



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

**LOVE &  
LET LIVE**

# IMPACT

2023

# REPORT



# Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that as of April, we will have been in our new home for three years. While our move into this beautiful facility is a dream come true, it has certainly come with both significant wins and challenges.

We struggled to find hourly staff to man our 365 day a year operation due to the unprecedented hourly wage war throughout the U.S. To remain competitive in the marketplace, we increased the wages of all hourly staff resulting in an increase of \$200,000 to our 2023 operating budget.

And still, the HSHC team rallied as they always do to raise the necessary funds to cover our rising operating costs. Our loyal supporters rallied too. The number of individual donations, and the record-setting success of our three major fundraisers, got us over the finish line.

The most daunting challenge we faced in 2023 was, however, the continued increase in stray and abandoned dogs entering the facility. This, combined with a decrease in dog adoptions throughout the U.S., had contributed to the cost of both daily and emergency medical care. We have been holding on by a thread in hopes the steady wave of dogs, especially seniors and injured dogs, would finally slow down. However, dogs in offices, visiting rooms, and pop-up kennels continue to be a part of our daily routine.

## **Now here's where our daily mantra of doing 'whatever it takes' comes in.**

While we spent much of 2023 catching curve balls like Border Collies, I am incredibly proud to share these incredible accomplishments:

- All three of our major fundraising events set records for both attendance and net dollars raised
- We still saved the lives of 150 animals from outside Hamilton County, many of whom were at-risk for euthanasia
- We reunited 406 lost pets with their families
- We grew our volunteer program to nearly 1,000 individuals who have chosen to donate their time and talents to our mission
- Our social media audience exploded reaching over a half million followers across all platforms
- Our Pets Healing Vets program currently serves 41 Hoosier veterans suffering from PTSD/Traumatic Brain Injury
- And last, but not least, we ended 2023 on the positive side of the ledger with enough left over to hire a full-time veterinarian who started in February 2023.

Your Humane Society for Hamilton County is going to need you more than ever before in 2024. The capacity challenges remain. The length of stay for dogs in our care has doubled over the last 3 years, so we need our community to consider adoption first. The building is filled with remarkable dogs and cats who are waiting to be noticed. Waiting to be considered. And, they're waiting for the chance to save you too.

Together, we will make sure that all those old souls filling our cages and kennels live their final days in comfort, and their final days with dignity. Over 4,000 animals, including some of the hardest to save and place pets imaginable, will be counting on us again this year. We have the utmost faith you will be there to see us through.

With gratitude,



President & CEO



## Board of Directors, 2023

Ann O'Hara, Board Chairman  
Karen Kennelly, Treasurer  
Tammy Meyer, Secretary  
John Baker  
Megan Custodio  
Natalie Engledow  
Danielle Gough  
Laura Jarred  
Sheri Kendall  
Joe Martin  
Brent Richards  
Barb Skinner  
Barbara Uggen-Davis  
Kim Ebert, Ex-Officio & Legal Counsel  
Kelly Faehr, Ex-Officio & Advisory Board  
Mark Heirbrandt, Ex-Officio & Advisory Board  
Paul Reis, Ex-Officio

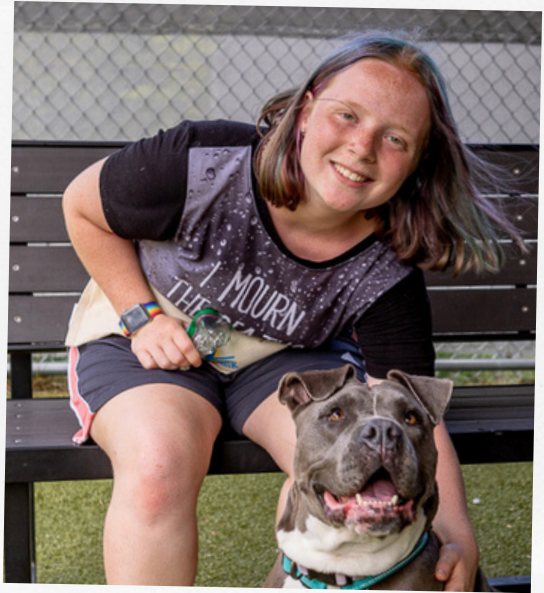


# OUR PURPOSE

## Our Mission

HSHC's mission is saving lives, educating communities, and completing families. When it comes to saving lives, we take in over 4,000 animals annually including hundreds at risk for euthanasia in other Indiana shelters.

Our community outreach programs connect children, seniors, Hoosier Veterans, and more with the healing power of pets every day. Our youth education programs plant the seeds of kindness, responsibility, and philanthropy in hundreds of children each year.



HSHC's advocacy for animals reaches far beyond Hamilton County as we have taken a leadership role in fighting breed discrimination and for better laws to protect animals. In collaboration with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, HSHC led the development of a best practice animal ordinance that defines adequate shelter and care and has been adopted by every city in Hamilton County.

The commitment to our mission doesn't stop with Hamilton County. We've always shared available resources to save as many out-of-county animals as possible.



**WE WON'T STOP UNTIL  
ALL HOOSIER ANIMALS  
HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE,  
LOVE, AND BE LOVED.**







## Our Philosophy

The philosophy on which the “No Kill” movement was founded defines truly no kill as saving 100% of the animals in your care who are treatable (medical) or rehabilitatable (behavior) – irrespective of age, breed, special medical needs, or disabilities.

HSHC embraces the truly no-kill philosophy, and we never stopped working until we reached that goal. We are incredibly proud to share that we have consistently achieved a 98% or higher live placement rate since 2014.



# ANIMALS RECEIVED & ADOPTIONS

3,959

TOTAL RECEIVED\*

\*41 additional animals came to HSHC representing three different species.

1,678



2,281



In addition to the animals already in the care of HSHC at the end of the prior year, HSHC received:

2,416 STRAYS

1,543 OWNER SURRENDERS

3,338 ANIMALS PLACED INTO LOVING HOMES

1,243

DOGS

2,095

CATS

\*Two additional animals of other species found loving homes.

406 LOST PETS REUNITED

325

DOGS

81

CATS

\*One additional animal of another species was returned home.



CANINES SPENT **132 DAYS** TRAINING ONE-ON-ONE WITH TRAINERS AT BARKEFELLERS, PAWS & PLAY, AND PETSUITES

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# FOSTERS, VOLUNTEERS, & RESCUE RELIEF

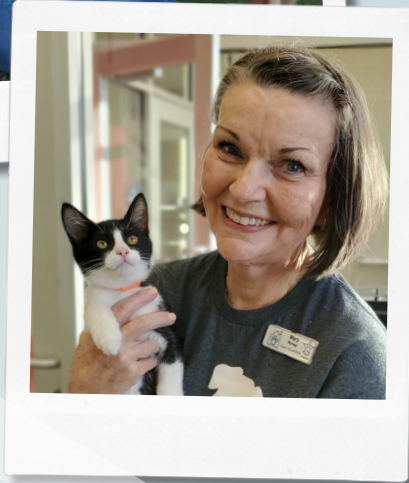
**1,542** FOSTER  
ANIMALS

584

DOGS

958

CATS



**1,187**

TOTAL  
FOSTER FAMILIES

**1,012**

TOTAL  
VOLUNTEERS



**79,329**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**70** TOTAL NUMBER OF  
VOLUNTEER ROLES

**1,127** SERVICE HOURS  
DONATED BY  
CORPORATE GROUPS



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# PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

It costs approximately \$657 per month, per animal to provide basic care and shelter to more than 4,000 animals each year.

The best way the public can support the growing cost of daily care is by becoming a Love & Let Live supporter.

**\$107,962 RAISED**  
IN 2023



**LOVE &  
LET LIVE**



The Pets Healing Vets program pairs shelter dogs and cats with qualifying Hoosier veterans suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury at no cost to the veteran—for the life of the pet.

**\$111,999 RAISED** IN 2023  
**42 PETS PAIRED WITH 41 VETERANS**



**SURVIVOR  
PROGRAM**

Each year, the Survivor Program raises funds for all life-saving medical care as well as the costs associated with rescuing hundreds of animals at-risk for euthanasia in surrounding shelters or animals taken in from out of county.

**\$176,434 RAISED** IN 2023

**3,041 ANIMAL LIVES  
SAVED**

**439** of which were from other Indiana shelters and/or outside of Hamilton County.

# ADDITIONAL SERVICES

## Pet Cremation

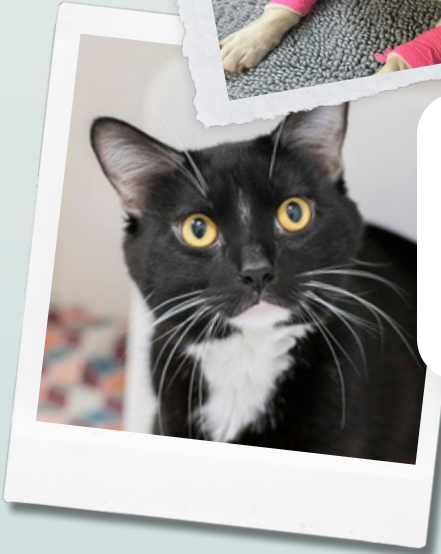
Pets are our family members, and their loss is indescribable. HSHC has partnered with Pet Angel Memorial Center in Greenwood to provide cremation services following the passing of a pet.



## Pet Microchipping

The best way to ensure your pet makes it home safely is with a microchip. HSHC offers discounted pet microchipping, no appointment required.

**191**  
**PET FAMILIES**  
**SERVED**



# FINANCIALS

## TOTAL REVENUE

**\$2,530,358 CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS**

**\$1,064,770 FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**\$745,516 COUNTY CONTRACT FEES**

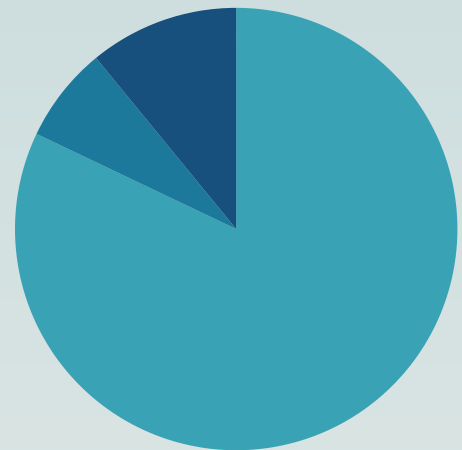
**\$454,096 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

**\$367,249 PROGRAM REVENUE**

**\$133,156 OTHER INCOME**



## TOTAL EXPENSES



**\$3,809,815 PROGRAM EXPENSES**

**\$324,840 FUNDRAISING**

**\$506,948 MANAGEMENT  
& GENERAL**



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# HUMANE SOCIETY

FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

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