



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Nancy Nelson, Como Friends Board Chair
Jackie Sticha, Como Friends President

Dear Ms. Sticha and Ms. Nelson,

The year 2014 saw many great things happening at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Como is the last completely free metro zoo and botanical garden in the country, and without so much support, it may not exist. I wanted to take a moment and send you this letter of thanks to you both as well as Como Friends for your continued support of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

Without the support of Como Friends and this year's amazing gift of \$1,951, 343, Como certainly would not be the same. Included in this amount is \$400,000 to begin the design work for Seals & Sea Lions Exhibit – a commitment to continue to make Como a world class zoo. Funds were also set aside for iPads for students and Nature Walkers (our teen volunteer program) to use, along with planning money for the next phase of master plan work with front door exhibits and orangutans. We all look forward to a new Centennial Garden and a Hoofstock Feeding Station both to open in summer 2015. Como is still committed to its conservation work, with funds dedicated conservation and travel money to develop staff and partnerships around the world that will strengthen our programs and visitors' experience.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory has been a place of fascination, learning and fun for generations of families from across Minnesota. Thanks in large part to Como Friends, that experience is getting better each year—from the upgrades of Polar Bear Odyssey to the Hoofstock Building updates, to gifts benefitting the Education programming, the exhibits and educational opportunities continue to improve. An ongoing partnership between the City of Saint Paul and Como Friends is critical to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory's continued success, and your efforts are truly valued.

With increasingly challenging budget situations, our work at the City of Saint Paul has not gotten any easier. Regardless, 2014 was a great year, and 2015 will be even more exciting. I look forward to working together and seeing these new projects take form. Thanks to your staff and Board of Directors for all your work.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor