



**SCI**  
FOUNDATION



# HUMANITARIAN Services

January 2009 Newsletter



# Sportsmen Against Hunger™

## 2nd Annual National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration

by Diane Sheardown,

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



On Saturday, September 27, 2008, chapter members volunteered their time to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day. Our event also supported SCI's Sportsmen Against Hunger program by donating some 200 pounds of fish and game to The Salvation Army in San Jose. The Salvation Army's cook prepared a delicious meal, which chapter members helped dish out and serve to around 110 residents and homeless people. SCI's Sportsmen Against Hunger program serves millions of meals annually in all 50 states in the U.S., parts of Canada, and several other countries around the world.

Ligaya Sorich, the Senior Services Director of San Jose's Salvation Army says, "I applaud this organization for their service to the community. The generous donation of game meat will go a long way in providing meals that are hearty, healthy and tasty!"

National Hunting and Fishing Day was created in 1971 to commemorate conservation successes funded by hunters and anglers, which benefits all who enjoy wild-

life and wild places. Hunters and anglers generate \$1.7 billion which is entrusted to state agencies annually for fisheries and wildlife restoration and management as well as for hunter and boater safety education. In California, hunting and fishing sports directly support 53,500 jobs and generate \$452 million in state and local taxes, according to the NSSF.

Special thanks go to our chapter member volunteers: Delores Peters, Gayla Bergstrom, Nic Bullock, Bryan and Jeana Feige, John Ware, and Beverly Valdez. And an extra special thanks to Cam Greig who collected all the donated fish and game and then delivered it to The Salvation Army for us. (And thanks to Dwight Ortmann for loaning us his freezer during the collection process.)



## Safari Care™

**Sponsor a Blue Bag  
for Safari Club!  
by Robert J. Deitz II,  
Sacramento Chapter**

Many members of SCI have carried the SafariCare "Blue Bag" with them on trips around the world, providing not only much needed assistance, but also giving SCI/F great publicity. I have been one of those members.

But possibly unlike some of our other

members, I have included my community and others in the “project”, not only gaining positive press for SCI/F but also allowing others to participate in our program. This includes people who are not only non-SCI members, but in some cases anti-hunters. By educating them on what Safari Club and the SCI Foundation stands for and does – in this case the Blue Bag for Humanitarian Services, but also talking about our other programs like Sportsmen Against Hunger, conservation projects, and more – I am able to educate people on the real meaning of conservation and SCI.

Here is what I am proposing for SCI/F: “Sponsor a Blue Bag”. Much of the time, our Blue Bag inventory is sitting idle, especially in the “off season” for hunting. Yet, if those bags that were sitting in storage were in airports and school yards around the world they would be showing the SCIF name in a positive light. If you know someone who is going to Africa, Asia, or another location to provide humanitarian service, ask them to bring a “Blue Bag” with them! They do not need to be SCI members, but they must know a “Sponsor” who will take responsibility for the bag. Tell them about SCIF’s Blue Bag program, and at that point you can also tell them about our medical, conservation, feeding, and many other programs. If possible, have them set up a presentation for you to give their group or school on SCI/F when you deliver the Blue Bag (or bags).

What will this do for SCI/F and our mission?

A) Positive publicity will be generated for many people who have never heard of SCI or the Foundation. Then if a negative story comes out on SCI it will not be the only thing they have heard about our organization.

B) Positive images will be left around the world with those that take delivery of the supplies in the bags, making it difficult for people to paint us as a single purpose organization.

C) When we carry our Blue Bags with us on our next hunting trip, it is more likely to get the baggage agent to allow the bag on at no charge if they start seeing them every day or week.

D) We can fill our bags with financial support from the community like our kids’ schools or local churches if we ask for help in filling the bags. It gives our community a chance to participate in our good deeds, which can only help in the perception of SCI and hunters.

Would this work? A couple of years ago I went on a trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe with my 3-year-old son and wife. We got my son’s pre-school involved to collect supplies for the school we would be visiting while in South Africa (the Touch Stone School in Limpopo province). My local paper did a story on the project, complete with pictures of me in my SCI shirt and all the kids gathered around the Blue Bag with their donations.

Last winter, some members of my church were organizing a missionary trip to Kenya, a place not too many SCI members visit because of the hunting ban. I contacted Eva Wilson at HQ, who had a large stock of bags, and she graciously sent me one. I then took my son’s kindergarten class and organized a collection for kids who had no clothes at orphanages in Kenya (AIDS orphans). It was overfilled in a week! The two ladies who delivered the bag, Lynn Haven and Alison Dumas from my church, brought possibly the first SCI Blue Bag into Kenya.



They now know of SCI, as do other church members. Then my son's kindergarten class teacher called me to ask about the Blue Bag! She was part of a trip of 13 going to Malawi, and they wanted to bring SCI Blue bags with them! This is an anti-hunting kindergarten teacher. But she Googled "Blue Bag" on her own, found out about SCI, and asked if I could help as she saw we did a lot more than just hunt! I now have a "Blue Bag Domino" going in El Dorado County, CA and it is bringing nothing but good press and publicity for SCI. If we did this in other communities around the country it would be very difficult for the "anti's" to paint us as "Killers of Endangered Wildlife" – as was done last year in the nearby city of Sacramento with front page stories. And if the Blue Bags started to show a little "wear and tear", I don't think Eva would mind ordering new ones because the existing ones were getting so much use!

## SafariWish™



### **Cory's Red Stag by Bill Moore, Central Missouri Chapter**

16-year-old Cory Yoder of Versailles, MO is on an insulin pump and has a colonostomy. His fondest wish was to stalk an elk.

On January 19 I met Cory, his mother Sheila, father Terry, sister Rebecka and brother Jason, along with his grandfather and our videographer for this hunt, Greg

Littrell of Blue Collar Video. We all had lunch and proceeded to Whitetail Dreams Hunting Reserve near Mokane, MO.

Upon arrival at the the lodge, we met guide Dan Robinson, signed waivers, shot a target, got everyone familiar with the lodge and were off on a safari-style hunt in a 4x4 brush buggy with heater. No complaints from Cory, although the temperature was only around 12°F.

We saw many deer, several elk, and two big red stags during 5 hours and maybe 20 miles. Upon arriving back at the lodge we had another surprise for Cory. His mother had told me that he would be 17 on January 23, so while he was out hunting Walter Coleman and Dan's wife Mary had decorated with balloons, and I had a cake made the day before with a big elk screened on it. We teased Cory, telling him that might be the only elk he would get. Little did we know that would be the case!

After dinner grandpa went home and the rest of the family and Greg spent the night at the lodge. Walter and I arrived around 4:30 am and made breakfast. Loaded up and back out around 6:30 am, we rode and searched with no avail. Around 11 am, Dan spotted the elk we had been searching so hard for, lying under an old blown-down tree. Upon further inspection we found the elk to be dead from what seemed to be a horn puncture. Dan said the red stag are notorious for fighting with the elk.

After a good lunch and a much-needed rest, we were back to the hunt. Now Cory had a choice to make. There was a big bull with only one antler, two 5x5 bulls--each with one point broken off--and two big red stag bulls. After seeing all of them, Cory decided to take one of the stag bulls.

It took most of what was left of the afternoon and several stalk attempts before Cory got the opportunity to harvest one of the bulls, but it took place down in the thick, dark timber where, with one well-placed shot and a coup de grace shot, Cory had a big 11x12 red stag bull.

# Sensory Safari™



## Conservation Station by Cheryl Briggs, Vice President Ozark Chapter

One of our members who volunteers at the Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, Missouri, was aware of an empty building at the zoo. Her desire was to create a hands-on learning experience for the public. After approaching the Ozark Chapter and getting their backing, she requested use of the building for said purpose at no expense to the zoo. The zoo agreed and the Ozark Chapter, along with Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Troop 205, began renovating the building and working on a master plan. Once inside renovations were done, we began decorating with educational, interactive displays.



We have a small insectarium in the building, including a working beehive, leaf cutter ant display, giant prickly insects,

giant cockroaches and death head cockroaches, to name a few. Our current theme is “Year of the Frog” at the request of the zoo, since they are emphasizing that throughout the zoo.

The plan is to rotate the exhibits in the building so there will be new things for visitors to come back and see. Our themes include ocean animals, African safaris, Australian animals, Missouri animals and backyard habitat. It’s our aim to continue to expand both our themes and the interactive displays in the building.

We celebrated our grand opening on April 19, 2008 in conjunction with Party for the Planet and Earth Day kickoff. We had a shooting gallery set up for all the visitors; the “wax hand” so each visitor could make a mold of their hand; taxidermy of dinosaurs by the public (supervised by our own taxidermist; a Safari in a Box, and many other booths with games and interactive science experiments for all to try.

We are so very excited to be working alongside our zoo and the Girl Scouts to educate the public on animal conservation, habitat preservation and the role of hunting. We thank SCI for the support they have given and continue to give us for this huge undertaking. The building is open to the public all year round, and we personally take care of it on a daily basis. We desperately need to re-side and re-roof the building but those will be BIG bucks.

If you are in our area, please drop by the Dickerson Park Zoo and check out the Conservation Station!





## A Blue Bag for Ellisras by Robyn Probst, National Member, Utah

We had the opportunity of visiting a black school near the town of Ellisras in the Limpopo Province in South Africa. We hadn't made arrangements to visit the school prior to our arrival so they were surprised to see us, yet very welcoming. School was wrapping up for the day and the students were getting ready to go home.

I had taken a Blue Bag, courtesy of SCI, filled with school supplies for a variety of grade levels. We were able to unload the bag in the schoolmaster's classroom and quickly introduce ourselves. The students and the schoolmaster were very excited about the supplies and thanked us for our generous donation. We were able to get a photo with one of the classes before we departed.

What a great experience this was for everyone in our hunting group! We were able to provide some necessary materials to those in need. The SCI Blue Bag program truly helps and serves people in need. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to participate and I look forward to the next time I can donate essential supplies to people in need.

## Blue Crane Hospice Welcomes Donations

May 3, 2007 finally arrived for Rich and Georgiana Weimer and Ray Montgomery to begin their safari in South Africa.

Following the commitment to go on safari, we began organizing the SafariCare bag we would be taking along. Grant Abrahamson, owner of East Cape Safaris, made arrangements with Blue Crane Hospice in Somerset East to be the recipient of the Blue Bag.

At the hospice, we were welcomed by Jean Underwood and Fukisa Takayi. After the introductions, Rev. Underwood explained to us the services they offer, encompassing the villages of Cookhouse, Somerset East, Pearston, and their surrounding farms. These areas are very underprivileged with a high rate of AIDS-related illnesses, malnutrition and a high orphan population. Support groups in these three towns offer counseling, skills training, and gardening to promote the growing of vegetables for their own nutritional support and for generating income.

The response from Blue Crane Hospice was most gratifying and words cannot explain the facial expressions when the Blue Bag was opened. Donations were the compliments of Rich and Georgiana Weimer, Ray Montgomery, Dr. Jerry Bush (all members of SCI) and Sam's Club.

We definitely encourage other hunters to participate in SCIF's SafariCare Blue Bag program!



## Four Blue Bags for Limpopo by Bob & Jan Hayes, National Members, NY



*L to R: Frank and Carol Lepori; Bob and Jan Hayes; Tino, Amanda, and Tianda Erasmus.*

New SCI member Bob Hayes, wife Jan, and friends Frank and Carol Lepori made a return trip to South Africa this past March. Having recently become aware of the SCI Foundation's SafariCare program through articles in *Safari Times*, we made a decision to participate in SCI's humanitarian efforts. Purchasing and gathering donated items with the help of family and friends resulted in four large Blue Bags full of school items, toys, clothes and miscellaneous supplies.

Assisted by professional hunter Tino Erasmus (TG Safaris) and his wife Amanda, we were able to personally distribute the items. Jan and Carol visited an orphanage in the northern city of Polokwane. The orphans (from infancy through age 15) were all children with AIDS. The staff seemed overwhelmed to be getting the care packages; there was a look of sheer delight on their faces just to be receiving such items as toothbrushes for the children. It was most heartwarming.

Further north, baby items were given to an expectant mother. She cried with happiness. Others that we met along the way were overjoyed to receive a decent pair of shoes. Clothing was most welcome, especially caps to cover their heads - we

took both summer and winter. A box was sent to a native village further north toward the Zimbabwe border. Among its contents were fishing and first aid supplies.

Jan, Bob, Frank and Carol all agree that undertaking this relatively small humanitarian project resulted in a significant improvement in the lives of many. The recipients were all so very, very, grateful. And we in turn, received the precious gift of giving.

## Queenstown's Elderly Get Respite

by Russell Bolognese,  
Western & Central NY Chapter

Upon arriving at East London airport as usual my son and I were picked up by our PH. Driving through darkness we were really not prepared for what the daylight would bring. The hunt went as planned. My son Alex and I were very successful in harvesting nineteen animals, all plains game. We got wrapped up in the experience and the nine days went too fast.

Before leaving the US I attended the monthly meeting of the Western and Central New York Chapter of SCI. I told the attendees of my trip and that I needed their help. I knew I would spend a lot of money on my hunt and that I needed to give back for in my heart I knew that my lot in life was better than most where I was going.

At the meeting there was a doctor who was born in Tanzania speaking on the plight of all Africans. I spoke to him after his presentation and he told me to make my purchases in Africa; the money goes further. I tried to use the list of recommended items which SCI headquarters provides for what to get. The daylight showed me what to do.

These people have little to nothing and material things are a true gift to them. The doctor told me to do the most good, feed the people. He is so right. The question

was how to make \$400 US go the farthest.

Through a staff member of my PH I was able to locate a Lutheran minister who ran a program for the elderly. This program is run completely by volunteers; no one gets paid. They were about to close the operation down because they ran out of money, but the donation of the funds collected through the generosity of Western & Central NY Chapter members allowed this charity organization to feed the elderly of Queenstown, South Africa for another four months.

We who belong to SCI and enjoy the opportunities of the hunt always need to think of putting back, and I know that club efforts do many things at home. But when we hunt abroad remember that these people struggle for daily sustenance. Remember them when you prepare to travel again. Thank you all, members of SCI of Western & Central New York!

## Sportsmen Against Hunger™

### **Top Shot Challenge: Making Cancer the Target!** by Angie Hall, Naples-Ft. Myers Chapter



Television and screen actor Gerald McRaney (3rd from left) presided over the Naples-Fort Myers Chapter of Safari Club International's third annual "Top Shot

Challenge" Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, at the Lee County Gun Range in Ft. Myers, Florida to raise funds for SCI's Sportsmen Against Hunger/Cancer program. This year, the Naples Police Department team captured the three-foot tall championship trophy, presented by McRaney.

Local, state, and federal law enforcement officers shot their way into the hearts of cancer patients. The Naples-Ft. Myers Chapter of SCI started the Sportsmen Against Hunger/Cancer program five years ago when approached by a cancer patient in need of hormone-free meat. To meet this need, Sportsmen Against Hunger/Cancer provides game meat free of charge to any cancer patient who asks. We would like to see this program grow nationwide through the many chapters of Safari Club International.

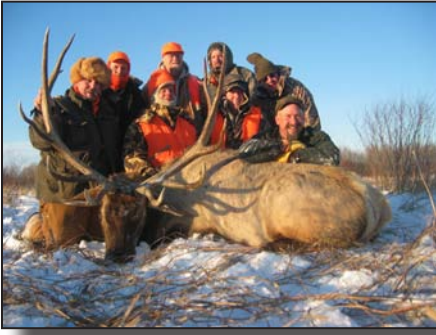
The Top Shot Challenge is an annual event started and organized by the Naples-Fort Myers Chapter of Safari Club International, with the assistance of the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Captain Kamp and the deputies of the LCSO's training department structure the course of fire, serve as range officers, and ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience.

As part of the Top Shot Challenge, McRaney also served as keynote speaker at a luncheon earlier in the week at Capt. Fishbone's Restaurant in North Fort Myers, Florida. That sold-out event also raised much-needed funds for Sportsmen Against Hunger/Cancer.

Thanks to generous support from donors, sponsors, and participants, SCI's Top Shot Challenge raised more than \$6,000 to help cancer patients.

All participants in the Top Shot Challenge received personalized achievement certificates and are invited to compete next year for the championship trophy. All proceeds from the event support SCI's Sportsmen Against Hunger/Cancer program. For information, phone Chapter President Bruce M. Essen at (239) 334-2558.





## Blind Hunter Shoots Monster Elk by Mike Hanson

I am an avid outdoorsman and hunter. I have successfully hunted grouse, rabbit, deer, pheasant, squirrel, partridge, wild turkey, ducks, geese, and other game for close to 30 years. I also happen to be blind.

I passed a firearms safety course with a score of 100% on the written exam and successfully completed the required field exercises. When I hunt, I have a sighted helper aim and tell me when to shoot. As the above paragraph shows, I hunt as safely as anybody else does. As the paragraphs below demonstrate, it works.

Now I will describe what happened at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts in Baudette, Minnesota on December 9, 2007. This was a charity hunt for a disabled hunter, funded by SCI's Minnesota Chapter, The Langenfeld Foundation, and the MN Elk Breeders Association. Tony Beckel, a member of the Minnesota Chapter, runs Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts. I highly recommend Tony for his commitment to success, professionalism, attention to safety and respectful attitude toward clients. He was very creative and thoughtful in his approach to hunting. I was the first totally blind client Tony worked with. About the only difference between this hunt and hunts out west is the distance you need to travel.

The hunt was scheduled for December 8 and 9, 2007. The morning started out at 21.6 degrees below zero. It got somewhat warmer but not much as the day went on. We worked hard on December 8, with no success. Jon Zirngible shot at and slightly wounded a cow elk on December 8. I had a couple long shots, which we didn't take because of the distance and brush between the elk and me. We had an hour or so of good light left on the last day of the hunt. We were getting concerned about whether we would be successful. If anything, the weather was colder on December 8. This was real hunting.

I had a helper named Rick Holtan from Capable Partners, and a veteran elk hunter named Steve Harvey came along to assist with the hunt. Jon's brother Jim, a veteran hunter in his own right, helped Jon and generously assisted with field dressing and butchering the elk. Jon brought down the cow at about 2 PM the same day.

Several people were walking through the woods to drive out a bull elk who decided to stay in there. Suddenly, I heard someone yell, "It's coming!" I took the safety off a Winchester Model 100 308 and told Tony that the safety was off. Tony and I agreed I would take the safety off when we knew the elk was coming out. Everybody wore blaze orange to ensure their visibility. We knew how far the drivers would walk. Therefore, we had a safe field of fire.

About 125 yards down the trail, a 900-pound 7x6 bull elk ran out at full speed. Later, Tony and Jim Zirngible told me they thought it scored about 330 according to a standard rating system for big game animals. A 7x6 bull elk means a bull elk with seven points or tines on one side of his rack and six points or tines on the other side.

Tony said, "Shoot!" and I squeezed the trigger. I heard the gun go off and the sound of the bullet hitting the elk. The elk dropped like a rock. Two quick shots later, I had killed that bull!

I never thought I would get a chance to hunt anything like that. Thank God, Tony Beckel, Rick Holtan, Steve Harvey, the good folks who work for Tony's Trophy Elk-Hunts, The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, Jim Zirngible, The Langenfeld Foundation and SCI's Minnesota Chapter for the hunt of a lifetime!

## SafariCare™



### **It's So Easy to SafariCare! by Cindy & Larry Mikelsen, National Members, Washington**

Cindy and I made our first hunting trip to Africa at the end of April 2008. We traveled to the Eastern Cape area in South Africa along with our good friends Jim and Linda Foster, sightseeing, and then onto my hunt with Bowker Safaris near Grahamstown, SA. As a relatively newer member of SCI, I read with interest about SCIF's SafariCare program. As we made our preparations for the trip, we started to collect blue bag stuffers. I contacted Eva Wilson, Humanitarian Services Manager for Safari Club International Foundation, and she answered all of our questions and provided us a letter laying out the foundation's charitable organization status. Armed with this and a list of desperately needed items, we set forth canvassing the local area for donations.

We focused on medical and dental supplies for our Blue Bag. It was amaz-

ing just how interested we found the local doctors and dentists in what we were doing. In a short time we had collected a significant amount of donated items like Ibuprofen, first aid creams, diarrhea medicines, vitamins, triple antibiotic ointments, fungus ointments, eyeglasses, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and the list went on. We also purchased trash bags, twine, fishing supplies, shampoo, candy, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sports pins, caps, maps, school supplies, soccer balls, basketballs, crayons, coloring books, scissors, water bottles and small stuffed dinosaurs. It was just amazing how generous some were for the kids. In the end, we had amassed approximately 120 pounds of SafariCare items which more than filled the big Blue Bag. Packing up our bags on April 20, we boarded the plane for South Africa. Once in SA we set our plans, through the help of Louise Bowker of Bowker Safaris and her friend Emmie who does a lot of humanitarian work around the area, to visit two sites where the supplies were so needed.

Our first site was a rural preschool facility with 3 to 6-year-olds in desperate need of that little helping hand for a good start in life. At this location, there appeared to be a satisfactory amount of medicines and dental supplies, so we saved what we had for our next stop where we heard that there was a desperate need for any type of medical supplies. The preschool children were in need of early school supplies such as crayons, coloring books and the like. We also gave them stuffed dinosaurs, little sunglasses, toys and candy.



## Treasure Valley Chapter

They showed their appreciation by singing for us and I must say, some of them really have the “moves” when singing. Look out American Idol!

Our second site was the Eluxolweni Children’s Center outside of Grahamstown, SA that takes in 8 to 15-year-old boys and girls who have lost their parents to AIDS, or have parents with significant problems who are unable to care for their children for the short or long term. The center is run by Mr. Bill Mills, a former Port Elizabeth school principal, who we passed on the majority of our medical and dental supplies to, since the “cupboards were bare”. There didn’t appear to be much of anything they did not need in that category. We also left soccer and basketballs, caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sports pins, maps, water bottles, and the remainder of our candy and Cracker Jacks. We knew none of the children had ever seen a Cracker Jack before, but once we showed them what was inside (toy surprise and all), they were all hooked for life.

SCIF’s SafariCare program is a great opportunity to DIRECTLY make a difference in some young kids’ lives who desperately need a helping hand, and it is amazingly easy to do. To see that twinkle in a child’s eyes when they receive a little gift is just so heart warming. All those we contacted and spoke with at home prior to going to Africa supported the SafariCare program 100% in both word and donation. If you have a safari coming up, think about this program and consider giving it a try. You will be given a gift of brightening up a child’s day, and at the same time make a wee bit of a difference in each and every child you touch through this fine program. We found it to be great fun and a rewarding experience.

The SCI Treasure Valley Chapter held our 2007 annual Youth Day Safari on June 9 at life member Leroy Atwood’s property in Payette, Idaho. Two hundred children participated in a day of fun and education. They were introduced to bass fishing from bass boats, trout fishing, the archery range, clay pigeon shooting, ATV riding, and rock climbing.

Idaho Fish and Game was on site with their poaching awareness trailer and their pellet shot trailer. Proper firearm instruction was provided and the children came away with the targets they shot and an understanding of firearm safety.

We brought our Sensory Safari trailer with over 50 different species of animals from around the world. The experience of seeing and touching these animals always brings a sense of awe. It also gives us the opportunity to educate the youth about hunting and conservation.



After the fun and excitement of the various activities, lunch was served and a presentation was made by the Sergeant Major from the Idaho Air National Guard. Many of the children were from military families and this is one way SCI Treasure Valley shows its appreciation to the troops that protect our country.

## Sensory Safari™

### Youth Day Safari

by Michael Blach, President

*For information or assistance with any SCIF Humanitarian Services program, please contact Eva Wilson, Humanitarian Services Manager, at 520-620-1220 Ext. 480 or [ewilson@safariclub.org](mailto:ewilson@safariclub.org).*



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