

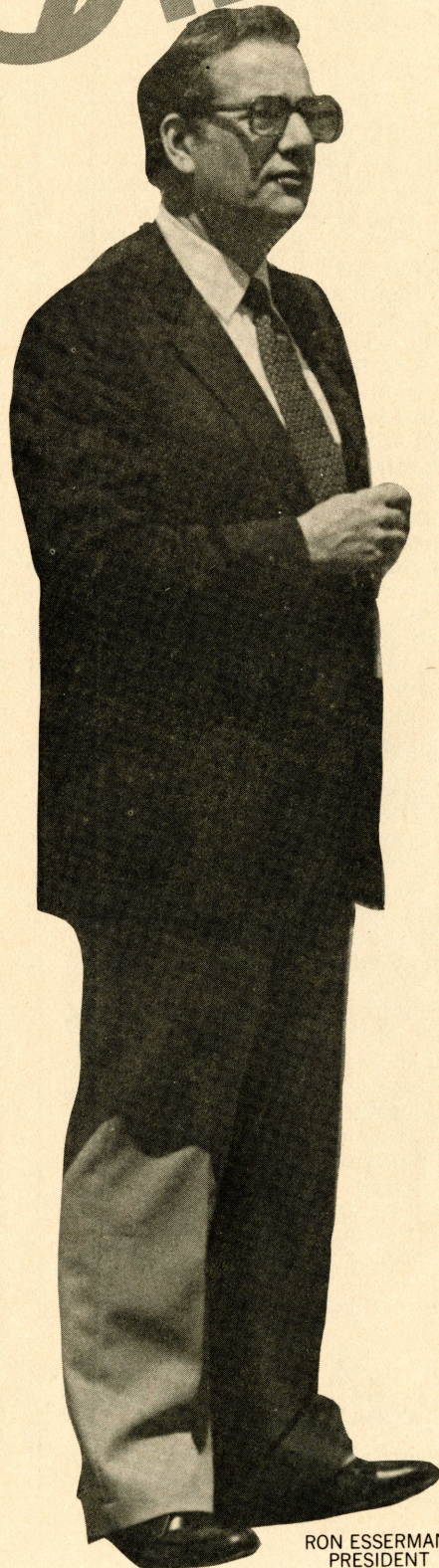
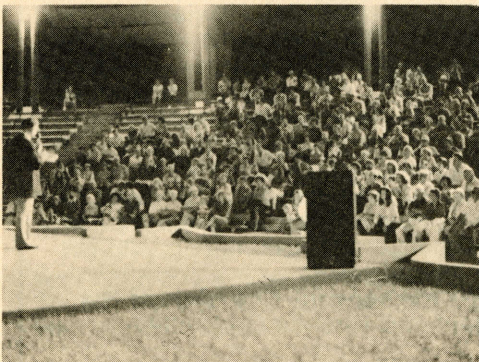
JANUARY-FEBRUARY
VOL. 9, NO. 1

TOUCAN TALK

Spectacular membership growth characterized the Zoological Society's last year as a result of the opening of the beautiful new Metrozoo in December 1981. As residents and visitors flocked to see a great animal collection living peacefully on grassy knolls and in forest shadows, interest in the Society grew.

Past President Jack Lowell reported at his last Board meeting in November that membership had grown during his two-year tenure from 2,225 to 10,092. Members turned out in record numbers at the annual Members' Night at the zoo later that month. A sneak preview for members only of the new African Plains section preceded the annual meeting in the amphitheatre to the accompaniment of music provided by WKAT. Members enjoyed another African preview that night — scenes of Kenya, which a few lucky members will see on our first photo safari to Africa in July.

New officers and board members were introduced to members, as was new Executive Director Aileen Lotz. More members-only events were planned at the January Board of Directors meeting, along with a new members and finance campaign to raise funds to construct the zoo's badly-needed nursery and clinic building.



RON ESSERMAN,
PRESIDENT

Membership in the Zoological Society is more than free admission to Metrozoo. Our new year will bring to the zoo an ever-expanding education program reaching adults and children alike — up to 80,000 school children are expected to benefit through increased appreciation of our wildlife heritage.

In subsequent issues of Toucan Talk, we'll tell you a little about the members of the Board of Directors who will guide these activities during this year. For a starter, let's introduce our new officers.

RON ESSERMAN

Our new President, Ron Esserman, was elected to that post by members of the Board of Directors at its November meeting. He succeeds Jack Lowell, who had led the organization for the past two years.

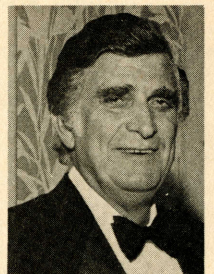
A zoo practically in his backyard encouraged Ron Esserman to become active in the Zoological Society. President of South Motors, Inc., and two other new automobile agencies, he has been active in the South Dade business and civic community for two decades. Serving on the Board of Directors of the Perrine-Cutler Ridge Kiwanis Club and the South Dade Chamber of Commerce for many years, he was president of the latter organization for two terms.

LESTER GOLDSTEIN

Attorney Lester Goldstein, who has hands on the pulse of many important community activities, is our first Vice-President. He serves on the Dade County Planning Advisory Board, the Dade-Monroe Mental Health Board and on the Board of PACE.

A deep interest in the zoo during the three years he has been a Society member led to service on the Board of Directors for two years and the initiation of the Animal Memorial Fund (see pg. 4.) He also raised funds for the popular puppet theatre on the zoo grounds.

Lester is a member of the law firm of Arky, Freed, Stearns, Watson and Greer.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

First, I want to thank Jack Lowell for his leadership, dedication, hard work and for a great job during a particularly difficult two years of transition for the Society. We are in far better shape than when he began his term of office.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Zoo Director Bob Yokel and his professional staff. They are doing a superb job, and are cooperative and easy to work with. I am looking forward to some very productive years working together to support Miami Metrozoo in its efforts to make this the premier zoo in the world.

If I had to express our long-term objectives in one sentence, I would say: to support the zoo, the surrounding complex and other compatible activities that will make it a world-class attraction that is family, cultural and entertainment-oriented; that will identify and promote Miami as a special place to live and work; and that will also be an outstanding tourist attraction.

Zoological Society activities provide financial, volunteer, educational and political support for Miami Metrozoo. We raise money through grants, bequests, donations, major gifts, matching funds, and other activities to help build a nursery-clinic building and other future projects. We help finance animal acquisitions through special funds, such as our gorilla fund. We helped with transportation costs for Ramar and we are helping with the recent acquisition of five gorillas from the federal government. Through the Adopt-an-Animal program, we raise money to provide food for animals at the zoo.

We provide the zoo's education program with a budget of \$150,000. The program is projected to reach over 80,000 school children next year. Our first zoo camp and educational activities this past summer were an outstanding success. Through the Docent Council, we offer narrated walking and tram tours of the entire zoo. Our volunteer staff through our ZIP organization (Zoo Information Personnel) and Service Team provide over 24,000 volunteer hours for crowd control, manning information booths, taking tickets, providing directions, and generally helping wherever necessary. Politically, it is our job to mobilize public, county and state support to help finish the 300-acre complex and all the lobes in complete zoogeographic form.

Priorities we set now are crucial. Significant accomplishments must keep pace with the fantastic progress of Metrozoo in just a few short years. We are now probably at a watershed in Miami's history. Anyone watching TV can't fail to notice how our recent national publicity represents us as the frontier town of the 1980's, just as Dodge City was the frontier town of the middle 1800's. Can Miami Metrozoo be instrumental in turning a whole community image around? A bit far-fetched perhaps, but I think not.

It is the only world-class project in South Florida; it can make Miami famous again. The zoo appeals to all — the young, the old, the healthy, the infirm, the rich, the poor — to people in all walks of life. It brings smiles and good feelings to all that visit. If we have the vision, the desire and the commitment to lead, instead of just keeping pace, then this Society - working on this project - - can be one of the most exciting organizations in South Florida.

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. The time for us is now. The vehicle to make it happen is here. Our members not only can be, but will be the leaders and the catalysts.

Working together in the next few years we can help make it happen!

Ron Esserman, President

MRS. JOHN P. (BUFF) MARCH



Buff served for two years on the Executive Committee as Secretary before being elected Second Vice-President.

She chaired the "Green Stamps for Gorillas" campaign, which raised \$18,000. At the

same time, she served as Volunteer Coordinator for the Society and is always ready to volunteer when the going gets tough. She sits on the South Dade Chamber of Commerce Parks and Marine Committee, and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Miami.

ROGER CARLTON

In the middle of the excitement of downtown development is Roger Carlton, Executive Director of the Miami Off-Street Parking Authority. Roger is the new Secretary of the Society.

Getting Metrozoo off and running — particularly getting the monorail off the ground — has been both an official task and a deep personal interest for Roger. Prior to taking on the downtown parking problems, Roger was Assistant County Manager for Metro-Dade County, playing a key role in the complex task of Metrozoo start-up.

ROBERT L. HARRIS



When Zoological Society membership began to skyrocket and organizational problems mushroomed, we were lucky that businessman Bob Harris was serving on the Board of Directors.

Bob developed our first real budget last year, and this year he moved into the Treasurer's post. The Executive Vice-President for finance of Ryder Truck Rental, Inc., he brings to Society business a wide range of financial management experience over the past twenty years.

Bob will serve as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

METROZOO DIRECTORS REPORT.

By Bob Yokel

The plight of the American bald eagle has been well chronicled throughout the years. Perhaps it is a symbolic parallel to the erosion we see in many of American institutions today. However, there is one significant difference. Institutions are founded and fostered by man, who can champion their causes and continued existence. Unfortunately, the bald eagle cannot champion its own cause nor do anything at all to save itself. Without man's help, the bald eagle can only await the ultimate cruelty — extinction.

Although much has been done on behalf of the bald eagle, even more remains to be done to insure its continued existence. Metrozoo has recently been afforded the opportunity to participate in a preservation effort that we have chosen to call Project Eagle.

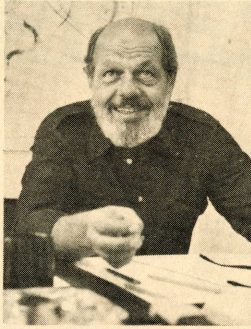
On December 8, 1982, General Curator Bill Zeigler and I met with Mr. Peter Mott, Director of the Florida Audubon Society, to discuss this exciting project which should be near and dear to the hearts of all Americans — the breeding and release of the American bald eagle, *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*, into specified areas of the state of Florida selected by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please take note of these participants: a private organization, a county zoo, and a state and a federal agency. The common bond here is the conservation and preservation of wildlife.

In this increasingly complex age, it often takes this level of effort and involvement to establish the strong support base that can provide continuity and longevity to a project. While independent action in the arena of wildlife management is laudable and newsworthy, it can sometimes be short-lived and ultimately ineffective with regard to the long-term survival of a species.

By the terms of the Project Eagle agreement, those eagles that cannot be reintroduced to the wild due to injury or damage will be brought by the Florida Audubon Society to Metrozoo for breeding. The offspring of these birds, when they have reached an appropriate age and physical condition, will be returned to the Audubon Society to be trained for release in selected, protected areas of Florida. It's a simple objective, but a complex task.

At this writing, we have finalized the agreement, begun modification of off-exhibit breeding facilities that should be completed in March, and we anticipate the arrival of the first eagles in April.

We think that this project will be a valuable contribution to the preservation of North American wildlife and the perpetuation of our national symbol.



Metrozoo Director

AFRICA CALLING!

Kenya is beckoning Society members! We already have a good group signed up for this, our first major trip in our new travel program. July 28 is the date we depart from Miami and we need to know soon just how many members will be joining the Safari.

Call Aileen Lotz, 255-5551, for any information about the itinerary, the deposit required, a roommate, or anything else you need in order to sign up.

We'll be meeting once or twice before the trip with Dr. Gordon Hubbell, who will be the safari leader. We'll meet each other, get tips on photography, good books to read about East Africa, and see some slides taken by people who have already been there. Cost again is \$2,495 per person, double occupancy.

Meanwhile, plans have firmed up for a "quickie" trip to the Dark Continent, Busch Gardens in Tampa. The date is Saturday, March 5, and the total cost including air fare is \$110. We have an option if you plan to drive. A full day of out-of-the-ordinary activities have been planned by Dr. Judy Breuggeman, Education Director, beginning at 9 a.m. We need to know IMMEDIATELY if you are planning to take advantage of this fun trip. Call Aileen Lotz, 255-5551 for full details.

RARE BONGOS GRACE ZOO.

Bongos are seldom seen in zoos. Their shy, retiring nature makes them difficult to keep, although several zoos have recently managed to maintain and breed them successfully. With the opening of the new African Plains Section, Metrozoo now proudly displays a fine pair.

Bongo (*Boocerus euryceros*) is perhaps one of the least known large African antelopes standing up to 50 inches tall. Their large spiral horns (both sexes) and delicately striped coats make them a most attractive species.

Native to East Africa, Bongos rarely leave the forest areas living principally in the bamboo regions along the tree lines of isolated mountain areas. They browse on foliage and shoots mainly at dawn and dusk, resting and ruminating during the hottest hours of the day. A single calf is born around December after 9 to 10 months' gestation and is also striped like the adult but with a lighter buff coat. The bulls are solitary except in the mating season.

Metrozoo's spacious display offers our new arrivals an ideal setting complete with stands of bamboo and some friendly and beautiful West African Crowned Cranes.

YOU'RE INVITED!

A fun fashion show and brunch will be the latest benefit for our Adopt-an-Animal Program. The Cutler Ridge Hammock Women's Club invites Zoological Society members to join them on St. Patrick's Day between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Grove Isles Vista

Room. A \$20.00 admission fee will benefit the zoo and entitle the attendee to chances on cruises and other fabulous prizes. Reservations are essential. Call Charlene Feldner at 251-7638. The Club will also be soliciting memberships in the Zoological Society.

DOCENT CORNER.

By Freda Houser

Another year rolled by and the Docents proudly summarize some of the past year's accomplishments as follows:

697 tours, 305 school and special tours reaching 19,847 people; 127 Outreach programs for 15,538 people, 29 TV appearances; narrated 2,646 tram tours for 77,597 people, adding up to a total of 8,606.8 volunteer hours.

A highlight of Docent activities was the appreciation dinner given for Metrozoo and Zoological Society Staff on December 15th. The holiday spirit prevailed with the lovely decorations, refreshments, and of course, the delicious dishes Docents prepared for the occasion. Coordinating all the activities was a committee of five - Judy Moss, Cindy de Tournillon, Martha Block, Carla Eberhardt and Donna Lea Needham. It was fun to see the smiling faces of those who won prizes as names were drawn from a box. Congratulations go to the committee for a job well done.



Metrozoo Holiday Staff Dinner Committee: L to R: Judy Moss, Cindy de Tournillon and Martha Block.

We greet the new year with the election of a new Advisory Board.

President Freda Houser
First Vice-President Donna Lea Needham
Second Vice-President Carla Eberhardt
Secretary Pat Superfine
Treasurer Flo De Napoli
Education Chairman Judy Valimont
Diane Little
Steve Vogel
Past President Pat Kelly

For Information Call:
DOCENT OFFICE
225-2214

EDUCATION OUTLOOK.

By Ileen Seidler

Growing, growing ever on! So goes our Education Department. The program lineup for 1983 is falling into place. The classes to be offered in the next months are listed below and are limited, so sign up quickly. A small peek into the '83 education offerings will highlight a full summer program for the whole family, while the fall schedule will include an extra-special Halloween Haunt to be held at Metrozoo.

The Education Department extends a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Laurie Ditmer. Fresh from the Columbus Zoo, Laurie arrived in Miami in a car bursting with her favorite plants. Her skills in developing and teaching outdoor education programs will enrich our program immensely.

PROGRAM LINEUP FEB. 11TH — MARCH 12TH.

METROZOO-INN

(\$17.50-Members / \$20.00-Non-members)

A "Pajama Party" at the zoo! What a treat to explore the creatures of the night...on the ground and in the stars. Includes a Friday evening dinner by the lake. Then off to sleep to the distant roar of the lions. Very limited enrollment. WOW!

Metrozoo-Inn I. Feb. 11 / 5 pm-9 am - Grades 4-6
Metrozoo-Inn I. Mar. 11 / 5 pm-9 am - Grades 4-6

FAMILY FILM FARE

(Free to zoo visitors)

Enjoy Zooper animal film classics including Gerald Durrell's "Ark on the Move" film series and other masterpieces. Saturday fun for the entire family. It's free! Under 12 must be with adult.

February 26th & March 12th.
Showtimes: 10:30 am / 12:30 pm / 2:30 pm

ANIMAL "LOCO"—MOTION

(\$6.00 / Members - \$8.00 / Non-members)

Some animals hop and some of them crawl and some just stay home and go nowhere at all. Find out all about the crazy ways animals move.

March 5 (Saturday) - 10 am-Noon - Grades 1-3

ANIMAL MECHANICS

(\$6.00 / Members - \$8.00 / Non-members)

Spare parts? Paint job? Discover how some unusual animal body parts and coloration help them survive in the wild.

March 5 (Saturday) - 1 pm-3 pm - Grades 4-6

ZOTOGRAPHY I WITH DAN WILSON

(\$30.00-Members / \$35.00-Non-members)

An introductory course to photography with an adjustable camera. The basics of 35mm photography are covered from equipment to film to composition. Among the techniques to be included are exposure, depth of field, flash, and the use of filters. Six-week course includes five Tuesdays and one Saturday, a photo Safari of the zoo itself.

Feb. 8. - 7 pm-9 pm - High school to adult.

Watch the next issue of Toucan Talk for our special Spring Break classes.

TOUCAN CHATTER.

By Jan Beckman
Administrator



What to do...

.....when a loved pet dies? Friends of new VP Lester Goldstein have found a living solution: a contribution to help construct the nursery-clinic where wild animals will be cared for. Contributions in any amount will be welcome. Just make your check out to the Zoological Society of Florida and mark it for the fund.

The "Mad Scientists"...

.....science club at Glades Junior High School boosted our Animal Adoption fund by \$300, money they raised through club events to be come "parents" of a siamang. Club leaders recently toured the zoo with Docents and presented the check in front of the Donor Board where their name will be listed.

Welcome...

.....to staffers Judi Thomas, Administrative Secretary; and to Laurie Ditmer, new Curriculum Developer.

Welcome also...

.....to new Board of Directors members: former County Manager R. Ray Goode, attorney Donald Rosenberg and public relations executive Richard Shack. We'll tell you more about them in the next TOUCAN TALK.

Watch out...

.....for news of Zoological Society events in TOUCAN TALK. Our membership has grown so large we can no longer send out separate notices of all special events. You'll read about future **members only** events right here, so be sure to jot them down on your calendar.

Off and running...

.....is our Adopt-an-Animal program, with 235 "parents" and "friends" at the end of the year. "Parents" of zoo animals who contribute \$200 or more get a plaque on the donor board at the entrance of the zoo. Adoption certificates make good presents for relatives "who have everything." Call 255-5551 for more information.

THE BURMA TRAIL.

Now Metrozoo has three different free shows every day. The newest addition is the elephant presentation at the Burma Trail, right next to the elephant exhibit. There's an elephant ring and bleachers at the end of the lushly-landscaped trail, and there zookeepers Bill Doss, Jean Hromodka and Dave Camp put the elephants through their paces, while explaining to the crowd why and how elephants are trained. Peggy and Machito, both African elephants, are the performers, who seem happy to show off their intelligence, and Spike, our young Asian elephant, will soon be joining them.



By
Barbara
Birmingham

It was a busy year for ZIP (Zoo Information Personnel). 12,081.6 volunteer hours were logged in by ZIP members and the group more than doubled in number. However, it still wasn't enough! With the increasing demands of a growing Society and zoo, ZIP must intensify its recruiting program during the coming year.

Over the two-week holiday period, 81,300 visitors passed through Metrozoo's gates. Without the help of the Docent Council, the Service Team and volunteer Dade County employees, ZIP couldn't have done it alone. Our special thanks to these people for being so generous with their time.

With the visitors came new memberships. Over the holidays, ZIP brought in over \$20,000 in new memberships at the information booths and answered thousands of questions.

During 1982, ZIP represented the zoo and the Society at four horse shows, the Youth Fair, the Garden Show and in the Junior Orange Bowl and St. Patrick's Day parades. They answered phones, did office work, provided security on trams, worked the stroller gates, controlled crowds at the bird shows, handled the information booths, constructed walls in the office and did just about anything and everything that they were asked to do regardless of the job.

Thank you, ZIP volunteers, for a job well done and a special invitation to all Society members to get involved with your zoo in 1983!

SERVICE TEAM

By Ileen Seidler



Who are those teenagers in the yellow T-shirts flying around the zoo? They seem to be everywhere you look. By no strange coincidence, they are members of a very important life-line of the Zoological Society. They are all members of the Society's Service Team.

Back in the summer of 1980, a fun-filled and educational eight-week course encompassing the studies of animals, animal health care and the importance of zoos was developed. The response was excellent, and, upon completion of this Toucan Team course, the Service Team was born. Since that summer, starting with approximately ten members, they have grown to be forty-two strong.

The Service Team works as part of the educational services of the Zoological Society. They show the public that there are interesting things to do at the zoo (especially for young people). They are at the zoo to provide service for Metrozoo, the Zoological Society and the community.

rick's Day Parade, Junior Orange Bowl Parade, Zoo-Inns, aiding with new Toucan Teams, Teachers' Workshops and just about anything else that comes along. They were out in force for both zoo openings in 1981 and 1982.

Our Service Team members have, since 1980, put in over 2,000 hours of service. After spending six to eight weeks going through special training they spend at least two Saturdays per month at the zoo working approximately five hours on these days.

There are several members who have devoted over 150 hours since January 1982. They include Lisa Fried with over 500 hours followed by Betsey Greenfield, Kerri Jackson, Elsa Alvear and Jeanne Belin. There is one sustaining member from the original Toucan Team in 1980. Brenda Seidler has continued through the move from Crandon Park to the new Metrozoo. She is now a central part of the Toucan Team classes. We would like to thank Brenda for her long service and continued dedication as a volunteer.

The tireless leader of this energetic group is Susan Fried. Her dedication to our teen volunteer group is a major factor in their success. Susan was also a part of the first Toucan Team and has devoted her Saturdays since then (with few exceptions) to riding herd on this great group. A long overdue Thank You, Susan!

(Continued on page 6)



On any given Saturday, or whenever they are needed, you will find these energetic young people working in the Sualwesi Contact Village, doing puppet shows for young children, cleaning out the wishing well and working alongside ZIP — manning the stroller gate and providing crowd control at the bird shows in the amphitheatre. They have been at the ready for Society activities such as Members' Nights, Art Festivals, Zoo Camp, Saint Pat-





OFFICERS:

Ron Esserman, President
 Lester Goldstein, 1st Vice-President
 Buff March, 2nd Vice-President
 Roger Carlton, Secretary
 Robert Harris, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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R. Ray Goode	Ana P. Soler
Charles Kantor	Howard Tendrich
Jack Lowell	Lawrence Turner
Richard Mahmarian	George M. Wilson
Donald Rosenberg	Robert T. Yokel
Jeffrey Seeberger	

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 Steve Clark, Mayor,
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<p>FOR STUDENTS 18 AND UNDER:</p> <p>PARENT'S NAME _____</p> <p>STUDENT'S AGE _____ GRADE _____</p>	<p>ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM:</p> <p>PROGRAM _____</p> <p>SESSION DATE _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PROGRAM FEE \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MEMBERSHIP (IF DESIRED) \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL \$ _____</p>
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MEMBERSHIP entitles you to free admission to Metrozoo and 70 other zoos, special events and the Society's publications. Family \$35 / Dual \$25 / Individual \$15 Annual Memberships are tax deductible.

MAIL TO: **Education Department, ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA** 12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami, Florida 33177.

SERVICE TEAM (continued from page 5)

We have much to look forward to in the near future. The Service Team will continue its community involvement by working with the Special Olympics in February and March and plans on raising funds to adopt an animal. It will continue to follow its philosophy of service to the zoo,

and, the next time you should happen to see one (yellow T-shirt), please express your appreciation of a job well done, as we hope they will realize just how really important they are to the zoo and the Zoological Society.

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