

2023

A YEAR IN REVIEW

From three snowy owlets hatching, to the addition of a new species – Patagonian maras named Bonita and Bettina – your Akron Zoo has a lot to celebrate. As we look back on 2023, we reminisce on all of the great accomplishments we've achieved and reflect on our goals for 2024. We are grateful to be able to continue to care for our natural world, inspire lifelong learning in all of our guests and bring the message of conservation to the members of our community.



FROM THE CHAIR & PRESIDENT

Your Akron Zoo has had an inspiring 2023!

We remain steadfast in our mission to connect your life to wildlife while inspiring lifelong learning and conservation action.

This year, the Akron Zoo saw efforts more than 20 years in the making come to fruition. Two Akron Zoo staff members, Animal Care Manager Kathleen Balogh and Zookeeper Elizabeth Maille, traveled to Tahiti to release more than 1,000 Partula snails bred here at the Akron Zoo.

This species was declared extinct in the wild in the 1990s. With the help of organizations from around the world, more than 25,000 snails have been released in the last nine years, making this the largest reintroduction of a species extinct in the wild.

In May, we became the first zoo in Ohio and the first organization in Summit County to receive the Age-Friendly Seal of Approval from the Better Business Bureau. The Seal of Approval certifies the zoo meets criteria in three key areas – physical environment, customer experience and marketing materials – which ensure accessibility and quality service for older adults. In all our plans, we consider accessibility, and it is an honor to be the first zoo in Ohio to receive this certification.

We joined with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and other AZA-accredited facilities on 30x30, which advances the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and their goal to protect at least 30% of the planet by 2030. The data is clear – we need to work together to truly make a difference for wildlife and future generations.

The work we are doing at your Akron Zoo could not be done without our donors, sponsors, community partners, voters, members and zoo friends. With your support, we truly are creating champions of our natural world.

Sincerely,



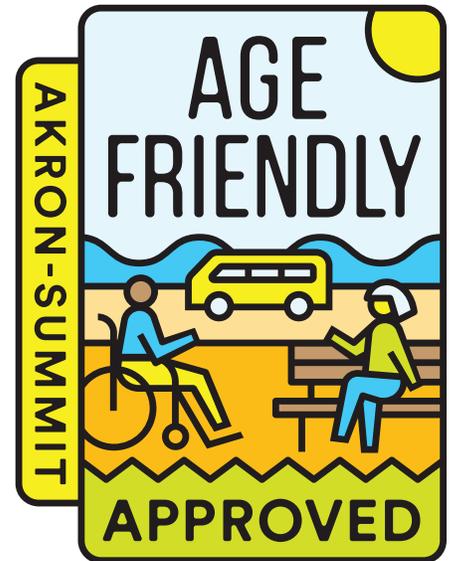
Michele Santana

Chair, Board of Directors



Douglas M. Piekarz

President & CEO



ANIMAL NUMBERS

Animal Type	Species	Total Individuals
Aquatic Invertebrates	57	749
Amphibians	7	32
Birds	65	193
Fish	36	342
Mammals	35	771
Reptiles	24	45
Terrestrial Invertebrates	10	882
Total	234	3,014

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

Total Attendance | **412,251**
 Wild Lights | **41,123**
 Membership Households | **13,213**

EDUCATION NUMBERS

Education Programs | **33,491**
(Students engaged in Akron Zoo education programs)
 Field Trips | **35,462** *(Students attending Akron Zoo field trips)*
 Roamer Connections with Visitors | **34,252**
 Total Education Reach | **103,205**



CONSERVATION PARTNERS & PROJECTS

AZA Tiger Conservation Campaign
Sumatra, Indonesia

Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Ohio

Conservación, Peru

Conservation Planning Specialist
Group, Global

Fauna & Flora: White-Cheeked
Gibbon Project, Vietnam

FrogWatch: Akron Zoo Chapter, Ohio

FrogWatch USA

Jaguar SSP, Cockscomb Basin, Belize

Kasiisi Project, Uganda

Komodo Dragon SSP, Indonesia

Madagascar Fauna and Flora,
Toamasina Province, Madagascar

Medina Raptor Center, Ohio

OH Lepidopterist Society, Ohio

Lights Out Akron-Canton, Ohio

Partula Snail Project, Tahiti,
French Polynesia

Red Panda Network, Nepal

Red Wolf Coalition, NC, USA

Punta San Juan Conservation
Initiative, Peru

Snow Leopard Trust, Asia

SORALO: Rebuilding the Pride,
Southern Rift Valley, Kenya

Spotted Turtle Conservation Project
(SPOTD), Ohio

Turtle Survival Alliance, Global

White-Winged Wood Duck
Research, Assam, India

Wildlife Restoration Foundation, Ohio

Wildlife SOS, India

CONSERVATION NUMBERS

SAFE Programs | **6**

Species Survival Plans | **41**

Conservation Programs | **25**

- Global | **2**
- USA | **9**

- Asia | **7**
- South America | **3**
- Africa | **3**
- Oceania | **1**

7 are in Ohio and 4 are citizen science programs with local volunteers.



GLOBAL



U.S.A.



ASIA



SOUTH AMERICA



AFRICA



OCEANIA

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We want to express a sincere 'Thank You' to our generous benefactors. It is because of your gifts and pledges that your zoo is a leader in animal care, education and conservation, and is able to provide a memorable experience for the community. We would also like to extend our thanks to the members of our community who continue to support our efforts in making the Akron Zoo the best it can possibly be. On behalf of the Akron Zoo and the animals in our care, thank you!

Visit www.akronzoo.org/about-zoo or scan the **QR code** to view a full list of donors.



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Ernie's Bicycle Shops
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Goodyear Tire & Rubber
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Mary Ann Lutz
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\$1,000,000 and Over

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Robert O. & Annamae Orr Family Foundation
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\$100,000-\$999,999

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The Samuel Reese Willis Foundation
Mrs. Virginia B. Wojno-Forney

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Donors contributing \$250 or more to the Akron Zoo's Annual Animal Fund, January 1–December 31, 2023.

\$100,000 and Over

Citizens of Summit County
Judith Irene Jeffery Trust
Mr. and Mrs. David
M. Koly
The Lehner Family
Foundation
Lori & Collin Trehan

\$20,000-\$99,999

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Berk
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Memorial Foundation
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Perry Family Foundation
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Sisler McFawn Foundation
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Teodosio
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas
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Vectirelis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert
J. Veillette
Mr. and Mrs. Charles
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The Welty Family
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\$1,000-\$4,999

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AcessPointe Community
Health Center
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\$500–\$999 (Cont.)

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\$250–\$499

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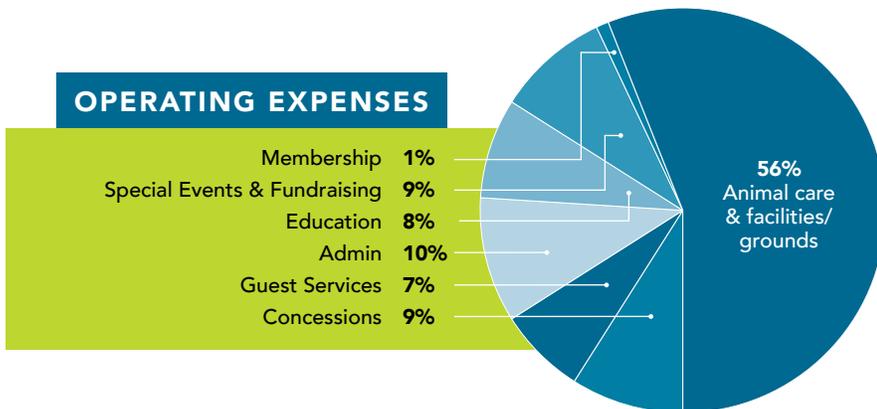
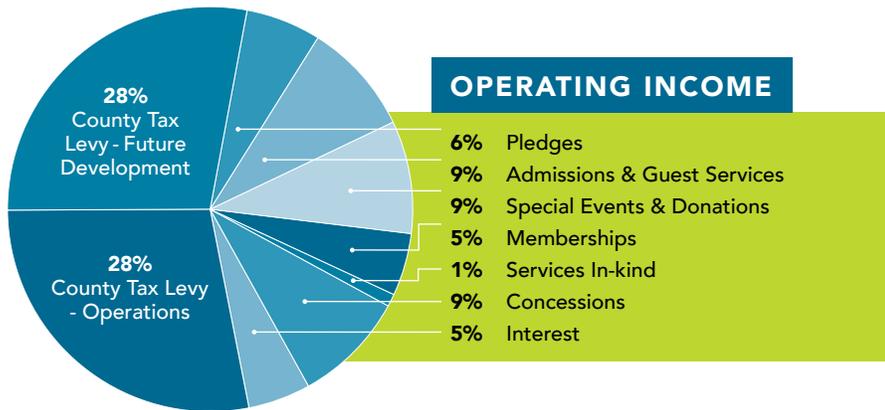
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As of December 31, 2023 (unaudited)



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- Craig Stanley
- Ben Sutton
- Steve Taylor
- Tom Teodosio
- Sophia Veillette

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$24,140,838
Pledges receivable	\$1,512,985
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$487,940
Inventories	\$119,786
Property and equipment, net (less depr)	\$62,547,695
Total assets	\$88,809,244

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$3,003,928
Net assets	\$85,805,316
Total liabilities and net assets	\$88,809,244

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- Pam Holtz, Sr. VP & Chief External Affairs Officer
- Mellissa Reed, Sr. VP & Chief Business Officer
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