

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Zoo honors local and international heroes with conservation awards** ***Local high school student and Microsoft among recipients***

SEATTLE—At its **Thrive Leadership Awards** dinner and fundraiser last night, Woodland Park Zoo honored individuals and a local corporation who have demonstrated their commitment to protecting wildlife and the environment around them, and advancing Woodland Park Zoo's mission of conservation.



"Tonight we honored some incredible leaders in wildlife conservation—individuals whose dedication to preserving the human-animal connection on this planet spans decades, continents and even conservation methods," said Woodland Park Zoo's President and CEO, Alejandro Grajal. "But we also reminded everyone in attendance that they, too, play an important role in conservation. The planet's future is in all our hands. What we do collectively—how we make our choices and use our voices—will determine the future of our planet. By highlighting the amazing work of our awardees, we hope to inspire and empower our community to join Woodland Park Zoo in igniting a movement for wildlife conservation."

As a leading conservation organization in the region, the zoo takes pride in spotlighting the perseverance and passions of esteemed members of the community working to create a better future for animals and people. The Thrive Leadership Awards dinner is one of two fundraising events which Woodland Park Zoo relies on to inspire a movement of people to embrace and act for wildlife conservation, provide extraordinary experiences with animals that are accessible and relevant for everyone, and lead by example with the highest quality animal care.

"What our community heard tonight is that humans cannot wait any longer to save nature for wildlife and people," said Woodland Park Zoo Board Chair, and the evening's host, Jeff Leppo. "Our esteemed guests heard that we have a new strategy to dramatically increase our scale of impact. And with that in mind, the zoo is now on a new mission: *to save wildlife and inspire everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives.*"

The zoo's 2018 Thrive Leadership Awards were presented to:

**Conservation Leadership Award: Ullas Karanth, PhD, and Krithi Karanth, PhD**, for their dedication to the study and conservation of tigers and other mammals. This award has special significance for the father-daughter wildlife conservation team as it's the first time they have been honored together. Ullas is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on tigers and has conducted extensive research on their ecology. He pioneered the use of remote cameras for studying pre-predator relations and population density of big cats. Krithi's work encompasses a broad range of issues examining human dimensions of wildlife conservation. Her research provides insights into the patterns of mammal extinctions, the impacts of wildlife tourism in reserves, and the consequences of voluntary resettlement and land use change. Together, Ullas and Krithi have published more than 200 scientific articles and authored several books, with their work featured in world media including National Geographic, NPR, Scientific American, BBC, CNN, New York Times, Time Magazine and Animal Planet.

**Youth Conservation Award: Roxanne Sanders**, a Redmond High School graduate, for more than 10 years of participation and dedication to the zoo's youth programs as a camper, camp counselor and staff member in the Education department. She credits Woodland Park Zoo and interactions with gorillas for not only teaching her empathy and perseverance, but also for giving her the confidence to pursue her dream of becoming a primatologist. Sanders

is in her second year of undergraduate study at Central Washington University where she is studying primate behavior and ecology. As part of the Youth Conservation Award, Sanders received a \$5,000 education award in recognition of her outstanding leadership at the zoo.

**Guy. C. Phinney Corporate Leadership Award: *Microsoft***, who for more than three decades has powered Woodland Park Zoo through corporate, employee and alumni contributions. As one of the world's most powerful brands, the zoo applauds Microsoft's corporate leadership locally and globally in making conservation a priority, both through its innovative technology partnerships with the zoo's wildlife conservation scientists and AI for Earth—an extraordinary new endeavor that applies AI technology to amplify human ingenuity and advance sustainability around the world.

**Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership Award: *Floyd Jones***, whose generous legacy contribution to Woodland Park Zoo will help enable all children and their families to visit the zoo and make lasting memories. "Philanthropy," Jones said, "is sweetness for the soul. I want to do the most good in the community as possible and make it better for all." Jones passed away earlier this year. The zoo is forever grateful to help foster the spirit of his legacy.

**Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership Award: *Allan and Inger Osberg***, a couple who has supported Woodland Park Zoo for more than 30 years—giving so big-heartedly of their resources, time, and leadership to help the zoo expand its role as a conservation and education institution. The Osbergs' leadership in giving has strengthened not only Woodland Park Zoo, but also numerous other academic and cultural institutions throughout the region including Nordic Heritage Museum—inspiring scores of additional donors along the way. The Osbergs are well known for making exceptional gifts, all of which have helped transform the heart of the zoo.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By saving wildlife and inspiring everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500.

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