

PANDA PRESS



2018

Pandas International

Endangered means we have time...extinction is forever.

Letter from the Director



A huge THANK YOU to all our donors who made 2018 a wonderful year for the Conservation efforts of Pandas International. This year marks 18 years of support for the Giant Pandas.

Please review the complete list below of the array of items You provided during 2018. This was the largest donation of Esbilac milk formula we have ever provided to feed all the new cubs. Thanks to you, panda cubs had nutritional formula, and full tummies. On behalf of them, thank you for providing the care and formula they need to grow strong and healthy.

Thank you to all our corporate sponsors for their support in 2018, especially Slickdeals - keep checking those deals daily. Check out all of our Panda Partners on our website at <https://www.pandasinternational.org/panda-partners/> and support the companies that support Pandas International.

I would like to extend a huge Thank You to all the wonderful philanthropic kids who participated in Pennies 4 Pandas projects, held panda birthday parties, bake sales, lemonade sales, craft sales and violin concerts - You are all Great. Keep up the good work. Several of these amazing young people raised enough money to adopt a panda!

I would also like to take the opportunity to express our thanks to the staff of all the panda bases. The vets, keepers, lab techs, reintroduction team and support staff work hard every day for our beloved pandas.

Colorado Gives Day is December 4, 2018, so please consider an end of the year donation on this day to keep our efforts going forward in 2019. (See insert)

Thank you for your continued support and friendship. Our ongoing goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our support for the pandas, and you truly make this possible!

Pandas International could not function without YOU so Thank You. We are looking forward to much more in 2019!

Suzanne Braden, Volunteer Director

What YOU made possible in 2018

Direct Support of the Panda Reserves' (CCRCGP) four panda centers:

- Wolong Nature Reserve Shenshuping Panda Centre, Gengda, Sichuan Province China
- Wolong Nature Reserve Wenchuan, Hetaoping Reintroduction Base, Sichuan Province China
- Bifengxia Nature Reserve Yucheng District, Ya'An City, Sichuan Province China
- Dujiangyan Center for Disease Control, Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province China

Additional support provided to:

- Shaanxi Wild Animal Rescue and Research Center, Louguantai, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province China
- The Rangers of the An Zi He Nature Reserve

Pandas International's Accomplishments in 2018

- Adoption donations which help provide for the care and daily needs of the pandas
- Esbilac Milk Formula 180 bags (3,968 lbs.)
- Educational Exhibition at the Panda Cultural Conference
- Distemper vaccines
- Vet Supplies: clippers, worming medications, nets, jab sticks
- Radios and antennas for the GPS collars
- Delivery of new transportation cages

Highlights of Pandas International Support of CCRCGP and Panda Conservation

Over the last 18 years Pandas International has contributed supplies, adoption fees and funding for assorted projects which totaled approximately 3.5 million USD, due to our wonderful individual and corporate support.

Pandas International has provided:

- Annual supply of Esbilac Milk Formula for the cubs
 - Annual supply of Distemper Vaccines & Anesthetics
 - Annual Vet Supplies: clippers, worming medications, nets, jab sticks, syringes, stretchers, oximeters, micro chips
 - Hormonal Reagents and Assays for reproduction
 - New transportation cages of improved quality and lighter weight
 - VetScan2 Blood Chemistry Analyzers & Anesthesia machines -Two for the Hospitals and two portable for field work
 - Incubators so twins and cubs rejected by their mothers can survive
 - State of the art Ultrasound machine and a training trip to the US for two veterinarians, performing the ultrasounds
 - Funds to purchase and plant bamboo in the Wolong Nature Reserve funded by the Annenberg Foundation
 - GPS Collars, radios and antennas for the Reintroduction program to ensure a strong gene pool in the wild pandas
 - Educational Exhibition at the Panda Cultural Conference
 - Staff Training in the labs at Dujiangyan and equipment for the new labs with Dr. Kersey
 - Enrichment toys to stimulate the pandas in their enclosures
 - Funds for a protection fence in Shenshuping Panda Base of CCRCGP in the Wolong Nature Reserve
 - Helped sponsor the 2016 International Conference on Giant Pandas
 - Rebuilding of the Love corridor at Bifengxia so visitors can learn about the Pandas
 - Research on: Reproductive hormones, Genetic and Molecular cells, and Distemper
 - 2008 Emergency Earthquake support: medicines, food, computers, copiers, tents and sleeping bags
- AND MUCH MORE!



Panda Culture Week-Beijing

With funding from the Annenberg Foundation, Pandas International was asked to support the first Panda Culture Week in Beijing. The event was designed to stress the importance of protecting and celebrating the Giant Pandas to the general population both in China and around the world.

The China Giant Panda International Culture Week was supported by the State Council Information Office, the State Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the provincial governments of Sichuan, Shanxi and Gansu. The Exhibition was held at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing.

The event was co-sponsored by the Sichuan Regional government and The China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Pandas (CCRCGP). Pandas in Sichuan Province are well known and respected but less so throughout the rest of the country.

The recent change in elevating CCRCGP within the Department of Forestry and Grasslands, reflects the importance the central government is devoting to the panda.

Opening Ceremonies for The Culture Week included top Government Officials as well as Foreign Ambassadors from countries which have Pandas. Following the opening ceremonies the Panda Exhibit was officially opened.

At the opening ceremony, fourteen international ambassadors for the promotion of giant panda culture were named. The "ambassadors" included foreign ambassadors to China, officials, giant panda experts, entrepreneurs and celebrities. The "ambassadors" will commit to promoting the cultural symbol of the giant panda around the world.

The exhibition designed by CCRCGP included historical photographs, art, photography, calligraphy, coins, whimsical panda lanterns, a world map showing locations of captive Pandas and interactive activities to encourage participation and learning.





Interactive areas included:

- A tea tasting area specializing in tea fertilized with panda poop
- A station in the coin exhibit area where you could strike your own panda coin
- An art area where kids and adults could paint Panda banks or Chinese Lanterns
- A Virtual Reality station, where with the VR system, you could pet a panda, gather bamboo to feed a panda, watch a panda fall from a tree and experience a panda roar.

The interactive exhibitions served to get a younger audience more interested in the pandas and therefore learn more. The lighted large panda lanterns were whimsical and enchanting to the younger visitors and some of the older ones as well.

Parts of the exhibition will be moved to various locations in Sichuan and some parts will be stored for future exhibitions. Items from the gift stores are already at the panda bases in Dujiangyan.

Pandas International was pleased to participate in this effort to increase public awareness and the importance of Panda Culture including Conservation and Celebration of the Pandas. Pandas International and CCRCGP would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Annenberg Foundation for their support of this successful exhibition.

Panda Adoptions

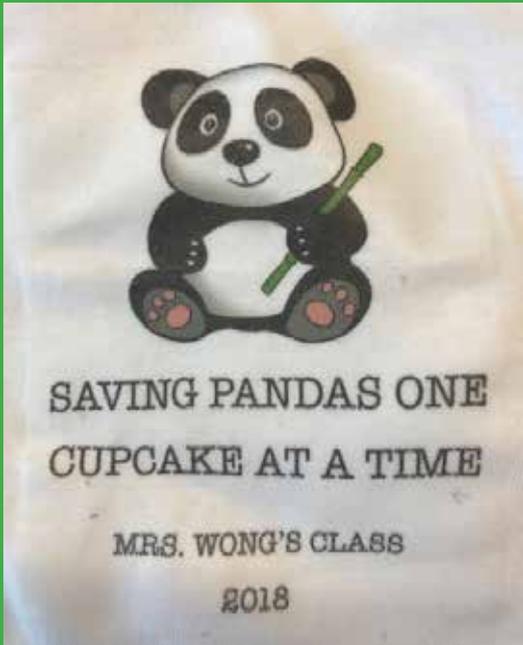
Adoptor	Adopted Panda	Nickname	Country	Adoptor	Adopted Panda	Nickname	Country
Ana Buenaventura, Maria Frizzoni, Charlene Johnson, Roxanne Tran and Joey Tu	Bao Bao*		USA and Switzerland	Panda Lovers	Wen Yu		International
Kyle and Alan Bell	Hua Mei		USA	Sharon Ludwig	Man Lan	Chun Chun IV	USA
Daniel Bojmel	Qing Qing		USA	In Memory of Carmen Lutz	Bei Bei		USA
Gail Bradley	Tuan Zi		USA	Carol Magidson	Pang Niu		USA
Natalia Arduca	Chun Qiao	Lucy Arduca	Australia	JoAnn and Joe Mann	Wen Hui		USA
Suzanne and Jerry Braden	Qing Feng Su Shan Zhang Ka	Harvey Jr. Evelyn	USA	Jim Tupper and Andi McLean	Qing Shan	An Di	UK
Bonnie Budwig	Ao Ao		USA	Patricia Millius	Bao Bao		USA
Bill and Karom Burke	Jin Ke		USA	Cynthia Murphy	Hai Zi		USA
Chet Chin	Feng Yi Gong Gong Gong Zhu	Yoong Ping Feng Er	Malaysia	Jim and Ashley Oberhofer	Jla Jia	Tammy Sue	USA
Libby Covey	Bei Bei		USA	Michael Lent and Canta Pian	Zhen Zhen's 2nd 2017 Cub		USA
Mark and Bonny Daniels	Fu Long		USA	Johanna and Stephen Pond	Bao Bao		USA
Jeanette Deines	Su Lin		USA	Mollie Rivera	Hua Mei		USA
Jeanette Deines and Velia Watts	Zhen Zhen		USA and Canada	Wayne Robinson	Duo Duo	Jasmine	Australia
Ava DiNapoli	TBD		USA	Tom and Monica Rogan	Jin Ke	Peter	USA
Anne Wescott Dodd	Chun Qiao		USA	Quynh Le Nhu and Olivier Schneegans	Fu Long		France
Judy Dolan	Huan Huan Qian Qian		USA	Port Allen Elementary School	Chu Xin		USA
Nart Fongsmut	Wen Hui		Thailand	Village School	Tong Tong	Village	USA
Frele Family	Chun Qiao	Ki Ki	USA	El Morro Elementary School	Qiao Qiao's 2017 cub	Lily	USA
Maria Frizzoni	Bei Bei Han Han		Switzerland	Kim Fong and Frank Sheremeta	Ya Jun		USA
goodr	Xin Xin	Jean Claude Pan Damme	USA	Yusuf Sherzad	Xin Xin		USA
Christie and Todd Harper	Bao Bao		USA	Tomoko and Akihiko Shimura	Qiao Qiao's 2017 cubs	Qiao Tao Qiao Ying	Japan
Ceci and David Howes	Yi Yun		Canada	Selah Smith	Su Xing		USA
Patricia Jacobs	Ying Ying	Willa	USA	Sophie Staples	Bing Bing		USA
Leslie and Paul Johnson	Bei Bei		USA	Nattaprapa Suriyamontol	Lin Bing		Thailand
Ellen Keely	Chun Qiao Hua Mei Tuan Zi Xin Xin Yuan Zai Yue Yue Zhen Zhen		USA	Cami Taylor	Bing Jing		USA
Walter Kopcza	You You		USA	Ron and Susan Telesko	Ge Ge Jun Zhu	Su-Lin Ar-Lin	USA
Carla Kwok	Qing Qing		China	uGurus	Ran Ran Qiao Yi	Guru Nug Nug	USA
Annie Lai	Ning Ning Rong Rong	Hong Hong	Hong Kong	The Treyvauds	Ran Ran		Australia
Gayle Lego	A Jie Min Min		USA	Mary Vinquist	Hao Hao		USA
Rui Lily Li	Tong Tong Xi Meng		China	Hayden Vinquist	Tian Bao		USA
Carol Loveless	Su Shan		USA	Nottaporn Visutasunthorn	Lin Bing		Thailand
				Simon Westwood	A Jie		UK
				Karen Wille	Bei Bei		USA
				Linda Wroth	Hai Zi		USA
				Judy Young	Bao Bao		USA
				Annette Yuen	Ao Yun	Ao Yun Yuen	Hong Kong
					Si Jia	Si Jia Yuen	
				Weiyi Zhang	Qian Qian		China

***LIFETIME ADOPTION**

3rd Graders Adopt a Panda

By Tamara Wong

My 3rd Grade class participated in a panda fundraising project called "Saving Pandas One Cupcake at a Time". We had families in our classroom donate 550 unfrosted cupcakes. We then transformed our classroom into a bakery. My students frosted and decorated the cupcakes to look like pandas and we sold them all during our lunchtime. Each of my students was also given a panda shaped bank and they were encouraged to participate in giving their pennies to the pandas! Between Pennies 4 Pandas and our panda cupcake sale, we generated \$1,051.00! We were able to donate these funds to Pandas International and we happily adopted a panda cub. My students were so proud of their efforts and they were able to see what hard work and determination could accomplish. My students felt they were able to do their part in helping to preserve the pandas for future generations to enjoy.



Aaron Raises Over \$1,400 for the Pandas

Aaron picked Giant Pandas for a first grade research project several years ago. He read books and watched videos. Aaron and his family fell in love with these wonderful animals and visited their exhibits at the San Diego and National Zoos. Aaron decided to ask for donations instead of gifts at his 7th, then 8th AND now 9th birthday parties! The themes changed over the years with his interests, but he always finds a way to include the pandas – as a Jedi, a basketball MVP, or a wizard!

Thanks to the generosity of friends and family, he collected \$517 this year, raising over \$1400 since June 2016 for Pandas International.



An Zi He Rangers

A google alert came in one morning about the rangers working to monitor the Pandas and other wildlife in An Zi He Reserve. The news article talked about how they didn't have the proper hiking boots and equipment for their work in the harsh conditions of the Qionglai Mountains. But what got us most was the problem with leeches getting on their skin! The head ranger, Mr. Fu Qiang, was quoted in the article so we immediately asked our invaluable advisory board member Zhang Weiyl to try to call the rangers and find out if PI could provide equipment for their extremely important work.

PI, through the wonderful donations of our supporters, was able to provide boots, socks*, pants and jackets for their field work! Thanks to all of you, they now are better equipped to work in the field. But the climate is harsh on shoes, etc so this will need to be an ongoing commitment.

Suzanne was privileged to visit the rangers of An Zi He while in China recently. She was humbled by their gratitude. Here is the post Mr. Fu posted after her visit translated by Ms. Zhang:

"Who has ever thought that due to an article on internet an organization began to pay attention to protectors behind the giant pandas in An Zi He Reserve? Who has ever thought that ordinary workers in the frontline can also attract loving heart of unknown people from afar! They are donating outfits, asking about our needs, concerning about our hardship, logistics, safety and protection in the wild. No words can express our gratitude. Moved by unexpected nice surprise.

Actually what we are doing is our own job. However we still want to say sincerely from our heart: Thank you PI! Thank you those who love nature!"

Pandas International was very touched by his kind words.

These rangers go into the wild for up to 14 days, - Backpacking for 14 days! They can find upwards of 100 traps on each trip. People come to the mountains, from other areas and set traps for Takins and other animals like deer BUT Pandas can and DO get caught in these traps.

If our mission is Conservation and saving the Pandas we have to support these very hard working rangers! They do 8 or more trips per year which is over 800 traps they could find and countless pandas they can save.

For reference, An Zi He is on the "other" side of the Wolong Mountains. So wild Pandas pass freely from the Wolong side to the An Zi He side, so we must do all we can to protect all wild pandas

*see the insert and help the rangers "Give a sock, get a sock"



Louguantai and Qi Zai

Unfortunately in 2014, an outbreak of Distemper occurred at the Shaanix Wild Animal Research Center (SWARC) panda center, in Louguantai outside of Xian. It was at this point that PI became heavily involved in providing American manufactured Distemper Vaccines to this Panda base as well as CCRCGP. Pandas International has been providing CCRCGP with Distemper Vaccines since 2010.

PI visits the panda bases annually to ensure funds are well spent and to prioritize important needs. So we felt it was important to visit the base in Louguantai and assess the work and needs of their center. The old area where the Distemper outbreak occurred has been permanently closed. Their 20 pandas, are now in an area closed to the public awaiting the opening of their new center, sometime next year.

The new center will have exhibits for Pandas, Golden Monkeys, Takins and a large aviary for Ibis.

The pandas at SWARC are a subspecies of Giant Pandas from the Qinling Mountain Range of Shaanxi Province. Based on 2 components; skull and molar sizes the pandas are grouped in to Qinling and Sichuan species. The Qinling are characterized by significantly smaller skulls and larger molars as compared to the Sichuan cluster.



While all the Pandas at SWARC were adorable, the uniqueness prize has to go to Qi Zai! What a bundle of chocolate love! Qi Zai is ONE of 9 known brown Pandas. The brown color is a very rare, recessive gene. He is the only one in captivity and is the seventh of 9 to be sighted. The other 8 have only been captured on infrared cameras in the wild. Qi Zai was found abandoned and rescued by the center.

SWARC would like to do more research on the brown Pandas and attempts were made to breed Qi Zai this spring but he was just not quite ready, but he was very interested in the female next to him. He spends most of his day at the peek-a-boo window between the two enclosures.

Even if he does breed with a black and white female, odds strongly suggest the cub too, will be black and white! Not to say black and whites are not super cute, but Qi Zai is definitely unique and we would like to know more about his genes.



Pandas as an Umbrella Species

The Giant Pandas are an Umbrella species. The concept of an umbrella species has been used by conservation practitioners to provide protection for other species using the same habitat as the umbrella species. As the term implies, a species casts an “umbrella” over the other species by being more or equally sensitive to habitat changes. Thus monitoring this one species and managing for its continued success results in the maintenance of high quality habitat for the other species in the area. Animals identified as umbrella species typically have large home ranges that cover multiple habitat types.

Dr. Ron Swaisgood, head of the Behavioral Ecology Division of the San Diego Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego Zoo reports that in the giant panda’s habitat, there are 14 mammals, 20 Birds and 82 Amphibians, including: Snow Leopards, Golden Monkeys, Asiatic Black Bears, Sambars (a large deer), Takins, Golden Pheasants, Leopard Cats, Tufted Deer and Temminck’s Tragopan (colored pheasant).

Protecting giant pandas and their habitats is expensive, but the monetary returns are estimated to be between 10 and 27 times as much as the costs, according to a group of international zoologists.

The giant panda was downgraded from “endangered” to “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in September 2016. The Switzerland-based organization cited the 17 percent rise in the bear’s population in the decade up to 2014, when a nationwide census found 1,864 of them in the wild in China.

“I have always wanted to quantify the costs and benefits of protecting pandas, even before the species was downgraded,” said Wei Fuwen, a conservation biologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and lead scientist of the study. “The downgrading is a sign that society’s investment has started to pay off in terms of panda population recovery,” Wei said. China opened its first nature reserves for the bears about four decades ago, he said. It now has 67, which safeguard about two-thirds of the giant pandas in the wild.

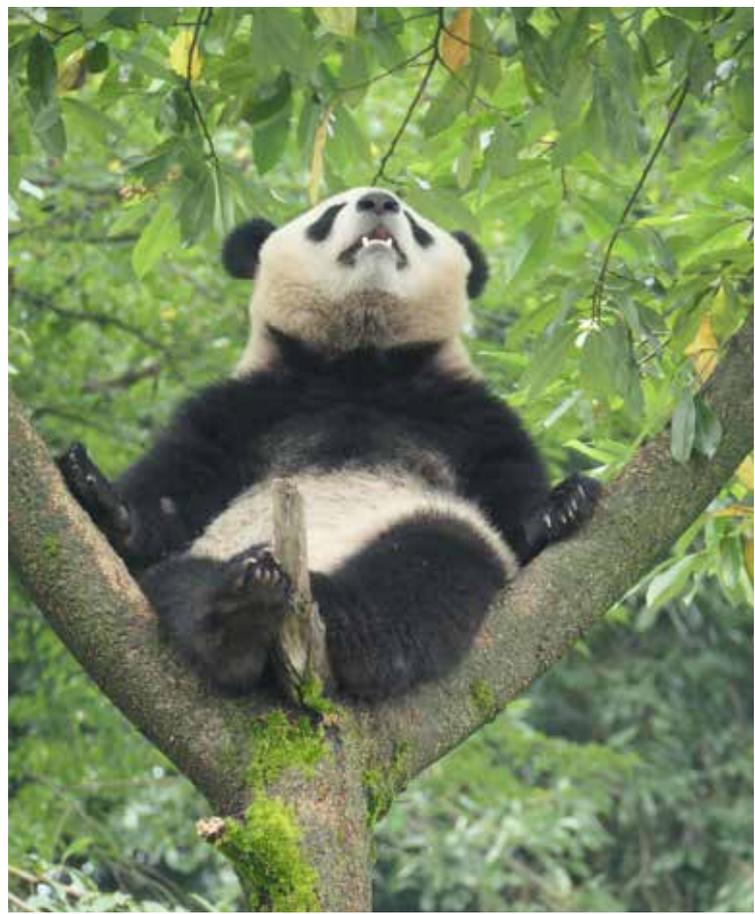
“Some argue it’s not worth pouring millions of dollars just to save one species, because they didn’t see the benefits to the whole ecosystem, where thousands of other animals live,” said Li Sheng, a zoology researcher with Peking University in Beijing who was not involved in the study.

With its unrivalled public appeal, the giant panda serves as a flagship species when it comes to protecting wildlife and their habitats, the study said. They are known as an umbrella species because their habitats also provide a home to other species, as these reserves have some of the greatest biodiversity in the world. As well as helping other kinds of wildlife, the giant panda reserves help local people wanting to grow crops and graze animals. They also have access to plentiful supplies of water and firewood.

Peking University’s Li said that while the panda’s cuteness helped to draw more public attention and government funds, the money spent on the species also benefited other wildlife.

Full article: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/2158235/china-making-huge-profits-its-giant-panda-protection-programme>





Transportation Cages

In 2017, PI was asked to provide funds for new transportation cages. The cages are needed anytime pandas need to be transported from one location to another. The old cages were extremely heavy and rusty. Mr. Wei designed the new cages and spent about one year revising the design.

The new cages are made of stainless steel and are significantly lighter. The new ones have built in handles which slide in and out. Each cage has a liner pan underneath the cage to catch waste.

The new cages will be much better for the pandas and the keepers. The old ones were so heavy that it was difficult to even budge one end of the cage. The new ones are so light Weiwei and Suzanne could carry it with ease. Remember the weight of the cage is very important because it is before you add a 150 to 300 pound panda.

Transportation cages are important any time a panda needs to be moved to a new enclosure for enrichment stimulation, to the breeding area or for medical attention.

There were 2 sizes of cages delivered. 5 with big locking wheels, for use within the bases. 5 others without wheels, for use in rugged terrain like the reintroduction areas. Plus 3 smaller ones for younger pandas.

The cages were delivered to the Dujiangyan panda base one day that Suzanne was visiting.



Mark your calendars

Pandas International will host our annual Chinese New Year's Dinner on Saturday, February 9, 2019.

The dinner will be at the Calvary Event Center at Monaco and E. Hampden in Denver, Colorado.

The larger venue will allow for more wonderful auction items and a larger attendance.

For More information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website.



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Monthly Donations are a simple and easy way to help the pandas. For as little as \$10.00 you can sign up for automatic donations for 2019. Just go to the Donate Today Button on our website, enter the amount and click the box – "Make this a Monthly Donation". The Pandas will Thank You!

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Pandas International

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