

## Organization Turns 60

*Hinsdale Humane Society will celebrate Aug. 24.*

by *Samantha Byles*  
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The Hinsdale Humane Society will host a birthday celebration Aug. 24 where it opened its doors six decades ago.

While the space at 22 N. Elm St. is much larger than it once was, the organization's impact on the community is considered just as large. The organization invites the community and its pets to join in the 60th Backyard Birthday Bash.

The birthday celebrations continue throughout the year, with a black-tie gala event to be held Oct. 26.

Games, activities, snacks and more

will be available for pets and owners in honor of the Hinsdale Humane Society at its August party.

Pets staying at the society and those available for adoption also will be on display.

The pets will be allowed to go out and play during the event.

The nonprofit group achieves its goals with support from the community and donations. The society aims at adoption and care for unwanted and abandoned animals.

The group also advocates education and public service to prevent the suffering and neglect of animals.

For more information on events, visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org).



**Lori Halligan, executive director at Hinsdale Humane Society, with her staff and dogs.**

Photo courtesy of Christie Cuthbert

## Hinsdale Humane Society: Then and Now



**Pony Chambers, second from right, a Hinsdale Humane Society founder, was at the 1959 ceremony.**

Photo courtesy of Christie Cuthbert

by *Samantha Byles*  
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The local dog pound was an eyesore in the Hinsdale community in 1953. With little lighting and no heating or ventilation, the building was called a shack, and few people, if any, would consider adopting a pet from there. Community members were worried about the spread of rabies among the residents of Hinsdale. However, six women were even more concerned about the condition of the animals living in the shelter, and those women soon would become the founders of the Hinsdale Humane Society.

The women established it as a nonprofit organization whose goals included educating the public on the treatment of animals, handling the disposal of unwanted animals humanely and maintaining a safe and sanitary home for homeless animals. While bringing in and taking care of abandoned dogs and cats, the women also were fundraising and collecting donations for a new building to call their own.

"During that time there were not many career opportunities for women," said Lori Halligan, the current executive director at the Hinsdale Humane Society. "For their time, they were ahead of the curve — entrepreneurs even."

The building opened in September 1959, with 11 kennels, a small open area for dogs and cats and a reception area for guests. It underwent remodeling three times and now has enough space to hold approximately 25 dogs and 100 cats at one time. However, the goals outlined by the original members still are maintained in the new building. The Hinsdale Humane Society offers several community education programs on how to own and care for a pet. The organization also provides resources and services for those who have decided to give their pets away.

For more information on the pet programs and services offered, visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org).

# Hinsdale Humane Society Walk

The Hinsdale Humane Society hosted the 24th annual Pet Walk on Sunday, June 2 at Katherine Legge Memorial Park. The Pet Walk helps raise funds for homeless animals in the Hinsdale area. The Hinsdale Humane Society provides various services such as pet therapy and humane education to the people of Hinsdale.

**Left:** One pet owner shows off his dog's balance during the Pet Walk.  
**Middle:** Many pets and their owners came out for the walk at Katherine Legge Memorial Park.  
**Right:** Funds raised at the Pet Walk contribute to helping feed and shelter homeless dogs.  
Photos courtesy of Christie Cuthbert



**Left:** Many dogs such as this one need homes. The Hinsdale Humane Society provides help for these dogs that can't help themselves.  
**Middle:** Many vendors were on hand to provide food and entertainment to the attendees.  
**Right:** A couple takes time out of their walk to take a picture with their canine duo.  
Photos courtesy of Christie Cuthbert