

Heritage Society

Preserving Lincoln Park Zoo for Future Generations

Supporting a Global Reach

Heritage Society members Tom and Sherry Zimmerman have always enjoyed visiting Lincoln Park Zoo. A Chicago native, Tom figures that he made his first trip before he could even walk, while Sherry lived on the city's north side during her twenties, spending ample time strolling through the grounds to visit the animals. When the couple got married in 1995, they even had their wedding reception at neighboring Café Brauer.



Tom and Sherry Zimmerman

But while the Zimmermans enjoy their fond memories, past visits aren't what inspired them to include Lincoln Park Zoo in their estate plan. Instead, their planned gift was motivated by the zoo's leadership in wildlife conservation at home and abroad.

"While visiting San Diego some time ago, we began talking with family about zoo conservation work—how they share research information and coordinate knowledge to create better lives for animals," says Sherry. "That got our interest up in looking behind-the-scenes at Lincoln Park Zoo, where we both had special memories."

As the Zimmermans learned more about Lincoln Park Zoo's efforts in conservation and education, they became surer of their decision to support the zoo through a charitable bequest. The clincher, they report, was a talk by Vice President of Conservation & Science Dominic Travis, D.V.M., detailing the zoo's role in the Serengeti Health Initiative. This collaborative health project aims to conserve the Serengeti ecosystem, in part by vaccinating domestic animals to prevent the spread of diseases such as rabies and distemper into the wild population.

"That just nailed it for me," says Tom. "It's so much greater than what I saw as a young person growing up and going to the zoo. I think it's really wonderful what the zoo does, not just for families in Chicago, but for species around the world."

Lincoln Park Zoo

Is It Time for a Planning "Checkup"?

Take a moment to consider if your plans are up to date. How long has it been since you:

- Reviewed your will and other plans to make certain they still reflect your wishes?
- Considered who would be the beneficiaries of your life insurance and/or retirement plans?
- Checked to ensure that property is owned jointly with others where appropriate?
- Made certain that someone has the power to act for you in your financial affairs if you are unable to do so?
- Took time to ensure that your heirs will not pay unnecessary taxes and probate fees?

Marilyn Schaffer, Lincoln Park Zoo's director of planned giving, would be happy to provide you with more information on estate planning. You can reach her at 312-742-2167 or mschaffer@lpzoo.org.



Dyeing poison arrow frogs are among the colorful residents of Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House.

How Gift Annuities Work for You

Gift annuities are a simple and convenient way to make a gift to support Lincoln Park Zoo.

Under the terms of a gift annuity, you make a gift of cash or other appropriate assets in a way that allows you to retain payments for the remainder of your lifetime. If desired, you can also provide for payments that continue for the life of one other person or direct that the payments be made to one or two others you name.

How much are the payments?

Gift annuity payments vary according to the age of the annuitant (person who receives payments) at the time the annuity is funded. See the chart at left for examples of rates for one or two persons. Generally, the older you are when you fund your gift annuity, the higher your payments will be.

What stands behind the payments?

Under state law, all of the available assets of The Lincoln Park Zoological Society serve to back the annuity payments.

Enjoy generous tax savings

Although tax savings rank low on the list of reasons why most people make charitable gifts, such benefits nonetheless provide added incentive for those who choose to give.

Charitable gift annuities offer a number of ways to reduce or eliminate gift, estate and capital gains tax:

- A portion of the amount contributed for a gift annuity is deductible for federal income tax purposes.
- There can be additional income tax savings depending on your state of residence.
- Gift annuity payments can be taxed more favorably than many other sources of income.
- Assets used to fund gift annuities are typically removed from your taxable estate.
- Gift, estate or capital gains tax considerations may arise in some cases where a gift annuity is created for someone other than a spouse.

Additional benefits

A gift annuity can be an excellent way to enjoy income tax savings today while ensuring that the amounts used to fund the annuity will never be subject to estate tax. What's more, your gift will advance the zoo's mission of conservation and care, all while providing a free wildlife experience in the heart of Chicago.

Gift Annuity Payment Rates

Selected Rates for One Person		Selected Rates for Two Persons of the Same Age	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
90+	9.5%	90/90	8.3%
85	8.1	85/85	7.0
80	7.1	80/80	6.1
75	6.3	75/75	5.6
70	5.7	70/70	5.2
65	5.3	65/65	4.9

For illustrative purposes only.

Please write for current benefits and rates for other ages.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMIX RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. N2AXX-09



Provide for Yourself and Others

You may create a Lincoln Park Zoo gift annuity for your life only, your life and that of your spouse, or the life of one or two other persons. The following examples illustrate just a few of the possibilities.

Payments for one person

Paul, 81, decides to fund a gift annuity using \$25,000 in cash. At his age, he receives payments from his gift annuity equal to 7.3% of the amount contributed. (See page 2 for examples of rates.) He is also entitled to an income tax deduction for more than \$13,000.

Payments for two lives

George and Susan, ages 80 and 85, decide to use stock that pays no dividends to fund an annuity that will continue payments for both of their lives. They are entitled to payments equal to 6.5% of the amount transferred as well as a generous tax deduction. In addition, the value of the annuity will be completely removed from their taxable estate.

Income for other loved ones

Barbara decides to create a gift annuity that will make payments to her sister for the rest of her sister's life. Barbara will be entitled to an income tax deduction for a portion of the amount contributed. In addition, she enjoys the knowledge that her sister will receive payments that are backed by all of the assets of The Lincoln Park Zoological Society.

Giving and Receiving

Have you ever wanted to give more but hesitated to do so because of financial concerns?

The need for income or access to assets later in life are just two of the reasons people sometimes choose to delay or forego charitable gifts. Fortunately, ways exist to make gifts while addressing these and other financial needs.

The charitable gift annuity allows you to make gifts while receiving generous payments that will not change over time. There are other ways to make a gift that provides an income that can fluctuate over time depending on the future value of the funds and/or the way they are invested.

Whether you prefer a fixed income or payments that may grow in the future, you can enjoy the knowledge that you have made a wonderful gift that will make a difference in years to come.

To learn more, contact Marilyn Schaffer, director of planned giving, at 312-742-2167 or mschaffer@lpzoo.org.

Build Income for the Future

The amount of your gift annuity payments will never change. But generally the rate for each new annuity will be higher at later ages. For this reason, some choose to create a new gift annuity each year as part of their retirement planning.

In this way, they make meaningful gifts over time while enjoying increasingly higher amounts of steady income.

An Amur tiger enjoys the sun outside the Kovler Lion House.



A Gift From the Heart—A Bequest for Lincoln Park Zoo

Have you considered including Lincoln Park Zoo in your estate plans? It is easy to do through your will or trust. The following is a sample of the language your attorney could use to include the zoo in your plans.

Specific Bequest – “I give The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, Chicago, Illinois, 60614, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the general support of Lincoln Park Zoo.”

Residual Bequest – “I give The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, Chicago, Illinois, 60614, _____ percent of the residue of my estate to be used for the general support of Lincoln Park Zoo.”

Contingent Bequest – “In the event that _____ predeceases me, I give The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, Chicago, Illinois, 60614, the sum of \$_____”

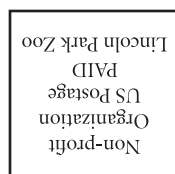


Chimpanzees “fish” for treats at the termite mound inside Regenstein Center for African Apes.

(or, alternatively, _____ percent of the residue of my estate) to be used for the general support of Lincoln Park Zoo.”

For more information, or to learn about other ways you can include the zoo in your estate plans, contact Marilyn Schaffer, director of planned giving, at 312-742-2167 or mschaffer@lpzoo.org.

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