



**SHIRLEY & SISSY**



## OUR MISSION

To provide captive elephants with individualized care, the companionship of a herd, and the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe haven dedicated to their wellbeing.

To raise public awareness of the complex needs of elephants in captivity and the crisis facing elephants in the wild.

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

In this 2019 Annual Report, we reflect on the multitude of accomplishments in the past year. I am very happy to have this opportunity to focus on the progress and health of the elephants in our care, the dedication of The Sanctuary's staff, the growth in all programs, and the overwhelming support of our donors.

The impact of COVID-19 in 2020, The Sanctuary's 25th anniversary year, has been a challenge. It has truly turned into a year unlike any other. The health and safety of staff and elephants, along with volunteers and the community have remained our highest priority. In review of our 25-year history, we are reminded that 28 elephants have found safe haven at The Sanctuary. Their individual stories of strength and resilience guide us through these difficult times.

Looking back, in 2019, we provided home and herd to 11 elephants. Each received individualized care from a professional staff of 18 Caregivers and a Veterinary Team of three. Expert consultants in ophthalmology, diet and nutrition, radiograph diagnostics, and elephant behavior expanded elephant care and broadened staff knowledge. The Sanctuary's eight-person Facilities Team ensured fences, vehicles, and barns were safe and in good repair. In 2019, they installed a waterer and indoor training wall to better accommodate Asian elephant Billie, added a sand stall in Asia Barn for 71-year-old Shirley, started the expansion of African elephant Nosey's habitat, and rebuilt new gates in Q Barn to ensure emergency access for Minnie, Ronnie, and Debbie. This busy crew created a special fenced connection for Sissy to rejoin her companions Shirley and Tarra and installed a new gas generator at Africa Barn so there would be no cold nights for Flora, Tange, and Sukari.

Outreach and Education programs continued to grow in 2019. Distance Learning reached more than 14,000 students in 44 states, 27 countries and 5 Canadian provinces. Our international partners grew to 10 organizations working to improve the lives of elephants on four continents. The year also included a number of exciting firsts that helped to expand The Sanctuary's impact and advocacy for a better world for all elephants. Highlights include:

- The Elephant Discovery Center exhibits were completed and doors were opened to visitors, expanding public programming by The Sanctuary's Education Team and trained volunteer docents
- The Elephant Sanctuary supported nonprofit Africa ASAP through a proof-of-concept demonstration of their mission to help protect rangers and deter poaching in Africa through the use of FLIR, the global leader in Aerial Imagery Systems
- An elephant care internship program was established, and we hosted our first two interns for 12 weeks from August through November
- An invitation to assist in the observation and research of elephants in Africa provided opportunity for The Sanctuary's Elephant Care Manager to join Caitlin O'Connell and her research team in Namibia for three weeks in July
- The Sanctuary hosted a three-day EleAmbassador Workshop at the Elephant Discovery Center, which brought 16 long-time volunteers to Hohenwald to meet and talk with staff
- At the invitation of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians, The Sanctuary's Veterinary Services Manager made a presentation at the annual AZVT Conference on the use of epoxy in elephant foot care
- With funding in place, the Elephant Health Care Center site was prepared, building materials arrived, and pre-construction work began

Our deepest gratitude to our donors for making this all possible. It is through your generosity and support that the mission of The Elephant Sanctuary is sustained, and safe haven is secure for the future of the elephants living here and for those to come.

*Janice Zeitlin*

**Janice Zeitlin**  
Vice President and CEO

## LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Richard Rhoda, Chair**  
*Member since 2010*  
Retired Executive Director, Tennessee  
Higher Education Commission

**Dr. William Schaffner, President**  
*Member since 2007*  
Professor of Preventive Medicine  
and Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt  
University School of Medicine

**Janice Zeitlin, Vice President**  
*CEO since 2013*  
CEO, The Elephant Sanctuary  
in Tennessee

**Albert Ambrose, Treasurer**  
*Member since 2012*  
President, E.T. Lowe Publishing Co.  
and Lowe Graphics & Printing, Inc.

**Sharon Langford, Board Member**  
*Member since 2012*  
Marketing & Management  
Consultant, Animal Welfare Author  
and Volunteer

**Michael K. Stagg, Board Member**  
*Member since 2016*  
Attorney, Waller Lansden Dortch  
& Davis, LLP

**Will Martin, Board Member**  
*Member since 2018*  
Retired General Counsel, First Bank



**THE ELEPHANT  
DISCOVERY CENTER**



**THE SANCTUARY'S  
ELEPHANT CARE  
MANAGER IN NAMIBIA**

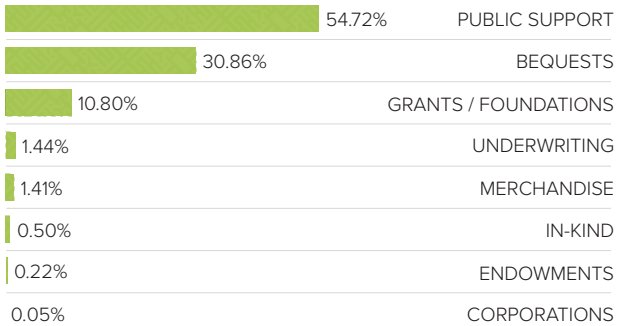


**ELEAMBASSADORS  
RECEIVE WORKSHOP  
CERTIFICATES**

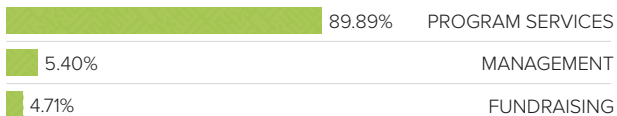


## 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### SOURCES OF REVENUE



### EXPENSES



### PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support	<b>5,591,022</b>
Bequests	<b>2,495,851</b>
Total Public Support	<b>\$8,086,873</b>

### EXPENSES & LOSSES

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

<b>Shelter and Care</b>	
Elephant Care	<b>1,720,531</b>
Veterinarian Care	<b>541,510</b>
Facilities	<b>1,883,990</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>853,498</b>
Total Program Services	<b>\$4,999,529</b>

### SUPPORTING SERVICES


Management	<b>300,325</b>
Fundraising	<b>261,705</b>
Total Supporting Services	<b>\$562,030</b>


### TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5,561,559**

\* The Elephant Sanctuary has set aside unrestricted financial operational reserves of five times its budgeted expenses to ensure the lifetime care and safe haven for an undetermined number of elephants. Elephants have an expected life span of 50–70 years and The Sanctuary is committed to providing food, shelter, veterinary care, medicine, caregivers, property maintenance and security. Along with the public's continuing support, these funds are needed to provide for the elephants currently in our care and for those that will come to The Sanctuary. The Elephant Sanctuary has \$56,887,444 in assets.

\* Figures listed in the Annual Report are taken from The Elephant Sanctuary's 990 Tax Form, as they represent true expenses after the tax allocation of Investment Management Fees. The 2019 audit and 990 can be found on our website at [www.elephants.com/financials](http://www.elephants.com/financials).

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS


 **11 elephants** given shelter and care on 2,700 acres


 **144 EleAmbassador volunteers** trained as spokespeople for elephant welfare in their own communities across North America. In August 2019, we hosted our first-ever EleAmbassador Workshop at The Elephant Discovery Center


 **250 individuals** for 43 on-site volunteer days totaling **1,928 donated hours**

 **766,879 followers** across social media channels

 **63,288 EleNews** email subscribers

 **476 Distance Learning programs** brought lessons aligned with grade-level standards to more than 14,000 students and teachers in 44 states, 27 countries, and five Canadian provinces

 **\$1,157,106** raised to The Sanctuary's Year End Campaign by 8,175 donors from 13 countries

 **10 international partners** on four continents working to address issues of elephant-human conflict, poaching, habitat preservation, rescue and rehabilitation, and management and care in captivity

## IMPROVEMENTS FOR ELEPHANTS

- 7** ATV portals built into fence lines to enable Caregivers to safely deliver meals to far reaches of the habitats
- 4** gates installed and an alleyway built between habitats for easier elephant transition
- 2** watering systems installed to increase elephant exploration farther from the barns
- 2** barn stalls retrofitted with sand to meet the special needs of elephants
- 1** radiograph equipment casing crafted to safely and accurately capture images of African elephant tusks

## A WORD FROM OUR HERD

“Without the support from The Elephant Sanctuary, the type of hands-on visit we conducted at Lok Kawi Wildlife Park (LKWP) would not have been possible. Because of the support, we were able to effect changes that benefited 40 individuals representing 10 species. The extra resources allowed us to have a longer visit, provided the opportunity to continue to forge collaborative relationships built on trust and the desire to improve the care and well-being of the elephants and other animals at LKWP.” - *Wild Welfare, International Partner*

“Distance Learning sessions are an amazing way to reach out to young learners, who are talking to their parents and planning their own advocacy for how they can help elephants. The future of the elephants is stronger and healthier in the hands of my aware students.” - *5th Grade Teacher, California*





FLORA

## ABOUT US

The Sanctuary is currently home to **11 elephants** retired from zoos and circuses, many of whom suffer long-term health and behavioral issues common to elephants that have spent their lives in captivity. The Sanctuary employs a fully integrated team of Veterinarians and Caregivers who provide high-quality care by using positive reinforcement and Protected Contact Management to safely meet the needs of each elephant.

Learn more at [elephants.com](https://elephants.com)



The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is proudly accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Our strong performance as an animal welfare/wildlife conservation 501(c)(3) non-profit is recognized by reputable charity monitoring groups.

