The mission of the Jackson Zoo is to provide visitors with a quality recreational and educational environment dedicated to wildlife care and conservation.
THE JACKSON ZOO

HOURS:
The Zoo is open Daily (Except Dec. 25)
9 a.m.—4 p.m.
(Ticket sales end at 3:30 p.m.)

PRICES:
General Admission
$9.25/Adults
$6.75/Children (2-12 years)
Military
$8.25/Adults
$5.75/Children
Seniors 65 & Older
$8.25
Children 2 & Under
Free

CONTACT:
601-352-2580
info@jacksonzoo.org
www.jacksonzoo.org

CONNECT:
Facebook.com/JacksonZoo
Instagram.com/JacksonZoo
Twitter.com/Jackson_Zoo

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2 Conservation
3 Education
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Photo Credit: David Wetzel
The Jackson Zoo has enjoyed a great year connecting with families, children, and individuals of all ages. This year we welcomed 105,000 visitors from around the state and the world.

We would like to thank everyone who has visited with us this past year, given service hours as a volunteer, provided financial or in-kind support, helped promote fundraisers and events, became a zoo member, adopted an animal, or those who have simply connected to nature and wildlife through the Jackson Zoo.

This year the zoo worked with PJA architects out of Seattle, WA to create a master plan which will set goals for the zoo’s future and make improvements in animal exhibits, guest experience, sustainability, and more. The master plan is laid out in four phases, with exciting changes in each phase. We will be sharing more information on the master plan in the upcoming year and create a fundraising outline, as well as a timeframe for completion of projects.

The zoo welcomed the birth of two red panda cubs in June 2015, along with several other births throughout the year. Red Pandas are part of the Species Survival Plan and we are happy to contribute to the conservation of this rare species. We also welcomed a ten month old reticulated giraffe and three year old rhino to the collection, both adding youth and excitement among zoo staff and visitors.

This year we have developed & strengthened important relationships with colleges and universities across the state of Mississippi. Three biggest partnerships formed this year are Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Jackson State University and Belhaven University. We are eager to work with students and staff from these institutions to conduct research and learning opportunities that will aid students and the zoo, alike.

We continue to develop educational programs and events for guests of all ages. Our biggest events of 2014-2015 were Boo at the Zoo, Zoo Brew, Ice Cream Safari, and Zoo Party. We strive to provide a fun, safe environment for guests to learn about wildlife and conservation, while we never stop finding surprising ways to “Zoo It Better.”

Thank you for your continued support of the Jackson Zoo!

Zoo Director, Beth Poff
**CONSERVATION**

**TIGER CAMPAIGN**

$4,485

The Jackson Zoo raised money for the Tiger Conservation Campaign through Change for Change, the zoo’s conservation program that allows guests to choose which program they want to support, and through a Tiger Awareness Day on July 25.

**WOLF COALITION**

$3,468

The Jackson Zoo raised money for the Red Wolf Coalition Campaign through donations received through Change for Change. Animal Care Staff worked directly with 9 red wolves through our Species Survival Plan, a second litter of pups was born in March 2014. We also participated in social media campaigns “Howl for Red Wolves” to bring awareness about Red Wolves.

**RAPTOR REHAB**

$3,626

The Raptor Rehab Program provides care for injured and orphaned birds of prey throughout the state. The mission of this program is to rehabilitate birds and release them back into the wild. This year the zoo received approximately 63 birds that were injured or orphaned and had a release rate around 60%.

**APE TAG**

$2,387

Ape Tag’s goal is to protect natural habitats of ape species. The Jackson Zoo raised money for Ape Tag through Change for Change, the zoo’s conservation program that allows guests to choose which program they want to support.

**AAZK**

$5,550

The American Association of Zoo Keepers– Jackson Chapter brings awareness to conservation needs locally and globally. This year AAZK created a new event Pubbin for Rhinos, this event was in lieu of Bowling for Rhinos. Through Pubbin’ for Rhinos, AAZK was able to donate $5,200 for rhino conservation. Other projects include the Gibbon International Primate Protection League and a donation to a local zoo for flamingo care.

**GOING GREEN**

The Jackson Zoo continues to become more ecofriendly, as our staff recycles plastic, cardboard and paper. This year we began using rain barrels to collect water and reuse for other watering needs. Conservation messages are incorporated in all education programs. This year the team created Adult Conservation Outreach presentations for businesses that want to hear about the zoo’s conservation mission. The zoo works closely with the Zoo Area Progressive Partnership for community clean-up & recycling projects.

**TOTAL:**  

$19,516
The mission of the Jackson Zoo Education Department is to create authentic, educational experiences for all zoo audiences that connect them directly to nature and wildlife. These experiences are created to engage, inspire and empower them to take action toward conservation.

**What’s New for 2014-2015**

**Program Growth & Development**
Developing 3 year olds serial program
Expanding Summer Camp to include 13-15 year old camp topic (2 weeks)

**School Programming**
Developing new Wild Classrooms and Zoo Mobiles to be more interactive and incorporate more science, math and reading standards.

**Volunteers and Interns**
Applying for AmeriCorps Interns (1 full-time, year-round, 2 full-time part year) in partnership with Tougaloo College and Good Samaritan.
Greater push for in-house internship program expansion: animal care, education, conservation, administration, and veterinary care. We have had 6 animal care interns since summer 2015, completing over 1200 hours at the zoo.

**Grants and Sponsorships**
Expansion of the Wild Learning Program to include more school districts
Current expansion includes: Jackson Public Schools, Canton School District, Vicksburg-Warren Schools, Claiborne County School District (Port Gibson), and Poplarville School District.
Possible expansions: Meridian Public School District and Brookhaven School District.
The WLP will reach approximately 7,800 students a year through field trips and on/off-site programs.

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Revenue</td>
<td>$47,285.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Classroom</td>
<td>$1,495.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slumber Safaris</td>
<td>$3,935.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoo Mobiles</td>
<td>$6,265.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo Camp</td>
<td>$21,603.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$80,583.00</strong></td>
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EDUCATION

FIELD TRIPS 15,386
Have your students explore the species and habitats of our amazing world with a trip the Jackson Zoo. With over 250 species of animals from across the globe, your students will never forget this fantastic learning experience. Field trips to the Jackson Zoo are available year round, every day of the week.

PROGRAMS 437
The Jackson Zoo Education Department hosts a number of programs for individuals, families, and educators. Slumber safaris are available for personal and educational groups that want to experience a different side of the zoo with an overnight stay. We also offer classroom curriculum programs, which are designed for teachers to use in a public classroom or for home school classes.

ZOO MOBILES 168
You say you can’t make it to the zoo? Don’t worry, the Jackson Zoo will come to you! Our specially trained zoo educators will load up a few of our resident education animals, some biofacts, and turn your classroom into a zoo! All programs are 45 minutes.

COMMUNITY EVENTS 7,565
The Education Department also attends community events, such as Jackson Public Schools Career Fair, Millsaps’ Majors football games, college fairs, etc. In these settings, educational specialist inform children, young adults, and professional adults about zoo programs and animal facts.

This total reflects the number of students reached through Jackson Zoo Educational outreach.

TOTAL: 23,556
ANIMAL CARE

Births

Diana Guenon
Fishing Cat
Long-eared Sunfish
Nicobar Pigeon

Red Panda
Red River Hog
Reticulated Giraffe
Springbok

Acquisitions

African Spurred Tortoise
Black Widow Spider
Black-necked Swan
Blue-bellied Roller
Cinnamon Teal
Common Ostrich
Gadwall
Green-winged Amazon
Hybrid Macaw
Klipspringer

Long-eared Sunfish
Ne-ne
North American River Otter
Reticulated Giraffe
Rosybill
Schmidt’s Monkey
Southern Copperhead
Yellow-crowned Amazon
Yellow-naped Amazon
White-handed Gibbon

Photo Credit: Jackson Zoo Instagram
PARTNERS

Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine

There has been a partnership in place for years, where MSU-CVM students visit the Zoo for hands-on learning about exotic medicine. With mutual goals, such as improving health and care of animals, providing quality education, and advancing research, the two institutions are expanding the current partnership by creating a formalized program that will give students the opportunity to earn credit hours through the Jackson Zoo.

Jackson State University

A historic partnership was formed in November 2014, which formalized a three-year commitment and $120,000 pledge from the University to adopt the Sumatran tiger exhibit, which will be renamed The Jackson State University Tiger Exhibit. A JSU Membership Program offers students, alumni and staff to purchase discounted zoo memberships year round. Future projects include a tiger-cam, educational kiosks and internship programs.

Belhaven University

Belhaven University and the Jackson Zoo are partnering together for an important project that benefits both institutions. Beginning in 2015, 300 Belhaven students in the science program will be collecting research-based data around the zoo grounds in a real-life science project. The zoo will then use that information to develop their conservation efforts and future improvements.

Millsaps College

The Jackson Zoo is an active partner for Millsaps Athletic events. The zoo mobile and zoo staff attended the opening football game and setup in the Kid Zone area. Both institutions cross promoted events and we are working to create a more formal partnership.

Community Foundation of Greater Jackson

Jackson Zoo Endowment & Operating Reserve setup at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson for long-term growth and stability. More information can be found at: www.jacksonzoo.org/partners

We’re constantly looking for new partnerships and cross-promotional relationships. If you or your organization would like to partner with the zoo contact: Josh Friedel, Director of Major Gifts & Annual Fund at jfriedel@jacksonzoo.org or 601-352-2580 ext. 225.
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation contributed $150,000 to build amphitheater seating.

Grant of $148,400 received from MS Dept. of Archives & History for rhino exhibit restoration.

Donations $56,000 for educational program Wild Learning Project for 2015-2016. (Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation, Nissan North America, Inc., Vicksburg Medical Foundation, Madison Charitable Foundation, Entergy Nuclear, Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, Corporate Whataburger)

Nucor Steel renovated an exhibit for the red pandas to move them to more prominent area of zoo.

Upgraded splash pad experience by building a Splash Pad Lounge/Changing Room. (Jim & Donna Barksdale underwrote building cost of Lounge/Changing Room & MetroPCS is the current sponsor)

Digital X-ray machine for vet hospital, upgraded animal care services. (Jim & Donna Barksdale)

Upgraded educational technology with new Smart Boards, tablets, etc. (Nissan & West Jackson Rotary Club)

Jackson Zoo license plate project created long term revenue and marketing for the zoo. (Anonymous donor)

Jackson Zoo Endowment & Operating Reserve setup at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson for long-term growth & stability. (Underwritten by Crymes Pittman, Dr. Bill Aden, Ellen & Charles Johnson & Dian Anderson)

Planned gift-estate contribution from Dian Anderson.

Zoo Brew 2015 was the highest fundraiser in its history by doubling sponsorship involvement.

Zoo Party Unleashed 2015 was highest fundraiser in past 8 years.

New enrichment items purchased for giraffe, tiger, leopard, orangutan, etc. (Underwritten by Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA), Molly Griffin, and Desert Plastics)

New giraffe K.D. Knox was brought to the zoo to pair with Casper and a donor helped ease the operating budget. (Davis Frye & Kevin Stump)

New concessionaries added (Simply Down South & Kona Ice)

New map sponsors allowed for a map re-design (W.A. Taylor Foundation & Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP).

New title sponsor for Zoo Day, United Healthcare Community Plan of Mississippi.

Partnership with Mississippi Disability Mega Conference to provide more opportunities with Dream Night.

125 legacy tiles purchased to help complete Legacy Tile Wall. (Underwritten by Ergon, Clarence Weatherspoon & M3A Architecture)

Purchased admission technology POS unit via donor. (Ergon)

Partnership with Mississippi Braves (Membership Giveaway 2015 & Jersey Zoo Benefit Night committed for 2016)

Blue Bunny new sponsor for Ice Cream Safari 2015 & committed for 2016.

Comcast Xfinity as new sponsor—Title Sponsor for Boo at the Zoo 2015 and committed for 2016.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue 3,069,198

Expenses

Program Expenses 2,520,490

General & Administrative Expenses 422,151

Fundraising Expenses 87,288

Total Expenses 3,029,929

Net Assets

Beginning Net Assets 4,636,686

Ending Net Assets 4,806,818

Total Liabilities 1,046,124

Total Assets & Liabilities 5,852,942
Admissions

The admissions department greets and provides helpful information to our guests while encouraging a great experience at the admission/ticket booths and throughout the zoo. The admissions department also collects revenue for memberships, stroller rental and train revenue.


Gift Shop and other merchandise outlets

This department’s primary functions include ordering, pricing and selling novelties throughout various locations of the zoo. The zoo’s merchandizing outlets consist of many popular novelties including several styles of plush, tees, totes, hats, games and toys, film and disposable cameras, jewelry, books, puzzles, candies, and other collectible items.

Merchandise Revenue $88,451

Rides

Train riders: 28,647 Train revenue: $57,294
Carousel riders: 14,110 Carousel revenue: $28,220
Total Riders: 42,757 Total Revenue: $85,514

Shared Revenues

Stroller rental revenue (Scooter Bug) $6,908
Drinks machines (Brown Bottling Group) $1,746
Hurricane Simulator $1,694
Penny Press (Copper Memories) $575
The Jackson Zoo hosts a number of events throughout the year that cater to guests of all ages and interest. Special events accounted for 29,595 in attendance and $105,516 in net revenue.

**2014-2015 Events**

- Oct. 24-25  Boo at the Zoo
- Dec. 13  Cookies with Santa
- Mar. 7  Zoo Day
- Apr. 4  Easter Breakfast
- Apr. 11  CU at the Zoo
- Apr. 18  Party for the Planet
- Apr. 25  JSU Day
- Apr. 26  Zoo Blues
- May 1  Zoo Brew
- June 17  Dream Night
- July 11  Ice Cream Safari
- Aug. 8  Last Splash
- Sept. 24  Zoo Party

**Added Value/Discount Days**

- Feb. 5  Wear Red Day
- Feb. 14  Sweetheart Day
- May 2*  Town Day *(Clinton)*
- May 10  Mother’s Day
- May 16*  Town Day *(Ridgeland)*
- May 23-25  Memorial Day
- June 13*  Town Day *(Rankin Co. & Flowood)*
- June 21  Father’s Day
- June 27*  Town Day *(Jackson)*
- July 4  Red, White & Blue Day
- July 25  Tiger Day
- Sept. 5-6  Frozen Treat Animal Enrichment Day
- Sept. 13  Grandparent’s Day
- Nov. 11  Veteran’s Day
The Jackson Zoo employs approximately 37 full-time workers, with positions held in administration, animal care, maintenance, security, and guest services.

Executive Director – Beth Poff
Director of Major Gifts & Annual Fund – Josh Friedel
Marketing & Communications Manager – Angela Harris
Membership Coordinator – EJ Rivers
Education Specialist – Elizabeth Stenger
Guest Services Manager – Sheba Moses
Veterinarian – Dr. Michael Holifield
Animal Supervisor – Willie Bennett
Security Supervisor – Derrek Pepper

Deputy Director – Dave Wetzel
Controller – Chris Herron
Events Coordinator – Toni Francis
Education Director – Lucy Barton
Volunteer Coordinator – Stacy Crain
Guest Services Supervisor – Ryan Warren
Veterinarian Technician – Donna Todd
Grounds Supervisor – Chris Baker
Administrative Assistant – Kimberly Crye
Jackson Zoological Society
Board of Directors 2014-2015

President - Erin Shirley Orey
Vice-President - Wilson Hood
Secretary/Treasurer - Russell Turley
Simon Turner Bailey
Catherine Cooper
Dr. Virginia Cora
Allen Jones
Katie Lightsey
Virgi Lindsay
JoAnne Prichard Morris
Duane A. O’Neill
Kenneth Parker
Patty Patterson
Dexter Robinson
W. Eric Stracener
E. Sirena Wilson
Beth Poff (Zoo Director)
THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to the Jackson Zoo this year, your support makes what we do possible, and we greatly appreciate you! While we tried to include all major, influential and in-kind contributor’s from Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015 below, please notify us if you are not listed or there needs to be a change in the spelling of your name. (Email: info@jacksonzoo.org Subject: Annual Report Correction)

MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

CITY OF JACKSON
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GERTRUDE C. FORD FOUNDATION
HOOD FAMILY FOUNDATION
VICKSBURG MEDICAL FOUNDATION
KROG COMPANY FOUNDATION
NUCOR STEEL CORPORATION
DIAN ANDERSON
ERGON, INC.
NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.
CRYMES PITTMAN

JIM & DONNA BARKSDALE (BARKSDALE MANAGEMENT)
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
ST. DOMINIC HEALTH SERVICES, INC.
LOWER PEARL RIVER VALLEY FOUNDATION
MADISON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
JACKSON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (JCVB)
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER JACKSON
ENTERGY CORPORATION

INFLUENTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

LAURIE HEARIN MCREE
MISSISSIPPI ORGAN RECOVERY AGENCY (MORA)
JOHN SMITH
GALEN POOOLE
CAPITAL CITY BEVERAGES, INC.
LADY LUCK CASINO & HOTEL
WEST JACKSON ROTARY CLUB
VIRGI & CHUCK LINDSAY
DR. ROBERT TIBBS
CYLDE HARE
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION (MDOT)
TAM & NORA ETHERIDGE
WILLIAM STRANGE
JOANNE DEYOE
JOSHUA WIENER
THOMAS WILEY
DR. WADE & SARAH SWANSON
BETSY CLARKE
DR. BILL ADEN
CLARENCE WEATHERSPOON
MARY LANCASTER

BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN, CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ
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LESLE ROOKS
MALCOM LIGHTSEY
CAL-MAINE FOODS, INC.
AMERISTAR CASINO & HOTEL
JACKSON YOUTH FOR CHRIST
JAMES E. FOWLER FAMILY FOUNDATION
MICHAEL MCREE
TOBY HUGHES
WINTER WILLIAM
DAVIN FORD
PAM HOPKINS
DON & HOLLEY NOBLITT
ROBERT & ELEANOR WEAVER
CATHERINE KLIPPLE
HITE LANE
TREY WATKINS
ZACH AND JAN TAYLOR
HARVEY JOHNSON
CAMILLE JEFFCOAT
INFLUENTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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JAMES SLEDGE
TZEDAKAH CHARITABLE FUND
COMCAST XFINITY
FELECIA MCELLEN
MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
CAROL BETH ALEXANDER
SUSAN POLK
FERRELL ANDERSON
BREWHAHA HOMEBREW SUPPLY COMPANY
BANKPLUS
LAURIN HOOPER
TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK
CASSIE PENNINGTON
M3A ARCHITECTURE
ROSS & YERGER
PARKER & ASSOCIATES, CPAs
ELLEN & CHARLES JOHNSTON
CATHERINE COOPER
WILSON HOOD
WILLARD WOOD
JERRY & MICHELLE CLARK
CARSON LAW GROUP, PLLC
MISSISSIPPI MEDIA (THE CLARION LEDGER)
ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH JACKSON
JULIO CESPEDES
KATIE LIGHTSEY
STEVE BRANDON
LOIS YOUNG
JIM SHEBLE
CAMPBELL’S BAKERY
MUTUAL CREDIT UNION
MISSISSIPPI TELCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
MISSISSIPPI FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
BRIGHTVIEW CREDIT UNION
DANIEL AND WANDA QUON
DR. MCKAMY & MARTHA SMITH
E.M. YOUNG
SAL & MOOKIES
KEITH HODGES
GRANTHAM, POOLE, RANDALL, REITANO, AARRINGTON & CUNNINGHAM, PLLC.

ANDREW & JAN MATTIACE (MATTIACE PROPERTIES)
RICHARD SULLIVAN
ADAM GRIFFIN
DR. VIRGINIA CORA
ROBIN BYNUM
EDNA HARRIS
MEREDITH SHOWS
CONSTANCE HEAD
STEPHANIE WELLS
UNITED HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY PLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
DR. SARAH BROOM & RICHARD MCKEY
REGIONS BANK
DEBORAH RAE WRIGHT
MISSISSIPPI BRAVES
METROPCS
NIX-TANN & ASSOCIATES
DR. GEORGE SCHIMMEL
WHATABURGER CORPORATION
RUSSELL TURLEY
TATUM & WADE, PLLC.
ERIN SHIRLEY OREY
JACKSON ZOO STAFF
COMMUNITY BANK
KEITH HODGES
LARRY & PAMELA EDWARDS
BEN PUCKETT, JR.
KENNY PARKER
HIGHLAND VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER (WS DEVELOPMENT)
BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS, LLP
DOUG ODOM
MAGNOLIA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
HOPE CREDIT UNION
JACKSON AREA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
MISSISSIPPI POSTAL EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
ERICA SPEED
DR. CAROLYN MYERS
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MISSISSIPPI
JACO TACOS
ALFERDTEEN HARRISON
BKD, LLP CPAs & ADVISORS
THANK YOU

INFLUENTIAL IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY
BLUE BUNNY CORPORATION
SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE
DIVERSIFIED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
DONNA TODD
AMERISTAR CASINO & HOTEL
NORTH STAR SAILING CHARTERS, LLC.
SHIP ISLAND EXCURSIONS
HEMLEINE
EAT HERE BRANDS, LLC.
RAINBOW CO-OP GROCERY
BASS PRO SHOPS
NANDY’S CANDY
AVON
MISSISSIPPI NEWS NOW
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC BROADCASTING (MPB)
RUTH’S CHRIS STEAKHOUSE
CAPITOL GRILL OF JACKSON
DRAGO’S RESTAURANT
HARTFIELD ACADEMY
KING EDWARD HOTEL
OSBORNE BOOKS
KOHL’S
LUCKY TOWN BREWERY
NOTHING BUNDT CAKES
IHEARTMEDIA, INC.
SAMS CLUB

MILLSAPS COLLEGE
STANPAC
SAMUEL & JUDY BRYANT (RED EAGLE GALLERY)
WILLIE RICHARDSON
HIGHLAND VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER (WS DEVELOPMENT)
FORTY FOUR FIFTY & ROGUE
UNITED WATER
TYSON FOODS
WILCHER FARM
CHAR, ANJOU & SOMBRA RESTAURANTS
FRANKLIN EYEWEAR
ELISABETH J. RIVERS
HOOSIE FOUNDATION
WAPT-TV
WJTV-TV
CUPS ESPRESSO CAFÉ
GATEWAY TIRE & SERVICE CENTER
THE HOME DEPOT
RICHARD SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES
DESERT PLASTICS
SANDERSON FARMS
JACKSON SHOWBOATS
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
PAM FULTON
MELLOW MUSHROOM
WLBT-TV
SIMPLY DOWN SOUTH
The Jackson Zoo is proud to be Mississippi’s only AZA accredited zoo, and fall among the top 10% of zoos in the country. The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) accreditation is important because it sets high standards for animal care institutions. AZA accredited institutions are reviewed by a group of experts, called the AZA Accreditation Commission, which carefully reviews each zoo or aquarium that submits an application for AZA membership.