LETTER FROM THE CEO

2018 was a year of incredible growth. Several of our elephants in residence celebrated milestone birthdays in 2018—Tange turned 45, Sissy turned 50, and Shirley turned 70! Shirley received thousands of birthday wishes from supporters around the world and a visit from her formerkeeper, Solomon James, from the Louisiana Purchase Zoo and Gardens.

In honor of Shirley’s 70th, The Sanctuary announced plans to break ground on a modern Elephant Health Care Center, which includes Veterinary Services offices and lab, a two-stall barn with solar array, and over three acres of habitat fencing with training wall.

We celebrated one year with African elephant Nosey in our care—and revel in the incredible strides she has made in Protected Contact management during her time at The Sanctuary. Caregivers enjoy watching Nosey engage with her surroundings and express natural behaviors as she has come to learn about freedom of choice and what it is to simply be an elephant.

The Sanctuary’s Distance Learning Program nearly doubled its reach in 2018, providing online field trips to 11,235 students across 40 states, 18 countries, and 7 Canadian provinces. More than 150 dedicated EleAmbassadors took the stories of The Sanctuary to their communities across the US and The Sanctuary hosted 166 on-site volunteers, including college Alternative Service groups from Appalachian State, Georgia Southern, Florida International, Indiana State, and Vanderbilt University.

Gaining new knowledge and sharing experiences expands our ability to advance care and discover new and innovative ways to solve problems. We are proud to work alongside our partners, both in the US and abroad, to continue to raise the standard of care for elephants around the world. In 2018, The Sanctuary supported seven international organizations’ projects on four continents to address issues of elephant-human conflict, poaching, habitat preservation, rescue and rehabilitation, and management and care in captivity.

All of this is made possible through the generosity and support of our donors. Thank you for helping to sustain a natural habitat and safe refuge for elephants and a global education program for future generations of conservationists.

Janice Zeitlin
Vice President and CEO
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 $49,103,746 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 2018 audit and 990 can be found on our website at www.elephants.com/financials.
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.

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 www.elephants.com

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