

# 2013



ANNUAL REPORT



**8** 

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

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:



employees

**99 full-time**

**47 part-time**

**69 seasonal**



**21,150**  
volunteer hours



**21,790 pounds**

of fish, crustaceans, clams, squid,  
and gelatin diet for our dolphins  
and otters



**183 volunteers**

**1,553**

volunteer diving hours





# Dear Friends

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.



Deneece 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.



- Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Managing Invasive Lionfish)
- Gulf of Mexico/Coastal Bend of Texas (Sharks with Spectators)
- Lower, middle, and upper Texas Bays system (Green Sea Turtles)
- Texas Coastal Bend (Oyster reef restoration)
- Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Water for Whooping Cranes)
- Sarasota, Florida (Sarasota Dolphin Research Program)
- Curacao (SECORE)

# Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

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 landown-



ers 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.



Debbie Edwards

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

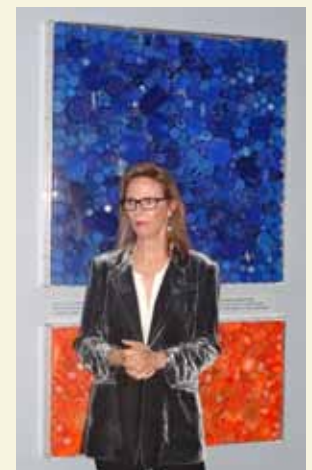
The Aquarium is the North Beach host and coordinator for the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach cleanup program, an all-volunteer effort dedicated to preserving and protecting Texas beaches. Since the first cleanup in 1986, more than 465,000 volunteers have picked up more than 8,900 tons of trash 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.



Shelia Rogers

## Texas State Aquarium



## 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.





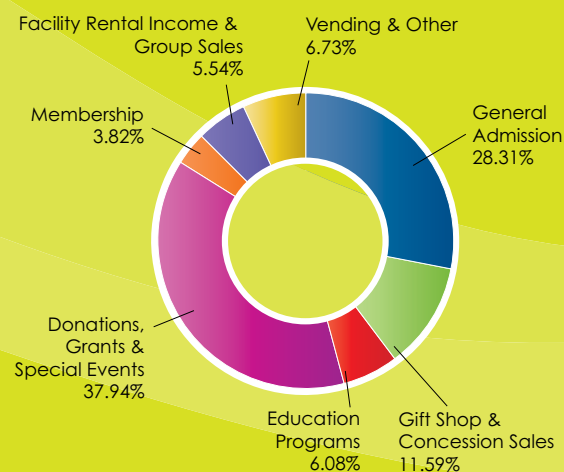
# Financial Summary

**Attendance** **524,087**

## Support and Revenues\*

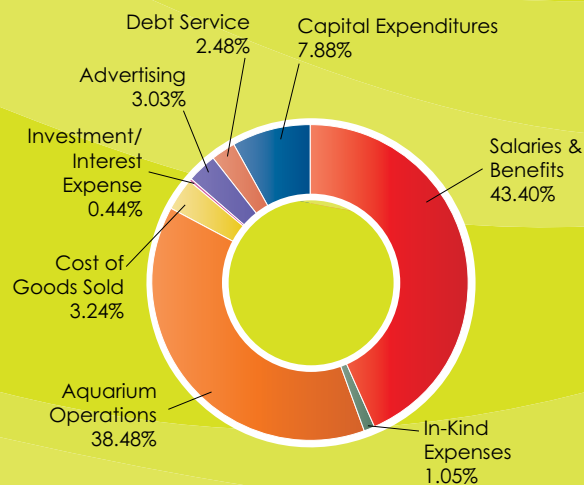
<b>General Admission</b>	<b>\$ 4,810,706</b>
<b>Gift Shop &amp; Concession Sales</b>	<b>\$ 1,970,063</b>
<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>\$ 1,020,893</b>
<b>Donations, Grants &amp; Special Events</b>	<b>\$ 6,447,611</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>\$ 650,718</b>
<b>Facility Rental Income &amp; Group Sales</b>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

*\*2013 figures unaudited*



## Expenses\*\*

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



*\*\*Total expenses does not include depreciation expense*

# What It Takes

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."





# Who Gives

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.

## 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.



Partner since 1987



Partner since 1988



Partner since 1989



Partner since 1989



FLINT HILLS  
resources®

Partner since 1989



Partner since 1990



Partner since 1990



Partner since 1991

# Orion Drilling Company



Orion Drilling Company Fabrication Group

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."



# Who Gives

## 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 hatchling 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

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Corporation

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Junior League of Corpus Christi

Oceaneering International, Inc.

Port of Corpus Christi

Valero Energy Corporation

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Patsy & C. C. Winn

Arthur & Carol Zeitle

Reflects giving through August 31, 2013. Names in bold are new or advancing members.

\*deceased

# Elinor Donnell

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 Deneece 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."



Elinor Donnell

# 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

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In Honor of Corinna Holt Richter & J.B. Richter

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In Memory of CDR Frank D. Bachman

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In Memory of Judge Eduardo E. de Ases

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In Memory of William H. Dovey

*Julia Holmes*

*Gale & Thomas Townsend*

*Solveig Walstrom*

*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 & Mario 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

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#### \$10,000 - \$14,999

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Ed Hicks Nissan

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Reliant, an NRG Company

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# 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  
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Fund of the Coastal Bend  
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Carroll P. Matthews  
Jeanne & Rick Schafer  
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Shirley and Bill\* Whiteside  
Sebastian & Marian Wiedmann  
Joyce & Norman Wilcox  
Griselda & Andre Willie  
Ruth\* & Joe Wirsching  
Vernon Wuensche

\*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 /  
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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!

### 2013 Second Chances Donors

Danesco LLC / Dane & Camessa Wright  
Rebecca & Richard Durham  
Erin & Kenneth Erben  
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Texas Structural Steel Institute  
Gale & Thomas Townsend

The Trull Foundation  
Solveig Walstrom; Rob, Sara, & Tyler Walstrom;  
and, Steve & Ana Walstrom  
David Wills



## 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 Circle Members

#### Executive Circle - \$750-\$999

Chris Nicosia

#### Trustee's Circle - \$500-\$749

Ron & Janel Carlisle  
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Alicia Gonzalez  
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Stephanie Hatridge  
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  
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Becky Hase  
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Sarah & Jordan Rechis  
Bobby & Jeanette Rieder  
Steven Schindler & Mary Martin  
Lina Shubin  
Yma & Chuck Urban  
Priscilla Vasquez  
Cheryl & Charles Votzmeyer  
Debi & Gordon Welch  
Veronica Gaytan & Richard Wendland  
Michael Westergren  
Sebastian & Marian Wiedmann  
Vernon 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

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Imelda Villarreal  
Jillian Voss  
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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  
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 Reyna Banda  
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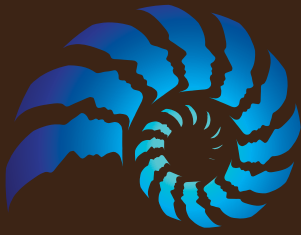
## Our Mission

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 NAUTILUS SOCIETY

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

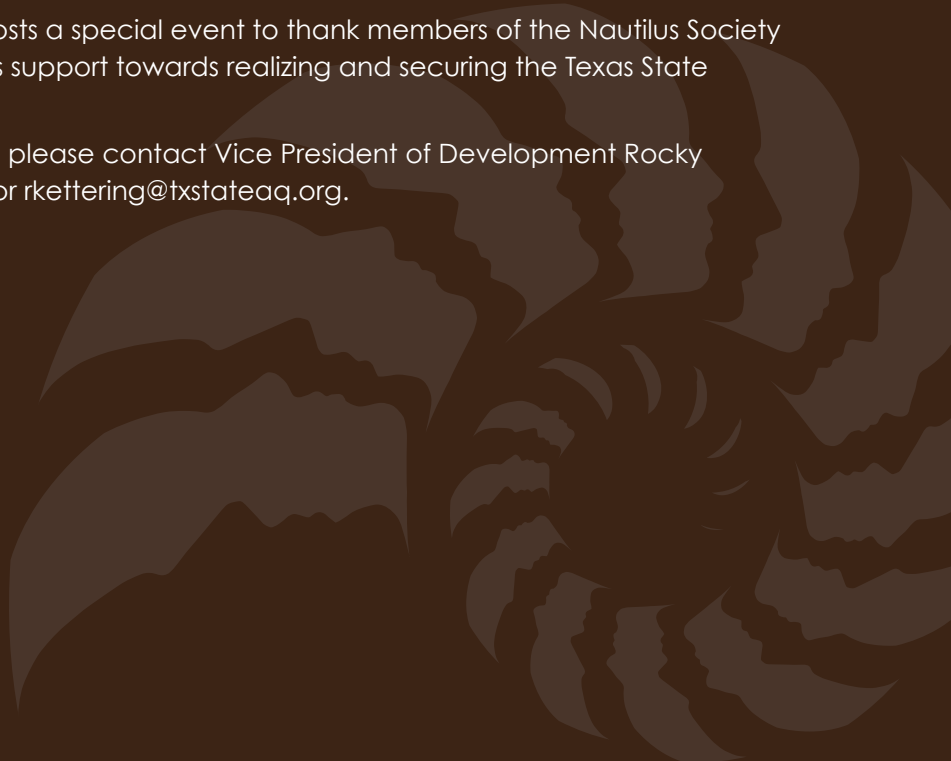
### **What are the benefits?**

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](mailto:rkettering@txstateaq.org).





Texas State Aquarium Recycles



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