V ictory. Chimp Haven and its supporters know all about it.

It’s come in many ways over the last two decades – new buildings, educational programs, visitors and supporters, and we can’t forget the more than 300 chimpanzees that have called Chimp Haven home. We don’t mind tooting our horn... we’ve been quite victorious.

But we couldn’t have done it without you.

We are captivated by the continuous support of the real heroes – our donors and volunteers. It is your support that keeps taking the sanctuary to new levels.

Recently, Chimp Haven added to its list of triumphs the completion of its newest building, the Laurie and Carlee McGrath Welcoming Center. Through the generosity of the McGrath Family Foundation, the Walter Family Foundation and the National Anti-Vivisection Society, this spacious facility includes 12 bedrooms, four outdoor areas and a large veterinary suite.

It serves as the first home for all new retirees who arrive at Chimp Haven. During their 17-day quarantine period, staff begins developing trust with each chimp and learning their personalities and individual health needs. This is an important process because it helps staff determine which existing chimpanzee family the new arrivals will be joining or if a new one should be established.

Each bedroom is furnished with enrichment such as bedding, hula hoops and barrels for the chimps’ enjoyment. The outdoor areas have multi-level wooden structures for climbing and plenty of vertical height which is essential for chimps.

Six new chimps have enjoyed the welcome center’s accommodations since its dedication in May. Over the next few months, we expect 50 or more new chimpanzees will have their chance as well...

And because of you, Chimp Haven can offer them the best retirement from the moment they first arrive.

Thank you for your commitment and care for our growing family. Let’s continue to be victorious together. We can’t do it without you!

Look inside to meet some of the new chimps...
Jerry
Jerry is a very calm and patient chimpanzee who rarely makes a fuss about anything. He’s known as “The Gentleman” among care staff due to his kind nature and patience during feeding times. The 33 year old enjoys the outdoors and people watching and can often be seen walking bipedally (upright) when he gets excited with both arms in the air for balance.

Elijah
A timid and gentle chimpanzee, 24-year-old Elijah has made several new friends since arriving at Chimp Haven. He has also been reunited with old pal, Camillo. Elijah and Camillo lived together years ago and when they were re-introduced they immediately embraced with a giant chimp hug.

Angel & Opal
Angel, 36, and Opal, 35, are sisters who have lived together for many years and have the bond to prove it. Angel is very protective of her sister, who is smaller in size. But Opal defends Angel whenever necessary.

Russel
Animal care givers describe Russell, 32, as a shy, but cool chimpanzee. He was a bit reserved when he first arrived at the sanctuary, but has warmed up to the many new faces and adapted well to a life of retirement.

Tiffany
Tiffany, a cheerful and freckle-faced chimpanzee, is thriving at Chimp Haven. The 33 year old loves the attention of carestaff, but seems to like them most when they have juice to offer as a treat.

Cleopatra
Cleopatra is a social butterfly. This 24 year old enjoys the perks of retirement – relaxation and unlimited grooming with friends, especially Latoya. She is known to be kind to carestaff and her groupmates and she loves to participate in positive reinforcement training sessions.
Chimp Haven is partnering with Chicago-based Lincoln Park Zoo to improve the lives of chimpanzees and the sanctuaries and zoos that offer them homes.

“This collaboration is unique and the first of its kind,” Chimp Haven President and Chief Executive Officer Cathy Willis Spraetz said. “More importantly, it is an opportunity for two chimpanzee advocating organizations to share best practices and new information to promote the best care for chimpanzees.”

Under the joint leadership of Chimp Haven Board of Directors Chair and Director of Lincoln Park Zoo’s Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, Dr. Stephen Ross and Willis Spraetz, the project will focus on a number of areas including chimp care, organizational sustainability and education. Arcus Foundation is funding the work through a three-year grant.

“As a sanctuary our priority is to care for each chimpanzee who calls Chimp Haven home,” Willis Spraetz said. “To adequately do that it is necessary to evaluate our programs and practices, determine what works well and improve and change what does not. We can then share that information not only with the sanctuary community but with others who care for chimpanzees.”

One of the first areas that will be addressed will be increasing organizational sustainability.

“Through this grant we are able to turn our attention toward what’s to come,” Willis Spraetz said. “Strategic plans have been written and marketing videos are being crafted to aid in our fundraising and public awareness efforts. We are engaging Lincoln Park Zoo partners in projects that will build internal expertise and new tools like cameras are being installed not only to give us the ability to see chimps in their habitats, but also to give supporters around the world an opportunity to learn more about our chimpanzees. This project is helping us prepare for a bright future.”

An important aspect of the collaboration is Lincoln Park Zoo research fellow, Dr. Bethany Hansen who will be working at Chimp Haven for the duration of the project. Through noninvasive observation, Bethany is recording space use, social interactions and other behaviors of several social groups at Chimp Haven, all with the goal of learning more about chimpanzee preferences that may better inform our care of them.

“Having data that will allow us the opportunity to make informed and effective decisions is important when caring for chimpanzees,” Hansen said. “In three years we hope to be able to share and compare this data with other organizations worldwide which can help not only chimpanzees, but other species as well.”

In addition to focusing on chimpanzee care and organizational advancement, the collaboration will also help improve the educational programs and community outreach Chimp Haven offers. Earlier this year members of the Lincoln Park Zoo educational staff began visiting Chimp Haven’s Chimpanzee Discovery Days to collect information on the program and how visitors respond to its activities.

“Chimpanzee Discovery Days are incredible opportunities for the community to learn more about chimpanzees and the mission of the sanctuary,” Hansen said. “Our goal is to ensure this educational program is engaging and innovative and Chimp Haven remains a resource for the immediate community and beyond.”

To learn more about this collaboration visit chimphaven.org. Stay update on collaboration results on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
Chimp Haven will host its second annual A Pant Hoot Affair gala October 29 at Sam’s Town Hotel & Casino in Shreveport, La. The masquerade-inspired event will feature dancing, fabulous silent and live auctions and a great dinner.

This is an event you do not want to miss!

Last year’s event would not have been possible if it weren’t for our amazing sponsors. Thank you to these wonderful supporters for making our 20th Anniversary Gala a success:


Visit chimphaven.org for ticket and sponsorship information.

CHIMP Chat & Chew
Looking for a more in-depth learning experience after Chimpanzee Discovery Days?
Consider Chimp Chat & Chew. Enjoy a staff-driven lecture, lunch and tour of the sanctuary. Reservations are required and seating fills quickly.

Admission:
Adults $50 • Children $25
(not suitable for children under 10 years old)
For more information or to register, please call 318.925.9575.

2016 Fall Dates
September 17 noon - 2 p.m.
October 15 noon - 2 p.m.
(The Morning Edition)
November 19 noon - 2 p.m.
November 22 9 - 11 a.m.

SOLD OUT!