



## NEWS RELEASE

***For Immediate Release***

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### **Friends of the Zoo Hires New Director of Development**

Syracuse, N.Y. (January 21, 2016) –Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo announces the hiring of Denise Headd of Onondaga Hill as director of development.



“I am very pleased to welcome Denise to the Friends staff,” says Janet Agostini, president and CEO of Friends of the Zoo. “Her experience, skill in creating relationships and love of animals position her nicely to work with us in our next phase of growth.”

In her position with Friends of the Zoo, a 501(c) (3) non-profit support organization to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Headd will develop and maintain ongoing fundraising activities and donor stewardship and oversee new programs that arise from the recently completed strategic and master planning process.

Headd holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a concentration in communications from Canisius College. She has more than eight years’ experience working in the non-profit sector including eight years of board management in addition to 14 years of special events planning with a concentration on fundraising. She most recently served as director of development for Joseph’s House for Women and was formerly executive director of Friends of the Central Library Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series. She sits on the board of the Willow Street Foundation and is past president and former board member of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse (now LiteracyCNY).

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

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[www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

