Message from the Founder

In a landmark year of special events and serious challenges, the Center for Great Apes continues its mission of providing rescue and compassionate care for orangutans and chimpanzees.

In the fall of 2019, we welcomed Sandra, a very special great ape who is the first orangutan in the world to receive the legal status of *nonhuman personhood* resulting from a court case in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

With the arrival of Sandra, also came unprecedented media interest in her new home and future companionship possibilities. And a few months after her arrival, when Sandra was introduced to her first orangutan companion in more than a decade, we were overwhelmed with requests to visit and film her and her new friend Jethro.

However as the COVID-19 pandemic threat grew in the U.S. and Florida, all visitors, special tours, and fundraising events (including our annual Spring Member Day) were cancelled with no one allowed at the sanctuary except essential staff caring for the apes. Our office staff worked from home, and even our devoted volunteers were not able to come on grounds for months.

With this hiatus, raising funds for ape care has been seriously impacted, but we have tightened our belts and had some help from the Payroll Protection Plan. To add to the stress of a pandemic and economic crisis affecting sanctuary work, a California wildlife facility closed down last fall leaving 42 chimpanzees stranded. Two sanctuaries and two zoos have taken a few of those chimpanzees, but 32 are still waiting for rescue and a home. Since accredited chimp sanctuaries today are at capacity, those 32 chimpanzees will have to wait until sanctuaries can build additional space to accept them. The Center for Great Apes is one of the sanctuaries willing to expand to take a group of seven chimpanzees in California, but a new nighthouse and outdoor area must be built first. And, of course funding must be raised for that project.

In the midst of all this, we had a very unexpected surprise (actually, a shock) when 38-year-old orangutan Sunshine delivered a female infant one morning in February. While this birth was definitely *never* in our sanctuary plan, this precious infant has brightened our lives at the sanctuary in a rather dark time.

As we look forward to a safer and healthier future, we are working hard to do everything we can to protect our apes and our staff. And, we are all immensely grateful for the support of our members and friends who are very much a part of our work to help great apes.

With deepest gratitude,

Patti Reagan
A Surprise Arrival

Accredited animal sanctuaries do not intentionally promote breeding in a sanctuary so as to not add more individuals to captivity when there are still so many in need of lifetime care. In our 27-year history, the Center for Great Apes has successfully implemented birth control methods for all sanctuary residents with no birth control failures…until February 6th when 37-year-old Sunshine unexpectedly gave birth to an infant female.

Since Sunshine (a former entertainment orangutan) had been on birth control since her arrival at the sanctuary three years ago, we were surprised and stunned at the sight of a tiny infant on Sunshine’s chest! However, as the shock wore off…joy and delight took over.

Before she arrived at our sanctuary, Sunshine had several babies who were taken from her and hand-raised. It was unknown how she would be as a mother since she only had a few weeks’ experience in the past. But Sunshine has been an excellent mother, frequently grooming and feeding the infant while watchfully allowing the father Archie and his older sister Keagan to hold and interact with the baby.

Our staff has named her Cahaya which translated in Indonesian means “light,” “radiant,” and “shine”. While this birth was not in our plan or mission, little Cahaya will receive the lifetime care and commitment we have for all our sanctuary residents. And, how wonderful for Sunshine that she will finally be able to raise her own infant!
Welcome Home Sandra

In November 2019, the arrival of an orangutan named Sandra brought a global spotlight to the Center for Great Apes. After living at a zoo in Buenos Aires for 25 years, and alone there for the last decade, Sandra was the first orangutan in the world to be granted legal nonhuman personhood.

In an Argentinian court case initiated by AFADA (the Association of Officials and Lawyers for Animal Rights), Buenos Aires Judge Elena Liberatori granted Sandra the legal personhood status with the right to be respected as a sentient being. She ruled that Sandra was not allowed to remain on exhibit in the zoo, so after more than two years of reviewing worldwide options for Sandra’s care, the Center for Great Apes was asked to accept Sandra.

Many people and organizations were involved in helping to give Sandra sanctuary care, and we are grateful to: the government of Buenos Aires; Judge Liberatori and her staff; several orangutan experts who advised the court on placement; and the Sedgewick County Zoo and staff who helped with international and federal permits as well as the required month-long CDC quarantine.

Even though Sandra lost her status of legal nonhuman personhood when she entered the United States, we believe that all great apes have the right to be respected and treated as sentient beings, and we provide care to our sanctuary residents that reflects that conviction.
Companionship

Sandra and Jethro

Once Sandra arrived at the sanctuary, she had the opportunity to view and observe a number of both male and female orangutans who live at the Center. Initially a bit nervous when near others of her species, Sandra began to relax and show interest in certain individuals over others. The Center’s caregiver staff chose Jethro to start introductions with Sandra because, at 32 years old, Jethro is close to Sandra's age and is a particularly calm and gentle male.

In their first six months together, Sandra and Jethro have become comfortable with each other and spend more time sitting near each other. Sandra often follows Jethro to see where he’s going, what he’s doing... and especially, what he’s eating! Sandra is an active and lovely orangutan, and she and Jethro can take all the time in the world to get to know each other and gain confidence in their relationship.

Sandra carefully watches Jethro from her hammock.

Thank you Volunteers!

Volunteers are vital to the daily care of our orangutans and chimpanzees by assisting with cleaning habitats, doing ape laundry, diet preparation, ape enrichment, gardening, grounds work, maintenance work, and many other special projects. Because of COVID-19, this year has been challenging for our volunteers and our staff. We miss having our volunteers here with us, not only for the hard work they do but for their friendships and camaraderie. Even though they haven’t been able to physically be at the sanctuary since March, they have supported the apes (and the staff) with wishlist drives and donations, special treats for the staff and the apes, and so much more!

Thank You! for the generous gift of your time and your heart.
Keeping Cool in the Florida Summer Heat

Geri prefers to dip her dainty toes and hands into the water, while Chuckie (below) dives right in!

Fruit-cicles! Orangutan Jethro and chimpanzee Kodua (below) are partial to the red ones!

Popi turned 49 this past spring. She is the second oldest Bornean orangutan in the United States

Marco, our oldest resident at the sanctuary, is 60!

Pongo enjoys the new misting Breezer Fans donated earlier this spring
Chimpanzee Introductions

New friends for Chimps

One of the special benefits of the nearly two-mile aerial trailways connecting to our two new largest chimpanzee habitats is that chimpanzees from different groups can frequently change habitats for variety as well as visit other groups, make new friends, and join bigger groups.

Chimp caregivers have recently introduced Chipper and Natsu into Kenya, Noelle, Brooks, and Mowgli’s group with immediate “best-friendships” forming. As the youngest ones in this group, Natsu, Noelle, and Mowgli have become frequent play-partners while Kenya mediates to keep everything peaceful between the two adult males Chipper and Brooks.

Another new group has formed with Murray, Hannah, and Chloe joining with Mickey and Daisy. These chimps have all been with each other individually at different times, but this is the first time they are living together as a group. Adult males Murray and Mickey get along well, although little Chloe occasionally tries to intimidate Mickey. But Chloe is wild about her new elder friend Daisy and invites Daisy to play throughout the day (even though Daisy often just wants to nap).

With our largest habitats in the new expanded area, we have increased opportunities for larger and more natural chimpanzee groups, and more “introductions” are underway!
Message From The Board of Directors

As I write this, we are experiencing a frightening rise in Covid-19 cases in Florida. This is not only discouraging from a health perspective but also upsetting as we look to the future without any ability to predict when we might be able to open the sanctuary to our members, visitors, and friends.

The Center for Great Apes has been closed to all but essential caregivers and staff. These dedicated individuals have limited their exposure both at work and outside of work in order to safeguard the health of the apes, their coworkers, and their families.

The Center’s veterinarian and ape care manager have worked together to develop very detailed (and constantly updated) protocols for the care and safety of the apes as well as for the protection of the staff. Our development team and office staff have kept the wheels turning in order to fundraise for the care of the apes, and they did much of this while working from home for nearly two months. Our maintenance team has been on grounds providing all kinds of backup support for the rest of the staff by keeping things operational. The board greatly appreciates our exhausted but diligent staff’s commitment to our 54 great apes.

And, our founding director has worked nonstop to keep the sanctuary running, to manage the intricacies of the Payroll Protection Plan in order to avoid layoffs, and to deal with all the other regular and surprise tasks of being the director. I think she would agree that this year has presented challenges she never imagined, and she gets the board’s highest accolades for the job she is doing.

The challenges have been many, but you – our members, donors, friends, and volunteers – have made significant contributions to keep us going. We are so grateful for that!

Our board members are extremely eager for the gates to reopen. We miss the apes, and of course, we want to meet baby Cahaya! That time is still unknown, but what we do know is that we want to support the sanctuary in every way possible, and we hope you do too!

Again, thank each of you for your continued support.

Lucie Easley, Board Member

With Sue Dupre, Wally Baldwin, Charles Carlon, Kevin Carmichael, John Gill, Patrick Harris, Pat Kelly, Lindsey Matheson, Scott Peisner, Lori Perkins, and Ronna Phelps

10-Year Employee

Maintenance team member Teddy Ray started with the Center in 2010 and reached his 10-year anniversary this past April. Teddy has handled many maintenance duties over the past decade…especially working hard to keep our grounds orderly and beautiful.

We are grateful for Teddy’s dedication to our mission as well as his hard work to help us provide a safe and beautiful sanctuary for great apes.
Our Leadership Volunteers

Honorary Directors
Jane Goodall PhD, DBE
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace
Dr. Ian Singleton,
Director Sunatran Orangutan Conservation Programme, Indonesia

Board of Directors
Patti Ragan, President
Sue Dupré, Board Chair
John Gill, Vice Chair
Wally Baldwin, Secretary
Scott Peisner, Treasurer
Kevin Carmichael, Past Chair
Charlie Carlson
Lucie Easley, DSW, LCSW
Patrick Harris
Pat Kelly
Dr. Lindsey Matheson
Lori Perkins
Ronna Phelps

Directors Emeritus
Patrick Barthet, Esq.
Laura Jack
Lynn Messner
Theresa Mersentes
Sarah K. Smith
Betsy Swart, PhD
Ken Veneziano, Esq.
Walter B. Olliff, Jr. 1954-2014

Advisory Board
Jocelyn Bezner, DVM
Melanie Bond, Great Ape Keeper, Retired
Linda Brent, Founder, Chimpanzee Haven
Robert Ingersoll, Primatologist
Ron Magill, Communications Director, Zoo Miami
Elyse Orchard, DVM
Eric Shroyer, Horticulturist
Dawn Siler-Nixon, Esq., Ford & Harrison Law
Jane Watkins, President, JR Watkins Public Relations

Our Dedicated Team

2019-2020

Patti Ragan, Founding Director

Ape Care Team
David Murphy, DVM, Veterinarian
Rhonda Pictsch, Ape Care Manager
Carissa Alvarez, CVT & Caregiver Duty Officer
Mandy Chorman, Caregiver
Laura Denum, Training Consultant
Ricca Ducharme, Caregiver
Jessie Farrington, Caregiver
Nicole Geffner, Caregiver
Chris Godfrey, Caregiver Duty Officer
Alicia Hansen, Caregiver Duty Officer
Nathan Jeffers, Caregiver
Mary Desedare Keefer, CVT & Caregiver
Basil Malamis, Caregiver
Colten Marcum, Caregiver
Meg Mas, Caregiver
Heather Oakley, Diet Coordinator
Ellyn Polander, Caregiver
Shannon Snead, Caregiver Duty Officer
Keith von Stein, Caregiver
Darlene Winslet, Caregiver
Brea Woodhouse, Caregiver

Administrative Team
Diane Beatty, Donor Relations Director
Sandy Barnes, Facilities Coordinator
Joy Hernandez, Volunteer Coordinator
Danielle Weeks, Office Assistant
Scott Serrano, Bookkeeper
Lisa Wingo, Office Coordinator
Chris Poole, Video Media Coordinator

Maintenance & Repair Team
Tony Snead, Maintenance Manager
Heccner Hernandez, Maintenance Team
Teddy Ray, Maintenance Team
Eddie Lorenzo, Maintenance Team
Zach Durastanti, Grounds
Once again, the Center for Great Apes has received top ratings from Charity Navigator, an organization that guides intelligent giving by rating the fitness of non-profit organizations. Charity Navigator rates charities from 1 to 4 stars based on the criteria of sound financial management, accountability, and transparency. For another consecutive year, the Center has received a Four-Star rating.

### The moment it all started...

...when someone asked Patti to care for a 4-week-old infant orangutan for “only about a month” because his mother could not feed him. Three decades later, that infant turns 30 years old in August 2020 and is the reason that the Center for Great Apes exists.

Happy Birthday Pongo!

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**Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2019**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>1,014,795</th>
<th>Program - <em>Great Ape Care &amp; Education</em></th>
<th>1,451,423</th>
<th>82%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Donations</td>
<td>1,014,795</td>
<td>Program - Great Ape Care &amp; Education</td>
<td>1,451,423</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Corporate Gifts</td>
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<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>174,019</td>
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<td>Non-contribution Income</td>
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<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>1,763,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Income</td>
<td>1,918,762</td>
<td>Net Balance</td>
<td>155,502</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Loving Memory

Those that touch our lives... stay in our hearts forever.

Sadly, we lost some of our devoted members and friends over the past year. We are grateful to those who included the Center in their estate planning providing for the future care of our great apes. We are also grateful to their families for thoughtfully suggesting donations to the Center for Great Apes in lieu of flowers and in memory of their loved ones.

Charles Asarnow  Sarah Bond  Deanie Dorwart
Lucille Jeffery  Alan & Elizabeth Kane  Emma Kafoury
Sam Kafoury  Richard Lichtenstein  Jack McAleer
Lorraine Waters

Planned Giving

The impact of planned gifts, legacy gifts, and bequests to a charity helps ensure its continued existence. With a bequest to the Center for Great Apes, you will help continue the care of the orangutans and chimpanzees at the sanctuary and also help secure their future.

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 including:

- 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.

Legacy Society

The Center for Great Apes Legacy Society is a distinguished group of 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 their wishes are properly documented. Only a letter of intent to leave a gift to the Center is required for membership.

If you have already included the Center in your planning, please let us know so that we may honor you as a member of the sanctuary’s Legacy Society.

If you would like more information about the Center’s Legacy Society, email Legacy@CenterforGreatApes.org or call (863) 767-8903 ext. 230

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. The Center provides care with dignity in a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for great apes in need of lifetime care.