



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Mexico Foundation Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund Awards \$150,000 Grant to Chimp Haven to Support New Mexico Chimpanzees

Seventy-six chimpanzees from New Mexico currently reside at animal sanctuary retired from life of biomedical research

Albuquerque, N.M. – October 22, 2020 – New Mexico Foundation, a Santa Fe-based endowment-building and grant-making organization stewarding resources, building partnerships, and creating opportunities that transform lives and communities throughout New Mexico, announces the award of a grant totaling \$150,000 from its Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund to Chimp Haven, Inc., a national not-for-profit sanctuary for chimpanzees retired from medical research based in Keithville, La. The award will support the 76 New Mexico chimps now retired and residing at Chimp Haven.

Chimp Haven is a private, nonprofit refuge on 200 acres of forested land in Northwest Louisiana. It's home to more than 300 chimps already retired from biomedical research. While federal funds cover a crucial portion of the lifetime care of these government-owned chimps, the organization relies entirely on the generosity of donors to cover the construction necessary to welcome even more retirees into Chimp Haven's care. "We are thrilled to receive a grant from the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund at New Mexico Foundation to support chimps from New Mexico. These deserving individuals now spend their days climbing trees, living in large bonded social groups, eating their favorite fruits, running, playing, and exploring their surroundings at the sanctuary," said Rana Smith, president and chief executive officer of Chimp Haven.

While 76 New Mexico chimps reside at Chimp Haven, the state currently has an additional 37 chimps located at Holloman Airforce Base in Alamogordo, N.M. Although these chimpanzees are no longer needed for invasive research, NIH has kept the chimps at a laboratory facility on the air force base rather than relocating them to Chimp Haven. "The surviving Alamogordo chimps remaining in New Mexico deserve a better quality of life that only sanctuary can provide," said Laura Bonar, chief program and policy officer with Animal Protection of New Mexico. "The NIH decision for the chimps to remain on Holloman Air Force Base keeps them in an environment which cannot meet their complex emotional and psychological needs and remains a high cost to tax payers."

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Grant Awarded to Chimp Haven

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Since 2016, the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Fund at New Mexico Foundation and Animal Protection of New Mexico have worked together to help award \$1.75 million in grant money to Chimp Haven to support the sanctuary's growth and development.

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About Chimp Haven, Inc.

Chimp Haven, the national chimpanzee sanctuary, is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a refuge for chimpanzees, most of whom were retired from biomedical research. Located on 200 acres of rich forested land near Shreveport, Louisiana, the sanctuary is home to more than 300 chimpanzees who are able to live out the rest of their lives in comfortable retirement. The sanctuary is dedicated to meeting the needs of its chimps. It is made up of a wide range of dynamic habitats for the chimpanzees, including multiple acres of natural forests for them to explore. More information can be found at chimphaven.org.

About Animal Protection of New Mexico

Since 1979, APNM has been advocating for animals by effecting systemic change, working towards the humane treatment of all animals. This includes active support of local and state legislation towards the prevention of animal cruelty, direct service programs as well as public awareness campaigns designed to teach students and communities across New Mexico about the ongoing threats to animals. For more information about Animal Protection of New Mexico's accomplishments, current priority issues and more, please visit www.apnm.org, and be sure to follow Animal Protection of New Mexico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About New Mexico Foundation

New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF) was founded in 1983 by a small group of dedicated and visionary volunteers who believed in the power of philanthropy as a tool for inspiring creative, community-based change and prosperity. For thirty-five years, NMCF has distinguished itself as a leader in philanthropy. Our progressive, grassroots approach to building stronger communities empowers community members to collaborate on critical issues by tapping into local resources and discovering the strength in themselves. We pool resources to support New Mexico's most underserved communities, strengthen New Mexico's nonprofits and grow philanthropy, especially in rural New Mexico. We connect donors to valuable projects and vulnerable communities, as well as work to be responsive to current, and often urgent, community needs. We turn small actions into big impacts.