



Healing Children
 Bienvenidos is a compassionate community of care dedicated to healing children and their families.

Strengthening Families
 Our vision is of a society in which every family can provide a loving, healthy and secure home where children can grow and thrive.

Transforming Communities
 By empowering those we serve to lift themselves up and change their lives, Bienvenidos is helping build healthier families, brighter futures and more vibrant communities.



■ This ad is possible thanks to the generosity of Terrance Yeager ■

Zoo

Story courtesy LA Zoo; Photos by Tad Motoyama, LA Zoo

A New Okapi

LA Zoo celebrates its first okapi birth.

The LA Zoo has a new baby okapi, the first born at the Zoo. The male calf was born Aug. 26 to first-time parents Jamal (father) and Baraka (mother). The baby spent the last couple of months behind the scenes bonding with his mother and familiarizing himself with his new home. Guests can now view the Okapi calf out in his habitat from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

The Zoo received its first okapi in the history of the Zoo in June 2005 after trying to attain one for more than 20 years. Jamal, then 10 years

old, came to the Zoo from Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla. The Zoo's long-term goal of obtaining a pair for breeding was finally met in September 2010 when a female, Baraka, arrived from Denver Zoo.

While some guests may confuse this shy, secretive animal with a zebra due to the brilliant black and white striped patterns on its front and hind legs, it is actually the closest living relative to the giraffe. Often called the "forest giraffe," this beautiful species found in central Africa has a lustrous, velvety coat of fur, a 14-18 inch long, prehensile tongue, and as an adult stands at over six feet tall and weighs between 400-700 pounds.

John Lewis, Los Angeles Zoo Director, said, "Being able to have a species like this breed in our Zoo is a real testament to the hard work of the staff and their dedication to okapi conservation."

The Los Angeles Zoo works with the Okapi Conservation Project (OCP), a conservation group initiated in 1987 with the objective of eliciting support for the conservation of the wild okapi from individuals, foundations, and zoological institutions managing okapi around the world. The okapi is an important flagship species for a rainforest habitat that is rapidly vanishing. Over the last decade, the wild okapi population has dropped from 40,000 to 10,000, and there are currently only 85 okapi in Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited zoos.



The LA Zoo's mother okapi and male calf.

CLUB MEMBERS:



Be My CLUB Valentine

Send your loved one a special Valentine... to be printed in the February *Alive!*

Here's how it works:

Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital preferred) of you and your loved one(s) (could be a romantic partner, a parent or child, etc.) and two or three sentences declaring your special bond.

Deadline: January 15



Send digital photos and your message to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com (subject line: Valentine)

Send paper photos and your message to: City Employees Club: Be My Club Valentine 120 W. Second St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

