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Like Tom and Esteban, you can make an impact at the zoo for generations to come with a gift in your estate plans. To learn more, contact Marilyn Schaffer at 312-742-2167.



The zoo holds a special place in the hearts of Esteban Diaz and Tom Hulseman, motivating the couple to join the Heritage Society with a gift in their estate plan.

Ties That Bind

Four years ago, Tom Hulseman and Esteban Diaz were married at Lincoln Park Zoo’s Café Brauer—dancing on the same floorboards where Tom’s mother had learned ballroom dancing at a Chicago Park District class in her youth. The zoo continues to be a place close to their hearts, motivating them to join the Heritage Society by including the zoo in their estate plan.

“My mom would always say to my nine siblings and me, ‘To whom much is given, much is expected,’” says Tom of their joint decision to make a gift for the zoo’s future.

“It’s important to connect people with live animals versus ones they just see on TV,” says Tom, while Esteban expresses his enjoyment of their strolls through the zoo’s exhibits and gardens. The zoo’s strong commitment to animal welfare and conservation resonates with Esteban, a devoted dog lover who grew up in Durango, Mexico.

The zoo’s dedication, as a free institution open to all, to both inclusivity and accessibility also resonates

with the couple. Tom, who formerly worked at schools serving blind and autistic students, communicates in sign language with Esteban, who has been deaf-mute since childhood. The zoo’s outreach to communities too often marginalized—exemplified by its collaborative programming with Chicago’s Little Village neighborhood—speaks volumes to the couple and Esteban’s Latino heritage.

As a business executive now working to promote economic growth and prosperity across northeastern Illinois, Tom appreciates the zoo’s impact on the Chicago community. “It’s not just a gift, it’s an investment in a vital asset for our community and the entire region,” he says.

Tom and Esteban’s future gift will help the zoo continue to serve the community and unite different cultures in a common cause.



The zoo's treetop residents include Puerto Rican parrots (above) and Diana monkeys (below).



Your IRA: THE KEY TO MAKING A BIGGER IMPACT

An IRA is an appealing way to save for retirement: Make a contribution and enjoy tax savings. But eventually, that tax bill comes due—when you take your annual distributions and again when you leave your assets to heirs. If you want to avoid the tax bite and make an impact on our future, then consider a gift to Lincoln Park Zoo from your IRA.

Make Your Gift Today

If you're 70½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover to make a tax-free gift to the zoo. This law allows you to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 annually directly to a qualified charitable organization without paying income tax on the distribution. Additional benefits include:

- You'll see the difference you're making today.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you don't itemize your tax deductions.
- Your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

Magnify Your Impact After Your Lifetime

Regardless of your age, you can give from your IRA by naming the zoo as a beneficiary of your account. This is a great option for extending support beyond your lifetime. Plus, when you name us as beneficiary of your IRA, your assets pass to us tax-free, allowing us to put the entire amount toward our work.

Here's how:

- 1 Decide what percentage (1–100) you would like the zoo to receive.
- 2 Contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form, or simply download a form from your provider's website.
- 3 Name the zoo and the gift percentage on the form.
- 4 Return the form to your IRA administrator.
- 5 Let us know about your plans so we can thank you and welcome you to the Heritage Society.

Whether you make your impact at Lincoln Park Zoo today or after your lifetime, your gift matters. Please contact us to discuss your plans.



A Hoffman's two-toed sloth (left) snoozes in its preferred position. Enrichment provides a cognitive challenge for a western lowland gorilla (right).

Save Taxes by Giving Stocks

Wouldn't it be great if you could avoid all those annoying fees in life: at the bank, on your electric and cable bill, or at the car dealership?

One of the biggest “fees” of all is capital gains tax. When you're leaving a legacy for the people and causes you love, such as Lincoln Park Zoo, you want to make as big an impact as possible. That's harder to do if you let the government take a chunk.

That's why donating appreciated stock instead of selling it is a great option. When you give the zoo appreciated securities that you've owned for more than one year, you may receive two tax benefits:

1. You are exempt from paying capital gains taxes on any increase in value—taxes you would pay if you sold the stock.
2. You are entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the current fair market value of the securities, regardless of their lower original cost, if you itemize.

How to Donate Stock

Here's how to give appreciated securities to Lincoln Park Zoo:

If you have the physical securities: You can hand-deliver them to us or mail us the stocks and stock power separately.

If you don't have possession of the physical securities: Instruct your broker to electronically transfer your intended shares and notify us that you are making a gift.



We're Here to Help

Not sure whether donating stock is the best way for you to support our mission?

Feel free to contact us.

Together with your advisor, we can help you fulfill your charitable goals and protect your assets from unnecessary taxes.



Trumpeter swans hatched and raised to adulthood at Lincoln Park Zoo (right) have been released to a wild population in Iowa to support the species' recovery.

Grace Under Pressure

Once abundant in North America, trumpeter swans nearly became extinct in the United States by the early 20th century due to hunting. The storybook species—the world's largest waterfowl—was spared that final chapter thanks to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and conservation partners, including zoos, that collaborated to save it from extinction.

Lincoln Park Zoo has contributed to the recovery of the species, which today inhabits about a third of its historical home range and numbers more than 60,000. Population biologists at the Population Management Center (PMC), hosted by Lincoln Park Zoo in partnership with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), analyze genetic and demographic data for every individual in the zoo-based population to calculate how many hatches are needed to grow that population as well as provide offspring for reintroduction into the wild.

Working in tandem with the AZA's Trumpeter Swan Species Survival Plan team, the PMC also coordinates wild releases of zoo-bred swans with state and federal agencies. Since 2001, the zoo has provided 44 cygnets for release in Iowa. In 2006, one of them, identified from its bands, was observed nesting in Illinois—the first time a trumpeter swan had bred in the state in more than 100 years.

Though their recovery is considered a success, trumpeter swans still face challenges in the wild, including lead poisoning, habitat loss, power line collisions, illegal hunting and climate change. Restoration efforts are ongoing across the U.S., and zoos and aquariums continue to play a major role in trumpeter swan conservation.

To learn more about zoo projects that need your support, please contact us today. With your help, we can help wildlife thrive for generations to come.



Give to the zoo so that we can continue to advance animal care, education, science and conservation, and ensure future Chicagoans enjoy an exceptional, free zoo experience. Please contact us today.



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