



**LINCOLN PARK ZOO**  
Heritage Society

Heritage Society members help us provide world-class animal care to the animals at Lincoln Park Zoo, including Talini the polar bear.

WINTER  
2020

# Newsletter

## Walking the Talk: Zoo Ambassadors Make a Difference

Heritage Society members Ellen and Jerry Upton's connection with Lincoln Park Zoo began around four decades ago. The young couple, with fledgling careers and two young daughters, simply wanted access to a free, open space in an otherwise urban environment.

Over the years, the Uptons have gone from casual visitors to knowledgeable ambassadors for the zoo as they've learned about the institution's commitment to community, animal welfare, and worldwide conservation.

"We'll talk about the zoo with anyone who will listen," says Ellen. "The zoo does so much—conservation, animal care, learning initiatives—that it's easy to find something for everyone. At this point, our family and friends would probably say we're obsessed with the zoo."

The Uptons don't just talk the talk, however—they have invested in keeping the zoo free and transforming its physical landscape by supporting the Annual Fund and *The Pride of Chicago* capital campaign. And, recently, they discovered a way to make even more of an impact and save money on taxes by giving through Jerry's IRA.

IRA charitable rollover gifts are a great way to support the zoo because, according to Jerry, "It's cost effective and easy. It means we can give more to a place we love."

The Uptons continue to share the place they love with the ones they love, frequenting the zoo with their young granddaughters, who consider it "their zoo." By including the zoo in their estate plans, Ellen and Jerry will help ensure their beloved zoo will be around—and free—for future generations.

"Lincoln Park Zoo helped us redefine our definition of zoos," Jerry says. "It's a great place. There are too many great things about the zoo to mention them all. But more than anything else, we just want to make sure certain things are around for our grandkids, and their grandkids, to enjoy."



Jerry and Ellen Upton

**Just like the Uptons, you too can make a difference at the zoo with an IRA charitable rollover gift.**  
To learn how, contact Sarah Rutledge at 312-742-9570 or [heritagesociety@lpzoo.org](mailto:heritagesociety@lpzoo.org).



## Getting Out What You Put Into Your IRA

For years, you've faithfully saved for retirement. However, what once worked in your favor—putting money into your IRA and enjoying tax savings—will change when you begin withdrawing funds. That's because you pay income taxes on the amount you withdraw from your IRA.

### 3 Solutions Based Upon Your Age

**1 No matter your age**, you can designate Lincoln Park Zoo as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA. Follow these simple steps to complete your gift:

- Contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form, or simply download a form from your provider's website.
- Name Lincoln Park Zoo and the gift percentage. Return the form to your administrator.
- Let us know! We want to ensure that your charitable intent is carried out.

**2 If you're at least 59½ or older**, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

**3 If you're 70½ or older**, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to the zoo and other qualified charitable organizations without having to pay income taxes on the gift, and the gift will count toward your required minimum distribution.

★ **To learn more about how you can use your IRA to minimize taxable income while investing in our future**, please contact Sarah Rutledge at 312-742-9570.



### Did You Know?

Federal income taxes can be as high as 37 percent on retirement plan assets. When you leave them to Lincoln Park Zoo, we receive 100 percent.



# Is a Charitable Gift Annuity Right for You?

The concept of a charitable gift annuity is simple. You donate assets that Lincoln Park Zoo invests. In return, the zoo agrees to make fixed payments to you for life (and, if desired, for another beneficiary's lifetime). At the end of the agreement, the funds are available for the zoo to use so we can continue to help save species.

A charitable gift annuity is attractive because it ensures you a stream of income that you can't outlive. It is also a superb way to make an enduring gift that supports the zoo's future.

Not only does this gift provide you with regular payments and allow Lincoln Park Zoo to further our work, but when you create a charitable gift annuity with the zoo, you can receive a variety of tax benefits, including a federal income tax charitable deduction if you itemize.

The rate you receive is determined by your age on the date of the gift. Annuity rates are higher for older donors, but the rate remains constant once the gift is made. For two lives, the rates are slightly lower because the period of payment is usually longer.

If you are younger than 65 or don't need your payments immediately, you can set up a deferred gift annuity. This allows you to delay receiving payments until a later date when you'll need them—such as when you reach retirement.

## + Benefits

- Receive lifetime payments for yourself and possibly another person.
- Qualify for a charitable deduction for a portion of the value of the gift.
- Secure partially income tax-free payments throughout your life expectancy.
- Save on capital gains taxes when you contribute appreciated securities.

## Find Your Gift Annuity Rate

ONE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
AGE	RATE	AGES	RATE
65	4.7%	65/70	4.4%
70	5.1%	70/75	4.8%
75	5.8%	75/80	5.3%
80	6.9%	80/85	6.2%
85	8.0%	85/90	7.5%
90+	9.0%	90/95+	8.8%

These rates are subject to change. Please contact us for a personalized illustration.

Left: Rhino calf Romeo with mom, Kapuki. Right: Jambu Fruit Dove



## Welcome, New Heritage Society Members!

Lincoln Park Zoo is grateful to the Heritage Society, friends of the zoo who have expressed their commitment to our mission by including a gift for the zoo in their estate plans. Thank you for supporting the future of our free zoo!

**To join the Heritage Society or to learn more about the many ways to make an impact on the zoo's future,** please contact Sarah Rutledge at 312-742-9570 or [heritagesociety@lpzoo.org](mailto:heritagesociety@lpzoo.org) to learn more.

### We are honored to welcome new members who joined the Heritage Society in 2019:

Anonymous (13)

Nanci Endliss

Bonnie and Glenn Felner

Paul and Paula Fisher

John Hart

Mary Ann Hoey

Karen Krishack

Barbara Lanctot

Andy and Cheryl Loos

Mary J. O'Grady

Pam and Tom Sheffield

Alice Stephens Valaitis

We would love to welcome you to the Heritage Society. If the zoo is already in your plan, please let us know so we can thank you! There are many benefits to membership in the Heritage Society, including invitations to special events, such as the Annual Heritage Society Spring Luncheon and Fall Cocktail Reception.



**LINCOLN PARK ZOO.**  
Heritage Society

### Make a difference.

Your gift to the zoo will help us continue to advance animal care, education, science, and conservation—and ensure future Chicagoans enjoy an exceptional, free zoo experience. Please contact us today.



Sarah Rutledge  
Director of Planned Giving  
312-742-9570

Tax ID# 36-2512404

2001 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614 [heritagesociety@lpzoo.org](mailto:heritagesociety@lpzoo.org) [lpzoo.org](http://lpzoo.org)