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Rescue effort underway for chimpanzees stuck at Wildlife Waystation

North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance and partners work tirelessly to relocate chimpanzees

LOS ANGELES – Outside of Los Angeles, 18 chimpanzees are living in limbo at a refuge that unexpectedly closed in late 2019 due to financial difficulties. Money to continue caring for them is running out. A grassroots fundraising campaign, called *Chimpanzees in Need*, has been formed to rescue them.

When the Wildlife Waystation closed after 40 years, over 480 wild animals, including bears, tigers, lions, monkeys, apes and more were left behind.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stepped in to relocate the animals, and succeeded – except for placing the chimpanzees. These strong, social and complex primates have unique needs that few places can accommodate. The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) was brought in to lead a coalition to raise funds to build housing at accredited sanctuaries, including Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, Chimp Haven, and Center for Great Apes – all of them need funding to construct homes for the chimps and transport them, estimated at \$5.8 million.

Thankfully, more than 35% of funding has been raised to date, and 23 chimpanzees have been successfully rehomed so far, but 18 chimpanzees await rescue to accredited sanctuaries and funding is urgently needed.

"The chimpanzees who are left at the closed Wildlife Waystation are in desperate need of rehoming," world-renowned ethologist Dr. Jane Goodall said. "We have reputable sanctuaries that are able to care for them, but need funding to build new enclosures. On behalf of these chimpanzees who may live many more years, please help by supporting this emergency rescue effort."

The goal of the rescue campaign is to relocate the chimpanzees in their current social groups to their new homes. Most of the chimpanzees began their lives at a private medical research lab affiliated with New York University. Today, their fate is dependent upon the fundraising efforts of the coalition. The Waystation has an inadequate water source, is perpetually at risk for wildfires and has significant infrastructural repair needs. The group is working tirelessly to rescue and rehome these chimps as quickly as possible.

To learn more about the chimpanzee rescue effort and how to help, visit www.chimpsinneed.org

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[Visual assets: Click here for photos and videos of the chimpanzees.](#)

About Chimpanzees in Need

Chimpanzees in Need is an emergency rescue fund led by NAPSA, a coalition of the leading primate sanctuaries in North America. Chimpanzees in Need is a fiscally sponsored project of 7th Generation Advisors, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that donates their services in support of this emergency fund to ensure all donations are tax deductible. The coalition works in collaboration with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is managing the closed Wildlife Waystation. All donations go directly toward the continuing care and rehoming efforts for the chimpanzees. All donations will be accepted and administered by 7th Generation Advisors.