



PRESS RELEASE - Wild Wonders: One year after the Lilac Fire  
Bonsall, CA  
December 5, 2018

On December 7, 2017, the world changed for so many people in the North County. Lives were lost, property destroyed, people displaced.

Wild Wonders was one of the “fortunate” ones. Their facility remained intact, and they were able to successfully evacuate all 120 of their animal ambassadors. All that was important and irreplaceable was saved.

Their gratitude to first responders, staff, volunteers, friends, and professional colleagues remains as profound today as it was in the days immediately following the fire. The first responders heroically saved the compound while most of the animals were being sheltered in a warehouse generously provided by a friend. Other zoos and refuges took in the larger cats (cheetahs, servals, and lynx) for well over week. Friends and volunteers donated money and gift cards to places like Home Depot and Target to help with supplies while at the temporarily housing, and dozens more answered the plea for help cleaning the compound to make it ready for the safe return of the animals. Jackie Navarro, the Founder and Executive Director says, “We are still overwhelmed with the outpouring of help we received.”

Like for all victims of catastrophic events, the financial recovery seems to take the longest. Due to loss of income from cancellations of programs, the melting of water pipes, and a few other structural items that needed repair, the 5 acre “forever home” to wildlife is still struggling to recover financially.

If you love animals and want to help, there are many ways available. Consider a special family outing this Holiday season with Wild Wonders by partaking in one of their seasonal offerings. You can attend a Winter Wonder night tour (with Hot Chocolate!) and have a photo op with a gorgeous Arctic Fox when combined with one of their unique interactive Animal Experiences. Available for purchase are their extremely popular animal paw print paintings, and other Wild Wonders themed merchandise. You can learn more about the tours and merchandise on their website: [www.wildwonders.org](http://www.wildwonders.org).

About Wild Wonders: The refuge in Bonsall, California, is where kids and adults can “tame” their curiosity for “wildlife.” Through live interactive programs and tours at our site or yours, our wildlife educators and our 120 animal-ambassadors will take you on a dynamic adventure you will not forget. Our goal is to excite the public and foster a desire to preserve and learn about wildlife and the important role they play in the planet we share.

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