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## Seneca Park Zoo Society celebrates volunteer corps

*Eight volunteers receive awards*

November 8, 2017 —Seneca Park Zoo Society and Seneca Park Zoo leadership recognized and celebrated the impact of their tremendous corps of volunteers at a breakfast on Saturday November 4, 2017. In 2017 year-to-date, the Zoo has had more than 800 volunteers working in a range of capacities, including docents, ZooTeens, Board or committee members and general volunteers.

“I am humbled by the time and talents our volunteers dedicate to the Zoo,” commented Seneca Park Zoo Society Executive Director Pamela Reed Sanchez.

“Quite literally, we could not do what we do without them.”

The contributions of eight individuals were recognized with awards:

- Rookie of the Year: For impact as a new volunteer, was presented to Dave Zimmerman, who started as a photography volunteer last year.
- Big Idea Award: To trustee Ben Wood, co-founder of Nobitech Apparel, for orchestrating the production and contribution of mosquito repellent jackets, shirts and pants for nearly sixty Malagasy field researchers at Centre val Bio, an organization long-supported by Seneca Park Zoo for its conservation efforts in Madagascar.
- Flexibility Award: To Tim Snyder, who supports the Zoo across a wide range of functions including docent, animal care, landscaping, and at events like ZooBoo.

- Up and Comer Award: Recognizes a young adult volunteer, and was presented to Mya Santiago who has been a part of the ZooTeen program for five years.
- Can-Do Award: Awarded to the volunteer who always has a can-do attitude, to Kathy Guillard, Chairman of the Docent Conservation Committee, for her ingenuity in creating educational materials to engage Zoo guests in conservation efforts.
- Expert Award: To professional photographer Grant Taylor, who for four years has donated his time and expertise to take the stunning photography that is the backbone of the Zoobilation gala marketing materials.
- Community Award: which recognizes a community partner, was awarded to RCSD MAC program, which helps refugee youth ages 16-21 assimilate into their new culture. The RCSD MAC students have volunteered in a wide array of events this year.
- Leader of the Pack Award: which recognizes a volunteer who can rally a large group of volunteers to take on projects was awarded to Jim Quick, who has been a docent since 2010. Jim served as President of the Docent Council and has led many initiatives during his time as a volunteer, from parking crews to fundraisers.

Thanks to an anonymous donor a donation will be made to one of the Zoo's conservation partners in honor of each award recipient. To learn about volunteering at Seneca Park Zoo, contact [volunteers@senecazoo.org](mailto:volunteers@senecazoo.org).

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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.