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Note: ***Dr Anne Baker will be available today, Thursday 6/30, from 10 – 11 am for interviews. Please RSVP to the Marketing & PR dept.***

## **Meet Lucas, The Zoo's Newly Named Elephant Calf**

Toledo, OH – The Toledo Zoo's African elephant calf, born June 3, is nameless no more! After nearly 8,000 entries in the Zoo's naming contest, "Lucas" won by more than 3,000 votes. The name, which was the keepers' favorite, honors the long-time support of Lucas County voters.

"The Toledo Zoo is a regional treasure," said Anne Baker, executive director. "We are grateful to Lucas County voters who have supported us over the years and helped us become one of the best zoos in the U.S. That support certainly includes Lucas, a reminder of the plight of African elephants. Words like habitat loss, human conflict and poaching remain 'just words' until you see these noble animals for yourself and realize the challenges they face."

Lucas isn't the only one walking away from the contest with something new. From the winning entries, a random winner was drawn: Vicki Godsey, of Delta, Ohio. She wins a one-year Zoo family membership and a big basket of "ele-fun" gifts. Vicki says she had a Zoo membership when her children were small and is looking forward to sharing her new Zoo membership with her grandchildren. "They're going to be so excited," she said. "I heard about the contest on the news and just thought Lucas was a good name for that baby elephant. Wait 'til the kids find out I won!"

The Name the Baby Elephant contest, sponsored by 13abc, The Blade and K-100, began on June 13 and ended on June 27 at 12 noon. People submitted entries online, in person at the Zoo's North Star Trading Post® and KC's Corner gift shops, and through a mail-in ballot printed in The Blade.

Lucas and his mother, Renee, are available for public viewing daily between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., though they may be off exhibit periodically depending on their needs or weather changes. Lucas, who is sponsored by BP, is gaining about two pounds a day -- come see him while he's still "little!"

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information and all the affordable fun at your Toledo Zoo, please visit [www.toledozoo.org](http://www.toledozoo.org) or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 am to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

*The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.*

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