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## Primate-characters use star status to save Sumatra

*Author, activist chronicles the plight of orangutans in new children's book*

**GREENWICH, Conn.** – *Curious George*, “George of the Jungle” and *Monkey See, Monkey Do*, primates have long starred in movies and books, entertaining children and adults alike. But, as primate populations start to dwindle, like the Sumatran orangutan, starring characters look to inspire kids to save the animals they’ve grown to love.

With less than 6,500 Sumatran orangutans remaining in the world today, activist and children’s book author Jeanne McNaney’s new children’s book, *Miracle in Sumatra: The Story of Gutsy Gus* (Ovation Books, October 2009, 978-0-9814534-6-0, \$16.95), is intended to prompt kids into action. After listening to Jack Hanna speak on the plight of the Sumatran orangutan, McNaney was motivated to write *Miracle in Sumatra*, which chronicles Gus, a young orangutan who fights to save his parents from greedy trappers.

“My hope is that our children become aware, that as the next generation of the world, they can do their part in helping preserve our animals and our environment,” McNaney says.

In *Miracle of Sumatra*, Gus discovers his parents have been trapped by hunters who have come to Sumatra to hunt the orangutan. With the help of his friends, Maya, a little girl, and Gabriella, the guardian of the jungle, Gus sets out to save his parents and teach the trappers about the importance of their natural habitat in Sumatra.

Gus’s brave actions teach children how to stand up for the people they love, while showing compassion and kindness to others. Highlighting the plight of the orangutan, *Miracle in Sumatra* also illustrates the importance of faith and forgiveness.

“I want my children to be good stewards of what we have been given,” McNaney says. “Gus is a good ambassador to show other kids how to advocate for our environment and treat others kindly.”

McNaney teams with artist David Cochard who illustrated her first book, *The Legend of Honey Hollow* (Ovation Books 2009), to bring to life the rich jungle of Sumatra. Combining Cochard’s artistic talent and McNaney’s love for animals, *Miracle in Sumatra* nurtures children’s compassion for their furry friends.

In an interview, McNaney can discuss:

- Endangered species: How you and your child can help
- Where did all the monkeys go? Why the orangutan population is rapidly declining
- Inspired by Jack Hanna: One woman’s fight for the orangutan
- The big picture: Life lessons children learn through studying conservation

McNaney currently sits on the board of governors for the We are Family Foundation, which supports programs that encourage respect and cultural diversity. She has served on the Board of Pathways, Inc., an organization providing housing for mentally ill adults, and she is an active volunteer with the Old Greenwich School. McNaney currently resides in Old Greenwich with her husband and three young children. For more information, please visit [Joeypublishing.com](http://Joeypublishing.com).

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**To schedule an interview with McNaney or to receive a review copy of *Miracle in Sumatra*, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 478-2028 ext. 227 or [ssledge@phenixpublicity.com](mailto:ssledge@phenixpublicity.com).**