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# **July 2014**

Supporting the care and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries.

# **Partnering for Pachyderms**

A Caring Collaboration for Asian Elephants

### **Our story**

Asian Elephant Support (AES) and <u>Hope Elephants</u> are working together to improve the lives of elephants living in the wild and in human care.

Hope Elephants is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization that is bringing a small number of retired or injured Asian elephants to Maine from circus herds for care and rehabilitation. Hope Elephants is also an educational destination where visitors, especially school-age children, have an opportunity to see, hear, and interact with the animals as a platform to present the big issues surrounding conservation, habitat



# **AES Mission:**

- Provide financial assistance and support for the health, welfare and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries.
- Provide educational opportunities and supplies to those who care for captive Asian elephants in range countries.
- · Increase awareness and

destruction, and ecology.

**Asian Elephant Support** is also a 501(c) 3 not-forprofit organization that supports the care and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries. AES's mission is to:

- Provide financial assistance and support for the health, welfare and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries.
- Provide educational opportunities and supplies to those who care for captive Asian elephants in range countries.
- Increase awareness and offer support for human-elephant coexistence to help protect the needs and future of the Asian elephant.

By combining efforts, resources, and expertise, we can accomplish more and make a greater impact for elephants in Asian range countries.

## The impact

This project will directly benefit the wild and captive population of elephants in Assam, India. Even though elephants play an important role in the culture and religion of India, there are relatively few individuals with elephant veterinary expertise. Often the elephants live in remote locations and are difficult to reach, which makes responding to emergency situations more challenging.

AES has been working with Dr. Kushal Sarma since 2011 to improve the lives of the elephants in Assam. Because of his knowledge and willingness, Dr. Sarma is called to respond to health related elephant emergencies when needed. As human-elephant conflict increases, so does the number of emergency situations.

#### What we need

The funds raised in this project will be used to support Dr. Sarma's Elephant Healthcare and Welfare-

offer support for humanelephant coexistence to help protect the needs and future of the Asian elephant.

## **Connect With Us!**







# Annual Meeting Report



Our 2014 annual meeting was held in Norfolk, Virginia, the weekend of May 30-June 2. Click here to read more about it on our website!

**Donate to AES** 

"For in the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will Emergency Response Program in Assam, India. By being able to respond to emergency situations, the wild and captive elephants will receive the desperately needed veterinary care they deserve.

Our minimum ask is \$2000 and any additional funds will be used to provide medicine and supplies for Dr. Sarma's Elephant Health Care Clinics throughout Assam.

We will be sending out more information about this soon, but feel free to visit our <u>website</u> if you can't wait to learn more!

love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

-Baba Dioum



# **My Internship with AES**

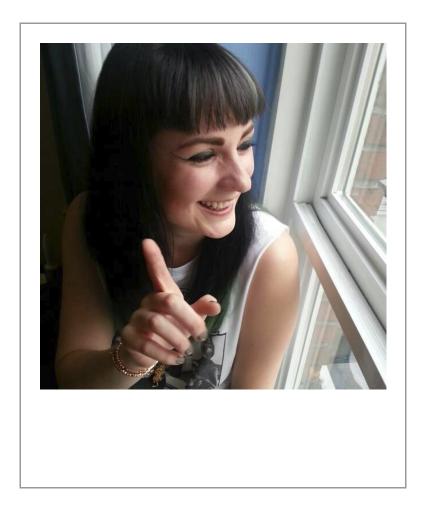
Hello! I'm Layna Bennehoff, AES's very first intern here to relate to you my multi-faceted experience working with this amazing non-profit. A little background on me: I'm currently a senior at Western Washington University studying English literature and technical writing and residing in Bellingham, WA. I'm also an avid photographer, animal lover, reading junkie, and overall life-enthusiast.

I discovered this phenomenal organization this past winter via Gretchen Rumsey-Richardson (AES secretary and fellow Bellingham resident!) and felt an immediate rush of excitement and eagerness to get involved. However, with my demanding academic schedule, I knew I would have little time to volunteer. Luckily, soon after this initial introduction, I found out that a writing internship course was being offered in my department during the spring quarter, so naturally I jumped at the opportunity to connect with AES. Gretchen so graciously offered to be my main point of contact for this internship and became my access point into the intricacies of the elephant world.

The central purpose of this internship was to develop AES's online presence and ultimately increase awareness for their invaluable projects overseas. This was accomplished by updating web content, executing a social media plan, and creating informational graphics among many other tasks. By using my competencies as a technical writer and collaborating with the AES board of directors, we worked together to increase AES's online recognition and social relevancy to support and expand their work overseas.

I was able to utilize my expertise in technical communications, all the while working for an organization that coincided with my love for elephants and my advocacy for their conservation. I was continually inspired by the dedication and expert knowledge these women exhibited during the process of this internship. In addition to their expertise and passion for elephants they always, ALWAYS made me feel valued for my time and effort. Communication

was timely, consistent, and professional, making the intern experience that much better. The list of incredible things I could say about this organization could fill up this entire newsletter, but I will spare you that because if you are reading this you probably already know how wonderful they are. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to the wonderful women of this organization: Linda, April, Sharon, and most especially, Gretchen. I am so grateful for this experience and all of your efforts that made it exceptional.





#### THANK YOU

We wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.

Please visit our website (<a href="www.asianelephantsupport.org">www.asianelephantsupport.org</a>) and follow us on <a href="Eacebook"><u>Facebook</u></a> (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please <a href="contact-us">contact us</a>. We appreciate your support. Please consider a <a href="donation">donation</a> to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.

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