

For Immediate Release

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Fred Jones Family Foundation Awards Oklahoma Zoological Society the Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift

Oklahoma City, OK — The Oklahoma Zoological Society (OZS) is pleased to announce they have received \$50,000 from the Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift given by the Fred Jones Family Foundation. Mr. Kirkland Hall, President and Chairman of the Fred Jones Family Foundation announced the gift September 23 at 10 a.m. at the Oklahoma City Zoo's Education Center.

The Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift will be used to create the gardens of the new veterinary hospital at the Oklahoma City Zoo. The new hospital location, which will be on the grounds of the Oklahoma City Zoo, will feature native Oklahoma plant landscaping and will fit seamlessly into the naturalistic setting of the Zoo. The Zoo is recognized as an accredited botanical garden through the American Association of Museums.

“Today we’re celebrating the life of my grandmother, Mary Eddy Jones, and her desire to help the Zoo. She was a fan of the Zoo in many different ways, but mostly in the ways of beautification and landscaping. She loved the fact that the Zoo was a botanical garden as well as a place for animals. She spent many years helping the Zoo with the arboretum and the gardens. She would be thrilled that this gift is going to help with gardens for the new veterinary hospital,” said Hall.

The Fred Jones Family Foundation created the Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift in honor of the late Mary Eddy Jones to continue her legacy in the areas of interest to which she was so diligently dedicated. In addition to traveling and helping within the community, Mary Eddy Jones was an avid gardener; she loved both formal and informal gardens, and arboretums. She loved art and had the talent to entertain beautifully, with a special eye to every detail. The Mary Eddy Jones Peony is named in her honor. Mary Eddy Jones consistently sought to improve the arts, culture, and beautification throughout central Oklahoma.

Dana McCrory, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Zoological Society had this to say. “Receiving the Mary Eddy Jones Signature gift is such an honor. The Fred Jones Family has been a friend of the zoo for many years, spanning decades and generations. We are so thankful to receive this gift and we are so pleased to name the garden area of the new hospital after such an amazing lady.”

Mrs. Jones advocated returning the Zoo to naturalistic landscapes many decades ago. She was instrumental in leading campaigns to beautify the gardens in the Zoo. Gifted at design of garden-scaping, proportion and space, she helped begin the trend of adding trees and plants into the Zoo.

OZS was created in 1954 to support and promote the Oklahoma City Zoo and its four purposes of education, conservation, zoological research and recreation. OZS does this through membership drives, fund-raising, capital campaigns, marketing, special events and public relations.

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Photo by Wendy Mutz. Photographed from left to right:

Alan Varsik, Assistant Zoo Director; Fred J. Hall, Vice-President of the Fred Jones Family Foundation; Wendy Smith, Vice-President of the Fred Jones Family Foundation; Kirkland Hall, President and Chairman of the Fred Jones Family Foundation; Julie Hall, Oklahoma Zoological Society Board Member; and Dana McCrory, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Zoological Society.