Tim and Carolyn Cutt’s Gift Will Feed the Zoo’s Animals

After seeing the pandemic’s effect on Audubon Zoo, Tim and Carolyn Cutt decided to help Audubon Nature Institute through the financial crisis by donating to feed the Zoo’s animals for six months.

“The Zoo has continued to grow and become more inspiring with time, and it is heartbreaking to see how hard the pandemic has hit funding,” said Tim.

Tim and Carolyn both hail from Louisiana, but their careers have moved them far and wide. They met in New Orleans, both graduating from O. Perry Walker High School (now Landry-Walker College and Career Preparatory High School). Carolyn graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Education, and Tim graduated from Louisiana Tech with a degree in Petroleum Engineering. They moved to Houma and Morgan City to start their careers and got married soon after.

(Continued on page 2)
Dear Audubon Family,

Thanks to your generous support, your animals continue to thrive, and your parks continue to be a wonderful source of relaxation for our community. Many exciting things are happening, and we can’t wait to share these moments with you.

In this edition of The Nature of Giving, you’ll read about an inspiring young volunteer and how one family’s generosity helped feed the animals at Audubon Zoo. You’ll also read about how patients from Children’s Hospital New Orleans helped name our newest orangutan.

Your support is so important in helping achieve these milestones. I look forward to seeing you around Audubon’s parks and museums this summer.

With gratitude,

L. Ronald Forman
President and CEO

Through 16 domestic and international moves with the oil industry, they have maintained their strong ties with Audubon. Visiting their favorite Zoo animals was always a highlight of their trips home to see Carolyn’s parents, Joy and Emile Kaler, who became Charter Audubon Members in 1995.

“The Zoo is such an important part of the New Orleans experience, and we are anxious to see it recover and welcome people from all over the world again,” explained Tim.

Now retired and back in Louisiana, they are looking forward to spending more time with their children and grandchildren at Audubon Zoo and Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. They love to take their grandchildren to visit animals like the Zoo’s newest orangutan infant Madu and her parents, Reese and Jambi.

The Cutts hope that their wonderful gift encourages others to give to Audubon. “We hope that the pandemic is under control soon and visitors will begin to frequent the Zoo again,” said Tim. “We also hope that others do what they can to help in the recovery efforts.”

Thank you to the Cutts for your overflowing generosity! Your connection to the Zoo and compassion for the animals are an inspiration.
A Young Volunteer Amplifies Her Impact
Peyton Weeks creatively gives back through Audubon’s Youth Volunteers.

Peyton Weeks has volunteered with Audubon since 2017, when she was a 13-year-old giving Zoo Education talks while presenting a rainbow boa to adults and children.

“During my first year … I got to present to our guests, and I even got the opportunity to handle some of our ambassador animals like snakes, lizards, baby alligators, turtles, and tortoises,” said Weeks.

“Animal handling was one of my favorite parts of volunteering every weekend,” Weeks continued.

Her ties to the youth volunteer program go back even further. Peyton’s mother, once a youth volunteer herself, introduced her to the program. Now, Peyton volunteers on Audubon’s Youth Council.

Peyton’s involvement in the Audubon community allows her to creatively express herself and participate in environmental initiatives like Plastic Free July. This month, Audubon Youth Volunteers are helping to encourage people to reduce plastic waste, challenging them to participate for the entire month.

“Working at the Zoo has taught me how to respect the environment and all the animals in it, and participating in this challenge helps me do my part to conserve the planet,” said Weeks.

“This program has helped me come out of my shell and has always encouraged me to be the best Peyton I can be,” Weeks continued.

The Audubon Youth Volunteer Program is supported by the Trumbull Family Foundation. “Our family is grateful to support Audubon’s Youth Volunteer program that offers youth the opportunity to participate in meaningful educational experiences that foster an appreciation of the natural world,” says George R. Trumbull IV of the Trumbull Family Foundation. “We are proud to watch youth volunteers, like Peyton, deepen their commitment and dedication to conservation and develop into conservation leaders in their communities.”

Thank you to Peyton and all of Audubon’s Youth Volunteers for your wonderful work. Say “hi” to Audubon’s Youth Volunteers when you see them!

“I love being a youth volunteer. I am so grateful to the Audubon community for letting me be my weird, wacky, animal-loving self and always giving me new chances and opportunities.”
— Peyton Weeks
Welcoming Madu!

Thank you to Children’s Hospital New Orleans for your continued support and help in naming the newest member of Audubon Zoo’s orangutan group. In May, patients voted and selected “Madu,” which means honey in Malay. Madu, born to Reese and Jambi, joins the Zoo’s other Sumatran orangutans—Bulan (her half-sister), Menari, and their mother Feliz.

You’re Invited: Tickets on sale NOW!

Support your favorite animals through the 2021 Zoo-To-Do events! These social-distancing-friendly fundraisers will offer an in-person experience for a limited number of guests at Audubon Zoo.

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Zoo-To-Do for Kids presented by Children’s Hospital New Orleans

Friday, September 10
4-8 p.m.
KidsZooToDo.org

Hancock Whitney Zoo-To-Do

Friday, September 17
7-11 p.m.
This year’s event will offer an in-person experience for Sponsors and Patrons only.
ZooToDo.org

This month, Madu turns five months old!