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Photos available by request

HAPPY HOLLOW FOUNDATION PURCHASES TWO VEHICLES FOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 7, 2017 — When Happy Hollow's African four-toed hedgehog goes out to visit elementary schools in the South Bay, he will be riding in a swanky temperature controlled van, thanks to efforts by Happy Hollow Foundation.

The Foundation raised money to purchase two vehicles — a 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan and a 2017 Dodge Journey — for Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's education department. The generous donors to this project were Silicon Valley Auto Dealer's Association, Lexus Financial Services, San Jose Earthquakes, Colliers International, Audi of Stevens Creek and Melody Walsh, our van angel who helped fill the gap.

"Our education program reaches more than 10,000 guests every year and it was imperative that we provide a safe and comfortable ride for our animal ambassadors," said Jared Miller, vice president and general manager of Lexus Stevens Creek and Foundation board member who spearheaded this effort. "I have two young children so I really understand the importance of hands-on, interactive science and I'm thrilled to support this important program."

HHPZ's education department brings animal ambassadors to teach hands-on science to low-income schools. Our furry, scaly and feathered friends arrive on school campus with enthusiastic teachers who are passionate about science education and conservation. From a California Mountain Kingsnake and lots of millipedes to a great horned owl and Indonesian blue-tongued skink, our Zoo to You program brings science alive for a new generation of students.

Happy Hollow's education department doesn't stop there. They have camp adventures all year, early childhood classes, zoo snooze sleepovers and special events and fairs.

"This gift is a tremendous support to Happy Hollow's education and entertainment programs!" said an enthusiastic Shannon Heimer, interim general manager of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. "Our education team will be able to transport our animals in comfort and Danny the Dragon will be more available for community outreach. We cannot wait to hit the road!"

When Heimer arrived to work on Wednesday morning she was greeted with two new vehicles decked out in huge red bows. The park and zoo staff along with the foundation team celebrated together while everyone piled into the van

"Our old van had roll up windows and this van has automatic doors ... I'm never giving these keys away!" said Mandy McGuire, zoo educator.

Happy Hollow Foundation (HHF) is a non-profit organization, established in 1958 and dedicated to advocating, supporting and enhancing the Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. The focus of Happy Hollow Foundation is to engage individual donors, foundations, corporations, and government agencies in helping to advance the park & zoo.

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has received many awards and high-fives, including:

- A five-year accreditation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums
- A winner of the Sustainable Built Environment, Acterra Business Environmental Awards
- First gold LEED-certified amusement park and zoo in the United States
- Collected more donations for Jeans for Giraffes than all the larger institutions in our area

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