



annual report plus

January 2019 through June 2020

Calendar year 2019 to the date of this report marked over a year of constant growth, learning and improvements at Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation. As we often mention, although we have accomplished much, we couldn't have done it without our donors. With your support and donations, one of the first initiatives identified by the Foundation - the Elephant Havens orphanage in Botswana - is now an absolute reality. It is a true engine for wildlife preservation, local employment, education, community development and habitat preservation. Goals have been met, new goals have been formulated and the continuing missions will be expanded, streamlined, improved and maintained. We proudly and with gratefulness and humility address all of that in this report.

The first rescue, MmaMotse has been joined by three more youngsters and all are thriving and bring great joy to each other, our team, many visitors and an online audience. But that is only a part of the story.

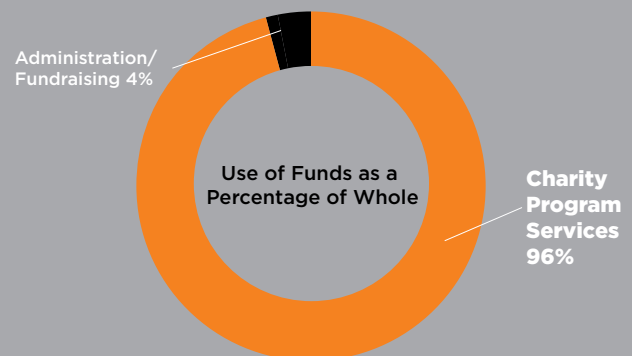
Take a look at the many accomplishments of these past 18 months that have led us to where we are now.

Here in the United States

- Fundraising continues but is honestly a constant worry, and we are VERY thankful to all who have come through for EH. It is the nature of any charitable endeavor; but we are so pleased and so much in need, at the same time.
- We raised over \$700,000.00, in calendar year 2019, from donors large and small and have gratefully reached goals of each matching grant that was offered.
- We held a very successful fundraiser in Dallas, Texas at Barry Whistler Gallery where we were graced with the presence and support of Alexander McCall Smith, best-selling author of the No. One Ladies Detective Agency series. And we were so pleased to learn that his next book to be released this year, will be titled “How to Raise an Elephant”. The event was a great boon to our bottom line with the venue provided free of charge, Mr. McCall Smith donating time and books, Wilderness-Safaris donating a fabulous safari for auction and The Food Company catering the entire event (food and wine) for no charge.
- Our partnership with the incredible Dallas Zoo only grew. It is hard to know where to start with this wonderful Dallas resource. First, their interns over the summer raised \$20,000. Second, our Botswana veterinarian, Dr. Comfort Nkgowe was able to visit us in Dallas to teach and learn with the Dallas Zoo and the Houston Zoo over a two week term. Third, Elephant Havens was reviewed and approved as one of 12 wildlife partners under a program where the Zoo engages and qualifies organizations that have field operations that work to protect and preserve selected species. Fourth, ever since our first rescue, we have been aware that we had a genuine need for real time laboratory capacity. We needed to be able to obtain quick results and to produce slides and samples for analysis. The Foundation procured necessary lab equipment and the Dallas Zoo provided additional equipment as well as all specifications for the establishment of a proper “bush” lab. The Zoo arranged for their Director of Animal Welfare and one of their top lab technicians to fly to Botswana to help set up the lab and train the local team in Botswana. The lab is now a reality. All of this has been accomplished with remarkable administrative efficiency and with maximum impact to the charitable initiatives of the Foundation.
- Over 95% of funds raised have been directed to the charitable outreach of the Foundation or are held as cash balances of the Foundation pending approval of appropriate projects as proposed by the beneficiaries that have been selected for Foundation support.
- The Foundation maintains a first-class website and has branded and protected its various marks and established many and varied fundraising systems and sources.
- The Foundation produces regular detailed reporting and newsletters to an ever expanding mailing list. Our social media initiatives bring in new supporters every day.
- The Foundation actively seeks other initiatives in Africa that are worthy of its support and share the Foundation’s goals and missions. The Foundation has identified the Big Life Foundation in Kenya and Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, also in Kenya, as worthy beneficiaries and is directing support to these fine charities.

We are proud to use donors’ funds efficiently

During calendar year 2019



See the Statement of Activity for the Foundation attached for calendar year 2019. This reflects the numbers reported above.

In Botswana, even more has been accomplished

- The Botswana trust has, in the past 18 months, expanded its beautifully wooded site in the Okavango Delta on the banks of a major river channel in the Shorobe District; 45 minutes northeast of the airport in Maun, Botswana. The original site has now nearly tripled in size. Our third expansion since the inception will be fenced as of the end of June 2020. The orphanage provides excellent habitat for the current rescues, including an oft used mud wallow and sand bathing area, plenty of browse and grazing habitat. Once weaned these youngsters are able to roam and feed naturally all day as they would had they not been uprooted. In the evenings, they all return to a newly expanded boma (corrals or stable areas) area where our team has cut fresh mopane and silver terminalia branches, favorites of any elephant in Botswana. These are plentiful year round in the immediate area.
- The expanded site continues to be fully fenced with an adult elephant-proof solar-powered electric fence as specified by wildlife authorities in Botswana. The fencing is primarily to keep wild elephants out as these young elephants do not seem to think the “grass is greener on the other side of the fence”.
- A one-of-a-kind permit from Botswana wildlife authorities has been streamlined, allowing the team to quickly rescue and translocate orphaned or abandoned elephants. Of course, the permit also allows the Botswana trust to keep, maintain and reintroduce orphaned elephants into the wild together as their own herd.
- Joining MmaMotse, the first rescue, who is now acting as a leader and matriarch at nearly 3 years old, are three other beautiful young elephants, 2 more females and a male. All are thoroughly enjoying the team and their new lush habitat; all of these youngsters having made their way to us from much more arid parts of the country. These elephants range in age from under one year at the time of rescue to just over 2 years at time of rescue. There are regular posts and messages that chronicle these wonders as they enjoy each other and their new safe haven.
- Since receiving proper permitting and calls to rescue, we have constructed 9 more separate bomas (corrals or stable areas), bringing the total in the primary boma area to 13 superior enclosures. There are 2 quarantine enclosed boma areas to provide proper shelter for newborns and the handlers that sleep with them while still very young. And separated from the main boma area by the length of a football field are two large new roofed bomas that are to be used as quarantine areas for older rescues so that they are able to gauge any health issues, conduct lab tests and stabilize older rescues before introducing to the rest of the herd. A generous donor who was instrumental in funding the buildout of the laboratory has also provided the financial support needed to acquire scales needed to weigh an elephant. They are now able to keep track as these youngsters flourish. It is all a beautiful facility that is fully solar-powered.
- At the guest reception area there are now completed offices for the orphanage. And in the boma area there is an elephant formula-prep kitchen, laundry, laboratory, food and medical storage room and refrigeration for elephant medicines and formula.
- The Trust continues to maintain relationships with 3 wonderful large-animal veterinarians who are great with young elephants.
- The staff continues to be led by co-founder in Botswana, Boago (Bee) Poloko, who was formerly the lead local elephant handler at Abu Camp in the Okavango Delta. The Trust is very excited to have added Ipeleng Chabata as a co-trustee of the Botswana trust and as co-manager with Bee with more focus on the administrative side. She too was instrumental in founding the Trust and has kindly waited until the Trust was on firm financial footing before joining full time. She was formerly with Wilderness Safaris in many high level capacities, administering safari operations and lodges in the Okavango Delta, dealing with human resources, guest operations, government relations, transport and logistics, and overseeing various other functions. All of this experience and expertise melds remarkably well with what is required to run the rescue operation that also caters to public visitation when appropriate.

- Bee Poloko has expanded his team of elephant handlers. In addition to Bee, the staff includes 3 handlers with at least 10 years of experience with elephants that have been rescued as adults from captivity or culling operations or have been orphaned as youngsters. To supplement these 4 experts, the Trust has added 5 additional handlers who are seriously dedicated to the mission. These new additions are almost exclusively from the local communities and are great advocates for elephants and wildlife. The Trust is very pleased to have been able to create many full time jobs within the local community, as community outreach is an important part of our mission.
- The Trust has added a construction supervisor as part of the full time on site staff, and he has proven to be invaluable as they respond to growth in staff, elephants and guests. There are 5 more staff members to handle maintenance, cooking and other support needs at the orphanage. And to add to the on staff expertise, the folks from the Dallas Zoo have trained Bee and one of the other elephant experts to be proficient in the lab.
- Additional 4 wheel drive vehicles have been added to the operation as the logistics of rescues off site and the care and feeding of the existing herd have had to be sorted out.
- This time last year, all staff was living in tents on the ground and cooking on a single hot plate in the guardhouse at the main gate. There was a temporary shower and toilet in place. Staffing and elephant care were and are a 24/7 operation with the staff doing 10-day shifts, then rotating off for 4 days. Elephant Havens, while only 45 minutes from an airport that serves international locations, is off of the grid from the standpoint of water, sanitary sewer and electricity and there is spotty cellular service. So the Trust has had to overcome these issues in short order. At the facility now, there are: (i) 9 raised tents with permanent floors for staff, plus permanent separate showers and toilets; (ii) a public reception area with offices and public toilets; (iii) management housing with full ablution; (iv) a main area that overlooks the mud wallow and the delta and houses public dining, a public kitchen, lounge, bathroom and meeting space; (v) a single raised tent for major donors and other major benefactors who may want to stay at the facility overnight; (vi) full solar array to power all improvements and all utilities to operate this facility;
- (vii) full water and composting sewer facilities that leave no appreciable human footprint; (viii) maintenance and storage facility; and (ix) the expanded elephant boma area and quarantine facility for new arrivals. And there have been 3 expansions of the physical location of the elephant habitat with commensurate extension of the electric fencing.
- A remarkable, high speed internet capacity has been installed over much of the property allowing real time broadcast to various audiences all over the world. This permits excellent phone and WIFI capacity via an antennae system.
- One of the most exciting developments this year has been the grant to the trust from local tribal authorities, land boards and communities to procure an additional 340 hectares (840 acres) of land. This is to be used as the soft release area for the elephants at Elephants Havens as they outgrow the orphanage at age 4 to 5. They will then spend 5 – 9 years with little human contact before reintroduction into Okavango Delta. The new site has been marked and allocated to the Trust. The Trust is currently requesting bids for the electric fencing, housing and utilities to serve the small staff at the soft release area. The Trust is also going to be developing a water well and solar support for communities near the release area. This is a beautiful, perfect elephant habitat that will be preserved as such and will be relegated to wildlife preservation and removed from grazing and cultivation. It is a fairly short walk from the orphanage to the interim release area. As mentioned, this area will need fully solar electric fencing, housing, ablution and a kitchen area for a small supervisory contingent of elephant handlers as caretakers.
- The Trust has also learned this year that not all rescues have a happy ending. In some cases the team at Elephant Havens has undertaken a rescue that was almost certainly destined to fail. They incur the time, veterinary expense and serious emotional costs that this entails, knowing that a young elephant can be relieved of suffering and fear of predation and may - by some good fortune - and our commitment and expertise, recover and join the herd at Elephant Havens.
- As mentioned before, the entire operation has a very small environmental footprint, unless you count the prints of the elephants.

Community engagement is well underway

- We have reached out to 3 local communities with which we share this special part of the world. Even though they wage a regular competition with elephants during the short planting season, we have had a very good reception from local leaders, farmers and herders.
- We have completed toilet facilities for the kgotla meeting place/community center for the Gabamochoa community in which Elephant Havens resides.
- The local leaders visited Elephant Havens in late February of 2019 and had an opportunity to meet young MmaMotse in person. She was a wonderful ambassador for her elephant kind and put a smile on everyone's face. We have facilitated many other meetings of locals with the herd and have arranged to transport entire classrooms of students to visit.
- Our fencing contractor has begun a design on reasonably priced electric fencing that we can install around area fields to persuade the local elephants to stay away. Other human-elephant conflict resolution techniques are also under consideration, including motion-activated strobe lights and the consolidation of local fields so that elephant deterrence can be effective in a larger location rather than across many small separate plots. And when technology fails, we have formed great relations with the community and they know that they can call us in the middle of the night to mobilize and direct wild elephants away from farms. This initiative has reduced the human wildlife conflict and people are not left helpless or in a confrontation that proves lethal for elephants or people. The Elephant Havens team is always happy to intervene regardless of the hour and they bring much wisdom to the effort that eases stress for all involved.
- We are establishing a sort of shuttle for the local folks, most of whom do not have vehicles. Since our team drives back and forth regularly to Maun, we are providing rides from the cattle posts and family enclaves nearby to the paved road some 5 miles away. Bus service is then available into town from there. We are also exploring the acquisition of a proper school bus that can be used to gather local school children and carry them to and from their farms and cattle posts to the schools in Shorobe. These kids have a harrowing long walk through corridors frequented by wild elephants during much of the year. It is a dangerous situation and one we would like to ameliorate for the sake of the kids and the elephants.
- We have hired all local Botswana staff from the northern part of the country, and some of the staff comes from the immediate community.
- We have very strong support from local Botswana wildlife officials, as well as our friends in public and private anti-poaching units across the country.
- With the introduction of shutdowns and shelter in place, the number 2 industry in Botswana has been fully shuttered, as tourism and all international entry into the country has been curtailed except for traffic to support essential supply chains. This has been an extremely difficult time for the human community in which we operate. People are without work and paychecks and food insecurity is real. Accordingly, the Trust has initiated outreach to those most in need and are feeding those folks who the team can identify as most critically affected by the shutdown. These families were identified by the Local VDC and social workers to ensure we are helping people who are less privileged within the community. This has proven to be an important new outreach for the Botswana Trust.
- And as the country has been shut down, a mysterious new threat has arisen, taking down hundreds of elephants on the northwest side of the Okavango Delta. The Trust has offered financial assistance, helicopter support, the support of our team members, and equipment in efforts to assess the reasons for the losses. This will be an important initiative for the Botswana team in the coming months.
- We are also very excited to announce a new partnership with Helicopter Horizons, the foremost helicopter operator in the region. We have already welcomed guests to Elephant Havens who have traveled in with Helicopter Horizons. We believe these visitors and Helicopter Horizons will become a great source of important friends to Elephant Havens. We are fortunate to have an excellent 'heli-pad' which allows these guests to arrive at our doorstep.

Plans for the remainder of 2020

Here in the United States we will continue to pursue fundraising efforts and will grow and enhance our partnership with the Dallas Zoo. We are also improving our social media footprint and look forward to providing virtual encounters with the operations on the ground in Africa. We will expand our Zoom encounters. These have become a regular experience for folks all over the US and in Europe.

In Botswana, we will continue to enhance our support to and from communities. We believe that it has become very clear to all in Botswana that, while all local people do not necessarily see direct impact from the natural world they live in, it is their natural places that account for the livelihood of many, if not most, Batswana. And we look forward to the day when we can again welcome guests from all over the world. Elephants have been fully accommodated for all of 2019 and staff has enjoyed comfortable quarters and full room and board since the middle of 2019. Since the facility is now fully operational for human activities we had looked forward to welcoming many supporters this summer. We had a regular stream of visitors scheduled from the US and Europe but that will wait until another day.

The orphanage and our team are an amenity to the tourist industry in Botswana, and this project is expensive to operate. Accordingly, we are pursuing avenues for fundraising that do not detract from the mission and will provide efficient returns on the Foundation's efforts. The primary capital outlays for the creation of the orphanage have been addressed and we have paid for work to date. Additional capital needs are imminent as described below. And day-to-day operations will need to be funded from various sources. Accessing those funds is a daily concern and constant objective. The only limit on the plans and the mission will be funding. We have many excellent prospects for raising funds that we believe will bear fruit, and we are looking forward to continuing our mission in Botswana.

During the balance of 2020 we seek funding:

- For the electric fence, 2 water wells, a small staff village/accommodations for 2 to 3 persons, and the solar plant to serve these improvements at the new 330 hectare (800 acre) soft release area. We are seeking bids now.
- For the fencing for the most recent expansion at the main orphanage.
- For the expansion of staff and management housing at the main orphanage and are again seeking bids for that work. Fortunately, the solar plant and water system was 'over-engineered' in anticipation of these expansions so we can easily accommodate these plans.
- To defray the costs of rescuing young elephants in need, to employ good people to advance the mission and to fund community initiatives that is sustainable and can be provided for a cost that is commensurate with the benefit.
- To provide, our expertise and capital to address the mysterious new threat that has taken down hundreds of elephants on the northwest side of the Okavango Delta.
- With the brilliant assistance of Bee Poloko and Ips Chabata, to continue to enhance relationships with the local authorities as well as all relevant officials in Gabarone, the capitol. We are very fortunate to have Bee and Ips running the show as they are broadly respected in Botswana and bring much wisdom and energy to the mission.

Debra Stevens, President

Scott Jackson, Vice President

Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
Statement of Activity
January - December 2019

	Total
Revenue	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	703,153.37
Total Direct Public Support	\$ 703,153.37
Total Revenue	\$ 703,153.37
Gross Profit	\$ 703,153.37
Expenditures	
Charitable-Botswana Elephant Rescue/Care-Labor/Room & Board/Fuel Etc.	343,065.61
Charitable-Conference, Convention, Meeting Botswana	927.73
Charitable-Construction of Facilities/Fixtures Botswana	469,476.20
Charitable-Insurance - Vehicles Botswana	1,670.49
Charitable-Maintenance Botswana	4,728.21
Charitable-Medication, Veterinary and Special Diet	42,618.11
Printing and Copying	1,437.88
Telephone, Telecommunications and Wi-Fi	3,882.63
Travel	24,131.48
Total Charitable-Botswana Elephant Rescue/Care-Labor/Room & Board/Fuel Etc.	\$ 891,938.34
Charitable-Kenya Big Life Foundation	1,030.00
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees US	4,879.00
Outside Contract Services	704.00
Total Contract Services	\$ 5,583.00
Expense-Financial Institutions US	1,783.00
Stripe/On-Line Donation Maintenance	3,678.53
Website & On-Line Store US	20,159.04
Total Expenditures	\$ 924,171.91
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 221,018.54
Net Revenue	-\$ 221,018.54

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