## THE

## Latham Letter

**VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 4** 

Fall 2025

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

## WHEN THE SKY TURNED ORANGE

WHAT THE EATON
FIRE TAUGHT
PASADENA
HUMANE
ABOUT DISASTER
RESPONSE





Cover Story Humane Disaster Response	pg	6
GRANT NEWS	pg	5
HUMANE EDUCATION	pg	11
HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS	pg	15
SCIENCE & NATURE	pg	17

# Edith Latham's MANDATE:

"To promote, foster,

encourage and

further the

principles of

humaneness,

kindness and

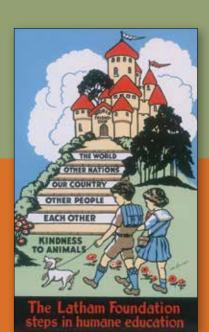
benevolence to

all living creatures."



WELCOME BACK, BROTHER BUZZ!

Brother Buzz, star of Latham's Brother Buzz films and our former Spokesbee, marks the end of articles.



### The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

Search the Latham Letter archives by topic and learn more about all of our resources and grants at <a href="https://www.Latham.org">www.Latham.org</a> or call 510-521-0920.



## The Latham Letter

Volume XLVI, Number 4, Fall 2025

### BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES



The *Latham Letter* is published by The Latham Foundation, 12234 Poway Road Suite 204, Poway, CA 920641

Publisher and Editor Stacey Zeitlin
Managing Editor Mary Tebault
Proof Reader Sue Spiersch
Creative Director

and Co-Editor Tula Asselanis

The *Latham Letter* welcomes manuscripts relevant to the Foundation's interests, but reserves the right to publish such manuscripts at its discretion.

#### CONCERNING REPRINT PERMISSION:

Permission from the Latham Foundation to reproduce articles or other materials that appear in *The Latham Letter* is not required except when such material is attributed to another publication and/or authors other than the editors of this publication. In that case, permission from them is necessary. When republishing, please use this form of credit: "Reprinted with permission from *The Latham Letter*, (date), publication of the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education, 12234 Poway Road Suite 204, Poway, CA 92064, 510-521-0920, <a href="www.Latham.org">www.Latham.org</a>." Latham would appreciate receiving notice of any publication or online source in which material is reproduced.

### ABOUT THE LATHAM FOUNDATION:

The Latham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

### TO CONTACT LATHAM:

Voice: 510-521-0920 E-mail: <u>info@Latham.org</u> Web: <u>www.Latham.org</u>

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. Eric Bruner Ms. Denise Cahalan

Ms. Annie Petersen

Mr. James Olson

Mr. Hugh H. Tebault, III

Mrs. Mary Tebault Ms. Stacey Zeitlin

## **CONTENTS:**

### **EDITORIAL**

Seasons Of Change And Continuity Stacey Zeitlin, Vice President 4

### **GRANT NEWS**

Latham Grants for 2025

5

### HUMANE DISASTER RESPONSE

Cover Story: When the Sky Turned Orange By Kim Burbank

6

### **HUMANE EDUCATION**

Grant Report: Empowering Teens and Enriching the Lives of Shelter Pets by Kali Farnsworth

11

### **MEDIA SPOTLIGHT**

Forget Me Not Farm is on NPR

14

### HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

Part Of Something Special By Debra White

15

### SCIENCE AND NATURE

Spending Spring Break With Chimps By Katie Doling 17

### LATHAM VIDEO LIBRARY

19





Stacey Zeitlin, Vice President The Latham Founation

## SEASONS OF CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

As fall settles in with its cooler temperatures and warm colors, The Latham Foundation finds itself in a season of transfor-

mation mirroring nature's rhythm of letting go and beginning anew. After more than a century rooted in Alameda, our organization is preparing to move our offices to San Diego County, where we will continue promoting respect for all life through education from a new home.

Like the falling leaves that make way for new growth, this move is not an ending but an evolution. It's a chance to refresh our mission, deepen our connections and expand our reach. Change, like autumn, carries both nostalgia and promise. As we plant new roots in a different landscape, we carry forward the same principles that Edith Latham envisioned - kindness, compassion and humane understanding.

This fall's Latham Letter reflects that spirit of resilience and renewal. The cover story,

"When the Sky Turned Orange," tells Pasadena Humane's harrowing yet hopeful account of the Eaton Fire which tested not only the strength of their organization but the heart of their entire community. As flames engulfed homes and hillsides, staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to shelter animals, reunite families and provide a lifeline to those in need. Their story is a powerful reminder that humane work is not just about animals, but about people, compassion and the quiet heroism of everyday action.

Pasadena Humane's experience underscores why humane education

matters more than ever. Preparedness, empathy and connection are at the core of what we teach and what we live. Whether through emergency response, youth programs like Snake River Animal Shelter's Paws for a Cause or sanctuaries like Project Chimps, the lesson remains constant: when we nurture compassion in people, we build stronger, more resilient communities for all species.

As Latham transitions south, we are inspired by our partners who embody those values daily. We're proud to continue supporting organizations that empower teens, heal trauma through animal-assisted programs and provide critical care in times of crisis. Each story we share reminds us that our work is cyclical, grounded in renewal and hope, similar to the changing seasons.

In San Diego, we'll continue advancing humane education through collaboration, innovation and outreach. Our new home offers opportunities to engage with diverse communities and extend our impact. No matter where we are, our mission remains steadfast: to promote, foster, encourage and further the principles of humaneness, kindness and benevolence

to all living creatures.

So as we close this Alameda chapter and look toward San Diego, we do so with gratitude for our history, for our partners and for the enduring belief that compassion is the foundation of progress. May this fall remind us all that change, approached with purpose and care, is the truest expression of growth.

In addition to serving as Vice President for The Latham Foundation, Stacey Zeitlin is the Vice President of Community Impact at San Diego Humane Society and serves as a board advisor to the Association of Professional Humane Educators.



### **GRANT NEWS**



## LATHAM **GRANTS FOR 202**

Each year the Latham Foundation awards grants to organizations providing innovative humane education programs to their communities. This year the focus was on programs for teens.

While we always receive more applications than we can provide funding for, the following were recognized for their impactful humane education programs benefiting both humans and animals.

Thanks to all applicants for their submissions and for the important work they do.

latham.org/2025/08/the-2025-latham-grant-awards/

Assistance Dogs of the West,

Santa Fe, NM

Animal Friends, Inc.,

Pittsburgh, PA

Austin Pets Alive!,

Austin, TX

Compassionate Canine Society,

El Paso, TX

East Bay SPCA,

Oakland, CA

Forget Me Not Children's

Services,

Santa Rosa, CA

Greater Birmingham Humane

Society,

Birmingham, AL

The Human Animal Connection,

Tucson, AZ

Hinsdale Humane Society,

Hinsdale, IL

Humane Society of Memphis &

Shelby County,

Memphis, TN

Humane Society of the Tennessee

Valley,

Knoxville, TN

Humane Society of Yuma, Inc.,

Yuma, AZ

Indraloka Animal Sanctuary,

Dalton, PA

In Step With Horses,

Chesterland, OH

Jasper Ridge Farm,

Woodside, CA

K9 Youth Alliance,

Pasadena, CA

Longmont Humane Society,

Longmont, CO

Lynchburg Humane Society,

Lynchburg, VA

National Anti-Vivisection Society

(NAVS),

Chicago, IL

Paws and Think, Inc.,

Indianapolis, IN

Pet Helpers, Charleston, SC

RISPCA,

Warwick, RI

spcaLA,

Los Angeles, CA

SPCA of Texas,

Dallas, TX

Snake River Animal Shelter,

Idaho Falls, ID

Toledo's PETBull Project,

Toledo, OH

WAGS Pet Adoption/Westminster

Adoption

Westminister, CA

Winding Branch Ranch,

Bulverde, TX

Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic

Center, Inc.,

Seneca, SC

Zuya Wicasa Otipi/Warrior's

Lodge,

Rapid City, SD



No matter how many emergency drills you run or contingency plans you make, nothing fully prepares you or your organization for the moment disaster strikes.

On the evening of January 7, 2025, the Eaton Fire did the unthinkable, tearing through our community. Over 24 devastating days, it burned more than 14,000 acres, destroyed 10,000 homes and businesses, and displaced thousands of people, pets, and wildlife. As flames engulfed the region, Pasadena Humane found itself at the center of an unfolding emergency.

Within hours, the sky turned orange, and smoke filled the skies above our shelter. What should have been a quiet night quickly turned into a blur of fast decisions, constant communication, and extraordinary teamwork from our staff, volunteers, and partners.

This isn't a story about perfection. It's about rising to meet a moment none of us anticipated and sharing what we learned in the hope that it helps others prepare for what we all hope never comes.

Pasadena Humane is a private, nonprofit shelter that has served the Greater Los Angeles region for more than 120 years. As an open-door shelter, we never turn away animals based on age, breed, or condition. We support more than 40,000 dogs, cats, critters, and wildlife annually through adoptions, foster care, public veterinary services, animal control, wildlife rehabilitation, and community programs.

When the fire broke out, we immediately jumped into action as the disaster response agency for 11 cities in our service area, a responsibility we take to heart and will bear for months and years to come in light of the Eaton Fire.

HUMANE DISASTER RESPONSE



Less than an hour after the fire broke out, people began lining up at our doors, coming to us to take in their pets temporarily while they fled the fire for undetermined safe places. We couldn't, and wouldn't, say no.

Amid the smoke and ash, something remarkable happened our staff, our volunteers, and our community came together in a truly inspiring way. No one had to be asked.

Some came from home, some stayed past their shifts, and others fielded nonstop calls. Meeting rooms became pet shelters. Supplies were distributed to evacuees. The shelter became a lifeline for our community in need.

Thanks to help from partners across the state, we quickly transferred all adoptable animals within 24 hours, creating space for the influx. That first day, we took in more than 300 animals. In the weeks that followed, we took in

over 1,500 animals. We also collaborated closely with state and national agencies, who integrated Pasadena Humane into the broader disaster response effort as a trusted partner.

We were stretched to our limits. We weren't perfect. But we kept going. Our team has worked tirelessly to help families reunite with their pets. Over 2,000 animals have returned home. Nearly 60 animals are still in our care through

emergency boarding. We provide food, enrichment, medical care, and daily comfort until families can take them home again.

They're more than numbers: These are the moments that kept our hearts open

Canelo's story: Canelo was discovered alone in the ashes two days after the fire. His paws burned, his fur coated in soot, and his spirit shaken – but not yet broken. He was rushed to our ICU, where our veterinary team worked

around the clock to ease his pain and begin the healing process. At the same time, his family was frantically searching for him, heartbroken and fearing the worst. When they saw his photo on our lost pets page, they couldn't believe their eyes. Their tearful reunion was full of relief, joy, and overwhelming gratitude.



Continued on next page

Riley's journey: Riley arrived on the first day of the fire - burned, exhausted, and cloaked in ash. Due to his iniuries, he spent months in intensive care, and although timid at first, he's discovering his joy again through string cheese, car rides, and squeaky toys. Sadly, in the months since he arrived, no one has come to claim him as their own. Now that he's healthier and has received training from our behavior specialists, he's finally available for adoption. Our team is committed to finding him a home that understands his journey.

Our Hope (aka Skinny Minnie): This sweet gray cat arrived at Pasadena Humane, burned beyond recognition, ears and paws singed, but her spirit wasn't broken. We named her Hope, not knowing she already had a name and a family who loved her. "Skinny Minnie," as she's known to Mark and Lisa, had been living as a neighborhood cat just beginning her journey indoors when the fire forced her family to evacuate



without her. Found in the rubble, Minnie spent months in our ICU receiving intensive, loving care, including near-constant bandage changes. When her family discovered she had survived, they visited her often, with Skinny Minnie lovingly curling into their arms, purring with recognition. Recently, we celebrated Skinny Minnie's return to her family - this time as an indoor cat with a second chance at life.



Nine months later, even as animals heal and the most tragic cases find hope, recovery continues. We're still housing nearly 60 animals for families who haven't yet been able to find a stable place to call home. Our Helping Paws food bank has seen a 650% surge in demand. Community cats and wildlife remain permanently displaced. And our shelter continues to adapt to meet long-term needs we never could have fully anticipated.

Continued on next page



**HUMANE DISASTER RESPONSE** 



If your organization isn't fully prepared for a disaster, you're not alone. We weren't either. But here's what helped us, and what we're focused on now:

## CLEAR, CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION:

In a crisis, people are pulled in every direction. That's why communication must be clear, concise, and repeated often. In normal times, people need to hear something 7-8 times before it sticks. In emergencies, it can take 12 or more. Map out a communication plan in advance that includes staff, volunteers, clients, and the public.

## FOSTER NETWORK STRENGTH:

Our foster volunteers were key to our response. Many stepped in immediately, including for pets with special medical or behavioral needs. Several continue to house pets whose families are still displaced, offering a stable, loving environment.

### **PARTNERSHIPS MATTER:**

Our shelter partners were in-

strumental. They transferred animals, took our calls, and even helped on-site. Those who had been through similar situations in the past were open to supporting us by sharing wisdom from



their own wildfire response. The relationships we built over time became our safety net, and new relationships have helped see us through the past nine months.

## CROSS-TRAINING MATTERS:

When the crisis hit, staff from every corner of the organization stepped up, not because they had to, but because they wanted to - and could. Thanks to cross-training and job shadowing, they understood more than just their own roles. That shared knowledge allowed staff to jump in more seamlessly, filling gaps and keeping things moving when it mattered most.

### SUPPORT YOUR TEAM:

Leadership made staff and volunteer well-being a top priority. They offered extra time off, counseling, and even a massage therapist. Disasters are emotional. Making space for grief and recovery is just as important as logistics.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL:

Our volunteers filled every gap - staying long hours, comforting animals, and giving staff the

chance to rest and regroup. Whatever your mission, having a core group of trained, trusted volunteers who can mobilize in a crisis can make all the difference.

## PLAN NOW, CONTINUE TO PLAN LATER:

Once we moved from emergency response to long-term recovery, we began updating

our protocols. We're now refining communication trees, intake systems, and disaster training while memories are still fresh.



Continued on next page

## WE'RE ALSO PREPARING BETTER FOR THE FUTURE, INCLUDING:

- Updated communication plans for staff, volunteers, and the public.
- Faster, more efficient intake and tracking systems.
- Stronger partnerships with community groups, fosters, and adopters.
- Ongoing disaster training for staff and volunteers.
- Plans for secondary evacuations if multiple crises overlap.



## WE ENCOURAGE EVERY ORGANIZATION TO ASK HARD QUESTIONS NOW:

- Can your team mobilize at a moment's notice?
- Who makes the emergency call, and how is that communicated?
- Is your foster and partner network ready?
- Are your communication channels reliable in a power or internet outage?
- Can staff step into unfamiliar roles when needed?
- Do you have an emergency boarding plan for long-term cases?

Responding to disaster isn't just about having a plan; it's about having the people and partnerships ready to act when it matters most. We're still in it - but every reunion, every healed animal, and every act of kindness reminds us of what's possible when a community comes together.

We'll never forget the day the sky turned orange, but we'll also never forget what it taught us about resilience, compassion, and the unbreakable bond between people and animals.

Kim Burbank is Director of Philanthropy & Stewardship at Pasadena Humane



HUMANE, EDUCATION GRANT REPORT



## EMPOWERING TEENS AND ENRICHING THE LIVES OF SHELTER PETS

by Kali Farnsworth

Thanks to a grant from The Latham Foundation, Snake River Animal Shelter (SRAS) in Idaho Falls, Idaho, held our first-ever humane education program for teens, Paws for a Cause, this summer! This 5-week course covered humane treatment of animals, the physical and emotional benefits animals can provide, general animal care, animal advocacy (including animal-related careers) and serving the community through animals. The program included lots of enrichment for shelter pets and culminated in a visit to a local assisted living facility with a shelter dog named Goliath.

Throughout the five-week program, the participating teens were immersed in the world of animal welfare. They started the program by touring SRAS, meeting staff and learning how to properly interact with shelter dogs and cats, in addition to discussing SRAS's history, mission and programs. The teens enjoyed presentations



by an Animal Control Officer on the humane treatment of animals and a career as an ACO, from a young woman with a service dog and a therapy-dog-in-training on the life-saving service a dog can provide and from SRAS's Vet Team on general medical care for pets and careers as Veterinarians and Vet Technicians.

Shelter pets were directly involved every week and received great enrichment as the teens played with kittens during instruction, walked dogs along the river, fed squeeze-up treats to the cats and played with dogs in the play yard. A highlight of the pro-

gram was when the teens created several enrichment activities for the shelter pets, which included "puzzles," treats and lots of loves.

Madara Seegmiller, an animal care technician for SRAS, shared that the animals involved in the program greatly benefitted from the interactions with the teens. "Even 10 minutes spent socializing with a dog is huge! Most dogs really warm up with social interactions, and human engagement greatly benefits every dog," says Seegmiller. She continues, "One dog in particular, Spot, opened up so much around the girls. He was such a happy boy!"

Continued on next page

**HUMANE EDUCATION** 



Spot had been waiting for adoption at SRAS for two weeks after coming in as a stray but then he was adopted just two days after his interactions with the teens!

And, the cats benefitted too. For example, during the program, several kittens were at SRAS awaiting adoption. These kittens had lots of energy, and interacting with the teens provided a great outlet.

The final week of Paws for a Cause included a visit to Parkwood Meadows Assisted Living with one of the shelter dogs, Goliath. The teens visited residents in an activity room, in addition to visiting others in their private rooms. It was incredible watching the residents light up as they interacted with Goliath and the teens.

(Goliath has since been adopted!)

Paws for a Cause was created to assist teens with life skills and emotional health and to improve the lives of shelter and communi-

ty-owned animals. The program was developed based on input from local, teen-focused service providers, who shared that teens in our area need emotional support and assistance with life skills. And, as an animal welfare or-

ganization, Snake River Animal Shelter strives to educate the public on humane education and recognizes the importance of quality interactions with pets.

The participating teens seemed to greatly benefit from the program, too. One of the most rewarding parts of Paws for a Cause was watching the teens change from the "classroom setting" to the animal interactions. Some of the participants seemed to be fairly reserved during "class" time, but when they were with the animals, they absolutely seemed more comfortable.

After each class, teens filled out surveys to assess what they learned and how they felt while interacting with animals. The teens regularly marked that their emotions improved while engaging with the shelter animals. And, in the end-of-program survey, some of the participants even shared that they'd had opportunities to advocate for animals since the start of the program. All of the teens stated they would be interested in participating in the program again, and three of the teens joined SRAS for another visit to an assisted living center after Paws for a Cause had ended!

Paws for a Cause wouldn't have been possible without the support of The Latham Foundation, and we are so grateful for their assistance. Executive Director of Snake River Animal Shelter, Michelle Ziel-Dingman, states, "The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education is an incredible organization with a beautiful mission and purpose.



Continued on next page

**HUMANE EDUCATION** 



We felt honored to be awarded funding from The Latham Foundation to support our efforts to improve and save animal lives through humane education. It's been very rewarding to watch how these funds have blessed the lives of teens and animals in our community."

The funding from The Latham Foundation enabled SRAS to provide t-shirts, bags, water bottles, leashes, treat pouches, lanyards, gift cards, and an end-of-program party for the teens, in addition to the treats and enrichment supplies that were used for shelter pets during the program. Program "swag" was utilized in an effort to better enable teens to serve the shelter animals, create a sense of confidence and unity in each teen, and provide teens with a tangible reminder of their commitment to themselves and animals.

Snake River Animal Shelter will be holding Paws for a Cause again next summer!

## ABOUT SNAKE RIVER ANIMAL SHELTER:

Snake River Animal Shelter, a non-profit animal rescue located in Idaho Falls, Idaho, opened its doors in August 2015. Since opening a decade ago, the shelter has rescued thousands of animals. The mission is to improve and save animal lives by promoting quality care and compassion through adoption and humane education. The vision is to be the leader in the region through operational best practices, impactful programs and humane education to increase the number of animal lives saved. For more information. visit www.SnakeRiverAnimalShelter.org.

About Kali Farnsworth: Kali has been an animal lover since she was very little! Growing up, she enjoyed a large variety of pets and ran a petsitting business with her sister. As a young adult, she received a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Public Relations in order to better enable her to advocate for the things she's passionate about. Now, Kali very much enjoys working as the Grants Manager for Snake River Animal

Shelter, and in her free time, she enjoys visiting the shelter's dogs and cats with her husband and three-year-old son! Kali can be contacted at <u>Grants@SnakeRiverAnimalShelter.org</u>.





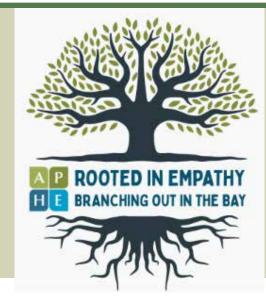
LINK: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tROqVTrbCys">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tROqVTrbCys</a>

Listen to this wonderful podcast conversation NPR podcaster, Michelle Marques has with Executive Director, Carol Rathmann. Carol and the farm animals share all about their history and the transformative work they do.

Latham also filmed "Faith and Hope on a Farm" with Forget Me Not Farm as an inspiring reminder of why we teach compassion, empathy, and respect to help break the cycle of abuse.

See it for free: Faith and Hope on a Farm (14 mins.) vimeo.com/lathamfoundation/faithandhopeonafarm





### 2026 APHE CONFERENCE APRIL 29TH - MAY 1ST

### ROOTED IN EMPATHY: BRANCHING OUT IN THE BAY

Delve deep into the realm of empathy and compassion, and explore the ways in which we can expand upon our program development, interactions with others, and our ideas about what humane education is.

LOCATION: OAKLAND. CALIFORNIA



Why am I writing about an animal welfare organization that I haven't been part of for over ten years? A simple reason. On my way home from the annual fundraiser known as Bowl a Rama (BAR), a song called Year of the Cat played on the radio. The other day I heard the same song. My mind traveled back to the BAR years and how memorable they were.

The Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC) is an umbrella organization that brings people and pets together. The group was founded in 1999 by Bari Mears, a local leader in the rescue community. In addition to hosting offsite adoption events in our cooler winter months, PACC has an emergency medical fund to help rescues/shelters with unexpected medical expenses. I served on the board for about five or six years.

In 2002, PACC started an event called Bowl A Rama (BAR) that had a ten-year run. BAR turned out to be something awesome, something special. I was so proud to be part of the group. Animal rescue work can be stressful as well as heartbreaking. BAR was a day when rescue folks could relax,

unwind and have a good time.

Local rescue groups and shelters were invited to participate in BAR. Volunteers from groups like AZ Basset Hound, AZ Beagle Rescue, Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue, and the Arizona Animal Welfare League attended.

Preparations for BAR began shortly after our last adoption event of the year, one held in Fountain Hills (part of Phoenix). Board members like me, Bari, Kristin, Eileen, Cindy, Linda, and others met weekly at a café called Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.

Continued on next page



We discussed plans for the big day. Fundraising was at the top of the list. Every year, board members solicited donations for a silent raffle where anyone could bid on items like animal themed gift baskets, gift cards, books, paintings, and more. All proceeds from the silent raffle helped our unwanted animals. A T-shirt design was agreed upon and shirts were sold at BAR. Board member Eileen handled negotiations with the bowling alley, which was closed to the public for our event.

Since BAR became so popular among the rescue community, we

held two shifts. One in the morning and one in the afternoon. I volunteered to sit at the front and check in guests. I loved meeting and greeting fellow animal lovers. Groups competed for best song and best costume. PACC president Bari Mears had a blast judging the groups and Eileen joyfully announced the winners.

I was so honored to play a small role in our rescue community. What an inspiration to see how ordinary people contributed to saving unwanted, abused, and needy pets. I smiled watching bowling balls fly down the alley. Love for animals electrified the air. Rescue folks talked, laughed, and noshed on chips. Although I have memory issues from a 1994 pedestrian car accident that caused brain trauma, I will always remember BAR as special. I drove home feeling so good about what

we accomplished. I didn't want the day to end.

BAR ended in 2012 after PACC opened a thrift shop called Rescued Treasures. All profits benefit local rescue groups and shelters. Donations are gladly accepted. PACC continues to host adoption events in places like car dealerships, churches, and parks. A pet food pantry helps low-income pet owners with food and other supplies.

There is now an annual fundraising event called Glimmer of Hope. At the luncheon, guests bid on

donated items, just like our silent auction at BAR. As always, proceeds benefit the homeless, unwanted, and abused pets.

Past fundraisers included selling books. Simply Delicious was a collection of recipes submitted by animal lovers. Love Stories: Pets and Their People was a book about rescued animals and the people who loved them. Breaking the Chain was a book about a humane education project of the same name. Third grade children were invited to write and/or draw their ending to a story about a cat that frees a chained

dog. Again, all proceeds went to the animals.

PACC has over 140 rescue partners from around the state. In 2024, at least 11,400 animals found new homes at adoption events. For more information about PACC, visit their website at <a href="https://www.pacc.org">www.pacc.org</a>



SCIENCE & NATURE



By Katie Doling, Manager of Philanthropy, Project Chimps

Mountain retreats have long been a popular choice for people in need of a getaway, and spring break is no different. Since its founding in 2014, Project Chimps has seen thousands of vacationers all looking to unwind and reconnect with nature, leading to the de-

velopment of a one-of-a-kind spring break opportunity designed specifically to inspire students and support chimpanzees.

Project Chimps is a nonprofit sanctuary located in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Georgia dedicated to providing exemplary lifelong care to chimpanzees in need while educating and inspiring humanity. Each year in spring, Project Chimps invites students to take part in Spring Brachiate, a one-week program with the goal of educating and inspiring the lives of college students by giving back to the chimpanzees at the sanctuary.

During the five-day program, each group of 4-6 student volunteers help support sanctuary oper-

ations, prepare chimpanzee meals, create chimp enrichment, work on construction projects, and harvest food from the onsite garden for the chimps. They also receive educational instruction designed to



Continued on next page

SCIENCE & NATURE



inspire human and animal connections and allow students to connect with their natural surroundings.

Through these activities, students gain firsthand insight into the complexities of animal welfare and the ethical considerations of caring for primates. Not only do students have plenty of time to explore the onsite hiking trails and relax after the stress of midterms, they're also able to develop skills, build their resumes, and foster a deeper understanding of chimpanzees.

As a nonprofit sanctuary, Project Chimps is grateful to all its volunteers, especially those who

> do so as part of their vacations. While Spring Brachiate focuses on students, Project Chimps is also proud to offer multiple yearly Chimp cation opportunities for other adults not

currently enrolled in college also looking to build human and animal connections.

If you or someone you know would be interested in a vacation that gives back by providing care to former research chimpanzees in need, visit our website at projectchimps.org/volunteer-vacations to learn more. Thank you for all that you do to support our mission and to support the chimps! <a href="https://projectchimps.org/volunteer-vacations/">https://projectchimps.org/volunteer-vacations/</a>

Ali Crumpacker, Executive Director <u>acrumpacker@</u> <u>projectchimps.org</u>





### THE LATHAM STEPS

We would love to know your thoughts on this issue's articles. If you would like to share your own anecdote, story, photo, or artwork relating to one of the Latham Steps to Humane Education, we would love to see it (and possibly publish it in *The Latham Letter!*) *Editor@latham.org* 



## STREAMING FOR FREE: EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS FOCUSED ON EMPATHY AND KINDNESS

vimeo.com/lathamfoundation/portfolios







### THE LATHAM FOUNDATION



Parham Pourahmad / 2025 Audubon Photography Awards: Long-eared owl. Youth Winner, United States and Canada. Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont, CA.

