

# **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**





# **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 2021, The Elephant Sanctuary's dedicated Staff remained focused on the health and resilience of the 11 elephants that were in our care and on educating others of the complex needs of elephants both here and in the wild. As challenges and turbulence impacted the world around us, we watched Nosey and Sissy discover one another and begin a new friendship across a shared fence line. We listened quietly as we heard the triumphant, noisy reunions of Tange, Sukari, and Flora after mornings of exploration and grazing. We often smiled while watching Billie splashing in the pond and at the playfulness of Minnie, Ronnie, and Debbie as they greeted each other in the habitat.

Throughout this past year, The Sanctuary celebrated while each elephant met new milestones and shared tears when we experienced loss and sadness. In February 2021, we said goodbye to beloved 72-year-old Asian elephant Shirley, who will long be remembered for her wisdom, strength, and perseverance. And in November 2021, our multi-year custody litigation ended with the court's ruling that possession of founding resident, Asian elephant Tarra, be transferred to her former owner. We were uplifted by so many supporters who reached out with condolences and shared the disappointment and heartbreak. Both Shirley and Tarra remain forever in our thoughts and in the hearts of so many who loved them.

We are immensely grateful to our donors and supporters for your generosity and contributions providing this expansive, natural habitat and lifelong care to each of the 28 elephants who have found refuge and renewal at The Sanctuary.

#### More Highlights from 2021

- Completed barn modifications for elephant comfort, safety, and increased autonomy; including installing flaps on barn overhead doors for easy access, adding new rubber flooring in Q Barn, building sand stalls for winter, and making chute modifications for emergency and veterinary care
- Opened and occupied the Elephant Health Care Center with veterinary offices and a newly outfitted lab, maximizing our onsite capabilities for diagnostics, observation, and training
- Constructed a two-stall elephant barn and fenced habitat adjacent to the Elephant Health Care Center, adding treatment options and flexibility in housing a male or female elephant in need of care
- Increased sustainability with added 18kW solar array at the Elephant Health Care Center barn connected to the power grid and back-up for storage and onsite use
- Continued to adapt to the "new normal" of virtual learning by creating expanded opportunities for connection using our solar-powered EleCams and standards-based curriculum while reaching over 14,000 students and adult learners worldwide through digital platforms like Zoom and FlipGrid
- Welcomed visitors back into The Elephant Discovery Center in downtown Hohenwald, shedding light on the complex needs of elephants in captivity and the crisis facing elephants in the wild through our interactive, hands-on exhibits and programming
- Re-started our internship program, allowing for increased diversity and onsite student education
- Exceeded funding goals for Membership, Underwriting, and VIP programs by almost 40%, while grants grew by 18% and estate gifts were at an all-time record with 118 gifts from 70 estates
- Expanded our international outreach to support elephant welfare and conservation efforts on four continents with an additional \$125,000 gift from the Janet M. Johnston Foundation
- Hosted other elephant professionals and international partners working to improve the welfare and conservation of elephants in North America and around the globe

# **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

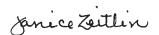
Member since 2012 President, E.T. Lowe Publishing Co. and Lowe Graphics & Printing, Inc.

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





### **2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**



#### **SOURCES OF REVENUE**

	35.29%		PUBLIC SUPPORT
	Y/\%\\	54.01%	BEQUESTS
7.33%			GRANTS / FOUNDATIONS
0.89%			UNDERWRITING
0.76%			MERCHANDISE
0.42%			ENDOWMENTS
0.88%			IN-KIND
0.42%			CORPORATIONS



	85.62%	PROGRAM SERVICES
10.60%		MANAGEMENT
3.78%		FUNDRAISING



#### PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support	7,013,951
Bequests	8,235,960
Total Public Support	\$15.249.911



#### **EXPENSES & LOSSES**

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

#### Shelter and Care

Elepl	nant Care	1,531,187
Vete	rinarian Care	497,611
Facil	ities	2,024,948
Education	on	862,507
	Total Program Services	\$4,916,253



# SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management	608,666
Fundraising	217,073
Total Supporting Service	s <b>\$825,739</b>



## **TOTAL EXPENSES**

\$5,741,992

- \*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 \$80,296,032 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 2021 audit and 990 can be found on our website at elephants.com/financials.

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



11 elephants retired from exhibition and/or performance provided home, herd, rest, refuge, and individualized care in our expanded 3,060-acre natural habitat



446 online Distance Learning programs shared with over 14,000 students and adults in 38 U.S. states and 11 countries



86 EleAmbassador volunteers representing 26 states delivered elephant education in their communities through both virtual and in-person opportunities to share The Sanctuary's mission



30,000 views of education and advocacy programming over World Elephant Day, Earth Day, and Endangered Species Day



10 international organizations working to reduce threats to wild elephants and improve the welfare of captive elephants globally, received grant support for projects across four continents



\$1,272,653 raised during our 2021 Year End Campaign from more than 8,000 supporters representing every state in the U.S. and six other countries



More than 800,000 followers engaged across social media channels through updated photos and videos of our resident elephants

# **MISSION IN ACTION**



#### On the Ground

Last year, The Sanctuary's Vet Team moved into the Elephant Health Care Center. Boasting a new laboratory for diagnostics and interdepartmental staff

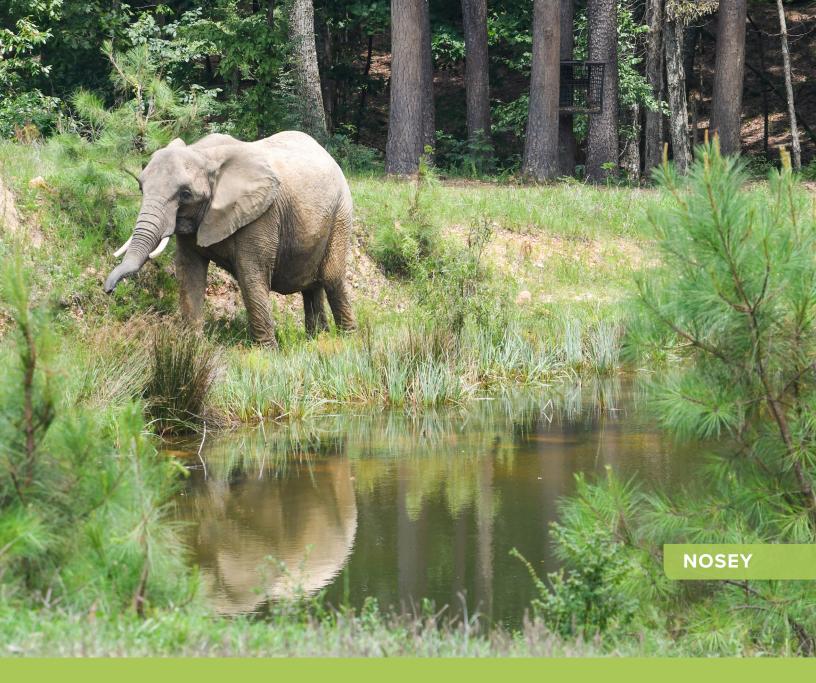
training, plus a two-stall elephant barn with a solar array that offsets grid electricity usage, this centrally located facility allows for closer observation of elephants and the exchange of expertise. It continues to improve individualized geriatric care for elephants like Billie, Minnie, Debbie, and Ronnie — who have all been aging gracefully at The Sanctuary since their transfer in 2006.

#### Across the Country

In 2021, 11-year-old EleAmbassador volunteer Claire Brunner built awareness in her community and raised funds to support The Sanctuary by selling baked goods and visual art inspired by elephants. She also played music in the streets of Asheville, NC, with her newly formed band, Save Our Big Friends, and delivered presentations to her peers and adults alike.

#### » Around the Globe

International Partner Wildlife SOS works to mitigate human-elephant conflict in India.



# **ABOUT US**

The Sanctuary has provided refuge to 28 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. Currently home to nine elephants, The Sanctuary employs a fully integrated team of Caregivers and Veterinarians who provide high-quality care by using positive reinforcement and Protected Contact Management to safely meet the needs of each elephant.

Learn more at <mark>elephants.com</mark>







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.









