



DONNA

MAKING HOME FOR A GROWING HERD

From the San Francisco Bay to the “high forest” of Hohenwald, Tennessee, African elephant Donna has recently been welcomed back to the southeastern United States — and into her new home at The Elephant Sanctuary — at age 43. Born in Namibia, she spent her first years in America at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans and has resided at the Oakland Zoo in California since 1990. This long-legged elephant, known for her love of melons, was trained using positive reinforcement to enter her travel trailer in preparation for the cross-country journey from Oakland to Hohenwald this fall.

Donna became the 32nd resident of The Sanctuary in September following this year’s arrivals of bull elephant **Artie** from North Carolina Zoo, Nichole from San Antonio Zoo, and **Jana** from Zoo Knoxville. Sadly, we announced the passing of Nichole in the spring. Jana’s companion Edie is expected to arrive soon, and we await the springtime 2024 arrival of their Knoxville herd mate, Tonka. These intelligent and social creatures join **Nosey, Flora, Sukari, Tange, Billie, Minnie, Debbie, Ronnie, and Sissy**, who are all thriving in this refuge dedicated to their care. In this time of unprecedented herd growth, The Elephant Sanctuary’s Staff is constantly adapting skills, land, and facilities for the well-being of its residents, current and future.

Better Together

As construction progresses on bull barns that will create permanent housing for Artie and future arrival Tonka, we continue observing the assimilation of all our new residents: they are seizing chances for greetings across fence lines and demonstrating confidence in exploring their surroundings. Jana and Nosey spend time grazing near one another and playfully sparring as they get to know each other. Similarly at Africa Habitat, Donna and Flora have exchanged tactile interactions over the fence in between exploring their adjacent habitat spaces.



FLORA & DONNA

Elephant owners and caregivers making decisions to send their elephants to The Sanctuary always note the opportunities here for companionship and socialization. In the wild, elephants live in matriarchal herds, relying on each other for safety, survival, and the emotional bonds that keep them psychologically healthy throughout their lives. We are thrilled that Donna is joining the established African herd of Flora, Tange, and Sukari.

Increased Needs for Individualized Care

The best care is a commitment at The Elephant Sanctuary, with our integrated Veterinary and Husbandry Teams dedicated to meeting the complex needs of each individual elephant: those related to diet, socialization, preventative and responsive medical treatment, and even just character quirks observed through time spent around these majestic animals.

We do have many more mouths to feed and big bodies to nourish these days. Your donations to our Year End Campaign will help to fund ongoing care for all elephant residents, including the elements of a nutritious diet.

Your Support Helps Provide:



\$50

Foot Care Supplies



\$100

Educational Outreach
for K-12 Students



\$300

Set of ATV Tires



\$1,000

Weekly Supply of Melons
and Other Produce



\$1,500

Weekly Supply of Hay



\$2,000

EleCam for Q Habitat

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR GROWING HERD

Adaptations for Expansion

Modifications to our 3,060 acres of rolling hills, thick woods, refreshing ponds, and graze-worthy pastures have included blazing new trails for the elephants to access and explore different pockets of their habitats. Fence lines have been opened up and corridors created for greater mobility across the separate areas of the property. Innovations inside our heated barns, as we navigate the changing of the seasons and pick up on the preferences of elephants, have ensured elephant comfort no matter the weather.



Aging elephants that have lived many decades in captivity often come to The Sanctuary with conditions similar to aging humans, like joint pain. Recent innovations for individualized care include a recycled firehose woven together to create a giant and sturdy hammock for elephants like Sissy to lean into, providing extra support while reducing weight on legs and feet. Staff also mounted a giant tire swing in the barn, which elephants can use to help lift themselves up from a resting position. The rubber flooring that provides cushion for standing, in addition to the upkeep of sand piles in each barn stall, facilitates rest and comfort for our elephants throughout the year.

Impact in Native Lands

As The Sanctuary buzzes with the activity of an expanded herd, the organization continues working to impact the well-being of elephants worldwide through education and advocacy, as well as partnerships with organizations focused on conservation and improving welfare for elephants in their native lands.

Here, there, and everywhere, we support a better world for elephants. As we welcome new residents to The Sanctuary and prepare for another transformational year in 2024, we thank you for your support! Your partnership empowers our work and ensures a future for the elephants in our care.

Sincerely,

Janice Zeitlin, CEO



ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS



Giving online is easy and secure at elephants.com

Click **"Donate"** and make a gift to our **Year End Campaign** by December 31st

Due to the generosity of our donors, The Elephant Sanctuary has unrestricted reserves of about \$58,523,045, or about 7.4 times the 2023 budgeted expenses. The Elephant Sanctuary has designated a portion of these reserves be set aside to prepare for and ensure the lifetime care and safe haven for an undetermined number of elephants.

As a sanctuary accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the elephants' 3,060-acre habitat is not open to the public.

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Please detach and return this form along with your check made payable to The Elephant Sanctuary.

Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization. Please consult your tax advisor.



Mail to: The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, P.O. Box 393, Hohenwald, TN 38462, or give online at **elephants.com**.

SUPPORT THE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY'S 2023 YEAR END CAMPAIGN

Yes, I want to help change the lives of elephants!
Please use my enclosed gift to support The Sanctuary's mission.

\$2,000 \$1,500 \$1,000 \$300 \$100 \$50 OTHER _____

Check this box and share your email address to save trees and receive communications digitally.

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Credit Card #: _____

EXP. Date: _____ CVV Code: _____

Authorized Signature

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