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# REACHING OUT



Newsletter of the Primate Rescue Center, Inc.

Volume 5, Issue 1 • Spring 2003

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## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

To our extended family, YIPPEE! It's Spring, and time to announce the details of the 4th Annual PRC Open House! Please plan to spend the afternoon in our idyllic valley meeting and getting acquainted with our staff and simian residents. Don't forget your checkbook-between the Gift Shop and the Silent Auction - there's sure to be something you just can't live without! Here's the skinny:

**WHEN:** May 17, 2003 (Raindate May 18)

1-5 PM • Silent Auction ends @ 3:30 PM

**WHERE:** Wilmore, KY

Please note: our mailing address is not our location! We'll supply directions when you RSVP.

**WHY:** So that you can see firsthand the work made possible through your support

**RSVPs** are a must, via e-mail, phone or fax

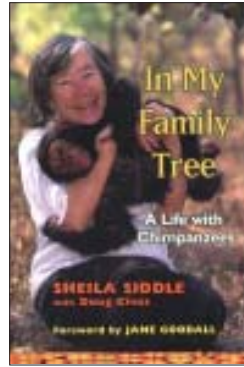
We are looking for 6-10 energetic volunteers to help out at the Open House. The pay is peanuts (literally - all you can eat!) and a really fine T-shirt. If you're interested, please contact us no later than April 15.

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you at the Open House!



- April

## READER'S CORNER



### **In My Family Tree: A Life With Chimpanzees**

by Sheila Siddle, Jane Goodall, Doug Cress (contributor)

Hardcover

284 pages • May 2002

ISBN: 0-8021-1713-9

Grove Press

Sheila Siddle and her husband, David, never expected the farm

they bought in Zambia would become the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, the largest primate sanctuary in the world. It all began the day a game ranger brought Pal, a wounded chimpanzee, to them. Siddle nursed Pal back to health, and as Zambian laws were passed making it illegal for chimpanzees to be privately owned, more chimpanzees followed. Siddle shares the stories of some of the individual chimps: Rita, who arrives with emotional scars but ends up as a mother figure to many of the other chimps; Sandy, whose antics are both irritating and frustrating; and Milla, a much older chimp who is barely familiar with her own kind. Siddle even adopts a baby hippopotamus, Billy, who believes her home is in the Siddles' house! Siddle and her husband face very real problems as well - overcrowding, many chimpanzee escape attempts, and chimp attacks, one of which is near-fatal. Always engrossing, Siddle's memoir gives the reader a real feeling for the complex chimps that populate Chimfunshi.

-Kristine Huntley

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### **BUY THIS BOOK!**

With any Amazon.com order you place through the link on our website ([www.primate-rescue.org](http://www.primate-rescue.org)) a portion of the order total will go to support the needy animals at the Primate Rescue Center. Now that's an easy way to get more bang for your buck!

Thanks to the fine folks at:

**amazon.com**<sup>®</sup>

# Reaching Out

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5087 Danville Road  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
(859) 858-4866  
(859) 858-0044 fax

kyprimate@earthlink.net  
www.primare-scue.org

## **Contributors**

Darce Bowen  
J. Clayton Miller  
Jennifer Caravello  
April D. Truitt

## **Board of Directors**

April D. Truitt, President  
Cindy Carroccio, Vice President  
Sandra A. Garrison, Secretary  
J. Clayton Miller, Treasurer  
Lynn Albanese

## **Primate Care Staff**

Jennifer Caravello  
Meranda Kaufman  
John Pearson  
Tammy Little  
Ellen Furlong  
and a host of dedicated  
volunteers!

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## **NEWS, VIEWS AND ISSUES**

### *Pet tiger cub taken from MN home*

February 12, 2003 • The fifth-grade boy had scratches and bite marks and was falling asleep in class.

School officials couldn't believe the reason he gave: the baby tiger that slept in his bedroom was keeping him up at night.

Sure enough, officers found a malnourished 35-pound tiger cub, whom the boy called Anna, chewing on a piece of chicken in his family's home in Albert Lea.

The boy's father, who bought the tiger legally for \$2,500 from a breeder in Red Wing, Minn., lost custody of it Tuesday. It will be moved to Colorado.

Minnesota has no laws regulating the sale and care of exotic animals such as Anna. But a group of animal welfare organizations hopes that a bill to set standards will be introduced at the Legislature this year.

"This tiger may not be terribly dangerous right now, but it still could give a hellacious bite," said Keith Streff, director of investigations for the Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley, where the cub is being held.

Although the number of exotic animals owned in the state isn't known, Streff said he believes that there are hundreds.

The bill wouldn't ban ownership of exotic animals. It would create a list of animals that are considered exotic and establish registration requirements, Streff said. Standards would be set for living conditions and enforcement.

Many cities in the seven-county Twin Cities area have some kind of ordinance regarding exotic animals, but regulation dwindles in rural areas, Streff said. Albert Lea requires a permit to keep or maintain a wild animal. Permit violations are a misdemeanor.

Last month, William Diaz Sr., 37, was charged with breaking the permit law and with misdemeanor cruelty to animals and lack of care of an animal. The criminal complaint said he bought the tiger from Tiger-Zone.com. On Tuesday, a message at the Web site said the site had been removed from the Internet "due to circumstances beyond our control."

Diaz declined to comment Tuesday evening, but Streff said that he talked to Diaz several days ago by telephone and that Diaz expected to get the cub back.

"He was very polite and stated his family was very attached to it," Streff said. "He didn't feel the cat was a danger to him or anybody else."

The case started when police received reports of a tiger at Diaz's house, but they found nothing. Authorities were notified again Jan. 6, after officials from Lakeview Elementary School said the fifth-grader told a teacher that he lived with a tiger and that it smelled bad, said Steve Schwab, the Albert Lea city attorney.

A little more than a week later, police searched the house and found the 3-or 4-month-old tiger. Tiger feces and urine also were found in the house, Schwab said. Authorities did not indicate that there was any reason to remove the child from the home.

A veterinarian found sores and scars on the tiger's neck because her collar was too tight, according to the criminal complaint. She had a dull and dry coat, a sign of poor or inadequate diet, and borderline anemia, it said.

The family forfeited its rights to the animal after authorities didn't hear from them for 20 days, double the time a person is required to receive under the law, Schwab said.

"If the Diaz family would have applied for a permit, we would have required a fair amount of insurance be purchased in case the tiger got loose," he said. "You can't keep an animal like this in the house."

Technicians at the Humane Society played with the tiger Tuesday. She now weighs 46 pounds. The sign on her cage called her Hannah, but the criminal complaint said the family had named her Anna.

The cub was held on a short leash, but would roll onto her back and let the technicians rub her tummy. When full grown, she could weigh 450 pounds, Streff said.

-The Minneapolis Star Tribune

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Providence truly smiled on us when we had the good fortune to meet Amy Orlando and her husband Mike at a Jane Goodall fundraiser in Lexington last year. We learned that Mike has earned himself quite a reputation tracking and tagging bears in an effort to learn more about their numbers and habits in the wild, and Amy has (willingly!) assisted on several of these adventures. When she inquired about volunteer opportunities at the PRC, we knew we wouldn't have to spend much time detailing the dangers of working around wild animals! When she's not volunteering at the PRC, Amy spends her time working with the KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife on behalf of her employer, The Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment at the University of Kentucky.



## THE AAZK BAKE SALE . . .



. . . at the Cincinnati Zoo's Festival of Lights was a tremendous success! The local chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers pulled together and raised over \$600 to benefit the Primate Rescue Center! Above, Laura Carpenter (l) and longtime PRC supporter Janet Crenshaw(r) lure zoo visitors with warm smiles and sweet treats. Many thanks to all the fine folks who worked so hard to make this fundraiser such a hit!

## A NUTTY STORY

I'm sure many of our readers grew up eating Jif peanut butter - I'm a big fan of the chunky variety. It seems that chimps and monkeys just love the nutty spread as well, and it's ideal for holding other food items together when we "build" enrichment items for the PRC residents - PB&J tortilla roll-up, anyone?

We were delighted to learn recently that not only is Jif peanut butter distributed worldwide, but every bit of it originates at the J.M. Smucker Co. plant just up the road in Lexington, KY! We learned this through a call from Gary Gardner, a production supervisor at the plant, who had spotted peanut butter on a PRC "Wish List." Shortly thereafter, Gary and his wife Cindy dropped by with SIX CASES of Jif's finest! We're grateful to the Gardners and to the J.M. Smucker Co. for reaching out with this generous donation to our food supplies. Every dollar we save on food items is one more dollar we can spend on rescuing and building enclosures for more needy primates. THANK YOU!



Cindy and Gary Gardner were kind enough to arrange the donation of six cases of Jif peanut butter - AND they delivered it! In the background, Rodney watches to make sure they don't go far.



**Many thanks to  
Kroger of  
Nicholasville -  
proud supporters of  
the Primate Rescue  
Center!!**

## Q&A

I've read that chimpanzees can contract or develop many of the same ailments that humans do. Are there diabetic chimpanzees?

*F. Leyden  
(via e-mail)*

What a great question! Unfortunately for chimpanzees and monkeys, they *are* susceptible to many of the illnesses which afflict humans. It is this similarity which initially led biomedical researchers to use non-human primates as models for human disease. As we learn more about their biochemistry and how much they (and other species) differ from humans in their responses to pathogens and pharmaceuticals, a great debate has arisen over the validity and ethics of using primates and other animals as research subjects. (For more information on the topic, see: [www.aavs.org](http://www.aavs.org); [www.neavs.org](http://www.neavs.org); [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org))

As far as diabetes is concerned, chimpanzees have been known to develop Type 2 diabetes in captivity. We learned this when our own Miss Hazel was diagnosed with it not long ago.

For those of you who may not be acquainted with Miss Hazel, an introduction is in order:

Hazel came to the PRC as one of the Dahlonga 5, a group of chimpanzees we found living in squalid conditions in the hills of north Georgia. From what little we could uncover of her history, we learned that as a youngster she had been owned by an animal trainer, but was cast off when her only real talent seemed to be avoiding "work" at all costs. She was described by her former owner as a "stubborn couch potato." We estimate her age to be about 33 at present.



When she first arrived at the PRC, we were surprised to observe that Miss Hazel is the dominant female in her group, and took a back seat only to Donald, the alpha male. In fact, Miss Hazel actually outweighed Donald for a time (he's 180 pounds!), and she was not one to share her food often. It wasn't until we introduced Donald and his group to our youngsters that Miss Hazel's true personality was revealed. She readily took to "the kids" as protector, mediator and mentor. What a hoot to watch little Cory run to her for reassurance when a play session got a bit rough!

As time passed, and the two groups settled in together and became one, we noticed that Hazel seemed to be losing weight. Her diet hadn't changed, and if anything, she was eating more than ever, even stealing food from the kids on occasion! We began watching her closely, and saw that her water intake was increasing, as was urination. As some of you may know from personal experience, these changes are symptomatic of Type II (adult onset) diabetes. A subsequent physical confirmed the diagnosis.

After much monitoring and consulting with the best minds we could find, our veterinarian, Dr. Bowling, decided to try a course of the human oral medication Avandia. Our challenge was how to monitor her glucose levels so we could tell how and if the drug therapy was working. Although there are some fine and nearly painless readers on the market, they all require a bit of blood, and our Miss Hazel made it clear early on that she was having none of that! More consulting, more head scratching - why not use dip strips to check her urine? We devised a "urine collection tool" - a fancy name for a cup at the end of a long pole - and our dedicated care staff set about the task of using operant conditioning to obtain the needed samples on request.

There were a few humorous moments while we perfected the procedure, but I'm pleased to be able to report that Miss Hazel is responding really well to the Avandia, and has no adverse side effects that we've been able to discern. The bad news? Even at a rather low dose, the cost of her prescription is \$2.00 per day, every day, for the rest of her life! Oh, and no - she doesn't have health insurance to cover the costs. If any of our readers would like to help us keep this sweet old girl healthy - please earmark your contribution "For Miss Hazel."

*-April Truitt*

## UPDATE ON OUR NEW ARRIVALS

In our last newsletter we introduced you to several of our newest residents. Despite the harsh winter that has forced our residents indoors for days at a time, all our “new additions” have been thriving in their new quarters. Apparently, good meals and good friends have helped stave off cabin fever.

Delia the spider monkey, who was rescued last spring from an abandoned apartment, is currently living alongside two other spider monkeys. The first, Bisou, has been a PRC resident for many years. Her other companion, Chester, was only recently brought to the PRC by his former owners. Chester’s tale is all too familiar: his owners loved him dearly, but were becoming painfully aware that he was lonely and depressed even in their company. Upon his arrival he was easily introduced to Bisou and Delia and the three have been together ever since.

Chester and Delia are quite a pair! Both are young monkeys and full of energy! All day long they wrestle and chase each other, a furry black ball of lanky arms, legs and tails bouncing about the cage. Bisou tries to avoid their wild play, retreating into her cubby with a blanket as soon as the games get rough. This doesn’t stop the others from trying to draw her in with slaps and jabs and tugs at her tail, though. She usually just ignores them, but even gentle Bisou has her limits. When she’s absolutely had enough, she’ll stand up and holler at the two adolescents until they settle down.

We look forward to warmer days, when we can finally move the spiders to their permanent home, a large outdoor enclosure that was recently completed. Bisou will be reintroduced to Booger, an adult male and her companion for years. We expect that even with the introduction of Booger the group will continue to co-exist happily. With the new “jungle gyms,” rope swings and fire hoses Delia and Chester will have plenty to keep them entertained and ample space to burn off energy. Stay tuned . . .

*-Jennifer Carvello*



## OUR ANGELS

We’re delighted to announce that the Arcus Foundation ([www.arcusfoundation.org](http://www.arcusfoundation.org)) has recently granted our request for funding to assist with sanctuary operating expenses over the next two years. Many thanks to founders Jon L. Stryker and Rob Schram and to director Linda May for this vote of confidence in our continuing efforts to provide superior care for our residents!



◇ A prior grant from the Arcus Foundation helped to upgrade the PRC website!



## PRC WISH LIST:

Silent auction items for Open House!

Apple office computer

100/250MB ZIP discs

Photo paper for inkjet printers

Avery labels (#5160 & #5164)

Ink cartridges for Epson 880 printer

Gift cards to Kroger, Wal-Mart or Staples

Blank VCR tapes (THANKS, **Don Elroy!**)

**Walk-in cooler compressor**

Freezer for in-season produce

**Bales of clean straw** • Bleach (gallons)

Simple Green or Mean Green cleaner (gallons)

Dish soap • Laundry detergent (liquid)

Semi-portable X-ray equipment

Pine shavings (not cedar)

Soccer, tennis & basketballs

Fleece blankets

Little Tykes hard plastic toys - the bigger the better!

Food dehydrator (THANKS, **Alyssum Pohl &**

**The McNallys!**)

**Bulk dry goods:** rolled oats, Cheerios, raisins,

unpopped popcorn, graham crackers,

unsweetened cereals, raisins, pasta,

dried fruit (a favorite treat!), nuts (any kind!),

peanut butter (THANKS, J.M. Smucker Co.!)

Purina 5038 monkey chow - we use over

**400 pounds** per month!

**YES! We can pick up any items you care to donate - please contact us!**

**Remember: ALL donations to the PRC are tax-deductible!**

## A THOUSAND THANKS!

In the past twelve months, the following wonderful people and organizations have generously donated funds, time, ideas and materials to help make it all work at the PRC. We can't ever thank you enough!

The Arcus Foundation AAZK • Cincinnati Chapter Diane Alarie Lynn Albanese & Onestepatime Farm Animal Advocates, Inc. Dr. Jonathan S. Allan Molly Artman Jan Bailey Danny & Libby Barnes of The Alternative Jewelry Shop The Austin Zoo Tracy L. Beaven Martin & Ann Bell Frank & Bonnie Bellafato Catherine Bishop in Honor of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Hayden Marion Blackmer Donald & Bonnie Blattner Bluegrass Beekeepers Assoc. Giff, Marion & Ben Blyton Dora Boaz Melanie R. Bond - In Memory of William E. Bond Wendy Borowsky - In Memory of Ingrid's Very Special Friend & Companion, Ben Dr. Dan Bowling - Animal Hospital of Nicholasville Dave Bowman of Foxhaven Farm Stewart Bowman Sally Boysen, Ph.D. Gail Branham Christine & Stuart Brown David Brumfield of Brumfield Hay & Grain Carol Buckley John Burnside & Burnside Contracting Cabra Cerro, Inc. Jennifer Caravello Joan Klinger Carlton Kelli Carnean J. Robert Chambers The Chimpanzee Collaboratory Jim Clagget & American Cabin Supply Isabel McHenry Clay Martha Clay Mike & Sam Clemons Mary Comfort Compassion Over Killing Steve Cornell Tom Covington in Honor of Patti Rayburn Lee & Phil Craft Janet Crenshaw Mary Crompton Wayne & Shirley Davis Lesley Day & Chimps, Inc. Douglas Dean of Dean, Dorton & Ford	Mareen & Michael Dennis Brian Derlein & Perkins Scale Stephanie DeRossett Steuart & Jane T.R. Dewar & The Dewar Wildlife Trust Douglas & Karen Doerrfeld Carole Dolan Dr. Francine Dolins - in Memory of Gargi Rughani Karla Dooley Larry Dornin John & Glinda Drebeck Robin Easterling Don Elroy & Living Canvas Productions Empire Gas Susan England Dawn Erdman Gary M. Ernst & Donna Siegal Linda Estrada Lucy Ferguson Greg Fimmano JoAnne & Tony Fimmano Fitch's IGA Greg Foraker David Fox The Fund For Animals Ellen Furlong John & Nancy Furlong Tom & Kathy Furlong Albert Gallo Sandy & Bill Garrison Kathy Gee & The BETA Team Alan & Susana Glassberg Bella & Richard Golden Jennie Gordon Alan Green Doris Hager Sandy Hagar Francis & Joe Hammond Harriet Hard John Hard Kimberly & Mike Harvey Joseph & Eleanor Hayden David Hayden in Honor of Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Hayden Lee Hebbard Becky Henley Phil Henry Jan Hoffman in Memory of Beloved Feline Office Buddy, Bud Jimmy & Nancy Houp Dennis How Andrea Howard John Hullibarger of J.J. Hull's Incredible Edibles Debbie & Mike Huntzinger Yvette Hurt Megan Johnson Bliss Jones Richard & Claire Kamp Dennis Karwatka Meranda Kaufman	Gail Keam of Abigail's Soaps & Candles Ricki Keaton Matthew Kennington David & M.J. Kerr David Kiefer Catherine Kimmel KY Screen Printing Naomi F. Kiser Steven & Mary Jill Knight Kroger of Nicholasville Barbara & Frank Lacko Kelly A. Lafalce Bob & Cathy Leek Angela Lemke Ann Blalock & Gerhard Lenski Richard Lenski Mira Leslie Jill & Gary Lewis Alan Li, artist extraordinaire Esther & Wally Littell Ron & MaryAnn Littlefield Lockmasters, Inc. Daniel Ludwig Dr. Arnold Ludwig Gerry Lukos Gary R. Malascovitz Dick & Marianne Martin Dusty & Jim McDaniel James McElveen, D.D.S. Celeste McGarvey Gerry & MaryLou McNally Erica Meier Kathy Milani Kelly Miles Benson & Grace Miller Erika Miller J. Clayton Miller Mary A. Miller Mobilization For Animals PA Lorraine M. Montalto in Honor of Annie Sonia N. Moosnick Lee Morganett Leslie W. Morris II & Kaye Craig Morris Julie Morton Mary Morton Mary "Granny Peanut" Moss Moveable Feast of Lexington Jim Muth Ingrid Newkirk & The PETA Foundation Frances J. Nickell David & Sandra Novotny Kate O'Connell Stan Oberrender of EZE TYME Products Amy Orlando Carmen Owens James Parris John Pearson Nora Pendergrass in Memory of Warren Peace	Joel Pett Krista Pett Alyssum Pohl James & Judith Purcell Patti Ragan of The Center for Great Apes Donald B. Ralsten Jim & Sue Rank Bruce & Bonnie Rapchack Patti Rayburn Tilman Reitzle of Oxygen Design Ike & Kathryn Rigell Dr. David Robbins & Ohio Wesleyan University Lee Robinette Beth A. Robinson Deborah & Anna Joy Rotman Jeffrey K. Sauer Robert & Julie Scott Carly Selchow-Burr in Memory of Nellie Burr Ray Settle • S&S Giant Tire LaQueta Shaw William & Nelda Skinner Maria Slowik M. Estelle Smith & Charles Bishop Bruce & Helen Smith The J.M. Smucker Co. Gene & Patricia Snook St Peter & Paul School Irv & Elaine Steele Heidi Stone Dodson Florence Strickler Sticky Fingers Bakery Herbert & Christine Strobel Tom Swisher Chris Talshire Grey Tate in Memory of Buster Karen Taylor Nycole Taylor The Foundation For Planned Giving Floyd & Joan Thomasson Dr. Robert Thompson Mary Ann Tobin Linda S. True Sarah Truitt Judith & Terry Tucker Rose & David Vance Wal-Mart Foundation Kathy Walsh & Dynamic Accounting Solutions Starla Lewis Welch C. Martel Wightman in Honor of Patti Rayburn Jay Williams Amanda Wilson Jane Winegardner Shirley & Terry Wiseman Tami Zehnder Laura Zimmerman
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**Please note:** We will send all of our 2003 donors a formal acknowledgment letter in January 2004.  
If you need it sooner, or have changed your address recently, please let us know.



**I CARE!** I want to help the monkeys and chimpanzees live healthy and enriched lives.

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN - WE'LL MAKE THE MOST OF IT!**

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 Nicholasville, KY  
 40356  
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100% of **all** donations go directly to helping the animals!

- None of our directors receive a salary •

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We're now featuring a variety of lovely promotional items for PRC supporters! Our 2002 T-shirt features an Alan Li drawing of chimpanzee Rodney (S-XXL @ \$16); our roomy canvas tote bag features the PRC logo (\$7.50); stoneware coffee mug has our "Reaching Out" image on one side and PRC logo on the reverse (\$7.50 ea. or 4/\$25.00) and last but not least, our beautiful notecards featuring PRC residents drawn by Alan Li with details on each individual animal on the reverse (6 different designs in each pack \$6.00/pack). Specify assortment #1 or #2, or let us choose. **Prices include domestic shipping/handling. Please note:** Our 2003 T-shirt design will be introduced at the Open House!

**PLEASE HELP!** The Primate Rescue Center receives **no** government funding. We depend entirely on your generous donations to continue our work on behalf of those who have no voice.

# PRIMATE

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*Chimpanzee Zulu*

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