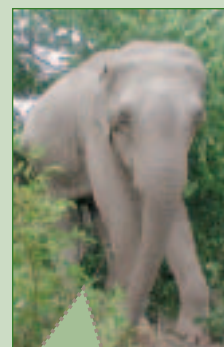


SUMMER 2005 Trunklines

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization



The Elephant Sanctuary
10 Years
1995-2005

African Elephants Enjoy Mud Bath Spa Treatments and Other Adventures



Zula & Tange

not sleep in the barn any longer; instead they excavate beds for themselves in the soft forest floor so they can sleep under the stars. Their adaptation extends beyond creature comforts to survival training, as Zula demonstrated last month when she slid into one of the larger, deeper mud wallows and found herself “stuck” in the mud. She bellowed for help, and both caregivers and elephants responded. We found Zula making a half-hearted effort to extricate herself, rotating in circles on her side. Though we would have used a fork lift to free Zula if necessary, we really wanted to help her learn to free herself.

The late spring and early summer months have brought warmer temperatures and increased humidity. Tange, Zula and Flora know how to make the best of this weather. On hot days, they spend most of their time playing in mud wallows. The girls begin their “spa treatment” by covering every inch of their massive bodies with water and thick mud. Then they use their toenails and the heels of their feet to loosen up the dry earth around them, and scoop up the dirt with their trunks. Finally, they give themselves a dust bath by tossing the dirt all over their bodies. The mud and dust serve as a natural sunscreen and insect repellent to protect the elephants’ sensitive skin. After their bathing ritual, the girls head off to find a shady spot in the woods.

Tange, Zula and Flora are comfortable in their new environment and find security in their freedom. They do

After some effort, Zula understood that she was to try to free herself with the help of her friends. Four caregivers were in the mud wallow with Zula guiding and encouraging her. When she made progress righting herself, the staff placed bales of hay behind her for support. Tange never left Zula's side. She clearly wanted to help, but wasn't quite sure what to do. Eventually Tange approached Zula from behind with her head lowered and began giving her a gentle push. When Zula was ready, Tange backed up against her. As Zula gained ground, Tange moved in closer, giving Zula support to continue her climb. Finally Tange helped Zula onto her feet using her head as a forklift. Zula remained calm throughout her adventure and within hours she returned to the mud wallow, more confident than before.

...continued on page 4

the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

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Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2,700 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

The Elephant Sanctuary exists for two reasons:

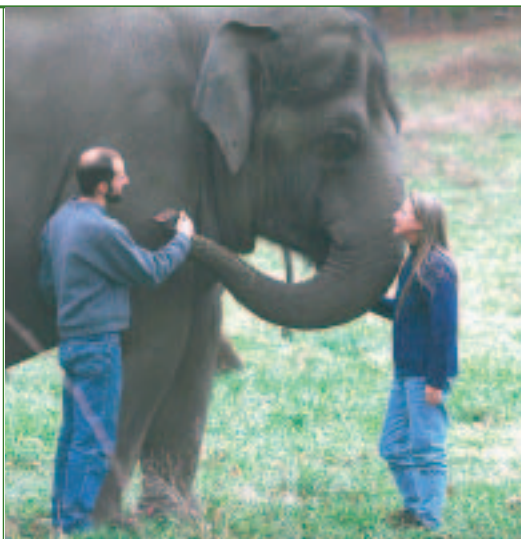
- ❖ *To provide a haven for old, sick, or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, hardwood forests, spring-fed ponds, and a heated barn for cold winter nights.*
- ❖ *To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent, and endangered creatures.*

To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the resident elephants, visit:

www.elephants.com

Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, Photographer Robyn Conover

Directors' Voice



Scott, Tarra & Carol

Celebrating 10 Years of Sanctuary!

This year, The Elephant Sanctuary celebrates its tenth anniversary. In the beginning, most people with whom we shared our dream of a home where old or needy elephants could roam free were polite, but pessimistic. While some of our human supporters came along slowly, the elephants embraced our concept of sanctuary immediately. Each new arrival experienced her own personal miracles, and we rejoiced at the everyday successes of an elephant crossing the creek for the first time, exploring a new area of the Sanctuary's habitat, or making a new friend.

The elephants who have found refuge here are completely engrossed in the world they are creating—one where their physical and emotional needs are met, where a new order of humans serving elephants rather than elephants serving humans reigns, and where they can reclaim their unique "elephantness" and develop loving relationships with others of their kind. They remain blissfully unaware of their status as ambassadors, but we take great pride in knowing that their lives have helped foster a growing concern for the plight of captive elephants everywhere.

While we could not have anticipated this part of The Elephant Sanctuary's success, we remain deeply grateful that the stories of our elephants have touched people in a way that leads them to demand better conditions for captive elephants in communities across the country and the world. Knowledge is truly the key to change.

While the vision for The Elephant Sanctuary met with polite pessimism ten years ago, today our community of human supporters is 50,000 strong—and growing. Rescuing the Hawthorn elephants is our biggest challenge to date, and knowing that we are no longer alone in our efforts is a wonderful blessing. Without question, your efforts are directly responsible for our many successes. Thank you for making your voices heard. With your continued support, we will work to ensure that every captive elephant finds sanctuary. ❖

Carol & Scott

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Delhi's World is Full of Discovery!



Delhi arrived at The Elephant Sanctuary almost two years ago, suffering from osteomyelitis, an infection of the bones in her feet and legs that affects many captive elephants but does not occur in the wild. Delhi had to remain in quarantine for almost a year because she had been exposed to tuberculosis. Despite these difficulties, she was positive and good-natured from the start. Since Delhi's arrival, she has taught us so much. We are thrilled with our discoveries, and even more thrilled to watch as Delhi makes discoveries of her own.

Delhi is teaching us the best way to care for her condition; hopefully what we learn will have application for other elephants with osteomyelitis. We are relieved that the disease does not stop her from exploring her new habitat. She receives foot soaks and trims as part of her daily care regimen. These treatments are performed in the habitat, wherever Delhi happens to be at the time. The elephants are never expected to come to us for their care; the caregivers are happy to go to them. The job is made much easier because Delhi trusts her keepers, and we take advantage of her gentle, social nature by making the process fun for her.

After nearly two years of no active signs of osteomyelitis, Delhi experienced what is referred to as a "blow out." When this happens, an infected area swells until the flesh splits open, creating a raw and painful wound. Untreated, the disease would completely destroy the flesh. With expert care, Delhi's recovery took just a few days. As the wound healed, her caregivers trimmed the dead skin away. The site of the eruption was irrigated several times each day. Delhi cooperated with the veterinarian and her caregivers throughout her treatment, showing no resistance. We decided that, as with her regular foot soaks and trims, these treatments would take place in the comfort of the habitat. We believe this approach contributed to her speedy recovery.

Although Delhi's condition is much improved, she is not cured. In fact, there is no known case of osteomyelitis

that has been cured. However, no other elephant suffering from osteomyelitis has had free access to a vast habitat where she could walk on natural earth as she would in the wild. We have high hopes that under these unique conditions Delhi will be the first captive elephant to recover from this life-threatening disease. What a joyful discovery to share with those who care for captive elephants all over the world!

Delhi is certainly an excellent patient, and her positive attitude and joy for life shines through in everything she does. Her confidence and curiosity is impressive. Once her quarantine was lifted, she immediately began exploring. That first night, she did not return to the barn as we expected; instead, she slept under the stars. The next morning, she discovered and climbed a mountain that took Jenny and Shirley four years to conquer. There is no urgency in her exploration, just calm and enthusiastic interest in her new world.

While Delhi's exploration of the Sanctuary is similar to that of the other elephants, she seems to be moving at an accelerated pace. Perhaps the other elephants have encouraged her not to waste any time discovering the magic of this place. We have found that our elephants teach each other. We watch them share information and communicate attitudes toward their caregivers every day. Elephants with a reputation for aggression or defiance arrive at the Sanctuary and immediately demonstrate a gentle, cooperative spirit. We believe that each new elephant benefits from the wealth of information and assurance her new sisters share with her. As the herd grows, it stands to reason that new arrivals like Delhi may assimilate more and more quickly.

As you can imagine, these are exciting times for the elephants and the staff alike. Every day we learn from Delhi and the other Sanctuary elephants about their true nature. Discovering their genuine needs is an honor, and we take very seriously the responsibility of sharing what we learn to benefit captive elephants everywhere. ♦



Delhi and her buddy—the 4-wheeler!

African Elephants...(continued from page 1)



Top, Tange treats herself to a luxurious mud bath

Right, Regal Flora strolls her kingdom

Far right, Zula continues to landscape the Africans' habitat!



The next morning, Zula and Tange played in the same mud wallow from which Zula had struggled to release herself just the day before. Now they had confidence they could get out of any sticky predicament. This was an extremely powerful lesson for the elephants and their caregivers.

Meanwhile, Flora is making beautiful progress. Her mood swings have decreased over the past few months, and her level of trust has increased. The constant rumbling she makes around her caregivers indicates that Flora is increasingly comfortable with them and in the environment.



Misty's Doctors are Awesome!



Scott Blais and Dr. Steven Scott, D.V.M. check on Misty

A huge thank you goes to the TEAM of doctors who have given generously of their time, talents and expertise to ensure that Misty receives the best medical care possible.

The team includes our primary veterinarian, Dr. Steven Scott D.V.M., Dr. Susan Mikota D.V.M. of Elephant Care International, Dr. Genevieve Dumonceaux D.V.M. of Busch Gardens, Dr. Freeland Dunker D.V.M. of the San Francisco Zoo, Dr. Larry Bernstein V.M.D. of National Holistic Health Care, and Dr. Joel Maslow M.D. From time to time, we call on other experts to provide information. We are thankful for the support, interest and assistance these distinguished doctors have offered. They have enhanced our veterinary program beyond measure.

In addition, we want to recognize Drs. John Olsen and Genevieve Dumonceaux and Busch Gardens, Florida for their generous contribution of medications for Misty's treatment.

Misty's Future Looks Bright



Misty puts her new enrichment toys through rigorous testing!

Since Lota's death earlier this year, Misty has lived without the companionship of other elephants. Federal law requires that she remain in quarantine because she tested positive for tuberculosis in 2001, long before she came to The Elephant Sanctuary. Misty's caregivers work to engage her in interesting activities during her quarantine, but she is an incredibly intelligent being and there is no substitute for freedom of movement and the companionship of other elephants. Fortunately, Misty has a good attitude and responds positively to behavioral enrichment activities.

Caregivers are working cooperatively with Misty's personal veterinary team to meet her physical, medical, mental and emotional needs. Led by Drs. Steven Scott and Susan Mikota, this team of gifted and knowledgeable doctors is working together to ensure Misty's complete recovery. After months of research and evaluation the team has developed a treatment plan tailor-made for Misty.

One of the first challenges the team encountered was the need for a positive culture sample to determine whether or not Misty suffered from a drug-resistant strain of TB. The results from this test would provide the information necessary to determine which medicines would be most effective. Prescribing antibiotics without sufficient knowledge of her disease would be irresponsible; the team was in agreement that treatment would wait until the results were in. Caregivers collected weekly trunk wash samples from Misty and sent them off to the lab. Collecting the samples is painless for Misty, in fact, she enjoys the interaction with her keepers.

To date, all of Misty's samples have been negative for tuberculosis. In most cases a negative result would be met with celebration, but in Misty's case each negative

result brought greater frustration. We needed a positive result so the medical team could prescribe treatment.

Months passed without a positive sample from Misty, so the team turned to Lota's necropsy report for direction. The report indicated that Lota died of an advanced case of tuberculosis. However, it also revealed that she did not have a resistant strain of the disease. The medical team agreed that Misty probably has the same non-resistant strain as Lota. Based on this, the team felt confident enough to recommend Misty's course of treatment.

Misty's caregivers prepared her to take the medicines through Passive Control. This is a management system that relies on positive

reinforcement and cooperation from the elephant. With Passive Control, the caregiver never dominates or punishes the animal for any resistance. Misty was an enthusiastic participant in the training, and now she allows her caregivers to administer drugs both orally and rectally as needed.

Once Misty takes a certain amount of the medication, and assuming her trunk wash samples continue to be negative, she can be moved out of quarantine. She will remain under treatment for an entire year, but if she progresses as expected she will not have to be isolated from other elephants for that entire time. The best scenario would have Misty exploring the main habitat in just a few months.

Misty is healthy and content. She shows no signs of the disease that brought her to the Sanctuary. We are confident that her disease was detected early enough that she will make a complete recovery and enjoy a long and healthy life. ♦



Misty practices for a soccer match with Delhi!

Zoo vs. Sanctuary: The Heated Debate Continues

The American Zoological Association (AZA), once held in high regard because of the vast knowledge represented by the organization's many veterinarians and keepers, has recently come under scrutiny by the media and citizen groups regarding their management of captive elephants. The zoo industry itself appears divided over the issue. While some professionals defend elephant management practices in zoos as sound, a number of others recognize modern zoos' unintentional failure to meet the physiological and psychological needs of this highly intelligent, gregarious, intensely social creature. A few institutions such as The Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo, Chehaw Wild Animal Park, San Francisco Zoo, and Detroit Zoo, have gone so far as to remove elephants from their collections and place them in sanctuaries in recognition of the industry's inability to meet the needs of captive elephants. Meanwhile, the AZA's rhetoric continues to confuse the public and put professionals within the industry at odds.

Recently, the AZA stated that there is no scientific data to support the notion that elephants need more space than zoos can provide. AZA president Bill Foster said that the reason animals move so much in the wild is to seek security and food, while with food, protected environments and veterinary care, elephants in zoos live enriched lives. Foster is quoted in the *Deseret Morning News* as saying, "Yes, they can move miles, but only because they have to." In the *San Diego Union Tribune*, Larry Killmar, the San Diego Zoo's associate director of collections, commented that since zoo elephants are provided with food, water and breeding partners, there's no reason for them to roam for miles, as they must in the wild. In the same article, Mike Keele, chairman of the zoo industry's committee on elephant species survival and deputy director of the Oregon Zoo in Portland, said that zoo professionals haven't seen any research showing that elephants need to walk several miles a day to maintain their feet. He has been quoted as saying, "There's zero science to support what kind of space is needed at this point in time."

However, noted scientists with decades of experience living with and studying wild elephants disagree. One such scientist, Joyce Poole, Ph.D., the Research Director of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project and the Director of ElephantVoices recently stated "As a scientist who has studied elephant behavior and communication among free-living individuals for thirty years, I am stunned that the AZA is not able to perceive the empirical evidence that elephants need much more space than what is currently allotted to them in zoos." According to a recent article in *The Globe and Mail*, Michelle and Steve Henley—zoologists from the Transboundary Elephant Research Program, believe that social reasons may be every bit as powerful

Right, Sissy at a zoo before coming to The Elephant Sanctuary

Bottom, Sissy, with her constant companion Winkie, after four years at the Sanctuary



a motivator in elephant movement as the need for food and water. "We don't have any idea why they go where they go. Not really. We're just beginning to try to understand."

The debate continues as field researchers and The Elephant Sanctuary gather notebooks full of comparative data that provide a large amount of evidence that elephants need space to be healthy.

Presently two elephant sanctuaries exist in North America: PAWS in Galt, California and The Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee. Both sanctuaries operate under a philosophy vastly different from that of the AZA. Both sanctuaries are members of The Association of Sanctuaries, which requires them to meet institutional standards that far exceed AZA standards.

Because of the work of scientists like Katy Payne, Cynthia Moss, Joyce Poole, A. Christy Williams, and others, the public is more educated than ever about the needs of elephants, with their extraordinary intelligence and complicated social relationships. Grassroots citizen groups are forming in many cities across the U.S., with the dual purpose of educating the public and relocating zoo elephants to sanctuaries. These local citizens have organized themselves because they are concerned about the welfare of the elephants in their communities. As these groups continue their work, zoos are being held accountable by the communities they serve, and they can no longer keep elephants in chains, on concrete, or in socially and environmentally deprived conditions without being questioned.

Zoos do have choices. They can disregard the evidence and continue to manage elephants according to current protocols; they can develop facilities and management programs designed to meet the real needs of captive elephants; or they can relocate their elephants to an elephant sanctuary.



If you would like to find out how your local zoo manages its elephants, contact the zoo and request a copy of its management protocol. Any zoo that practices progressive management with an eye toward the continual improvement of its program will be happy to supply you with this information.

Case in Point: Elephant Advocacy in El Paso

Foot disease is the number one killer of elephants in captivity. In the wild, elephants walk many miles each day on natural earth. In contrast, most zoo elephants spend their lives standing on concrete or hard packed earth, which causes bruising on the pads of their feet. The bruised area becomes abscessed in response to the repeated trauma to the tissue. The infection migrates through the flesh of the foot into the bone. The condition is known as osteomyelitis, and while it is preventable, there is no known cure for elephants. Records show that 75% of the elephants that die or are euthanized in zoos suffer from osteomyelitis. This figure is not surprising given the conditions in most zoos, where elephants lack access to the vast expanses of land they require to remain healthy.

The Aquarium and Zoo Association (AZA) denies any connection between the occurrence of osteomyelitis and zoo elephants' lack of access to a natural habitat and claims that wild elephants also develop the foot disease. However, Drs. Joyce Poole and Christy Williams, highly respected researchers and experts in the field of elephant conservation in Africa and Asia respectively, report zero observations of foot disease in the wild elephants they study.

In many cities where captive elephants are major attractions at city-run zoos, local citizens have formed advocacy groups that try to ensure the best possible care for the elephants. Often these groups face resistance and disdain from zoo administrators, and consequently they turn to their city governments for action.

Citizens in El Paso, Texas, formed a group called *Concerned Citizens for Savanna and Juno* (the city's two Asian elephants). The situation in El Paso illustrates the difficulty in convincing zoo officials to put elephants' health first.

Savanna and Juno show signs of progressive joint disease, arthritis, and foot disease. Though elephants are generally trained to accept foot care procedures without anesthesia because it is so much safer for them, Juno has been put under anesthesia twice recently for routine foot care. On both occasions, the veterinarian had to abort the procedure prematurely because Juno's blood oxygen level plummeted, endangering her life.

Concerned Citizens for Savanna and Juno requested the elephants' medical records to document their deteriorating health. The group also sought out expert opinions and researched housing and habitat requirements for elephants. They learned that the elephants' environment at the zoo was the major contributor to their poor health. The group worked hard to educate the City of El Paso about the needs of elephants in captivity, hoping to make a positive change for Savanna and Juno. They requested that Savanna and Juno be relocated to The Elephant Sanctuary.

Concerned Citizens for Savanna and Juno gathered over 8,000 signatures from local citizens supporting their request to have the elephants sent to the Sanctuary.

On July 27, El Paso's City Council held a special session to decide Savanna and Juno's future. The group was allowed to make a 30-minute presentation in support of their request. Unfortunately, this was not enough time to fully explore the complicated issue.

Only a few Council members had questions following the presentation, but one did express her concern that the zoo did not appear to be proactively researching solutions to Savanna and Juno's health problems. One Council member chastised the members of *Concerned Citizens for Savanna and Juno* for involving outsiders (including The Elephant Sanctuary) in the debate. Finally, a vote was taken. El Paso's City Council unanimously agreed that Savanna and Juno would remain at the zoo.

The zoo's director spoke of creating a 12-acre expansion to accommodate male elephants. This seemed to give some citizens hope, but it will not help Savanna and Juno, who will remain in their current enclosure.

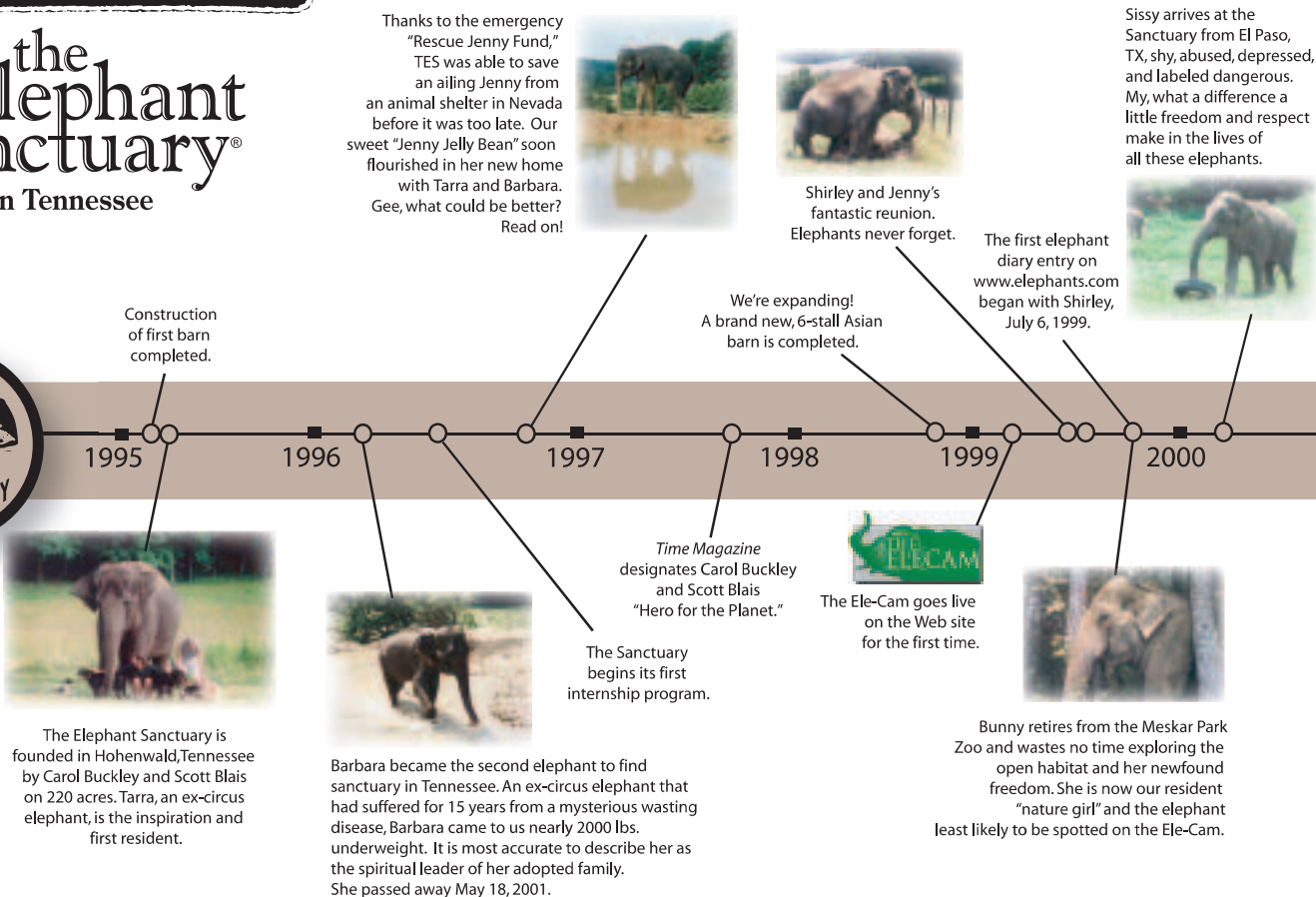
Until zoos are willing to make significant improvements in their elephant habitats, elephants like Savanna and Juno will continue to suffer from devastating foot disease. We can only hope that as advocacy groups like *Concerned Citizens for Savanna and Juno* grow and become more and more vocal, zoos will be forced to address their elephants' true needs. ♦



the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee



Time Line



EARS 2005 First Elephant Advocates' Rally Takes Place in Tennessee

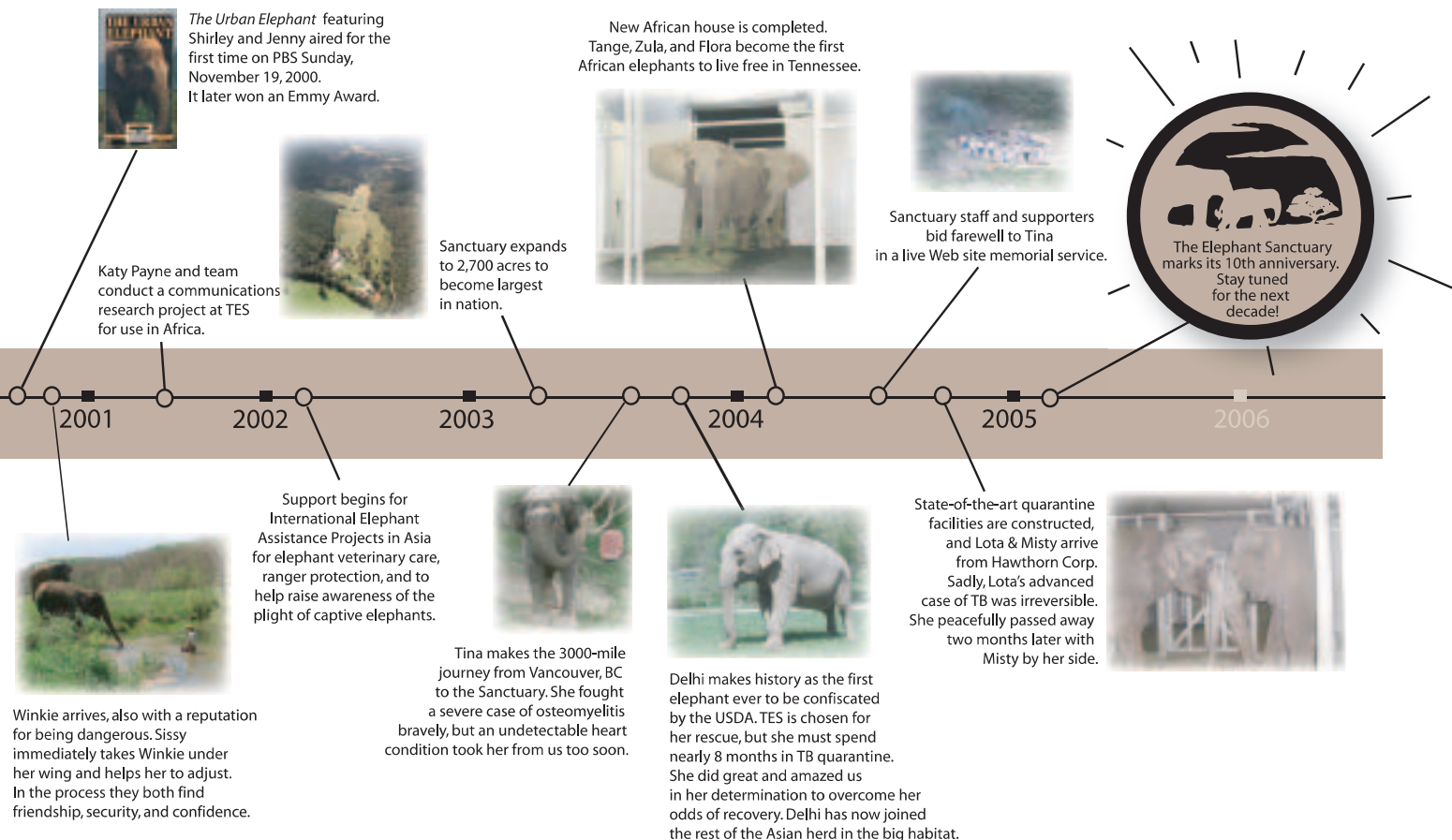


Earlier this summer, the first annual Elephant Advocates Rally (EARS) took place in Centerville, Tennessee. Canadian Kathryn Carpenter and New York state resident Paula Adwell met online through a site dedicated to supporting elephants in captivity. Kathryn and Paula approached The Elephant Sanctuary with their dream of bringing elephant

supporters from all over the world together to celebrate and learn more about elephants. Soon a third organizer, Carrie McIntyre of Michigan, began working with Kathryn and Paula. The three women had little else in common, but they shared a firm

belief that a gathering of admirers, advocates and activists could be the catalyst for creating positive change for endangered elephants. The organizers selected Tennessee as the site for the first rally in recognition of the many elephants who have made it to sanctuary here.

The rally's schedule included educational workshops on a variety of elephant-related issues, a volunteer day at The Elephant Sanctuary, and a silent auction that raised over \$2,500 to benefit the Sanctuary. Speakers included veterinarian Dr. Steven Scott, elephant enthusiast Lynn Crowden, elephant caregiver Barbara Anderson, and Elephant Sanctuary co-founders Scott Blais and Carol Buckley. The Sanctuary was also happy to host a luncheon at its recently acquired Lakeland property. Lead elephant caregiver Joanna Burke led a question-



and-answer session after the luncheon and offered insights into the Sanctuary's philosophy of caring for captive elephants.

As the rally ended, many of EARS' 48 participants commented that because of what they learned at the rally, they felt motivated to do more than they had previously imagined possible. They commented that the Sanctuary's motto, "one elephant at a time," made a profound impact on them. The Sanctuary was honored to be part of this groundbreaking event, and we are deeply grateful for the support of these amazing ele-friends.

Plans are already under way for the second annual EARS rally. For more information, visit the EARS 2006 web site at <http://www3.telus.net/ears/>



If You Build It, Will They Come?

After completing several major construction projects in quick succession, we thought it was safe to relax a bit and enjoy the fruits of our hard work.

Then we were faced with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to rescue the entire Hawthorn elephant herd. After serious discussion about the impact to the Sanctuary, we agreed there was really no choice. We would prepare a place for these elephants in hopes that Hawthorn Corporation and the United States Department of Agriculture would agree to send all the females to The Elephant Sanctuary.

Thanks to the support of many generous donors, in just six weeks we raised the funds we thought we needed to construct a new barn. Unfortunately, the cost of building materials had more than doubled in the six short months since we completed the new African house, and so had the cost of a new barn. Many supporters suggested that we take out a loan, but because we had taken out a \$1.5 million loan to purchase 2,500 acres of land only two years before, we felt that taking on more debt would place The Elephant Sanctuary in a precarious financial position.

We decided to continue our fundraising efforts. To our amazement and great relief, the Harold Simmons Foundation stepped forward and offered to match the money we had already raised. Everyone at the Sanctuary cried tears of joy when we learned of this incredible gift. Combined with what we had already raised, it was enough to build our new barn.

We quickly finalized plans, secured bids, and selected a contractor. Thanks to the hard work of the contractor and subcontractors, the new barn will be ready to receive its new residents in September. The project is a team effort, using the talents of Sanctuary staff as well as construction professionals. Drawing on their experience building corral fencing, Sanctuary co-founder Scott Blais and his staff are building the steel components for the new barn's corrals and restraint chutes themselves, reducing construction costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

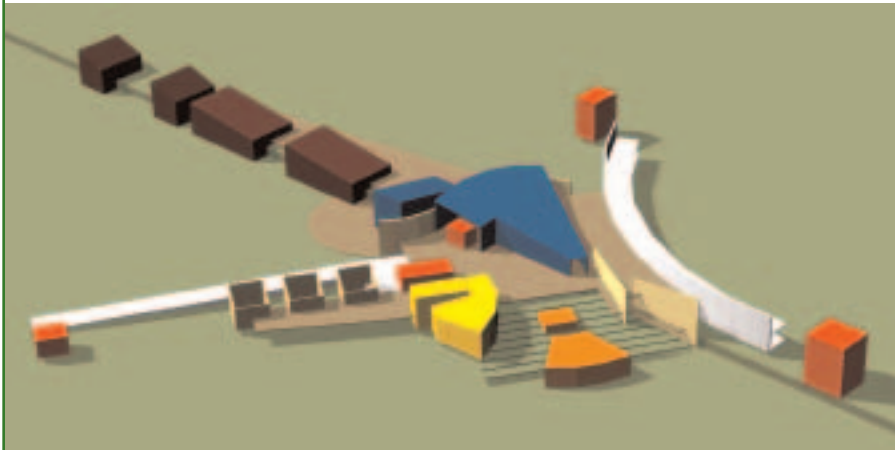
Like the African barn, the new Asian house will feature polycarbonate sheeting to provide natural light and solar heat, multiple access points so the elephants can come and go as they please, and the ability to recycle rain water to clean the barn.

To quote a phrase from the popular film *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come," and that's certainly our hope. As of this writing, there is still no decision on the fate of the twelve elephants that remain at Hawthorn Corporation's Illinois barn. We remain hopeful that all of the female elephants will come to The Elephant Sanctuary. ❖



The Vision for the Education Center Unfolds

Notes from the Architect



"Let a person walk alone with few wishes, committing no wrong, like an elephant in the forest."

Verse from the Dhammapada, Sayings of Buddha



In the first phase of the design process for the Education Center, my team and I have worked hard to develop a good understanding of the role the Center would play as both a part of the Sanctuary and in the community.

Our discussions with staff, volunteers, and community members have included everything from the grand vision of buildings and their functions to where the buses will park and the tools will be kept.

Throughout this phase I have been drawn back to my notes from Carol and Scott...

"the Center itself will be the vehicle to teach...respect for the species' natural behavior and needs...where one person's activity does not infringe on another's freedom or comfort level...offering a personal experience...a feeling of connectedness...connection between indoor and outdoor...the entire complex should be designed with three things in mind...space, freedom and respect for others."

Some of the components included in the design for the Center are:

- ❖ Exterior observation decks providing panoramic views
- ❖ Interactive, hands-on exhibits
- ❖ Interior stations where visitors can view the habitat by controlling remote cameras that project images on large screens that can be viewed by many people simultaneously
- ❖ A multi-purpose auditorium for groups
- ❖ A research lab and resource center
- ❖ Offices for staff, curators and visiting researchers
- ❖ A children's educational resource center
- ❖ Housing for volunteers and interns

Some key design concepts for the Education Center include:

- ❖ A sense of transition from the man-made city into the natural habitat of the elephants
- ❖ Totally sustainable design with as much use of daylight and fresh air as possible
- ❖ An effort to instill respect for all species and the environment
- ❖ A minimalist approach to convey the message that we should *"take only what [we] need on this planet."* (C. Buckley)

The Education Center will take advantage of its location, offering breathtaking views of the Sanctuary. The vision for the Center is evolving as the design team organizes spaces and connects to the environment. Meanwhile, we're working on a nearer-term goal—building an observation tower on the site of the Education Center. This will be a wonderful first step towards implementing the grand vision for the entire facility, and will allow many more people to imagine the benefits and possibilities of the Education Center.

My thanks to the following volunteers for their expertise: Michael Petersen of Petersen Associates for alternative forms of energy, Tony Shankle of Principle Building Group for construction and site information, Laura Alvarez, a graduate student in environmental architecture at University of California-Berkeley, for green design resources, and Kim Hawkins and Julie Mathes of Hawkins & Partners for site concepts, planning of outdoor educational areas, reforestation of land and restoration of prairie grasses. ❖

Manuel Zeitlin, Manuel Zeitlin Architects

The Training Crush

by Jennifer Hile

It's a sound not easily forgotten. Just before dawn in the remote highlands of northern Thailand, a four-year-old elephant bellows as villagers stab nails into her ears and feet. The young elephant is tied up in a small, wooden cage. She can hardly move. Her cries are the only sounds to interrupt the otherwise quiet, rural countryside surrounding the village of Whey Bong.

The cage is called a "training crush." It is the centerpiece of a centuries-old ritual in northern Thailand designed to "domesticate" young elephants. In addition to beatings, handlers use sleep deprivation, hunger, and thirst to break the elephant's spirit and make her submissive to her owner.

According to Carol Buckley, Executive Director of The Elephant Sanctuary, "Wherever there are captive elephants, something like this [breaking ritual] occurs. The styles and degrees of cruelty vary."

Elephants are released from the crush after three to six days of this abuse. They are typically covered in bloody wounds and rope burns. They are quickly tied up again; the training continues for weeks. "The people believe that to control the elephant they have to make it feel fear and pain," says Sangduen "Lek" Chailert, a well known Chiang-Mai-based activist who runs Elephant Nature Park, a sanctuary for old and abused elephants in Thailand, and Jumbo Express, a program bringing free veterinary care to domestic elephants working in remote northern areas of the country. She is an outspoken critic of the crush.

Born in the small mountain village of Baan Lao, Lek's devotion to elephants began at an early age. She is the granddaughter of a shaman, a traditional healer. When Lek was only five, her grandfather received an elephant named Golden One as payment for saving a man's life. "Goldy" was considered part of Lek's family, and elephants have been a core part of her life ever since.

Over the past three years, Lek has worked with international media outlets and animal welfare groups to

expose the brutal tradition of the crush. As a result, she has been subjected to sharp criticism from the Thai government. Recently, her tireless campaign against the crush has begun to pay off.

In January, 2005, a new "Elephant Law" took effect. It requires that all young elephants be trained at the government-run Elephant Conservation Center in Lampang, Thailand. The elephants are still put in cages in the morning and evening for training, when they learn basic commands like lifting their feet and kneeling to allow people to ride their backs. Unlike the training crushes of the past, however, the elephants receive food and water, have access to shade, and are let out at night to sleep. Most importantly, they are not beaten into submission.

Kung Ro is a young mahout in northern Thailand whose three and a half year-old elephant, Libby, just went through three months of training at the Elephant Conservation Center. She completed the training without any wounds—remarkable in Thailand—and she retained her playful spirit. Her experience was clearly less brutal than what captive Asian elephants have endured for centuries.

Unfortunately, getting all captive elephants to Lampang for training won't be easy. The cost of the training is prohibitive for some mahouts, and the law will be difficult to enforce in remote areas. The most difficult obstacle to overcome may prove to be the culture that supports the training crush. Centuries of tradition will not die easily.

The Thai people often say that elephants helped build their nation. Throughout history, they have served as Thailand's tanks, taxis, and bulldozers. A contradiction has developed between elephants as beasts of burden and elephants as cultural and religious icons, symbols of the king's divine right to rule and of good luck.

Despite their value to Thai culture and economy, elephants have not been protected from the slide toward extinction. A century ago, there were 100,000 elephants in Thailand. That number has fallen by a staggering 95%, primarily due to loss of habitat. Of the 5,000 remaining elephants, about half are domestic, according to Lek. "Domestic elephants are considered livestock," she says.



"Under Thai law, they are no different than buffalo or cattle." Small fines, rarely enforced, are the only penalties for abusing livestock. With the exception of the new law regulating elephant training, there are few protections against abuse.

Most captive elephants now work in tourism. Fascination with these endangered giants fuels a thriving industry. Travelers from around the world pay top dollar to take elephant rides in the forest, or watch them perform in shows. However, few tourists see how elephants are trained for this work.

Unlike many African countries, Thailand does not have protected areas like sanctuaries or national parks where tourists pay to see wild elephants roaming freely. Lek's

sanctuary is the only place in Thailand where domestic elephants are not forced to perform. She allows tourists and volunteers at her sanctuary, but the elephants there do not work. They graze, bathe in the river, and relax in social groups. In other words, they live like elephants.

All of the elephants at Lek's sanctuary were rescued from the tourist trade. Many of them suffered terrible abuse before coming to Elephant Nature Park. They need regular medical care, which Lek lovingly provides. "I believe that elephants are holy animals," she says. "I will work to protect them the rest of my life."

To learn more about Lek's Elephant Nature Park or how to volunteer there, visit www.thaifocus.com/elephant. 

Hawthorn Elephants ~ Update

It has been nearly two years since the Hawthorn Corporation signed a consent decree agreeing to place all of their performing elephants in new homes.

Unfortunately, twelve of the original sixteen elephants are still sequestered in their Illinois barn awaiting release.

Five Hawthorn elephants have been moved or have died since the consent decree was signed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confiscated Delhi from Hawthorn Corporation and sent her to The Elephant Sanctuary in November, 2003. Delhi has flourished here since her arrival. Nearly one year later, Hawthorn Corporation donated Lota and Misty to the Sanctuary. Sadly, Lota's tuberculosis was so far advanced that she died a few months after she arrived. Hawthorn Corporation donated Judy to a private exhibitor. Tess died in 2004 before she had a chance to see a new home.

This past winter, the USDA asked the Sanctuary to construct temporary facilities to house the Hawthorn elephants. However, state regulations prohibited us from accommodating this request. In an effort to find a solution, we offered to care for and provide veterinary services to the elephants at the Hawthorn Corporation's facilities until our new barn was ready. USDA agreed, provided that the Sanctuary assumed ownership of the Hawthorn elephants prior to their move to Tennessee. Obviously, this arrangement would have forced the Sanctuary to assume liability it could not afford; this simply was not an option.


Both Hawthorn Corporation and The Elephant Sanctuary felt confident that an agreement could be reached, but without USDA's endorsement, negotiations ceased.

The Elephant Sanctuary has offered to take all of

Hawthorn's remaining female elephants in September when construction of the new barn will be complete. However, the USDA has rejected the offer, stating that the elephants must be moved immediately. In response to criticism of this decision, USDA claimed that the Sanctuary refused to accept the Hawthorn elephants, although written communications between Hawthorn Corporation, USDA, and the Sanctuary clearly indicate that the Sanctuary has consistently requested all of the female elephants.

In June, the USDA announced that it had approved the placement of four Hawthorn elephants at the Endangered Ark Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by the owner of the Carson and Barnes Circus. Their stated purpose is to breed elephants for the circus industry.

As of this printing, the twelve remaining Hawthorn elephants have not been placed. The Elephant Sanctuary continues to offer to take all of the female elephants as soon as the new barn is constructed. The USDA continues to refuse the offer. After two years, it is difficult to understand why the USDA is unwilling to wait just two more months for completion of our barn so that all of the elephants can finally have sanctuary.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help. Sadly, the USDA has responded to citizen concerns with a generic letter that misrepresents the Sanctuary's position. However, we encourage you to continue writing. Perhaps just one more polite letter to the USDA will be what it takes to get action for the Hawthorn elephants. 

Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary

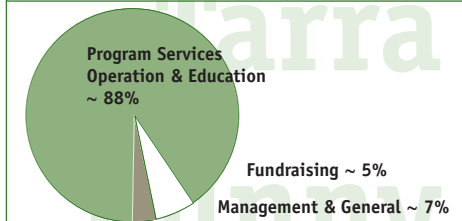


You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or family member. Contributions can be all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donations to any of the programs below are tax deductible.

Use the form on the enclosed envelope to provide information and indicate which giving program you have chosen. Be sure to include the name and address for any In Honor gifts so we can send the honoree(s) a certificate and *Trunklines*.

Expenses ~ based on 2004 audited financials



Membership

Choose your level and become part of the nation's first natural-habitat sanctuary for old, sick, and needy elephants retired from circuses and zoos. Members receive a certificate and subscription to *Trunklines* for a year. Give a membership as a gift and you also get an elephants.com sticker for your window.

Donor Society

_____ \$10,000+	Founder
_____ \$5,000-\$9,999	Benefactor
_____ \$1,000-\$4,999	Patron
_____ \$500-\$999	Sustainer
_____ \$100-\$499	Supporter



Friends

_____ \$75	Associate
_____ \$50	Family
_____ \$30	Individual
_____ \$10	Elder/Student

Feed for a Day

Tarra, Bunny, Jenny, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Delhi, Tange, Zula, Flora and Misty eat a lot of food! You can help by feeding any or all of them for a day, a week, or...\$30 feeds one elephant for one day.



Just tell us which elephant you'd like to feed and how often. Every "Feed for a Day" generates a certificate and a bio with a picture of the elephant(s) you choose to feed.

You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor of a friend or family member. Contributions can be all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

\$30 x _____ (# of days) x _____ (# of elephants) = \$ _____

\$15 T-shirt ~ (includes shipping/handling) & b/w photo of

your favorite elephant _____ : \$ _____

Name of Elephant

Acres for Elephants

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom, or office to buy real estate for elephants. Help the Sanctuary's expansion give elephants the room they need to roam. Acres for Elephants donors receive a subscription to *Trunklines*. Donations of \$10 or more also receive a certificate.

Square Elephant \$3 x _____ = \$ _____

Space for an elephant to stand at rest ~ 6' x 12'

Sleepy Square \$5 x _____ = \$ _____

Space for an elephant to lie down and take a nap ~ 9' x 14'

Dumbo \$55 x _____ = \$ _____

Space for a small herd of elephants to stand ~ 1,440 sq. ft

Jumbo \$350 x _____ = \$ _____

Space for a big herd of elephants to play ~ 1/4 acre

Mammoth \$1,400 x _____ = \$ _____

Space for a herd of elephants to explore ~ 1 acre

Weather Helps to Make Them Whole Again

Hohenwald, Tennessee is located in a subtropical climate which is known for high temperatures and marked seasonal variations in rainfall.

Since Southeast Asia shares many characteristics with southern middle Tennessee, it is not really surprising that the Sanctuary elephants are thriving in their adopted home.

Climate and weather play a major role in the welfare of a species, as does the lay of the land, vegetation,

growing season, and indigenous wildlife.

After considering many other locations, Lewis County in southern middle Tennessee was chosen because it has the greatest number of common characteristics with the elephants' natural habitat.

The weather, the land, the natural gifts of this place, and the company of other elephants contribute to an awakening of the spirit—the spirit most captive elephants have been forced to suppress for decades. ♦

Average weather in Hohenwald, Tennessee

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temp. (°F)	36.8	41.1	49.8	58.2	66.3	74.0	77.8	76.5	70.2	58.7	48.8	40.2
High temperature (°F)	48.2	54.2	63.8	73.3	79.7	86.4	89.7	89.1	83.4	73.4	61.7	51.6
Low temperature (°F)	25.4	27.9	35.7	43.1	52.8	61.4	65.9	63.9	56.8	43.9	35.9	28.8
Precipitation (inches)	4.7	4.5	5.9	4.8	5.9	4.6	4.8	3.2	4.0	3.4	5.2	5.7



Normal climate around Hohenwald, Tennessee

Based on data reported by main weather stations

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days with precipitation	11	10	12	11	11	10	10	9	8	7	9	11
Wind speed (mph)	9.0	9.3	9.8	9.1	7.6	6.9	6.3	6.0	6.5	6.9	8.2	8.8
Morning humidity (%)	80	79	78	80	85	87	89	90	89	86	82	81
Afternoon humidity (%)	67	63	58	57	60	61	62	62	62	59	62	67
Sunshine (%)	42	48	53	60	61	66	64	64	63	62	50	42
Days clear of clouds	6	7	8	8	8	8	8	10	11	13	9	7
Partly cloudy days	6	6	7	8	10	12	13	12	9	8	7	7
Cloudy days	18	15	16	13	13	10	10	9	10	11	14	17
Snowfall (inches)	2.9	2.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0

Lota Memorial Fund

Lota's years of suffering had a profound influence on the public's awareness of the plight of captive elephants. Your contribution to help other needy elephants in memory of Lota, will be her legacy.

- ☐ My check or money order is enclosed, made payable to The Elephant Sanctuary
- ☐ Please charge my credit card: \$ _____

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

**Please visit our website:
www.elephants.com**

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

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"The VIP tour of this very special Sanctuary was both deeply profound and so much fun! I took away an even deeper commitment to help the Sanctuary in every possible way.

The VIP tour experience was easily some of the best three hours of my very full life. I now have a deep and lifelong commitment to the Sanctuary."

Kate Elliott

Executive Producer, Theatrical and Corporate Events

Fundraising Bracelets



The Sanctuary has created a fundraising bracelet to help raise awareness and funds to rescue more needy elephants.

This custom made royal blue silicone bracelet comes in two sizes; Adult and Youth with our web site ELEPHANTS.COM embossed on it.

You can buy a single bracelet for \$5 or a bag of ten bracelets for \$15. These bracelets are a great way for you and your friends to raise funds for The Elephant Sanctuary. If you would like to order your personal bracelet or a bag of bracelets to sell at a fundraiser for The Elephant Sanctuary please contact the Sanctuary office:

P.O. Box 393
Hohenwald, TN 38462
931-796-6500 x26

or place your order on line
www.elephants.com/bracelets.htm



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**Completion of New Asian Elephant House
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