



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# A YEAR OF REFLECTION ON THE PAST & HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

As we embarked on our 70th anniversary in 2023, it was a year of reflection over the past 7 decades and hope for the future even amongst an overpopulation crisis in animal welfare. The heart of our mission hasn't changed. Like the six women who started this organization, we're here continuing the fight to advocate, educate and adopt out pets. We're here for the homeless pets who need us to be their voice and protectors and the communities we serve.

- We helped 1,716 pets find their forever homes and placed 643 animals in foster homes on the road to adoption.
- While the aftershocks of COVID and the veterinarian shortage still has the animal welfare world reeling, our incredible Dr. Kristin Tvrdik was there on the front lines with her medical team and performed 2,602 spay/neuter surgeries.
- Our programs continue to be a vital resource for our communities serving over 900 youths, providing 1,500 support distributions to pet parents, and serving 1,000 hours of pet therapy sessions.

Last year, so many people asked me what my vision and hopes for the future are. There are obvious operational answers: we need collaboration in our communities to tackle the overpopulation crisis in animal welfare; ensure that all people have access to pet food support and affordable medical care; and breaking barriers to adoption.

But beyond that?

My biggest hope is that 70 years from now, HHS continues to be a beacon of hope for animals in need, transforming lives, creating heartwarming stories of second chances and unconditional love. We owe it to the gentleman who came to adopt a dog because his wife has Alzheimer's and he just wanted her to have a companion to brighten her day. We owe it to the kids who come through our Humane Education program who learn to be kind and compassionate not just to animals but to humans too. We owe it to the Veterans who come in for pet therapy sessions so they can forget about their PTSD even for an hour. We owe it to the kittens we find abandoned in our parking lot and the dogs we find tied to trees. We owe it to the couple at our last free vaccination clinic who cried because without that help they thought they might have to surrender their dog. Most of all, we owe it to those 6 women who were so revolutionary for the animals and for the community.

*Homeless animals need HHS  
This community needs HHS*

This annual report will tell more about the year celebrating our past and the wins of our present, the struggles of the crisis we are going through, and the stories and happy endings that will help us get to the other side in a place of hope and happiness.

While the battle against pet overpopulation and homelessness wages on, we're happy that we can be here to fight it, thanks to the generosity of the businesses, donors, adopters, and friends like you, who support our work and mission every day.

*With sincere gratitude,*



*Jacki Rossi*

**Jacki Rossi**  
Executive Director,  
Hinsdale Humane Society

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## MISSION

Hinsdale Humane Society is a nonprofit animal shelter providing innovative care and adoption services for all animals, including those that are harder to place. We educate, advocate and adopt out pets, acting as a voice for animals who depend on people for their care. We nurture the human-animal bond through community outreach and progressive programming, to help ensure the compassionate treatment of all animals.



# ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT



## **SADIE**

Sadie was adopted but returned due to unexplained outbursts of aggression. We initially thought she was reactive to other cats, until she exhibited aggression towards her own tail. She would be diagnosed with feline hyperesthesia, a condition causing painful hypersensitivity on her spine. Sadie's treatment involved medication and exercise, gradually gaining her significant relief. Over time HHS staff discovered her preferences for sparkle balls and the food she liked with her medicine. She was cared for patiently during her stay of 397 days, a longer time than normal for our adoptable cats due to her special needs. She would be adopted by a wonderful family who understood her condition and were ready to give her the care she needed, with continued medication provided by HHS.



## **HARPER**

Transferred to HHS as a 3-month old puppy, Harper was quickly adopted, then sadly returned to the shelter at 1 year old. He was initially nervous and withdrawn, especially around men, and struggled in his interactions with other dogs. Staff and volunteers spent 10 months patiently building his confidence with activities including agility, playtime, field trips, and even a foster stay. Gradually, after much patient socializing and building positive associations with new people and dogs, Harper warmed up to people and enjoyed playing with other dogs. He finally found his true forever home in August, getting adopted by a family with another dog, ready to provide plenty of love and attention.



The Villages we serve with stray animal populations include: Brookfield, Burr Ridge, Hinsdale, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, Oak Brook, Western Springs, Willow Springs. We have adopters, program participants and supporters from many other nearby suburbs and counties, as well as nationally.

# PARTNERSHIPS & WAYS TO GIVE

There are so many ways to help impact the lives of animals in need and provide vital services to our communities. With contributions from our generous supporters, we are able to:

- Improve public safety and health conditions, as our **Animal Care and Medical** team helps thousands of homeless animals that might otherwise roam the streets.
- Provide financial relief to local families in need through our **Community Resources** such as pet food pantries, vaccine clinics and camperships.
- Respond in an urgent manner to HHS adoptable animals with emergency medical needs through our **Zach Leathers Emergency Medical Fund**.
- Teach both children and adults to respect, protect, and understand the animals that share our world.
- Our **Humane Education Program** focuses on animal welfare and safety, encouraging compassion through numerous initiatives such as summer camps, and volunteer opportunities.
- Enhance the well-being of hundreds of children, seniors, patients and healthcare workers through our **Therapaws Pet Therapy Program** in libraries, eldercare communities, healthcare facilities, and more.
- Nurture the human animal bond and provide ongoing support — moral, financial, and educational — to our military veterans and active duty servicemen and women and military families through the **BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets Program**.

## IMPACT

### ZACH LEATHERS



### EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

### ZACH LEATHERS EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

The memory of Zachary Leathers carries on through the medical fund established in his name. From 2021-2023, the fund has helped 20 HHS adoptable animals with vital, emergent, life-saving care at specialty veterinary hospitals. In 2023, Wyoming was a special recipient of the fund. Wyoming collapsed while on a walk, unable to rise, with pale gums, and in critical condition. She was taken to a local emergency clinic and diagnosed with anaphylactic shock. While we don't know what caused this severe reaction (it may have been a



simple bug bite), what we do know is that the Emergency Medical Fund saved her life by allowing us to say yes to a costly emergency clinic bill to stabilize and hospitalize her for 48 hours. Because of this, Wyoming, a young girl with a bright future, made a full recovery and was adopted into a loving home.



*Cleo and Ginger*

### MATCH ME UP CAT CAMPAIGN

The annual “Match Me Up” Campaign for cat adoptions focuses on finding homes through waived fees and specialized promotion for “harder to adopt” cats including seniors, FIV and Feline Leukemia

positive cats, bonded pairs, medical cases, long term residents, and cats that require special homes. In 2023, the campaign raised \$5,343 and facilitated adoptions for 36 cats – like Cleo and Ginger. At 8 and 11 years, respectively, Cleo and Ginger were a challenge to get adopted. They were a bonded pair, Cleo had one eye, and Ginger was a bit shy, so the task of finding them an adoptive home was even more daunting. These two girls were beautiful and sweet and deserved a home together for their golden years. That’s when the Match Me Up program came to the rescue! By covering their adoption fee, this wonderful campaign made it easier for these girls to find their forever home.





## HUMANE HEROES

Thanks to the support of our monthly membership program, we were able to pull Gwynie from Chicago Animal Care & Control. Gwynie was a mixed-pitbull who was found in an abandoned house with her two sisters and puppies, with no water and what was left of a torn open bag of dog food. While she had physical scars from shattered glass, she showed no emotional ones from what she endured in her past. Gwynie was a model citizen who loved everyone she met, winning over the hearts of those in the community who were afraid of pitbulls. In February of 2023, Gwynie was adopted by a wonderful family and is now living her best life, thanks to the consistent support of our Humane Heroes!



Scooter

## LOVE AN UNDERDOG CAMPAIGN

Scooter came to HHS with a bit of a history. His first family didn't socialize him properly and were overly harsh with their training. His second owner claimed that he was reactive with other dogs and people on walks, making Scooter wear a muzzle before surrendering him. As we worked with him in the Underdog program, he showed what a good boy he could be, demonstrating that he enjoyed play groups with other dogs. And while he could get frustrated and reactive while on a leash, he was fine with other people.

After working with him in the shelter, and giving in-home support, Scooter now has a family that will love him forever!

## COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

Gifts in honor or memory of a beloved person or pet, or special event or organization, may be made to support our work. HHS has unique opportunities to pay tribute to loved ones, through our Carla E. Fisher Memorial Garden, and Mary Alice Mumford Memorial Plaque. You are able to personalize garden bricks or a paw print plaque. These personal tributes are a perfect way to continue the legacies of loved ones.

## CAMPERSHIPS

We are committed to providing an affordable camp experience for a diverse community of young people. Camperships are developed to help provide meaningful experiences for kids who, because of financial challenges, may not otherwise be able to attend one of the camps.

## LOCAL CANISTER FUNDRAISING

HHS recognizes the following businesses as the top Canister Fundraisers of 2023:

### SHELL FOOD MARKET

210 East Odgen Avenue  
Hinsdale, IL  
Owners - John Archer &  
Robin Gabriel

### CASEY'S MARKET

915 Burlington Avenue  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
Owner - David Casey

### KIRSCHBAUM'S BAKERY

825 Burlington Avenue  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
Owner - Penny Kirschbaum

### HARVESTER VETERINARY HOSPITAL

807 Village Center Drive  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Practice Manager -  
Mary Ellen Callahan

We appreciate the support of all the businesses who collect funds for us via this program.



## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA SPOTLIGHT

HHS hosted its 70th anniversary celebration on September 22, 2023 at The Community House. More than 150 people attended the event and enjoyed music from "Stirred Not Shaken Jazz" and "True Company Band." They savored delicious food and drinks (including the signature cocktail "Pitty in Pink") and bid on a wide array of fabulous silent and live auction items.

The event raised more than \$150,000 in support of HHS's vital mission, ensuring that countless animals could be rescued, adopted, medically treated, cared for and loved.

Let's continue the legacy of the six women who founded Hinsdale Humane Society!



# PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are critical in supporting our mission. These relationships support our work in many ways including financial support with sponsorships or community fundraisers, supply drives, and cross promotion in which we reinforce each other's programs and services for the communities we serve.

A few of these valued partnerships from 2023:



## DUPAGE FOUNDATION

We recognize it's more compassionate, cost effective, humane, and efficient to keep pets in their homes, rather than them being cycled through the shelter system. We will continue to rescue thousands of dogs and cats each year from the shelter system to find them new homes, but this is only half the challenge. Partnering with DuPage Foundation allows us to provide vital medical services to families in need through six free vaccination clinics, including microchipping, leashes, collars, food and other supplies. Our thanks to DuPage Foundation for also supporting our care for community cats and making a difference with animal lovers and non-profits like HHS.

## AUTOBARN SUBARU OF COUNTRYSIDE

Our friends at Autobarn Subaru of Countryside have supported our mission for years, through their Subaru Loves Pets promotions that provide us with financial support to help with adoption, rescue, transport and healthcare for animals in need. Supporting our puppy party and adoption events makes a real impact. It's good to have friends in the community like Subaru.

## HINSDALE NURSERIES

From installing a sprinkler system to donating large planters and trees, to weekly yard work and landscape clean-up, we are so fortunate to have the support of Hinsdale Nurseries. Their generosity and care for our mission is greatly appreciated as it allows us to put our best foot forward to all the adopters, volunteers, staff, donors and guests who visit our facility each week.

## GEBAUER TILE & STONE

For each of the last five years Pete, Pat and Peter Gebauer host a memorial golf outing fundraiser to carry forward Heidi Gebauer's love, respect and care for animals in need. Heidi visited HHS often and encouraged her family to adopt, become vegetarian and be conscious of their use of items that negatively impact the environment. We are so grateful to the Gebauer family and their friends who so generously support us in Heidi's name each year.

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## OAKBROOK CENTER

The property management team at Oakbrook Center love and support animals in many ways. In 2023 they sponsored 3 pet adoption events with HHS, and dedicated one of their summer movie night events to us. Attendees brought wishlist items, and we adopted out over 10 dogs at the events in 2023. We're looking forward to doing more together in 2024.

## PEDIGREE/MARS

HHS was very happy to be part of the PEDIGREE brand Shelter Sunday adoption event the weekend after Thanksgiving, where PEDIGREE reimbursed adoption fees for dogs nationwide. Six of our dogs were featured as they "prepared to be in their big tv debut", being groomed, walking and playing with volunteers and staff. Jacki Rossi spoke in the commercial about the impact of this support to shelter dogs and adopting families, especially during the overpopulation crisis in animal welfare. We were thrilled to support dog adoptions through this national effort and thank PEDIGREE for choosing us.





# DR. KRISTIN'S MEDICAL YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2023, the animal welfare world continued to reel from the effects of COVID-era shutdown of elective spay/neuter services and the growing dilemma of a shortage of veterinarians available to help catch up with the mounting number of animals needing care. Hinsdale Humane Society's on-site medical team stepped up to the challenge and performed thousands of spay/neuter surgeries, specialty procedures/surgeries, and basic wellness/sick patient care for our animals, other rescue groups, and the public.

Our local animal controls and streets have been flooded with abandoned and stray pets. Our Chicagoland animal welfare partners are all playing a vital role, along with HHS, in helping these pets escape their precarious situations and find loving homes. Unfortunately, many of our local, hard-working rescue groups and shelters do not have their own veterinarians on staff and are limited in the amount of appointments they are able to book at local low-cost spay/neuter clinics or general practices in a timely fashion. HHS has stepped up since 2020 to ensure that our local groups have a place to get their animals safely and quickly vetted by our expert medical team. This allows our friends in local shelters to adopt out as many animals as possible. We are of the mindset that we cannot act alone to help battle the overpopulation crisis in our area. Helping other animal welfare groups succeed allows for the maximum number of pets to be helped in our communities.

The HHS medical team also performs more specialized procedures such as mass removals, eye surgeries, and sick patient care. Heartworm positive dogs that enter the shelter are treated at no cost to adopters. HHS continues to admit more FeLV (Feline Leukemia) positive cats each year in an effort to adopt out these special needs kitties into the homes they deserve.

While we are very proud of our efforts and the continued growth of our medical program, we look to the future as a chance to help even more animals that will need our care in 2024 and beyond.



## 2023 HHS CLINIC STATISTICS



**308**

Free vaccination clinic patients



**20**

Heartworm positive dogs admitted & treated



**28**

FIV positive cats admitted



**5**

FeLV positive cats admitted

## SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES COMPLETED:



**1,044**

Cats



**229**

Dogs



**1,273**

Total spay/neuter surgeries for other rescues



**130**

TNR surgeries for feral cat rescue groups



**51**

TNR surgeries for private caretakers



**181**

Total feral cat TNR procedures



**63**

Cats



**10**

Dogs



**73**

Total spay/neuter surgeries for public clients (not including TNR)



**420**

Cat spays



**340**

Cat neuters



**141**

Dog spays



**174**

Dog neuters



**1,075**

Total HHS shelter resident spay/neuter surgeries



**2,048**

Cats



**554**

Dogs



**2,602**

Total spay/neuter surgeries in 2023

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## HUMANE EDUCATION

Our Humane Education Program served over 5,000 children in 2023 by teaching children and adults how to respect, protect, and understand the animals that share our world through camps and other program initiatives such as:

- Ten weeks of summer camps with 24 campers each.
- New spring and winter break camps with children of different ages in attendance, all eager to learn about animal welfare during their holiday break.
- Our All Abilities Animal Friends Camp for children with developmental and cognitive disabilities. The camp was free to attendees because of the generosity of our communities, donating camperships to cover operational expenses.
- We enhanced our Animal Advocate Academy, a membership program for our youth that gives them access to Compassionate Kids Corps, Animal Advocates Club, with 976 youth participating.
- Launched the Pet Loss Grief Support Group with a pet grief therapist leading small groups through conversation and exercises to grieve and learn together.
- We added the Pawsitive Impact volunteer program for 13-14 year olds to prepare for our “Teen-ternship” volunteer program (age 15+) by doing various tasks around the shelter each week. 99 young teens have participated in the fall of 2023.
- Books, Barks Meow provided children an opportunity to read to our dogs and cats providing enrichment, while boosting literary skills and confidence.
- Our Jr. Board hosted the ARF Gallery and other events that raised over \$2,000.



## THERAPAWS PET THERAPY

Our Therapaws Pet Therapy Program strengthens the human-animal bond and brings the healing power of pets to those needing mental, physical, emotional or educational support. In 2023, our 50+ pet therapy teams delivered over 1,000 hours of pet therapy to our local community members. Here are a few of the services we provided in 2023:

- In 2023, 10 local libraries were part of our Therapaws Read Program that allows young readers to practice their reading skills in an open, non judgemental environment.
- Therapaws pets also supported the Humane Education Summer Camps and Winter Break Camp, including our All Abilities Campers.
- Teams visited senior citizens, Veterans, first responders, hospitals and multiple schools along with other requests for those that needed the benefit of love and support from our Pet Therapy teams.

## TRAINING & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Our Training & Enrichment Program focused on both positive reinforcement classes for pet families and behavioral work for our shelter animals, crucial to keeping those pets mentally healthy while living with us. During 2023, we also:

- Grew our program by more than 50% with 338 training & enrichment sessions both in shelter and at homes.
- Provided adopters with free training sessions for our harder to adopt dogs through our Underdog campaign.
- Expanded our programs including Agility for Fun training and Pet Therapy Prep.
- Implemented Training Tip Thursdays on our social media to share helpful ideas every week.





## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Giving back to the communities and individuals that support us is ingrained in our mission as an organization. Here are a few of the initiatives for our Community Resources Program during 2023:

- Pet Food Pantries - In partnership with HCS Family Services, we provided pet food & care items to populate their pantry for those in need. We served 1,519 dogs and cats through all of our pantries.
- We hosted multiple blood drives with the American Red Cross.
- We held 6 free vaccination and microchip clinics through our partnership with DuPage Foundation and the support of DuPage County Animal Services and served 308 animals, delivering 512 vaccinations.

## FOSTER PROGRAM

Our Foster Program opens up space in our shelter to save more lives and provides animals with unique needs with an atmosphere where they can thrive, both physically and mentally away from the stress of the shelter environment. In 2023, our foster program continued to expand to address the influx of animals at HHS:

- Over 640 animals were in foster homes for a few days to a couple months.
- More than 250 foster families stepped up to foster animals, including puppy, kitten, medical and senior cases, and critters such as bunnies and guinea pigs.
- We shared information through open houses and offsite events to onboard more fosters.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our Volunteer Program is the backbone of our shelter. Hundreds of volunteers are embedded with our staff in activities such as dog walking and enrichment, cat socializing, kennel cleaning, laundry, greeting visitors at our front desk, special events, foster families and more. In 2023, volunteer program highlights include:

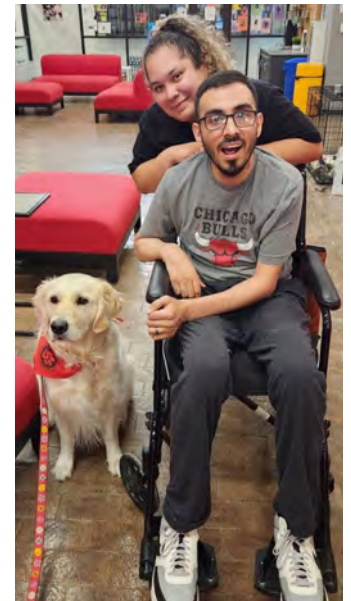
- Almost 22,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 11 additional staff members.
  - 332 new volunteers joined us, including more than 60 new youth volunteers.
  - A volunteer appreciation event with activities and awards for many.
- .....



## BJ CHIMENTI ANGEL FUND FOR VETERANS AND PETS PROGRAM

The mission of the BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets Program is to nurture the healing powers of the human-animal bond and provide ongoing support to our Veterans and military families. In addition to companion animal matchups, the program provides pet therapy sessions for veterans and military families, emergency medical pet care support, food pantry support and veteran volunteer opportunities. During 2023, the second year of the program, we:

- Provided vaccinations and other medical care to the cats and dogs of over 40 Veterans.
- Supported 10 Veterans with over 28 direct Pet Pantry Supply requests, shipped directly to their homes so they don't need to worry about means of transportation.
- Continued to nurture and build important partnerships with the Chicago Veterans, Wounded Warrior Project, and the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.
- Started a new partnership with Hines VA providing Pet Supply Pantry Support at their monthly Food Pantry, supplying food, leashes, collars, toys and supplies for cats and dogs of Veterans in need.
- Provided Pet Therapy visits to Veterans at HHS, Hines VA and Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans throughout the year.



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

**98%**

animal save rate.

Total intake number:

**1,828**

Cats received

**1,127**

Dogs received

**667**

Other animals received

**34**

**643**

animals in foster.

**2,602**

spay/neuter surgeries performed.



## ADOPTION STATISTICS

**1,716**

pets found forever homes.



Every effort has been made to provide information that is current and accurate. Nevertheless, inadvertent errors in information may occur. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about these numbers.

**332**

new volunteers.

Youth (15-18)  
**21%**



Adults (18+)  
**79%**

**1,003**

hours of Pet Therapy received.

**1,519**

community resource support distributions.

## VACCINE CLINICS

in partnership with Lane Veterinary and DuPage Foundation

**308**

animals received veterinary care.

**512**

vaccines given.

**21,960**

combined volunteer hours.

**941**

total participants in Animal Advocates, Humane Ed Camp, and Pawsitive Impact.

**338**

Training & Enrichment sessions.

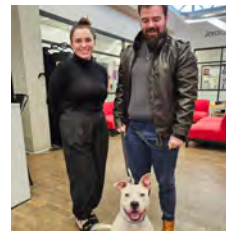
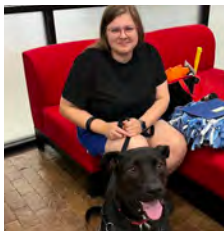
**177**

new clients signed up for dog training.

**79**

requests fulfilled through the BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets, including animal match-ups, pantry support, pet therapy visits, vaccinations, and medical care.

Statistics from January 1 through December 31, 2023





# 2023 FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2023 -  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

## REVENUE

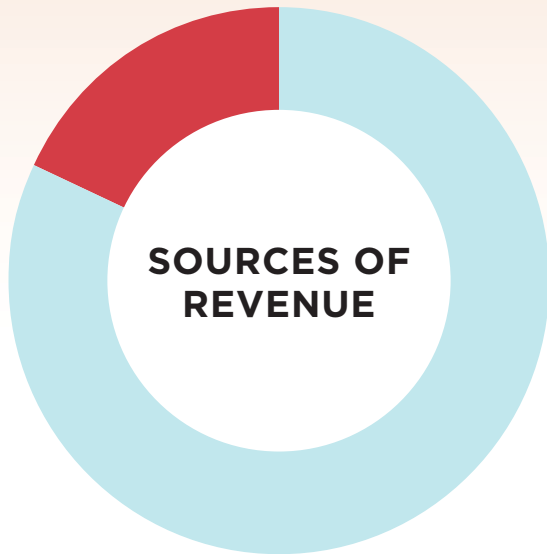
**\$1,767,277**

## EXPENSES

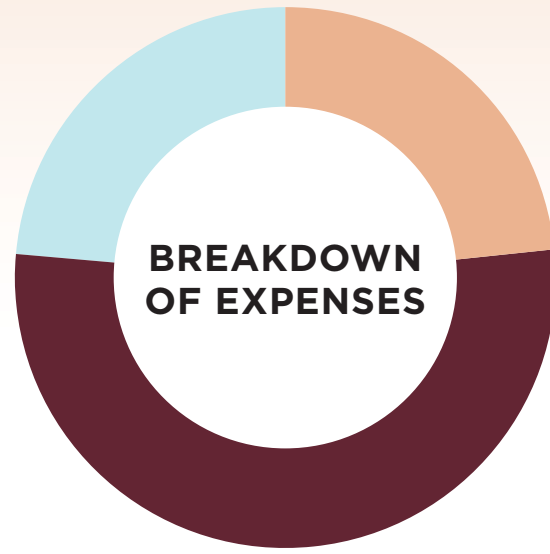
**\$1,970,421**

## NET INCOME

**-\$203,144**



- Fundraising, Donations & Programmatic Revenue: \$1,451,519 - **82.13%**
- Adoptions & Other Animal Related: \$315,757 - **17.87%**



- Fundraising & Donations: \$462,096 - **23.45%**
- Shelter Operations, Animal Care & Programs and Corporate: \$1,048,394 - **53.21%**
- Administration: \$459,929 - **23.34%**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JoAnn McGuinness

### Vice President

Jay Schaldecker

### Secretary

Robby Bartholomai

### Treasurer

Andrew Schmidt

### Members

Dr. Sarah Baker, Julie Beringer, Donna Evans, Barbara Hollis, Tina Martinez, Laurie McMahon, Nick McKeehan, Bob Moreland, Marc O'Brien, Mark Schlosser, Gail Tavill

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*This annual report  
is printed on  
recycled paper.*



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Hinsdale Humane Society

The Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center

21 Salt Creek Lane | Hinsdale, IL 60521

[hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org)

