

**ELEPHANT HAVENS
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**

Annual Report

2025 · BOTSWANA



*Seven more orphaned
babies came home
to us this year.*



Dear friends,

Your 2025 gifts to the Foundation funded the work you are about to read about, and we want to begin by saying thank you. Every page of this report exists because someone chose to give.

This is the first time we have produced our Annual Report as a fully designed document, and we have done it with care, so you can see for yourself the amazing things you've allowed us to accomplish. The impact happens in Botswana, in the Okavango Delta, where our Botswana Trust runs the day-to-day care of an orphan herd that grew to thirty-eight elephants in 2025. The work is also funded here, in the United States, through the Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity. Together, we are Elephant Havens.

Seven more orphaned babies came home to us this year, most of them carried down a long road from the Okavango Panhandle. One arrived so weak he could not stand for the eight-hour drive; his story turns out, against all the early odds, to be one of the most hopeful in these pages. Another, Magic, took three months to decide that the people bringing her milk could be trusted. None of them would be alive without the team in Botswana, and none of that team would be there without you.

The Foundation in 2025 directed greater than 96.5% of every dollar spent to programs, with less than 3.5% spent on administration. That figure is a deliberate one. It reflects how this organization actually runs: lean, focused, off the grid, with a few trusted experts in support. Our endowment, seeded in 2024, grew to \$2.16 million in 2025 and is held in full to fund the work for years to come. Our partnerships with the Dallas Zoo, Colossal Biosciences, and Ineos Grenadier continued and deepened. Each of those relationships is described in the pages that follow.

And then there is the road to 2027. After years of asking where our elephants would go, we have the answer. In April or May of 2027, our first cohort of ten elephants, led by MmaMotse, our very first rescue, will make their way north to the Selinda Concession to begin the wild life they were always meant to have. The road to that release is the centerpiece of this report and the largest forward commitment in our history.

Thank you for raising this herd with us.

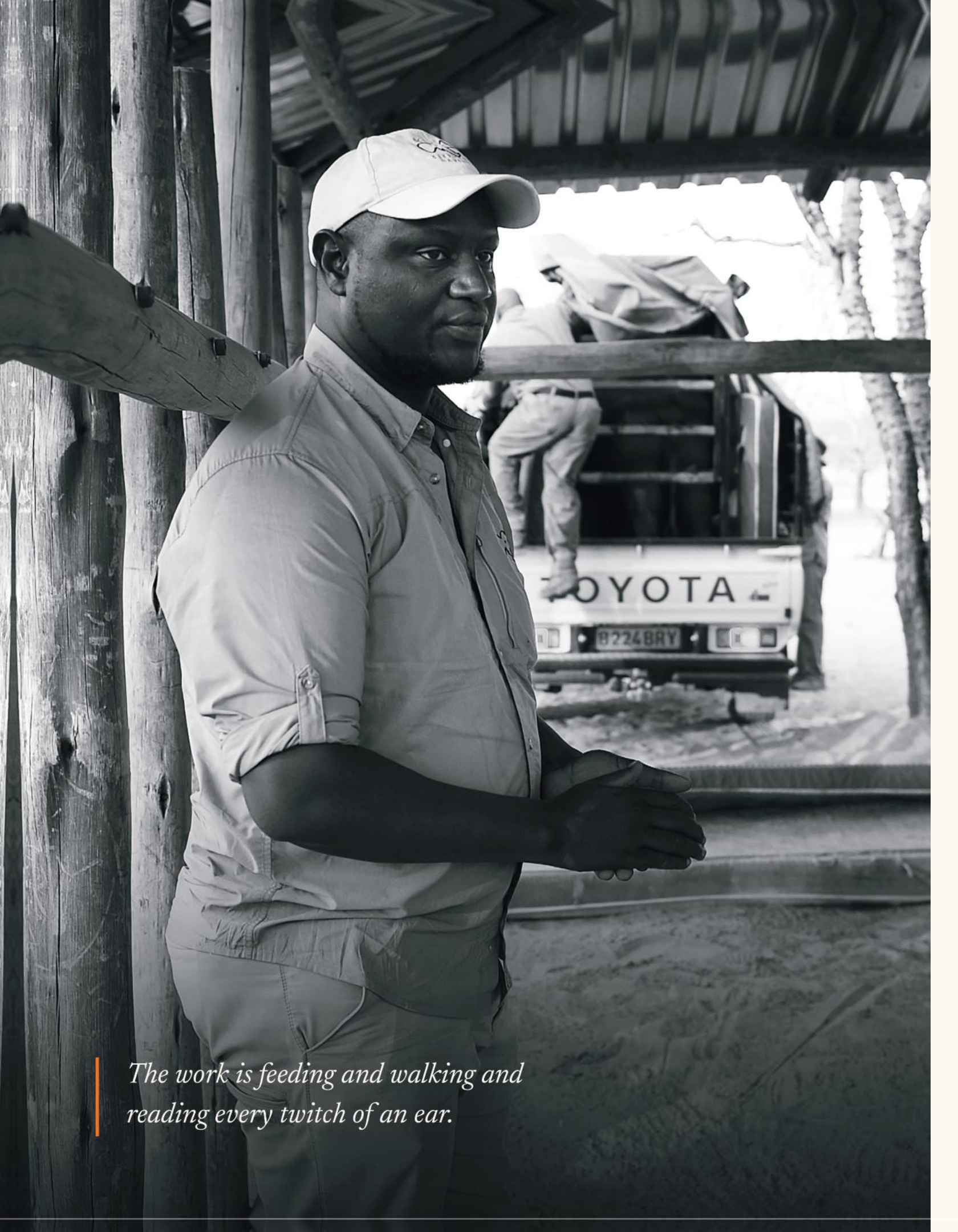
With immense gratitude,

Debra Stevens

CO-FOUNDER

Scott Jackson

CO-FOUNDER



*The work is feeding and walking and
reading every twitch of an ear.*

Dumelang from the Okavango

I want to write to you the way I would speak to you if you were standing here with me, at the gate of Elephant Havens, looking out across the bomas in the early light. It would be quiet. Most mornings, it is quiet. And then a milk bottle would clatter somewhere out of sight, and a baby would trumpet, and the day would start.

2025 was a year of long roads. Five of our seven new orphans came to us from the Panhandle, the far northwest of Botswana, where the dry season runs on for seven or eight months without rain and the calves get separated from herds that must keep moving in search of water. The drive home from there is somewhere between eight and ten hours, depending on the weather and the river. We made that drive again and again this year. We will make it again next year.

There is one rescue from 2025 that I think about often. Skondi was so weak when we reached him near Sekondomboro village that he could not stand for the drive home; one of us held him upright the whole way. There were days, after he arrived, when none of us was sure he would stay with us. Remarkably, he did. The smallest part of that is medicine. The largest part is the team. Kay sat with him for months. Dr. Caron, our vet, would not let him go. Skondi is fat and sassy now, in his handlers' own words, and he runs to the feed area at his own pace because that is the kind of elephant he has decided to be.

I want you to know about my team. In 2025 we promoted Onks and AK to Elephant Managers, because they are fantastic leaders. We hired five new handlers who came to us with no elephant experience and went home at the end of their training with a herd they belong to. The work is not glamorous most days. It is feeding and walking and reading every twitch of an ear. But the people who choose this work are people I trust completely, and I know you do too.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are planning for growth, both for the elephants and for the community around us. In 2025 we saw the number of children in our school bus program increase steadily. To make sure every child is carried safely and no one is left waiting, we plan to purchase a second school bus for Shorobe Primary School to support the one we have. We are also expecting heavy rains. So we will build proper bus stops along the route where the children can wait for the bus. That way they are protected from the rain while they wait to be picked up for school.

We continue to keep an eye on the community for any need we see, and we will keep providing assistance where we can. That has not changed. From time to time we also get reports about other species in distress. Our doors stay open. If an animal is brought to us for care or for research, we will help.

And with the dry season coming soon, we are already preparing ourselves for possible rescues of orphaned elephants. That is the work that finds us. As always, we will be ready.

And then there is 2027. We have a release site, we have a permit, we have a route. We have ten elephants who are growing ready, with MmaMotse leading them, as she always has. When you read the Road to Release pages in this report, know that the team here is already preparing for that day.

Thank you for raising this herd with us.

From the Okavango,

Bee Poloko

CO-FOUNDER

ELEPHANT HAVENS BOTSWANA



ABOUT ELEPHANT HAVENS

One mission Two entities

Elephant Havens is one mission carried by two entities. The Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation, a U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity registered in Texas, raises the funds, holds the endowment, and governs the brand that donors meet on these pages. Elephant Havens Botswana is the operating partner on the ground — the team that runs the sanctuary, employs the handlers, carries out every rescue, and holds the permits issued by Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The Foundation funded the work; the Botswana team did the work. The pages that follow tell the joint story of what your 2025 gifts to the Foundation made possible on the ground.

OKAVANGO DELTA · BOTSWANA

Where We Work

● The Gomoti channel braids across the floodplain from the air, the everyday geography of the sanctuary.

Elephant Havens sits on the Gomoti river channel in the Shorobe district, on the southeastern edge of Botswana's Okavango Delta. Our sanctuary now spans 1,450 acres across three reserves, with the orphanage, the soft release area, and room still to grow. Most of the orphans we welcomed in 2025 traveled to us from far to the northwest, up in the Okavango Panhandle. And in 2027, the first of our herd will make one more journey, north to the wild country of the Selinda Concession.

BY THE ACRE

200
acres Primary orphanage

FENCED

1,000
acres Soft release area

FENCED

250
acres New extension, adjacent

UNFENCED ACQUIRED 2025

1,450 ACRES ACROSS
THREE RESERVES



Every year roughly 2.5 trillion gallons of floodwater pour down from Angola into this corner of the Kalahari, doubling the Delta in size and turning desert into one of Africa's richest wildlife havens.



Behind every figure on this page is a handler and a calf who know each other by name.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Every number is made possible through the generosity of our supporters.

38

Elephants in our care at the close of 2025.

7

New orphans rescued, all seven now thriving.

96.5%

Of every dollar spent went to programs, not admin.

\$2.16M

Held in the Foundation's endowment, grown by \$160,000 in 2025, in full.

THE EVERYDAY WORK BEHIND THE NUMBERS

31

Handlers, most from nearby communities.

352_L

Liters of milk a day at peak feeding.

200+

Students reached by the bus program; about ten round-trips per day.

1M+

Supporters following the herd worldwide.





WHO WE ARE

It Began With One

Elephant Havens began with a single orphaned elephant and a piece of ground in the Okavango Delta.

In December of 2018, a young calf named MmaMotse became our first rescue. There was not much waiting for her. The sanctuary in those earliest days was rudimentary, the comforts few, the work mostly hope and hard hands. But MmaMotse proved what we had believed could be true. An orphaned elephant, given care and time and the company of a herd, can find her way back to a wild life.

Seven years on, that piece of ground has grown into a 1,450-acre sanctuary, and in 2025 it was home to 39 elephants. Elephant Havens is the work of its founders, its Botswana partners, and a community of supporters scattered across the world, all of them joined by one purpose. We exist to protect and preserve the African elephant, one orphan at a time.

MmaMotse is still with us, though she no longer needs us the way she once did. She leads the soft release herd now, the calm and certain matriarch the younger orphans choose to follow. And in 2027, she is set to become one of the first of our elephants to walk back into the Okavango wild.

“The first rescue, leading the first release. Everything Elephant Havens is, and everything we still hope to become, is held in that one long arc.”

OUR MODEL



01 • RESCUE

The team reaches an orphaned calf, often after a long drive into hard country.



02 • STABILIZATION

Health screening and quiet, individual care; heated nursery rooms for our youngest.

How a rescue becomes a release

Every elephant in our care is walking the same path, from the day we find them to the day they return to the wild.

It begins with a rescue, often a long drive into hard country to reach a calf who has lost its mother. From there, each new arrival is cared for quietly on its own, screened for health and given time to gain strength, with our youngest and most fragile rescues kept warm in heated nursery rooms until they are stable. Then comes the herd. A calf joins the other orphans and learns, the way elephants are meant to, from the company of its own kind. In time, the whole herd graduates to our soft release area, living with less and less human contact and more and more of the wild around them. And finally, the goal that shapes everything we do, a return to the wild, where they have always belonged.



03 · THE HERD

The calf joins the other orphans and grows up among its own kind.



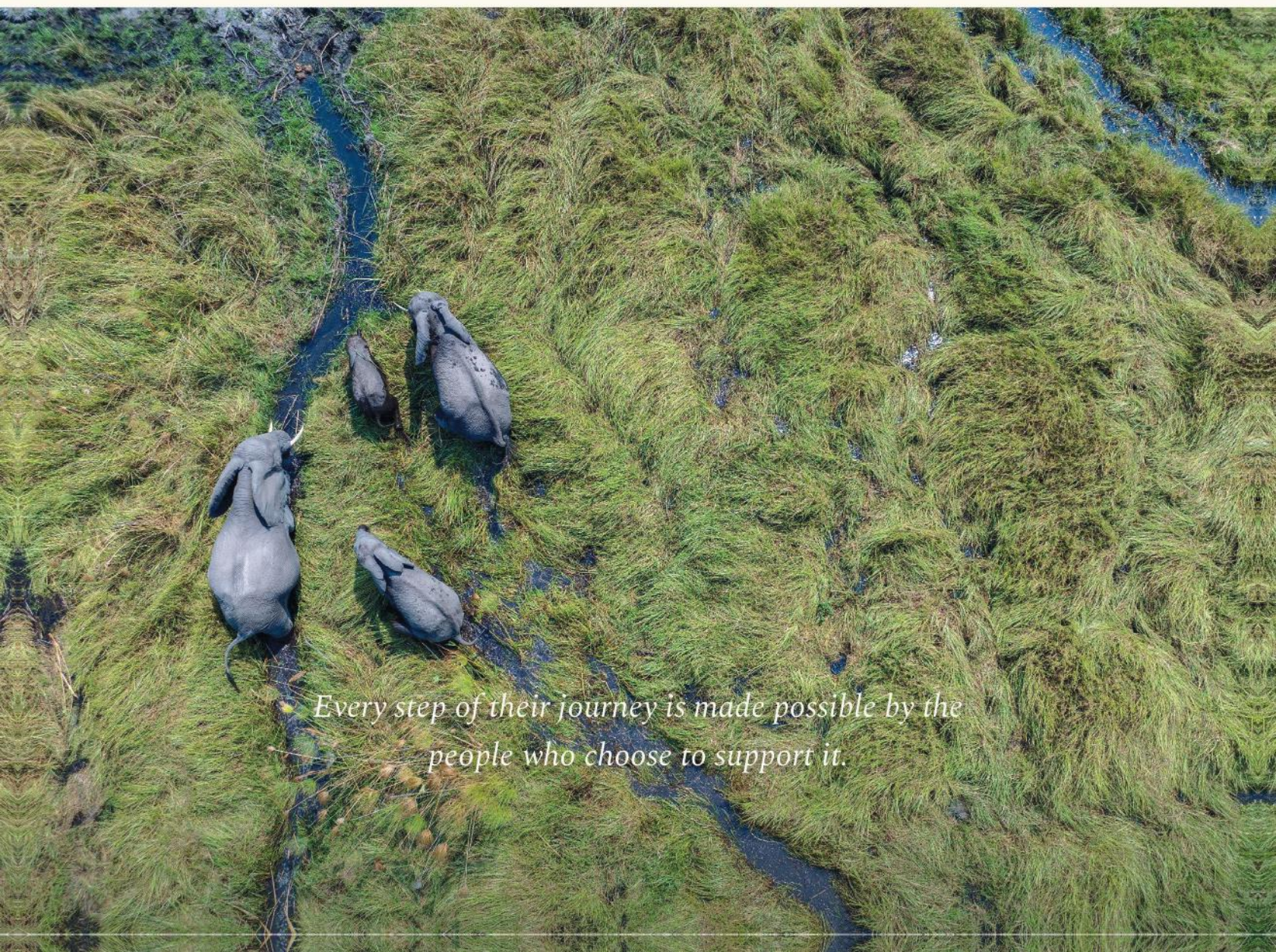
04 · SOFT RELEASE

The herd moves to the soft release area, with less human contact and more wild.



05 · THE WILD

A return to a free life. The first cohort travels to Selinda in 2027.



Every step of their journey is made possible by the people who choose to support it.



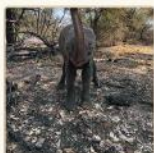
THE 2025 RESCUES

Seven Came Home

Seven orphaned babies came home to Elephant Havens in 2025. Five of them traveled the same long road.

SEVEN, BY NAME

Five of them traveled the same long road, the one that runs northwest into the Okavango Panhandle, where the river crosses down from the Caprivi and the dry season can stretch seven or eight months without a drop of rain. It is hard country for a young elephant. When the herds walk farther and farther to find food, the smallest calves are the ones who cannot keep up. So we drove out to rescue them.



Rosie

14 MONTHS · OKAVANGO PANHANDLE · HANDLER GEE

Our first part-albino rescue, and impossible to miss. She arrived after a nine-hour drive, badly sunburned, her right eye clouded so completely we feared she had lost her sight. With good food and patient time, the eye cleared. Rosie can see, and she makes very sure the herd notices her.



Raindrop

9 MONTHS · MOKGACHA VILLAGE · HANDLER ZOOH

The youngest of the year, orphaned when farmers killed her mother. We tracked her six hours through the October heat, so thin you could count her ribs. The first branch of vegetation we offered vanished in seconds, and she asked for more. That hunger told us everything. She is all cheek and noise now.



Matsaudi

13 MONTHS · MATSAUDI VILLAGE · HANDLER BRIAN

From the village that shares her name, just twenty-five minutes from our gate, one of the shortest rescue drive in our history. She arrived barely a year old and unsure of people. That did not last long. She is one of the busiest, sweetest babies in the herd, and a watchful big sister to little Joy.



Angel

17 MONTHS · NGARANGE VILLAGE

About seventeen months old when drought took her family. Even after a nine-hour drive home, thin and dehydrated, she never lost her appetite or her spark. If you hear a baby scream for her bottle at feeding time, you do not need to look up to know who it is. Angel is loud, certain, and sure her next bottle is already late.



Magic

2.5 YEARS · HONGWA VILLAGE · HANDLER METAL

Already two and a half when we reached her, old enough to understand exactly what she had lost. Loading her took an hour and a half; the drive home lasted nine and a half hours. She needed three months to trust the people bringing her milk, and Metal stayed close through every day of it. She is a slow, contented milk drinker now, happiest in a mud wallow.



Skondi

18 MONTHS · SEKONDOMBORO VILLAGE · HANDLER KAY

The hardest rescue of our year. He was so weak we found him unable to stand, and one of us held him upright through the entire eight-hour drive. There were days, early on, when we did not know if he would stay with us. He did. The little male is growing stronger every day, shy and a little independent, and rather fond of being spoiled.



Delta

12 MONTHS · NEAR THE SANCTUARY

The seventh came from nearby, a calf wandering alone, spotted by villagers who knew exactly what to do. Not many years ago that would have meant trouble. Now it means a phone call. She moved through quarantine and into the herd so seamlessly she can slip to the front of the milk line for a second bottle. The telltale sign is the milk at the corner of her mouth.



Seven rescues. Each one a future world.

MEET THE HERD

Thirty-eight orphans, and not one of them an ordinary story.

Here they are. Every elephant in our care at the close of 2025, from the newest rescue still learning the sound of a milk bottle to the soft release herd preparing for a wild life.

They came from every corner of the Okavango and well beyond it, from the Panhandle, from the Chobe, from villages and riverbanks and one memorably busy highway. A few were rescued in a single afternoon. Others took days of tracking to find. Every one of them arrived without a mother, and every one of them is here because somebody noticed, somebody called, and somebody cared.

We name each elephant, always. A name is the first thing we give a frightened new arrival, and the first sign that they are safe. Some are named for the place they were found, some for the people who saved them, some for a quality we hoped they would grow into. The youngest are still at the main orphanage; the eldest have moved on to the soft release area, living wild and handler-free, and ten of them are now preparing for the journey to Selinda in 2027.

* MARKS THE SEVEN ORPHANS WHO CAME HOME IN 2025

THE ORPHANAGE HERD



Magic *

2.5 YEARS

high-energy and happy at last, and the slowest, most contented milk drinker we have.



Skondi *

18 MONTHS

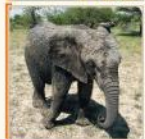
found trailing donkeys through the dust; today, in his keepers' words, fat and sassy.



Delta *

12 MONTHS

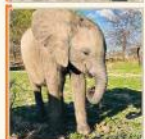
named for the Okavango Delta, found along the river by three young fishermen.



Angel *

17 MONTHS

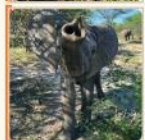
sweet and endearing, with a scream for her milk bottle that no one can mistake.



Matsaudi *

13 MONTHS

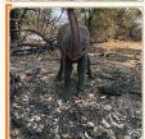
lively and adventurous, and a watchful big sister to littler Joy.



Raindrop *

9 MONTHS

gentle and all cheek at once; she sprints and trumpets the whole way to her bottle.



Rosie *

14 MONTHS

a bold, striking rescue with a personality impossible to miss in the herd.



Masa

14 MONTHS · NXADAO · THE PANHANDLE

named for the moment before sunrise; he took his first bottle within eight hours of arrival.



Joy

1 YEAR

found as a tiny calf on the Maun highway; our featured story this year.



Bua

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

named Talker, and rightly so: the most vocal elephant we have ever known.



Kavimba

APPROX. 2 YEARS

rescued near the Namibian border after drought took her mother.



Tsutsubega

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

TsuTsu, who trusted her handlers far sooner than most newcomers do.



Hairy

APPROX. 2 YEARS

named for the remarkable head of hair he has never grown out of.



Sediba

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

lifted by crane from a five-meter well where she had been trapped for two days.



Tsitsiriga

APPROX. 3 YEARS

TsiTsi, the fastest rescue in our history, found at the lagoon next door.



Chanoga

APPROX. 3 YEARS

rescued close to home after her mother could not be saved.



Misha

APPROX. 3 YEARS

reported by two local children; named for the doctor who helped bring her home.



Noname

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

pronounced No-nah-me; one of the youngest calves we have ever rescued.



Khwai

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

a very young arrival, named for the village of Khwai.



Succeed

APPROX. 3 YEARS

named for the formula that carried him through colic as a tiny calf.



Sekepe

APPROX. 3 YEARS

named Boat, for the river crossing that carried him home through the Delta.



Boteti

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

named for the river near where she was found, motherless at eight months.



Neo

APPROX. 4 YEARS

a gentle one; her name means Gift in Setswana.



Makoba

APPROX. 2.5 YEARS

found by Makoba Lagoon, having survived a leopard before we reached him.



Tsala

APPROX. 3.5 YEARS

named Friend; rescued near Chobe after a long and difficult journey.



Mela

APPROX. 4 YEARS

found bone-thin near Chobe; her name means "to grow," and grow she has.



Lesago

APPROX. 3 YEARS

lucky by name, found fast at just six months old.



Bokamoso

APPROX. 4.5 YEARS

Boko, a feisty girl whose name means Future and who quietly runs the show.

THE SOFT RELEASE HERD · PREPARING FOR THE 2027 RELEASE TO SELINDA



MmaMotse

APPROX. 8+ YEARS

our very first rescue, and the calm, certain matriarch of the soft release herd.



Phanda

APPROX. 10+ YEARS · PHANDAMATENGA · FIRST LIEUTENANT

rescued at three months old after her parents were shot by farmers; first lieutenant to MmaMotse in the release herd.



Thuli

APPROX. 9+ YEARS · THULI BLOCK

rescued at one month old after human-elephant conflict; well integrated into the release herd.



Tsholofelo

APPROX. 7.5+ YEARS

named Hope; the oldest male, and a first-cohort release candidate.



Bonolo

APPROX. 8+ YEARS

calm by name and by nature; bound for the wild in 2027.



Lerumo

APPROX. 7.5+ YEARS

rescued by helicopter as a calf; her name remembers how her mother was lost.



Tshepiso

APPROX. 7+ YEARS

her name means Promise; a first-cohort release candidate.



Mofalodi

APPROX. 6.5+ YEARS

a survivor of the 2020 Panhandle die-off; bound for Selinda in 2027.



Sandy

APPROX. 6+ YEARS

rescued close to home; a first-cohort release candidate.

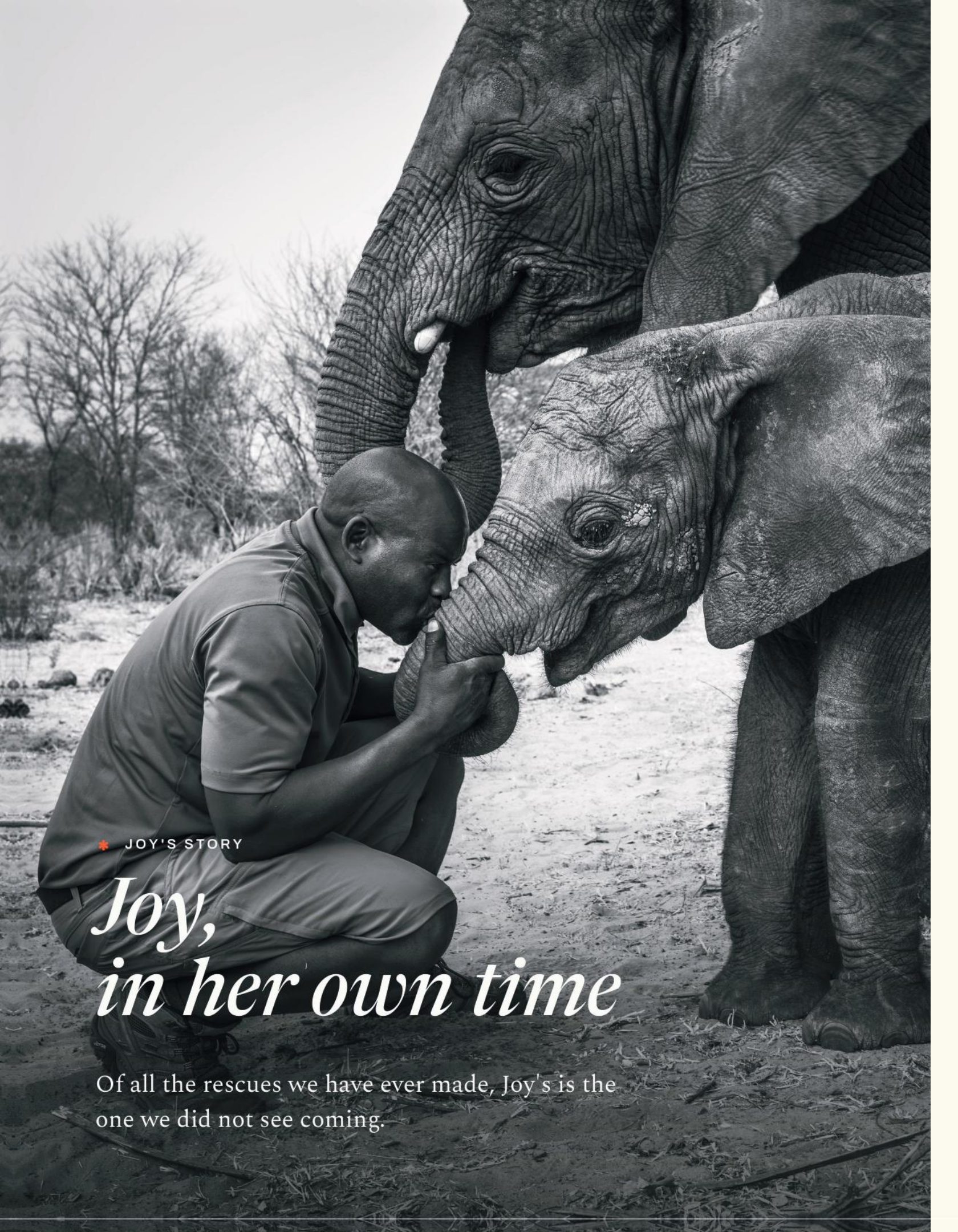


Seloko

APPROX. 5.5+ YEARS

pulled from deep mud as a calf; once the most talkative elephant in the herd.

Two groups, one family. This is the herd your support is raising.



✿ JOY'S STORY

Joy, in her own time

Of all the rescues we have ever made, Joy's is the one we did not see coming.



In late October of 2024, traffic stopped on the main highway between Maun and Zimbabwe. Passers-by were stepping out of their cars to take pictures of a tiny elephant, alone, no herd in sight, looking for safety. By the grace of timing, the next vehicle along was a Land Cruiser belonging to the Botswana Department of Wildlife. They saw the commotion, stopped, and found her. She was just a few weeks old. They put her in the back of the twin cab. Bee got the call, and forty-five minutes later, Joy was at Elephant Havens.

She was the first baby ever admitted to our new intensive care nursery. The contractors had finished the room that same week. Dr. Caron Botes started an IV. We got her warm. She had pink toenails and partially pink ears, sunburned on the tips, the way the very youngest elephants are. And then an experienced handler named KT chose her.

KT did not take a day off for three months. From the moment Joy arrived, he made it his job to teach her the bottle, to tend the burns on her ears, and to be the steady presence she needed. Joy weathered the difficult weeks of teething. She was uncertain about the mud wallow, until KT brought her through it. Now she runs to her wallow. She tries her own sand baths with her tiny trunk.

“I'm close to Joy because of her intelligence and the way she responds to me. Trust, social bond, love. And she is always smiling.”

— KEITUMETSE “KT” MASOLE, ELEPHANT HANDLER

She joined the herd when she was ready, and the older orphan Bokamoso, ‘Boka,’ took over as her elephant mother. Matsaudi, our local rescue from 2025, made herself Joy's keeper, never letting her wander too far. Noname and Khwai watch her from across the boma even when they are twenty meters away.



JOY ON ARRIVAL

Joy is the smallest baby in our care. She is also, by every account from every handler who has met her, the most irrepressible. She is named for the Setswana word Boitumelo, which means joy, and she has lived into the name in every direction. She arrived weighing 220 pounds and smiling. And trust us, the smiling never stopped.

HANDLERS

Those who raise them

At Elephant Havens, the work of raising orphaned elephants is done by people with a passion for conservation. Thirty-one elephant handlers work on our team, almost all of them from the communities that surround us. They work twelve-hour shifts, three handlers on duty at all times, every hour of every day. Babies on the bottle are fed every three hours through the night. Elephant Handlers walk with the herd, mix the formula, sit through the long nights of a new arrival's first weeks, and learn one calf from another by the angle of an ear, the rhythm of a step.

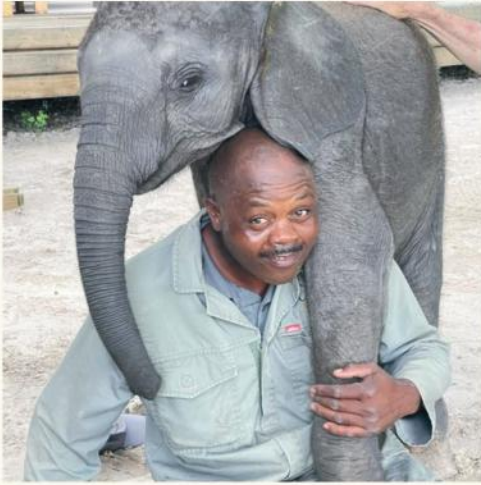
In 2025 we promoted two of our most experienced handlers, Onkobetse "Onks" Motlamma and Akanyang "AK" Mosabata, to the role of Elephant Manager, formalizing the work they were already doing. We also welcomed five new trainee handlers, every one of them new to elephants when they started, every one of them now part of the herd.

What you cannot photograph is the time it takes.



THREE BONDS

Some of the most powerful pairings in our herd are between handlers and the orphans who chose them, or who they chose.



Keitumetse "KT" Masole · Joy

From the day Joy arrived, KT said he would not take a day off until he was sure she would survive. He stayed for three straight months.

"Joy watches me before she rests. When her eyes finally close and her ear finds my shoulder, I know the day has been a good one."



Keleabetswe "Kay" Lesetedi · Skondi

Kay never raises her voice. When she talks to Skondi, she calls him 'come here, my son.' She sat with him through the months when none of us were sure he would make it.

"My heart belongs to Skondi because he reminds me of myself in a way. Life can be so unkind sometimes, but how you bounce back from it makes all the difference. I watched him fight for his life and not once did it feel like he wanted to give up. He chose to show up. He will forever be a true representation that sometimes one odd against a thousand is all you need to survive."



Gobusamang "Gee" Bayani · Rosie

If you see Rosie, you most probably see Gee nearby.

"I'm so close with Rosie because of the mutual respect, understanding, and flow of energy between the two of us. Her being an albino draws her closer even more. Her calmness and ability to read my emotions make her stand out for me."

Where the work lives

The work of Elephant Havens does not stop at the boundary of the sanctuary. The villages around us — Shorobe, Matsaudi, Sexaxa, Gabamochaa, Nxanxana — are not just neighbors. They are partners. Our years of work with these communities have changed how people see an elephant. What was once a nuisance to be hunted or driven off is now watched over: thousands of villagers have visited our babies in person, our clinics care for their livestock, our buses carry their children to school. Familiarity breeds not contempt but appreciation. So when a lost calf appears at the edge of a village today, we no longer get a barrage of dogs and angry farmers; we get a phone call, location coordinates, and pictures of the baby.

In 2025 we continued to maintain our original community wells at Gabamochaa and Nxanxana. At Shorobe Primary School, we drilled a new borehole serving the resident teachers, the students, and the newly built and renovated toilet blocks. Our bus program transports students from Shorobe and Matsaudi to their primary schools every day, with our drivers, our fuel, and our maintenance. Enrollment at Shorobe Primary is up roughly ten to fifteen percent since the buses began. Two new staff members joined our payroll in 2025 to provide daily janitorial for the five bathroom buildings we built or renovated at Shorobe, serving 450 students. Two hundred and fifty more students attend Matsaudi Primary, also reached by our buses.



One of the most beloved programs we run is the Ele Hair project. Once a month, our handler Kay gathers about seventy learners from Shorobe or Matsaudi for proper haircuts and braiding, a good lunch, and transport home. The point is dignity. The result is confidence at school, and less bullying. It is, in its quiet way, one of the things we are proudest of.

In 2025 we built one new community well at Gabamochaa, and maintained three more at Nxanxana, Shorobe, and the Shorobe Primary School borehole. Our staff veterinarian, Dr. Caron Botes, holds monthly spay-and-neuter clinics in Shorobe, Matsaudi, and Sexaxa for dogs and cats and tends to the critical needs of the sheep, cattle, goats, and donkeys of the local farmers and herders. We continue to support the local Wildlife Departments in Maun and Shakawe with tires, shocks, boat repairs, and camp gear. Small, steady gifts that keep their work going.

Our most quietly important continuing project of 2025 is the electric fence at one large farm in the Nxanxana area. One and a half kilometers of solar-powered fencing. Since installation, problem-elephant calls from the surrounding community to the Wildlife Department have, in the team's words, gone basically to zero. The elephants learned. They taught each other. They moved on.



NUMBERS BEHIND A BOTTLE

What your gift
actually buys

320L

FORMULA PER DAY AT PEAK

160

BOTTLES PER DAY AT PEAK

\$4

COST TO MAKE ONE BOTTLE

\$19,000

PER MONTH IN FORMULA AND
SUPPLEMENTS

OTHER THINGS YOUR DOLLARS BUY

* \$200

School books for two students for a
year

* \$300

24 yards of lion-proof fencing at the
soft release

* \$350

Two tires on a Land Cruiser used
for rescue



WHAT WAS HARD

What the Year Asked of Us

Not every part of 2025 was easy, and it would not be honest to tell you it was. The same drought that emptied the Panhandle and sent seven orphans into our care was hard, too, on the elephants already with us. Some seasons ask more of a young elephant than its body can give.

In 2025 we lost elephants we had hoped to raise all the way to the wild. We will not move past that quickly, because the trust you place in us is built on the whole truth of a year, not only its brightest parts. We felt each loss deeply, and so did the handlers who had fed and walked and sat beside those babies.

And then there is Skondi, whose story holds both the hardest days of our year and the reason we keep going.

Skondi came to us in August, rescued from near Sekondomboro village, where drought had taken his mother and left him trailing a herd of donkeys and cattle. He was a year and a half old and desperately weak. He could not stand for the eight-hour drive home, and our team held him upright the entire way.

For a little while, he seemed to settle. He took his milk. He began to eat. We let ourselves hope. And then, slowly, he started to slip. He kept losing weight no matter how much he was fed, and one of his ears began to droop, then burned in the sun, then turned infected. We moved him into intensive care. Our vet, Dr. Caron, tried everything, and his handler Kay stayed beside him around the clock. There were days we were not sure he would make it.

Then, slowly, his ear began to lift. His weight came back. His spark came back. Today, the little boy who once trailed donkeys through the dust is, in his caregivers' own words, fat and sassy.

We tell you about Skondi, and we tell you about the elephants we could not save, for the same reason. You deserve the honest shape of our year. That is what your support holds up.

"Here is what we have learned about elephants. They are determined in ways that will humble you."



Greater than 96.5% to programs

\$3.24M

RAISED IN 2025

96.5%

TO PROGRAMS

\$2.16M

ENDOWMENT BALANCE

In 2025, the Foundation raised \$3.24 million in support of African elephant conservation. Of every dollar we spent, greater than 96.5% went to programs, with less than 3.5% spent on administration. Individual donors gave \$2.8 million — the heart of our support. Corporate and institutional partners contributed \$400,000. Grants made up the remainder. To every one of you on those lists: thank you.

Our endowment, seeded in 2024 with \$2 million, closed the year at \$2.16 million. The growth was achieved without spending any of the endowment's income; that income was reinvested in full, to compound and to fund grants in years to come. The endowment is held to protect the long-term future of this work.

PARTNERS IN 2025

Dallas Zoo · YEAR 7 OF PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with the Dallas Zoo continued in 2025, and as it has every year, it arrived exactly where it was needed. The soft release area now sits inside lion country, and male lions in full chase began crashing through the electric fencing at night. Bee designed a lion-proof secondary perimeter: six miles of chain-link mesh on metal poles set in concrete, one meter inside the existing electric fence. The Dallas Zoo's 2025 giving paid an important portion of the cost. The fence works.

Colossal Biosciences · VETERINARY CARE

Colossal Biosciences continues to fund the full salary of our staff veterinarian, Dr. Caron Botes. Having a full-time vet on the ground has been transformative — for the rescues, for the resident herd, and for the community. In 2025 Dr. Botes also led monthly spay-and-neuter clinics for cats and dogs from villages around the sanctuary and into Maun. In addition, Dr. Botes makes herself available at no charge to other elephant conservation groups for medicine and collaring, and to rhino, giraffe, and other bona fide conservation programs across the region. Colossal will also lead the research program that follows our first ten released elephants into the wild beginning in 2027.

Ineos Grenadier · VEHICLE GIFT

After visiting Elephant Havens on a team-building trip, the southern Africa team at Ineos Grenadier chose to support the work. They gifted a fully branded \$100,000 Grenadier Station Wagon to Elephant Havens Botswana, where it now carries donors, guests, and visitors over the deteriorating roads in and out of the sanctuary.

The Foundation's 2025 grants supported the work carried out by our Botswana operating partner.

WHAT 2025 BUILT

Your support built infrastructure



Sixteen new staff homes

Two new four-unit residential blocks at each of our two staff villages. Most of our team now lives on the sanctuary, in homes built for them.



A management duplex

A new two-unit building at the remote staff village, designed to house the operations and management staff as the team grows toward the 2027 release.



Rebuilt offices and reception

The original 2019 shop and offices torn down and rebuilt larger, with an expanded gift shop, a guest reception, and four working offices for our managers.



Three new quarantine bomas

Every new rescue arrives in quarantine for health screening before joining the herd. In a six-rescue year, our existing bomas were filling beyond capacity.



A water-reclamation system

Roof runoff in the boma area had been flooding the enclosures. New gutters now route every drop into underground catchments, with pumps sending the water back out to the Delta.



An aerobic sewage plant

The passive soak-away system was replaced with a full aerobic plant. Water from the main camp is now treated, disinfected, and returned to the property as clean grey water.



A 40% solar upgrade

Forty percent more panels, forty percent more battery storage, and a new air-conditioned battery room. The sanctuary runs off the grid; this is the year we made it run further off it.



A lion-proof fence at soft release

Six miles of chain-link mesh on metal poles set in concrete, sitting just inside the electric perimeter. Built after lions chasing prey through the night kept crashing the wires. The crashes have stopped.

Built and paid for in 2025. Made possible by donors who chose to give.





KT AND BEE WITH THE HERD AT ELEPHANT HAVENS

STORIES THAT TRAVELED

The herd earns it

There is a measure of an organization that has nothing to do with budgets or balance sheets, and everything to do with how far a story can travel.

Elephant Havens does not buy attention. In 2025, the story that broke through belonged to two of our own. A gifted handler named KT and a calf named Joy became, between them, the reason a steady flow of visitors began to arrive at our gate. Travelers would step out of their vehicles in the parking area and announce, with giddy excitement, that they were here to see KT and Joy. We did not see that coming, and we will not forget it.

The year also brought visitors who carry stories of their own. The novelist Alexander McCall Smith, whose Number One Ladies' Detective Agency series has reached readers around the world and whose novel *How to Raise an Elephant* gave Elephant Havens a generous mention, returned in the winter with a group of his readers. The United States Ambassador to Botswana, the Honorable Howard A. Van Vranken, visited again and was again gracious in his praise. Her Excellency Gabriela Bennemann, the German Ambassador, visited as well. Chris Corpus, the Dallas Zoo's director of environmental outreach, came to see the work funded by their longstanding partnership. Each of these visits sends ripples; each helps a wider audience find us.

Across our channels in 2025, we crossed a milestone we had been working toward for years: more than one million combined supporters following our work.



THE 2027 RELEASE

Road to Release

In April or May of 2027, our first cohort of ten elephants, led by MmaMotse, our very first rescue, will travel north to the Selinda Concession to begin the wild life they were always meant to have.

The road to release is the longest road we have ever planned. It is also the only one that matters. Every rescue in this book has, from the day they arrived at our gate, been walking toward this day. In 2027, ten of them will arrive at it. This is the work we are doing to get them there, and the work that begins again the moment they arrive.

THE TEN-ELEPHANT COHORT

MmaMotse

APPROX. 8+ YEARS

Tsholofelo

APPROX. 7.5+ YEARS

Bonolo

APPROX. 8+ YEARS

Lerumo

APPROX. 7.5+ YEARS

Tshepiso

APPROX. 7+ YEARS

Mofalodi

APPROX. 6.5+ YEARS

Sandy

APPROX. 6+ YEARS

Seloko

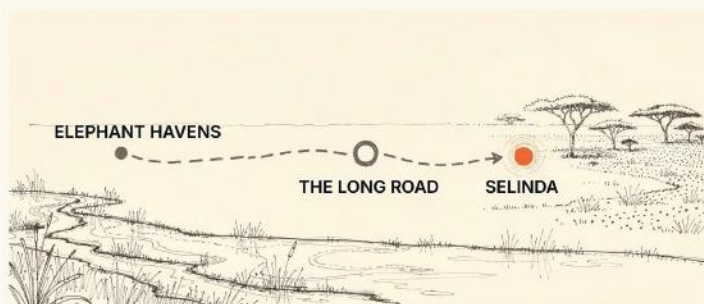
APPROX. 5.5+ YEARS

Phanda

APPROX. 10+ YEARS

Thuli

APPROX. 9+ YEARS



THE ROUTE THE FIRST COHORT WILL TRAVEL IN APRIL OR MAY OF 2027.

WHAT WE'RE PREPARING



The Long Road

Moving ten elephants from Shorobe to Selinda by certified wildlife transporter is the single largest logistical operation in Elephant Havens' history. The first cohort travels the road; many more will follow over the decade to come.



The Connection

Once the herd arrives at Selinda, satellite collars will let us follow each elephant into the wild, their first wet season, their first wild encounters, the slow integration with the herds they will eventually join. The collars feed a monitoring platform that grows with the work; the research that follows informs every cohort after.



The First Days

At the release site, a temporary boma will hold the cohort through the initial weeks while they acclimate. Hands-on care that gives way, day by day, to space.



The Team On-Site

Handlers will live alongside the cohort at Selinda through the first weeks of release, present without intervening, watching for what each elephant needs as they cross into their wild life. The team is the bridge between the road and the wild.

THE WORK AHEAD

The release is the first chapter of a longer commitment. Together with The Colossal Foundation and The Great Plains Foundation, Elephant Havens is building the monitoring and research infrastructure to follow this cohort, and every cohort after, into the wild for the decade ahead. The road runs out to a horizon we are only beginning to see.

In April of 2027, ten of them travel the road.

It is the first chapter of our second ten years.



LOOKING AHEAD

2026 has work to do

Every year that comes is built on the year that came before. Here is the work that matters most.

1

Finish the road to release.

Ten elephants are on track to be released to the Selinda Concession in April or May of 2027. To get them there, we need to fund the transport, purchase the satellite collars, and build a temporary boma and handler housing at the release site. This is our largest commitment, and 2026 is the year we close the gap.

2

Build the team that carries it.

In 2025 we promoted two of our most experienced handlers, Onks and AK, to Elephant Managers, and we trained five new handlers from local communities. In 2026 we continue building the layer of operations management that will carry the sanctuary through a release year and the years that follow.

3

Deepen our work with the community.

The work continues at Shorobe and Matsaudi Primary Schools, the Ele Hair program, the buses, the wells, the vet clinics, and human-wildlife conflict reduction on several fronts. New this year: bridges, mobility equipment for community members who need it, and expanded education outreach — additional teachers and a dedicated education liaison. We also plan to deepen our relationships with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks across the regions where our rescues happen.

4

Grow steady support.

Recurring giving, through our Guardian of the Herd program, is the kind of support that funds the next rescue, the next release, the next year. Growing that community in 2026 is one of the most important things the Foundation can do to make every other priority on this page possible.

GET INVOLVED

There is more to be done

Every elephant in this report is here because someone chose to give. The work is funded one gift at a time, and there are two more ways to begin — alongside coming to see us.

Donate

A one-time gift goes directly to the work in Botswana: formula for a baby's first weeks, fuel for a rescue, a piece of the lion-proof fence, an hour of vet care. Every dollar goes to the herd.

Foster

Foster an elephant by name and follow them through the year, with field updates and photos from the sanctuary.



MONTHLY GIVING

Become a Guardian of the Herd

For those who want to commit to the long road, steady support is the strongest support. A monthly gift lets us plan, hire, and build for what comes next.



*Scan to become a
Guardian of the Herd*



elephanthavens.org



VISIT ELEPHANT HAVENS

Come walk with the herd

Elephant Havens opens its gates every day. For those who want to step further in, we offer four ways to come close, from a one-hour visit with the babies to an overnight stay in one of five tents on the property.

Daily Visit

ONE HOUR · 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M. · SEVEN DAYS A WEEK · NO RESERVATION

A one-hour tour and meet-and-greet with the baby elephants. Open to the public, twice a day, every day of the year.

Extended Tour

THREE HOURS · PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

Three hours alongside the handlers and elephants — the public visiting hour plus a two-hour walk with the babies as they forage through the bush.

Private Tour

THREE HOURS · PRIVATE GROUP · OUTSIDE PUBLIC HOURS

A private tour for your group, with lunch or tea overlooking the elephants' swimming hole. Exclusive access on your own schedule.

DONOR-EXCLUSIVE

Overnight Stay

FIVE TENTS · OVERNIGHT · DONOR-EXCLUSIVE

Stay in one of five tents on the Elephant Havens property, available only to our donors. Mornings at the orphanage, evenings around the firepit, nights under the canopy.

To plan a visit, please write to reservations@elephanthavens.com





OUR PARTNERS

No part of this work is done alone

In 2025, these are the people and organizations who carried the work with us.

Elephant Havens Botswana

OPERATING PARTNER

Our Botswana Trust on the ground in the Okavango. The team that runs the rescues, the bomas, the milk kitchen, and every day in between.

Department of Wildlife & National Parks

GOVERNMENT PARTNER · BOTSWANA

Our longtime partner in every permit, every rescue authorization, and the 2027 release approval.

Great Plains Conservation

2027 RELEASE PARTNER

Owners of the Selinda Concession. Dereck and Beverly Joubert offered Selinda as our release site in January 2025.

Dallas Zoo

SEVEN-YEAR PARTNER

Now in its seventh year. Funded a significant portion of the lion-proof secondary fence at the soft release area in 2025.

Colossal Biosciences

VETERINARY & RESEARCH PARTNER

Funds our staff veterinarian's full-time salary and will lead the research program that follows our first ten released elephants into the wild beginning in 2027.

Ineos Grenadier

NEW 2025 PARTNER

A branded Grenadier Station Wagon gifted to Elephant Havens Botswana for guest and donor transport.

Okavango Air Rescue & Dr. Misha Kruck

MEDICAL PARTNER

Medical support for our staff and team in Botswana.

Helicopter Horizons

AERIAL PARTNER

Our aerial partner for guest visits and for occasional rescues that require a helicopter.

Travel Partners

TRAVEL & LOGISTICS PARTNERS

Our sincere thanks to the travel advisors and safari operators who bring our donors to Elephant Havens and carry our story back with them.

To each of you: thank you.

CREDITS & CONTACTS

*With gratitude to those
who made this report*

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography © the individual
photographers, used with
permission.*

Elizabeth Lavin
pages 1, 2-3, 4, 6-7, 8, 9, 13,
14-15, 18, 38

Chris Joubert
pages 25, 27, 28, 34, 35

Josh Liberman
pages 10, 20, 22, 30, 32

Dr. Liv Liberman
page 11

*Additional photography by
Elephant Havens staff,
handlers, and volunteers.*

Illustrations by Josh Liberman.

*Reference photography by
Pamela Glintenkamp.*

DESIGN & WRITING

Design and editorial
production:
Mrktecture, Josh Liberman

CONTACT THE
FOUNDATION

Elephant Havens Wildlife
Foundation
4104 Calculus Drive
Dallas, Texas 75244

Debra Stevens, Co-Founder
debra@elephanthavens.com
elephanthavens.org

CONTACT IN BOTSWANA

Elephant Havens Botswana
Shorobe District,
Okavango Delta

ELEPHANT HAVENS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION · EIN 82-3352560 · TEXAS · IRS-RECOGNIZED 501(C)(3) PUBLIC
CHARITY · DONATIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW

© 2026 ELEPHANT HAVENS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Thank you for raising this herd with us.







*Every gift to the Foundation
funds their return to the wild.*

elephanthavens.org