An emergency fund to rescue chimpanzees stranded at the Wildlife Waystation and rehome them to accredited sanctuaries.

All donations are tax deductible and will be accepted and administered by 7th Generation Advisors, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (Tax ID:20-8771636). The campaign is supported by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, partnering accredited sanctuaries, and the remaining team members of the Wildlife Waystation.

This campaign is led by the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA)

Every dollar donated goes directly to the chimpanzees in need.
An Unprecedented Need for Rescue

When a large animal refuge closes suddenly, where can the animals go? The Wildlife Waystation, an unaccredited refuge located outside of Los Angeles, unexpectedly closed in 2019 due to financial difficulties. Left behind were 480 animals, including 42 chimpanzees, most of them formerly used in medical research. One chimpanzee died of natural causes before he could be rescued, and 23 have been rehomed to date. 18 remain in need of new homes.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife took over operations and successfully rehomed most of the animals, except the chimpanzees, for whom acceptable homes are especially challenging to find. NAPSA was engaged to help identify qualified sanctuaries able to rescue these chimpanzees in need and coordinate the fundraising campaign to get them to safety.

The Chimpanzees Can’t Stay at the Wildlife Waystation

The Waystation is not a safe or healthy environment for these chimpanzees for many reasons, including the constant risk of wildfire, outdated infrastructure, and an insufficient water source that requires water be trucked in every month. While the refuge is closed, a small group of dedicated caregivers has continued to provide the chimpanzees with care while we work urgently to secure new homes within trusted sanctuaries. The Waystation continues to pay the caregivers’ salaries, but such funding is limited.

When the chimpanzees living at the Wildlife Waystation are rescued and rehomed, they will have opportunities to delight in a variety of enriching experiences. For some of them that may be feeling the cool and tickly sensation of grass underneath their feet, or the awe and wonder of open sky overhead. They might venture into a forest, climb a live tree, cross a creek, or swing from a vine on multi-story climbing structures. The accredited sanctuaries identified to rescue these chimpanzees will provide them a new beginning – together with their social companions. We are working with determination to raise funds that will secure their futures in healthy environments where they will thrive.
NAPSA works in close coordination directly with each receiving sanctuary to determine their construction needs and disburse funds accordingly to ensure the most chimps get moved in the shortest possible timeframe. We are now working diligently with partnering sanctuary Chimp Haven to relocate 11 of the 18 chimpanzees remaining at the Waystation by spring of 2022. NAPSA and the coalition of chimpanzee placement experts are working tirelessly with additional accredited sanctuaries to finalize plans to rescue the other 7 chimpanzees. Our commitment is to rehome all the chimpanzees swiftly, safely, and responsibly.

Chimp Haven, located outside of Shreveport, Louisiana, is the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in the world, currently caring for over 300 chimpanzees, most of whom are retired from medical research facilities. The caregivers at Chimp Haven are eager to rescue 11 chimpanzees living in two social groups. Chimp Haven is more than a refuge; it’s a purpose-built home offering 200 acres designed entirely for chimpanzees. The staff has unmatched experience integrating new arrivals and welcoming them to the “The Chimp Life.” It’s a place where chimpanzees can roam woodland and wide-open spaces, feast on fresh fruits and veggies, and thrive in large families. Learn more about the chimpanzees we are working to rescue and move there on pages 5-6.

How You Can Help: Construction is Costly. New Homes are Needed.

To secure the chimps’ safe future, our goal is to raise $5.8 million. Thousands of donors have already helped us raise over 35% of this goal, allowing us to safely rescue and rehome 23 of the chimpanzees.

The fundraising goal is based upon known and anticipated costs to build new homes at accredited sanctuaries and the transportation costs to relocate them. We’re also providing each receiving sanctuary with enough funds to support the immediate care costs for each chimpanzee they rescue.

Please consider a donation today: ChimpsInNeed.org
Learn more about how the chimpanzees came to live at the Wildlife Waystation and the urgency to rescue them by watching “A Checkered Past,” a 7-minute documentary short graciously donated by director Shaun Monson and featuring award-winning actors Joaquin Phoenix and Rooney Mara. The documentary short can be viewed at www.ChimpsInNeed.org

This emergency rescue campaign is endorsed by world-renowned ethologist and activist Dr. Jane Goodall. “I do hope that you’ll do anything you can to help this campaign,” Dr. Goodall implored in a recent video she released to support the rescue effort. Most of the chimpanzees awaiting rescue began their lives at a private medical research laboratory affiliated with New York University, which is where Dr. Goodall said she first encountered many of the chimpanzees.

“I met many of them in the LEMSIP lab and was saddened and angry to see the terrible conditions they suffered there,” she said. “So far, (the chimpanzees’) life histories have been tragic. Once they are moved to their new homes, that will change.” See Dr. Goodall’s video endorsement of the campaign at www.ChimpsInNeed.org

Since the unexpected closure of the Waystation in fall 2019, our emergency rescue effort has successfully rehomed 23 chimpanzees. The first three chimpanzees were rehomed to Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest in Washington shortly after the Wildlife Waystation announced its closing. Three chimpanzees were rehomed to zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, three were moved to Primarily Primates, and another group of six went to Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest in 2021. Eight chimpanzees moved to Center for Great Apes in November 2021. All are thriving in their new homes, and we can’t wait to celebrate the rescue of the remaining 18 chimpanzees.

Every dollar raised by Chimpanzees In Need goes directly toward the rehoming efforts for the chimpanzees and their ongoing care costs. This is a unique rescue effort, and there’s no time to waste. These chimpanzees need us now. Please consider a donation today: ChimpsInNeed.org

Please Support This Campaign - Together We Can Save These Chimpanzees In Need

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Meet The Chimp Haven Eleven

Meet “The Chimp Haven Eleven,” the group of chimpanzees we are working to raise enough funds to relocate to Chimp Haven. The Chimp Haven Eleven includes Alyse’s small social group of three, and Axil’s group of eight.

Meet Alyse’s Group:
Alyse, Amber, and Mousse

These three chimpanzees form a small but mighty group. Identical twin sisters Alyse and Amber are a close-knit pair, and though caregivers struggled to find another chimp who could get along with them, Mousse was up for the challenge.

Alyse
Age: 31
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Very bonded to her twin Amber. The two are never apart, and are hard to tell apart!
Interests: Napping and grooming her twin.
Fun facts: Both Alyse and Amber have striking, intense stares, but Alyse has been known to use this to trick her caregivers.

Amber
Age: 31
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Curious.
Interests: She always wants to see what’s going on around her, and lately is particularly interested in face masks and what’s behind them! She has a renewed interest in people who are wearing masks, even when she didn’t care about them pre-COVID.
Fun facts: She has a limp from a birth defect, but doesn’t let that slow her down.

Mousse
Age: 37
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Sweet and goofy. It’s not easy to find a chimp who can get along with the twins, and sometimes they ignore him, so he gets attention from caregivers. It will be great to rehome him at a facility that can meet his social needs better!
Interests: Dolls and balls.
Fun facts: He carries a turtle sandbox with him everywhere – empty!

Meet Axil’s Group:
Axil, Buster, Connor, December, Denise, Inky, Mocha, and Tequila

Axil
Age: 29
History: Born in a biomedical laboratory and was only a few months old when moved to Wildlife Waystation.
Personality: Highly intelligent. When you look into his eyes, you can see the gears turning in his brain.
Interests: Carrying around stuffed animals.
Fun facts: This clever guy has been the source of elaborate escapes more than once!

Buster
Age: 28
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Ladies’ man. He is always trying to catch the attention of females who are in estrus.
Interests: Brushing his teeth.
Fun facts: He is working toward becoming the alpha male in his group, but is also content to hang out high on a perch and watch over his group.

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Meet The Chimp Haven Eleven Cont’d

Connor
Age: 29
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Dreamer. He sometimes seems to be in an imaginary world when he plays with toys.
Interests: When he’s nervous, he seeks comfort from the males in his group.
Fun facts: With the pink speckles on his face and his innocent eyes, Connor has the appearance of being younger than he is.

December
Age: 29
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Mediator. He’s always there to calm chimps down in a conflict.
Interests: Forming alliances with the other males in his group.
Fun facts: He is easy to identify due to his short, boxy build and dark face.

Denise
Age: 30
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: In control. She has an impressive build that commands respect.
Interests: Drinking water out of tubs and wadging her food (chewing it up into a big mass).
Fun facts: Denise is so responsible that caregivers enlist her help if they need another chimp to drop an item that is potentially dangerous or harmful. She can get the item and hand it to caregivers without retribution from the males.

Inky
Age: 29
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Infectiously calm. She is a social butterfly who gets along well with all chimps and humans.
Interests: Belly scratches and sips of water from the hose
Fun facts: She will make kissy faces at her caregivers to get their attention. It always works!

Mocha
Age: 31
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Dramatic. She is very engaged with the world around her and takes everything seriously – so seriously, in fact, that sometimes she reacts to social interactions as if they are threatening, even when they aren’t!
Interests: Making hanging apparatuses from scarves and blankets that she weaves through the caging, then uses to spin around and around.
Fun facts: This clever girl is always keen to trade-up by handing caregivers items so she can access something more desirable.

Tequila
Age: 29
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Joyful. He always has a twinkle in his eye.
Interests: Charming Tequila loves to play jokes on others by racing over to an imaginary item, then when someone else investigates, he steps back to watch with glee.
Fun facts: Sometimes Tequila will lay down on his back and look at his caregivers upside down, just for laughs!

Meet The Odd Couple:
Jake and Cayleb
These two chimpanzees were sent to the Wildlife Waystation after a Hollywood animal trainer no longer had a use for them. They are humanized and closely bonded, and we hope that in their new home they will be able to join a larger group of friends.

Jacob (Jake)
Age: 21
History: Entertainment
Personality: Alpha male. He forms strong attachments to others and gets nervous when his relationships are threatened.
Interests: Grooming and being tickled
Fun facts: Once he forms an attachment with someone, he really enjoys physical play and will audibly laugh when goofing around!

Cayleb
Age: 19
History: Entertainment
Personality: Mellow, outgoing, and friendly. He helps soothe his friend Jacob, who has anxiety due to their unnatural upbringing.
Interests: Dressing up in hats and sunglasses
Fun facts: Though he is large, Cayleb is a kid at heart who seeks praise and relishes being rewarded.

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Meet Mama’s Family:
Jeff, Ernesta, Magic, Shake, and Vanilla

These five chimpanzees act as quite the family. This is appropriate because younger Magic was born in 2004 as the surprise offspring of Ernesta (now nicknamed Mama) and Jeff, whose vasectomy had failed! Shake acts as Magic’s aunt, and Vanilla is like a lively older sister who keeps things interesting.

For their mental health, chimpanzees should stay with their social group.

Jeff
Age: 46
History: Private ownership and entertainment
Personality: Social butterfly. He is a happy guy who is always smiling and waving hello and goodbye to everyone.
Interests: He loves to paint, open presents, and nap in the sun.
Fun facts: His first vasectomy failed, and he fathered Magic, whose mother, Ernesta, is also in the group!

Ernesta (Mama)
Age: 27
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Maternal. Despite not being raised by her own mother, Ernesta is a wonderful mom to Magic, who was a surprise birth after the failure of Jeff’s vasectomy!
Interests: She is a dedicated mother most of the time, but also skilled in social politics, particularly when she needs Jeff’s attention.
Fun facts: Though she was bullied as a youngster, Ernesta blossomed as she grew older and is now quite popular in her group.

Magic
Age: 17
History: Born at the Wildlife Waystation as the result of a failed vasectomy.
Personality: Young at heart. The youngest of the group loves to initiate games of chase with her friends.
Interests: Grooming other chimps and napping in the sun with Ernesta, her mother.
Fun facts: She is a rarity—a captive chimp who was fortunate enough to be raised by her mother!

Shake
Age: 27
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Independent. She doesn’t often seek human attention, but will if a special treat is involved.
Interests: Sleeping outside, wrapped in blankets.
Fun facts: She is easily identified by her prominent ears, and she is a wonderful adoptive aunt to Magic!

Vanilla (Nillie)
Age: 29
History: Biomedical laboratory research
Personality: Rebellious, temperamental, and grabby.
Interests: Spitting on people to get a reaction out of them.
Fun facts: Her brothers Mousse and Mocha also lived at the Waystation, and are being rescued by Chimpanzees In Need!

Chimpanzees in Need

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance is a coalition of ten of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent who care for over 800 rescued and retired nonhuman primates. NAPSA is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, an Oakland, CA-based 501c3.

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