

Season's Greetings from the Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund

2015 has continued the tradition of being a very busy and productive year for WCE&CF.

WCE&CF continued its mission of making financial donations to the field conservation groups we support, including Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Cat Conservation Alliance and Cheetah Outreach.

We are very proud, that even in this difficult economy, we were able to donate 10% of our income to these amazing groups.

Our ambassador cats and the ambassador animals from Wild Things, on display during the cocktail hour, were a hit at our 13th annual fundraiser that celebrated "30 years of kids, wild cats and conservation". CuriOdyssey at Coyote Point was again a perfect venue. Our generous supporters made the evening a success.

In July, we held our twelfth open house/fundraiser at the compound. 79 guests spent the day visiting with the cats, enjoying great wines generously donated by Peterson Winery and Barbara's buffet luncheon. Themba outran Kibibi and won our fourth "cheetah challenge".

Our wonderful donors made contributions to our "compound improvement" fund. It's hard to believe our amazing wildcat ambassadors have lived here since 1985.

Themba made several Bay Area appearances with Dr. Laurie Marker to raise money for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Please go to www.cheetah.org to learn more about CCF.

Bandhu appeared with Dr. Ashwin Naidu of the Fishing Cat Conservancy to champion his wild cousins. Please go to www.smallcats.org to learn more about this amazing endangered small cat.

Tocho appeared with representatives of the Mountain Lion Foundation to help raise awareness about California's indigenous cat. Please go to www.mountainlion.org to learn more about how to protect cougars.

On a positive note, Hillview Center in Los Altos is the perfect venue for our South Bay Wild Cat Adventure public program. We did two sell-out presentations this year. Our next presentation will be **Sunday, April 10th**. Our school assembly programs continue to face difficult economic times as well as "risk management" issues.

The private tours of the WCE&CF compound are taking off. Several options are available (tour, cheetah run, lunch, dinner, overnight stay in our guest house). Please check out the "private tours" page at www.wildcatfund.org. **A private tour makes a great holiday gift.**

In September, an eight week old male cougar cub, Tocho, joined our family. Tocho is a Hopi Native American word for mountain lion. He has the difficult task of following in the footsteps of Lakotah and Shoshone, who were both wonderful outreach ambassadors.

Please reserve two dates on next year's calendar. Saturday evening, **March 12th**, will be our annual fundraiser, again held at CuriOdyssey in San Mateo. You will have the opportunity to enjoy some good wine and a delicious buffet dinner, meet some of our ambassador cats and support wildcat conservation. On Saturday, **July 16th** we will hold our twelfth open house, luncheon and cheetah run at our compound.

We hope 2016 will continue to be a good year for wildcat conservation. We strongly believe that without a big emphasis on education, conservation in the wild cannot be successful. This is the important part ambassador cats play in helping to ensure the future of these wonderful creatures. Without your support, we cannot reach all the people who need to hear what is happening to wildcat populations worldwide.

We cannot thank our wonderful donors enough. Please think of us this holiday season. Making a tax deductible contribution in someone's name is a perfect holiday gift. Information on how to donate can be found at www.wildcatfund.org on the "donations" page.

We wish you a good and prosperous 2016 –
Barbara, Rob, the WCE&CF board and the cats.