MISSION: TO ENRICH LIVES THROUGH FIRSTHAND INTERACTION WITH LIVING THINGS.

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Lincoln Children’s Zoo Board of Directors

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30 YEARS OF ENRICHING LIVES
By Ryan Gross

Since April 28, 1986, 4.5 million people have visited Lincoln Children's Zoo, 2 million riders have boarded the ZO&O Railroad, tens of thousands of volunteers have donated over 700,000 hours, 500,000 children and adults in need have received free Zoo admission and over 100,000 children have taken part in Zoo educational programs. And one man has overseen it all.

Even as a young boy growing up in South Bend, Indiana, John Chapo loved animals and zoos. Every Sunday night he would sit down to watch Mutual of Omaha's *Wild Kingdom* with Marlin Perkins. “I loved Sunday nights. I got to watch Marlin and Jim Fowler's adventures with animals from around the world,” recalled Chapo. It was these early moments that inspired him to pursue a life of working with animals.

At the age of 15, Chapo began volunteering at his hometown zoo in South Bend. As a lover of turtles and tortoises the zoo had him care for these animals every Saturday when he showed up to volunteer. He eventually started working part-time at the zoo's concession stand and gift shop. It was also during this time, at the age of 16, that he finally met his childhood hero, Marlin Perkins. After high school he enrolled at the University of Indiana. While attending college, he worked as a zookeeper at the South Bend Zoo. “The school was across the street from the zoo so I would bounce back and forth between learning and cleaning up after animals,” he said.

It was after he graduated with a degree in Public and Environmental Affairs that his zoo career really took off. While at South Bend Zoo, he quickly moved up the ranks to lead zookeeper, then educator and eventually assistant director. “I actually took a pay cut to be promoted from keeper to assistant director, but I truly wanted to make that zoo better in animal care and connecting with the community,” he said.

In 1984, at the age of 27 he became one of the youngest zoo directors in the country. “It was very exciting for me to become the director of my hometown zoo. My mom actually visited the zoo five days before I was born,” said Chapo. However, within two years, he knew that he wanted a different challenge where there were more opportunities. A fellow zoo director told him about a cute little zoo in Lincoln, Nebraska, that needed a hardworking young man with energy.

It was in 1986 that Chapo left the Hoosier state for the Cornhusker State, where he would become the president of what was then called Folsom Children's Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Chapo was fortunate to have the opportunity to interview in person on a windy and wet April day. He met the small team of zoo employees, toured the grounds and something told him that this was the place for him. He felt it in his heart.

Hired as the third director of the Zoo, Chapo’s mindset was similar to the Zoo’s first director, Arnott Folsom. Folsom was a man who understood the importance of both children and adults interacting with nature. In 1965, when Folsom opened Lincoln Children's Zoo, it was unlike most zoos in the nation. Zoo guests were what felt like a hand's reach away from nearly every animal. It wasn't only up-close interaction with animals that made the Zoo great; it was the abundant number of plants and trees that surrounded them. Chapo understood the importance of Folsom’s vision for Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Over the years, Chapo oversaw the expansion of the Zoo and railroad, the addition of amazing animals and the increase of community outreach and support. Pages could be written about all he has done for Lincoln Children's Zoo, but the most impactful is how one man has continued the mission of Arnott Folsom: to enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.

John Chapo has been part of the Lincoln community for 30 years. He has been and will continue to be an instrumental part of changing people’s lives every time they visit Lincoln Children's Zoo.

John would like to posthumously acknowledge his parents for encouraging his love of animals and for putting up with turtles under the bed, a caiman (South American crocodilian) in the basement and a mouflon in the dining room.
What is a bush baby? It’s the newest animal at Lincoln Children’s Zoo! The Northern Greater Galago bush babies, Bear and Dohkani, also go by the nickname of “little night monkey.”

Bush babies have amazing night vision that allows them to easily see in the dark. Their new home in the Animal Kingdom has very little light, which is great for bush babies. They use their night vision as well as other keen senses to feed on insects and fruit.

In the wild, bush babies can be found in South Africa, Somalia and sub-Saharan Africa. They live in a variety of habitats including rainforests, woodlands and bushlands.

To survive in their natural habitats, they use unique features and senses to protect themselves from predators. Predators of bush babies include snakes, owls and African wildcats.

Bear and Dohkani are incredibly swift and agile and use their large hind legs for jumping from branch to branch. Their elastic joints enable them to jump over six feet in the air. These amazing jumping abilities aid them in catching prey and keeping away from predators.

These cute creatures use their ears, fingers and toes as survival tools. The thickened pads on their fingers and toes help them cling to branches to hide and avoid danger. The enormous ears of the bush baby are not only adorable, but are used to locate and catch prey.

The Zoo’s bush babies can be found in Animal Kingdom. When visiting them, guests will notice the exhibit doesn’t have any lights due to their nocturnal habits.
BY KRISTIN MCCOUN

He has the longest legs of any cat his size, big ears, a short tail, a stretched out neck and one of the cutest faces around. Who are we talking about? Johnny the serval!

Closely related to the African golden cat and caracal, the serval is one of the most distinctive felines on the African continent. With a spotted fur coat and lean limbs, he takes on the look of a miniature cheetah. Although not as fast as a cheetah, the serval’s long legs enable them to run up to 50 mph and jump over nine feet in the air—high enough to catch a bird mid-flight!

Servals have an excellent sense of smell, sight and hearing which help them detect prey in tall grass and underground. Their big, rounded ears contain 22 muscles each and can rotate independently to pinpoint when small animals are near. In fact, their ears are so large in comparison to their body that if humans had the same proportion of head to ear, our ears would be the size of dinner plates!

The Zoo’s serval, Johnny, came from the Safari West Zoo in California and will celebrate his first birthday in May. Johnny’s zookeeper, Emma Hazel, has been training him since his arrival in July. “We teach Johnny using positive reinforcement training methods and he is doing great. This means that when he does something we like, he gets something he likes,” Hazel said. “He loves when we reward him with raw meatballs. It is one of his favorite treats!”

Johnny is being harness and leash trained so zookeepers will be able to bring him out into the Zoo for animal shows. “Be sure to stop by the Zoo for one of Johnny’s shows this season. He is excited to meet all of the Zoo guests!” Hazel said. The schedule for animal shows can be found by visiting LincolnZoo.org.
the serval

- Can leap over 9 feet into the air
- 22 muscles in each ear
- Can run up to 50 mph
Fascinating Facts

- Can leap over 9 feet into the air
- 22 muscles in each ear
- Can run up to 50 mph

Hello my name is Johnny (the serval)
ZOO CAMPS

3-4 YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS
$89 MEMBERS | $104 NON-MEMBERS

3-4 YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS
MORNING: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
June 6 - 10  NEW! Barnyard Buddies
June 13 - 17  Wake Up the Train
June 20 - 24  Playful Penguins & Friends
June 27 - July 1  Wake Up the Train

4-5 YEAR-OLDS
MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON  AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.
May 31 - June 3  NEW! Train Explorer* SOLD OUT
June 6 - 10  Dino Dig SOLD OUT
June 13 - 17  Wake Up the Train
June 20 - 24  Zoo Action Heroes SOLD OUT
June 27 - July 1  NEW! Littlest Zookeepers SOLD OUT
July 5 - 8  NEW! Train Explorer*  July 5 - 8  NEW! Zoo Ranger Explorer*  July 5 - 8  NEW! Zoo Ranger Explorer*
July 5 - 8  NEW! Zoo Ranger Explorer*  July 11 - 15  Wake Up the Train  July 11 - 15  Penguins Have Happy Feet
July 18 - 22  Dino Dig  July 18 - 22  Zoo Rangers
July 25 - 29  Wake Up the Train  July 25 - 29  Zoo Action Heroes
August 1 - 5  NEW! Littlest Zookeepers SOLD OUT

*PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS $89 MEMBERS | $109 NON-MEMBERS
SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP

Each day campers will explore animal habitats, talk with real zookeepers, study animal behaviors and take part in fun, educational activities. Zoo Camps are led by skilled instructors who will guide your child through interactive learning opportunities and behind-the-scenes tours.

Proud Sponsor

Cane's Chicken Fingers
### 6-7 Year-Olds

**MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Camp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31 - June 3</td>
<td>NEW! Zookeeper Explorer*</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6 - 10</td>
<td>Critter Keepers</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13 - 17</td>
<td>Wild West Wrangler</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20 - 24</td>
<td>Critter Keepers SOLD OUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27 - July 1</td>
<td>Paws, Claws &amp; Jaws</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5 - 8</td>
<td>NEW! Outback Explorer*</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11 - 15</td>
<td>Wild West Wrangler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18 - 22</td>
<td>Wild West Wrangler</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25 - 29</td>
<td>Animal Planet</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1 - 5</td>
<td>Critter Keepers</td>
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</tbody>
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**AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Camp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31 - June 3</td>
<td>NEW! Wilderness Explorer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6 - 10</td>
<td>Go Wild!</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13 - 17</td>
<td>Undercover Animals</td>
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<td>June 13 - 17</td>
<td>NEW! Photo Safari</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20 - 24</td>
<td>Animal Planet</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27 - July 1</td>
<td>Go Wild!</td>
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<td>July 5 - 8</td>
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<td>July 11 - 15</td>
<td>Paws, Claws &amp; Jaws</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18 - 22</td>
<td>Penguin Plunge</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25 - 29</td>
<td>NEW! Photo Safari</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1 - 5</td>
<td>Catch Me If You Can</td>
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</tbody>
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**NEW!**

**Zookeeper Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Wilderness Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Outback Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Vet Explorer**

**SOLD OUT**

**FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31 - June 3</td>
<td>NEW! Jr. Vet Explorer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Jr. Wrangler*</td>
<td>SOLD OUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6 - 10</td>
<td>Jr. Zoo Vet</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13 - 17</td>
<td>Animal Training 101</td>
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<td>June 20 - 24</td>
<td>Jr. Zookeeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27 - July 1</td>
<td>Wildlife Rescuers</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5 - 8</td>
<td>NEW! Jr. Wrangler*</td>
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**FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

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<td>Jr. Zookeeper</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jr. Zookeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1 - 5</td>
<td>Wildlife Rescuers</td>
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**NEW!**

**Outback Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Wild About Art**

**SOLD OUT**

**NEW!**

**Vet Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Zoologist Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Wild About Art**

**PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS $89 MEMBERS | $109 NON-MEMBERS**

**SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP**

### 8-10 Year-Olds

**NEW!**

**Junior Vet Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Junior Wrangler**

**SOLD OUT**

**NEW!**

**Junior Zoo Vet**

**NEW!**

**Junior Wild About Art**

**PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS $89 MEMBERS | $109 NON-MEMBERS**

### 10-12 Year-Olds

**NEW!**

**Vet Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Zoologist Explorer**

**NEW!**

**Wild About Art**

**PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS $89 MEMBERS | $109 NON-MEMBERS**

Space is limited! See camp descriptions & register at LincolnZoo.org.
BY RYAN GROSS

In September of 2015, Tortoise Trek, a new Galapagos tortoise and macaw habitat, opened at Lincoln Children’s Zoo. The new habitat is home to the Galapagos Tortoise Conservation Center, where the tortoises and macaws can live year-round in an environmentally controlled facility. This specially built habitat is one of the finest homes for Galapagos tortoises in the country.

Tortoise Trek is part of the Zoo’s mission to help save endangered species while giving children and adults a firsthand opportunity to experience and interact with amazing animals.

This summer the Zoo will make a difference beyond the borders of Tortoise Trek by traveling to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador to take part in conservation efforts. The trip is part of a program called Adventures by Lincoln Children’s Zoo, which gives teenagers an opportunity to travel around the world taking part in conservation efforts and learning through hands-on educational experiences.

While working on Tortoise Trek, Zoo staff concluded the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador would be the perfect destination for the next Adventures trip. In 2014, Zoo president & CEO, John Chapo, led a trip of adults to the Galapagos Islands. Chapo spoke with education director, Aimee Johns, and she agreed. “I think the islands and Ecuador are exceptional destinations for the Adventures program. The natural wildlife they will encounter and the conservation efforts they will take part in are a once in a lifetime experience.” Chapo said.

Since its creation in 2012, Adventures by Lincoln Children’s Zoo’s goal has been to take the Zoo experience to a global level. The program has sent youth to Costa Rica and Belize where they saved sea turtles, tapirs and researched marine life and also Florida, where they worked in a marine biology center. “Here at the Zoo we do some amazing work when it comes to saving endangered animals. However, with Adventures, the Zoo is empowering youth to truly help save endangered species in their natural habitats. These youth discover that they can make a difference through helping wild animals and wild places.”
They can and do make an impact in the world. Now that’s powerful,” Chapo said.

The trip will include conservation work at Galapagos National Park, hikes through the Amazon jungle, bike tours of the Andes Mountains, snorkeling and whitewater rafting. The group will also be immersed into the culture by spending time with the indigenous people of Ecuador. “We want to give teenagers an opportunity they can’t get anywhere else, an opportunity to experience nature and the world in a way that few ever get. That is what we at Lincoln Children’s Zoo are about.

More information about Adventures by Lincoln Children’s Zoo can be found by visiting LincolnZoo.org.
HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT THE ZOO!

- Admission for the entire day
- Party packages are for up to 14 guests
- Additional guests are $12.50 per person
- 1 hr. party in the Safari Room or Crooked House
- Unlimited train rides for the day
- A critter visit of your choice and chat presented by our Critter Encounter specialists
- Special birthday present from the Zoo
- Two pitchers of soda, lemonade or fruit punch
- Ice cream sundae bar
- Zoo welcome sign for birthday child
- Zoo wagon to transport gifts
- Members receive 10% off

Ultimate Party | $175
Valued at $300

Rent the Zoo

Customize your next event with unlimited train rides, private animal shows, unlimited horse rides, behind-the-scenes tours, up-close animal encounters and more!

Reserve Your Party!
at LincolnZoo.org or call 402.475.6741

LincolnZoo.org
402.475.6741 • 1222 S. 27th Street • Lincoln, NE 68502

For information on renting the Zoo, contact rental@lincolnzoo.org or call 402.475.6741.
ZOO CALENDAR

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO

MARCH

SAT 5  ZOO OPENS
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
The Zoo will open for LPS Spring Break and then each weekend in March. The Zoo will open with regular hours and days starting April 1. March Open Dates: March 5 – 13 | March 19 – 20 | March 26 – 27.

SAT 26  BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
8 – 10 a.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
This event includes a breakfast buffet, Easter egg hunt, photo time with the Easter Bunny, activities and special animal meet and greets. Tickets are limited. Tickets are available for purchase at LincolnZoo.org

APRIL

FRI 22  EARTH DAY & PARTY FOR THE PLANET
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo! Say hello to your favorite animal friends and watch a show on the Animal Encounter Stage.

MAY

SUN 8  MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATION
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
Make memories with Mom at the Zoo this Mother’s Day! All moms receive one free train or free admission.

SAT 14  RUNZA’S JAMMIN AT THE ZOO
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
The Zoo is teaming up with Runza to bring you a day full of music, animals, and some of your child’s favorite books! Stop by and enjoy a live music by Mike Mennard and stick around to listen to stories read by local heroes and celebrities!

FRI 20  ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo
Visit all of the endangered species that call the Zoo home!

SAT 21  ZOO FUN RUN
10 a.m. | Lincoln Children’s Zoo
It’s the wildest kids race in town! This FREE, one-mile race starts at 10 a.m. and all runners receive a free train ride. Have lunch at the Safari Café and stay to go inside a real fire truck, police car and other great surprises. Visit LincolnZoo.org for registration information. This race is organized by Lincoln Fire and Rescue.

FRI 21  ANIMALS GOT TALENT!
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children’s Zoo
Visit all of your animal friends and learn about each of their special talents. Then cast your vote for your favorite! The Zoo will have special shows at the animal encounter stage showcasing some of our most talented animals!

MON 30  MEMORIAL DAY OPEN!
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children’s Zoo
The Zoo is open all weekend! Come visit all of your favorite animals and join us for the 2016 season opening of Laura’s Butterfly Pavilion! Check out over 150 butterflies at one of the Zoo’s most popular summer stops.

Have Your Birthday At the Zoo!
• Admission for the entire day
• Party packages are for up to 14 guests. Additional guests are $12.50 per person
• 1 hr. party in the Safari Room or Crooked House
• Unlimited train rides for the day
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Ultimate Party | $175
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Reserve Your Party! at LincolnZoo.org or call 402.475.6741
BECOME A MEMBER
SAVE BIG!

FOR ONE SMALL FEE, YOUR YEAR IS FREE!

FREE
• Unlimited admission
• Entry to Boo at the Zoo
• Exclusive Member Extra Hours
• Zootracks magazine mailed subscription
• Sept-Member freebies postcard

SAVE BIG
• Discounted tickets to all “Breakfast” events
• Lower priced registration for Zoo Camps
• Lower priced registration for Tots & Turtles
• Special prices on birthday parties

PLUS!
• New for 2016! Exclusive access to North Pole Express tickets
• Discounted or free admission to nearly 200 zoos and aquariums nationwide
  (including zoos in Omaha, Kansas City, and Des Moines)