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**Brevard Zoo celebrates Volunteer of the Year**

MELBOURNE, Fla., March 3, 2021 — During its virtual volunteer appreciation event on Saturday, February 13, Brevard Zoo announced Linda Chadwick as its 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

Chadwick has donated 3,776 hours of her time to the Zoo since 2017, with more than 1,000 of those hours contributed last year alone. Her roles include caring for animals in the Paws On Petting Zone, assisting with the Perdido Key beach mouse conservation breeding program, interacting with guests in the aviaries and kangaroo habitat, helping to facilitate education programs, tending to gardens, sewing masks for Zoo employees and volunteers, and supervising other volunteers as a “day captain.”

“Linda’s fingerprints are all over the Zoo, and she goes above and beyond for us in every way possible,” said Kathleen Nichols, the Zoo’s director of volunteer programs. “We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer and recognize her in this way.”

Born in San Francisco, Chadwick has lived in Brevard County for 13 years. Since her retirement from the Department of Defense in 2010, she and her husband have visited 66 countries.

In 2020, 709 volunteers donated a total of 64,053 hours to the Zoo—saving the not-for-profit organization \$751,350 in salary expenses.

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*Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).*

*Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at [www.treetoptrek.com](http://www.treetoptrek.com).*

*The Aquarium Project is a plan to construct a world-class aquarium and conservation center at Port Canaveral. More information is available at [www.theaquariumproject.org](http://www.theaquariumproject.org).*