



HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

2024

IMPACT REPORT



*Love &
Let Live*

♥ **RUNE**

DEAR FRIENDS



It's hard to believe that as of April 2025, we have been in our new home for 4 years. While our move into this beautiful facility is a dream come true, it has certainly come with both significant wins and challenges.

I'm so proud to share that our HSHC team hustled every day to give every Hamilton County animal, and hundreds of Marion County's displaced animals, a chance to live, love and be loved. This has been incredibly difficult as we've struggled to find the space for daily arrivals, while also dealing with a decrease in dog adoptions. Less adoptions means that dogs are waiting longer for homes. The result is an increase in both our cost of daily care, as well as the staffing needed to provide it. These are all symptoms, however, of a greater problem.

HSHC AND COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE U.S. ARE SEEING A STAGGERING INCREASE IN STRAY DOGS—AND THE REASON IS NOT WHAT YOU PROBABLY THINK.

Most metropolitan areas have seen the number of unwanted, abandoned and dogs born on the streets reach crisis levels since 2020. Many think this was caused by COVID—**but in reality**—COVID was just a convenient opportunity to implement something called “managed intake.” Managed intake policies, **by definition**, are used to help prevent pet owners from surrendering their pets to a shelter, or, manage the timing of when they are surrendered to the shelter. This allows the shelter to set an appointment for when the animal will arrive, thereby ensuring a space is available.

Some national groups began promoting a new version of “managed intake” in 2019, and it really took hold in 2020. These redefined managed intake policies were designed to increase a shelter's live release rate to 90%, which by the same groups' definition, makes a shelter “no kill.” So how do you do that with an open admission, municipal shelter that is already in crisis? **You manage down intake.** You implement policies that **divert stray animals** from ever entering the shelter. For example, good Samaritans are required to make an appointment to bring in a stray dog or cat they've found. Since those appointments are often **4 to 5 weeks** out (**which has been the case with IACS/Marion County since 2021**), the finder is typically forced to find another solution.

THE IMPACT IS REAL.

Marion County residents who have found a stray dog come to us every day for help. With no immediate options in Indianapolis, these folks are desperate. Sometimes they beg, sometimes they cry, and sometimes they get angry and abandon the dog in our parking lot or lobby. I can assure you that it's **always** hard for our team to say no. It's a heartbreaking situation and unfair burden that our team manages with grace and compassion. We take the ones at the greatest risk of hypothermia, starvation, and life-threatening injuries. We do our best.

IN SPITE OF THE CHALLENGES, HSHC'S TEAM ROSE TO THE OCCASION, BREAKING FUNDRAISING RECORDS AND WINNING ACCOLADES IN 2024.

- *Thanks to you, all three of our major fundraising events set records for both attendance and net dollars raised.*
- *Our volunteer program has reached 985 active volunteers who served over 78,000 hours in 2024.*
- *Our **Pets Healing Vets** program supported over 40 Veterans suffering from Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI).*
- *Our **Pets Healing Vets** program continues to be the only veteran-emotional support matching program we have found in the country that will cover 100% of pet expense **for the life of the pet** if needed.*
- *Our **Youth Education & Scout** programs reached 534 Hamilton County children.*
- *Our collaboration with **Hamilton County Youth Assistance** and **Paws & Think** continues to help build confidence in at-risk youth by making shelter dogs more adoptable with basic training.*
- *Our collaboration with **Good Samaritan of Hamilton County** stocks their pet food pantry each year, with additional food and supplies donated to **Community Cats of Hamilton County**.*
- *In January 2025, we received the Lantern Award as Westfield's most **Outstanding Service Organization of the Year**.*

We are facing the same capacity challenges this year. I see no end in sight as Marion County's managed intake policies are still in place as of now. Still, it is impossible to not be fueled and inspired by the passion our team brings into this building each day. The support of our Board of Directors and Advisory Council is unwavering. Our volunteers are incredible beyond words. **When you take all of that, plus you...all things are possible.**

With gratitude,



Rebecca Stevens
President/CEO

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

PURPOSE

HSHC's mission is saving lives, educating communities, and completing families. When it comes to saving lives, we take in nearly 4,000 animals annually including more than 500 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 are planting 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.



PHILOSOPHY

For the past two decades, we have stayed true to the philosophy of being truly no-kill—a commitment that goes beyond arbitrary statistics. Our definition of no-kill means saving 100% of the animals in our care who are treatable or rehabilitatable, regardless of age, breed, medical conditions, or disabilities. We take in the hardest-to-save animals imaginable—those who others might deem unadoptable or too difficult to save. This journey has taken years of dedication, strategic planning, and immense effort. Since 2014, we have consistently maintained a live placement rate of 98% or higher, and in 2024, we achieved a 97.7% live release rate while caring for nearly 4,000 animals. This success is a testament to our commitment to doing **Whatever It Takes.**

Our no-kill philosophy is not just a goal; it's the foundation of our mission to give every animal the chance to live, love, and be loved. Achieving this requires sacrifice, dedication, and a relentless focus on fundraising, marketing, and adoption programs. It also demands collaboration with local rescues and shelters to ensure we can provide the best possible care to each animal that comes through our doors. From our early days in a high-kill shelter with limited resources to the vibrant, life-saving organization we are today, we have remained steadfast in our mission. Your continued support is crucial in helping us stay true to our no-kill promise, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication to the animals we serve.

ANIMALS RECEIVED & ADOPTIONS

3,836
TOTAL RECEIVED*

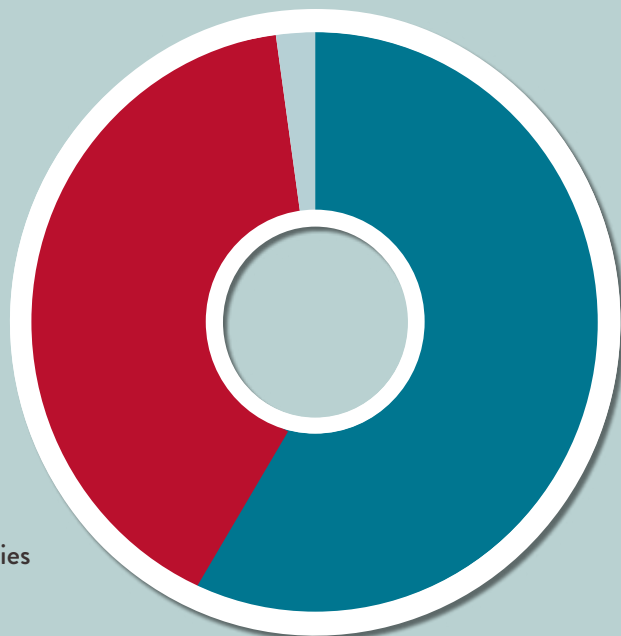
*Received an additional 19 animals representing different species

2,374 

1,462 



♥ **HAWK**



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



2,252 STRAYS

Dogs, cats, and small animals



1,469 OWNER SURRENDERS

Dogs, cats, and small animals



115 TRANSFERS

From other Indiana shelters and/or non-Hamilton County residents

3,327 **ANIMALS PLACED
INTO LOVING HOMES**
1,171 DOGS | 2,156 CATS

389 **LOST PETS REUNITED**
312 DOGS | 77 CATS

148 DAYS

CANINES SPENT TRAINING ONE-ON-ONE
WITH TRAINERS AT PAWS & PLAY, PETSUITES,
BARKEFELLERS AND 4 PAWS LODGE

♡ MARY AND BOB

OUR FOSTERS

The Humane Society for Hamilton County is one of the only open-admission, truly no-kill shelters in the country. Our foster families make it possible for us to continue saving lives and are also the reason we are able to transfer in animals at risk for euthanasia from surrounding shelters. There's no cost to foster – we just ask that you open your **heart and your home**.



591
TOTAL FOSTER
FAMILIES

1,379
FOSTER ANIMALS

includes 2 rabbits and 1 lizard

399 

977 

[HAMILTONHUMANE.COM/FOSTER](https://hamiltonhumane.com/foster)



♡ JOZIE & HARRISON

VOLUNTEERS & RESCUE RELIEF

Our volunteer base is comprised of over 900 dedicated and passionate individuals who donate their time and talents to HSHC – and they are integral to our mission.

[HAMILTONHUMANE.COM/VOLUNTEER](https://hamiltonhumane.com/volunteer)

♡ JENN & SHORTSTOP



♡ NEVAEH

591

TOTAL FOSTER
FAMILIES

952

TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS

1,113

SERVICE HOURS
DONATED BY
CORPORATE
GROUPS

67

TOTAL # OF
VOLUNTEER
ROLES

78,500

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

OUR PROGRAMS

It costs approximately \$635 per month, per animal to provide basic care and shelter to nearly 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 donor.

\$127,040
RAISED IN 2024

HSHCLOVELETLIVE.COM

♡ **ABBY & LORD BRIDGERTON**



Love & Let Live

HSHCLOVELETLIVE.com

What is the impact of a monthly gift?



\$20
per month

Provides one can of formula to an orphaned kitten.



\$50
per month

Feeds one dog for a month.



\$100
per month

Provides supplies for one foster animal for a month.



\$271
per month

Covers the cost to prepare a pet for adoption.

OUR PROGRAMS

\$165,756 RAISED IN 2024.
41 ANIMALS PAIRED
WITH 40 VETERANS.

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.

[PETSHEALINGVETS.COM](https://petshealingvets.com)

♡ ARIEL & BOBO



♡ BRANDON
& PAC MAN





\$131,527 RAISED IN 2024.
2,481 ANIMAL LIVES SAVED.

428 FROM OTHER SHELTERS/OUT OF COUNTY

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.

HAMILTONHUMANE.COM/SURVIVOR



♡ **MIA CASHEW**

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.

211

PET
FAMILIES
SERVED



KIMCHI

OUR 2024 SUCCESSES

2024 was a landmark year filled with record-breaking attendance and fundraising for each of our major events – Wine, Wags & Whiskers, Woofstock Survivor 5k & Dog Walk, and Tinsel & Tails.

\$272,239

Raised at Wine,
Wags & Whiskers

**\$947,261
RAISED**

\$170,126

Raised at
Woofstock

\$504,896

Raised at
Tinsel & Tails

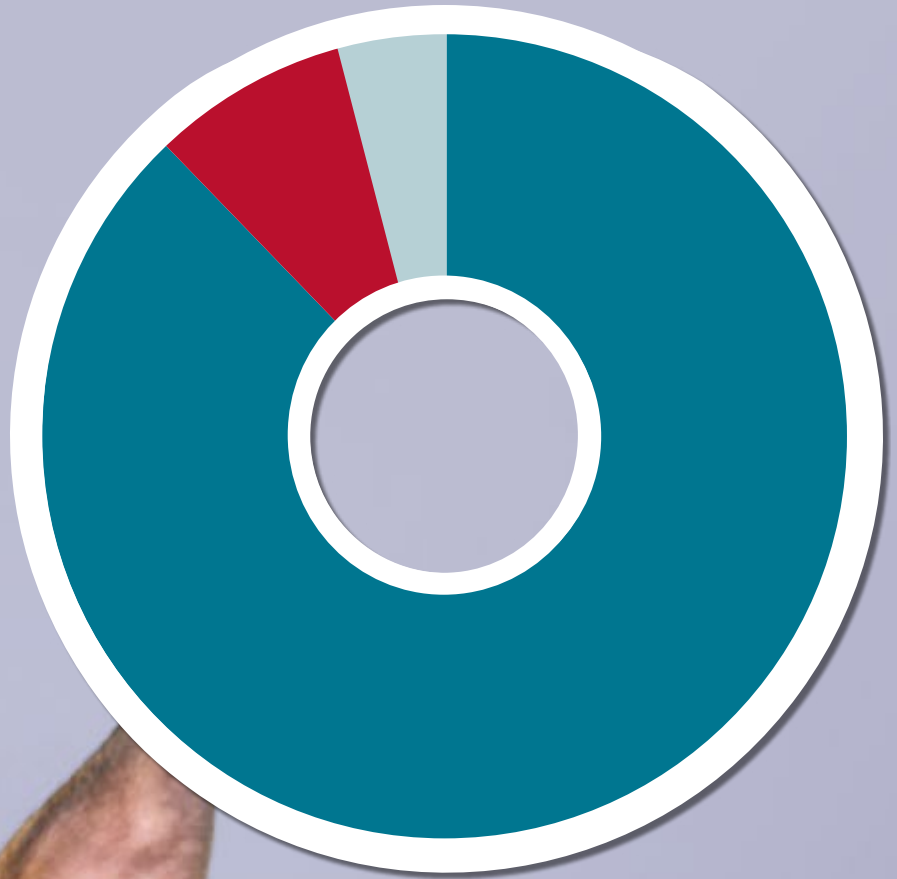
♥ AMELIA



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$4,830,887

SPENT IN 2024



\$3,956,930

Program Services



\$569,536

Fundraising



\$304,421

Management & General

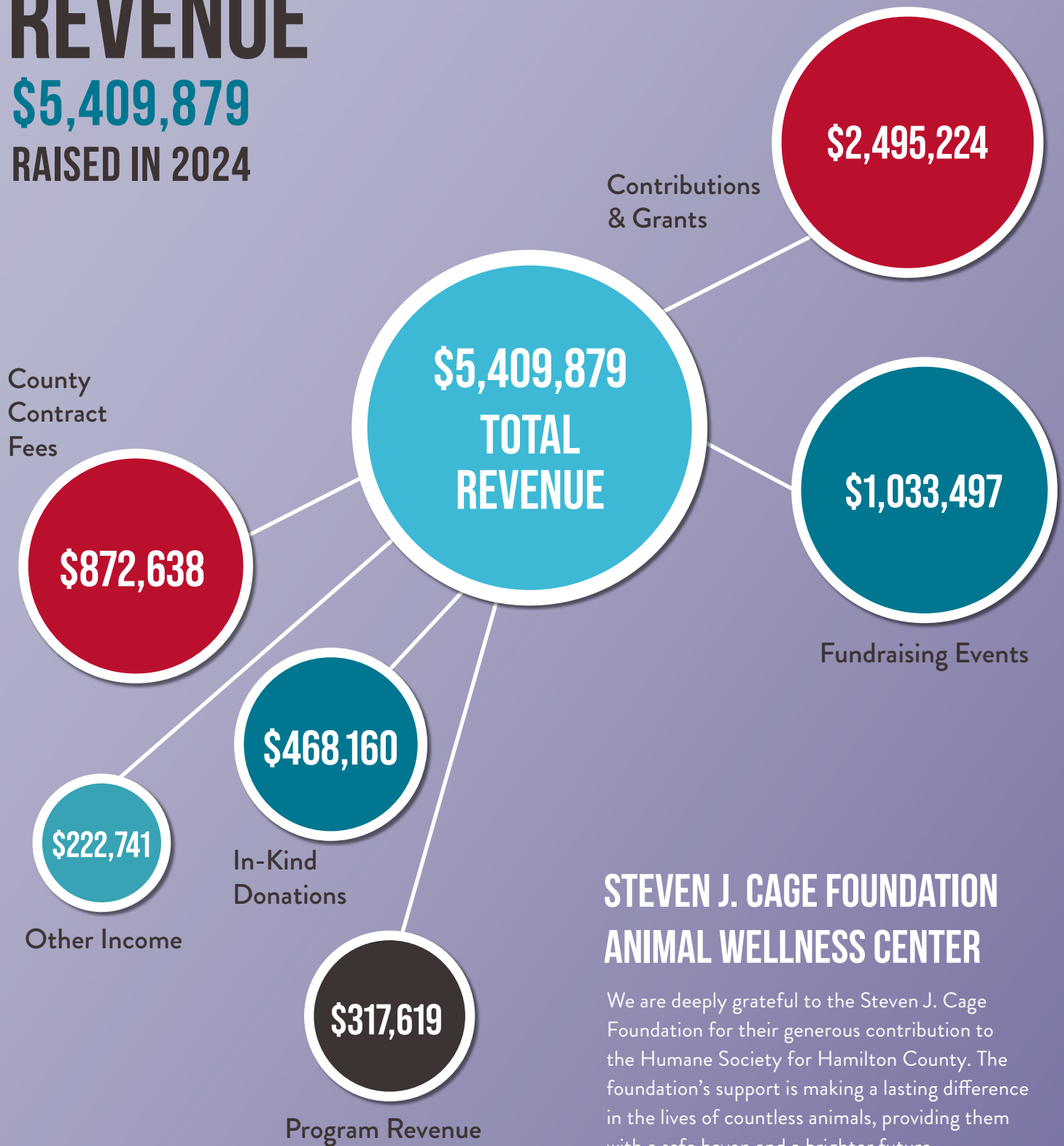
♡ LARRY

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE
FINANCIALS PRESENTED FOR
2024 HAVE NOT YET BEEN AUDITED.

TOTAL REVENUE

\$5,409,879

RAISED IN 2024



STEVEN J. CAGE FOUNDATION ANIMAL WELLNESS CENTER

We are deeply grateful to the Steven J. Cage Foundation for their generous contribution to the Humane Society for Hamilton County. The foundation's support is making a lasting difference in the lives of countless animals, providing them with a safe haven and a brighter future.

MARKETING, OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISING



93,231

FOLLOWERS



10,773

FOLLOWERS



21,400

FOLLOWERS



1,196

FOLLOWERS



394,000

FOLLOWERS



♡ BEANIE



HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

Portraits
courtesy of

*Furto*graphy
STUDIO

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Fishers, IN 46038

hamiltonhumane.com