



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2014

### CONTACT:

Amber Eagleson, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo African Journey Area Manager  
260-427-6816 [amber@kidszoo.org](mailto:amber@kidszoo.org)

Kerri Garvin, NISBC Executive Director  
260-427-2724 [kerri@nisbc.org](mailto:kerri@nisbc.org)

Jessica Brita-Segyde, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Communications Assistant  
260-427-6843 [communications@kidszoo.org](mailto:communications@kidszoo.org)

## Zoo Earns NISBC's Sustainable Business of the Year Award

On October 28 the Northeast Indiana Sustainable Business Council (NISBC), in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, awarded the Sustainable Business of the Year award to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Kerri Garvin, NISBC Executive Director, explains why the zoo was selected for the award. "The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo has shown significant progress in sustainability by continually improving their certification level in the NISBC's Bright Green Business program. We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with The Nature Conservancy and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to give the zoo recognition for a job well done," Garvin said.

Adam McLane, Director of Operations for the Nature Conservancy, addressed zoo staff during the presentation. He lauded zoo employees for their willingness to practice and promote conservation, saying, "You can preach sustainability and conservation in ways that we cannot. Thank you so much for the hard work you do."

Korinda Walls, Sustainability Coordinator for Fort Wayne Metals and NISBC Board President, thanked zoo staff for a job well done. "The zoo demonstrates true leadership in the area of sustainability," she said.

Amber Eagleson, African Journey Area Manager and chair of the zoo's Resource Conservation Task Force, spoke on behalf of the zoo. "We want to thank the half-million zoo guests who are willing to

take part in our sustainable practices. We couldn't do it without them. We're also grateful to the NISBC for their guidance throughout the year. Last but not least, thank you so much to our staff for their hard work," she said. *(Photo of Eagleson with award attached.)*

The award itself is made from reclaimed metal from local facilities. Artist Sayaka Ganz toured Fort Wayne Metals and General Motors to find pieces of metal and wire for her work.

# # #

**About the Northeast Indiana Sustainable Business Council:** The NISBC is operates within all 10 counties in Northeast Indiana. The NISBC works with businesses to help them become more sustainable. The organization educates, supports, and certifies regional businesses in the areas of pollution prevention, solid waste reduction, energy and water conservation, life cycle analysis, community outreach and employee wellness ([www.nisbc.org](http://www.nisbc.org)).

**About The Nature Conservancy:** The Nature Conservancy operates in all 50 states in the U.S. and more than 30 other countries. According to the organization's website ([www.natureconservancy.org](http://www.natureconservancy.org)), "The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends."

**About the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo:** The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is northeast Indiana's largest tourist attraction, hosting more than 500,000 guests annually. The zoo was voted Indiana's **#1 "Gotta-Do Summer Attraction"** and is consistently named one of the nation's **Top Ten Zoos for Kids** by national media outlets. In 2014 the zoo received the national TripAdvisor "Best Of" award based on user reviews.

The zoo is a conservation leader, contributing more than \$80,000 annually to local, regional, and international efforts to protect wild animals and habitats, and participating in cooperative management programs for 15 endangered species.

As a self-supporting facility, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo receives no tax dollars for operations. The zoo's operations are funded entirely by earned revenue and donations.

The zoo will be open for Wild Zoo Halloween on October 30 and 31, 2014. Admission is \$5 per person (all ages). Admission + Trick-or-Treating is \$9 per person (all ages). Babies age 1 and under receive free admission. Babies receiving treats are charged \$4. Zoo Members receive \$2 off admission.