

2022 Contribution to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

# total contribution | \$1,891,015

•••• COMO ZOO	\$407,750
Zookeeper Positions and Care for the Animals	.\$91,050
Aquatic Animals Building Renovation	
Design Plans for New Big Cat and Wolves Habitats	
New Flooring in Giraffe Habitat	
Raised Platform in Outside Gorilla Forest Habitat	
Blood Pressure Monitor and Vitals Monitor	
Polar Bear Odyssey Door Replacement	
New Speakers in Gorilla Forest	
Zookeeper Professional Training & Development	
•••• MARJORIE MCNEELY CONSERVATORY	
Gardener Positions and Plant Care	
Technical Training for the Care of the Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garder	
Screens on the Windows in the Sunken Garden	
Sunken Garden Elevator Repairs and Update	
Portable Garden Watering Equipment	\$5,500
•••• CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Como Harbor Seals and Sea Lions Habitat	\$322,276
•••• COMO CAMPUS	2004 EEO
•••• COMO CAMPUS	
Visitor Center Staircase Removal	
Update and Replace Security Cameras	
Power Washer Equipment	
Visitor Survey to Identify Equity Needs	
New Golf Carts	
Como Campus Projects .	
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•••• CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION	\$438,018
Education Positions and Annual Operations	\$71,200
Virtual Junior High Programs	\$20,000
Virtual Statewide Elementary School Program	\$15,000
Development of Guest Engagement Strategy	\$316,818
Conservation Champions Projects and Partnerships	\$15,000
•••• VOLUNTEER SERVICES	\$32,750
Staff Positions and Annual Operations	\$31,000
Update to Volunteer Check-In Space	\$1,750

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### ···· Dear friends,

After a four-year hiatus, Sparky the sea lion made a big come-back last spring, diving into a whole new narrative at Como Harbor, the \$21 million habitat she shares with pinnipeds Poppy, Niko, Stanley, Kash and Kilian. If you joined the crowds in the new KSTP Amphitheater, then you've seen that Subee, the rescued California sea lion who found safe harbor at Como after a shark attack, still embodies the spunky, splashy spirit of "Sparky," a Como Zoo tradition since 1956. But now she shares the spotlight with all of Como Harbor's inhabitants, highlighting the exceptional enrichment all of the seals and sea lions receive in Como's care, while encouraging visitors to connect the dots between Como's marine animals and their cousins in the sea.

Inspiring our community to connect to nature has been part of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's mission for more than 125 years. And thanks to your contributions to Como Friends, Como has the resources to make those connections even more meaningful and memorable for the next generation. From the front row of the SPIRE Sparky Show, to the return of fantastic, in-person interpretive experiences, to the expansion of innovative virtual programs like Como Connections, your support in 2022 made it possible for more than a million adults and children to reconnect to Como.

As the crowds continue their return, many are telling us how much they appreciate the ways we're making our historic campus even more beautiful and inviting. Whether it's improving the curb appeal of Como's front door, providing way-finding signs in multiple languages for Como's diverse audience, or making room for fascinating creatures like our new African serval, Lily, helping our community to connect to Como is at the core of nearly every investment Como Friends made in 2022. That includes Como Friends' continued commitment to protecting Como's free admission—an open-door policy that makes Como one of the most equitable institutions in the state.

It's all possible because of the individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations whose generosity provides Como the extra care and funding it needs to thrive. Thank you for all you do to bring our community together at Como, helping us connect to the wonders of our natural world.

Jackie Sticha

President

Como Friends

Steve Proeschel

Board Chair

Juli Stide Star Park

Como Friends Board of Directors





# ···· connecting through **generosity**

"Like a lot of people who grew up here, I have core memories that are embedded at Como—coming here with my dad, visiting during school field trips. It's always been the crown jewel of St. Paul, but seeing how this space has evolved since then is what's really amazing to me. If Como were completely dependent on funding from the city, I don't know if it could have progressed as much as it has. But because of the love people have for this place, and the time and resources provided by the people on Como Friends' board over the years, and from volunteers in the community, Como is constantly improving. Como Friends is one of the oldest public/private partnerships around, and it's become a model to so many other organizations, showing what's possible when you work together."

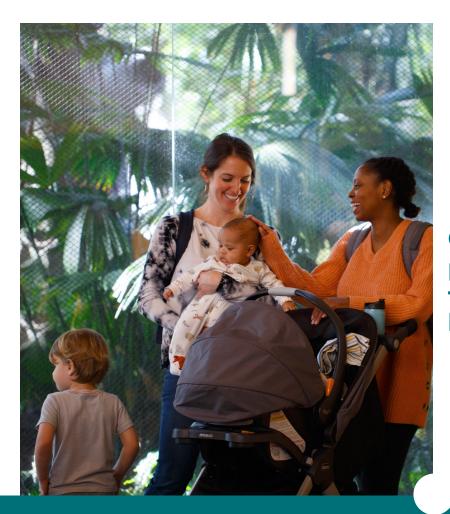
—Andy Rodriguez, Director, St. Paul Parks and Recreation

"After many decades of teaching high school, I decided that becoming a Como volunteer was going to be my retirement gift to myself. I went to my first training session in 2008 and I thought, 'This is so much fun! It's all of the best parts of teaching, with none of the stuff they have to pay you for.' It was tough during the pandemic when the volunteer program was paused, but as soon as Como opened up, I was there as a visitor again. And if I heard anyone ask a question, or wonder about the animals, I couldn't help myself—I'd lean over and say, 'I bet I can answer that question.' I called it pop-up volunteering! Now it's wonderful that they've been able to bring all of us volunteers back to Como, and make those connections with visitors again.

"As a Como Friends member and donor, I feel proud of the ways that Como has evolved to put the emphasis on conservation and species preservation. And it's heartwarming to see the relationship that keepers have with animals, knowing them as individuals, and seeing what their preferences are. Como is such a precious resource to this community, and the fact that it's still free to anyone who wants to come is just amazing. It's here for everyone who wants to learn."

—Barbara Bobrowitz, Community Volunteer, Como Friends Donor

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Como Friends' strategic plan connects philanthropy to one of Minnesota's most beloved public institutions

•••• Generous support from Como Friends' community of donors in 2022 helped us make progress on the three strategic priorities in our strategic plan:

**strengthening** Como Friends for growth and innovation

safeguarding free access and operational stability at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

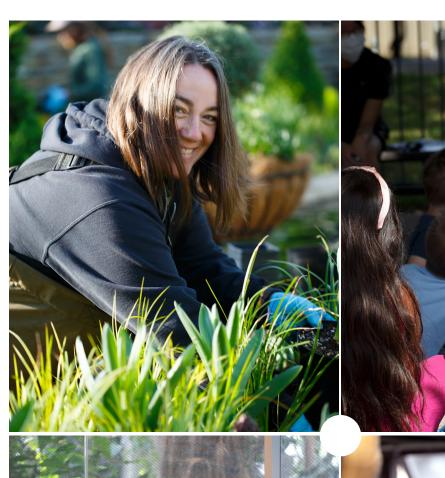
**growing** philanthropy and retail sales to invest in improvements at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

#### **Como Friends Vision Statement**

We envision a future where Como Friends ensures Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is a global leader in conservation, animal care and horticulture with barrier-free access for all.

#### Como Friends' work is guided by our values...

- Authentically engage the community in sustaining Como Park Zoo & Conservatory for generations to come.
- Champion conservation and education by perpetually growing support to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.
- Advance inclusivity and equity in our work with a focus on advocating for free access at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.
- Embrace innovation and best practices to fuel our growth to keep pace with Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's future needs.









### ···· connecting through equitable access

Open every day of the year with no admission fee, 2022, the nonprofit unveiled a streamlined new web-Como, from creating new virtual learning videos for middle school students, to relaunching Como's free public programs with a growing emphasis on fostering empathy with animals and plants.

"We know that nurturing those natural connections can inspire a life-long commitment to con- As Como continued its transition to more traditional servation, which is why Como Friends supporters may notice that we're finding new ways to highlight Como's conservation mission in our work as nity, providing equitable access to more than a million well," says Como Friends President Jackie Sticha. In children and adults.

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory has always been one site, with more in-depth storytelling that brings Como of the most accessible institutions in the state. But Friends supporters behind the scenes, with shareable with your support for Como Friends, we're finding posts about how Como's keepers and horticulturists even more ways to help our community connect to do their work. This year, Como Friends also launched Como Quest, a next generation fundraiser that invites families and friend groups to fan out across Como Zoo and the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, learning more about Como's animals and plants through an immersive scavenger hunt experience.

> operations in 2022, your support also helped protect the free admission that matters most to our commu-



"I've always liked that phrase from Jimmy Carter, 'We become not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic.' I think that's something you see every day at Como, the diversity of our visitors, people of all ages, bringing so many perspectives and experiences. But we all can remember the wonder we felt as kids, coming to the zoo or conservatory, and feeling the sense of awe about the beauty of nature.

As a Como Friends board member, I'm excited about the ways we're working to make sure that Como thrives for generations to come, and reflects the community in meaningful ways. Whether it's creating more virtual learning content for kids in junior high, or making pathways to recruit more diverse young people for careers in zookeeping and horticulture, Como Friends is focused on the future at the same time we're protecting the accessibility that's always been part of Como's history."

-Annie Huidekoper, Community Volunteer, Como Friends Board Member

# ···· connecting through projects and improvements

keeping Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's campus colorful new home for Como's tropical fish. Other in top condition can be a daily challenge. "Being Como Friends' funded projects may go unnoticed open to the public—and to the elements—every but no less appreciated—by Como's crowds. That day of the year can make for quite a lot of wear list includes updating the sound system so guests and tear and maintenance needs," says Como can hear what's happening in Gorilla Forest, replac-Director/Campus Manager, Michelle Furrer. "One ing the doors in Polar Bear Odyssey to open more of the advantages of our strong public/private smoothly for the large number of people who visit partnership with Como Friends is that commuthe polar bears every year, and removing the unused nity support can help Como finish projects staircase at Como's front entrance, to elevate the and make improvements at a faster pace, so aesthetics around Como's gorgeous water gardens. we can better serve our visitors."

place in Como Zoo's Aquatic Animals Building, to already has.

One of the most visited destinations in the state, the arrival of new marine microhabitats, including a

Your support for Como Friends makes a difference Many improvements made in 2022 were easily ev- every day by creating new experiences for visitors, ident to visitors, from the fantastic face-lift taking while caring for the extraordinary resources Como



A visit to Como has been a special treat since I was a young child, and still wakes my sense of wonder.

-Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor

I got married in the Sunken Garden and could hear the lions roaring and seals barking from our front stoop. Best place to grow up!

-Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor









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### ···· connecting through animal care

After losing his twin brother Buzz, Como Zoo's po- program two decades ago, and provides for everyday Kulu, a boisterous juvenile male, and Nan, a 28-year- care to more than 200 species. old female bossy enough to match Neil's 1,000 pound brawn-the three new roommates have been de- While the year at Como Zoo saw some heartbreak-Kristin Nelson says you'd never know it. "Neil actually seems like a much younger bear than he used to, like he's gotten some years back," she says. "He's so much more lively now."

ous and thriving is a major part of the mission at Como mo's successful operant conditioning animal training College of Veterinary Medicine.

lar bear Neil has been enjoying an unexpected new animal care needs like the new blood pressure and chapter. Partnered up with two new polar bears— vitals monitors that help keepers provide exceptional

lighting visitors all year as they dive, wrestle, and rest ing losses, including the passing of 31-year-old together in Polar Bear Odyssey. Though Neil is now CC the sea lion and 46-year-old Amanda the the oldest male polar bear in North America, keeper orangutan, it also marked some major animal care successes, including a full surgical recovery for Skeeter the giraffe, and successful cataract surgery for Gomez the spider monkey. Through your contributions to Como Friends, you're helping to support the whole circle of life, from providing a steady sup-Creating the conditions that keep animals healthy, curiply of sweet potatoes for Como's three hungry polar bears, to extending Como's long-standing animal Friends. The nonprofit's support helped to launch Co-care partnership with the University of Minnesota's

"Zoos teach visitors to value the natural world by encouraging us to empathize and connect with animals on a personal level, and I can't think of another animal at Como Zoo who did that better than Amanda. Few of us will ever get a chance to see an orangutan in the wild, but so many Como visitors have come to care deeply about orangutan survival because of their connection with Amanda. She will be greatly missed."

-Jackie Sticha, Como Friends President

### ···· connecting through plant care

Humans have a habit of overlooking the plant life around them—a phenomenon that scientists sometimes call "plant blindness." But for visitors to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's gorgeous gardens and growing collections of orchids, ferns, bonsai and bromeliads, that's never a problem.

"Plants are the building blocks of life on earth, to our lives," says Dr. Lisa Philander, the Conservatory's new horticultural curator. "These immersive moments with tiny plants and towering palm trees sort of take you out of your everyday life, and help you start noticing how important and how healing plants can be."

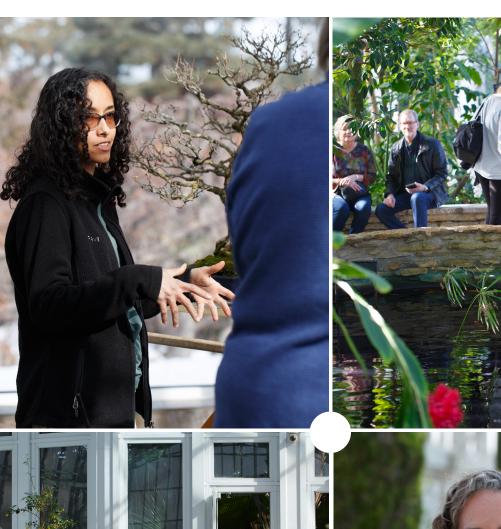
Your support for Como Friends helps to fuel that mission by funding five seasonal flower shows in the Sunken Garden, Minnesota's most beautiful room, providing meticulous care for the Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden, and supplying tools and training opportunities that allow Como's talented team of horticulturists to grow and maintain some of the most beautiful public display gardens in the and we're trying to build awareness of that by state. Private contributions also helped to provide helping visitors focus on how integral they are for practical improvements in 2022, from reglazing thousands of panes of greenhouse glass in Como's 30,000-square-foot growing range, to providing a new portable water tank to help keep Como's exterior gardens looking fresh from spring to fall.



"The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is a gardener's paradise, and your latest flower show in the Sunken Garden is truly spectacular. You have outdone yourselves, as usual!" -Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor

"I can't wait to see the next flower show. Como's wonderful designers and crew are greatly appreciated and always do a fabulous job...and this year we need it more than ever. You create my happy place!!"

-Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor



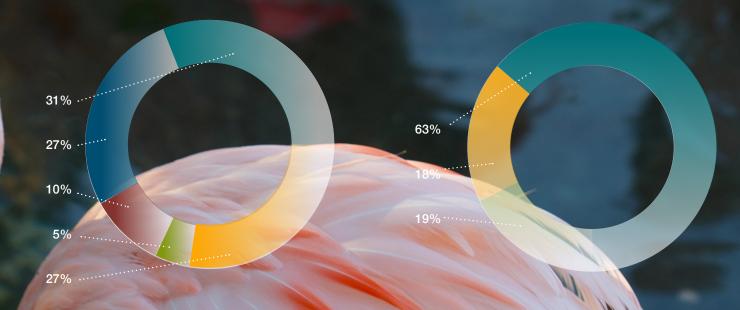




# statements of financial position

As of December 31,		2022		2021
ASSETS				
CURRENT		26.00		
Cash	\$	1,612,393	(	3,963,176
Certificates of Deposit Short-term		1,225,295	(	
Bequests Receivable		14,000		14,000
Contributions Receivable		27,278		300,400
Inventory		361,610		233,000
Prepaid Expenses and Other		35,239		50,522
Total Current Assets		3,275,815		4,561,098
OTHER				
Certificates of Deposit Long-term		2,145,162		
Contributions Receivable, Net of Current Portion		50,565		247,843
Property and Equipment, Net		175,593		101,634
Beneficial Interests in Assets Held by Others		10,200,250		11,020,416
Total Other Assets		12,571,570	1	11,369,89
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	15,847,385	8	15,930,99
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				Vanish Co.
Accounts Payable	\$	192,091	(	190,271
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities		88,162		74,02
Total Current Liabilities		280,253		264,292
NET ASSETS				
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions				
Board Designated Reserve and Project Funds		1,864,300		1,631,719
Board Designated Endowment		142,632		164,382
Undesignated		3,098,210		1,824,140
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		5,105,142		3,620,24
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions				
Perpetual in Nature		7,937,160		7,317,780
Purpose Restrictions	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	2,050,914		4,061,112
Time-Restricted for Future Periods	4 1 1 1 1 1 1	473,916		667,566
Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		10,461,990		12,046,45
Total Net Assets		15,567,132		15,666,699
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	15,847,385		15,930,991
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### statements of activities



### Sources of Revenue

- Corporate and Foundation Giving....\$567,170
- Investment and Other Income. . . . . \$1,569,153

### Program and Mission Support

- Program Support . . . . . . . . . . \$2,672,950
- Mission Support
- Management Expense . . . . . . . . . \$805,361
- Mission Support
- Fundraising Expense .....\$744,418

thank you 2022 donors!

Como Friends' mission is to inspire community generosity in support of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory so it thrives for generations to come.

Beloved Daisy | November 13, 1999 - March 9, 2023

#### \$200,000 +

Anonymous
Manitou Fund
Estate of Penny Rohleder
Saint Paul & Minnesota
Foundation

#### \$100,000 - \$199,999

Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.
Woodland Park Zoological Society

#### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Endowment Fund of Como Friends
Ecolab Foundation
Estate of Elfrieda Hintze
Scrooby Foundation
SPIRE Credit Union

E.M. Pearson Foundation

#### \$15,000 - \$49,999

Xcel Energy

Anonymous (2)
Ameriprise Financial
Best Buy

Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden Endowment Fund of Como Friends Bill and Diane Ellis Mary Fowler Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation Deb and Mike Hogenson Horton Holding, Inc. Hugh J. Andersen Foundation John and Ruth Huss Kirsten Ingerson and Charles Pinto McGough Companies Mitsch Family Bill and Anne Parker Estate of Cindy Pavlowski Jane Richards Securian **Travelers Foundatio** Zoomedia - Lunchable

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Shannon Magleby Fund of the
Community Foundation
of Utah
McIntyre Family Foundation
Nicholson Family Foundation
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\$10,000 - \$14,999

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Ford and Catherine Nicholson
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Kari and Dan Rominski
Synchrony Foundation
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Xcel Energy Foundation

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Michelle Smeby Ken Stange Rupert Strobel Sylvia Annelise Art Paul and Janet Tolzmann U.S. Bank Erin and Matt Wach Sharon West Keith and Colleen Wietecki

\$1,000 - \$2,499

3M Company Robin Adkins The Allegro Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Sarah and Gary Amendola Ameriprise Financial Employee Matching Gift Program Mary Anne K. Anderson Barbara Bachman Jo & Gordon Bailey Family Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation Bernard and Phyllis Baltes

John and DeAnne Bennett Susan Bergen Jolene and Theodore Billy Jancyn and Javon Bindman Barbara Bobrowitz BrightWines Judith M. Brinkman Louise Bruce Margaret A. Cargill Foundation **Employee Matching Fund** of the Saint Paul & Minnesota

Foundation Commonwealth Properties Sara and Ryan Cox Robert and Sherry Cyza Stephen Daas and Peggy Sauer Kathleen Dahl Steven and Janelle Dahl Vicky Danielson Andrew Davis and Lauren Dee Dell YourCause, LLC Frank and Sharon Dolejsi Scott and Lisa Dongoske Arthur and Carol Doten

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Stephanie Radtke Michael and Tara Sime Irena and Preston Simons Morgan Sleeper

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Michael Hallberg

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Mark and Vicky Halvorsen

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