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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, 10 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 unexpectedly and suddenly closed after 40 years, over 480 wild animals were left behind, including bears, tigers, lions, monkeys, apes and more. 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, Center for Great Apes and Save the Chimps – and all require funding to construct homes, safely transport and provide care to the chimps.

To date, the campaign has raised more than 84% of the \$4.7 million needed to rescue, rehome, and provide each partnering sanctuary with funds to care for the rescued chimps. As of July 2022, 30 chimpanzees have been successfully rehomed, two sadly passed away at the Waystation while awaiting rescue. Plans to rescue the remaining 10 chimpanzees before year's end are underway. Ten chimpanzees living in two groups will move to Chimp Haven in Louisiana later this year, making them the final chimpanzees to be rehomed. Funding to get them there is still 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. "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. Some were used in entertainment, or inappropriately kept as pets. 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, has significant infrastructural repair needs and was unable to continue caring for its animals. Chimpanzees in Need 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.