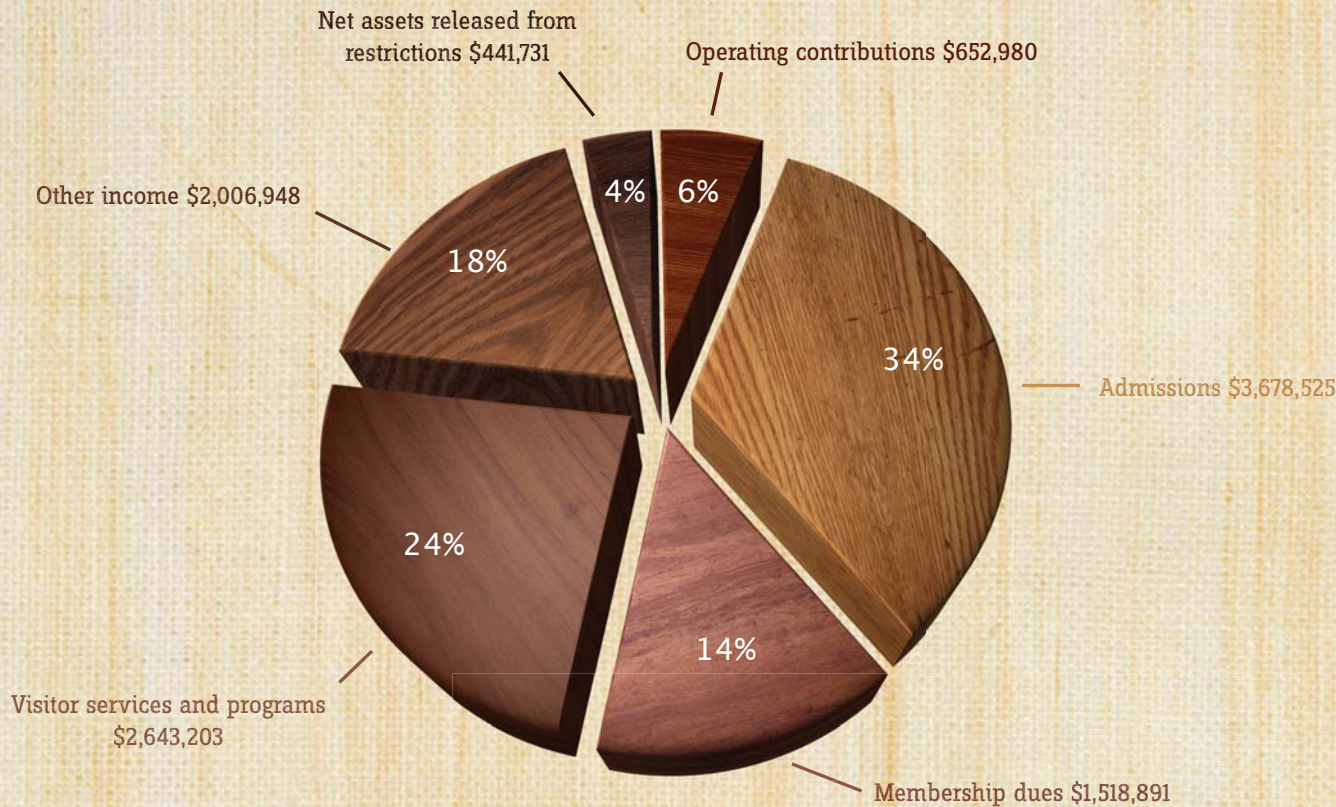


# Financial Summary

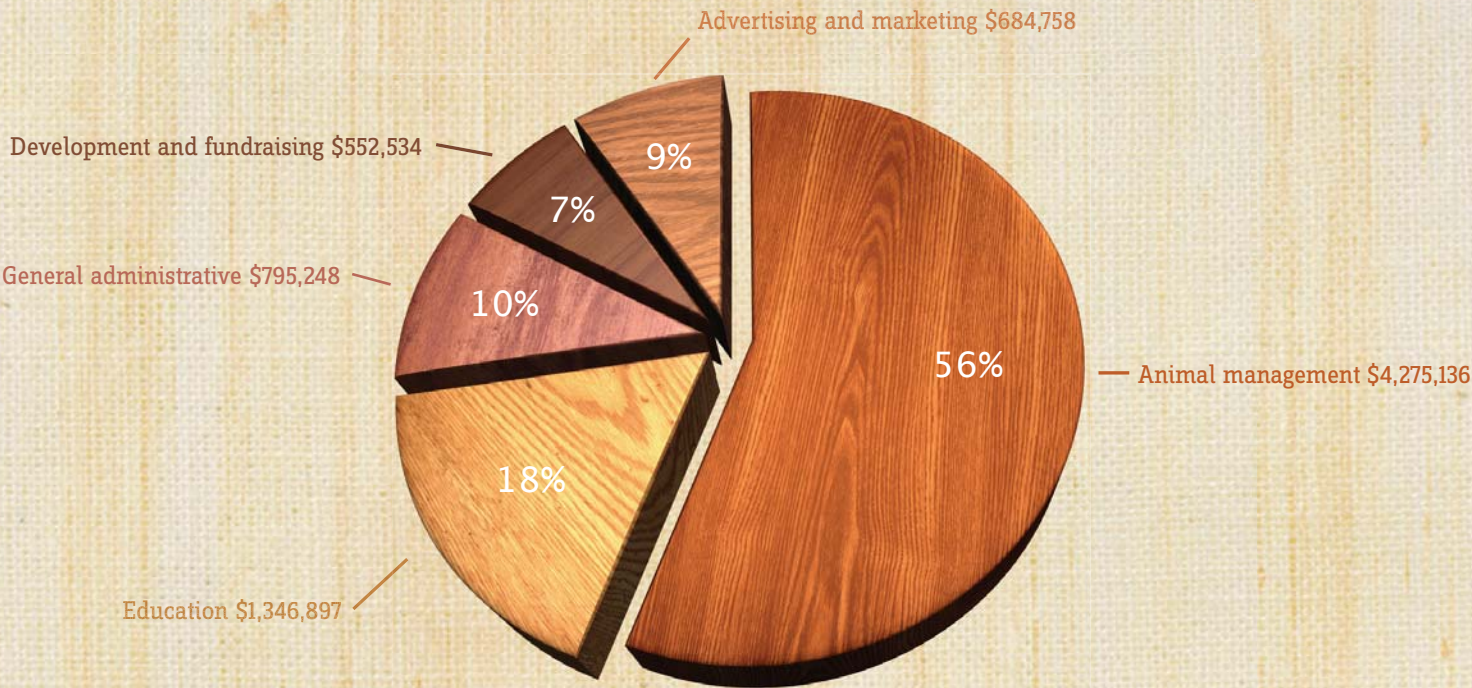
## May 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013

(figures from audit report, supplemental consolidating schedule of activities)

### Support & Revenue - Total Operating Income \$10,942,278



### Expenses - Total Operating Expenses \$7,654,573



Net Assets, May 1, 2012	\$32,716,955
Net Surplus from Operations	3,287,705
Add Net Assets Released for Capital Assets	4,488,751
Less Depreciation this Period	(1,932,749)
Net Assets, April 30, 2013	\$38,560,662

(figures from 2012-13 audited financial statements)



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of only nine of the more than 200 AZA-accredited zoos that does not receive any tax support. The Zoo relies solely on donations, membership dues, admissions and grants for funding.



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1555. Wildflower coffee, 3/10/88

CHV 24-1-7



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