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Brevard Zoo celebrates largest-ever fundraising event

MELBOURNE, Fla., May 31, 2017 — Safari Under the Stars (SUS), Brevard Zoo's annual fundraising event, brought in a record-breaking total of \$629,689 in its 2017 iteration on Saturday, April 29. The event was presented by Flammio Financial Group, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

"We are extremely fortunate to be in a community that appreciates the importance of our animal wellness, conservation and education programs and is so passionately willing to open their hearts and wallets to fund them," said director of development Karen Davis.

The festivities included the third annual Give from the Heart initiative, a segment of the program that garners contributions for a specific project in real time. This year, SUS attendees gifted \$126,360 to the Zoo's animal wellness programs.

In 2016, Give from the Heart was dedicated to the Exceptional Nature Space (ENS), a section of the Zoo designed for children with special needs and their families. The ENS was completed last month, just in time for SUS attendees to explore during the 2017 event. The Zoo's education department is currently piloting programs in the ENS and plans to expand the space's offerings to the public in the fall.

The event was not without its share of celebrities: Bill Klein and Jennifer Arnold of TLC's "The Little Couple" were present to christen the ENS, while Bindi Irwin was on hand to champion the Zoo's animal wellness and conservation initiatives.

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 180 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.

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.