



MISSION:

To inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education and recreation.

VISION:

To be respected internationally and treasured locally for leadership in animal exhibition, conservation practices and education opportunities.

Dear Zoo Friends,

In 2013, Blank Park Zoo made great progress in accomplishing our mission of conservation, education, and recreation.

The Blank Park Zoo Foundation, board, staff and volunteers believe that helping to save the endangered species of the world is not just a part of our mission, but is a responsibility that we take very seriously. The National Geographic (October 2013) stated it best, "As the wild shrinks, zoos are increasingly being looked to as modern day arks: the last refuge against a rising tide of extinction."

The Zoo has invested over \$100,000 (dollars and in kind) in conservation projects locally, nationally and around the world. This effort has grown from a zero budget five years ago. It is our belief that one small zoo, one individual or one small deed can make a difference. With that as our guiding principle, we established a Conservation Alliance made up of six teams. Each has a specific mission under the conservation umbrella and are composed of staff, volunteers and board members. In addition to the implementation of the Conservation Alliance, the Zoo hosted the International Zoos and Aquarium: Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference in July that brought over 200 zoo personnel and field researchers to meet and develop partnerships to benefit wildlife and wild places around the globe. Attendees came from over 40 different countries.

Education programs soared with Zoo educators traveling to over 200 libraries for science and learn-to-read programs and engaging over 51,000 students through on-site

school programs and field trips to the Zoo. Also, 350 Iowa teachers attended AEA approved workshops to expand their STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) teaching skills.

This year, Blank Park Zoo set an all-time audience record of 458,907, with record attendances for Zoo Brew and a second best all-time record for Night Eyes. This spring opened the new African exhibit (Jamaa Kwa) featuring black rhinos, eland, Stanley cranes, kori bustards and spurred tortoises with indoor heated viewing. Other projects included replacing the Koi dock with an ADA accessibly dock for fish feeding, updating and replacing the barn with Kids Kingdom with a larger visitor friendly facility and adding indoor heated underwater viewing of the seal and sea lion exhibit.

Finally, this fall brought about the opening of a new state of the art tortoise and penguin exhibit with indoor heated viewing and new entrance exhibit with year-round viewing of Bactrian camels.

None of these successes would be possible without the dedication and support of our staff, volunteers, donors, and corporate partners. We truly appreciate your involvement in Iowa's only Zoo.



Sincerely,
Mark Vukovich
Blank Park Zoo President/CEO
Jonathan Wilson
Board Chairman

2013 Board of Directors

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Loretta Sieman
Tim Urban
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*deceased

HONORS & AWARDS

AZA Reaccreditation

Accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) ensures the highest level of excellence in animal care, exceeding professional standards for animal welfare and management, veterinary care, behavioral enrichment, nutrition and staff training. AZA accreditation standards exceed currently established local, state and federal guidelines. AZA continually monitors accredited organizations and every accredited zoo and aquarium must go through the entire process every five years.

This summer, Blank Park Zoo underwent a thorough review that included a detailed accreditation application as well as a multiple-day on-site inspection by a team of experts from around the country to ensure it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards for animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety.

On September 8, 2013, Blank Park Zoo received official reaccreditation by AZA.

2013 ZACC Conference Host Selection

Early this year, Blank Park Zoo was selected to host the international 2013 Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference July 8-12, 2013. This biennial conference provides opportunities for zoo and aquarium personnel and field researchers to meet and develop partnerships that benefit wildlife and wild places around the globe. Past hosts include zoos like the Columbus Zoo and Houston Zoo. Blank Park

Zoo welcomed more than 200 people from all over the world, which resulted in increased involvement of many zoos and aquariums in support of field conservation – locally, national and internationally.

As host, Blank Park Zoo is showing the important contributions it has made to conservation with our dedicated staff and volunteers.



NEW SPECIES



Bearded Dragon



Red Fox, Penny



2 African Spurred Tortoises



2 Stanley Cranes



4 Common Eland



10 Naked Neck Chickens



2 Eastern Black Rhinoceros,
Kiano and Ayana



2 Kori Bustards



2 Bactrian Camels, Nicolai
and Tuya

Births, Hatchings, and Acquisitions:

50 Peacock Clownfish
Chilean Rose Tarantula
4 Emperor Scorpions
4 Burrowing Frogs
4 Mexican Tree Frogs

Boa Constrictor, Jersey
6 Chilean Flamingo
Chicks
Ostrich
6 Emerald Doves

Hooded Pitta
3 Mauritius Pink Pigeons
8 Speckled Pigeons
Sun Bittern
4 Superb Starlings

10 Guinea Fowls
6 Nigerian Dwarf Goats
4 Bennett's Wallabies
California Sea Lion, Zoey

We are deeply saddened over the passing of a few of our dear friends



Cavivi the African Lion



Daphne the Porcupine



Red the Sea Lion



Clarence the Sloth



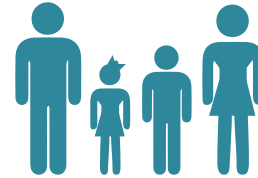
RT the Aldabra Tortoise

BY THE NUMBERS



3,837 people
fed the ostriches—a
new experience at
the Zoo!

458,907
lives touched



34 weddings
took place at the Zoo.



97,134 riders
set a new train record



1,119 volunteers
helped at Night Eyes



64,642 miles
were traveled by
education staff to 744
libraries around the
state of Iowa.



576,180 minutes
of Blank Park Zoo
videos were watched
on YouTube



OVER 16,000
beads were sold
at the Jamaa Kwa
Africa retail stand

DID YOU KNOW?
Deuce the Lion
eats 7.5 pounds of
meat a day!



47,196
guests

learned a little extra through
keeper chats, training and
demonstration shows at the
Critter Corner

SIGNIFICANT HAPPENINGS

Connection to Africa

2013 was BIG as the Zoo opened 'phase one' of the largest capital expansion it has seen to date – Jamaa Kwa 'Connection to' Africa. This 3.5 acre exhibit features an immersion of African culture, the severely endangered black rhino, eland, kori bustard and spurred tortoise, amongst an aviary, interactive signage and opportunities to feed the ostriches and even play African drums. In addition, Jamaa Kwa Africa features a new retail stand where Zoo guests can assemble a homemade necklace using handmade recycled paper beads from the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) project in Uganda while learning about sustainable livelihoods and conservation.

Of all the tremendous new opportunities Jamaa Kwa Africa has to offer Zoo guests, the greatest may be the opportunity to encounter the two eastern black rhinoceros that now call Blank Park Zoo home. The Zoo is honored to include Kiano and Ayana in our Zoo family and we look forward to the opportunities these magnificent creatures present to inspire us all to take greater responsibility for our planet. **Kiano and Ayana have spent the year acclimating to their new indoor and outdoor exhibits, and have grown to 3,000 pounds combined!**





A Zoo for All Seasons

Opened in September was the Zoo's new indoor tortoise and penguin exhibit. This new building is home to the Aldabra tortoises and Magellan penguins during the winter months, improving both the visitor and animal experience. The tortoises will enjoy a sand pit, exposure to UV rays year-round for vitamin D, a nursery area, heated floors and indoor water access. The penguins will have access to an indoor pool, allowing them to swim all year-round! The space also features improved ventilation in addition to padded floors, which protects the animals from arthritis and joint pain.

Partnerships and SSP

The Zoo has over 2,300 animals in its collection, representing over 208 different species. Through partnerships at home and abroad, the Zoo works to advance the protection of wildlife species and habitats at-risk. This includes participating in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) breeding program for endangered animals for repopulation into the wild.

Blank Park Zoo currently participates in seven endangered species breeding programs in cooperation with other AZA accredited institutions. Animals at Blank Park Zoo that are part of an SSP program include:

- Ring-Tailed Lemur
- Snow Leopard
- Amur Tiger
- Japanese Macaque
- Golden Headed Tamarin
- Panamanian Golden Frog
- Red Panda

DID YOU KNOW?

Perfume is a great enrichment tool for big cats. Kavacha the Tiger's favorite is Shania by Shania Twain.

One-of-a-Kind Experience

Also reaching completion in 2013 was the new year-round viewing exhibit at the entrance of the Zoo which features two Bactrian camels, Nicolai (male) and Tuya (female). This visitor experience unlike any other allows Zoo guests to enjoy viewing the Bactrian camels year-round all while driving into the Zoo, playing in the playground or enjoying lunch in the park. These domestic Mongolian camels, unique by their two humps, can endure the extreme temperatures of Iowa's summer and winter months.

Blank Park Zoo acquired Nicolai and Tuya through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The new camel holding features inside and outside stalls, a heated rubber floor and a large exhibit yard for them to roam. It also has a sand pit for the camels to take dust baths, two cement pads for feeding hay and a year-round drinker.

Long-term plans for the exhibit include adding a new animal, likely a large bird, in addition to breeding Nicolai and Tuya as part of the Species Survival Plan.



Thank you to all of our generous donors, members, supporters and friends for helping make these exciting changes possible!



CONSERVATION

Conservation remains an essential component of the Zoo's mission and Blank Park Zoo is fortunate to have staff and partners committed to leaving a lasting impression in the world.

\$15,185.71

total dollars given in support of conservation projects around the world in 2013 by Blank Park Zoo.

Conservation Alliance Formation

The Conservation Alliance was formed to organize and bolster the Zoo's commitment to conservation. Formally known as one large Conservation Committee, several interdepartmental teams were designed, being made up of both staff and volunteers to accomplish set goals. The Conservation Alliance is made up of six smaller teams:

GREEN TEAM

- Work to reduce the impact that the Zoo's daily operations have on our environment
- Educate and inspire guests to be greater stewards of the Earth

PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

- Develop criteria, solicit, review and award insitu conservation projects
- Maintain Blank Park Zoo's conservation portfolio
- Research new projects to incorporate into current and future Zoo projects

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING TEAM

- Plan and implement conservation friend-raising and fund-raising events and activities while raising awareness of Blank Park Zoo's conservation efforts and efforts supported by the Zoo's initiatives

REGIONAL CONSERVATION TEAM

- Develop partnerships with regional zoos and conservation organizations to collaborate on region-specific wildlife and environmental concerns

LOCAL OUTREACH TEAM

- Develop partnerships with local conservation organizations
- Serve as a leader in taking action in the local community

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

- Serve as a "clearinghouse" of information related to conservation
- Develop messages that effectively communicate the Zoo's green and conservation efforts to all audiences

Coins for Conservation

The Zoo continues to donate 25 cents of every admission, or \$1 of every membership, to conservation efforts locally, nationally and internationally through our Coins for Conservation program. After stopping by the admission entrance of the Zoo, guests drop a 25 cent gold coin into the slot of the machine for the program in which they support. In addition to concentrated efforts onsite, the Zoo also partners with 20 local, national and international animal conservation initiatives in support of wildlife and habitat conservation.

- Alam Sehat Lestari (ASRI) Conservation Project (Borneo)
- AZA's Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF)
- Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Elephant Conservation Through Bee Keeping (Uganda)
- Georgia Sea Turtle Center
- Giraffe Conservation Foundation*
- Health in Harmony (Indonesia)
- Hornbill Research Foundation
- International Rhino Foundation*
- Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program (Greater Prairie Chicken Translocation)*
- Kinabatangan River Spirit Initiative (Malaysia)
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Young Rhino Guardianship Program
- Little Fireface Project (slow loris/Asia)
- Okapi Conservation Project, John Lukas
- Rainforest Rescue
- Save the Tigers
- Seafood Watch
- Snow Leopard Trust
- Uganda Chimpanzee Ambassadors
- WildCRU, Amy Dickman

*Coins for Conservation program

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Monday in June, July and August, the Administration Building was powered by sunlight.



EDUCATION

Education continues to be one of Blank Park Zoo's most highly held forces to carry out its mission of inspiring an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education and recreation. It is through each program of educational outreach that Blank Park Zoo serves over 70,000 people throughout Iowa of all ages each year.

From preschool programs to college students preparing for a career in veterinary or marine science, the Zoo's education department is undeniably a key player in the education of Iowa's future generations.

HIGHLIGHTS



300 school programs were conducted by education staff and 809 non-school programs



2,742 children and adults attended Early Childhood Classes at the Zoo



51,173 people reached through education programs



313 homeschooled children participated in Zoo programming designed specifically for homeschool families



39,681 miles traveled for 202 library programs



10 teacher workshops were hosted and conducted throughout the year; 5 on-site and 5 off-site

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its beginning, the Zoo's teacher workshop program has educated **1,373 teachers**, directly impacting **68,995 Iowa students.**



VOLUNTEERS

Blank Park Zoo volunteers give their time and talents for many reasons, but primary is their love for the institution and a respect for its mission. We, at Blank Park Zoo, treasure our volunteers for their above and beyond commitment and service.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteers gave their time in every department of the Zoo, including animal care, events and office administration
- Over **4,800 volunteer shifts** were filled in 2013, a **29% increase** from 2012
- Night Eyes volunteers put in **4,326 hours**
- **3 more** gardens were adopted by volunteers, totaling 7 in 2013
- **2,187 hours** were logged by corporate volunteers

Top Corporate Group Volunteers

- Wells Fargo
- Nationwide
- Target



A Good Egg Among Many

Marie Myers, an outstanding Blank Park Zoo volunteer, received the “Good Egg Award” in February this year. Marie put in 198.25 hours in 2012 and is a master bartender at Zoo Brew and helps out every week in the Administration Building. Marie is a retired Federal Employee (Secretary) who worked for the Dept of the Army, IRS and the VA Hospital.



Adopt-a-Garden

The Adopt-a-Garden program was started in 2012 to give volunteers with a “green thumb” the opportunity to beautify the Zoo! Volunteers adopt a garden spot and are then given information about color schemes and acceptable plants. Volunteers design, plant and maintain their gardens throughout the year. All adopt-a-garden areas are marked with a yellow sign indicating who their gardeners are.

Zoo Crew

The Zoo Crew program is a volunteer program for teens 13-17 years old. This summer, 64 teens participated in this program. Zoo Crew volunteers receive hands on experience and learn about different areas of the Zoo. Opportunities include working with Guest Services, Education and Animal Care. During 2013, Zoo Crew volunteers put in over 3,800 hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

Blank Park Zoo volunteers put in 22,438 hours in 2013!



Throughout the year, Blank Park Zoo provides a variety of special events that benefit the community by providing entertainment for kids and adults of all ages. This year over 68,000 people attended these events, made possible through the generous support of community sponsors and our devoted volunteers! Attendance and funds raised broke records in two of the Zoo's largest events of the year.

EVENTS



Zoo Brew

Lions, tigers and beers, oh my! Zoo Brew returned this year with an all-time record in attendance. The Zoo had over 22,000 visitors between the 13 evenings. Each Zoo Brew offered live music, a variety of brews and of course all of our animal friends! We rounded off the summer event with proceeds of \$270,000, which would have not been possible without the support all of our guests who attended the midweek event in June, July and August.

**Scheduled for every Wednesday
in June, July & August 2014**



Night Eyes

If you don't think the Zoo can get any sweeter... think again! Night Eyes at Blank Park Zoo has become the sweetest Halloween fun in Central Iowa, and this year's annual event was more than a success! The Zoo had over 28,500 guests and raised more than \$110,000 for Zoo! This tradition allows guests of all ages to visit with magical characters, take rides on the happy haunted train and gather many sweet treats!

**Scheduled for
October 16-19 & 23-26, 2014**



All of the special events at Blank Park Zoo support the many programs and opportunities that are brought to our community by the Zoo and ensure quality care for our many animal friends.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Zoo received over 1,300 gifts, totaling \$667,407 for operating funds.

The Zoo's membership continues to flourish with nearly 10,000 households, generating \$687,000 for programs and operations. Our Wild About Animals capital campaign raised \$1,545,000 for the most ambitious expansion in Zoo history.

Purchase a Zoo Membership

There are many ways to Do the Zoo, but the best way is as a member! Blank Park Zoo members live in 71 of Iowa's 99 counties! Our annual Zoo pass allows members to come and go as often as they like. Members receive exclusive discounts including free or discounted admission to special events, conservation and education organizations and invitations to special member-only events.

Adopt an Animal

This is a fun and unique way to support the Zoo's conservation efforts and create a special bond with one of your favorite Zoo animals. As part of the adoption program you will receive a certificate of adoption, special photo and fact sheet about your animal and your name displayed by the animal exhibit for a whole year.

Host an Event

The Zoo offers a natural, serene escape for special gatherings, and is a great place for private and corporate outings and even weddings. Our staff will assist you in making your day, dinner, meeting or outing spectacular and memorable.

Volunteer

Your time and talents are valuable! Volunteers are essential to the operation of Blank Park Zoo. Volunteers support special events, animal care, education and service projects.

Attend a Fundraiser

Proceeds from Zoo events support animal care, education programs and conservation efforts. From Zoo Brews to Night Eyes to Zoobilation, we are certain to have an event you will love.

Support the Zoo Today

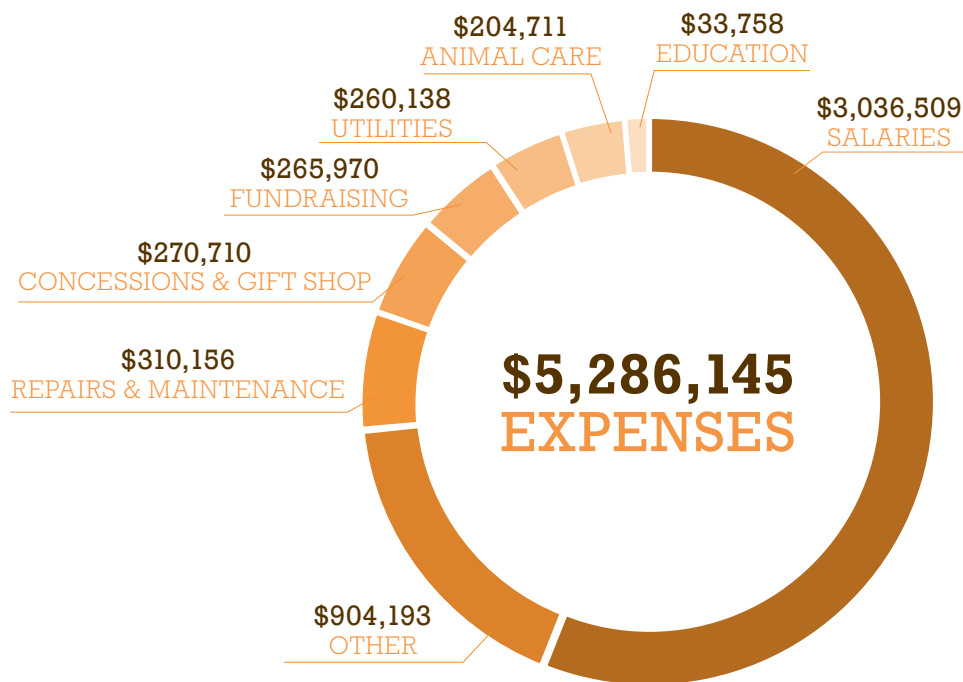
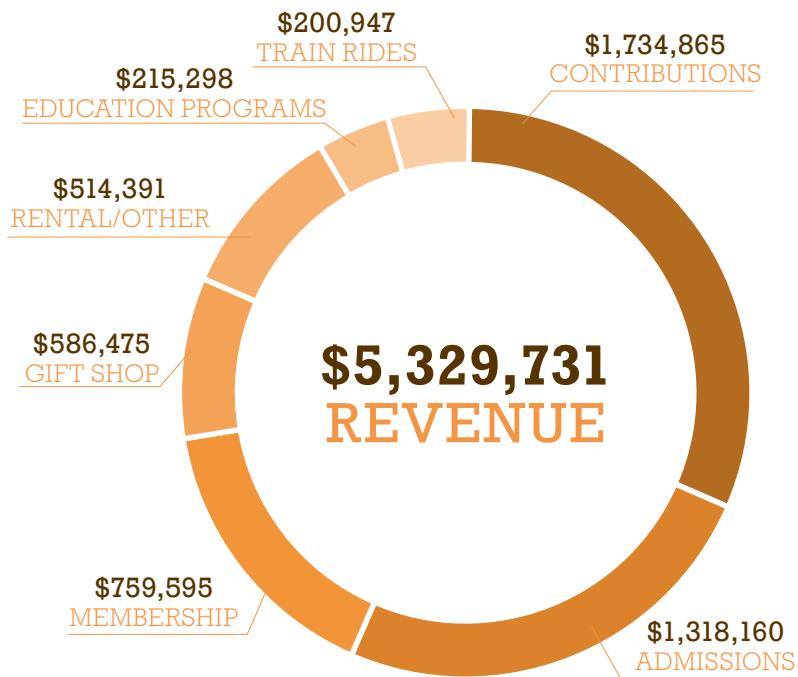
By participating as a corporate sponsor, naming the Zoo in your estate or making an immediate impact to animal care, education and conservation through a gift to the Annual Fund, you can make a difference. Your charitable gift helps Blank Park Zoo care for more than 2,300 animals, offer education programs to more than 120,000 people and take part in conservation efforts worldwide.

DID YOU KNOW?

158 people adopted a Blank Park Zoo animal in 2013

PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET PERFORMANCE

FY 11/1/2012 - 10/31/2013



THANK YOU DONORS

Reflecting on the year shows how far Blank Park Zoo has grown. A look forward shows there is still so much to do. We look forward to working together with our partners and friends for a strong, vibrant 2014.

With deep appreciation, Blank Park Zoo Foundation acknowledges the extraordinary support of all of our donors. Supporters of the Zoo enable us to inspire and entertain visitors, offer quality educational programming and provide the best possible care for our animals. Blank Park Zoo thanks our donors sincerely for making it all possible.

TOP CORPORATE DONORS

Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Bankers Trust
Belin McCormick PC
Bob Brown Chevrolet
Bravo Greater Des Moines
Community State Bank, N.A.
Dahl's Foods
DEX Media
EMC Insurance Companies
Heart of America Group
Hibu (Yellowbook)
Hy-Vee
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Meredith Corporation
MidAmerican Energy
Nationwide Insurance Foundation
DuPont Pioneer
Prairie Meadows
Principal Financial Group
Unity Point Health

TOP MEDIA PARTNERS

Clear Channel Outdoor
Cumulus Media
Des Moines Radio Group
Des Moines Register
KCCI-TV
KCWI-TV
Mediacom
Register Media

ALDABRA SOCIETY

Myron and Jacqueline Blank
John Stoddard
Bruce Boyle
Zach and Azure Christensen
Dean O. Cooper Estate
Holmes and Marjorie Foster
Matt and Bridget Fryar

Lori and Steve Fuqua
Ray and Stacie Hansen
Pat Henson
Elizabeth Kruidenier
Janice Kupfer Davis
Dianna Miller
Mary Jean Paschen
Marilyn and William F. Vernon
Lisa Williams

WILD ABOUT ANIMALS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

November 1, 2012 – October 31, 2013

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 Dakota Olson
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 Cedar Rapids Housing Partners
 Evansdale Housing Partners
 Gregory and Stacia Zink

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Nov. 1, 2012 – Oct. 31, 2013

\$50,000 and Above

Bravo Greater Des Moines
 City of Des Moines

\$20,000-\$49,999

Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company
 Robert and Gloria Burnett
 City of Altoona
 City of Ankeny
 City of Clive
 City of Johnston
 City of Urbandale
 City of West Des Moines
 City of Windsor Heights
 Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
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 Dahl's Foods
 Gartner Family Foundation
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 Meredith Corporation Foundation
 Stan and Dotty Thurston
 State of Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism Program
 Variety – The Children's Charity of Iowa

\$5,000-\$9,999

Community State Bank, N.A.
 DuPont Pioneer
 Paul and Sandy Easter
 Sara Christ
 Heart of America Management
 Michael C. and Deborah S. Hubbell
 Iowa Department of Economic Development
 Nationwide Insurance Foundation
 Noodles and Company
 Prairie Meadows
 Gordon Smith

\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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 Grinnell College
 Jim and Pam Hagenbucher
 John Hancock
 Pat Henson
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 Fred and Charlotte Hubbell Foundation
 Helen and James Hubbell Jr. Family Fund
 Hummel's Nissan
 ING Foundation
 Iowa Department of Administrative Service
 The Iowa Clinic
 Iowa State Bank
 Jackson National
 Chuck and Jaina Johnson
 Dr. James and Mary Ellen Kimball
 Kenton Klein Sr.
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 Longenecker Financial Services
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Speck USA
Spectrum Financial Services
Stadion Money Management
David and Becky Stark
Stroh Corporation
Taco John's of Iowa/CherryBerry
Transamerica
UnityPoint Clinic
US Erectors
The Wellmark Foundation
West Bank

\$500-\$999

American Vintage Hard Tea
Grace Ambrose
Bank of America
Bath Fitter
Matt and Ellie Bishop
Penny Brockelsby
Brown Winick Attorneys at Law
Matt Busick and Elizabeth Brown-Busick
Scott and Kristin Carlson
Zach and Azure Christensen
Davis Brown Koehn Shors and Roberts PC
Essex Meadows Inc.
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines
General Mills
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Ted E. and Corinne Hanke
Ray and Stacie Hansen
Jon and Emily Harris
Sue Hastings
Alexander Hubbell
InnovativEvents Inc.
Iowa Beverage Systems
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Alissa Jourdan
Robert Maddox III
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Raymond and Shirely Michel
Dennis Moore
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Quality Service Corporation
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Lauren Steenhoek
The Stelter Company
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Brian and Jolene Veach
The Vernon Company
Jay D. Vonderhaar
Mark and Charlene Vukovich
David Wallace
Dean and Lisa Whitaker
John and Kathy Williams
Jonathan Wilson
Beth Wilson
Adam Wood
Wayne Woodworth
Sumner and Karen Worth
YMCA of Greater Des Moines
Violet G. Young Charitable Trust
Bert and Michelle Zimmerman

\$300-\$499

1800 Flowers – Flowerama Des Moines
Johnny and Nancy Austin
Clark and Christine Bening
Judy Blank
Mark Burkhardt
Children's Eye Clinic PC
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
De Marco Dental Practice PC
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