Patti Hall’s extensive background in management, education and public speaking contributed to the success of her endeavors as Director of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for over 23 years, and now, as Director Emeritus. After college, Patti was appointed Director, Montessori of Kentucky Herr Lane Academy in Louisville. Five years later, she assisted in spearheading an innovative pilot project funded under the Older Americans Act. During her eight years, four centers throughout Louisville provided many public services to over 60,000 seniors, and 45 years later, the program is still going strong. Patti also spent 16 years in publishing, holding key management positions with the American Cities Business Group, and as General Manager for American International Publishing Inc., publisher of International Business magazine, in Rye, New York.

Patti’s professional zoo experience was inspired early on by her childhood affinity with animals and time spent at the Louisville Zoo while she was a college art student. Years later, after resettling in the Gulf Shores area, her love of zoos led her to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. In 1995 she became a volunteer, then two years later, was appointed Zoo Director. Patti’s goals: to turn a small, financially struggling, roadside zoo into a facility that placed animal care as its highest priority; offered a safe, family attraction that emphasized animal conservation education in an intimate, charming environment; and made fundraising, community outreach, and publicity integral to turning the zoo’s fortunes around. Within a few years, Patti was well on her way to achieving every one of those goals when disaster struck the zoo.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast. But before it destroyed the town of Gulf Shores and the zoo, Patti and her staff made history becoming the first US zoo to perform a full-scale, off-site, total evacuation during a natural disaster. Over 265 animals were transported to Patti’s home where they stayed for weeks while make-shift repairs were underway at the zoo. This courageous feat made global headlines, led to the hit TV series, The Little Zoo That Could on Animal Planet, and began Patti’s journey to the creation of a new zoo in a safer location. Obviously, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo’s tremendous success today is a testament to Patti’s professional experience, extraordinary skills, and dedication. Patti’s first set of goals as Zoo Director have been achieved even beyond her wildest dreams; yet her next set of goals were even bigger...the relocation and rebirth of The New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo - well on its way to reality in the very near future.

Patti’s professional zoo experience was inspired early on by her childhood affinity with animals and time spent at the Louisville Zoo while she was a college art student. Years later, after resettling in the Gulf Shores area, her love of zoos led her to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. In 1995 she became a volunteer, then two years later, was appointed Zoo Director. Patti’s goals: to turn a small, financially struggling, roadside zoo into a facility that placed animal care as its highest priority; offered a safe, family attraction that emphasized animal conservation education in an intimate, charming environment; and made fundraising, community outreach, and publicity integral to turning the zoo’s fortunes around. Within a few years, Patti was well on her way to achieving every one of those goals when disaster struck the zoo.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast. But before it destroyed the town of Gulf Shores and the zoo, Patti and her staff made history becoming the first US zoo to perform a full-scale, off-site, total evacuation during a natural disaster. Over 265 animals were transported to Patti’s home where they stayed for weeks while make-shift repairs were underway at the zoo. This courageous feat made global headlines, led to the hit TV series, The Little Zoo That Could on Animal Planet, and began Patti’s journey to the creation of a new zoo in a safer location. Obviously, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo’s tremendous success today is a testament to Patti’s professional experience, extraordinary skills, and dedication. Patti’s first set of goals as Zoo Director have been achieved even beyond her wildest dreams; yet her next set of goals were even bigger...the relocation and rebirth of The New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo - well on its way to reality in the very near future.

Patti Hall’s extensive background in management, education and public speaking contributed to the success of her endeavors as Director of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for over 23 years, and now, as Director Emeritus. After college, Patti was appointed Director, Montessori of Kentucky Herr Lane Academy in Louisville. Five years later, she assisted in spearheading an innovative pilot project funded under the Older Americans Act. During her eight years, four centers throughout Louisville provided many public services to over 60,000 seniors, and 45 years later, the program is still going strong. Patti also spent 16 years in publishing, holding key management positions with the American Cities Business Group, and as General Manager for American International Publishing Inc., publisher of International Business magazine, in Rye, New York.

Patti’s professional zoo experience was inspired early on by her childhood affinity with animals and time spent at the Louisville Zoo while she was a college art student. Years later, after resettling in the Gulf Shores area, her love of zoos led her to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. In 1995 she became a volunteer, then two years later, was appointed Zoo Director. Patti’s goals: to turn a small, financially struggling, roadside zoo into a facility that placed animal care as its highest priority; offered a safe, family attraction that emphasized animal conservation education in an intimate, charming environment; and made fundraising, community outreach, and publicity integral to turning the zoo’s fortunes around. Within a few years, Patti was well on her way to achieving every one of those goals when disaster struck the zoo.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast. But before it destroyed the town of Gulf Shores and the zoo, Patti and her staff made history becoming the first US zoo to perform a full-scale, off-site, total evacuation during a natural disaster. Over 265 animals were transported to Patti’s home where they stayed for weeks while make-shift repairs were underway at the zoo. This courageous feat made global headlines, led to the hit TV series, The Little Zoo That Could on Animal Planet, and began Patti’s journey to the creation of a new zoo in a safer location. Obviously, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo’s tremendous success today is a testament to Patti’s professional experience, extraordinary skills, and dedication. Patti’s first set of goals as Zoo Director have been achieved even beyond her wildest dreams; yet her next set of goals were even bigger...the relocation and rebirth of The New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo - well on its way to reality in the very near future.

Patti Hall’s extensive background in management, education and public speaking contributed to the success of her endeavors as Director of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for over 23 years, and now, as Director Emeritus. After college, Patti was appointed Director, Montessori of Kentucky Herr Lane Academy in Louisville. Five years later, she assisted in spearheading an innovative pilot project funded under the Older Americans Act. During her eight years, four centers throughout Louisville provided many public services to over 60,000 seniors, and 45 years later, the program is still going strong. Patti also spent 16 years in publishing, holding key management positions with the American Cities Business Group, and as General Manager for American International Publishing Inc., publisher of International Business magazine, in Rye, New York.

Patti’s professional zoo experience was inspired early on by her childhood affinity with animals and time spent at the Louisville Zoo while she was a college art student. Years later, after resettling in the Gulf Shores area, her love of zoos led her to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. In 1995 she became a volunteer, then two years later, was appointed Zoo Director. Patti’s goals: to turn a small, financially struggling, roadside zoo into a facility that placed animal care as its highest priority; offered a safe, family attraction that emphasized animal conservation education in an intimate, charming environment; and made fundraising, community outreach, and publicity integral to turning the zoo’s fortunes around. Within a few years, Patti was well on her way to achieving every one of those goals when disaster struck the zoo.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast. But before it destroyed the town of Gulf Shores and the zoo, Patti and her staff made history becoming the first US zoo to perform a full-scale, off-site, total evacuation during a natural disaster. Over 265 animals were transported to Patti’s home where they stayed for weeks while make-shift repairs were underway at the zoo. This courageous feat made global headlines, led to the hit TV series, The Little Zoo That Could on Animal Planet, and began Patti’s journey to the creation of a new zoo in a safer location. Obviously, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo’s tremendous success today is a testament to Patti’s professional experience, extraordinary skills, and dedication. Patti’s first set of goals as Zoo Director have been achieved even beyond her wildest dreams; yet her next set of goals were even bigger...the relocation and rebirth of The New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo - well on its way to reality in the very near future.