

PANDA PRESS



2019

# Pandas International

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

# Letter from the Director

WOW — 2020 is almost here, which will mean 20 years for Pandas International. A huge THANK YOU to all our donors who made 2019 a wonderful year for Pandas International's conservation efforts. This year marked 19 years of support for the giant pandas.

Please review the complete list below of the array of items YOU provided during 2019. This was the largest donation of Esbilac milk formula we have ever provided to feed all the new cubs. On behalf of them, thank you for providing the care and formula they need to grow up strong and healthy.

Thank you to all our corporate sponsors for their support in 2019 (see back page). If you know of a company who would like to support the pandas, please ask them to get in touch with us.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the wonderful philanthropist kids who did Pennies4Pandas projects, held panda birthday parties, bake, lemonade and craft sales, organized school projects and one who held a violin concert — you are all great — Keep up the good work. Several of these great young people raised enough money to adopt a panda!

I would also like to take this 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 10, 2019, so please consider an end-of-the-year donation on this day to keep our efforts going forward in 2020. (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 and we are so very grateful for all that you do. We are hoping 2020 will be a wonderful year to celebrate our 20th Anniversary! 2020 will be the Year of the Rat, which represents the beginning of a new day, so let's get ready for a new beginning for the pandas.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Braden Volunteer Director



## What YOU made possible in 2019

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 three nature reserves in China
- Environmental field research on distemper and effects of rising temperatures on bamboo growth

## Pandas International's Accomplishments in 2019

- Adoption donations which help provide for the care and daily needs of the pandas
- Annual supply of 180 bags of esbilac milk formula
- Distemper vaccines
- Vet supplies: clippers, worming medications, nets, jab sticks
- GPS collars for the pandas
- Construction of staff housing in the mountains of the reintroduction program
- GPS collars for dogs for distemper research and environmental monitoring equipment

# Highlights of Pandas International's Support of CCRCGP, SWARC and Panda Conservation

Over the last **5** years Pandas International has contributed supplies, adoption fees and funding for assorted projects which totaled over **1.7 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 and anesthetics
- Annual vet supplies: clippers, worming medications, nets, jab sticks, syringes, stretchers, oximeters, microchips
- Construction of new staff housing at the Tiantaishan Mountain of the reintroduction program
- GPS collars, radios and antennas for the reintroduction program to ensure a strong genetic pool for the wild pandas
- Hormonal reagents and assays for reproduction
- New transportation cages of improved quality and lighter weight
- VetScan2 blood chemistry analyzers and anesthesia machines
- 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
- Landscaping and bamboo planting in Shenshuping provided by explore.org
- Protective fencing at the Shengshuping Panda Base of CCRCGP in the Wolong Nature Reserve
- Educational exhibition at the Panda Cultural Conference
- Staff training in the labs at Dujiangyan and equipment for the new labs with Dr. Kersey
- Pipettes and lab supplies for SWARC
- Enrichment toys to stimulate panda behaviors in their enclosures
- Funds for the protection of wild pandas and support for the field rangers
- Helped sponsor the 2016 International Conference on Giant Pandas
- Rebuilding of the Love Corridor at Bifengxia so visitors can learn about the pandas
- Generators for SWARC
- Research on: reproductive hormones, genetic and molecular cells, and distemper
- Baby supplies and other medical needs for the pandas at SWARC



# Advances in the Reintroduction Program

The program to reintroduce captive-born giant pandas back into the wild began in July of 2003. The China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP) formed a team to begin research on the wild training of captive pandas from the fields of ecology, behavior, veterinary needs, feeding management and researched the captive individuals' adaptability in the wild. In the past 16 years a great deal of information has been learned about how to reintroduce pandas back to the wild.

"Papa Panda", CCRCGP Deputy Managing Director Zhang Hemin, spent four years developing a new method for the reintroduction of the pandas, based on scientific studies of other species reintroduction projects. One major aspect of his plan was to never allow a captive-born panda, who is in the reintroduction program, to acclimate to humans. So he developed the plan to have the keepers wear panda suits, treated with the smells of panda urine and poop.

The idea is not to trick the panda into thinking the keepers are pandas, but to ensure they do not become accustomed to humans and maintain an instinctual fear.

Nine pandas that have been released into the wild are thriving and doing well, as far as we know, from GPS tracking.



## New Housing at Tiantaishan Mountain

CCRCGP Deputy Managing Director Zhang Hemin requested support from Pandas International for new shelters for the staff working in the Reintroduction Program. This is extremely difficult work and made even more uncomfortable by extreme weather in the region.

Their small wooden huts did not hold up well to the elements. Staff must back pack in all their supplies, for one week, and then live onsite. A new product which looks like a "space capsule", can be used in the mountains of Hetaoping and Tiantaishan, to house the keepers working in the wild areas.

The capsules are made of a one-of-a-kind new material, which can be used in the wild for more than 30 years. They will provide much better housing for these dedicated workers so they can stay warm and dry for their week in the wild. Building this housing has been slowed by rain and flooding in the area. Also, there are no roads so everything must be transported by hand on paths and over temporary bridges. Completion is expected by the end of 2019. Thanks again to Ellen Keely, whose support helped fund this project (page 7).



Photos taken by Xinhua News

## New Effort to Improve the Gene Pool

For many years the health of the captive and wild pandas has been closely tied to the quality of the gene pool. The stock of different genes in an interbreeding population is critical to the survival of the species. The China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Pandas has pioneered a new approach to release captive females out into the wild in order to mate with wild pandas, thus dramatically increasing the quality of the gene pool.

“The attempt to bring captive-bred pandas to interbreed with those from the wild is expected to play a decisive role in improving captive pandas’ genes and heritability,” said Zhang Hemin, the center’s deputy managing director.

Rescued from the wild in 2002, Cao Cao grew up in captivity. Last year she was released into the wild to attempt mating with a wild panda. She returned to her keepers and gave birth to a male cub. This was the first time a cub has been born to a captive mother and a wild father, a significant milestone in breeding.

She was released into the wild again in March 2019, and mated with a wild panda in April. Cao Cao, 17, gave birth to twins in August 2019, increasing the genetic diversity of captive pandas. This was the first pair of panda twins born to both captive and wild parents in Sichuan.

Another female panda, Qiao Qiao, was also rescued from the wild and grew up in captivity. She was also released into the wild in March and successfully mated with a wild panda in April.

Qiao Qiao, 10, gave birth to twins at the Hetaoping panda base in Wolong on September 16. One of the cubs is male and weighs 206.6 grams. The gender and weight of the other cub is still unknown as it is under the close protection of the mother.

“The successful breeding has given us confidence and scientific data to explore a new method of wild training to effectively increase the genetic diversity and sustainable development of the wild panda population,” said Zhang Hemin, a panda expert.

Pandas International’s donation of GPS collars makes this program possible.

# Panda Adoptions

Adopter	Adopted Panda	Nickname	Country	Adopter	Adopted Panda	Nickname	Country
<b>Ana Buenaventura, Maria Frizzoni, Charlene Johnson, Roxanne Tran and Joey Tu</b>	<b>Bao Bao*</b>		<b>USA and Switzerland</b>	Deirdre & Darren Livingston	TBD**		USA
Kyle & Alan Bell	Hua Mei		USA	Carol Loveless Panda Lovers	Su Shan Wen Yu	Hope	USA International
Sandra Bennecke	Jiu Jiu		USA	Carol Magidson	Pang Niu Qi Zai		USA
Gail Bradley	Tuan Zi		USA	JoAnn & Joe Mann	Wen Hui	Xie Xie Pearl	USA
Suzanne & Jerry Braden	Qing Feng Su Shan Zhang Ka	Harvey Jr. Evelyn	USA	Jim Tupper & Andi McLean	Qing Shan	An Di	UK
Bonnie Budwig	Ao Ao Gao Gao		USA	Patricia Millius	Bao Bao		USA
Bill & Karom Burke	Jin Ke		USA	Joseph Gerrity & Chi Nguyen-Zeh	Gao Gao		USA
Chet Chin	Feng Yi Gong Gong Gong Zhu	Yoong Ping Feng Er	Malaysia	Jim & Ashley Oberhofer	Jia Jia	Tammy Sue	USA
Libby Covey	Bei Bei		USA	Mandarin Oriental	Yi Yi		International
Jeanette Deines	Su Lin		USA	Michael Lent & Canta Pian	Xing An		USA
Jeanette Deines and Velia Watts	Zhen Zhen		USA and Canada	Ashley & Evan Pivonka	Ao Ao		USA
Ava DiNapoli	Su Shan		USA	Johanna & Stephen Pond	Bao Bao		USA
Anne Wescott Dodd	Chun Qiao		USA	Mollie Rivera	Hua Mei		USA
Judy Dolan	Huan Huan Qian Qian		USA	Wayne Robinson	Duo Duo	Jasmine	Australia
Kenny Flowers	TBD**		USA	Tom and Monica Rogan	Jin Ke	Peter	USA
Billy Friedkin	Qiao Yi		USA	Amy Rubin	TBD**		USA
Maria Frizzoni	Bei Bei Han Han		Switzerland	Quynh Le Nhu & Olivier Schneegans	Fu Long		France
goodr	Xin Xin	Jean Claude Pan Damme	USA	Village School	Tong Tong	Village	USA
Leilani Gonzalez	Xiang Zhu		USA	Kim's World Travel	Ya Jun		USA
Christie & Todd Harper	Bao Bao		USA	Tomoko & Akihiko Shimura	Pan Qing Zhi Lu		Japan
Joyce Hibbard	TBD**		USA	Louise Snyder	Bei Bei		USA
Ceci & David Howes	Yi Yun		Canada	Ethan Staubly	Qing Tian	Lord Panda	USA
Giant Panda Friends International	Pan Yue Bo Er	Yang Li	Germany	El Morrow	Yi Yi	Lychee	USA
Patricia Jacobs	Ying Ying	Willa	USA	Elementary School Brimmer & May School	Nian Nian	Brimmer	USA
Leslie & Paul Johnson	Bei Bei		USA	Ron & Susan	Ge Ge	Su-Lin	USA
Robert & Alice Joseph	TBD**		USA	Telesko	Jun Zhu	Ar-Lin	USA
<b>Ellen Keely</b>	<b>See Page 7</b>		<b>USA</b>	Marion Tozer	Man Man		UK
Walter Kopcza	You You		USA	Victoria Treyvaud	Ran Ran		Australia
Carla Kwok	Qing Qing		China	uGurus	Qiao Yi Ran Ran	Nug Nug Guru	USA
Annie Lai	Ning Ning Rong Rong	Hong Hong	Hong Kong	Mary Vinqvist	Hao Hao		USA
Dawn LaValley	Xiao Li Wu Zhen Zhen		USA	Hayden Vinqvist	Tian Bao		USA
Gayle Lego	Min Min		USA	Nottaporn Visutasunthorn	Lin Bing		Thailand
Rui Lily Li	Tong Tong Xi Meng		China	Simon Westwood	A Jie		UK
				Karen Wille	Bei Bei		USA
				Grace Williamson	Qiao Yue	Pokey Taylor	USA
				Linda Wroth	Hai Zi		USA
				Judy Young	Bao Bao		USA
				Annette Yuen	Ao Yun	Ao Yun Yuen	Hong Kong
				WeiYi Zhang	Qian Qian		China

\*\*TBD-  
To Be Determined

# In Memoriam of a life time Pandas International Supporter

We would like to take this opportunity to remember and thank one of Pandas International's long-standing supporters — Ellen Keely of Colorado.

Ellen lived in Colorado for many years, but fell in love with giant pandas at the zoo in San Diego. Hua Mei was a cub when Ellen first saw her, and she became an instant panda devotee.

In 2003, Ellen received a calendar of pandas which listed PI on the back cover. She used a “phone book” to find our number. She called and had a long chat with Suzanne about pandas. When Ellen learned she could symbolically adopt Hua Mei after she was returned to China, she was hooked on adoptions.

Ellen adopted Hua Mei in 2004, and then followed her and all of her cubs through the years. Ellen adopted a record number 21 pandas one year— all either Hua Mei's cubs or those of other pandas returned to China from San Diego and their cubs. She became what you might call a super adopter!

Both Andrea and Suzanne have had the wonderful pleasure of visiting Ellen on Colorado's Western Slope.

As a final act of generous support, Ellen left her home in Cedaredge, CO, and a financial donation in her will to Pandas International. The sale of the house is in the process of being finalized, and we anticipate receiving the funds by the end of 2019.

We felt it was appropriate to use the funds from her home to purchase the staff housing currently under construction on Tiantaishan Mountain. Proceeds from her home will provide housing for the staff of the reintroduction program for years to come (see page 4).

Thank you Ellen— we greatly appreciate your years of support and your final extremely generous act.



# Field Research

Pandas International has funded two research projects in China by Hongbo Yang, Ph.D. Dr. Yang earned his PhD in fisheries and wildlife at Michigan State University and now serves as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

The first project focuses on evaluating the potential risk of disease transmission from dogs to giant pandas in four nature reserves in Qinling, Shannxi. A crucial part of the project is to track the movement of domestic dogs using GPS collars and evaluate the overlaps between the ranges of dogs and giant pandas.

For this project, Pandas International provided 10 Lotek collars to meet the project's need. We are confident that all our supporters remember the horrible deaths in 2014-2015 of several pandas at SWARC from distemper and would want to support any efforts to learn more about the transmission of the disease.

While Pandas International provides the distemper vaccines to panda bases on an annual basis to help prevent the disease, learning more about the spread is also important.

The second project aims to assess the impacts of warming temperatures on the various bamboo species, the main diet of giant pandas, by performing a long-term field experiment in Wolong to simulate the warming effects on bamboo.

The project will evaluate the impacts by comparing the ecological and nutritional status of bamboo exposed to normal and increased air temperatures. In this experiment, it is crucial to monitor the dynamics of the environmental conditions of bamboo, including temperature, soil moisture, and air humidity. For this project, Pandas International provided soil moisture sensors, temperature and humidity sensors, and data loggers to store the sensors' data.

Dr. Yang has done research in wildlife ecology and conservation; coupled human and natural systems; impact evaluation of environmental policies; GIS and remote sensing applications; and agent-based modeling. We are pleased to support his current research.



# Landscaping at Shenshuping

Thanks to funding from explore.org, Pandas International facilitated a major landscaping project at the Shenshuping Panda Base.

The planting site is located in and around the panda kindergarten in the Giant Panda Shenshuping Base of the China Giant Panda Conservation Research Center. The planting area is about 11 mu or approximately 1.9 acres. Planting included landscaping materials and costs for planting, staking, weeding, watering and delivery. A total of 110 trees and bushes of various sizes were planted in the Giant Panda Shenshuping Base of the China Giant Panda Conservation Research Center.

Also included in this project were two types of bamboo for the pandas: Phyllostachys bamboo and oil bamboo. A total of 20 acres was planted with approximately 600 clumps of bamboo.



## Outstanding Board Member

The number one question we get asked is — Why is an organization to save the giant pandas based in Littleton, CO? The answer is- that's where the founding director lives. But we could NOT operate and provide services to the pandas in China without our outstanding board member who serves as our China relations advisor — Weiyi Zhang! Weiyi has served as an advisory board member for many years but in 2019 joined the actual board.

She is fluent in both Chinese and English and provides the critical bridge between PI and our Chinese colleagues by providing much needed translation support. Her assistance in translating CCRCGP requirements and documents is the critical first step to ensuring that PI is able to communicate effectively. Weiyi is the contact with all of the various Panda bases, rangers and vendors.

She is the one who coordinates with them to figure out what is needed to support the pandas and who the acceptable suppliers are. She attends conferences and events to represent Pandas International, providing valuable feedback and insights. For example, recently she traveled to Shanghai to attend a very large pet expo to make contact with a new distributor in China for esbilac formula to make shipping to the panda bases more efficient and cost-effective. For the 2019 esbilac shipment, Weiyi made sure each of the four CCRCGP panda bases received the proper amounts based on the number of pandas at each base.

While PI is able to accomplish a great deal from our base in Colorado, there are challenges coordinating efforts across time zones, and cultural and language barriers. However, Weiyi minimizes those challenges through all of her efforts on the ground in China. Of special note is Weiyi's ability to solve difficult problems that affect the health and well-being of the giant pandas. She is the one responsible for getting the critically needed distemper vaccine to the panda bases. The permits and paperwork to obtain the vaccines are overwhelming and Weiyi has had to make various trips to government offices to obtain the necessary permits. Then she has had to fly to the United States of America in order to hand carry the vaccines back to China as well as suitcases full of worming paste and other supplies for the panda bases there.

Weiyi is also constantly sourcing panda items for our auctions and the PI store to help raise money to support our beloved bears. In addition to her liaison work with the CCRCGP, Weiyi also serves as a part-time guide for the PI panda trips sponsored by Kim's World Travel, helping to make the arrangements, selecting hotels and restaurants.

We are very grateful to Weiyi for all of her efforts on behalf of Pandas International, the CCRCGP and the conservation of giant pandas- We couldn't do it without you, Weiyi. Thank you!

# Panda Cubs of 2019

While we do not have a complete list of cubs born in 2019, we know many healthy cubs were born, including several sets of twins.

The first documented giant panda born in captivity was in September 1963. Ming Ming (“Bright”), a male, was born to Pi Pi (father) and Li Li (mother) at Beijing Zoo, China. A year later, he was joined by a sister.

Since the 1960s—great progress has been made in captive births, resulting in the number of captive pandas rising to almost 600 today. The CCRCGP has pioneered the births of captive pandas and dramatically improved the survival rate for both single cubs and twins.

While twins are common for pandas, the techniques to raise both cubs successfully, has taken over 20 years to perfect to the level of success achieved today. Since the mother usually cannot produce enough milk to feed both cubs, she generally selects the stronger cub and rejects the weaker. In a system developed by the CCRCGP, both cubs are kept alive by “swapping” — one cub is with the mother while the second is cared for in the nursery. The nursery is staffed around-the-clock and the keepers or “nannies” feed, clean and nurture the little ones. Then they are exchanged and the one who has been in the nursery goes to mom and the other to the nursery. Hence the need for formula for the ones in the nursery.

At birth, cubs can range from about 80-215 grams (3-5 ounces) or about the size of a stick of butter. Indeed, the size difference between a full-grown giant panda mother and her tiny infant is a record, at an approximate 1/900th the size of one another.

The smallest panda to survive was also born in 2019, with a birth weight of just 42.8 grams. This cub is apparently thriving and doing very well.

Twins were born in Belgium, Berlin and many other centers in China.

Ku Ku, Meng Meng and Shuai Shuai, born at the Chimelong Paradise Park in Guangzhou, China, in July 2014 are still the only known captive triplets to survive and recently celebrated their fifth birthday.

The Shaanxi Wild Animal Rescue and Research Center (SWARC) in Louguantai has recently begun to breed captive pandas. This center suffered a major loss when five of their captive pandas were killed by the canine distemper virus. SWARC has had several successful panda cub births in the past several years. Pandas International is proud to support SWARC’s work by providing them with much-needed formula (for twins), baby bottles, enrichment items, vaccines, vet supplies and other critical needs.



# Ally Celebrates Her Bat Mitzvah

For Ally's bat mitzvah project she decided to both educate and raise funds for the giant panda bears and donate to Pandas International. She used PI's website to read about the pandas and the complicated reasons they are vulnerable to becoming extinct. Ally created a fact sheet with the information she learned and used this in various settings to help raise awareness in others. In addition to setting up a GoFundMe account, Ally did a few "table sales" where she sold wristbands and panda cookies, had a small panda birthday party where they made lucky bamboo pots and watched the documentary "Pandas," and provided leadership in her junior high student council at The Cove School where they did a pennies 4 pandas project. The kids at Cove School loved to learn about and help the pandas, and it was a great experience for all involved, especially Ally. In total Ally raised \$981 for Panda's International!

Ally will have the chance to go to China this winter and pick out a panda for a symbolic platinum adoption. We are amazed at how kind, generous and dedicated Ally is! Thank you Ally for your amazing support.



## Mark your calendars

Pandas International will host our annual Chinese New Year's dinner and silent auction on Saturday, February 8, 2020.

We will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary! We invite everyone to help us celebrate all of Pandas International's accomplishments over the last two decades.

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



### Please Help Us Thank and Support our Panda Partners



**MGM RESORTS**  
INTERNATIONAL®



#### **Bamboo Forest Partners**

**Explore.org**  
**GreaterGood.org**  
**goodr**  
**MGM Resorts**  
**Nature's Path**  
**Slickdeals**

#### **Bamboo Shoots Partners**

**Gift Republic**  
**Glassbaby White Light Fund**  
**Kim's World Travel**  
**Pura Vida**  
**Suzi Eszterhas**  
**The Mountain**

#### **Bamboo Leaves Partners**

**Biko Bamboo**  
**Coyote Gold®**  
**Erica Vojnich**  
**Hogan Lovells, LLP**  
**Kenny Flowers**  
**Luca + Dani**  
**Mandarin Oriental**  
**Pandaloon**  
**SpiritHoods**  
**Swole Panda**  
**The Parisian Panda**

Please contact us if you are a business that wishes to sponsor us and be listed on the Panda Partners page along with a direct link to your website.

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 2020. 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!

Email us at [info@pandasinternational.org](mailto:info@pandasinternational.org) or call us at 303-933-2365.

Visit us online at [www.pandasinternational.org](http://www.pandasinternational.org)



# Pandas International

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