It takes a great deal to make the Texas State Aquarium function properly day in and day out. Our success requires hard work, care, and sacrifice from dedicated employees and volunteers, combined with the wise and careful guidance from our Board of Trustees. This collaboration assures top notch care for our facility and live animal collection – all while offering quality educational and entertaining programming on a daily basis. Here are some examples of the things it took to allow the Aquarium to educate and entertain its over 500,000 guests and members in 2013:

- 8,000,000 gallons of water in our exhibits
- 320 species
- 2,800 individual specimens
- 2.5 tons of food sold
- 13,745 hamburgers
- 136,728 drinks
- 13,439 hot dogs
- 24,927 slices of pizza

- 99 full-time employees
- 47 part-time employees
- 69 seasonal employees
- 21,150 volunteer hours
- 183 volunteers
- 21,790 pounds of fish, crustaceans, clams, squid, and gelatin diet for our dolphins and otters
- 1,553 volunteer diving hours
Our mission of connecting people with nature and inspiring conservation of the Gulf of Mexico is ongoing. Each year we fulfill that mission by continuing to provide the education, programming, and services that have made us successful... while always improving in order to make a difference in individual lives and in the Coastal Bend through our educational and conservation efforts.

As part of our successful 2013, we took exciting steps forward in our role as an educational and conservation leader in the Coastal Bend – a role we will expand with each coming year. This annual report highlights those new initiatives, recognizes people and programs that make the Aquarium so special, and offers a glimpse into the brilliant future we anticipate.

We were very proud to establish our Wildlife Care, Conservation, and Research Fund (WCCR), and award $100,000 to six projects that align with our commitment to preserving the Gulf of Mexico. Read more about this exciting initiative on pages 2 and 3.

2013 brought new versions of our dolphin and Wild Flight shows that proved to be big hits with guests. Ocean Games is an Olympic-style competition featuring our two Atlantic bottlenose dolphins showing off their athleticism and intelligence. The fast-paced show combines humor, excitement, and education to stop and make guests think before littering or trying to interact with dolphins in the wild. The new Wild Flight Show features an array of talented birds and an eclectic mixture of mammals and debuted on a brand new set. While enjoying the show, guests are learning about the importance of recycling.

Based on research about education in general, and the current and projected employment opportunities around the Coastal Bend in the coming years, the Aquarium made a shift in its educational focus in 2013 towards more STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning programs. The shift will better prepare our local children for more lucrative career opportunities and to meet the increasing needs of nearby companies for workers skilled in these areas. You can learn more about this shift and STEM learning on pages 5 and 6.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Orion Drilling Company, we debuted an exciting new extension to our distance learning programs – Nautilus Live. Throughout the summer, Aquarium guests were able to connect each day via satellite to an active research vessel to watch updates and ask questions of the scientists on board.

Finally, 2013 was an exciting year of looking forward to a transformational future as we continued to develop the architectural and exhibit plans and quietly raise funds for our Caribbean Journey building. This exciting $50 million expansion will more than double the size of the Aquarium and complete a visionary master plan put in motion by our founders more than 25 years ago. It has been gratifying to see the community’s response to this exciting project, and you’ll hear and see much more about it in the coming months.

All of us at the Texas State Aquarium thank you for your support. Come and see the exciting things happening at your Aquarium, and join us in making a positive impact in the Coastal Bend.

Deniece Squires
Board Chair

Tom Schmid
President & CEO
How We Give Back

Wildlife Care, Conservation, and Research Fund Launched

In 2013, the Texas State Aquarium established the Wildlife Care, Conservation, and Research Fund (WCCR) to further the Aquarium’s mission of inspiring conservation of the Gulf of Mexico. Each year, the Aquarium will award funding to programs that focus on habitat restoration, wildlife management, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation in the Gulf. Projects must focus on species in the Aquarium’s living collection or habitats that support those species.

Upon the announcement of the new fund, Aquarium President & CEO Tom Schmid commented, “We are very excited to offer this program and help further the research and conservation projects of those in the community. As a not-for-profit entity, we are acutely aware of how important grant funding is to projects, so we are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to others.”

At the Aquarium’s annual AQUA event on November 6, 2013, the Texas State Aquarium announced the following 2013/2014 WCCR Fund recipients:

- **Water for Whooping Cranes – Water Well Rehabilitation on Aransas Wildlife Refuge**
  San Antonio Bay Partnership, Inc./James Dodson, M.S.
  This project worked to refurbish water wells and ponds on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to provide fresh water sources for the birds during times of drought.

- **Oyster Reef Restoration: Benefits to Food Resources in Texas Bays**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi/Jennifer Pollack, PhD
  This project proposed to determine how increased oyster biomass may influence production of benthic food resources that may then be used by oysters and other benthic organisms.

- **Tracking the Incidence of the Fibropapilloma Virus in Texas’ Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia Mydas) Population**
  Environmental Institute of Houston – University of Houston/Tasha Metz and George Guillen, PhDs
  This project sought to further document incidences of the fibropapilloma virus in green sea turtles found in Texas and gather information on the extent and origin of the disease.
Sharks with Spectators: Real-Time, Web-Based Tracking of Texas’ Marine Apex Predators
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi/Greg Stunz, PhD
This project proposed to tag and track large sharks. Information concerning the animals’ current location and past movements was sent to the Coastal Bend and global community, allowing for outreach and education opportunities and better understanding of declining shark populations.

Managing Invasive Lionfish in the Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation/Michelle Johnston, PhD
This project utilized volunteer divers to host “derbies” to collect lionfish. The collected fish were then processed for metrics and gut contents as part of an ongoing research and management program.

Sarasota Dolphin Research Program
Chicago Zoological Society/Randall Wells, PhD
Started in 1970, the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program (SDRP) at the Dolphin Biology Research Institute (DBRI) is a collaborative partnership led by the Chicago Zoological Society dedicated to dolphin research, conservation, and education. The SDRP studies wild bottlenose dolphins in Sarasota Bay, including tracking population and health data. The Texas State Aquarium supports the SDRP, which is the longest running research study of bottlenose dolphins in the world.

SECORE Foundation
Started in 2002, SECORE (SExual COral REproduction) has evolved into one of the leading coral conservation initiatives of scientists and aquarium professionals from around the world. Texas State Aquarium staff periodically participate in SECORE field work in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.
The Texas State Aquarium believes that our responsibility as an Aquarium is not simply to take care of the animals in our collection, but also to use the expertise we have on staff to benefit other area wildlife in need of help.

For almost 20 years, our Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Program has treated hundreds of injured or sick animals annually at our hospital, with the goal of rehabilitating and releasing them back into their natural habitat. The program is federally permitted and operates under rigorous standards established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Each year, thousands of protected, threatened, or endangered species along the Texas coast become ill or injured. Some have been impaired by predators, diseases, or other natural causes; others have problems caused directly or indirectly by humans. This includes entanglement in fishing line, nets, or lures, collisions with vehicles and even illegal harassment and shootings.

When an animal is brought into the Second Chances Wildlife Hospital, Aquarium staff stabilizes the animal, evaluates its condition, and provides comprehensive medical treatment. Services range from simply providing a safe, temporary refuge for an exhausted migratory shorebird to acute medical care for an ill dolphin. We are able to care for: shorebirds, terns, pelicans, egrets, plovers, spoonbills, stilts, skimmers, oystercatchers, gulls, sandpipers, raptors (birds of prey), hawks, falcons, owls, eagles, reptiles, and marine mammals.

In 2013, the Second Chances program treated 192 animals of 60 different species. Fifty-two of those were released back into their natural habitats, and four more were transferred either into our collection or to a permanent home at another AZA-accredited facility.

Among those released was a Great horned owl, rescued by a family after being entangled in a barbed-wire fence on their ranch, and transported 50 miles to the Aquarium’s hospital. The landowners had seen the owl roosting and hunting on their land for years, and their grandson found the injured owl and contacted the Aquarium.

After four months of intensive care and healing, the owl was able to successfully fly and hunt again. Family members checked on the owl’s progress throughout its treatment, and were thrilled when it was returned, healthy and recovered, to their land.

Another banner day in 2013 for the Second Chances program was September 3, when a flock of rehabilitated black-bellied whistling ducks and two laughing gulls were released back to their natural habitats. The ducklings were found abandoned on Houston Street and were brought to the Second Chances Hospital in May. As part of their rehabilitation process, the family unit of ducks learned how to fly and hunt for food. They were released at Hans and Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge.

Following the release of the whistling ducks, the Aquarium released two laughing gulls at Indian Point Pier. One of the gulls was discovered emaciated near a bait stand, and was found to have swallowed a fishing hook. The other gull was found injured, and had been hit by a vehicle.

It is days like those that remind staff just how important our work is. Without it, many injured and sick animals in our area every year might not get that second chance they need to live a full and healthy life.
Education

At the Texas State Aquarium, education has always been the cornerstone of our mission. Our family and fun-focused programming and entertainment is consistent with high-quality teaching, as research about learning in zoos, aquaria and museums shows experiential, place-based, and social learning models are most effective.

Our goal with the Aquarium experience is to leave children and families in a happy state of wanting to know more, and to do what they can to participate in local, regional and worldwide conservation.

From television and the Oceans in Motion mobile aquarium of the 1990s to Aquavision, grant-funded, in-depth field experiences for all ages, and the highly successful SeaCamp, the Aquarium’s education team has built a strong portfolio of programs. Almost two million students and teachers have participated in those programs, and the Aquarium has garnered 15 awards for education and exhibitry since 1990.

We know that science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills are necessary for competition in today’s marketplace. But recruiting, retaining, or training enough STEM students to maintain our competitive edge and economic health in the global economy is challenging. Research indicates students may not explore these fields because they are “too hard” or “too boring.”

The Texas State Aquarium is anything but boring! With compelling animals and fascinating habitats where children and learners at all stages can practice integrated STEM skills, we can win them over to STEM – or at least improve their critical thinking skills.

To that end, in 2013 the Aquarium began a move towards hands-on, student-active programming in the exhibitry. Our new philosophy, which supports the latest version of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, is to lecture last…or not at all. We’re flipping our programs, leaving the classroom behind, and designing guided discovery opportunities at Tortuga Cay, Dolphin Bay, and Islands of Steel for starters.

Next time you are here during the day, look for kids and teachers armed with stopwatches, cameras, tablets, rulers and sketch pads. They may be extremely quiet, or wildly chaotic, but they’re observing, questioning, and designing their own explorations – and having a good time doing so.

Our New Vision for Education

Beginning in 2013, all we do:

• Connects student, teacher, and public audiences to nature through STEM discovery and research activities focused on the habitats and animals at the Aquarium and local and regional ecosystems
• Inspires conservation and career path choices through high-quality STEM activities
• Improves STEM literacy through an emphasis on ocean and environmental science
• Provides an environment in which staff, teachers, students, and families can experiment and practice with new ideas and STEM methods, and
• Fosters excellence in STEM education!
New “Discovering Science” STEM Learning Programs

In 2013, the Aquarium began offering new STEM learning principles-centered “Discovering Science” programs. An example is our Discovering Dolphins program. In early November, 40 sixth graders from a science magnet school in the Rio Grande Valley settled down in front of Kai and Shadow, our Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, in the Dolphin Bay H-E-B Underwater Viewing Room. The students spread out on the floor surrounded by their notebooks, pens, pencils, tablets, and cameras. Two Aquarium instructors stood aside, quietly encouraging the children just to watch the dolphins and record the words and phrases that best described the sleek grey animals and their habitat. It was difficult to determine who was more interested in the process, the children, their teachers and chaperones, or the dolphins themselves.

A few minutes later, the children shared their observations and the many questions taking shape as they discussed the obvious and subtle differences between Kai and Shadow. Then they narrowed the questions to two that could be answered through further observation: “How long can they hold their breath?” and “How long do they stay underwater?”

When the students realized they had stopwatches on their phones and tablets, they quickly determined they could work in pairs to time and record the dolphins’ breaths.

Another group stayed downstairs recording the dolphins’ behaviors. Eventually the kids reunited, nearly tripping over each other to demonstrate how he or she found the range, mean, median, and mode for the breathing data.

Satisfied they had solved a problem, and armed with the behavioral data to tackle back at school, the group moved upstairs to enjoy the Ocean Games dolphin show. The children could not have been more engaged in their learning, and their teachers could not have been happier with the outcome. It was the Aquarium’s “Discovering Science” pilot, and hopefully the first of many real science field studies for a special group from the Valley that took a chance on something new at Texas State Aquarium.

Taking the Classroom to the Community

In the 15 years since Debbie Edwards joined the Aquarium’s outreach team, she has presented skits, puppet shows, and hands-on, live animal learning programs to more than 305,000 students and adults across the region and state. In the beginning, Debbie traveled with the 18-wheel Oceans in Motion Mobile Aquarium. Now she packs up turtles, snakes, baby alligators, props, costumes, biofacts, and artifacts for summer library reading events, fairs, festivals, latchkey afternoons, and classroom encounters from the Coastal Bend to Beeville, Victoria, Austin, and beyond.

Much of Debbie’s work is funded through grants from Texas businesses and foundations. In 2013, the Ed Rachal Foundation provided funding for 92 school and community programs that touched the lives of 5,450 South Texans. Participants describe Debbie as enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and having the patience and willingness to answer every child’s question.

Debbie has also helped lead the way in our efforts to innovate and attain excellence by working with the Flint Hills Resources Aquavision Distance Learning studio and staff to integrate outreach and distance learning. The result has been a comprehensive look at live animals in a classroom setting, coupled with a live look at the animals in their habitat at the Aquarium.
Community & Environment

Economic Impact
The Aquarium’s economic impact on Corpus Christi was more than $56 million in 2013. The Aquarium supported more than 700 area jobs, with annual salaries totaling more than $16 million.

Community Dollar Days
Thanks to our generous corporate partners, thousands of members of the community enjoyed a day at the Aquarium in 2013 for just $1 each. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 7,812 guests attended Dollar Day sponsored by Navy Army Community Credit Union. In November, 6,253 guests came to Dollar Day sponsored by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation. In December, 2,772 guests braved inclement weather to enjoy Dollar Day and a lighted Santa hat giveaway, all provided by Reliant, an NRG Company.

Military Appreciation Month
Throughout the month of December, the Texas State Aquarium offered half-price admission to all active and veteran military personnel and their families, as thanks for their service to our country.

Keeping Our Beaches Clean
The Aquarium is the North Beach host and coordinator for the Texas General Land Office’s Adopt-A-Beach cleanup program, an all-volunteer effort dedicated to preserving and protecting Texas beaches. Since the first cleanup in 1986, more than 465,000 volunteers have picked up more than 8,900 tons of trash from Texas beaches, some of it originating as far away as South America.

In 2013, the Aquarium hosted three North Beach Adopt-A-Beach cleanups, and provided participants free admission to the Aquarium for the entire day of the event. Throughout the year, staff members also volunteer their time to clean up North Beach and other beaches in the Corpus Christi area.

Oceans of Plastic
Conservation education and art colorfully collided when the Texas State Aquarium debuted “Oceans of Plastic,” a collection of contemporary art pieces by local artist Shelia Rogers which powerfully express how harmful plastics pollution is to the environment. The trash-turned-art was made from thousands of pieces of discarded plastic—such as milk caps and straws—that ended up in the ocean and eventually washed ashore, were scrubbed clean, and sorted by color to create inspiring art.
Educational Discounts

Though we are a private, non-profit with no local, county, state or federal funding assistance, the Aquarium makes significant discounts available to various educational groups. Thus, tens of thousands of students are able to enjoy the Aquarium every year, including every third and seventh grader attending a Corpus Christi ISD school.

Environmental Sustainability Program

Through our “Going Green” initiative, the Aquarium maintains a number of environmental sustainability practices to aid in the health of our local environment and encourage guests and members to do the same. These green practices include converting larger landscaping beds to xeriscape beds, using drought-tolerant plant species, replacing plant-based mulch with crushed granite, and using automatic toilets and waterless urinals. An extensive recycling program includes the use of biodegradable paper straws, and energy conservation methods such as the use of automatic light switches, compact fluorescent and LED light fixtures, programmable thermostats, timers on vending machines, and a solar array.

Green Halloween

The Aquarium added a new conservation-based family event in 2013 – Green Halloween. It included costume contests, games and eco-friendly arts and crafts, an educational scavenger hunt for kids, and earth-friendly trick or treat candy.

Community Involvement

Beyond the facility, its programs and events, the Aquarium’s reach can be felt throughout the Corpus Christi community through the activities of our staff. The Aquarium is a member of the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, and Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Many Aquarium staff members have earned the designation of Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) through the Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), and they use the knowledge gained through the training to act as ambassadors for Corpus Christi. Aquarium staff members also contribute their time and expertise to the CCCVB, serving on its Board of Directors and Marketing and Attractions Committees. In 2013, staff members participated in Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, Leadership Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Human Resources Management Association, Greater Corpus Christi Hospitality Association, Young Business Professionals of the Coastal Bend, American Advertising Federation, American Fundraising Professionals, and Junior League, among others.

The Aquarium is a generous supporter of other non-profits within the Coastal Bend and around Texas, donating in 2013 more than 800 passes, memberships or tours to qualified organizations and events. Recipients included Corpus Christi ISD, March of Dimes, City of Corpus Christi, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, Del Mar College, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Epilepsy Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Ronald McDonald House.
Financial Summary

Attendance 524,087

Support and Revenues*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Admission</td>
<td>$4,810,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop &amp; Concession Sales</td>
<td>$1,970,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Programs</td>
<td>$1,020,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations, Grants &amp; Special Events</td>
<td>$6,447,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$650,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Rental Income &amp; Group Sales</td>
<td>$942,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vending and Other</td>
<td>$1,145,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,988,325</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2013 figures unaudited

Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$5,255,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquarium Operations</td>
<td>$4,659,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Goods Sold</td>
<td>$391,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment/Interest Expenses</td>
<td>$53,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$367,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$300,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>$953,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Expenses</td>
<td>$126,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,109,509</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenses does not include depreciation expense
In order for a multi-faceted business like the Texas State Aquarium to operate on a daily basis, it takes a great deal of planning, work, and manpower. From care for our animal collection to maintenance of the grounds, facility, and exhibits; to things like education, administration, food service, sales, marketing, communications, and fundraising, the Aquarium’s dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board of Trustees work very hard to ensure a top notch experience for every guest at the number one cultural attraction in South Texas.

Jesse Gilbert

It takes many dedicated employees to make the Texas State Aquarium’s facility run every day, and the guidance of key Aquarium leaders such as Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Jesse Gilbert is crucial to our success. Over the last 11 years, Jesse has developed into a real success story and leader for the Aquarium.

Jesse joined the Aquarium in 2003 from the Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum. Hired on as an Aquarist, Jesse was quickly promoted to Lead Aquarist, Senior Aquarist, Curator of Fishes, and finally Director of Animal Husbandry before being named to his current position in 2013.

Jesse received his Bachelor’s degree in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and recently finished his Master’s in Mariculture and Fisheries at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

In addition to overseeing all animal care areas, safety, exhibits and programming, Jesse provides guidance and direction for the Aquarium’s maintenance and physical plant operations.

“Jesse is a true TSA success story,” commented Aquarium President & CEO Tom Schmid. “He has worked hard to continually expand his skills and knowledge, and he has grown into a strong leader for the Aquarium.”

Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of what the Aquarium does every day. From helping keep our animals, plants and habitats healthy to greeting, entertaining, and educating guests, our devoted volunteers are one of the keys to being able to provide a superb guest experience. Volunteers accounted for more than 21,000 hours of work in 2013, which equates to more than $200,000 in value. From our AquaTeens to people who have been giving their time and talents to the Aquarium for decades, we could not do everything we do without our fantastic volunteers.
Volunteer of the Year

Roger Latourneau

In a place known for entertainment and family enjoyment, it makes sense that someone who’s “just plain fun to be around” would be the perfect person to work with guests. And that’s exactly what the Texas State Aquarium has in Roger Latourneau, the 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

Roger began volunteering in May 2013 in the Guest Ambassador Program, then quickly added a weekly shift with the Guide/Interpretation department. After mastering each of the exhibits and attending all the training classes, he was named a Blue Vested Guide – the top level of Guide Volunteer.

Justin Sefcik, Aquarium Director of Guest Services, says “Roger is always willing to help with any project. He has very good guest service skills and this man ALWAYS has a smile on his face. His enthusiasm for the Aquarium is infectious. Whether he’s greeting guests at the front desk or interpreting scientific information for a family at an exhibit, you can count on Roger to exemplify the mission and values of TSA.”

AquaTeens

A passion for nature, conservation, learning and recycling bonds the two AquaTeen Volunteers of the Year for 2013.

Megan Greige began volunteering as an AquaTeen when she was 14. Now 16 and entering her junior year at Annapolis Christian Academy, Megan says her Aquarium experience has nurtured her interest in environmental science as a career, but no matter where her studies and work take her, she will always want to be an advocate for natural resources and wildlife. Her Aquarium experience has inspired her to create recycling opportunities at her school, and she says she especially values her interaction with Aquarium employees, fellow volunteers and young guests.

“I love teaching about the exhibits and seeing the reactions...the kids say the hermit crabs are cute!”

Josh Parker, now 18 and a senior, has been volunteering for three years at the Aquarium. Because he was homeschooled, Josh was able to commit five hours every Friday, even during the winter school months. He most enjoys volunteering in the Amazon exhibit and sharing his knowledge about different species and the importance of preserving them...and he’s especially fond of the snakes in the Amazon exhibit. Josh says he’s enjoyed learning everything he can about animals and sea life.

“I plan to be a pastor and will use my experiences at the Aquarium to teach others about God’s creatures.”
Philanthropy has always been the driving force behind growth at the Texas State Aquarium. Over 25 years ago, the Corpus Christi community began fundraising, volunteering, advocating and investing in a vision – to create an aquarium for Texas that uses educational and entertaining exhibits and programs to connect people with nature and inspire conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.

Deemed the “Official Aquarium of the State of Texas” by our State Legislature, we opened in 1990 as a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) institution. We do not receive operating support from city, state or federal sources outside of specific grant projects. Thus, funding for the majority of our new exhibits, programs, and facilities comes from philanthropic gift support from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Once just a dream, the Texas State Aquarium has become the most popular cultural attraction in South Texas, as well as an invaluable learning resource for an ever-increasing number of children in our state regarding the conservation and protection of our waters, our shores and our wildlife. This vision realized is a direct result of philanthropic gift support from donors, and we want to recognize and thank them for their generous support.

Who Gives

Aquarium Partners

The Aquarium is fortunate to have the support of a number of important companies that recognize the value the Aquarium brings to their employees, Coastal Bend residents and the South Texas economy. They provide ongoing annual support of our operations and often make additional donations towards specific exhibits or programs.

As the Aquarium moves towards an exciting future, we would like to take a look back at our long standing partners. Some of these organizations have been supporters of the Aquarium since 1987 and have been there for us year after year. Our partners are essential to the Aquarium’s ability to achieve our mission of connecting people with nature and inspiring conservation of the Gulf of Mexico. They are also a key part of our vision to be a nationally-recognized leader in creating entertaining, educationally enriching programming; conducting wildlife rehabilitation; and supporting conservation.

With the support of our partners, the Aquarium is poised to realize the vision of its founders, making it truly a world class aquarium right here in South Texas.
Orion Drilling Company’s support of the Texas State Aquarium began – literally – at a very elementary level. When Orion founder, President and CEO Wayne Squires was also President of the Robert Wilson Elementary School PTA, he realized how many students had never been to TSA, and decided the company would bus the entire student body to the Aquarium for a day.

Subsequently, Orion moved its corporate holiday party to the Aquarium…and included employees’ families on the guest list.

“We have approximately 600 employees,” says Wayne. “The Texas State Aquarium is a gem in our city that directly impacts their quality of life. It’s something they can share in, be educated by, and enjoy.”

In 2013, Orion funded Nautilus LIVE, a new Aquarium attraction that features a live broadcast from aboard an exploration vessel at sea. Orion is committed to supporting the educational component of TSA, which Wayne says sets the Aquarium apart from other attractions.

“The Aquarium gives you fun, education and interaction all in one experience…and everyone says ‘wow’. It’s among the Top Ten aquariums in the entire country. When the Caribbean Journey building is added, our region’s most important family and educational attraction will go to another level. We’re about to double the ‘wow’!”

“Beyond my personal enjoyment and support of the Aquarium, I want my company to be involved,” says Wayne. “The Aquarium adds to the quality of life for our employees, helps attract talented people, brings guests to the region and shows off our community. It’s important…and we all need to support it.”
Beach Ball

April 12, 2013 marked the Texas State Aquarium’s ninth successful Beach Ball gala, presented by returning sponsor, Andrews Distributing Company, Ltd. The event, chaired by Mark Gottlich, brought Broadway to the beach with headlining entertainer, Franc D’Ambrosio, who amazed guests with his vibrant voice. Franc is best known for his impressive portrayal of the ‘Phantom’ in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Tony Award-winning musical, “The Phantom of The Opera,” and was awarded the distinction as the “World’s Longest Running Phantom.”

A tremendous success, Beach Ball 2013 helped support our new Nearshore Experience renovation. Thanks to all of our Beach Ball sponsors, donors, and attendees for another wonderful event!

Rising Tide Society

It was an exciting year for the Aquarium’s newest group of young supporters, the Rising Tide Society. First formed in 2012 with a goal of educating a new, dynamic group about preservation and conservation of our Gulf Coast ecosystem, the society welcomed 77 new members in 2013. Open to individuals age 21 and older with an interest in furthering the mission of the Texas State Aquarium, the group participated in numerous networking and volunteer opportunities during its second year, including a beach clean-up and a sea turtle hatching release viewing.

Special thanks to our Immediate Past President, Colette Rye, and our newest leadership team: Newman ‘Tree’ Baker III, President; Jason Gilbert, Vice President & Membership Chair; Jenna Vanzant, Secretary & Events Chair; Loren L. Rock, Marketing Chair; and Michael Hunter, Board Member At-Large.

AQUA Society

On November 6, 2013, the Texas State Aquarium hosted its annual AQUA event, a celebration for our most generous and longtime supporters. At AQUA 2013, the society honored returning and advancing supporters, and welcomed 12 new inductees, including Bay Ltd., A BERRY Company; Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Club; Ferrell/Brown & Associates, Inc. – Architects; Lualhati Flynn; Albert & Ethel Herzstein; Barbara & Joe Lewis; Julie & Michael McNeil; Reliant, an NRG company; Daryl & George Tanner; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Time Warner Cable; and Karen & Larry Urban.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the Aquarium’s highest honor, the Golden Star Award, a distinction reserved for our most passionate and visionary supporters. Our 2013 recipient was longtime trustee and Aquarium advocate, Elinor Donnell.
AQUA Society
The AQUA Society was established in 2011 to honor the Texas State Aquarium’s most visionary donors. Individuals, businesses, and organizations that have generously supported the Aquarium with cumulative gifts of $25,000 or more are recognized in this distinguished group. The Texas State Aquarium is grateful to the AQUA Society members for their commitment to further the mission of connecting people with nature and inspiring conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.

Aquarium Visionary
$1,000,000 and up
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Flint Hills Resources, LP
Janet* & Edward* H. Harte
H-E-B
Houston Endowment, Inc.
Earl C. Sams Foundation, Inc.
T.L.L. Temple Foundation

Aquarium Guardian
$100,000 to $149,999
Barry & Lana Andrews
Andrews Distributing Company
Behmann Brothers Foundation
Marilyn & Thomas Billings
Caesar Kleberg Foundation for Wildlife Conservation
Dahlia McCord Carpenter*
Amon G. Carter Foundation
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.
Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Exxon Company USA
Foley’s Department Store
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Thomas T.* & Cora T.* Keeler London Broadcasting Company, Inc.
Lou Adele & Bob May
McMains* & Constant
Navy Army Community Credit Union
Dennis O’Connor*
Prichard Family Foundation
Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association
Deneece & Wayne Squires
Celika Storm
Strake Foundation
Tetra Second Nature

Aquarium Ambassador
$500,000 to $999,999
AEP Texas
Kresge Foundation
The Meadows Foundation
Blanche Davis Moore Foundation
Occidental Chemical Corporation
The Dobson Family & Whataburger
The Wortham Foundation

Aquarium Steward
$250,000 to $499,999
Arney Foundation
Louise G. & John* Chapman
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program
Education Service Center, Region 2
D. D. Hachar Charitable Trust Fund
Gloria & Ed Hicks
Holt Foundation
Estate of Katherine Ann Johnson*
Wayne A. Johnson & Family
The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation
Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. & Helen C. Kleberg Foundation
Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
Bonnie Pereida*

Aquarium Conservator
$150,000 to $249,999
American Bank
Bettye* & Joe* Baria
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
James R. Dougherty, Jr. Foundation
Fulton Construction/Coastcon Corporation
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Junior League of Corpus Christi
Oceanerating International, Inc.
Port of Corpus Christi
Valero Energy Corporation

Aquarium Fellow
$50,000 to $99,999
Alcoa Foundation
American Electric Power Foundation
Bank of America
Basic Industries of South Texas, Ltd.
Coastal Conservation Association – Texas
Charity League
Cheniere Energy
Peggy & Bill Clark
Corpus Christi Exploration Company Foundation

Aquarium Patron
$25,000 to $49,999
AG | CM, Inc
Peggy & Avinash Ahuja
Dan Alfaro & Associates
Helen & R. C. Allen
Allen Samuels Chevrolet
Arco Foundation
Bay Ltd., A BERRY Company
BBVA Compass
Beaumont Foundation of America
John Boman
Borden Insurance

Judy & John Creveling
Virginia* & Randy* Cutlip
Martha & Charles DeCou
Ed Rachal Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation
Fischer Foundation
Fondren Foundation
Global Giving Foundation – PepsiRefresh Project
Golden Banner Press
Green Mountain Energy – Sun Club
Herndon Plant Oakley Ltd.
IBC Bank
The Joan & Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation
Lee Jordan
May “Topsy” King*
The Larry & Pat McNeil Foundation
William B.* & Maureen Miller
NationsBank
Orion Drilling Company, LLC
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Corpus Christi
Prosperity Bank
Scripps Howard Foundation
Snyder & Associates
State Farm Youth Advisory Board
The Susser Family & Stripes
Denise & Sergio Tavares
Estate of Margaret Turnbull*
United Airlines
University of Texas at Austin
ValueBank Texas
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Aquarium Patron
$25,000 to $49,999
AG | CM, Inc
Peggy & Avinash Ahuja
Dan Alfaro & Associates
Helen & R. C. Allen
Allen Samuels Chevrolet
Arco Foundation
Bay Ltd., A BERRY Company
BBVA Compass
Beaumont Foundation of America
John Boman
Borden Insurance
When Elinor Donnell, the Aquarium’s 2013 Golden Star Award winner, talks about the Texas State Aquarium, she speaks from experience. “I was president of the Junior League, and I was approached with an idea for the League to be involved in building an aquarium,” says Elinor. “I thought I’d better learn more about it and started going to meetings…and I never left!”

Continuously serving on the Board of Trustees ever since then, Elinor says a broad base of enthusiasm for the Aquarium has served it well. “It was a dream. In the beginning there was such a variety of people involved…but the common bond was they all wanted to do something great for Corpus Christi. Even today, you see such a positive attitude and passion among the employees, in the staff leadership, and on the board. It’s a reflection of how the Aquarium speaks to people – those of us who are so involved, but also residents, tourists, school children and all our guests. It’s an entertaining, wholesome family attraction that connects people with nature, has an educational benefit and does such good things for our community.”

Elinor and her husband Ben co-chair Campaign Caribbean with Deneecce and Wayne Squires, and Elinor is quick to explain how the Caribbean Journey building is a logical next step for the Aquarium, and one that brings her great gratification. “Our Gulf of Mexico connects to the Caribbean,” she says. “And yet that is a different ecosystem entirely. So this is a natural expansion that makes sense while bringing in a new educational element. It takes us out into a bigger world. It’s an awesome thing to have a real dream and then have it come to fruition.”
Honor and Memorial Contributions
Memorial Gifts to the Aquarium respectfully remember a loved one or friend who has passed away, and Honor Gifts acknowledge someone making a positive impact on you or our community. All Memorial and Honor Gifts are acknowledged to the person(s) you designate so they are aware of the gift; the amount is, of course, confidential. You will receive a gift acknowledgement for tax purposes.

2013 Honor and Memorial Contributions
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. William A. Clark; Mr. & Mrs. Will Clark; Ms. Kittie Clark
Sally Kleberg
In Honor of Eufemia Gonzalez; Carl & Olivia Koenig
Gilbert Gonzalez
In Honor of Gloria & Ed Hicks
The Dobson Family & Whataburger
In Honor of B.D. Holt
Anne Holt & Christian Schultz
In Honor of Glenda Kane
Amanda & Michael Stukenberg
In Honor of Corinna Holt Richter & J.B. Richter
Anne Holt & Christian Schultz
In Memory of CDR Frank D. Bachman
30+ Club

2013 Honor and Memorial Contributions
In Memory of John W. Bell
Elise M. Bell
In Memory of Chris Bratten
Jeanne & Rick Scharer
In Memory of Marguerite Conoly
Mary & Gary Whittington
In Memory of Weston Conoly
Cub Scout Pack #296
In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Crozier
Kelly & Lynne Lassig
In Memory of Judge Eduardo E. de Ases
Maria de Ases
In Memory of William H. Dovey
Julia Holmes
Gale & Thomas Townsend
Solveig Walstrom

2013 Honor and Memorial Contributions
Rob, Sara, & Tyler Walstrom
Ana & Steve Walstrom
In Memory of “Dusty,” the otter
Barbara Lemon
In Memory of Captain Daniel & Barney Flynn
Lualhati Flynn
In Memory of Richard Hernandez, Jr.
Beatrice & Refugio Garcia
In Memory of Robert Madalin
Sally & Herbert Madalin
In Memory of Julie Moore
Karen & John Howden
In Memory of Larry D. Schuenemann
Laurey & Maria Garcia
In Memory of Lafayette Willie
Griselda & Andre Willie

Aquarium Partners
Aquarium Partners are a special group of donors who believe in our mission and provide ongoing annual support of the Aquarium’s operations. Their generosity makes a difference every day at the Texas State Aquarium, while these companies and their employees enjoy great tangible and intangible benefits in return.

2013 Aquarium Partners
$20,000 and up
Andrews Distributing Company
Flint Hills Resources, LP
H-E-B
Orion Drilling Company, LLC
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Corpus Christi Whataburger, Inc.

$15,000 - $19,999
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Club
Time Warner Cable

$10,000 - $14,999
AEP Texas
Bay Ltd., A BERRY Company

2013 Aquarium Partners
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Ed Hicks Nissan
Navy Army Community Credit Union
Nueces Electric Cooperative
Reliant, an NRG Company
Republic Services
Valero Energy Corporation

$2,500 - $9,999
Basic Industries of South Texas, Ltd.
Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation
Devery Durrill Foundation
Fajitaville
First Community Bank, N.A.
Green Mountain Energy
Port of Corpus Christi

Up to $2,499
American Bank
Ferrell/Brown & Associates, Inc. - Architects
LNV, Inc.
NuStar Energy, LP
Occidental Chemical Corporation – Ingleside
Republic National Distributing Company
Small Planet Deli
South Coastal Area Health Education Center
ValueBank Texas
Wells Fargo Bank N.A.
Annual Stewardship Fund
Our Annual Stewardship Fund donors help to make the Aquarium the very best it can be each day with gifts that support everything from the expert care and feeding of our animals to exhibit upkeep and world-class educational programming performed both onsite and through distance learning programs. A portion of each gift also supports conservation research efforts throughout the region that positively impact the species and habitats represented at the Texas State Aquarium. We say thank you to each donor for his or her gifts, large and small, that ripple through the Aquarium in many ways, helping us to continually expand our educational reach and play an active role in wildlife conservation.

2013 Stewardship Fund Donors

$500 and up
Ann & Norm Berkley
Saundra & James Copeland/Copeland’s Inc.
Durrill Properties
Laurey & Mario Garcia
Audrey & Brian Hagemann
Brian R. Long
Bill & Marybeth Maxwell
Chris Nicosia
Alan & Mamie Stoner
The Herbert A. Train and Anne Swiff Train Endowment Fund of the Coastal Bend Community Foundation

$250 - $499
Cathy & Ron Barnard
Julia Bell
Ron & Janel Carlisle
DCP Midstream Matching Gifts Program
Anne Holt & Christian Schultz
Virginia & Nicholas Jevric
Amber & Greg Joppa
Rebecca Kieschnick
Sally & Herbert Madalin
Carroll P. Matthews
Jeanne & Rick Schafer
Linda & Charles Zahn

$125 - $249
Suzy & Darron Bergstrom
Tom Cron
Carol & Donald DeLine
EOG Resources, Inc.
Marjorie & Collin Furr
Beatrice & Refugio Garcia
Pam & Bill Hall
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt
Susan & Allan Johnson
Sally Kleberg
Ursula & Nathan Kolenovsky
Barbara & Kip Layton
Phyllis & Joe Lewis
Leah & John Maglio
Victoria McGuire
Stefanie Molina
Linda & Craig Mullenax
Vernell & Calvin Rayes
The Reza Family
Lynn & Jim Shiner
Ron Strahlendorff
August Vance Vornam
Robin & Larry Weaver
Carol & Dennis Whitley
Kimberly Zahn and Brittney & Matthew Walker

$1 - $124
30+ Club
Kathy & Richard Adams
AT&T Foundation
Nancy & Drake Beauchamp
Elie M. Bell
Belletristic Club
Bernie Brauer
Burch Farms
Barbara Campbell
Mary & Gerald Channell
Chapter AV, P.E.O. Sisterhood
Rebecca Char-Johnson
Lois Chesney
Wendy Cisneros
Charles & Janet Clark
Leonard Connell
Emma Jo & Robert Creglow
Beth & Jim Daniels
Virginia & Justin Douglas
Sylvia A. Earle
Barbara Enloe
Veronica & Michael Enriquez
Sherre Cantwell Ernster
Michael Esparza
ExxonMobil Foundation
Alicia Gonzalez
Anthony Gonzalez
Gilbert Gonzalez
Julia & Brett Grossman
Rebecca Hagan
Valorie Hagan
Becky Hase
Stephanie Hatridge
Sue Anne Havelka
Teresa Hemmert
Karen & David Henry
Hedy & Delbert Hooper
Robin & John Kennedy
Joan King
Lauren King
Sherry & Charles Kolb
Beth & Michael Landis
Kelly & Lynne Lassig
Barbara Lemon
Liz & Leon LeVan
Debbie & Jeff Lundquist
LyondellBasell Industries
Michael Mattison
Pauline McCauley
Mollie McCoy
Teresa & Jim McGovern
Mary A. Morris
Elizabeth & Walter Muffoletto
Deborah & Glenn Nichols
Bettye & Jack Nichols
Wilma & Patrick Norrell
Walta Ocker
Linda & Alfonso Prado
Sarah & Jordan Rechis
Sally Reigle & Marcus McDonald
Elaine M. Richardson
Bobby & Jeanette Rieder
Mario Rodriguez
Steven Schindler & Mary Martin
Dr. & Mrs. Lonnie Schwirtlich
Lina Shubin
Kim & L.J. Thompson
Maria A. Trevino
Annette & Keith Ueckert
Yma & Chuck Urban
Jerry & Rebecca Van Beveren
Priscilla Vasquez
Karen Vaughn
J.R. Viola
Cheryl & Charles Votzmeyer
Debi & Gordon Welch
Lisa & Timothy Welker
Veronica Gaytan & Richard Wendland
Michael Westergren
Shirley and Bill* Whiteside
Sebastian & Marian Wiedmann
Joyce & Norman Wilcox
Griselda & Andre Willie
Ruth* & Joe Wirsching
Vernon Wuenische

*deceased
The President’s Council is a group of philanthropic individuals who help ensure the continued growth and vitality of the Texas State Aquarium with annual contributions of $1,000 or more. These generous supporters are invited to exclusive receptions and exhibit previews throughout the year to help celebrate the Aquarium’s newest projects and meet our animal ambassadors up close. On May 23, 2013, the group was invited to a VIP dress rehearsal before the curtain went up on the new Wild Flight Show on an all-new set in the Hawn Wild Flight Theater. We cannot thank this group enough for their continued generosity and look forward to sharing many more exciting milestones to come.

2013 President’s Council Donors

$5,000 and up
Marilyn & Tom Billings

$2,500 - $4,999
John Boman
Saundra & James Copeland / Copeland’s Inc.
Lee R. Jordan
Mike Shaw Toyota / Mike Shaw KIA
Billie & Clayton Poenisch
Jenny & Philip Skrobarczyk
Betty & Tom Terrey

$1,000 - $2,499
Peggy & Avinash Ahuja
Myriam & John Bell
Harriet & Jim Blakey
Rosie & Ruben Bonilla
Cindy & Roger W. Borgelt
Vanessa & Fred Braselton
Barbara & David Brown
Julie Buckley
Mary & Charles Campbell
Debbie & Tim Chapman
Manning & Kim Chapman
Louise G. Chapman
Peggy & Bill Clark
Coastal Bend Traveler
Debbie & Darrell Coleman
Mary Jane & Carl Crull
Maria de Ases
Martha & Charles DeCou
Lura & Thomas Dietze

Lisa & John Dorn
Susan & John Duke
Micaela & Kent Ellington
Henry F. Fey
Flint Hills Resources, LP
Lualhati Flynn
Kelley & Pat Frost / Frost Bank
Joe & Fran Fulton
Gloria & Bob Furgason
Berta & Eddie Garcia
Layne Giddens
H-E-B
Amy & Aaron Harvey
Gail & Bruce Hoffman
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt
Susan E. Hutchinson
Betty Kemp
Kathy & Flavius Killebrew
L’Aiglon Foundation
Barbara & Joe Lewis
Gail & Leon* Loeb
Wallace Lundgren
Bill & Marybeth Maxwell
Lucy & Dick McCracken
Julie & Michael McNeil
Maureen Miller
Robert & Sherry Naismith
Patty & Hank Nuss
Ted Oakley
O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation
Bernard Paulson

Ella Prichard
Kim & Tom Schmid
Deneece & Wayne Squires
Celika Storm
Catherine & Sam L. Susser
Helen Swetman
Daryl & George Tanner
Denise & Sergio Tavares
Joanne & Peter Volpe
Sylvia & Mark Whitmore
Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund
Supporters of the Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund help the Aquarium to provide urgent care to stranded marine mammals, sea turtles, raptors, and shorebirds after they are injured in the wild, with the goal of rehabilitating the animals for release back to their natural habitat. In 2013, donors made a big difference in the lives of many sick and injured animals that came through our doors—animals like Norman, a one-week-old Eastern screech owl who arrived in our care emaciated, weak and blind in one eye. Fed by hand every few hours until he grew stronger, Norman has since made a dramatic recovery and now serves as an Aquarium ambassador, helping to educate guests about the importance of protecting our environment and native wildlife. Thanks again to our supporters for caring about animals like Norman who deserve a second chance!

Circle Levels
Circle Level donors are Texas State Aquarium members who make a donation in addition to purchasing a membership. Proceeds from these gifts go to support the Aquarium’s greatest needs on an annual basis.

2013 Second Chances Donors
Danesco LLC / Dane & Camessa Wright
Rebecca & Richard Durham
Erin & Kenneth Erben
Event Network
Julia Holmes
Barbara & Bill Holmes
Adrienne Kerr
Jenny & Libby Offenhauser
Kalpana Shah
Texas A&M Veterinary Club of Animal Behavior
Texas Structural Steel Institute
Gale & Thomas Townsend
The Trull Foundation
Solveig Walstrom; Rob, Sara, & Tyler Walstrom;
and, Steve & Ana Walstrom
David Wills

2013 Circle Members
Executive Circle - $750-$999
Chris Nicosia

Trustee’s Circle - $500-$749
Ron & Janel Carlisle
Audrey & Brian Hagemann
Rebecca Kieschnick
Brian R. Long
Carroll P. Matthews

Director’s Circle - $250-$499
Kathy & Richard Adams
Suzy & Darron Bergstrom
Carol & Donald DeLine
Veronica & Michael Enriquez
Alicia Gonzalez
Julia & Brett Grossman
Stephanie Haltride
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt
Virginia & Nicholas Jevric
Susan & Allan Johnson
Robin & John Kennedy
Lauren King
Sherry & Charles Kolb
Ursula & Nathan Kolenovsky
Leah & John Maglio
Teresa & Jim McGovern
Victoria McGuire
Stefanie Molina
Mary A. Morris
Sally Reigle & Marcus McDonald
Dr. & Mrs. Lonnie Schwirtlich
Jerry & Rebecca Van Beveren
Vance Vosondam
Robin & Larry Weaver
Shirley & Bill* Whiteside

Curator’s Circle - $150-$249
Nancy & Drake Beauchamp
Burch Farms
Barbara Campbell

2013 Curator’s Circle
*deceased

Rebecca Char-Johnson
Wendy Cisneros
Virginia & Justin Douglas
Sherre Cantwell Ernster
Michael Esparza
Anthony Gonzalez
Valerie Hamm
Becky Hase
Sue Anne Havelka
Teresa Hemmert
Joan King
Liz & Leon LeVan
Debbie & Jeff Lundquist
Michael Mattison
Elizabeth & Walter Muffoletto
Linda & Alfonso Prado
Sarah & Jordan Rechis
Bobby & Jeanette Rieder
Steven Schindler & Mary Martin
Lina Shubin
Yma & Chuck Urban
Priscilla Vasquez
Cheryl & Charles Voltzmeier
Debi & Gordon Welch
Veronica Gaytan & Richard Wendland
Michael Westergren
Sebastian & Marian Wiedmann
Vemon Wuensche
*deceased
Restricted Funds

In addition to unrestricted gifts that sustain the Aquarium’s broadest needs, many donors elect to contribute to specific areas such as Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, Sea Camp, and Weston’s Library, to name a few, providing additional funding for these important Aquarium components.

2013 Restricted Funds Donors

Aquarium Operations
C Staging & Interiors
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Christine Olarte

Education
Flint Hills Resources, LP
Orion Drilling Company, LLC

Education – SeaCamp
Karen & John Howden
Blanche Davis Moore Foundation
Time Warner Cable

Gloria Hicks Educational Endowment
Nora & Tom Dobson

Volunteer Program
Event Network

Weston’s Library
Cub Scout Pack #296
Mary & Gary Whittington

Rising Tide Society
Event Network

Program Enhancement
Chelsea Allen
Nicole Andrade
Lauren Attaway
Ashley Bainbridge
Jose Bazan, Jr.
Brenda Bennett
Dave N. Berkley
Robert Bidwell
Leon Burns
Sam Durham
Deborah Edwards
Erin Erben
Julio Flores
Julie A. Galbraith
Liz K. Gallagher

Jesse Gilbert
Emma Gilbert
Deborah Goggans
Alyssa M. Gonzales
Tara Goode
Julie Gorman
Rosanna Gossett
James Green
Jessica Grumman
Heather Guerrero
Kara Hahn
Kimberly Hales
Richard R. Harris
Andrea Hinojosa
Sally Howden
Katie Iverson
Adam Jasso
Jennifer Johnston-Vela
Roxanne Kiest
Jonathan T. Larry
Brittney Laurel
Kevin Locke
Caitlin Lohman
Glenda Martínez
Norma H. Martínez
Emiliano Martínez, Sr.
Amanda P. Matlock
Ramiro Morgan
Jack Nyitrai
Christine Olarte
Ruben Ortiz
Marcella Palreiro
Mathew Pena
Charles D. Perron
Ashley Quiroga
Veronica Ramos
Adriana Reza
Ignacio Rodriguez
Maria C. Rodriguez
Carole A. Savage
Alexandria Schofield

Justin Sefcik
Kelley Shutt
Jason Slade
Randy Slayton
Israel Soliz
Edward Stech
Robert Suggs
Todd Throckmorton
Kelli Timms
Jazmyn Torres
Stacy M. Trevino
Imelda Villarreal
Jillian Voss
Sean Walsh
Chelsea Watson
Lauren Wessel
Tarissa Wheless
Emily Williamson
The Texas State Aquarium is embarking on an adventure to “See a New Sea” and bring the sights, sounds and vibrant wildlife of the Western Caribbean to Texas by adding a new Caribbean Journey building that will more than double the size of our existing facility. This historic and ambitious endeavor will transform the Aquarium from a leading regional aquarium to one of the premier aquariums in the nation and an institution of statewide importance.

Caribbean Journey is the expansive final phase of a visionary master plan to:
- Construct a Caribbean Journey building to complement the existing Gulf of Mexico building, showcasing sharks and tropical Caribbean fishes, birds and reptiles;
- Interpret the unique biodiversity and culture of the Yucatan Peninsula and Western Caribbean Sea;
- Utilize immersive, interactive aquarium exhibitions and hands-on marine exploration activities;
- Incorporate a multi-sensory 4D-theater using state-of-the-art digital technology featuring marine-themed films and hosting guest lecturers;
- Create a new Center for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education;
- Add the capacity and build the infrastructure to expand the Aquarium’s conservation and wildlife rehabilitation programs, guest and event services; and
- Expand the mission of the Aquarium through new programming showcasing vital marine research generated by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and other partners.

The Caribbean Journey will transport visitors to the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve along the eastern coast of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. The Sian Ka’an Reserve is an incredibly biologically rich region spanning the coastal rainforests to the shores of the Caribbean Sea. This interactive, educational journey through the Yucatan Peninsula will be highly immersive, transporting our guests to one of the most unique and biologically diverse places on Earth.

While the fundraising campaign for this incredible project is still in its infancy, many foundations, organizations and individuals have already contributed cash gifts to this project in 2013. Look for your opportunity to participate in this historic campaign soon.
2013 Campaign Caribbean Donors

Hope & Ramiro Andrade
Lauren Ayala
Bacon Lee & Associates
Renai & Michael Baker
Reyna Banda
Behmann Brothers Foundation
Robert Bidwell
Nan & Allen Borden
The Brown Foundation
Julie Buckley
Rachel Cabrera
Mary & Charles Campbell
Michael Carman
Louise G. Chapman
Marvin Cloud
Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation -
   Darrell Coleman Family Donor-Advised Fund
Ron Davidson
Nancy & Steve DeSutter
Paula & Rick Dodd
Elinor & Ben Donnell
Erin Eschenbrenner
Ernest Franklin
Frost Bank
Fulton Construction /Coastcon Corporation
Gloria & Bob Furgason
Julie A. Galbraith
Richard E. Glover, Jr.
Andrea Gomez
The Gottlich Family
Richard Hafemeister
Joan & Donald Halepeska
Stacey & Rob Hall
George & Mary Josephine Hamman
   Foundation
Rebecca A. Harris
Judy & David Hawley
Brittany Jensen
Christopher Keating
The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy
   Memorial Foundation
Dr. Flavius & Kathy Killebrew
Ester Lazo
Trina & Roger Letourneau
Sonya Libby
Connie Luna
Edward A. Martin
Marybeth & Bill Maxwell
Lucy & Dick McCracken
Kelsey McFarland
Larry, Paula & Patrick McKinney
Larry & Pat McNeil Foundation
Crystal Mead
Sarah Merry
Mark & Joyce Meyer
Larry D. Meyers
Mike Shaw Toyota / Mike Shaw KIA
Josephine Miller
Maureen Miller
Janie Moreno-Cleland
Donna & George Munroe
Patty & Henry Nuss
Ted Oakley
Matthew B. Porter
Prichard Family Foundation
County Commissioner Mike Pusley
R.W. Dirks Petroleum Engineer, Inc.
Adriana Reza
Trisha & Dan Richter
Stephanie Rivera
Earl C. Sams Foundation, Inc.
Guillermo Saravia
Stuart & Keleigh Sasser
Rene & Frank Scanio III
Kim & Tom Schmid
Linda Shirey
Yvonne H. Simard Foundation
Jo Ann & Craig Smith
Alyssa Squiers
Deneece & Wayne Squires
David Stelling
Sara J. Stuart-Rector
Amanda & Michael Stukenberg
Catherine & Sam L. Susser / Stripes L.L.C.
Sue & Chris Swanson
T.L.L. Temple Foundation -
   Thomas T. Keeler Grant Program
Nathan & Blaire Taggart
Yolanda Tanguma
Emily D. Taylor
Ryan Taylor
Larry & Karen Urban
Carrie Virga
Russell Volgt
Sylvia & Mark Whitmore
Shirley & Kenneth Windhorst
Art & Carol Zeitler
Texas State Aquarium Executive Committee
Mrs. Deneece Squires, Chair
Mr. Lee R. Jordan, Past Chair
Mr. Bruce S. Hawn, Vice Chair
Mrs. Judith Hawley, Vice Chair
Mrs. Denise Tavares, Secretary
Ms. Julie Buckley, Treasurer
Mr. Bill Maxwell, At Large Member
Mr. Larry McKinney, At Large Member
Mr. Larry Urban, At Large Member

Trustees
Mr. Joe Adame
Mrs. Esperanza “Hope” Andrade
Mr. Barry Andrews
Mr. Allen G. Borden
Mrs. Julie Buckley
Ms. Mary Campbell
Ms. Louise Chapman
Mr. Steve DeSutter
Mr. Thomas Dobson
Mrs. Paula Dodd
Mrs. Elinor Donnell
Mr. John F. Dorn
Ms. Laura Fischer
Mr. Pat Frost
Dr. Robert R. “Bob” Furgason
Mr. Eddie L. Garcia
Mr. S. Mark Gottlich
Mr. Rob Hall
Mrs. Judith Hawley
Mr. Bruce S. Hawn
Mr. R. Scott Heitkamp
Mr. Charles A. Hicks
Mrs. Gloria Hicks
Mr. Peter Holt
Ms. Susan Hutchinson
Mr. Lee R. Jordan
Dr. Flavius Killebrew
Mr. Don Kingsbury
Mr. Ed Martin
Mr. Robert W. Maxwell, Jr.
Mr. Robert A. “Bob” May
Dr. Larry McKinney
Mrs. Julie McNeil
Mr. Mark Meyer
Mr. Larry Meyers
Mrs. Josephine Miller
Mrs. Maureen Miller
Mrs. Patty Nuss
Mr. J. Ted Oakley
Mr. Rakesh Patel
Mr. Mike Pusley
Mr. Dan Richter
Mrs. Alice H. Sallee
Mrs. Keleigh H. Sasser
Mr. Frank J. Scanio, III
Mr. Walt Schumacher
Mr. Mike Shaw
Mrs. Deneece Squires
Mrs. Celika Storm
Mr. Sam L. Susser
Mr. Nathan Taggart
Mrs. Denise Tavares
Mr. Rich D. Tuttle
Mr. Larry Urban
Mrs. Sylvia Whitmore

Trustees Emeritus
Mr. R. C. Allen
Mr. Charles Butt
Mrs. Peggy Lasater Clark
Mr. Arthur Zeitler

Texas State Aquarium Leadership
Tom Schmid, President & CEO
Julio Flores, Vice President & CFO
Jesse Gilbert, Vice President & COO
Rocky Kettering, Ed.D., CFRE,
Vice President of Development
Richard E. Glover, Jr., Chief Marketing Officer
Nicole Andrade, Director, Human Resources
Leon Burns, Director of Restaurant Services
Jack Nyitrai, Director, Maintenance Operations
Leslie Peart, Director, Education and Conservation
Justin Sefcik, Director, Guest Services

Our Mission
Connecting people with nature and inspiring conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.

Our Vision
To be a nationally-recognized Aquarium leader in creating entertaining, educationally-enriching programming; conducting wildlife rehabilitation; and supporting conservation.
Texas State Aquarium formed the Nautilus Society to encourage individuals to provide for the future of the Aquarium by including specific provisions in their estate plans.

Nautilus Society members support the Aquarium in a number of ways through estate planning such as:

- A bequest in a will
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- IRA charitable beneficiary designation
- Life Insurance policy charitable beneficiary designation
- Donation of residential or agricultural real estate
- Establishing an Endowed Fund to support a general or specific Aquarium program

What are the benefits?
Along with providing valuable support to the Texas State Aquarium, there are often significant tax benefits that accompany planned gifts. Depending on the type of gift, you may be able to take advantage of one or more of the following:

- Immediate income tax charitable deduction
- Minimize recognition of capital gain
- Minimize the imposition of the estate tax
- Partially tax-free payments for life

Every year the Texas State Aquarium hosts a special event to thank members of the Nautilus Society for their invaluable vision and generous support towards realizing and securing the Texas State Aquarium’s future.

To learn more about planning your gift, please contact Vice President of Development Rocky Kettering, Ed.D., CFRE at 361-881-1255 or rkettering@txstateaq.org.