



INSIDE LOOK

Spring 2021

[Going Above & Beyond]

Volunteers & Fosters

Stepping up Every Day

Bonded Pairs

More to Love

Pet Therapy

Emotional Support

Photo Credit: Danny Herrera, HHS Volunteer



**“NOT ENOUGH GRATITUDE
CAN BE GIVEN FOR ALL OF
THOSE WHO WENT ABOVE
AND BEYOND...”**



Director's Letter / Tom Van Winkle

I have been tasked with writing about “going above and beyond” for this issue. Please forgive the brevity of each section below, as I have limited space, but I want to recognize all of the groups of individuals who stepped up last year, and who continue to do so, for our animals. What follows is miserably short compared to what each group accomplished.

Our HHS Team

I do my best to give our team the recognition they deserve, yet the day after I write something, they turn around and do something else amazing. Examples of going above and beyond are countless, but here are just a few:

- *Showed up DAILY to provide the care our animals so richly deserve*
- *Operated our low cost clinic and pet food bank for families struggling financially so they can keep their pets healthy and happy*
- *Learned how to run a hugely successful fundraiser that was completely virtual*
- *Kept our shelter clean, organized and operating*
- *Produced amazing materials, videos, promotions, etc. to keep our communities informed about our work and our animals*
- *Kept our Information Technology up and running while working almost 100% remote*
- *Altered our education programs for our children so they could still safely experience our classes*
- *Took our Therapaws therapy pets to area hospitals to give our caregivers a chance to unwind and snuggle with a furry friend outside, where it was safe for all*
- *Began a training program for our in-house animals to help them find their forever homes more quickly*
- *Managed our finances in a professional, ethical and conservative manner to ensure we didn't have to reduce the number of pets we help*

Donors/Supporters

The willingness to not only keep giving, but in many cases increase the amount of the gifts, was absolutely amazing from our base of supporters. It was expected that giving would be way down because of the challenges and uncertainty the pandemic brought us, but HHS supporters didn't get that message. Words cannot convey what you did for HHS and our animals last year. Your support LITERALLY saved lives, and that is not an exaggeration.

Board of Directors

Boards of directors often get very little public thanks. They are at the top rung of the organization, so they usually give out the thanks. The HHS board went above and beyond not only in their personal support, but in stepping up and helping manage our way through 2020.

Volunteers

No article would be complete without recognizing our volunteers. It was amazing to see so many people continue to come in and help the animals. Not only that, but those who couldn't come in, stepped up and helped in other ways, from donating needed items to supporting our online activity. HHS would not have been able to make it through 2020 without our wonderful, dedicated volunteers.

Not enough gratitude can be given for all of those who went above and beyond to think of our organization in the midst of a pandemic. I'm sending my sincerest thanks to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Van Winkle".

Tom Van Winkle | CEO/Executive Director

Past, Present & Future Events

We've all been through quite a journey this past year, and for HHS, that's meant reimagining how to bring fun events to our supporters while keeping everyone safe. Following are a few of the ways we have met and will meet that challenge.



Dog DNA

For those wondering what breed(s) made up their pup(s), our Dog DNA event provided a perfect opportunity to find out just that. A curbside swabbing event took place on March 30th. Participants were able to submit their best guess of their dog's breed at registration, and got their results just a few weeks later.



Pet Totes

We're always working on new ideas for fundraisers in the time of COVID. New this year is a chance to show off your pet with a custom drawing of his/her face and name on a tote bag. Totes are \$25 each for one pet and \$5 for one additional pet on the bag (no more than 2 pets per bag). Orders are being taken online through 5/15.



Pet Walk Festival

After 30 years of Pet Walk, we had to take our first year off last summer due to COVID. But in 2021, it's back on June 26th! Even though it will be slightly different for safety reasons, we are thrilled to welcome this beloved community event back. More details are coming soon.



Generosity: UNLEASHED!

On February 27, more than 115 people joined us for Unleashed, our new virtual fundraiser that brought together all the fun of an evening out for a cause, with all the safety of participating from home. Our host, Larry Little, emceed and united supporters from across the country.

VIP guests had cocktail demonstrations from TAO Chicago Mixologist, Diliana Lee, and learned how to make chicken satay and cucumber salad with Kai MacNicol, owner of Rough Edges Confectionery & Cookery. Blues, jazz and rock music from Jimmy Fastiggi kicked off the night.

The main portion of the evening featured a special message from our supporter and friend, ABC-7's Judy Hsu, as well as appearances from two and four-legged guests, touching alumni stories, and a vital medical Fund A Need campaign. Generosity was unleashed and proceeds from the evening, more than \$40,000, will benefit the animals of the Pet Rescue & Resource Center and the important programs we provide for the community. A special thank you to our sponsors:

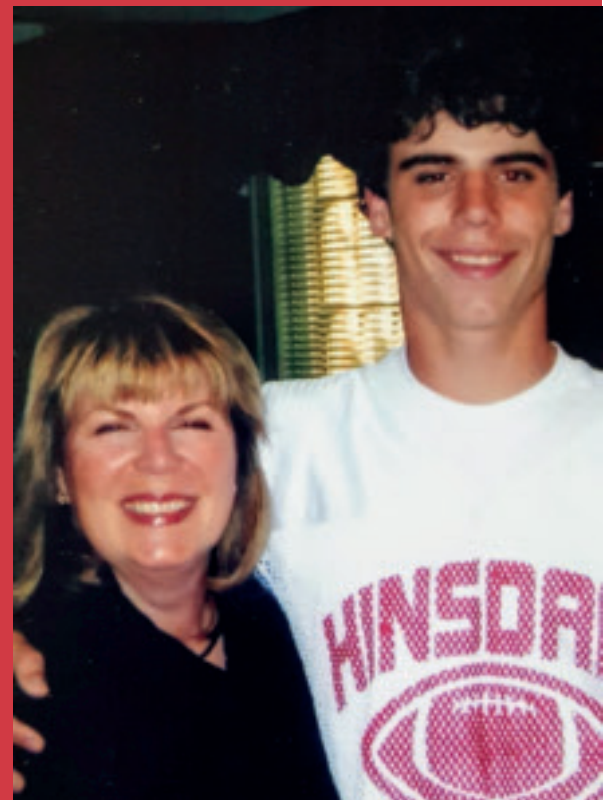


Presenting Sponsor: SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits | Ruby Sponsors: State Farm - Tina Tzinares, Wiggle Tooth Fairy Registry, Oak Brook Kennel Club, VGG Associates, Oak Brook | Specialty Sponsors: Insperty, Liebchen Brolin Kraus - HHS Alum and the Salem Group, Oak Brook Terrace. Special thanks to all of our amazing silent auction donors who will be featured in our May issue of Enews.



Zach Leathers Emergency Medical Fund

A Legacy of Compassion and Kindness



The memory of Zachary Leathers carries on through the mission of the fund established in his name: vital care for special needs animals allowing them to live full and happy lives.

For the kind-hearted young man who was always watching out for and protecting those in need, Zach's Fund is the perfect tribute to his life.

"Zach was always the one volunteering to bring the critters home from his class for summer," said his mom, Winnie Leathers. "Our house was the resort for all those animals."

Zach's connection to Hinsdale Humane Society (HHS) goes all the way back to the days when he would get on his bike and pedal to the shelter just to look at the cats and dogs.

But not every animal that comes to the shelter is immediately adoptable due to health issues or other circumstances beyond their control. Some animals come in needing intensive medical help. The Zach Leathers Emergency Medical Fund is essential in giving those special needs animals the medical care they so desperately need.

THE FUND WILL:

ALLOW us to respond in a timely, urgent manner to an animal with great need. No animal will wait for emergency care.

HELP us offset the cost of diagnostic radiographs, heartworm treatment, corrective and emergency surgeries, specialized diagnostic assessments and eye care, and laboratory testing for the special needs animals we receive.

PROVIDE resources for our volunteer fosters who are critical in providing a quiet space for our animals to heal.

IMPACT the community by:

- *Purchasing surgical supplies and medications for the dogs and cats we spay/neuter for rescue groups and for other shelters, which average about 50 per month.*
- *Allowing us to help partner organizations when they are in need because we believe as a community, we are stronger together.*

**We are honored to be the recipient of Zach's legacy of kindness, compassion and love.
"When we lose someone we love we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the
love they left behind." – Unknown**



Tribute to a Friend

We lost a very dear friend and important influence in all of our lives at HHS. BJ Chimenti was a fixture within our organization for as far back as any of us can recall. She was always there to help support our work and the animals. And she always charmed us with her sense of humor, her beautiful smile and her grace.

Following are excerpts from her obituary... one that we've found inspirational in living our own lives. Farewell to a beautiful human.

"Barbara Jean "BJ" Morgan Chimenti died peacefully after courageously fighting a rare cancer for several months.

It is not possible to capture all that BJ was on this earth. She brightened every life she touched with her warmth, her beauty, her charm, her wit, her many talents, her elegance and her compassion. She embraced all living things. She put herself through college and became a flight attendant for TWA, a career that spanned many years and took many forms, including at the corporate marketing level. Later, BJ served on numerous non-profit organization Boards and tirelessly, joyfully and selflessly engaged in countless volunteer charitable activities in the Hinsdale area. BJ loved all animals and they loved her. The Volunteer of the Year Award of Family Shelter Service is known as the BJ Chimenti Award.

She owned and operated Biondi women's store in Hinsdale. As one of the founders of the Community House Players, BJ appeared in all performances of Community Revue since 1997, including a cameo appearance last year while undergoing chemotherapy. Her passion for exotic travel was unmatched and took her to every continent. She embraced penguins in Antarctica, fed and bathed elephants in Thailand, swam with sharks in the Galapagos Islands, frolicked with newborn Humpbacks in Baja and climbed African mountains to bond with gorillas. All of this barely scratched the surface and does not do the amazing BJ justice."

We couldn't agree more and will remember her forever with all the joy and beauty she left as her legacy.

Volunteers and Fosters

Going Above and Beyond

A recent story illustrates the lengths our volunteers and fosters go to help with our animals in need. We took in 18 puppies who ended up being quite a bit younger than expected, and all needed foster care. Seven of them were bottle or gruel babies. With so many needing help so quickly, it was a scramble, but the response was incredible.

"The number of amazing people that stepped up to help was insane," said Kelsey Barry, Volunteer & Foster Coordinator, HHS. "Especially those cat fosters who made the switch to puppies to help out in a pinch!" All 18 puppies came in and went right back out to foster care on the very same day, thanks to fosters who went above and beyond.

Foster families have been our rock, and have gone through hard times over the past year with COVID, taking in lots of litters. Their kindness and generosity has been overwhelming. "We had a first time foster family that took in puppies, two of which came down with parvo," said Kelsey. "And they handled it all beautifully, and then asked for more! Kitten and puppy season has officially begun and it's wonderful to see their commitment."

"Our dedicated kennel volunteers are another amazing group," said Kelsey. "Thanks to their help, our counselors have a much less hectic schedule." And the "regulars," the volunteers who have always been with us, are continuing to come in every week to help.

"If we send out a plea, they come out in droves to make sure the animals are being walked," said Kelsey. "Some are even training their 18 year old and older kids to help, so we've got the next generation of volunteers coming up!"

Event volunteers have also jumped in to help with new and different types of events. "COVID made people go above and beyond to reach out and help. We're always accepting new volunteers and fosters, and new volunteer positions will come up soon as we're able to open our doors to visitors safely again," said Kelsey.

To learn more about volunteer and foster opportunities, visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/volunteer/adult-volunteers or contact kelsey@hinsdalehumanesociety.org



Kitten Season and the Perils of Declawing

Nola's Story

Kitten season is here, making it an appropriate time to talk about issues arising from declawing. While some may believe it's nothing more than a permanent nail trim, it is in fact an amputation of each toe up to the first knuckle. In many countries, it's actually illegal. New York is the only U.S. state to ban it, however, there are cities and towns throughout the country that have passed legislation banning the surgery. Following are just some of the reasons:

- Once claws are removed, cats can no longer perform their natural stretching and kneading rituals.
- Declawed cats become weaker as they age and may experience arthritis in their backs and shoulders.
- Cats may stop using their litter box because it's painful.
- Claws are a first line of defense. Once they are gone, cats can live in a constant state of stress.
- It can lead to biting because cats can no longer use their claws as a warning.
- If performed incorrectly, surgery could result in excessive bleeding, severe pain, and fragments of bone left behind.

Case in point on that last reason, is our current shelter resident, Nola. She was adopted out from us (declawed from her previous home), and returned to us for peeing outside of her box. "We examined her and opted to send her for X-rays to determine if she may have bone fragments from being declawed," said Dr. Kristin Tvrđik. "Unfortunately we found that was the case. It's like walking with rocks in your shoes forever."

At press time, our medical team was working on the best approach for removing the fragments to relieve her discomfort. "The fragments are an abnormality resulting from the procedure not being done completely correctly," said Dr. Kristin. "In all cases of declawing - even those performed correctly - the surgery leads to contracture of the tendons, producing painful, cramped/arthritis joints. Additionally, we don't know the full extent to which these kitties feel phantom pain, similar to what people with amputations experience."

Cats that come into our facility declawed typically take weeks to settle in because all of their defenses are gone. They can lash out, bite, hide and not eat. It takes them longer to acclimate than other cats who have their claws.

For more information on the perils of declawing, visit pawproject.org.



Kitten Shower

Kitten season is upon us and there's no better time to throw a kitten shower! On May 25th, we'll share a fun and furry virtual kitten shower to help stock our shelves in preparation for all the little ones we anticipate will be coming through our doors in need of help. **For more details, visit hinsdalehumansociety.org.**

Our goal is to educate adopters about the issues inherent in declawing, and encourage everyone to understand exactly what's involved and what negative outcomes may occur as a result.

Bonded Pairs

More to Love

Bonded pairs of pets tend to be harder to adopt out, but can actually be the best possible scenario for adopters. They will entertain each other, be a source of comfort, and keep one another from boredom or separation anxiety when family is away.

How do they wind up needing to be adopted as a bonded pair? Below are three different scenarios of recent adoptable bonded pairs in our facility.

Rock & Sky

These 3 or 4 year old bully dogs were surrendered to a shelter down South. "Sky was originally sent to us in an email as though she were alone, but we later found out she was bonded to Rock," said Samantha Cheatham, Operations Manager, HHS. "It was a last resort for us, but knowing they could not be separated, we took them both."

Adopting out a bonded pair can be tough, but add to that the bully breed, and it becomes exponentially harder. We always say, "sometimes it just takes time," but this time, it didn't. "They were only here a month, which is not bad at all for a bonded bully pair," said Samantha. "Great adopters stepped forward and are giving these two the life they so deserve."

Felex & Fiffy

Approximately one year old and beyond adorable and sweet, these two came to us from a rescue in Alabama. They had puppies together and another group took the pups, while we took the parents to ensure no mamas (or papas!) get left behind. They arrived scared, undersocialized and Fiffy was heartworm positive. They were spayed and neutered before she began her heartworm treatments with us.

Slowly the pair have begun to come around and realize they're safe with us, thanks to the help of staff, volunteers and... hot dogs! These two love a good hot dog. At press time, they were still up for adoption.

Shere Khan & Zorro

These beauties came to us from Chicago Animal Care & Control (CACC). They were originally surrendered with two other cats (Samurai and Sasha) from someone who was moving and could not take their animals.

All four needed a lot of time to decompress after all the transition from home to shelter to another shelter. They needed socializing, which is where our wonderful volunteers and staff come in to help rehabilitate those who need it the most. After Samurai and Sasha were adopted (see Sasha's adoption story on the back cover), Shere Khan and Zorro were still left. Because of all they had been through, they ended up bonding closely together.

At press time they were still awaiting a home, but because they qualify for our Match Me Up campaign, their adoption fee has been waived thanks to our kind donor, Vinaya Sharma.





Pet Therapy

Dogs in the Classroom

Therapaws pet therapy teams have been going to school since 2014. That's because our therapy pets play an important role in the La Grange Department of Special Ed's (LADSE) student development programs. Our pet therapy teams offer emotional support to children dealing with anxiety, composure or social interaction issues.

Once a week, one or two teams visit at the LADSE school in La Grange Park, meeting with children from grades Kindergarten through high school. Students spend one-on-one time with a team, interacting with the dogs through petting or conversation. Handlers encourage questions and dialog, helping to increase social confidence in a non-threatening environment.

It's not just the students who benefit. Teachers and classroom aids often come by to visit with the dogs for a reason to smile and relax. One noted on a recent visit, "we need our canine fix!"

Michele Wright, LADSE school social worker, states "Pet therapy visits have provided our students with so much comfort throughout the school year. Pet therapy visits are truly the highlight of each week for our entire school community." Jessica Sredzinski, LADSE ED Network Coordinator, confirms this. "I've received feedback from some parents that their student goes home after a pet visit, happy and excited to share their day." Per Wright, "The LADSE students and teachers are so grateful for our partnership with the HHS Pet therapy program." We are too.

Humane Education

Youth Volunteers

Our youth volunteer groups have gone above and beyond for the animals and staff at HHS this Winter & Spring. In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Junior Board sold homemade cat and dog treats to our supporters to raise money for our Medical Fund. This life-saving fund allows us to provide diagnostic radiographs, heartworm treatment, corrective and emergency surgeries, specialized diagnostic assessments and eye care, and laboratory testing for the special-needs animals we receive. In April, the Junior Board impressed us again by partnering with the Hinsdalean and HCS Family Services to organize a food drive that helped to mitigate food insecurity during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to our Junior Board for their continuous efforts supporting HHS and our community!

This Winter and Spring, we started a new youth volunteer program called the Teen Kennel Club. Volunteers 15-18 have been signing up to help staff clean cat kennels in the morning. Their efforts play a vital role in keeping our cats healthy, clean, and ready to go to their forever homes. If you're interested in any of our youth volunteer opportunities, please contact our Humane Educator at lauren.link@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.

Training & Enrichment

MEET OUR TRAINERS

Our new Training & Enrichment staff members will focus on positive behavioral approaches to best address the needs of our animals, while also providing training instruction for everyone!

Yolonda Bradshaw

TRAINING AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

Beginning as a young child caring for stray cats in her neighborhood and assisting her brother with autism, Yolonda decided to dedicate her life to being “a voice for the voiceless.” Her passion for understanding, advocating, and caring for humans and animals with special needs, drove her to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences with a companion animal concentration. She is currently completing her Master’s degree in Animal Sciences with a human-animal interaction focus.

During her academic career, Yolonda has been deeply involved in the animal shelter realm as a volunteer, behavior intern, assistant trainer, and as research personnel. She joined HHS in March of 2021 and is thrilled to provide our animals with enrichment, positive reinforcement training, and behavior management. She is eager to assist pet owners and new adopters with education, tools, and resources that encourage healthy human-animal relationships and a better understanding of our furry friends.

Jamie Merlo

ANIMAL TRAINER

Jamie has always loved and respected animals. While at the University of Hawaii she began working with monk seals and this is where her passion and career in animal care and training began. After graduation, Jamie moved back to Illinois where she worked with dolphins, seals, and sea lions for 15 years. She was responsible for the daily care of the animals which included training, husbandry, and enrichment. Jamie believes that training should be a fun and positive experience for the animals and she’s able to accomplish this with operant conditioning and positive reinforcement training techniques.

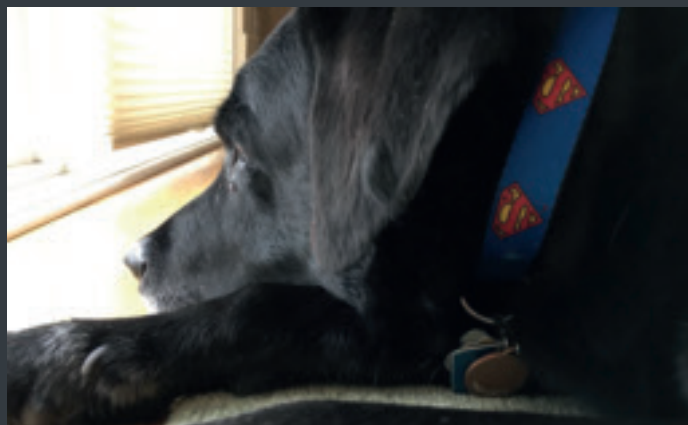
Our next session of classes will open up the week of May 3rd for in person and virtual training. Sign up here: hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment.



Yolonda



Jamie



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: *SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits*

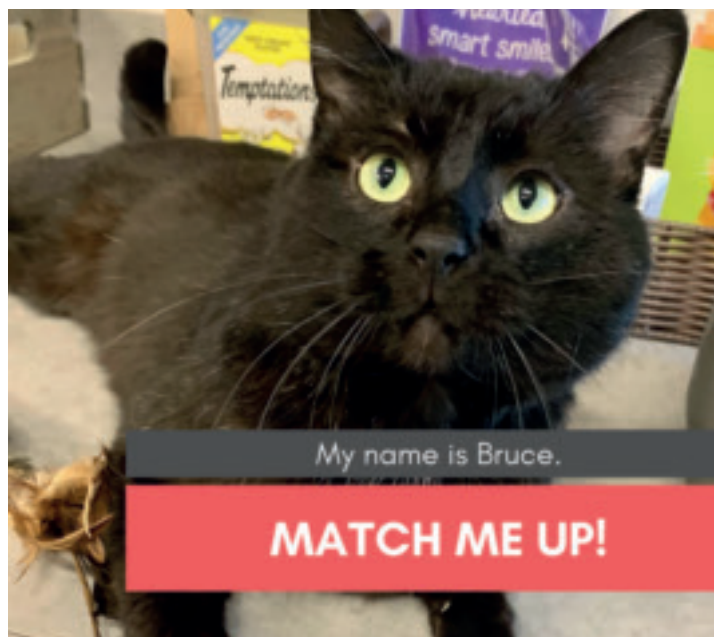
This family owned business operates stores in Oak Brook, St. Charles and Geneva, and goes above and beyond when it comes to our furry friends in need. Co-owner, Mary Claire Malloy is an avid animal advocate, and consistent sponsor of our events, providing financial support from her business, as well as encouraging her suppliers to donate for our events.

Mary Claire describes her love for animals as, “my original and forever inspiration for HHS and other animal rescues.” She went on to say, “a love story often inspires a personal commitment to a cause, and this is certainly the case for my commitment to dog charities.”

“I fell in love with my future husband’s Labrador about ten years ago,” said Mary Claire. “Mind you, I wasn’t even a dog person before I met and fell for Macaroni Konstant. Yet the unwavering friendship, loyalty, and love that Macaroni expressed for me, made me a changed woman... a better one.”

“I am still struck by the sheer happiness and joy on Mac’s face when I walk through the door after work. I am also struck by his remaining capacity to love to the fullest, despite being 15 and bearing the struggles of old age. He still greets me wildly; his heart remains that of an ageless two year old. I do believe Macaroni rescued ME.”

Mary Claire’s love for Mac has led her to adopt three more dogs, and to commit herself to a handful of animal welfare organizations. HHS is fortunate to be one them. SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits has recently been a presenting sponsor of our Queen of Hearts Raffle, as well as our Unleashed virtual winter event in February of 2021.



Ways to Give

It’s Time to Match Me Up

Huge thanks are due to Vinaya Sharma for his generous donation to the 2021 Cat “Match Me Up” campaign. Our supporters can match his donation this spring to help more cats get home.

The campaign focuses on finding homes through waived fees and specialized promotion for “harder to adopt” cats including senior cats, FIV cats, bonded pairs, medical cases, long term residents, and cats that need special homes.

This is the third year for this successful campaign resulting in 52 cat adoptions and \$6,000 raised. Frontline workers and veterans adopting cats through this special will also receive cat care packages. This year, the campaign is presented in loving memory of longtime volunteer, Board Member, and animal advocate, BJ Chimenti.

If you’d like to help our harder to adopt cats find their forever homes, donate on our website home page, or directly at hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/match-me-up-2021.

Commemorative Landscape Bricks

Personalized bricks filled with loving words in tribute to pets and people make our Carla E. Fisher Memorial Garden truly special and inspirational. We invite you to purchase one of the custom, engraved patio bricks here: hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/memorial-bricks/

Paws & Hearts

A Big Thank You To All of Our Sponsors and Community Partners

Foundations

- Amazon Smile
- Charity on Top Foundation
- Exelon Corporation
- Lapis Lazuli Fund
- Microsoft Giving
- Paypal Charitable Giving
- Rose Houston Charitable Foundation
- Savage Family Fund

Matching Gifts

- Costco
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Sponsors

- Hinsdale Nurseries
- Burr Ridge Veterinary Clinic
- WestPoint Financial Group
- Klepacki & Blair Orthodontics
- AMITA Health
- Midwestern University
- RML Specialty Hospital

Special Mentions

Heartfelt thanks to our Jr. Board for their **Valentine's Day Pet Treat Sale**. A successful fundraiser and sweet treats for our furry friends.

Many kudos to HHS Shelter Director, **Jes Hiltner and Real Dog Moms of Chicago**, for hosting a Facebook Fundraiser to purchase Koranda beds to make our dogs comfortable during their stay with us.

Loving memories of **Louis Latouski** who was so very generous to remember our organization's work in a bequest from his estate.

Barks and purrs of appreciation to Event Coordinator, **Dee Downs**, who made all of the pet bandanas for our Unleashed! Celebration Kits.

- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
- Oak Brook Kennel Club
- State Farm-Tina Tzinares
- VGG Associates-Merrill Lynch
- Wiggle Tooth Fairy Registry
- Insperity
- Liebchen Brolin Kraus
- Salem Group

Community Partners

- Burr Ridge Senior Living
- Great Hearts Initiatives LLC
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- Hinsdale Pet Memorial Services
- J. McLaughlin - Hinsdale
- La Grange Park Public Library
- Matrix Partners, Ltd.
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- Pet Supplies Plus - Westmont
- Ruff Life
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
- Southwestern Real Estate
- Spreadshirt, Inc.
- Trinity Lutheran School
- Two Bostons - Burr Ridge
- Two Bostons - Wheaton
- Union Beverage Packers, LLC
- WillowGrove Pet Clinic



Inside Look is published quarterly for friends of the Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center operated by Hinsdale Humane Society

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Thank you to Katrina Garagiola for the design of Inside Look and to all of our volunteer & staff photographers for their contributions.



Hinsdale Humane Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
Hinsdale, IL 60521

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Due to COVID we are still closed to visitors and continue to handle adoptions by appointment only.

SAVE THE DATE: Pet Walk Festival | Saturday, June 26, 2021



ADOPTION STORY

“We love him so much already! I think he is doing very well for a guy whose world has gone topsy-turvy. He is a lover. I am so thrilled that I peeked on the website after watching the Kitten and Puppy Bowls on Super Bowl Sunday. We saw all these rescue stories, etc., so on a whim I took a look and spotted Sasha right away as a senior cat. Then once I found out his special need was kidney disease, I thought, no problem, we have tons of experience with that!”

-Bob & Allison S.