

*Elephants are the keepers of ancient secrets,  
for they walked the world when it was new.*



*Debbie, Ronnie, Lottie, and Minnie*

# The Elephant Sanctuary<sup>®</sup> *in Tennessee*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2006

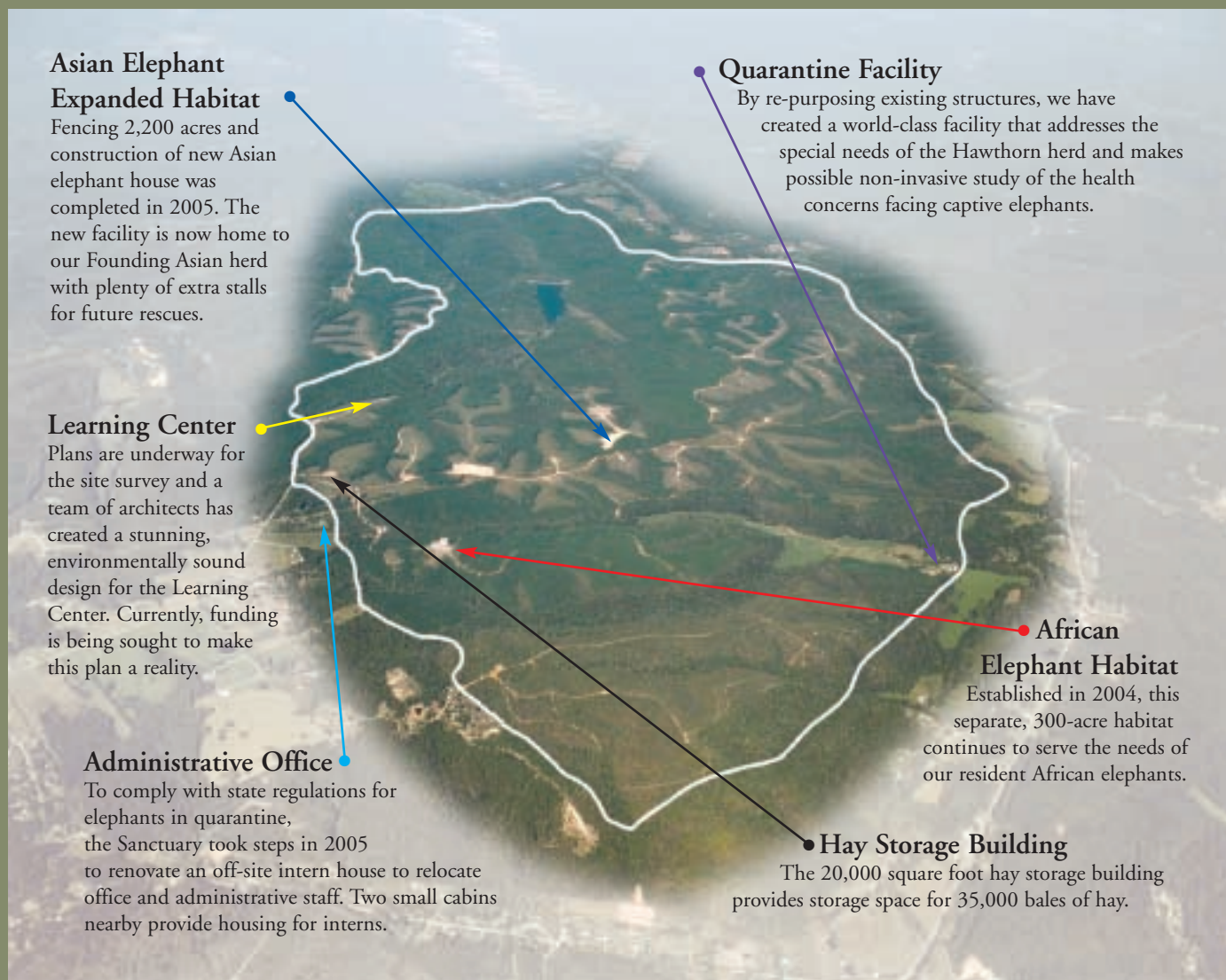
The nation's premier natural-habitat refuge for  
endangered Asian and African elephants.

A 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization

[www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com)

# In 2006, The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

*migrated the "Founding Herd" to the new Asian Elephant Habitat and dedicated the original habitat to a quarantine complex, allowing the rescue of eight former circus elephants.*



## Asian Elephant Expanded Habitat

Fencing 2,200 acres and construction of new Asian elephant house was completed in 2005. The new facility is now home to our Founding Asian herd with plenty of extra stalls for future rescues.

## Learning Center

Plans are underway for the site survey and a team of architects has created a stunning, environmentally sound design for the Learning Center. Currently, funding is being sought to make this plan a reality.

## Administrative Office

To comply with state regulations for elephants in quarantine, the Sanctuary took steps in 2005 to renovate an off-site intern house to relocate office and administrative staff. Two small cabins nearby provide housing for interns.

## Quarantine Facility

By re-purposing existing structures, we have created a world-class facility that addresses the special needs of the Hawthorn herd and makes possible non-invasive study of the health concerns facing captive elephants.

## African

## Elephant Habitat

Established in 2004, this separate, 300-acre habitat continues to serve the needs of our resident African elephants.

## Hay Storage Building

The 20,000 square foot hay storage building provides storage space for 35,000 bales of hay.

*2,700-acre natural-habitat refuge for needy Asian and African elephants*

## Our *mission* is to:

- Provide a spacious and rich environment in which captive elephants can freely exercise their true nature, a place where they are treated with respect and minimal intrusion.
- Support non-invasive research; practice progressive methods of management and care of resident elephants.
- Share knowledge about captive elephants through education and consultation.
- Collaborate with organizations working to improve the conditions of all elephants worldwide.



### *Message from the Directors*

2006 was one of our most challenging and successful years to date. It started with the unprecedented rescue of eight circus elephants, an effort that took several years to come to fruition. Midsummer brought a shocking loss from which we feared neither elephants nor caregivers would recover. Losing our lead elephant caregiver, followed months later by one of our precious elephants, was a staggering blow. Supporters and research professionals rallied in support, helping us to regain our footing and make some sense of the tragedies. Losing two members of our family left us dazed and asking more questions than could be answered immediately.

However, the answers are now coming slowly, precisely identifying what happened and why – both in the case of a seemingly loving elephant striking out at her longtime caregiver and in the death of an elephant whose deteriorating condition could not be diagnosed.

During these struggles, the recently rescued Hawthorn elephants started their new life, distracting us from our pain with their antics and demands for attention. Their transition has been well-documented and is a testament to the new life they have been given.

Our local community, Sanctuary members, and supporters all rallied around the organization making our difficult time more bearable. The media covered the stories fairly, avoiding the temptation to sensationalize our loss. We were reminded how blessed we are to be doing this work for elephants and by the caring people it attracts.

As winter approached, we found ourselves buried under a pile of paperwork as we prepared comments for the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding captive elephant care. The information that we were able to compile will be vital in understanding how captive elephants benefit in a natural-habitat setting.

With 2006 behind us, we are now ready to rescue more elephants, continue the expansion of facilities and staff, and champion a more suitable life for captive elephants everywhere.

Sincerely,

*Carol Buckley Scott Blais*

Carol Buckley & Scott Blais  
Founding Directors

# The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

*Located in the gently rolling hills of middle Tennessee, The Elephant Sanctuary is the only natural-habitat refuge of its kind designed specifically for Asian and African elephants. A landscape of seeded pastures, dense woodlands, a spring-fed lake, ponds and streams is now a haven for sick and needy elephants retired from zoos and circuses.*



*In the wild, African elephants are savannah-creators. At The Elephant Sanctuary, Flora and her sisters enjoy the freedom to exercise their true nature in “landscaping design.”*

# The Year In Review

2006 began on a high note. We converted our Phase I and Phase II barns and the original 200-acre Asian elephant habitat into a quarantine facility in preparation for the arrival of the Hawthorn herd. All that remained was to migrate our "Founding Herd" to the newly-completed 12-stall barn and 2,000+ acres of fenced-in habitat.

Tarra, Bunny, Sissy, and Winkie easily made their way along the mile of rough nature trails to their new home. Shirley, Jenny and Delhi's physical challenges made the trek more difficult, so they graciously accepted our offer of a short "ele-taxi" ride in the transport trailer. Within two days, they had all made the move and could be heard rumbling and trumpeting outside the new barn, excited to be together again in this new place.

Within weeks, the "Caravan to Freedom" was rolling and the Hawthorn herd began arriving (see separate story on page six). The Elephant Sanctuary was now home to a total of nineteen elephants in three separate herds. What a landmark!

In the midst of this happiness, July 21 seemed like just another day, with Sanctuary co-founder Scott Blais and lead Asian elephant caregiver Joanna Burke traveling deep into the new habitat to check on "the girls." They discovered that Winkie appeared to have been stung on her eyelid, resulting in painful swelling. Although the usual protocol and sensitivity was used, Joanna was fatally struck by Winkie and Scott sustained a minor



*Joanna with Tarra*

**Joanna Burke: December 3, 1969 - July 21, 2006**

*Words cannot express the grief that we and our supporters felt at the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Joanna.*

injury in his attempts to help Joanna. Afterwards, Winkie sank into a deep depression, indicating that she was just as confused by her sudden actions as we were.

As we (and Joanna's supportive family) struggled with the shock and grief of the accident, the Sanctuary suddenly found itself in the national news spotlight. What began to emerge, gratefully, was a public recognition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in elephants. Like humans, elephants are sensitive animals, and they are sometimes unable to cope with the emotional scars left by traumas of the past. In October, our experiences with Winkie were included in a very insightful *New York Times Magazine* feature story entitled "An Elephant Crackup?"

While we may never know exactly what happened in her past that triggered Winkie to lash out like that, the Sanctuary immediately adopted new, stricter caregiver safety protocol when caring for any elephant with a history of aggression.

Meanwhile, Flora, a member of the African herd, had already been participating in studies regarding the effects of PTSD in elephants.

We made changes in her daily routines to help address the anxieties she was experiencing with too much over-stimulation in space and social interactions. The results have been very effective and she is finally learning to trust. Tange and Zula are doing great and continue to explore their habitat every day. In spite of their regular travels, we estimate they have only discovered 30% of the acreage available to them.

August 17 marked the successful end of Misty's tuberculosis treatment. After nearly two years in quarantine, Misty was reunited with Delhi, an old friend from her days at Hawthorn Corporation. The two are constant companions in the new Asian elephant habitat.

In autumn, we focused our attention on Jenny, who had been mysteriously losing weight for some time. Examinations and lab tests were inconclusive. Supplemental feeding every two hours maintained her condition for several months, but finally the extra calories were simply not enough. By mid-October, it was clear Jenny was dying – but from what, we still don't know. Jenny chose a beautiful place in the habitat to lie down and begin her farewells. We witnessed incredible, vocal and emotional



*Zula, Tange and Flora continue to explore their habitat, bond with their caregivers, enjoy life...and each other!*



***Jenny: 1969 – October 17, 2006***

*In the final stages of her failing health, bidding farewell to Jenny was difficult, but taught us the beauty of allowing an elephant to share the experience privately in a natural setting surrounded by loving members of her herd.*

exchanges in what appeared to be something of a herd ritual. Shirley, Bunny and Tarra tended to Jenny in her final days. On October 17, after ten beautiful years at the Sanctuary, Jenny quietly left us. Results of Jenny's necropsy are still pending, and we continue to keep a watchful eye on Shirley, who is bravely facing what must be very difficult days without her treasured friend by her side.

Even before the death of our beloved Joanna, the staff of elephant caregivers at the Sanctuary was stretched thin because our elephant population nearly doubled in 2006. In November, we launched an urgent "Elephant Care Appeal" to help raise the necessary funds to recruit and train more qualified caregivers. The response – in both donations and new applicants – has been very promising so far. We are grateful for your support and hope we can reach our expanded staffing goals early in 2007 so that we may offer a home to at least three additional elephants whose owners have expressed interest in retiring them to the Sanctuary.

# The Hawthorn Elephant Rescue

After years of negotiations, delays, frustrations and heartbreak, the Hawthorn Corporation finally agreed in November of 2005 to donate all but one of its remaining female elephants, Gypsy, to The Elephant Sanctuary. Sadly, one of the elephants named Sue died after being given a sedative by the Hawthorn veterinarian who was attempting to draw blood for state-mandated tests. The loss was heartbreaking because Sue would never reach her freedom in Tennessee.

With all the paperwork in order, the “Caravan to Freedom” began. Under Scott Blais’ expert care, Minnie and Lottie arrived at The Elephant Sanctuary on January 31, 2006. The trip was problem-free, and the two girls swiftly disembarked from the trailer, strolled around their new barn to check things out, helped themselves to some snacks and then exited the barn – all within the first hour! It was clear that the elephants in this herd, who had been chained in a dark barn for two years awaiting rescue, were not going to waste any time enjoying their new environment!

Two days later Queenie and Liz arrived. Queenie, who is close friends with Lottie and Minnie, was elated to find her dear friends there to welcome her. Liz was clearly emaciated when she arrived, but she was quick to demonstrate her very healthy appetite.

Debbie and Ronnie followed on February 7. Ronnie backed out of the trailer in record time just like the rest of her sisters had, but Debbie was a bit tentative and took nearly an hour to gather enough courage to disembark. After more cheerful family reunions, the elephants headed outdoors to explore their new home.

Frieda and Billie, two elephants considered by Hawthorn Corporation to be very dangerous, were

the last to arrive. Like Liz, Frieda was extremely underweight but possessed an incredibly sweet temperament and good appetite. Billie was a little more cautious and less trusting of others, but exchanged some warm greetings over the fence with the other members of her herd, with whom she had not been allowed to socialize in years.

As we parked the trailer on February 9 after the last of the Hawthorn herd arrived, we realized the bittersweet irony of this day. It was the one-year anniversary of Lota’s death. If not for the national publicity surrounding Lota and her battle with tuberculosis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture might never have taken action on behalf of the Hawthorn herd. Lota, Misty, and ultimately the other members of the Hawthorn herd were sent to The Elephant Sanctuary because it is the only facility in the country capable of safely quarantining and treating such a large population of TB-exposed elephants.



*Queenie backed out of the trailer and took her first steps to freedom on February 2, 2006. The Sanctuary transported the eight member circus herd in four separate trips, dubbed the “Caravan To Freedom.” All arrivals were broadcast live on our website Ele-cam.*





*Billie, Queenie, Minnie, Lottie, Debbie, and Ronnie*

*Over-indulgence was the first priority of business for the “Divas.” After years of being chained in the dark Hawthorn barn awaiting rescue, they could not get enough – fast enough – of their newfound freedom at the Sanctuary, with free choice access to ponds, woods, mud baths, pastures... what a delight they were to watch!*

It did not take long for these eight wonderful girls to take on the new nickname “Divas.” It seemed to fit their bold self-confidence and determination to take in all the pampering and perks their new freedom had to offer. We also noticed these girls brought some unresolved family issues with them. We watched as alliances shifted and little gang fights broke out within the herd and we gave the Divas time and space to work things out in their own way. By year's end, their interactions were much more relaxed.

While they continue to socialize with each other, the herd has now comfortably split into two groups, with Minnie, Lottie, Queenie, Debbie and Ronnie spending most of their time together, and Billie, Frieda and Liz maintaining their own little closely-bonded threesome.

The future is bright for our “Divas.” They are relatively young with only a few health issues that can be overcome. With patience, time and space,

these deserving girls are finally learning what it's like to be elephants again, and loving every minute of it!



*Frieda and Liz have both gained over 1,000 pounds each since arriving at the Sanctuary. Freedom to roam, good food, fresh air, and their blossoming friendship seems to agree with them!*

# Program Areas

**The Elephant Sanctuary** encompasses 2,700 acres, making it the nation's largest natural habitat refuge developed to meet the special needs of elephants. By the end of 2006, fifteen female Asian elephants and three female African elephants called the Sanctuary home.



*Video teleconferencing continues in schools across the country.*

**Education** about elephants and the crisis they face is a critical component of The Elephant Sanctuary's mission. We reach millions of people annually through the internet, video teleconferencing, live streaming video, the media, and documentaries about our work. Sanctuary staff also conduct outreach education in the U.S. and overseas.

**Research** Experts are conducting research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in elephants, and the Sanctuary is at the forefront of these efforts. The data we compile and share is essential for diagnosis and treatment of this recently-recognized disorder in elephants.

**www.elephants.com** Our award-winning web site provides a wealth of information about our work and the status of elephants around the world. Our site offers program descriptions and updates, downloadable educational materials, and links to current elephant welfare information. [www.tappedintoelephants.com](http://www.tappedintoelephants.com) uses live streaming video to provide an around-the-clock window into Sanctuary life enabling visitors to observe the elephants without disturbing them. It continues to attract over 20 million hits a year.



**Volunteer Day Program & Internships** In 2006, hundreds of volunteers participated in our Volunteer Day Program, including attendees at the second annual Elephant Advocacy Rally. The Volunteer Day Program allows individuals and groups to be directly involved in the Sanctuary's growth while immersing themselves in an inspiring wilderness setting. The Sanctuary's ongoing Internship Program also remained active. Designed to instill respect for elephants and for all life, the Internship Program also provides the Sanctuary with much-needed assistance. Interns and volunteers work under the guidelines of the Sanctuary's non-invasive management philosophy, which restricts them from direct physical contact or verbal interactions with the elephants. At the Sanctuary, observation is the key to learning. Silence is encouraged while in the presence of elephants, challenging all to quiet their voice and learn through their eyes, ears, hearts, souls and minds.





*An emaciated elephant gets a bath in a remote village in Northern India.*

# International Elephant Assistance

*The Elephant Sanctuary supports several efforts benefiting captive and wild elephants in their native lands.*

## Mobile Elephant Care Program

This year the Sanctuary's international focus has been on our highly successful Mobile Elephant Care Program in India. This collaborative effort was created by Dr. Christy Williams, elephant researcher, and The Elephant Sanctuary. It provides free medical treatment from a licensed veterinarian for elephants that would otherwise go without, and has proven to be extremely beneficial for captive elephants in need of routine or emergency medical care.

To help alleviate the pain and suffering of these captive elephants, we will expand the program over the next several years so that we can assist many more needy elephants. By providing essential services and supplies, many captive elephants in India will receive the basic care they have been denied, and those in crisis will have a hope of treatment and recovery.

## The Elephant Nature Park

The Sanctuary continues to lend its support to Thailand's only refuge for abused and abandoned Asian elephants.



*The Captive Elephant Health Care Program*

# Accomplishments in 2006

## Resident Elephants

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- Relocated our “Founding Herd” to the newly-expanded Asian elephant facility
- Rescued eight circus elephants from the Hawthorn Corporation
- Completed Misty’s tuberculosis treatment and relocated her to the new Asian facility
- Strengthened our professional relationship with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency & Captive Wildlife Coordinator, Walter Cook

## Land and Facilities

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- Completed the new Asian facility including barn, fencing and expanded habitat
- Relocated office staff to the newly renovated administrative office
- Completed interior construction of the intern cabins
- Began strategic planning for a new Learning Center

## Research

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- Underwrote supplies, equipment and salaries for anti-poaching patrols in India
- Collected details for behavioral analysis comparisons of wild and captive elephants
- Consulted for research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in wild-caught elephants living in captivity
- Gathered information from tuberculosis treatment of two elephants
- Collaborated in research for a blood test to determine the TB status of elephants
- Assembled data used to study emotional health in elephants
- Continued to research alternative treatments for elephants suffering from osteomyelitis and arthritis
- Continued to support our mobile health care clinic for captive elephants in northern India
- Presented expert witness to numerous governmental agencies and municipalities nationwide regarding a captive elephant’s need for space

## Financial

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- Launched our Elephant Care Appeal to recruit, hire and train caregivers who share our philosophy of captive elephant management; generated \$565,000 in the first quarter of the program.

## Staff

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- Added two additional caregivers to our elephant care team
- Filled managing director and office manager positions
- Began a one-year consultant arrangement with renowned elephant specialist Susan Mikota, DVM
- Worked with a team of veterinarians to oversee the treatment of elephants infected with tuberculosis

## Awareness/Advocacy

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- Distributed two Sanctuary newsletters, 12 monthly electronic newsletters and our first year-end appeal
- Raised awareness about the plight of captive elephants among federal employees through the Animal Charities section of the Combined Federal Campaign
- Underwrote supplemental feeding of captive elephants in Thailand
- Worked with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to develop more stringent requirements for elephants living in and entering the state
- Continued to work with disease experts and state officials to identify the degree of risk posed by elephants with the human strain of tuberculosis
- Provided an online resource for elephant care and welfare issues
- Published fourth annual report
- Released second children’s book addressing captive elephant trauma and recovery
- Featured in *The New York Times*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Washington Post*, *The Tennessean*, *Hallmark Magazine*, *New York Daily News*, *Bellville-News Democrat*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The News Journal*, *CNN-Paula Zahn Now*, *CNN.com*, *Reuters*, *The Associated Press*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Northwest Herald*, *Maclean’s Magazine*, *Animal Affairs Journal*, *Wildlife Conservation*, *The Elephant*, *The Pet Gazette*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Aquarian Online*, *Animal Planet Report*, *Merlianne.com*, *ABC7*, *HappyNews.com*, *Philly.com*, *WNPX*, *WNPR-The Faith Middleton Show*, *WTVF*, *WKRN*, *KTVU*, *WSMV*, *NBC-13.com*, *Indystar.com*, *PlanetArk.com*, *The Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *The El Paso Times*, *Green Hills News*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Jewish World Review*, *Lewis County Herald*, *Kansas State Collegian*, *Career World*, *The Animal World*, *Southern Living*, *The Orlando Sentinel*, *Wisconsin State Journal*, *American Vegan*, *Parents Press*, *Charity Navigator – Four Star Rating*

## Expanding our boundaries

As we enter our twelfth year, we realize that what started as a modest attempt to help a few needy elephants has grown to encompass the welfare of captive elephants worldwide. The Elephant Sanctuary’s ability to impact the lives of captive elephants here and abroad brings us hope that one day captive elephants will live a healthier existence in more natural surroundings. If we will not allow this ancient species true freedom by protecting their homelands, then providing them with a reasonable facsimile is mandatory. We are grateful for the vital support from so many people who have helped us come this far, and we hope you will continue the journey with us as we work to serve this magnificent species.



# Corporate Officers & Directors

**Carol Buckley** is co-founder and Executive Director of The Elephant Sanctuary. She oversees the care of the elephants in the quarantine facility, consults internationally on elephant care and management, manages administrative staff, facilitates elephant acquisitions, and assists in the development and implementation of educational programs and materials for the public. She is also a well-known speaker on elephant care.



**Scott Blais** is co-founder, Operations Director and the primary caregiver for the Founding Herd of Asian elephants in the newly expanded habitat. He is also Vice President of the Board of Directors. Scott has been instrumental in the design and construction of the Sanctuary's continually expanding facilities. He also aids in the development and implementation of organizational policy, on-going staff training and public education.

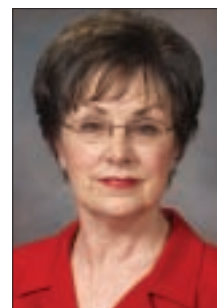
**Hank Sherwood** serves as Secretary/ Treasurer. He is founder and retired CEO of the advertising agency, Gish, Sherwood & Friends, Inc. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Janice Zeitlin** serves on the Board of Directors and as Board liaison for the Executive Council. In addition to her decade-long commitment to the Sanctuary, she is a volunteer for many community and professional organizations. She owns Zeitgeist Gallery and lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**William Schaffner** serves on the Board of Directors. Dr. Schaffner is an infectious disease professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and a notable consultant on public health policy and communicable disease control. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Leslie Pon Tell Schreiber** serves on the Board of Directors. Before retiring, Leslie served as Co-Director of Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo and was the Instructor's Assistant Director of Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training & Management Program. She lives in Tiburon, California.

**Sandra Estes** serves as President of the Board of Directors. A Hohenwald, Tennessee native, she is a Financial Service Representative for Regions Bank. In addition to her work on behalf of the Sanctuary, she is involved in many other community organizations including the Lewis County Education Foundation.



## Executive Council

Albert Ambrose  
Nashville, Tennessee

Brenda Batey  
Nashville, Tennessee

Katy Chudacoff  
Franklin, Tennessee

Betsy Dodd  
Nashville, Tennessee

Kate Elliott  
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Amy Estes  
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Lois Knight  
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Charlie Trost  
Nashville, Tennessee

Janet Turner  
Hohenwald, Tennessee

Patsy Weigel  
Nashville, Tennessee

Janice Zeitlin  
Nashville, Tennessee



## Summary of Financial Activities 2005

Public Support & Revenues	
Public Support	3,923,028
Other Revenues	220,716
	<hr/>
<i>Total Public Support and Revenue</i>	<i>4,143,744</i>
Expenses & Losses	
Program Services	
Shelter and Care	1,021,201
Education	305,343
Research	58,204
<i>Total Program Services</i>	<i>1,384,748</i>
Supporting Services	
Management and General	159,360
Fundraising	133,560
<i>Total Supporting Services</i>	<i>292,920</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>1,677,668</i>
Increase in Net Assets	2,466,076
Net Assets – beginning of year	6,662,305
Net Assets – end of year	<u>\$9,128,381</u>
(Audited)	

*Operation of The Elephant Sanctuary would not be possible without the help of our 65,000 members, volunteers and donors who support us at every level.*

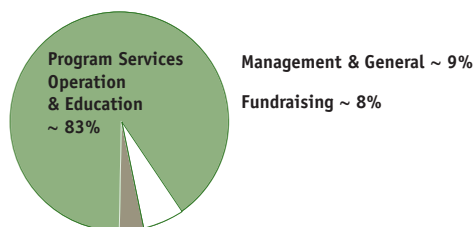
## Support

### Major Donors

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Park Foundation, Inc.  
T & T Family Foundation  
Thaw Charitable Trust  
The Ark Watch Foundation  
The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation  
The Serengeti Trading Company, LLC  
The Wilson Family Foundation

### Expenses ~ based on 2005 audited financial records



*For the second consecutive year, The Elephant Sanctuary has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. Only 12% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least two consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that The Elephant Sanctuary outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible. For more information, please visit [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org).*





*Bunny, Jenny, Tarra, and Shirley - all members of the "Founding Herd" - enjoy their new habitat.*

### **Benefactors (\$5,000 – 9,999)**

AHIMSA Foundation  
Appleby Foundation  
Arthur C. Murray Charitable Found.  
Shirley J. Ashley  
John & Marilyn Blake  
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The Conroy Family Foundation  
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The Paulus Foundation  
The Selma Oritt Foundation

### **Patrons (\$1,000 – 4,999)**

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*Tarra was the first elephant to discover and swim in the new Asian elephant habitat's 25-acre lake.*



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*This year, the "Founding Herd" wasted no time getting settled in their new state-of-the-art elephant barn. They continue to explore the more than 2,000 acres of expanded habitat.*

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*Misty (left) successfully completed her TB treatment and was released from quarantine in August. In a tender reunion, she joined her former Hawthorn Corporation companion Delhi in the new Asian elephant habitat. The two have been inseparable ever since.*

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