

THE  
  
**CHIMP LIFE**  
 KEITHVILLE, LOUISIANA



## Welcome Home: A Labor of Love for the Chimps is Complete

Years in the making, Chimp Haven’s historic Welcome Them Home expansion is fulfilling its promise.

It’s a warm summer morning in northwest Louisiana, and the chimps are up with the sun. Mahi, a 32-year-old, large-and-in-charge female chimp is taking in her first moments in one of Chimp Haven’s new multi-acre forested habitats with her social group of 10 chimps.

It’s not long before she discovers the faux termite mound that her human caregivers have filled with soup – a special treat the chimps enjoy by using a tool to dip into the holes in the mound and dig out the snack that waits inside. While many chimps would sound a “food bark” to alert their group of their discovery, not a sound escapes Mahi’s lips. Instead she sits quietly for 20 minutes, enjoying her treat all to herself while her groupmates explore their new surroundings and meet their neighbors.

Mahi’s group is one of several who have recently had the exciting new experience of living in a forested habitat thanks to the completion of Chimp Haven’s \$20 million Welcome Them Home expansion. A labor of love years in the making, the expansion has ensured that nearly 100 additional chimpanzees have been able to come home to sanctuary from research facilities, where they too will explore and enjoy these wonderful new spaces.

**Top:** Lexus loves exploring the forested area of her habitat.

**Center:** New hammocks are very popular with all of the chimps - especially Mahi.

**Bottom:** Quilla enjoys a little quiet time soaking in the sun on one of the habitat’s play structures.

From critically needed chimpanzee living areas, including two new 15,000-square-foot open-air corrals, three new multi-acre forested habitats, and corresponding, climate-controlled bedrooms; to dedicated veterinary suites for each chimpanzee living area; expanded support facilities; a 5,000-square-foot commissary, prep kitchen, and food storage facility; and so much more, the newly-expanded facilities are now essential to the daily care of Chimp Haven's 300+ chimp colony.

Completing this remarkable expansion has allowed Chimp Haven to fulfill its promise to welcome home all chimpanzees currently deemed eligible to come to sanctuary from federal research facilities. And while the hope remains that additional chimps will become eligible for sanctuary retirement in the future, for now, this historic, milestone moment is one to celebrate.

"We are overjoyed to have these amazing new spaces to give hundreds of chimps the best life possible – the joy on their faces as they explore their new

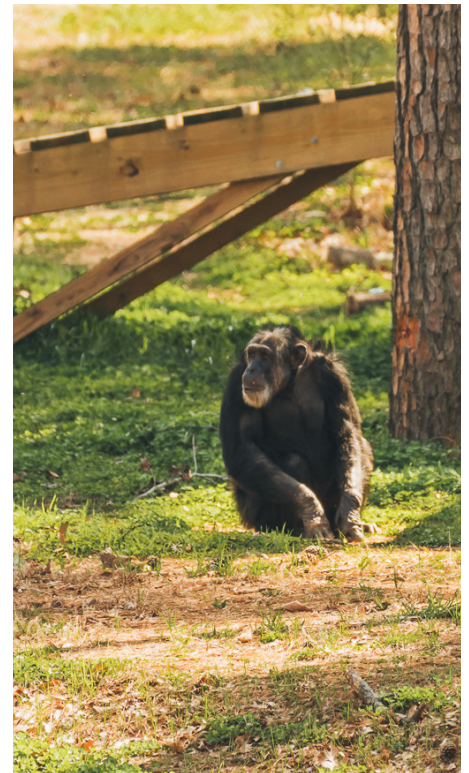
homes, meet new friends, and enjoy the freedoms of sanctuary says it all," said Rana Smith, Chimp Haven President and CEO. "This landmark project was fully funded by Chimp Haven's supporters, who like us, believe these wonderful chimps deserve a peaceful and enriching retirement. Words can't express our gratitude for the extraordinary friendship and support that went into this expansion."

The completion of the Welcome Them Home expansion comes just in time for Chimp Haven to welcome 12 chimpanzees to the sanctuary this fall..

As for Mahi, her caregivers share that she's fully embracing life in the habitat. "She showed up to her meals a little out of breath a few times, and we thought she might need a checkup," shared Caregiver Arden. "It turns out she's just been really busy exploring – she's covered every inch of her new habitat – down by the moat, up on her structures, to the termite mound, all over!"



Alex, Samson, and the rest of their group take long walks patrolling their habitat several times a day



Martin found his happy place in the shade of the habitat's forest.

## In memory of Dr. Steve Ross, a friend to chimps everywhere

As we celebrate the completion of the Welcome Them Home campaign, we know no one would be more proud than longtime leader and friend of the sanctuary, Dr. Steve Ross. Steve dedicated his career to the care and study of chimpanzees and was a tireless advocate for their welfare.

As one of the sanctuary's earliest friends and supporters, Steve later went on to serve more than 15 years on Chimp Haven's Board of Directors, including many years as board chair. Steve's leadership was instrumental to the historic effort to expand the sanctuary and ensure retirement for hundreds of former research chimps.

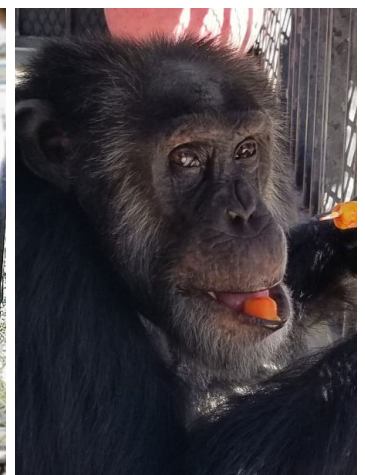
While Steve's leadership, advocacy, caring friendship, and sense of humor are deeply missed at the sanctuary, we will continue to honor his lifelong commitment to chimps and his inspiring vision for their care in our work at Chimp Haven and on behalf of chimpanzees everywhere.



The Steve Ross Pant-hoot Pathway at Chimp Haven is a tribute to Steve's advocacy and dedication to chimps everywhere.

## Home for the Holidays: The Waystation Chimps are Coming Home

Our chimpanzee family will gain 11 new members, just in time for the holidays! Chimp Haven is eagerly preparing for the arrival of the Chimp Haven Eleven from the now-closed Wildlife Waystation in Los Angeles. They'll make their cross-country trek to Louisiana by the end of the year, and we can't wait to welcome them home. Stay tuned for more of these sweet faces!



Denise (left), Mocha (center), Buster (right), and the rest of their friends are waiting patiently for their big move.



## Back to School, Chimp Style

Whether your student is learning in the classroom or at home, Chimp Haven has tons of free chimp-inspired resources and activities! Download lessons for middle school students (inspired by Next Generation Science Standards) and early learners full of videos and interactive activities.

Learn more at [chimphaven.org/education/lesson-plans-activities/](https://chimphaven.org/education/lesson-plans-activities/).

## Chimpanzee Discovery Day is back!

We're thrilled to welcome visitors back to the sanctuary for Chimpanzee Discovery Day this fall! Along with these popular events, we've got all-new ways to experience the sanctuary for small groups and photography lovers. Learn more about our events lineup and purchase tickets at [chimphaven.org/visit](https://chimphaven.org/visit).

*Please remember to include Chimp Haven in your will or estate plans – and let us know when you do so we can thank you.*

**Jimmy Dean**  
Living the Chimp Life  
since 2013