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*Elephant Aid International provides education and hands-on assistance to improve the lives of captive elephants worldwide.*



*For Tarra,  
who inspires  
and  
guides me  
every day.*

## Message from the Founder

### Making history, making a difference for elephants

I wear many hats in my work with Elephant Aid International (EAI). Elephant pedicurist, healer, teacher, trainer, advocate, corral designer, fundraiser and trouble-shooter are among my duties, not to mention CEO.

In 2013, perhaps no duty brought me more joy than that of reporter, documenting history in the making and sharing photographs, news and stories with you.

In an auspicious start to the year, on January 10, 2013, EAI and its NGO partner, the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), completed Asia's first 100% solar powered chain-free hattisar (elephant stable) in Nepal. Six captive-held Asian elephants, who collectively had lived for more than 150 years shackled in painful leg chains, were free to roam their spacious, forested mini-sanctuaries equipped with state-of-the-art, custom designed fencing.

At long last, the cruel traditions of generations of elephant keepers had given way to the kinder and gentler practices of Compassionate Elephant Care. It was a jubilant moment, a cultural awakening in the making, as modern technologies replaced antiquated practices.

But the changes didn't stop there.

### Government of Nepal joins in the transformation

In December 2013, impressed with the success of that first chain-free corral project, officials of the government of Nepal formally invited EAI to revolutionize the country's centuries-old elephant management system.

It would entail creating 63 one-acre, chain-free corrals at 15 hattisars located throughout Chitwan National Park, where the government's working elephants have been living for decades, shackled in chains.

Sixty-three elephants—grown tuskers, juveniles, mothers and their calves, from newborns to elders—would soon experience the joyous relief of an unfettered, chain-free and pain-free life.

The government's commitment to work hand-in-hand with EAI to release their elephants from chains is nothing short of groundbreaking. It marked a new phase in the world-wide elephant welfare movement that EAI is proud to have initiated and led.

Demonstrating new possibilities for compassionate elephant care in Nepal is key to catalyzing real change elsewhere in the world. It is not enough to talk about a paradigm shift in elephant care: people must see the change in action to understand it, appreciate it and adopt it themselves.

### Thank you

None of our work would be possible without the kind support provided by our loyal donors, our business and funding partners, our board, staff, interns, volunteers—and you.

Thanks to you, EAI will continue to bring compassionate elephant care to elephants wherever they live. Thanks to you, we will change hearts and minds and make history—and a difference—along the way.

*Carol Buckley*



# A Historic Year

## Sparking a chain-free revolution

The world's first-ever chain-free hattisar became a reality in January 2013 with the installation of state-of-the-art fencing and the unshackling of six captive-held Asian elephants—Mel Kali, Jun Kali, Kirti Kali, Man Kali and her children, Prakriti Kali and Hem Gaj—at the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) - Biodiversity Conservation Center in Chitwan, Nepal.

By year's end, the government of Nepal had formally invited EAI to transform its archaic system of elephant management by building chain-free corrals for its 63 working elephants in Chitwan National Park.



From the Field—Log Entries by Carol Buckley

### Log Entry - March 11, 2013

This morning I woke to the sounds of six happy elephants: trumpet blasts, squeaks, squeals, chirps and trunk thumps. I tripped over myself trying to get out the door, anxious to view the scene unfolding at the hattisar. It was glorious! All the elephants were participating in an elephant free-for-all. The family was gracefully racing around both yards, through the trees and bushes, in perfect unison. Jun Kali was fully engaged, chirping and kicking up the loose dirt. Mel Kali started rumbling, which got Kirti Kali rumbling too. For the first time since I've known her, Kirti Kali was playing, running back and forth through her yard like a kid. This group outburst of abandonment lasted for nearly twenty minutes before things wound down to Jun Kali chirp, chirp, chirping as she darted here and there, dragging her hind feet in the loose dirt and spinning in circles until she was spent.



### Log Entry - July 11, 2013

Their faces do not lie, the elephants ARE happy. Even the mahouts were pleasantly surprised. A survey we did after the elephants had been chain-free for several weeks demonstrated just how skeptical the mahouts were before the corrals were installed. They envisioned every kind of negative response, afraid the elephants would become uncontrollable. Instead, they admitted the elephants were more active, playful and relaxed. It surprised them just how responsive the elephants are, even though they no longer live in chains. The centuries-old belief that chains are the only way to control an elephant is burnt into their brains. Changing mindsets takes time. Luckily for us, the elephants were given the opportunity to change the mahouts' beliefs.



### Log Entry - January 12, 2013

The month of January is cold and damp in Chitwan, Nepal. After two days of fog so dense the sun did not break through, 70-year-old Mel Kali started shivering. She was severely underweight and listless yet was still expected to engage in daily anti-poaching patrols as usual. The mahouts resisted my suggestion to put a blanket on her, and I knew better than to push the issue right then. Cultural protocol dictated that I wait and let the mahouts think about my idea... *Continued on next page.*

## Changing hearts and minds, helping elephants heal

Teachable moments come at unexpected times in the field but are key to demonstrating that Compassionate Elephant Care works. Mahouts must see the change in action to understand it, appreciate it and adopt it themselves.



### Log Entry - January 12, 2013... Continued from page 4.

The next day Mel Kali's mahout came to me saying she had not eaten grass all day during her time in the forest. I again suggested a blanket and an injection of B-12 complex. At first the ensuing conversation centered around the belief that Mel Kali would tear the blanket off. I listened to their concerns and said, "No problem if she tears it off, but if she likes it she will leave it on. How about we try?" After taking a silent consensus among themselves, the mahouts agreed: "We try."

First thing in the morning, the vet tech arrived to give Mel Kali a shot of B-12, and I headed off to Tandy Bazaar to have a proper blanket made. The mahouts were waiting when I returned and all helped secure it on Mel Kali's back. The blanket was well thought out—thick on the inside, with a durable cover that can be removed and washed on the outside. Then we added a tarp to prevent the blanket from getting wet in the heavy nighttime fog.

Apparently Mel Kali likes the blanket because she has not attempted to remove it and seems quite toasty.

This morning when her mahout took her into the forest for grazing, Mel Kali was granted official retirement status—allowed to go where she wants, when she wants, unsupervised by her mahout and forever free to simply be an elephant.



### Log Entry - January 16, 2013

Mel Kali's eyes show she is free of pain. They are soft, communicating her relief. At 5 pm when we put her blanket on for the night, I looked in her eyes and told her how pleased I was she was feeling better. She responded with a deep rumble, the first one I have heard from her. I melted!



### Log Entry - January 17, 2013

Mel Kali is back to her old self today, active, eating and begging for her afternoon pot of cooked rice! The mahouts have just learned that putting a blanket on a chilled 70-year-old elephant is a good idea. Another welfare improvement lesson learned. **Check!** And another lesson in effective cultural diplomacy and patience for me. **Double Check!**



## 2013 Snapshots

### Supporting healthy elephants through proper foot care

Foot health is a serious issue for elephants living in captivity. Inactivity, poor husbandry practices, too much time spent confined in one place and walking on unnaturally hard surfaces such as pavement and concrete can cause thin, uneven and bruised foot pads and cracked nails, leading to infection and bone deterioration.

In 2013, EAI provided free pedicures to more than 100 private and government-owned elephants throughout Nepal, Thailand and India. EAI's Elephant Foot Care Program also trained more than 100 mahouts in proper foot care, so they can prevent disability and disease and support the overall health of their elephants.



*Healthy feet are an elephant's foundation.*

### Giving mahouts the resources to do their best for their elephants

Going chain-free changes the lives of elephants in very positive ways. Yet, as we learned in 2013, it creates extra work for their mahouts because they must clean and care for their elephants within a much larger area—a one-acre yard as opposed to a cramped 20x20 space.

Upon completion of our first chain-free corrals in 2013, EAI recognized the problem and immediately set out to fix it. We supplied the mahouts with wheelbarrows, shovels, umbrellas, t-shirts, umbrella hats and rain boots and rain suits, and retrofitted a rickshaw for manure disposal. Our interns, Chantelle, Leath and Sophia, also helped the mahouts with the daily task of making kuchi (food) for their elephants.

We rebuilt a dilapidated open-sided fire hut and storage area, adding concrete floors to provide a clean environment and to protect equipment. We plumbed water to the elephants' water troughs, and to mahout showers and the wheelbarrow wash-down area as well. And to improve the mahouts' safety, we built a new stairway to the second story rice house, where the elephants' food is stored.

The effort paid off. When the mahouts realized that we understood how the changes we were making affected them, they enthusiastically took ownership, assisting in construction and taking over maintenance. And because the mahouts felt appreciated, they paid that appreciation forward to their elephants.



*What goes around comes around.*

**Measuring for success.** It's an honor to work with our good friends and partners at Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary (BLES) and Friends of Asian Elephants (FAE) to provide even more freedom for their well-cared-for elephants. In 2013, EAI collaborated with BLES and FAE in planning for the future construction of Thailand's first solar-powered, chain-free corrals.



**What a team!** With help from EAI's Mahout & Elephant Training Initiative (METI), Shree has done an amazing job training two baby elephants, Hem Gaj and Samrat Gaj, using only positive reinforcement. They are changing culture together.

EAI's 2013 METI projects included teaching more than 200 mahouts about Compassionate Elephant Care at a variety of facilities throughout Nepal and Thailand.



While EAI founder and CEO Carol Buckley wears many hats, there are not enough hours in the day or trained hands on the job to complete all that needs to be accomplished. EAI is ever so grateful to its adventurous and hard-working **2013 interns**, Chantelle Ridley, Leath Tonino and Sophia Chudacoff for helping to make 2013 a great success.



**This is our good friend Shanti.** She lives in Sauraha, Nepal. Her entire family is an incredible help to EAI.

Shanti is the creator of the eco-friendly bags EAI sold on eBay in 2013 to help raise funds for our work. Shanti steadfastly refused to take a profit on the bags, wanting only for EAI to be successful in bringing Compassionate Elephant Care to the people and elephants of her country.

Thank you, Shanti and family for all you do!



### **With a banana and kindness you can teach a baby elephant almost anything.**

The herpes virus is the number one cause of death in young captive-held elephants world-wide. The disease strikes quickly with few discernible symptoms and kills the infant within hours. Weight loss and tongue color are two early indicators of the disease. Training baby elephants to stand on a scale and present their tongue for inspection are two behaviors that are easy for a baby to learn and can mean the difference between life and death.



It was a great pleasure and deep honor to welcome **Kamal Jung Kunwar** to our growing family of Compassionate Elephant Care partners in 2013.

Mr. Kunwar serves as chief conservation officer of Chitwan National Park, where 63 working elephants live. The elephants are essential to the government's ongoing conservation work to protect endangered rhinos and tigers, engaging in anti-poaching patrols and wildlife research and monitoring.

Thanks to Mr. Kunwar's vision and leadership, Park elephants will go chain-free in 2014.



With both **US-based elephant sanctuaries** unable to accept additional elephants at this time, the need for a new sanctuary is real and immediate.

Thanks to the help of our trusted volunteers and dedicated supporters, EAI explored some promising pieces of property in Alabama, Georgia and Florida in 2013. Our goal is to find property that meets the needs of captive-held elephants with room to roam, a mild climate, lush vegetation, ponds, streams and privacy. Stay tuned.



### **When ancient customs meet modern technologies, history is made.**





**Carol Buckley**



**A. Christy Williams**



**Leslie PonTell-Schreiber**

## Board of Directors

**Carol Buckley** is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Elephant Aid International. A visionary who has spent nearly four decades creating sanctuary for captive elephants, Carol rescues, rehabilitates and provides hands-on care and compassion-based training for needy elephants worldwide.

Carol also advises governmental agencies and private organizations on strengthening regulations for the welfare of captive elephants; trains mahouts and caregivers in the use of Compassionate Elephant Care; and provides and teaches essential foot care methods.

She co-founded The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee in 1995, where she served as president and chief executive officer until 2010. She has raised global awareness of the needs of elephants in captivity, and her innovative holistic approach to elephant care and welfare has been a catalyst for change within the U.S. zoological industry.

Since the creation of EAI in 2010, Carol has focused on international collaborative efforts to improve captive elephant welfare in Asia.

**A. Christy Williams** is program coordinator for Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy, a World Wildlife Fund conservation program in eight countries across Asia: Nepal, India, Cambodia, Laos, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition to developing conservation programs he is involved in larger policy issues affecting pachyderms across the region.

**Leslie PonTell-Schreiber** has worked in the exotic management field for more than three decades. Before retiring, she served as co-director of Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo and was the assistant director of Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training and Management program.



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## How to Support Elephant Aid International

Elephant Aid International is built on the belief that small changes can make a huge difference. Whether you prefer to contribute funds, buy or underwrite items from our Wish Lists or offer your skills, we appreciate your support.

*We welcome donations of any amount.*

You can donate through PayPal on our website, [www.elephantaid.org](http://www.elephantaid.org). Please make checks or money orders payable to Elephant Aid International and send to:

### Elephant Aid International

P.O. Box 106  
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Elephant Aid International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a registered California State Charity as required by law.

Other ways you can support EAI include:

- Funding items on the EAI Wish List or individual Project Wish Lists by purchasing items and shipping them to us at 4128 Buffalo Road, Hohenwald, TN 38462
- Making in-kind donations.
- Arranging planned giving.
- Shopping in the EAI online shop at [www.cafepress.com/eaishop](http://www.cafepress.com/eaishop).

For more information, please visit [www.elephantaid.org](http://www.elephantaid.org) or write us at [elevisions@gmail.com](mailto:elevisions@gmail.com).

## Summary of Financial Activity 2013

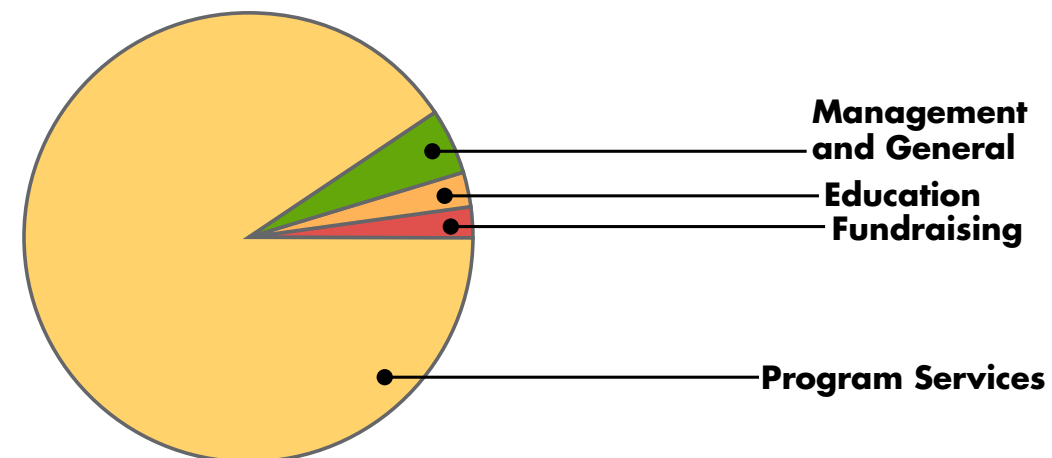
Public Support & Revenue .....\$148,697

### Expenses & Losses

Program Services.....\$95,612  
Education .....\$ 2,573  
Fundraising.....\$ 2,250  
Management and General.....\$ 4,632

**Total Expenses ..... \$105,067**

## Breakdown of Expenses & Losses



## Thank you!

**Elephant Aid International thanks its many supporters and partners for their incredible generosity in 2013. Our work would not be possible without you. Listed below are our current supporters—individuals, businesses, foundations and partners—who made gifts or support between January 1 and December 31, 2013.**

**If we have incorrectly listed or omitted your name, please accept our apologies. Your support is deeply appreciated.**

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And a special thanks to all of our  
mahout friends, with whom we had  
the great pleasure of working.

