



**PANDAS**  
INTERNATIONAL

# 2008 Annual Report

PO Box 620335 Littleton, CO 80162  
303-933-2365 phone 303-933-7678 fax

## **Mission Statement**

Pandas International is a non-profit organization formed to ensure the preservation and propagation of the Giant Panda. The mission of Pandas International is to raise and provide monies for research, breeding programs, veterinary care and medicines, habitat preservation, and bamboo preservation and education programs to increase public awareness of the panda as a extremely endangered species.

## **Board of Directors**

Aleisha Caruso, Video Productions, Sydney, Australia  
Suzanne Braden, Director, Littleton, CO  
Patricia Hodapp, Press Relations, Santa Fe, NM  
Lisa Husar, Photographer, West Bend, WI  
John Kivimaki, Secretary, Longmont, CO  
Steve Lawrence, Denver, CO  
Sherry Lummis, Chinese Relations, Liaoning, China  
Stephanie Moss, Denver, CO  
Karen Rose, Board Chair, Ft. Collins, CO  
Kim Fong Sheremeta, Denver, CO  
Andrea Sheremeta, Highlands Ranch, CO  
Winston Weaver, Cullman, AL  
Mike Willihnganz, Westminster, CO

## **Honorary Board Members**

Dr. Li Desheng, Sr. Veterinarian, Wolong Nature Reserve, Sichuan, China  
Diane Rees, Co-Founder, Maroochydore, Australia & Boulder, CO  
Dr. Tang Chunxiang, Sr. Veterinarian, Wolong Nature Reserve, Sichuan, China  
Dr. Sam Lane, Colorado Veterinarian, Golden, CO  
Peter Wood, Sichuan Adventure Tours, Chengdu, China  
Dr. John Young, Arvada, CO Veterinarian, Colorado Veterinary Medical Society,  
American Veterinary Medical Society, Academy of Veterinary Consultants

## Letter from Suzanne Braden, Director of Pandas International

2008 was a very difficult year. I've decided to offer only a brief review of '08 since most of our supporters have followed our efforts carefully during the past year.

Jerry and I were excitedly planning a trip to China in June for a wedding and to visit all my friends and the pandas in Wolong.

On May 12, 2008 everything changed. The first reports of the earthquake brought fear and grave concern for the people and the pandas of Wolong. Hours were spent on the phone and on emails trying to find out what had happened: Had Wolong Town and its citizens survived? Had the staff and pandas survived? Were there injuries? How many were injured? How many were dead?

Our board member based in China, Sherry Lummis was finally able to get through to Wolong and immediately began gathering all the emergency items needed to assist the people of Wolong - food, blankets, waterproof sleeping bags and most importantly medicines - all purchased by Pandas International and sent to Wolong with the help of the Red Cross.

During those frantic days, Pandas International was contacted by every major media organization here and abroad for current and reliable information.

I was privileged to be asked to accompany reporter Mark Mullen and his NBC news crew to Wolong. We were one of the first news crews to make it in after the earthquake. (Please see reports on our web site or purchase a copy of *The Quake and the Wolong Pandas: A Personal Journey*. The trip was an experience I'll never forget).

Donations increased exponentially; unfortunately, so did the challenges. The earthquake destroyed or damaged all the electronic equipment so new computers, copiers, and fax machines were needed immediately. With extra support from Dell (in China) we got them to Wolong. Eight panda cubs previously selected to go to Beijing for the Olympics were evacuated from Wolong to Beijing where they remain. The female pandas who might possibly be pregnant were evacuated to Bifengxia but Bifengxia did not have enough incubators for the expected cubs; so two more incubators were ordered and delivered just before the cubs started arriving.

Guo Guo and Long Xin, evacuated together, were the first to deliver cubs on July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup> respectively. In all, a total of 13 cubs were born in 2008 at Bifengxia to Wolong pandas.

The earthquake destroyed the freezers which stored the male panda semen for Artificial Insemination. We quickly needed to find two laboratory quality freezers to try to preserve this genetic material.

In September, we were able to send a state of the art Blood Chemistry Analyzer to Bifengxia after a delay due to the earthquake. In November, milk was needed for the cubs. The milk formula is Esbilac manufactured in the US by PetAg in Illinois. The milk was delivered in December. Since all the pandas must be identified by a micro chip, micro chips, implanters and a new chip reader were also sent in December.

In addition, we were able to send anesthetic, worming paste, syringes, bandages and other supplies to the Vets.

So, I think it's safe to say Pandas International came of age during this catastrophic event and was able to have a major impact on the continued well being of the Wolong pandas, the staff and all the locals in Wolong town. We are extremely proud of our response and extremely grateful to all those from around the world who sent donations to support our emergency relief efforts.

What is the current situation for the pandas and the plans for 2009? Except for Mao Mao, who tragically died in her enclosure, and Xiao Xiao, who is still listed as missing, all the pandas and all the staff are safe. But they are refugees from their home in Wolong.

Most of the Wolong pandas are at the sister center in Bifengxia. The remaining pandas are at other facilities in China. Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan have just recently gone to their new home in Taiwan. Bifengxia has built temporary enclosures and divided some enclosures in order to house more pandas.

2009 will be a year devoted to rebuilding our beloved Wolong Panda Center at a location somewhere within the Wolong Nature Reserve. Since the earthquake devastated the bamboo of the area for both the captive pandas and their wild cousins, replanting bamboo will also be a major undertaking.

Details of the new Wolong Panda Center are still being worked out. Geologists are determining the safest place to rebuild. Director Zhang Hemin has already asked Pandas International to "adopt" a valley in the Nature Reserve to replant bamboo.

So, the earthquake of 2008 is behind us leaving enormous new challenges for 2009. We've got to continue our usual support of the daily needs of pandas and staff while at the same time helping with rebuilding and replanting. Make no mistake about it - these obligations will require unprecedented support. All I can hope

for is that the generous support Pandas International received in 2008 following the earthquake will continue in 2009.

I would like to thank first and foremost the Panda Father, Professor Zhang Hemin, Director of the Wolong and Bifengxia Panda Centers and each and every staff member who worked tirelessly to evacuate tourists, the injured, and their precious pandas even while not knowing about the safety of their own loved ones. There are not enough thanks for Sherry Lummis who was our hero, working I think on about 2 hours sleep a night, and the Herculean task she and her staff accomplished to get supplies to Wolong in the midst of the chaos. And, of course, our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who rallied so quickly to help make this all happen!

I will close by wishing everyone peace, passion, and prosperity for the New Year and asking that you continue your wonderful support. It is needed now more than ever.

*Suzanne Braden*

Suzanne Braden, Director  
Pandas International

## **Accomplishments in 2008**

### **Emergency Earthquake Support**

Following the earthquake Pandas International's mission had to broaden, the pandas needed the staff, the staff needed the locals of Wolong so they all need help and supplies. The earthquake obviously damaged all the electrical equipment.

Immediately following the Earthquake Pandas International provided

- 6,000 pounds of medicines purchased in Northern China and shipped to Wolong
- 150 sleeping bags
- Bags of rice and dried vegetables
- 10 Dell Computers
- 1 Panasonic Copier
- 2 Brother Tel Copier
- Two New Incubators

Many of the Pandas were thought to be pregnant so they we moved to Bifengxia as soon as possible but there were no incubators there so there was an immediate need for two new incubators

- Two New laboratory quality Freezers

Unfortunately the freezers at Wolong were damaged by the earthquake and with out power the panda semen stored in them was destroyed. New freezers were needed to preserve panda semen for future generations.

### **Medical Program & Direct Support of the Panda Reserves**

In 2008 Pandas International provided

- A Mindray Blood Chemistry Analyzer
- Esbilac Formula for the cubs 100 – 10 KG bags in November 2008
- Esbilac Formula for the cubs 100 – 10 KG bags in March 2008
- Immuno Reagents for testing of female pandas
- Fleece blankets for the Incubators
- Trovan micro chip, micro chips, implanters and a new chip reader
- rotors (discs) for the VetScan blood chemistry machines
- Several boxes of Isoflurine Anesthetic
- Large quantities of basic supplies such as worming paste, syringes, IV catheters, baby bottles and nipples

### **Adoption Program**

Money from panda adoptions provides direct funds for the on going care at Wolong. Following the earthquake adoptions increased dramatically. Adoptions through Pandas International are world wide including the USA, Australia, Malaysia, Canada, China and the UK. We sincerely hope everyone who adopted after the earthquake will renew their adoptions for 2009.

### **Education Program**

During 2008 we continued to answer emails and letters from students and helped many students with reports on Pandas. Pandas International distributed education kits to classrooms across the U.S. plus many foreign countries.

Panda International continually works to inform and educate regarding the Giant Pandas.

We feel children are the best ambassadors for the pandas and frequently get the entire family involved. The more students take an interest in endangered species, specifically pandas, the more likely they will care about them as adults and donate to help them continue to thrive and survive. We are developing a new Pennies4Pandas program for 2009.

## 2008

### Income

Total Income \$ 351,586 \*

\*more than doubled from 2007 due to the outpouring of support after the May earthquake

### Program Expenditures

Support of the China Conservation & Research center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP)

Medical Equipment and Supplies \$ 76,593

Esbilac Milk Formula \$ 58,268

Other including Earthquake supplies \$ 42,027

Adoption Fees \$ 39,581

Educational Program \$ 23,642

Salaries for Program Expenses \$ 6,735

**Total Program Expenditures \$ 246,846 75%**

Administration

Total Administration expenditures \$ 12,747 4%

Fundraising \$ 54,518

Salaries for Fundraising \$ 15,715

Total Fundraising expenditures \$ 70,233 21%

\*Financial Statement audited by Taylor, Roth and Company, PLLC Certified Public Accountants

### **What's ahead for 2009**

Pandas International will focus our 2009 efforts on helping to Rebuild the Wolong Panda Center in the new location within the Wolong Nature Reserve and Replanting bamboo within the Nature Reserve. We will work closely with Director Zhang Hemin and Dr. Li Deshang and the other veterinarians.

Below are Dr. Li's responses to questions regarding our efforts

#### **1. How can Pandas International help you over the next 5 years?**

The US Esbilac milk formula powder, veterinary medicines, equipments for monitoring and hand-rearing donated by Panda International make great contribution to our giant panda conservation as well as our centers development. In the next five years, we hope you can continue to donate these to our center as they are hard to purchase in China.

#### **2. Do you know where the new Wolong Center will be built?**

Because of our centers great destruction by the earthquake and the secondary geological disasters, we have to choose a new site to reconstruct. In consideration of natural biology environment, researching capability, conservation groundwork, secondary disaster and other factors, the new site is chosen between Huangcaoping and Shenshuping in Gengda Town. The new center is planned to be a comprehensive base, integrating giant panda research, breeding and reintroduction. Meanwhile, CCRCGPs disease control center will be built in Dujiangyan.

#### **3. Do you know when it will be completed?**

Hong Kong Special Administration Region assists our centers reconstruction. The plan will start in this spring. It is estimated to be finished in 2011.

**4. After this center is completed, will you have everything you need or will there still be items you might need from Pandas International?**

As soon as our center finishes construction, what we need most urgent is some special and advanced scientific research equipment. It is always very expensive, but the fund we get from the State is limited. If we can get generous donation from the international community, we will be very grateful.

**5. You had mentioned planting bamboo in a valley for the wild pandas. Is this still a priority?**

Yes, we will plant bamboo in the valley. But the first is to settle the local people. Meanwhile, we will undertake the recovery of bamboo and vegetation. We will carry out grain for bamboo project, which does not only accelerate the vegetation recovery and supply food for the giant panda, but also increase the income of the local people. In addition, we will do the relevant greening project by setting up a plantation for herb, shrub and arbor to speed the vegetation recovery. However, we need to hire about 20 local people to take care of the plantation. If Panda International can help us to pay these peoples salary, we would be so grateful.

**6. Will there be more focus on reintroduction?**

We did reintroduction training and built relevant training fields last year. But because of the quake, we had to stop the program. This year, we will re-start it. Meanwhile, we also need some relevant equipment.

**7. The buildings will be built, but will there be equipment needed?**

First of all, thank Panda International for sending our center a lot of office equipments, apparatus and medicines after the quake. After we finish reconstruction, our new base acquires a variety of equipments and facilities. At present, we are discussing and will make out the plans.

**8. Are there staffing needs or staffing education?**

Till now, we don't carry out any special allowance to our excellent employees and the poverty-stricken families. We expect we can have the special funds (no less than 100,000 RMB each year) for our employees' further training and encouragement, including helping the ones whose family has financial difficulties.

**Summary from the Director**

2008 was an amazing and exhausting year. The devastating earthquake of May 12, 2008 created vast needs for the pandas and the panda center. Emergency response required wasting no time. An enormous Thank You to our "Director of Operations" in China Sherry Lummis and all her staff, who dropped everything to purchase, pack, and ship the earthquake supplies!

Thank you to everyone who was moved by this horrific tragedy to make a donation, adopt a panda or express concern for the pandas.

2009 will need to be as successful a year for fundraising is we are going to be able to provide Dr. Li with the items he has outlined above.

*Suzanne Braden*

Suzanne Braden