

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

2017 has continued the tradition of being a very busy and productive year for WCE&CF.

WCE&CF made financial donations to the field conservation groups we support, including Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation and Cheetah Outreach.

Our ambassador cats and the ambassador animals from Wild Things, on display during the cocktail hour, were a hit at our African Safari themed, 16th annual fundraiser held at the Pomeroy Center in San Francisco. Our generous supporters made the evening a success by becoming "Program Partners". Their donations help us bring our outreach assembly to schools that cannot afford to pay the entire amount for a presentation.

In July, we held our fourteenth open house/fundraiser at the compound. Our guests spent the day visiting with the cats, enjoying great wines, generously donated by Sonoma Wine Estates and Barbara's buffet luncheon. Themba outran Kibibi and won our fifth "cheetah challenge". Our wonderful donors made contributions to our "medicat" fund. We have 10 ambassador cats who are between the ages of 13 and 22. They all receive medications and supplements for the joint and kidney issues common in older cats, at a cost of over \$700 per month.

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, Chachi and Guarani were the stars at the second fundraiser we co-hosted for Dr. Jim Sanderson, founder of the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation. The 33 species of small wild cats receive less than 1% of all donations made to wild cat conservation. Please go to www.smallcats.org to learn more about the small cats.

Chachi represented all wild cat species at a fundraiser for the Snow Leopard Conservancy. Please go to www.snowleopardconservancy.org to learn how this amazing organization is working to save snow leopards.

We did a fun variety of outreach programs with the cats. They included the wildlife day for Santa Clara Audubon Society, Sonoma State Associated Students, Westwind Barn Earthday celebration, Academy of Art life drawing classes, Sonoma State and Graton Rancheria kids' camps.

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

Attendance has remained high at our Wild Cat Adventure public programs.

Sadly, we lost Zuni, our first bobcat, in October. He was 22 years old. His nickname was "Mr. Cute". He was beautiful and sweet and will be greatly missed.

Please reserve two dates on next year's calendar. Saturday evening, **March 10th**, will be our annual fundraiser, held at the Pomeroy Center in San Francisco. 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 21st** we will hold our fifteenth open house, luncheon and cheetah run at our compound.

We hope 2018 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 2018 – Barbara, Rob, the WCE&CF Board and the cats.