



May 21, 2008

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Animal Avenue – Project Funding

Generous community makes new exhibit a reality

TACOMA, Wash. — Thanks to the generous support of our community, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's newest exhibit Animal Avenue opens May 31, 2008. The \$4.3 million project was made possible by the voter approved 2005 Metro Parks Tacoma Park Improvement Bond and contributions from The Zoo Society's Capital Campaign – A Vision for the Future.

The public / private funding package includes \$2 million from the bond and \$2.3 million from private sources. Leadership contributions have been received from The De Falco Family Foundation, The Boeing Company and Helen Mull Foundation. In addition, the Campaign received unprecedented support from Zoo and Society Staff with 100 % participation. The Zoo Society Board contributed more than \$450,000 in outright gifts, pledges and corporate matching gifts. To date, more than \$1,000,000 has been pledged for Animal Avenue.

“Animal Avenue is all about families, homes, and communities,” said Zoo Society Executive Director Caryl Zenker, “and the Zoo has been bringing families together for more than 100 years. Our community takes tremendous pride in that and graciously demonstrated their support.”

The donations from the Zoo Society are part of a larger, three-year fundraising campaign, Vision for the Future. The other projects to be financed with those funds include an updated Red wolf exhibit, Red Wolf Woods; a new Clouded leopard exhibit, Cats of the Canopy; and a permanent endowment to provide essential resources to maintain the Zoo's exhibits and programs.

For more information on Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, visit www.pdza.org or call 253-591-5337.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only Zoo & Aquarium, is located in Tacoma's beautiful Point Defiance Park, 5400 North Pearl Street. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The Zoo, a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

The Zoo Society connects Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and our local and global communities, and mobilizes the community's time, talent and financial resources to enhance the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium experience for visitors and animals. The Zoo Society supports Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium through fundraising efforts, special fundraising events including Zoobilee, and membership sales. The Zoo Society currently has more than 15,000 member households.

For more information about The Zoo Society, visit www.thezoosociety.org or call 253-404-3658.