



OKLAHOMA PRIMATE SANCTUARY PRESENTS

Wild Hearts

GALA





Evening Program

Friday, October 16, 2026 · Oklahoma City

PRESENTED BY AMERICAN SAFETY & FIRST AID

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Wild Hearts Gala.

Thank you for being here tonight. Many of you have followed our residents for years. You've shared their stories, sent supplies from our wishlist, and given when it mattered most. Tonight is our chance to celebrate what your support makes possible.

Our residents can't join us this evening, but they are the reason we're all in this room. You may recognize Precious from your invitation. You may know Bobby, our 38-year-old white-faced capuchin, whose daily medication is part of a care routine our team keeps every single day. And then there's Kendi, the African green monkey our staff hand-reared after a rescue from exploitation for internet content. Around here, Kendi answers to Doodle Bop.

Every one of them depends on care that happens quietly, day after day, long after an evening like this one ends. Food, medicine, enrichment, safe housing, and the people who show up for them. That is what tonight is for.

A special thank you to our sponsors: American Safety & First Aid, our Wild Hearts presenting partner, Agency In Motion, our Guardian sponsor, and Humane World for Animals, our Champion sponsor. Your generosity made this evening possible. Thank you as well to Rococo for tonight's dinner, and to every volunteer and staff member who helped bring the gala together.

So enjoy the evening. Raise a glass, meet someone new, and know that your presence here is a gift to every resident who calls our sanctuary home.

With gratitude,



Tonnie Dosser

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

The Evening's Program

Devon Great Hall · Oklahoma History Center

6:00 PM

Doors Open & Welcome Reception

Check-in, cocktails and social hour, silent auction, OPS displays and primate stories. Meet OPS staff, board members and ambassadors.

7:00 PM

Welcome & Dinner

Welcome from Tonnie Dosser, Executive Director. Dinner catered by Rococo.

7:30 PM

The OPS Story: *Why They Need Us*

Stories of OPS residents rescued from the exotic pet trade, retired from research or rehomed from difficult circumstances, and the transformation that happens at the sanctuary.

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference

Kate Dylewsky, President of the Board, recognizes the founders, major supporters, veterinary partners, volunteers and community partners who champion OPS and primate welfare.

8:30 PM

Live & Silent Auction and Celebration

Bid on Austin Bateman's live painting and the large primate paintings. Music, conversation, celebration and a final opportunity to support OPS.

8:45 PM

Closing Remarks

Tonnie Dosser, Executive Director

LIVE PAINTING BY
Austin Bateman

MUSIC BY
Sarafina Byrd

WITH GRATITUDE TO

Our Gala *Sponsors*

WILD HEARTS PRESENTING SPONSOR

American Safety & First Aid

safetyandfirstaid.com

GUARDIAN SPONSOR

Agency In Motion

agency-in-motion.com

GUARDIAN SPONSOR

Jeffrey & Cynthia Armstrong

"Your generosity makes our mission possible."

CHAMPION SPONSOR

Humane World for Animals

Oklahoma Chapter
humaneworld.org

WELCOME

Thank you for being here.

Tonight we celebrate the compassion, commitment and community behind Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary. The primates in our care come to us from the exotic pet trade, from research and from difficult circumstances, and once they arrive, they are home for life. Your support is what makes that lifelong care possible.

99	15	12.5
PRIMATES	SPECIES	ACRES

Growing to meet the need

New and Improved Habitats

Safe, enriching spaces built and upgraded so every resident has room to explore, play and rest.

Veterinary and Medical Care

Routine exams, vaccinations, daily medications and emergency care, for as long as each resident lives.

A Growing Care Team

Our animal care staff also serve as behavioral psychologists, nutritionists and so much more for every primate in their care.

A Home for Retired Research Primates

We are preparing OPS to welcome primates retiring from research, so we are ready for the residents who will need us tomorrow.









MEET

Beasley

Give Them a Tomorrow

Beasley, our bonnet macaque, has called OPS home since 2003. Diabetes has taken his sight, but not his place among us. He can no longer see the sanctuary, so our team makes sure he never has to face it alone. His care happens every single day, and it doesn't end when tonight does. Ninety-nine primates are counting on it.

Every day. Every primate. Every need.

WHAT YOUR GIFT BECOMES

$500	One month of fresh produce and enrichment for one primate
$1,000	A routine veterinary exam and a year of vaccinations
$2,500	Habitat enrichment upgrades for an entire enclosure
$5,000	Six months of full care: food, veterinary care and enrichment

Give tonight

Scan with your phone camera to give right from your seat. Any amount helps a primate who has nowhere else to go.

okprimates.org · 100% of your gift reaches the sanctuary

BOARD & STAFF

The People Behind *OPS*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kate Dylewsky
PRESIDENT
Assistant Director of Government Affairs, Animal Welfare Institute

Melissa Tomlinson
VICE PRESIDENT
Donor Relations Advisor, Rainforest Foundation US

Cynthia Armstrong
TREASURER & SECRETARY
Oklahoma Senior State Director, Humane Society of the United States

Mary Freiburger
Former Educator, Norman Public Schools; longtime Oklahoma animal protection advocate and community volunteer

Kylen Huffman
Land Protection Division, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Danielle Kessler
Director, US Office, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Melissa Marshall
Communications Manager, Hunger Free Oklahoma

Nicol Ragland
Documentary Photographer and Filmmaker

SANCTUARY STAFF

Tonnie Dosser
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carly Gruntmier
SANCTUARY MANAGER

Stephanie Dubiel
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

April Kimmel
SOCIAL MEDIA & PROJECT MANAGER

ANIMAL CARE TEAM

Maddie Behrens

Jo Brown

Tatum Kegley

Emily Liles

Rebecca Pirkel

Terrell Rush

VETERINARY SUPPORT

Dr. Alyson Fryer, DVM

Kristian Winningham
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Lynn Cuny
Founder/President, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Kendalia, TX

Robert Ingersoll
Primatologist, Project NIM, Norman, OK & San Francisco, CA

THANK YOU

“We aren't just caring for the primates we have today. We're building a sanctuary for the primates who will need us tomorrow.”

TONNIE DOSSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for celebrating with Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary and for helping us give rescued primates the safe, compassionate and enriching lives they deserve.







ABOUT

Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Newcastle, Oklahoma, dedicated to providing enriched, lifetime care for captive primates. Our residents come to us from the exotic pet trade, from research and from difficult circumstances. Here they find safe habitats, veterinary care, nutritious food, daily enrichment and a dedicated care team for the rest of their lives. To give them the peace they deserve, the sanctuary is not open to the public.

Accredited

By the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Home for Life

99 primates of 15 species on 12.5 acres

Looking Ahead

Growing into a sanctuary for retired research primates

GIVE
okprimates.org

FOLLOW
@okprimates on Facebook & Instagram

CONNECT
info@okprimates.org
(405) 387-4354

WRITE
PO Box 134
Newcastle, OK 73065