

A portrait of Terry Edwards, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue sleeveless dress and large white earrings. She is also wearing a gold cuff bracelet on her left wrist.

TERRY EDWARDS

PHILANTHROPIST

Long known as an ardent supporter of the arts and children's causes, Terry Edwards is now also rallying support for a new passion after touring the Naples Zoo and meeting its CEO Jack Mulvena in late 2015. "I was impressed with his energy and enthusiasm, and the education initiatives and conservation steps the zoo is taking," says Edwards, who joined the zoo's board shortly afterward and quickly began searching for ways to help the nonprofit.

"We felt there was a segment of my friends or people I knew who were going to other charity events who knew nothing about the zoo," she says. When she learned African penguins were coming to the zoo for a limited period of time, she thought the timing made for a perfect opportunity for the nonprofit to reach a broader audience.

"It seemed like a natural fit to do a black-tie event, a more formal fundraiser at a higher dollar level," she says. "The zoo was missing out on that segment."

The 2017 inaugural Black & White Ball was born, and tickets sold out before the ink was even dry on the invitations. The successful new event not only raised awareness, but also \$450,000 to support the zoo's plans for the future. Of course, Edwards has a history of looking to the future in her dedication to community involvement, whether it is serving as a trustee of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, supporting Artis-Naples and other arts organizations, or helping our small-town zoo prepare for a bigger, brighter future. —Teri Evans

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

LEADING LADIES

20 WOMEN AFFECTING CHANGE IN NAPLES NOW

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROLAND SCARPA

Hair & Makeup coordinator: Philip Douglas