



2019
Annual Report

NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

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NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

December 2019
Coral Springs, FL

Dear friends of the NhRP,

2019 has been a year of expansion in every direction for the Nonhuman Rights Project.

We have appeared in court, demanding personhood and legal rights for our nonhuman animal clients, more often than in any year since we began litigating in 2013. We have been hard at work preparing to litigate in our third state and our fourth. We are working hand in hand with lawyers, judges, professors, and activists to establish personhood and legal rights for nonhuman animals in more countries than ever. We have hired more committed staffers of all kinds, not just lawyers, than we ever have. This year we added legislative work at the municipal and federal levels to the judicial work that has been our mainstay for years.

2020 is shaping up for even more.

More cases in the United States to be litigated in more states simultaneously.

More cases to be brought and supported in other countries.

More lawyers and other dedicated staffers coming on board.

Of course we could not have accomplished any of this without the generosity of our supporters and donors, to whom we are exceedingly grateful.

Steven M. Wise, President



Our Mission



The Nonhuman Rights Project works to secure fundamental rights for nonhuman animals through litigation, legislation, and education.

Our Objectives:

- To change the common law status of great apes, elephants, dolphins, and whales from mere “things,” which lack the capacity to possess any legal right, to “legal persons,” who possess such fundamental rights as bodily liberty and bodily integrity.
- To draw on the common law and evolving standards of morality, scientific discovery, and human experience to consider other qualities that may be sufficient for recognition of nonhuman animals’ legal personhood and fundamental rights.
- To develop local, national, and global issue-oriented grassroots and legislative campaigns to promote recognition of nonhuman animals as beings worthy of moral and legal consideration and with their own inherent interests in freedom from captivity, participation in a community of other members of their species, and the protection of their natural habitats.
- To build a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals to secure legally recognized fundamental rights for nonhuman animals.
- To foster understanding of the social, historical, political, and legal justice of our arguments and the scientific discovery of other species’ cognitive and emotional complexity that informs them.

Year at a Glance



Free The Commerford Elephants: First NhRP Rally

On a frigid day in February in Worcester, Massachusetts, close to 100 people joined the NhRP to rally for freedom for Beulah, Karen, and Minnie, three elephants imprisoned and exploited in a Connecticut-based traveling circus called the Commerford Zoo. Joined by Change.org, we mobilized outside the DCU Center (where the Commerford Zoo was holding a “kids fun fair”) to be a collective voice and presence for the Commerford elephants, which is a vital part of raising awareness of how these self-aware, autonomous beings suffer when deprived of their freedom and forced to perform. The rally was also a welcome opportunity for us to intensify public pressure on the Commerford Zoo and further connect with NhRP supporters and local activists, many of whom have been fighting for years to persuade the relevant authorities to help these animals.

In the early years of our organization, when we had a much smaller staff and the majority of our work involved familiarizing the media, the legal community, and the public at large with why and how we are demanding legal rights for nonhuman animals, we necessarily focused exclusively on our litigation. We are grateful to be in a position now where we can also take our arguments directly to the communities in which humans and human institutions are exploiting our clients and encourage people who attend these events to recognize the suffering of these legally invisible beings and, we hope, get involved in efforts to bring it to an end.

To all who attended our first rally, thank you for braving the cold to stand with the NhRP and for the rights of elephants!





As animals owned by the Commerford Zoo labored inside the DCU Center, artist Colleen Plumb projected images of imprisoned elephants onto the venue, and demonstrators held a silent vigil to bear witness to their suffering.



Mourning Beulah and Karen as we continue to fight for Minnie

Several months after our first rally, we received the worst possible news, which we know hit our supporters hard as well. In September, Beulah collapsed and died at the Big E fair in Massachusetts, where the Commerford Zoo exploited her for profit one final time. A photo of Beulah lying on her side in obvious distress on a small patch of grass in a parking lot prompted widespread outrage and sorrow over the continued injustice of her treatment; no one yet knew the photo documented her final moments on earth. Days later, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed to a local news outlet that Karen had also died—in March.

Through numerous requests made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), we've been trying to find out from the USDA how Beulah and Karen died. What's clear is that, for decades, the Commerford Zoo has unrelentingly prioritized their financial interests over Beulah, Karen, and Minnie's well-being. This they can do with near impunity because elephants are considered mere property under the law.

In late September, the NhRP, the Humane Society of the United States, the PETA Foundation, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Connecticut Residents Seeking Sanctuary for the Commerford Animals, and other organizations sent a letter to Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, urging him to help secure Minnie's release to a sanctuary. He has not yet responded publicly or privately.



Karen labors under the threat of a bullhook at the Meadowlands State Fair in New Jersey. This was the last time Karen was seen in public before her death. Photo: Gigi Glendinning

“Claiming the elephants are 'family,' the Commerford Zoo has continued to exploit them despite the physical and emotional harms this exploitation is known to cause.”

LETTER TO
CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR NED
LAMONT

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In October, Connecticut State Representative David Michel hosted a press conference in Hartford, with Rep. Michel, NhRP Director of Government Relations Courtney Fern, Connecticut State Representative Rep. Anne Hughes, Connecticut animal rights activist Jill Alibrandi, Connecticut State Director for the Humane Society of the United States Annie Hornish, and others jointly condemning the inaction of the local, state, and federal authorities responsible for ensuring the Commerford elephants' welfare. They also urged other lawmakers to join the call for Minnie's release to a sanctuary.

Meanwhile, our fight for elephant rights in the Connecticut courts continues with Minnie now the sole surviving elephant imprisoned and exploited by the Commerford Zoo. On Jan. 8th, the Appellate Court of Connecticut will hear arguments in Minnie's case. We expect to address the serious legal errors in that Court's decision regarding the first habeas corpus petition we filed on behalf of the Commerford elephants, urging it not to repeat those errors when it rules on our appeal of another judge's dismissal of our second habeas corpus petition.

Throughout 2019, we filed numerous briefs and argued before various judges in Connecticut, including in a packed courtroom on Earth Day, demanding again and again that the Connecticut courts confront the injustice of our elephant clients' thinghood and lack of rights. It is their rightlessness that keeps them imprisoned and exploited in the Commerford Zoo.

Especially given that Beulah and Karen both died this year after decades of being deprived of everything that makes life worth living for an elephant, we hope the Connecticut Appellate Court will recognize the urgency of Minnie's situation and promptly render a just decision. No matter what, we'll never stop fighting in and outside the courtroom for her freedom.



What we argue in our latest brief in Minnie's case:

- Minnie is a legal person with the right to bodily liberty, regardless of whether she can bear duties and responsibilities.
- Under Connecticut's common law of habeas corpus, the NhRP has standing to sue on Minnie's behalf to challenge the lawfulness of her imprisonment, regardless of whether she herself has standing or whether we can be said to have a relationship with her.
- Minnie is entitled to a hearing on the merits of her case, and given the absence of any such hearing, the Appellate Court was wrong to rule on the merits (by determining that she isn't and can't be a legal person).
- Courts have the responsibility under the common law—which must evolve as human understandings of injustice evolve—to consider and remedy the injustice of Minnie's legal thinghood in accordance with Connecticut's deeply rooted values and principles of justice. Simply put, it is unjust to imprison an autonomous being like Minnie, especially alone.



NhRP founding board member Jane Goodall: “Never give up”

In April, we celebrated NhRP board member Dr. Jane Goodall’s 85th birthday at Los Angeles City Hall with Dr. Goodall, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and the LA City Council. Before the celebration, upon the recommendation of the NhRP and Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mitch O’Farrell, the City Council declared April 3rd “Jane Goodall Day” in recognition of her unique legacy of scientific discoveries and courageous leadership. In an impassioned speech, Dr. Goodall spoke about how she is “helping people to understand and feel in their hearts that [chimpanzees and other] animals are deserving of personhood” and encouraged the NhRP to “never give up” on fighting for nonhuman rights (we won’t!). We were excited to also have this special event serve as the official launch of our legal and legislative work in California. Stay tuned for updates!

Four-year anniversary of Hercules and Leo's habeas corpus hearing

May 27th was the four-year anniversary of our chimpanzee clients’ historic habeas corpus hearing, which required the New York Attorney General’s office to appear in court on behalf of Stony Brook University to defend their right to detain Hercules and Leo in a research facility. Ordered by Justice Barbara Jaffe, the hearing was the first time in the world a court heard arguments about why chimpanzees, as autonomous beings, must be recognized as legal persons with the fundamental right to liberty. Thanks in part to the spotlight shined on their plight by our litigation, Hercules and Leo are finally free of their lives as research subjects and enjoying their autonomy at Project Chimps sanctuary.

"Isn't it incumbent on the judiciary to at least consider whether a class of beings might be granted a right or something short of the right under the habeas corpus law?"

New York Supreme Court Justice Barbara Jaffe



Hercules enjoying his autonomy at Project Chimps sanctuary.
Photo: Crystal Alba/Project Chimps.



Happy alone on display in the Bronx Zoo's elephant exhibit. Photo: Gigi Glendinning

Fighting for Happy's freedom

At the end of 2018, after the Orleans Supreme Court issued our requested habeas corpus order, our client Happy made history by becoming the first elephant in the world to have a habeas corpus hearing to determine the lawfulness of her imprisonment. For the first several months of 2019, we fought the Orleans Supreme Court's legally wrong decision to transfer Happy's case to the Bronx Supreme Court.

Ultimately, the transfer went through, and as our legal team prepared for oral arguments in the Bronx, we had our first rally for Happy's freedom, with over 100 area residents and NhRP supporters joining us outside the Bronx Zoo in June to give voice to the injustice of keeping an elephant alone in a tiny exhibit in an inappropriate climate when she has the opportunity (and the need) to heal and live freely in the company of other elephants in a sanctuary.



“In Connecticut,
New York, and
across the US,
elephants are
suffering because
they live as
prisoners in
traveling circuses
and zoos in tiny,
inappropriate
environments that
don’t allow them to
exercise their
autonomy. They
deserve freedom
and justice.”

NHRP PRESIDENT
STEVEN M. WISE

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Local media extensively covered the rally—the first ever on behalf of Happy. After seeing one of these news stories, journalist and elephant advocate Yashar Ali wrote a series of tweets about who Happy is, why the NhRP is fighting for her freedom, and why she must be released to a sanctuary. His thread quickly went viral, with almost 25,000 likes and 15,000 retweets. Among the public figures who responded was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the U.S. Representative for New York’s 14th congressional district, who thanked Ali for bringing Happy’s situation to her attention and offered to see what she could do to help. Later, New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson issued a statement calling on the Bronx Zoo to release Happy, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio discussed our campaign to free Happy on NPR’s *The Brian Lehrer Show*, saying “something doesn’t feel right” about keeping Happy at the Bronx Zoo and “there’s a reason social animals [like elephants] might be deeply affected by that experience.”

Such statements and the resulting public conversations are a crucial part of keeping up the pressure on the Bronx Zoo to do the right thing and free Happy to a sanctuary. They also help disseminate the story of Happy’s imprisonment and our fight for her right to liberty, showing the courts that people within and beyond New York are paying close attention to what happens and how judges approach our arguments. Will they “[refuse] to confront a manifest injustice,” as a judge on New York’s highest court critiqued them for having done in our chimpanzee rights cases? Or will they rightly view our clients’ rightlessness as “a deep dilemma of ethics and policy that demands [their] attention”?

Fortunately, so far the Bronx Supreme Court appears to be giving Happy’s elephant rights case the rigorous consideration it is due. In September and October, Justice Alison Y. Tuitt heard arguments from the NhRP and the Bronx Zoo for a total of ten hours spread across two days, with a third court date scheduled for Jan. 6, 2020. As NhRP attorney Elizabeth Stein said at the time, “It’s clear from the probing questions

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she asked of both sides that she truly wants to understand and is taking extremely seriously both the relevant procedural questions and the merits of Happy's case."

Both the duration and substance of these hearings were unique for arguments on preliminary motions, with Justice Tuitt providing the NhRP with ample time to delve into the most pressing issues in Happy's case, such as who counts as a legal person with rights and why Happy—as a autonomous being—is entitled to the fundamental right to liberty and must be released to a sanctuary.

Then in October, the NhRP won a temporary restraining order against the Bronx Zoo, which we sought after they inexplicably and suddenly refused to agree not to move Happy from New York. At the conclusion of our October oral arguments, after the Bronx Zoo again refused to agree not to move Happy, Justice Tuitt issued an order from the bench indicating that "the status quo [of Happy's situation] should be maintained until she rules on the NhRP's motion for preliminary injunction, which would prevent the Bronx Zoo from moving her out of state until the case is resolved.

Now the elephant exhibit is closed for the winter, meaning Happy is held in an industrial cement structure lined with windowless, barred cages (the zoo's "elephant barn") until the exhibit reopens in May.

We look forward to returning to Justice Tuitt's courtroom in the Bronx in January to argue for recognition of Happy's right to liberty and release to a sanctuary.

"Elephants are highly social, intelligent animals, suited to the company of other elephants. Housed in small enclosures, elephants in captivity often don't get along with the elephants their captors select to put them with. At the Bronx Zoo, Happy is fenced into areas too small to allow her to select between different companions and to choose when to be with them. In short, she has no autonomy. The historical evidence, including Happy's captivity at the Bronx Zoo, shows she has gotten along with other elephants. What she needs is a choice of social partners and the space to allow her to be with who she wants, when she wants, and to avoid particular individuals, when she wants."

DR. JOYCE POOLE, "ELEPHANTS DON'T BELONG IN ZOOS: HAPPY NEEDS TO MOVE FROM THE BRONX" (THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, JUNE 2019)



Tommy peers out from a cage on a used trailer lot in Gloversville, New York. His location and physical condition are currently unknown. Photo: HBO/Pennebaker Hegedus Films

Tommy, Kiko, and the need for chimpanzee rights

This year we continued to work behind the scenes and in collaboration with other entities to find out all we can about how and where our first chimpanzee clients, Tommy and Kiko, are. Our goal remains the same: to secure their freedom by any legal means necessary. Their thinghood and lack of rights make this work difficult because their owners can sell, confine, hide, and exploit them with little to no oversight or consequence, even with the protections extended to captive chimpanzees in 2015 under the Endangered Species Act. We'll share more about our efforts to help Tommy and Kiko as soon as we can. Until then, please know that while the state and federal entities responsible for ensuring their welfare might have forgotten about them, we have not.

NhRP addresses highest court in Colombia in bear rights case

In August, NhRP President Steven M. Wise, at the invitation of the Constitutional Court of Colombia, addressed by video a panel of nine judges during a hearing to determine whether a spectacled bear named Chucho is a legal person with the fundamental right to liberty protected by the writ of habeas corpus. In 2017, Chucho's attorney, Luis Domingo Gómez Maldonado, a law professor at the Universidad Manuela Beltrán, filed an NhRP-inspired habeas corpus petition on the bear's behalf after learning that the Corporación Autónoma Regional de Caldas (Corpocaldas) had used its authority as the entity responsible for environmental management in the region to transfer him from the Río Blanco Nature Reserve to the Barranquilla City Zoo. In so doing, Luis argues,

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Corpocaldas had deprived Chucho of his right to liberty, severely compromising his physical and emotional well-being.

In a first for Colombian animal law jurisprudence, Judge Luis Armando Tolosa Villabona agreed, granting the writ in July of 2017 and ordering Chucho transferred to a habitat with “full and dignified conditions in semi-captivity,” most likely La Planada Nature Reserve, where other spectacled bears live in the cloud forests of the Andes’ western slope. “If fictitious legal entities [such as corporations] are subjects of rights,” he wrote, “for what reason should those who are alive or are ‘sentient beings’ not be so?” A month later, a panel of the Colombian Supreme Court reversed the ruling, writing that “the writ of habeas corpus is inappropriate in the present case, because it was designed for persons, rational animals, not for nonhuman or irrational animals, and the foundations of such a decision [i.e. granting a writ of habeas corpus to Chucho] are incompatible with the purpose for which the writ was created.” Luis then appealed Chucho’s case to the Colombian Constitutional Court, which ordering a hearing.

As Steve says in his video argument, the question before the Court is “whether even the most fundamental interests of a species, like Chucho’s, should ever, under any circumstances, count. If it is possible that under any circumstances their fundamental interests should count, then they should be designated as persons, for this then gives them the capacity for legal rights to protect their most fundamental interests.”

Orangutan recognized as a legal person is freed to a sanctuary

In September, the NhRP and people around the world celebrated the news that an orangutan named Sandra had finally found freedom in the Center for Great Apes sanctuary in Florida after spending her entire life in zoos. Sandra was famously a client in habeas corpus litigation in Argentina that was modeled on the NhRP’s. In a ruling in an early stage in Sandra’s court case, Justice Elena Amanda Liberatori declared her a “persona no humana” (nonhuman person) with rights. Explaining to the Associated Press her motivation for this declaration, Justice Liberatori said: “I wanted to tell society something new, that animals are sentient beings and that the first right they have is our obligation to respect them.”

We applaud Justice Liberatori’s clear rejection of Sandra’s legal thinghood and embrace of her rights. Most of all, we are happy Sandra is finally free and look forward to following her progress as a resident of the Center for Great Apes, where her autonomy will be respected and she can heal and be with other orangutans.

Thank you to our friends at CGA for giving her a new life!

The Year in Photos



We'd like to express our gratitude to the people who donated photos to the NhRP this year for use in our litigation and grassroots advocacy campaigns: photographer Gigi Glendinning, NhRP supporter Roberta Januzzi, NhRP supporter Abby Power, and Jill Alibrandi of Connecticut Residents Seeking Sanctuary for the Commerford Elephants. Thank you for your advocacy and for helping us show the world the realities of the lives of our nonhuman animal clients.



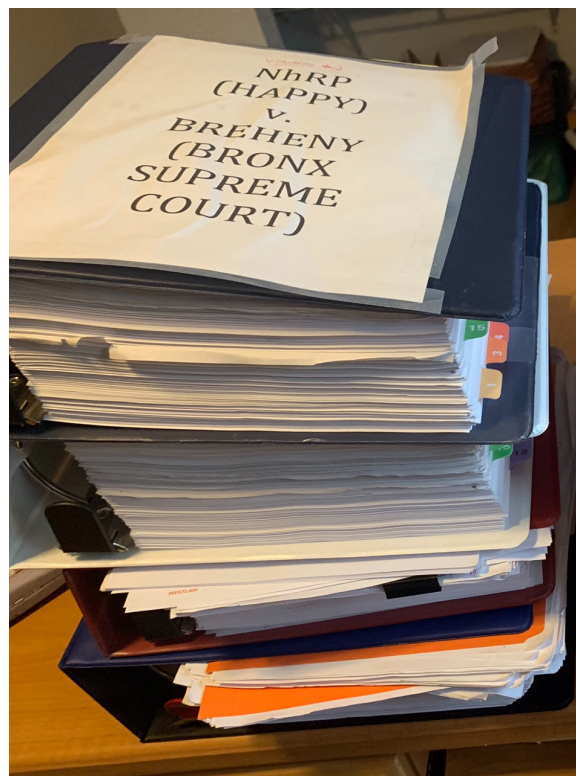
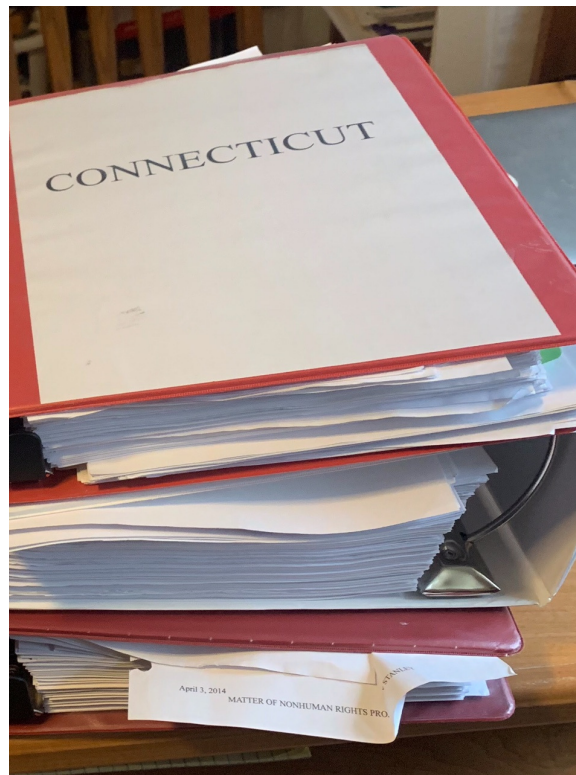
Demonstrators band together with the NhRP outside the Bronx Zoo to call for freedom for Happy. As NhRP Executive Director Kevin Schneider made clear in his remarks, there is no credible reason the Bronx Zoo cannot release Happy to a sanctuary. Photos: Greyson Images





Unlocking the Cage co-director Chris Hegedus joins the NhRP's Elizabeth Stein, Courtney Fern, Lauren Choplin, Kevin Schneider, and Spencer Lo at our first rally for Happy. Below, Steve with Queen guitarist Brian May, who urged his followers on Instagram to support the NhRP's efforts to free Happy: "No creature deserves to live in endless solitary misery like this."





Throughout the year, the NhRP legal team is at work almost constantly on our ongoing litigation campaigns: researching and analyzing relevant cases, drafting motions, briefs, and memoranda of law, determining how best to respond to particular rulings, and preparing for oral arguments, among other tasks that require rigorous internal discussion (and a lot of heavy binders!).



In February, the NhRP legal team met in Florida to work on our California habeas petition. Artists Sam Machado and Cynthia Sousa, who are publishing a graphic novel about the NhRP in September of 2020, joined us for dinner one night. Below, a rally in front of the Massachusetts State House steps in support of a bill to prevent the use of elephants and other animals in circuses in the state. NhRP Executive Director Kevin Schneider testified in support of the bill.





NhRP attorney Monica Miller with NhRP founding board member Dr. Jane Goodall at Los Angeles City Hall. Below, NhRP President Steven M. Wise with John Kay of the band Steppenwolf. John and his wife Jutta Maue have supported the NhRP from the beginning as part of their animal rights, human rights, and environmental advocacy.



Financials



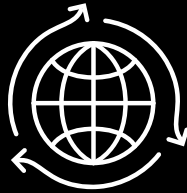
The NhRP has come a long way since we filed our first lawsuit six years ago. In 2013, we started with modest finances and a small community of dedicated supporters. Today, in 2019, we will be closing out the year in a strong financial position. As of November 2019, we've raised approximately \$1.5 million in contributions. This total does not yet include the amount raised in our largest Giving Tuesday to date (approximately \$20,000) along with final year-end gifts given in December. Total contributions for this year are projected to be the highest ever in comparison to previous years, while total expenses will come out to be just over \$1 million. This brings the NhRP to a healthy operating surplus, which will allow us to continue working without financial impediment in the coming year to secure rights for nonhuman animals through all three of our mission areas (litigation, legislation, education).

The majority of our contributions in 2019 came from our community of individual donors and major private donors, with a 60% increase since 2018 in the number of individual donors. Contributions in 2019 also came from foundations, corporate sponsorship, and merchandise profits, as well as in the form of planned giving and in-kind gifts. Thank you to all the new supporters who've joined us in our journey this year along with our longtime supporters for your continued commitment to our mission.

Approximately 70% of total expenses this year were dedicated to programs, such as our elephant rights litigation in New York and Connecticut; our national grassroots advocacy campaigns; and laying the groundwork for launching nonhuman rights legislation. Twenty percent of expenses went into general management and administrative activities, including recruitment and training of our new staff and growing team. Finally, the remaining 10% was devoted to development efforts, such as donor events and expanding fundraising channels.

To see our most recent audited financial statements for 2018 and 2017 and our most recent IRS Form 990, visit nonhumanrights.org/who-we-are/. Full financial information for 2019 will be available in early 2020. For further information, please contact Development Director Mickey Suzuki at msuzuki@nonhumanrights.org.

A Global Fight



As the only civil rights organization in the US dedicated solely to securing rights for nonhuman animals, the NhRP continues to be the leading force in building a national and global nonhuman rights movement. To raise awareness of the importance of and legal basis for nonhuman rights and provide resources to empower people from all over the world to join the fight, we:

Connect and collaborate

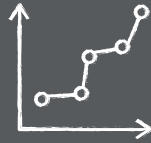
NhRP staff regularly present at and participate in conferences on subjects related to nonhuman rights, such as animal law and the climate crisis. These conferences allow us to share our mission and work with others, learn about what others are working on, and identify opportunities for collaboration. This year, we especially enjoyed participating in the world's first digital conference dedicated to elephants, with NhRP Executive Director giving an online talk on our elephant rights work.

The NhRP also offers support to aspiring nonhuman rights advocates around the world, sharing our knowledge and experience and assisting in every way possible with the development of rights-based litigation and legislation campaigns suited to various countries' legal systems. This year, we worked most closely with NhRP international legal working groups in Israel and India, both of whom will file nonhuman rights suits in 2020, and we've just formed a Canadian legal working group. Stay tuned!

Educate

As a recognized expert in animal rights jurisprudence, NhRP President Steven M. Wise teaches and guest-lectures at law schools and in other forums all over the world to help inspire and prepare the next generation of attorneys and activists to fight for nonhuman rights. This year, he taught at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Lewis and Clark Law School, and Tel Aviv Law School. He guest-lectured at the University of Connecticut Law School, the University of Denver Law School, the UK Centre for Animal Law, Cambridge University Law School, the University of Silesia in Poland, , the Portland Public Library in Oregon, and the Keystone Congregational Church in Seattle.

By the Numbers



383,563:

Number of people who have signed our Change.org petition to free the Commerford elephants as of December 2019

1,315,920:

Number of people who have signed a Change.org petition to free Happy the elephant from the Bronx Zoo as of December 2019

24,047:

Number of emails sent to decisionmakers on behalf of our elephant clients

8,462:

Number of views of our statement on the death of our elephant client Beulah, which was our most read blog post in 2019

1,315,729,786:

Potential number of people reached by US media coverage of the NhRP in 2019

1,980,170,429:

Potential number of people reached by worldwide media coverage of the NhRP in 2019

Thank You



Whether you've newly learned about our work or supported the NhRP for years, we thank and appreciate each and every one of you. We are truly touched by the outpouring of support we received in 2019, ranging from emails expressing compassion for our clients and gratitude for our persistence, to social media comments asking how you can help, to thoughtful conversations we've had with you during rallies or before or after court hearings, to individual and monthly gifts.

Especially with a mission like ours that aims to fundamentally change the legal status quo, it is solely through your generosity and continued commitment to this cause that we can do this work.

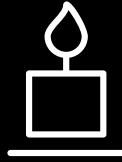
The battles many of you have fought and are still fighting to help nonhuman animals who are suffering in your communities inspire us daily in our battles, which are part of a truly global struggle to secure rights for nonhuman animals. From all of us at the NhRP, we thank you!

A very special thank you to Carisa Janes, founder and CEO of the cruelty-free luxury cosmetics brand Hourglass Cosmetics, and her entire team. Since our partnership began in 2018, Hourglass has donated 1% of all profits from [hourglasscosmetics.com](https://www.hourglasscosmetics.com) to the NhRP. In 2019, they helped promote our rallies, hearings, and online petitions, joined us for Jane Goodall Day, hosted an NhRP event at their store in New York, donated \$1 to the NhRP for every photo posted as part of their Eye-to-Eye Campaign, donated 5% of all their Giving Tuesday profits to the NhRP, and helped raise awareness of the NhRP via their Instagram posts and stories. We thank them for their deep commitment to protecting nonhuman animals from human-caused harm by employing bold strategies for changing a status quo that views and treats members of other species as "things."

Further special thanks to:

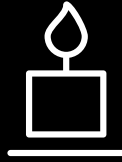
Jane Berkey, Chris Hollinger, Donna Toeroek, Joyce Poole, and Hope Ferdowsian.

In Memory of Beulah and Karen



You were entitled to freedom and justice. We lament not only your deaths, but also your lives. We honor who you were—extraordinarily cognitively, emotionally, and socially complex beings—and who you could have been had you been released from your unlawful imprisonment or never been torn from your families and natural habitats in the first place. One day our legal systems will understand and condemn how immensely you suffered.

In Memory of D A Pennebaker



This year we mourned the loss of a dear friend of the NhRP, documentary filmmaker D A Pennebaker, who died in August at the age of 94.

D A Pennebaker directed “Unlocking the Cage,” a critically acclaimed documentary about the NhRP, with his partner Chris Hegedus. In 2013, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognized his body of work with an Academy Honorary Award.

We were incredibly lucky to have known such an extraordinary human.

The Year Ahead



In 2020, the Nonhuman Rights Project will:

- Argue for Happy's right to liberty in the Bronx Supreme Court on Jan. 6th
- Argue for Minnie's right to liberty in the Connecticut Appellate Court on Jan. 8th
- File a new nonhuman rights lawsuit in California
- File a new nonhuman rights lawsuit in Colorado
- Continue to work to secure incremental legal victories and persuade multiple judges in multiple jurisdictions that our clients deserve recognition of their legal personhood and right to liberty
- Assist our Israeli legal working group with the filing of the first nonhuman rights lawsuit in Israel
- Assist our Indian legal working group with the filing of a lawsuit that will help clarify what rights a nonhuman animal has in India
- Build new sections of our website that will provide new educational resources, highlight nonhuman rights victories, and analyze judicial decisions worldwide that are important to the nonhuman rights movement
- Work with lawmakers to introduce the world's first nonhuman rights legislation in a major city in California
- Continue meeting with federal lawmakers to discuss the importance of nonhuman rights
- Ramp up our grassroots advocacy campaigns to free Happy and Minnie and grow the national and international nonhuman rights movement



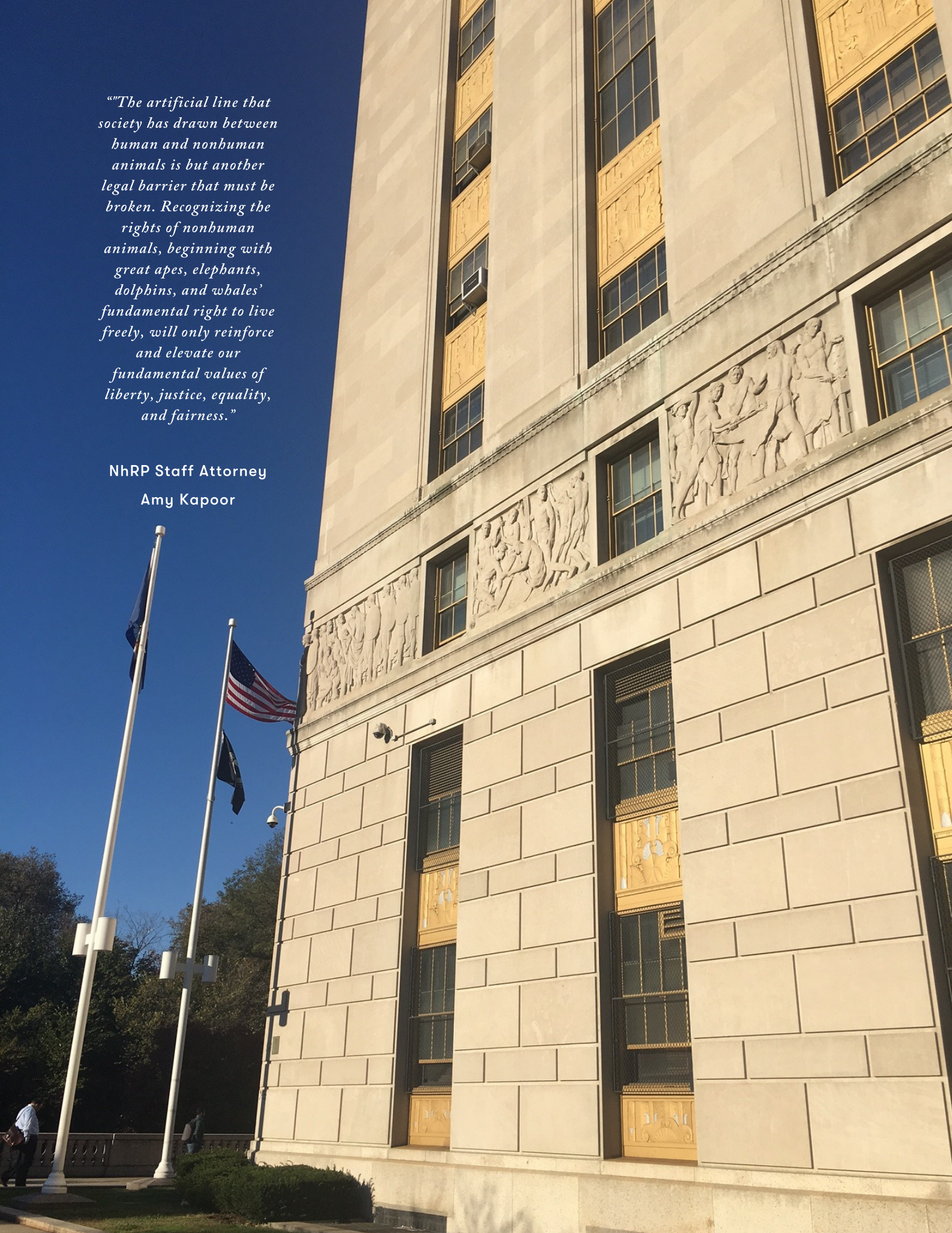
Clockwise from top left: Attorney Spencer Lo, Development Director Mickey Suzuki, Communications Director Lauren Choplin, Attorney Monica Miller, Pro Bono Attorney Chris Hollinger, Attorney Amy Kapoor, Executive Director Kevin Schneider, Attorney Elizabeth Stein, and Director of Government Relations and Campaigns Courtney Fern at our August staff retreat (Steve Skyped in to our meetings because he was at home recovering from an illness). Thank you Jane Berkey and the Animal Farm Foundation for so generously and kindly hosting us!

With the support of people around the world, the NhRP is leading a much-needed paradigm shift away from treating nonhuman animals as rightless things to respecting them as rightsholders—or in the language of our law, persons. Central to all we do is our team of dedicated professionals. We're proud our growing organization is comprised of people from diverse backgrounds, with the majority of our leadership and staff identifying as women. This past year saw the hiring of three new full-time employees—Spencer Lo, Mickey Suzuki, and Amy Kapoor—who join a team with decades of combined experience, in the law and outside it, and share a commitment to respecting the intrinsic worth and dignity of all individuals.

The arbitrary rightlessness of animals has long enabled a system of domination and exploitation that serves as a model for the domination and exploitation of weak and marginalized humans. This in turn reinforces the domination and exploitation of animals. To address the root causes of injustice and build a more just world for all, our legal systems must recognize the fundamental rights of members of other species, beginning with great apes, elephants, dolphins, and whales.

This work is made possible and stronger because of supporters like you. Thank you! We look forward to sharing more big things with you in 2020.

Kevin Schneider, Executive Director



"The artificial line that society has drawn between human and nonhuman animals is but another legal barrier that must be broken. Recognizing the rights of nonhuman animals, beginning with great apes, elephants, dolphins, and whales' fundamental right to live freely, will only reinforce and elevate our fundamental values of liberty, justice, equality, and fairness."

NhRP Staff Attorney
Amy Kapoor

Support the NhRP



We could not do any of this work without you. Please consider making a year-end gift to ensure that the important work of securing legal rights for nonhuman animals continues into 2020 and beyond.

To donate to the NhRP, visit nonhumanrights.org/donate or text NONHUMAN to 44-321.

Addendum

(Updated: June 27th, 2021)

Board of Directors

Steven M. Wise - Founding Board Member, Founder and President

Steven M. Wise is founder and president of the NhRP. He has practiced animal protection law for 30 years throughout the US and is the author of four books: *Rattling the Cage – Toward Legal Rights for Animals*; *Drawing the Line – Science and the Case for Animal Rights*; *Though the Heavens May Fall – The Landmark Trial That Led to the End of Human Slavery*; and *An American Trilogy – Death, Slavery, and Dominion Along the Banks of the Cape Fear River*. He holds a J.D. from Boston University Law School and a B.S. in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary.

Jane Goodall - Founding Board Member

Jane Goodall is a founding NhRP Board Member. She has been teaching the world about the culture and lives of chimpanzees since 1960. Her pioneering work with the chimpanzees of Gombe National Park in Tanzania changed the way people view chimpanzees and, subsequently, all other animals. She is founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and Roots and Shoots, an environmental and humanitarian program for preschool through college-age students that now has over 150,000 members in more than 120 countries.

Gail Price-Wise - Board Member

Gail Price-Wise is an NhRP Board Member. She is founder and president of the Florida Center for Cultural Competence, Inc., which trains health care providers to work more effectively with minority populations. She also works as a consultant to small nonprofits developing strategic plans. Gail received an M.A. from the Harvard School of Public Health in Health Policy and Management in 1986.

Arnie Perlstein - Board Member

Arnie Perlstein is an NhRP Board Member, who also serves as board member or advisor to several other social justice organizations in Portland, Oregon, where he lives. Arnie received a B.A. from Williams College (1974) and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School (1978). He is a regular blogger and is currently writing a nonfiction book that analyses feminism and gender fluidity in Jane Austen's and William Shakespeare's "shadow stories." He has been a strong supporter of, and frequent advisor to, the NhRP since 2006, when he and NhRP President Steven M. Wise realized that their interest in Lord Mansfield (*Mansfield Park* for Arnie and the case of *Somerset v. Steuart* for Steve) coincided.

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Directors
Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc. (the "Organization") which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc. as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

June 15, 2020

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position

	December 31,	
	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 1,068,601	\$ 679,430
Contributions receivable	35,411	-
Investments	970,293	892,956
Assets limited as to use	15,000	15,000
Prepaid expenses	12,717	12,717
Office equipment, net	<u>2,762</u>	<u>2,870</u>
	<u>\$ 2,104,784</u>	<u>\$ 1,602,973</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>\$ 77,978</u>	<u>\$ 46,976</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	1,940,511	1,555,997
With donor restrictions	<u>86,295</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,026,806</u>	<u>1,555,997</u>
	<u>\$ 2,104,784</u>	<u>\$ 1,602,973</u>

See notes to financial statements

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Statements of Activities

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2019	2018
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$ 1,421,461	\$ 1,225,255
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program	773,896	576,897
Administrative	231,990	175,244
Fundraising	121,074	134,131
Total Operating Expenses	1,126,960	886,272
Excess of Operating Revenue Over Operating Expenses	294,501	338,983
NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)		
Interest and dividends	51,101	29,105
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	38,912	(42,263)
Other income	-	3,193
Nonoperating Income (Expense)	90,013	(9,965)
Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	384,514	329,018
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Contributions	86,295	-
Change in Net Assets	470,809	329,018
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	1,555,997	1,226,979
End of year	\$ 2,026,806	\$ 1,555,997

See notes to financial statements

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2019

	<u>Program</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Total</u>
PERSONNEL COSTS				
Salaries	\$ 485,558	\$ 81,104	\$ 77,596	\$ 644,258
Payroll taxes and benefits	<u>35,446</u>	<u>4,946</u>	<u>5,736</u>	<u>46,128</u>
Total Personnel Costs	521,004	86,050	83,332	690,386
OTHER THAN PERSONNEL EXPENSES				
Non payroll litigation expense	9,837	-	-	9,837
Independent contractors	24,095	58,617	16,216	98,928
Accounting fees	-	18,100	-	18,100
Public education	56,913	-	154	57,067
Office expense	4,258	12,025	196	16,479
Telephone and postage	20,631	397	3,381	24,409
Travel expense	85,854	6,666	1,858	94,378
Recruiting	1,007	1,275	-	2,282
Insurance	-	3,611	-	3,611
Dues, licenses and permits	8,605	4,021	103	12,729
Non payroll campaign expense	34,102	29	12,849	46,980
Medical benefits	-	21,940	-	21,940
Gifts	-	1,950	1,300	3,250
Other	1,470	6,104	193	7,767
Payment processing fees	-	9,971	981	10,952
Events	6,120	-	511	6,631
Depreciation	-	1,039	-	1,039
Bank service charge	<u>-</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>195</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 773,896</u>	<u>\$ 231,990</u>	<u>\$ 121,074</u>	<u>\$ 1,126,960</u>

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2018

	<u>Program</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Total</u>
PERSONNEL COSTS				
Salaries	\$ 352,873	\$ 60,730	\$ 101,177	\$ 514,780
Payroll taxes and benefits	<u>25,879</u>	<u>8,784</u>	<u>12,025</u>	<u>46,688</u>
Total Personnel Costs	378,752	69,514	113,202	561,468
OTHER THAN PERSONNEL EXPENSES				
Non payroll litigation expense	31,837	10	20	31,867
Independent contractors	28,661	10,067	-	38,728
Accounting fees	-	38,800	-	38,800
Public education	15,304	-	103	15,407
Office expense	2,350	13,778	515	16,643
Telephone and postage	2,439	101	88	2,628
Travel expense	53,113	13,805	5,280	72,198
Insurance	29	2,444	-	2,473
Dues, licenses and permits	8,136	1,986	2,319	12,441
Non payroll campaign expense	55,490	172	11,516	67,178
Other	125	15,213	6	15,344
Payment processing fees	-	8,199	979	9,178
Events	661	-	103	764
Depreciation	-	792	-	792
Bank service charge	<u>-</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>363</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 576,897</u>	<u>\$ 175,244</u>	<u>\$ 134,131</u>	<u>\$ 886,272</u>

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Statements of Cash Flows

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2019	2018
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ 470,809	\$ 329,018
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation	1,039	792
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(38,912)	42,263
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Contribution receivable	(35,411)	20,273
Other receivables	-	550
Prepaid expenses	-	(6,767)
Assets limited as to use	-	(15,000)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	31,002	(22,116)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	<u>428,527</u>	<u>349,013</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of office equipment	(931)	(935)
Purchase of investments	<u>(38,425)</u>	<u>(52,413)</u>
Net Cash from Investing Activities	<u>(39,356)</u>	<u>(53,348)</u>
Change in Cash	389,171	295,665
CASH		
Beginning of year	<u>679,430</u>	<u>383,765</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,068,601</u>	<u>\$ 679,430</u>

See notes to financial statements

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2019 and 2018

1. Organization

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc. (the "Organization") is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to achieve actual legal rights for members of species other than our own. The Organization's primary source of support is contributions.

The Organization is qualified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, accordingly, is not subject to Federal income taxes.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation and Use of Estimates

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), which requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Change in Accounting Principle

Contributions Received and Contributions Made

In June 2018, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") 2018-08, Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made ("ASU 2018-08"). ASU 2018-08 provides a framework for evaluating whether grants and contributions should be accounted for as exchange transactions or as nonexchange transactions. ASU 2018-08 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 and the Organization adopted ASU 2018-08 on a modified prospective basis and has determined there to be no impact to the its financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

Effective January 1, 2019, the Organization adopted new U.S. GAAP revenue recognition guidance. The new revenue recognition guidance provides a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and supersedes most current revenue recognition guidance. The core principle of the new guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue from the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration the entity expects to receive for those promised goods or services to customers. The guidance includes a five-step framework to determine the timing and amount of revenue to recognize related to contracts with customers. This guidance also requires new or expanded disclosures related to judgments made by entities when following this framework. Adoption of the new guidance did not result in a change to previously recognized revenue, nor any change with the way the Organization recognizes revenue.

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2019 and 2018

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

Revenue Recognition (continued)

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give (pledges), are recognized as income in the period received. Conditional contributions are recognized as income when the conditions on which they depend have been substantially met. Amounts reflected in the financial statements are net of an allowance for uncollectible gifts, and accordingly, include adjustments, based upon estimates of collectability. Promises to give due in excess of one year are recognized net of a discount to present value.

Net Asset Presentation

Net assets are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Without donor restrictions – net assets represent resources that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions.

With donor restrictions – net assets which contain donor impose restrictions that permit the Organization to use or expend the assets as specified. Net assets released from restrictions represent the passage of time or the satisfaction of restricted purposes.

Contributions

All contributions are considered available for general use, unless specifically restricted by the donor or subject to other legal restrictions. The Organization's policy is to report contributions with donor-imposed restrictions as net assets without donor restrictions when the restrictions are met in the same year that the contributions are received.

Contribution Receivable

All contributions receivable are due within less than one year.

Allowance for Uncollectible Receivables

An allowance for uncollectible receivables is estimated based on a combination of write-offs history, aging analysis and any specific known troubled accounts. As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, management has concluded that an allowance for doubtful accounts is not necessary.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes

The Organization recognizes the effect of tax positions only when they are more likely than not to be sustained. Management has determined that the Organization had no uncertain tax positions that that would require financial statement recognition or disclosure. The Organization is no longer subject to examinations by the applicable taxing jurisdictions for periods prior to December 31, 2016.

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2019 and 2018

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Organization follows U.S. GAAP guidance on fair value measurements which defines fair value and establishes a fair value hierarchy organized into three levels based upon the assumptions used in pricing assets or liabilities. Level 1 inputs have the highest reliability and are related to assets with unadjusted quoted prices in active markets. Level 2 inputs relate to assets with other than quoted prices in active markets which may include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities or other inputs which can be corroborated by observable market data. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs and are used to the extent that observable inputs do not exist.

Investments and Investment Income Recognition

Investments are valued at fair value. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis and dividends are recorded on the record date. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in the determination of change in net assets.

Assets Limited as to Use

Limited use assets consist of assets set aside under the terms of various trust agreements, under the control of the trustee, to be used for the beneficiary as needed. The Organization is the grantor of three revocable trusts (the "trusts"). The trusts provide that, for the beneficiaries' lifetime the trustee will distribute assets of the trusts for the beneficiary as needed. The Organization has the right to revoke the assets in the trusts at any point.

Office Equipment

Office equipment is reported at its original cost less applicable depreciation. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. The estimated useful life of the office equipment is 5 years.

Functional Expenses

The majority of expenses can generally be directly identified with the program or supporting service to which they relate and are charged accordingly. Other expenses by function have been allocated among program and supporting services classifications on the basis of employee salaries and other bases as determined by management of the Organization to be appropriate.

Subsequent Events Evaluation by Management

Management has evaluated subsequent events for disclosure and/or recognition in the financial statements through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, which date is June 15, 2020.

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2019 and 2018

3. Concentration of Credit Risk

The Organization maintains cash balances with a banking institution which from time to time may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's insurable limit. Additionally, the Organization has various investments in stocks and mutual funds. These investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investments, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the balance sheet and the statement of income.

4. Investments

As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, investments consisted of the following:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Quoted in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)		
Mutual funds	\$ 952,294	\$ 860,870
Equities	17,999	32,086
	<u>\$ 970,293</u>	<u>\$ 892,956</u>

Return on investment for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 consists of the following:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Interest and dividends	\$ 51,101	\$ 29,105
Unrealized gain (loss)	38,912	(42,263)
	<u>\$ 90,013</u>	<u>\$ (13,158)</u>

5. Office Equipment

Office equipment as of December 31, 2019 and 2018 consisted of the following:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Office equipment	\$ 5,360	\$ 4,429
Accumulated depreciation	(2,598)	(1,559)
	<u>\$ 2,762</u>	<u>\$ 2,870</u>

6. Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

At December 31, 2019, net assets with donor restrictions of \$86,295 consisted entirely of purpose restricted net assets.

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2019 and 2018

7. Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

The Organization's cash flows are primarily driven by contributions from individual and corporate donors.

The following reflects the Organization's financial assets as of December 31 2019, reduced by amounts not available for general use within one year of the statement of financial position date because of contractual designations. Amounts not available include assets limited as to use with respect to trusts for which the Organization is the grantor.

Financial Assets:

Cash	\$ 1,068,601
Investments	970,293
Contributions receivable	35,411
Assets limited as to use	<u>15,000</u>
Total Financial Assets	<u>2,089,305</u>
Less contractually restricted amounts	
Purpose restriction	86,295
Assets limited as to use	<u>15,000</u>
	<u>101,295</u>
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next twelve months	<u>\$ 1,988,010</u>

8. Subsequent Event

The Organization's activities have been affected by the recent and ongoing outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020. Many countries around the world, including the United States, have significant governmental measures being implemented to control the spread of COVID-19, including temporary closures of businesses, severe restrictions on travel and the movement of people and other material limitations on the conduct of business.

While these restrictions have impacted how the Organization has carried on activities, it has not materially impacted the Organization in an adverse manner. Employees are able to work from home, and the Organization expects to continue to receive contributions. As of the report date, investment impact from COVID-19 was consistent with normal investment fluctuation.

* * * * *