



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Woodland Park Zoological Society

Address:
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Seattle, WA 98103

Contact:
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<https://www.zoo.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Woodland Park Zoo saves wildlife and inspires everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives.

Date of Award:	Level:
2023 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Woodland Park Zoological Society.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulipCares.org



FINAL REPORT – HOPE & HEALING

TULALIP TRIBES Q1 2023 14.2

January 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through uplifting, up-close animal and nature experiences, Woodland Park Zoo's (www.zoo.org) Hope & Healing program promotes hope and emotional healing for individuals coping with grief, loss, trauma, illness or other experiences leaving them in need of joy, kindness and community. Hope & Healing partners with regional human services organizations to provide free, accessible, and often individualized zoo experiences for their clientele. Hope & Healing is one of the zoo's Public Benefits programs that serve to create a healthy, thriving Northwest that sustains people and wildlife together. **In 2023, with the generous support of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund and other funders, we held 44 Hope & Healing experiences for a wide range of local community groups and human service organizations, serving a total of 657 individuals.**

PROGRAM DETAILS

Woodland Park Zoo's Hope & Healing program was successful in expanding during its second full year of operation. Program staff partnered with seven organizations across the region to design and deliver unique zoo experiences. Partner organizations included the International Rescue Committee, Lambert House, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and multiple programs of Seattle Children's Hospital, among others. Programs were customized to the needs of the partner organization and their clients. For example, in 2023 Hope & Healing offered both in-person and virtual experiences that ranged from serving a single child and their family to an event for more than 100 individuals. Programs also featured a wide range of zoo animals, complementary activities, and interactions with various zoo staff. The program's goal for 2023 was to host 48 experiences for an estimated 1,300 individuals. The zoo came close to reaching that goal, delivering a total of 44 experiences for 657 individuals. A key Hope & Healing staff member was on parental leave during the zoo's peak summer season, which likely led to the slightly lower number of programs delivered than originally anticipated. In addition, as the program is still in its early stages and continuing to develop and foster relationships with new program partners, program staff are continuing to learn expectations for attendance for a Hope & Healing experience with any given partner.

2023 Hope & Healing experiences included:

Virtual experience with Seattle Children's Hospital Family Resource Center:

Early in the year, Hope & Healing partnered with the Family Resource Center at Seattle Children's Hospital to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. The Family Resource Center helps families with basic needs while their loved one is at the hospital, providing resources for their stay and ways to stay connected with home. For the Hope & Healing experience, Family Resource Center staff prepared activities and crafts for families at the hospital while the zoo's Ambassador Animals team joined in a virtual presentation with the zoo's Flemish giant rabbit and donkeys. The Ambassador Animals team described the animals' health and medical treatments, relating them to the care the young patients might receive, helping to create a meaningful connection to the animals.



Annual Family Picnic for the Journey Program: In September, Woodland Park Zoo welcomed families from Seattle Children's Hospital's Journey Program to a Family Picnic. Families in the Journey Program have all experienced the loss of a child, and this was an opportunity for more than 100 individuals to come together with support from their community for a joyful experience at the zoo. The zoo's Learning & Innovation (education) department hosted a hummingbird art activity designed to help families honor their loved ones. The

families were also able to meet a donkey and a snake from our Ambassador Animal team before having time to enjoy exploring the rest of the zoo, including a complementary ride on the zoo's historic carousel.



Penguin Naming: The Hope & Healing program offered the opportunity to name one of our new penguin chicks to a long-term, full-time patient at Seattle Children's Hospital. Last year, this child helped to name a penguin chick as part of a group virtual program. Throughout the year, she developed a strong relationship and keen interest in the wellbeing of that penguin and the other penguins at the zoo. The child wrote a thank you letter to the penguin keepers after naming the chick, mentioning that her goal is to get better so that she can visit the penguins in person. When, in 2023, the Hope & Healing team was offered another opportunity by animal keepers to have one of our community partners name a penguin, the team felt that this experience would be most meaningful to this child in particular. The naming was a surprise to the child, and she was thrilled to have the exclusive opportunity to have a private video call with an animal keeper and pick a name for a penguin. She was able to pick from a couple of penguin chicks, and she quickly connected with a particular penguin wearing a black identifier band. This penguin walked right up to the camera and was seemingly posing for the child. The child named the chick Lucia and sent photos to her new animal keeper friends to share her joy and excitement from the experience.

Visit from CLIP youth to the zoo's Living Northwest Trail: In December, the zoo held a virtual visit for teens at Washington State's Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP), in which they were introduced to animal residents of the zoo's Living Northwest Trail, including our lynx, Marty. The following day, the Hope & Healing team welcomed four CLIP teens and their three chaperones to the zoo, where they were able to meet Marty in person as well as other residents of the Living Northwest Trail, like our gray wolf and two bears. After seeing these animals, the group visited the zoo's Western Pond Turtle exhibit, to follow up on interest the teens had voiced in the zoo's work to conserve local turtles. The teens were fascinated by the turtles; one even expressed to staff that she wished she herself could be a turtle. The opportunity to visit the zoo was a special experience for this group: CLIP is Washington state's most intensive long-term in-patient psychiatric care for children, and many of its residents do not get the opportunity to leave the facility very often. A visit to the zoo provides these kids with a sense of "normalcy" as they have a chance to get outside, explore the zoo as a kid instead of as a "patient", and practice their emotional and behavioral self-control skills that they've been learning through CLIP.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Given the circumstances of its audience, the Hope & Healing program places the highest priority on the end-to-end experience of the individual. The zoo strives to honor the nature of the visit and ensure that it is free from responsibility or expectations for the participating individual or their families; therefore, Hope & Healing staff rely on feedback from staff at partner organizations to inform whether the program was successful in meeting its goals. One example of such feedback, which is reflective of many comments from partners, came from the Internal Rescue Committee after one of their experiences:

"We are so grateful to Woodland Park Zoo as a partner who has worked side by side with us in opening doors to the zoo for our refugee, immigrant, senior refugee, [and] unaccompanied minor children, [so they can] be welcomed to the park. Woodland Park Zoo provides a calming, peaceful and mental health havens for such vulnerable families arriving into King County." -Staff member from International Rescue Committee

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for the generous grant from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for your support of our Hope & Healing program. Your grant award helped the zoo to deliver uplifting, up-close animal and nature experiences to our neighbors across the region who are coping with grief, loss, trauma, illness. We look forward to continued partnership. For any questions on this report, please contact Anna Johnson, Grant Writer, at anna.johnson@zoo.org.