



# Annual Report

## 2021



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Learn how creating a habitat for bees can change a community

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This Annual Report was created and published by Happy Hollow Foundation. Unless otherwise noted the information inside reflects the calendar year 2021.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is accurate and up to date. If you notice an error or have a question, please contact [foundation@happyhollow.org](mailto:foundation@happyhollow.org).



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Dear friends of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo,

Sometimes it's the small moments that reveal the big impact of a visit to Happy Hollow.

Listen to this — a little girl, maybe 7 years old, found herself eye-to-eye with a live hedgehog as part of an Animal Conservation lesson at summer camp. The zoo education instructor invited young participants to observe the animal up close while she explained the difference between hedgehogs and porcupines. The instructor noticed the girl's expression grow serious, so she asked the child what was on her mind. The girl looked up and a smile spread across her face, and she said "I have wanted to know that my whole life, and now I do."

*That is the magic of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.*

We love touching the hearts of our guests, sparking questions and ideas and nurturing pure, joyous wonder about animals and conservation. When children learn from direct observation of live animals, the groundwork is laid for ongoing interest in life science and passion for preserving our precious planet and all its creatures.

When you make a donation to Happy Hollow Foundation, this is what you support! And this 2021 Annual Report is our salute to you — the donors, sponsors, partners and friends — who fuel our mission to connect people to nature through play.

I know I'm not alone in hoping for more normalcy in 2022, a year that will hopefully include the return of giddy children on field trips — and, of course, the young at heart at Senior Safari! And Happy Hollow Foundation will continue its steadfast work to ensure that this special place continues to thrive.

On behalf of the children, parents, grandparents, conservationists, animal lovers and countless longtime fans of Happy Hollow, thank you for your support. Come visit soon!



**Amy Pizarro**  
Executive Director  
Happy Hollow Foundation  
[apizarro@happyhollow.org](mailto:apizarro@happyhollow.org)

# 2021 Year in Review

A big thank you to Happy Hollow's supporters who made all these dreams come true!

## COOP, SWEET COOP

We installed a new one-of-a-kind chicken coop! Designed and built by donor and volunteer H.B. Mok, this spacious new coop allows zookeepers to enter without having to bend down, it has external access to nesting boxes and more space for our chickens. Thank you to Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez's office and West Valley Construction Company for funding this project!



## ROLLER COASTER RENOVATION

The Pacific Fruit Express roller coaster had a fun new makeover! Happy Hollow Foundation was thrilled to partner with San Jose Water on a project to transform this popular ride from bare-bones to bursting with colorful fruit, giant flowers, farm equipment and a water tower in a new Valley of Heart's Delight theme.



## EXHIBIT EXPANSION

We've broken ground on a Peccary Exhibit improvement plan. Parrot Island was relocated to expand the peccary exhibit which will allow us to bring in Chacoan peccaries. The foundation is excited to support Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's role in the Species Survival Plan and protect yet another endangered species.



## IMPROVED INTRODUCTIONS

The Meet & Greet area is a special place for visitors to learn and engage with our education animals. Thanks to donors Debbie and Nathan Schultz we purchased equipment to provide a better, safer presentation experience for guests, staff and animals. There will be a raised platform stage, new PA system, landscaping that doubles as protective barriers and more!



## POLLINATOR PARADISE

The Backyard Habitat is now open for people *and* pollinators to enjoy! Happy Hollow's demonstration garden highlights the important role pollinators play for native plants and animals. It serves as a model to the community about how to create similar environments in their backyards, establishing wildlife corridors throughout the Bay Area.

# Progress for Pollinators



**When it comes to nature, small changes can ripple into big change.** Nobody understands that better than Belinda Lowe-Schmahl, Executive Director of Schmahl Science Workshops, a non-profit that teaches kids of all backgrounds about science. She not only researches and interprets these effects with her students — she also gets her hands dirty sustainably rebuilding what was once lost.

In 2009 Belinda took over a garden in History Park, walking distance from Happy Hollow, that was filled with non-native plants and devoid of pollinators. The intention was to turn it into an outdoor science lab that would lure pollinators back. She worked with an Eagle Scout and built beds for test gardens — then they lost the funding to continue.

She needed support and had heard about Happy Hollow Foundation's Progress for Pollinators program. This program awards \$2,500 grants to community members who want to create pollinator-friendly habitats in Santa Clara County. It's funded by Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's Quarters for Conservation program, which devotes a portion of all ticket and membership revenue to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

She was thrilled when her grant was approved. "There are not a lot of garden grants for our community, let alone of this size" Belinda said. "We couldn't have continued the program without it."

The grant allowed Belinda and Schmahl COO Ellen Hilbrich to get to work. They were able to fill the beds with native plants purchased with the grant money, and soon they drew in eight native bee species! Unexpectedly, they also saw a rise in passive pollinators like lizards, which has the added benefit of naturally keeping the pest population down.

**The garden has grown to become a refuge for pollinators and people.** Belinda was allotted more land in History Park and created an urban garden in addition to her research garden where people can grow food and connect with nature. The neighborhood surrounding History Park is one of the poorest in the county and was hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Food security became a huge issue, so it was vital to have a way to get fresh food and have outdoor space to enjoy. "Families that use the gardens can support themselves and they can go there to de-stress," Belinda said. She's there often, talking with the families and teaching them about pollinators and sustainability.

It's wonderful seeing Belinda's influence continue to ripple. She's shared the importance of native plants and pollinators with her students and urban garden participants, and now also with visitors to History Park. They take the lessons they learn back to their homes, spreading support for pollinators across our community. **"You haven't just funded plants and soil," Belinda said. "You've supported a community of people, animals and plants."**



# Did you know...



Time to learn some fun facts about Happy Hollow's animal ambassadors, who play a starring role in our education programs! **Thanks to our supporters, Happy Hollow Foundation provided funding for life science classes for over 3,000 kids from underserved schools in 2021.** These children got to learn about animal habitats, diets, defenses, adaptations and more — and they got to meet these critters in person or virtually.



Prehensile-tailed skinks often live in a social group called a circulus.



Eastern box turtles have a hinge in their shell so when they're frightened they can pull in their head and legs and tightly close the shell.

Madagascar hissing cockroaches produce their hissing sound by pushing air out through holes in their sides called spiracles.



Until the beginning of the 20th century, male and female Eclectus parrots were thought to be two separate species due to the extreme coloration differences.



Ball pythons have special pits along their top jaw that perceive heat, forming thermal images of their surroundings.



Hedgehogs can travel several miles in a single night searching for food.

Prehensile-tailed porcupines are nocturnal and have long whiskers on their face and legs to help them to navigate in the dark.



The barbary dove has been domesticated for more than 2,000 years.



# Full Circle

Hernandez parents honored with a plaque on the Keep-Around Carousel



**“IT REALLY WAS A FEEL-GOOD DAY FOR OUR FAMILY.”**

Kathy Rodriguez and her brother Tim Hernandez wanted to do something special to honor their parents, Manny and Cecile Hernandez. They brainstormed ideas about how to celebrate their parents’ support of family as well as the community.

“Our parents have always been so supportive of us, and extended family members as well — they always make sure that family is supported in any way they need without asking for anything in return,” Kathy said.

That’s when Happy Hollow Park & Zoo came to mind. “We wanted to honor them in more of a tangible way, and we thought of Happy Hollow and how they’ve loved taking the grandkids there and have donated in the past.”

Happy Hollow Foundation offers a program in which donors can make a \$10,000 gift for a commemorative plaque on the Keep-Around Carousel. This ride features beautiful creatures, both fantasy and real endangered animals we should “keep around” for future generations. **It was a perfect fit to honor Manny and Cecile, who have been longtime donors to the foundation.**

Kathy chose to place the plaque next to the bald eagle because it represents strength, honor and wisdom.

“It just felt like an epic animal, and since our parents are so important to us and since they do so much for so many people, they needed to be represented by an animal as equally important,” Kathy said.

She also had a big idea about how to deliver the surprise: Bring the whole family to Happy Hollow for a photo shoot next to the carousel. Kathy worked

with Happy Hollow Foundation Executive Director Amy Pizarro to make it happen.

“I just love working with donors to find the perfect fit for them and their families,” Amy said.

One sunny September morning, the entire family arrived — Emmanuel and Cecile; Kathy, her husband Justin and son, Bellamy; and brother Tim, his wife Arielle and kids Teo and Annalisse.

Photographer Lisa Schader scoped out the area in advance to figure out how to get the perfect shot, and when the family arrived she arranged them on the carousel near the bald eagle. When she gave the secret cue, Kathy pointed down to the plaque that read:

*“Emmanuel & Cecilia Hernandez  
With love, from your present  
and future generations.”*

The mood was joyous as the Hernandez parents realized what was going on.

“We were very surprised indeed, as Cecile and I thought we were just there for a photo shoot,” said Manny with a big smile. “So seeing the plaque on the carousel for the first time was truly an awesome surprise.”

After the big reveal, the family climbed aboard for carousel rides. Then they changed into comfortable clothes and spent the rest of the lovely fall day at Happy Hollow.

**“It really was a feel-good day for our family,” said Kathy. “It is definitely one of my favorite memories at Happy Hollow because we were all together and got to celebrate our parents.”**



# Her Happy Place

Happy Hollow a safe respite for local foster youth



## **Four-year-old Naomi is all smiles when she visits Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, a welcome respite for a child who has not had an easy road.**

Naomi, who is part of Santa Clara County's foster care system, is now able to visit Happy Hollow frequently — and for free! — thanks to a new partnership between Happy Hollow Foundation and Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. Child Advocates is an organization that connects foster children with Court Appointed Special Advocates (or CASAs), allowing the child to form a healthy bond with a trusted, responsible adult.

CASA is a program that has rules to promote healthy boundaries, including that volunteers are not permitted to bring the child to their home or integrate them into their social lives. Because of this, volunteers are always looking for fun destinations to spend their weekly time with their youths. **Happy Hollow provides the perfect opportunity for a carefree outing, where the CASA and their child can explore nature, squeal with delight on the rides and soak up the great outdoors.**

Thanks to generous donors, in spring 2021 Happy Hollow Foundation was able to provide yearlong memberships to 68 CASAs and their children, including Naomi and her advocate Patricia.

Patricia said that because Naomi has not had much stability in her life, she has difficulty making friends and sometimes runs away when she's overwhelmed. But Patricia always feels safe bringing Naomi to Happy Hollow since the park is enclosed and the staff are so helpful and friendly. "The employees are especially kind to her," she said. The playground areas also give Naomi a chance to meet and play alongside children in a low-pressure environment.

When they come through the gates, Naomi always wants to go directly to the rides. Patricia said "she is quite the daredevil" and talked about how she loves to ride the Pacific Fruit Express rollercoaster and climb to the top of the Redwood Lookout. Naomi tends to feel more comfortable around adults, so she likes to wave and call out to staff members. They make Naomi feel like part of the Happy Hollow family.

As a former kindergarten teacher, Patricia is always looking for ways to incorporate educational opportunities into their outings and she says Happy Hollow makes that easy with its interpretive signage about animal habitats, conservation efforts and more.

Best of all, the memberships allow the duo to come often and for shorter periods of time. Happy Hollow gives Naomi a reliable setting for lighthearted fun in her otherwise chaotic life.

"It's been such a special place for us," Patricia said, and she wants to give "a huge thank you" to everyone who made their trips possible. Happy Hollow Foundation is grateful for the donors who helped bring joy to children in our community who need it most.



**If you'd like to support this effort with a donation, please email Executive Director Amy Pizarro at [apizarro@happyhollow.org](mailto:apizarro@happyhollow.org).**

# Thank you

## IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT HAPPY HOLLOW FOUNDATION.



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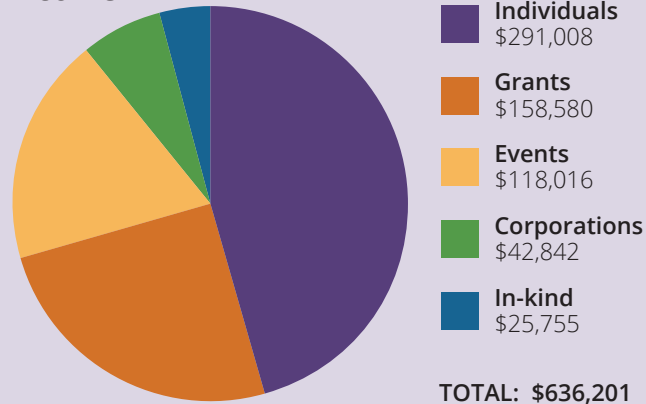
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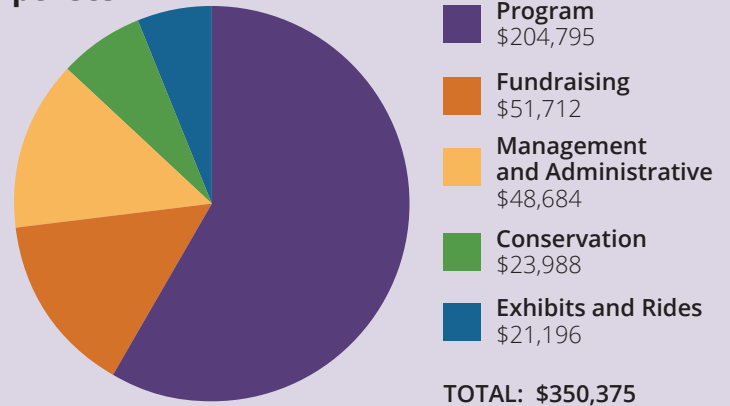
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Information reflects the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

## Income



## Expenses



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Maegan Bartlett-Berkman,  
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Ron Cali, in honor of Lissa Kreisler  
Carol and Thom Chivers, dedicated to  
Morgan and Anna Chivers, who both  
have great memories of Happy Hollow!  
Laurie Elliot, on behalf of Michael Lee  
Daxx Esparza, in honor of Kirk and Erik  
Walukiewicz  
David Ginsborg, dedicated to Amy  
Pizarro for the wonderful work she's  
doing for Happy Hollow  
Stephen Hines, on behalf of Karuna  
Maya Hines and family  
Miriam Intrator, in honor of Jonah  
Jacoby's Happy 6th Birthday!  
Marilyn Keelan, in honor of Alan  
Highlander  
Jeff Kusnitz, in honor of Birgit Kalvelage  
Debby and Tom Martin, in honor of  
Amy Winkleblack

Samantha Mlinarich, in honor of all  
God's creations  
Carolyn and John Morse, in honor  
of Elena Seto, former employee and  
caretaker of the jaguars, fossa and  
meerkats. She hopes to return as a  
volunteer when her time allows. From  
her proud parents.  
Debbie and Keith Pardue, for Jason,  
Laura & Momo  
Meryl Parks, dedicated to Mia and Alex  
Heidi and Robert Smith, In appreciation  
of Kendra Smith  
Karen Strobach, in honor of Lissa Kreisler  
Amy Winkleblack, in honor of Amy, Laurel,  
and Lindsay for being a great team!  
Michele and Steve Wymer, dedicated to  
all who love San Jose  
Kara Yoshikawa, on behalf of  
Troop 60460

## IN MEMORIAM

Ian Hill, in memory of Laura and  
Phil Davis  
Lisa and David Pagan, dedicated to  
Koa Pagan

## COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS

Thank you to these companies  
and foundations that invested  
in Happy Hollow Park & Zoo  
programs, events and exhibits.

### \$10,000 and above

Apple, Inc.  
County of Santa Clara  
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Kaiser Permanente  
Jeffrey and Leanne Sobrato Fund  
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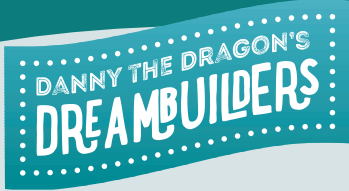
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VMware

*These lists reflect gifts made between Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021. If you are interested in supporting Happy Hollow Foundation, contact Amy Pizarro, Executive Director, at [apizarro@happyhollow.org](mailto:apizarro@happyhollow.org).*

# Thank You



**DESTINATION DIRECTORS**

**\$25,000 and above**  
Ron Cali

**ADVENTURE AMBASSADORS**

**\$10,000 to \$24,999**

Linda Lee Lester  
Katherine Rodriguez  
Marianne and Carl Salas  
Debbie and Nathan Schultz  
Shannon Wass and Dan Kelmenson

**MEMORY MAKERS**

**\$2,500 to \$9,999**

Stephanie and Owen Anderson  
Tracy and Gregg Baeckler  
Leanne Bernhardt and John Bernstein  
Michael Borkenhagen  
Donna and Jeff Boss  
Rouviere and Ben de Waal  
Gretchen and F. Matthew DiNapoli  
Michael Fisher  
Deborah Goldeen and Erik Gutfeldt  
Alicia Gutierrez and Philip Martin  
Jennifer and Alan Hofer  
Judy and Warren Kaplan  
Lissa Kreisler and Jeffrey Blum  
Lea and Reid Lind  
Lori and John Manfroy  
Charlene McCaskey  
Charlie McCollum  
Melinda and Philip Nemecek  
Alison Steel and Gordon Knowles  
Karen Strobach  
Tamara Swenson Current and Jeff Current  
Linda Tsai and John Ryan  
Rhonda and Jimm Vosburgh  
Kirk Walukiewicz  
Amy and Ben Winkleblack  
Christine and Bob Young

**Danny the Dragon's Dreambuilders are Happy Hollow Foundation's closest partners** — donors who invest in Happy Hollow with gifts of \$1,000 or more.

They directly support the foundation's work in conservation, education and play at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, while enjoying unique benefits at every level. Visit [happyhollow.org/dreambuilders](http://happyhollow.org/dreambuilders) for more information.

**CREATORS CORNER**

**\$1,000 to \$2,499**

Shannon and Nicholas Adams  
Lily Ang and Francisco Imai  
Laura and Jason Bennert  
Lisa and Mike Beyersdoerfer  
Vikki Bowes-Mok and H.B. Mok  
Rebecca and Matt Bright  
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Lesley and Samuel Chang  
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Michele and Ronny Conway  
Julia Davidson and Nathan Price  
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Angela and Dave Delgado  
Chris and Gene del Pilar  
Heather Devine-Hardy and Matthew Hardy  
Rod Diridon  
Justin Fairchild  
Benjamin Flores  
Janice and Christopher Foushee  
Shellie and David Fry  
Stephanie and Michael Fujii  
Guy Fullerton  
Justin Funamura  
Patricia Gilpin  
Mary Gottschalk and Paul Lukes  
Kimberly Ann and Brad Guzules  
Molly Haley  
Laura Henderson and Jason Silva  
Samantha and Henry Herman  
Stephen Hines  
Maia Hoover and Conrad Shultz  
Tsui Ming Ho and Kok Leong Choo  
Kristin and Jeff Huget  
John Hupton  
Kristine Kelly and Arthur Gleckler  
Suzanne Khan  
Nadia and Mark Kilgore  
Korin and Douglas King  
Anastasia Kolenda and Jeremy Stober

Wanda Kownacki  
Christina Le and Victor Marmol  
Leslie and James Lessenger  
Angelo Marchi  
Debby and Tom Martin  
Ronit and Dominic Mazzoni  
Sue McAllister  
Holly and Bill McCullough  
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Samantha Mlinarich  
Jason Molenda  
Sandra Moll and Rick Holden  
Mary Murphy and Mark Stevens  
Cindy and Rob Newberry  
Tze Chang Ng  
Mike Olson  
Patty O'Malley  
Anne Pai  
Amy and Sal Pizarro  
William Posey  
Jennifer and David Pousho  
Jenny Ren and Bill Tuttle  
Jennifer and Brian Rodrigues  
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Sonya Schaefer and Phil Smith  
Karl Schramm  
Jennifer and Jeremy Seeba  
Kaaya Sharma  
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Meredith and Drew Smith  
Carry and Elbyrne Thacker  
Lisa Tsai  
Ronda and Tony Vierra  
Melody Walsh  
Erik Walukiewicz  
Shannon and Daniel Winter  
Janne and William Wissel  
Penelope Wright and Paul Friesen

# Save the date in 2022



## SENIOR SAFARI

Presented by



### FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, MAY-OCTOBER

MAY 26, JUNE 23, JULY 28, AUG. 25, SEPT. 22, OCT. 27

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. | Free admission, free parking

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is a place for the young *and* the young at heart! At Senior Safari, visitors age 50 and up take over San Jose's iconic park and zoo. Get some fresh air and exercise as you enjoy:

- Early entry
- Animal Meet & Greet
- Zookeeper chats
- Variety of activities
- Guests who enter before 10 a.m. may stay the whole day for free!



[happyhollow.org/seniorsafari](http://happyhollow.org/seniorsafari)



This five-day online auction features unforgettable, one-of-a-kind experiences at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. Join in the bidding fun for the chance to win big!

MONDAY, JULY 11 TO FRIDAY, JULY 15

#### SAMPLE AUCTION ITEMS!

**Danny's Wine Train:** This package will treat a party of 20 to an after-hours grown-up adventure at Happy Hollow. A generous sampling of four fine wines to be savored while relaxing on the iconic Danny the Dragon train ride.

**Zookeeper for a Day:** Would you like to know what it's like to work at a zoo? You'll get to spend the morning behind the scenes helping with daily duties, learning about animal care and getting one-on-one time with professional zoo staff.

[happyhollow.org/auction](http://happyhollow.org/auction)



SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Join us for a family-friendly Halloween celebration at Happy Hollow. There'll be costumes, candy and loads of fun! Check out [happyhollow.org](http://happyhollow.org) in the fall for more details.

