

# 2021's IMPACT OF FRIENDSHIP REPORT



## Our Vision of friendship

The last two years have proven what we already knew at WCHS – happiness comes from a sense of belonging.

Often a person's mental and emotional wellbeing comes from their relationship with a beloved pet.

At WCHS Friendship, is at the heart of all we do – it is the happy moments when we connect a pet with his/her new family, when we can help keep longtime friends together by offering affordable veterinary care, and it is felt when the staff extends their hand to comfort an owner desperately searching for their lost friend.

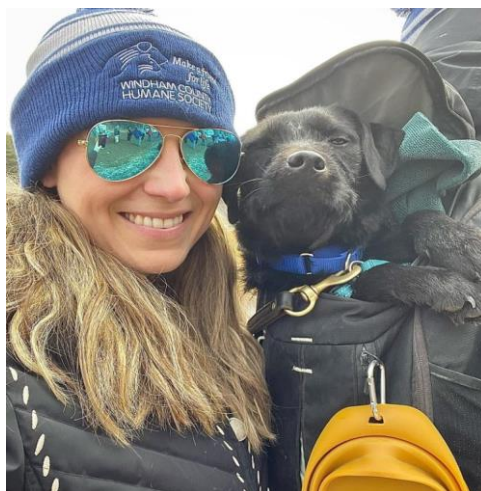
**THANK YOU for being a Friend to WCHS.** Your support impacts the lives of hundreds of animals and people each year.



Pet Food Pantry & Community Food provides thousands of pet meals.



507 Pets Find New Loving Homes



Grateful for the thousands of hours of volunteer and foster volunteer help.



Helped 249 Lost Pets.

## Executive Director's Message

Our mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of animals and enhance the relationship between individuals and pets through adoption, education, advocacy, compassion, and promotion of animal welfare.

### Board of Directors

- Julie Hamilton, President
- Kelly Carlin, Vice President
- Greg Lesch, Secretary
- Tami Purcell, Treasurer
- Stephanie Bond
- Bradly Hamilton
- Ross Kinney, DVM
- Cortney Manix
- Stewart McDermet
- Maggie Smith
- Ron Svec, DVM
- Wendy Collins

### Key Staff

- Maya Richmond, Executive Director
- Keri Roberts, Director of Operations



Maya with Moa, a kitty scooped up off the side of the road by a Good Samaritan and healed by the WCHS staff.

Dear Friends,

I can't believe I've been with WCHS for five months! The time has flown!

I've been in the animal welfare world for twenty years - from rural Vermont to inner-city Baltimore to suburban Voorhees, New Jersey. I've had the pleasure of working with so many talented and resolute staff members, volunteers, and donors to improve the lives of animals.

Thank you for welcoming me into a progressive organization with a vision and plan for how they want to continue helping animals for another hundred-plus years!

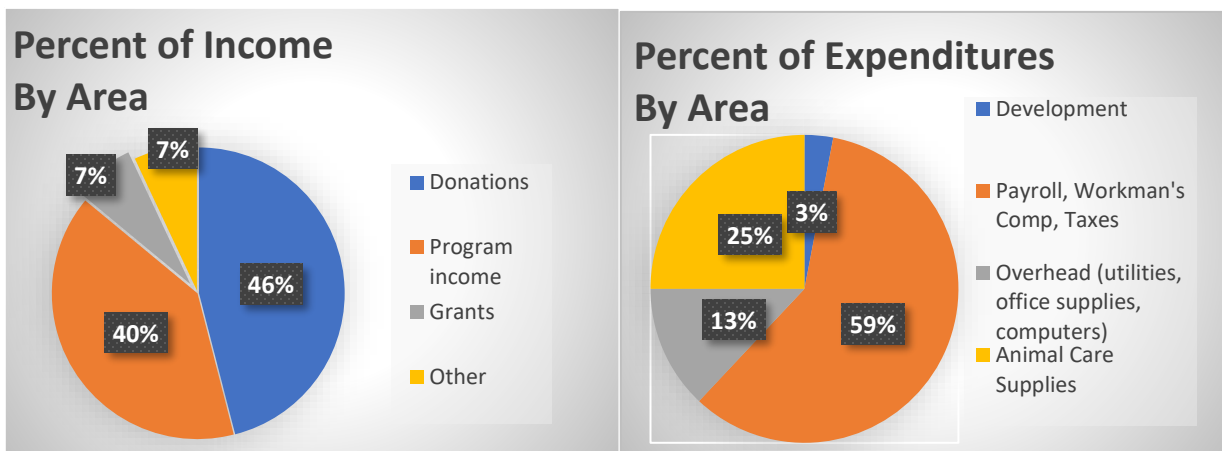
I am looking forward to many opportunities to get to know you and to contribute to the amazing work performed each day.

~ Maya

### Grace, Compassion and Strength – Annie Guion

"Thank you, Annie, for leaving an organization that is much stronger for her tenure with us, with an excellent staff fully equipped to function at the highest standards," wrote Board President Julie Hamilton. Annie's fourteen years of visionary leadership saved tens of thousands of animals through successful program development and her astute, yet compassionate management helped the organization sustain itself during the last pandemic years.

## 2021 INCOME & EXPENSES



Total Operating Revenue was **\$541,358** and Total Operating Expenditures were **\$551,944**, resulting in an Operating Loss.

Income from savings and bequests closed the budget gap. In addition to Operating Revenue, \$29,000 was gifted toward the Capital Campaign. The Pandemic strained finances with the cost of medications, fuel, increased pet food, staffing shortages, and curtailed fundraising efforts resulting in revising service delivery and savings.

The last two years have been challenging for WCHS. However, we are incredibly fortunate for the support of over 1,400 donors whose gifts kept the doors open, allowing us to aid over 500 homeless animals and to deliver pet food and veterinary care to those in our community striving to care for their pets.



# 2021 by the numbers



## Donations = Saving, Aiding, and Caring

### Breaking Ground

WCHS was the first shelter in Vermont to implement an affordable pet care program to help keep pets in their homes and allow owners to access veterinary care in 2020. In 2021 with “challenging times and helping hands,” Laura Chapman, shelter administrative coordinator for Groundworks spoke, about the importance of WCHS-Groundworks’ partnership in the lives of pet-owning families seeking shelter at Groundworks. Last year WCHS provided vaccinations and veterinary care during vet-visit days at Groundworks and through the Pet Care Assistance Program. Pets like **Lemon Drop** whose owners were living out of their car. With the weather changing, Lemon Drop wasn’t safe in the car during the day so she was temporarily boarded at WCHS. And a week later they all moved into Groundworks.



### Curbing the Outdoor Cat Population one trap at a time

Black Mountain Inn in Brattleboro was the home to a large unmanaged colony fed by residents at the hotel. After training on Trap, Neuter & Return (TNR) by WCHS’s staff, the residents, with assistance from Animal Control officer Cathy Barrows, started trapping cats to have them spayed/neutered. In a brief period of time, they “fixed” 25 adult feral cats.

Management of the colony is ongoing. However, there has been a decrease in kittens from the Inn, as well as complaints about the cats.

74 feral cats got “fixed” for free in 2021 during the monthly Spay/Neuter Clinics thanks to donations and grant funding.



Ear tip = universal cue a cat is part of a TNR program.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS & FOUNDATION FRIENDS

- Community Foundation of NJ
- High Meadows Foundation
- Marquis George MacDonald Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Richard & Elizabeth Boggio Foundation
- Robin Colson Memorial Trust
- Periwinkle Foundation
- Banfield Foundation
- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Country Store
- Crispe & Crispe Law Offices
- Working K-9 Services
- Southern VT Pest Control, LLC
- Caring Chiropractic, PLLC
- Great Eastern Radio
- Calais Vet Clinic
- One Stop Country Pet Supply
- VT-NH Veterinary Clinic

*\*Support over \$500 in 2021. If you company or foundation is inadvertently missed please let us know.*



## Moments with our best friends



### *Luminaries of Lost Love Remembrance* August 29<sup>th</sup>



"I got him on Memorial Day, and he has brought me more joy than I could have imagined. I appreciate being able to purchase his special food from you at a very reasonable price, too. I am widowed and this cat, while no replacement for my husband, is a wonderful companion. Your facility and your staff are a shining star in Windham County. Keep up the great work."  
- NBD

"We have a rescue dog in our family, Skyebear, whom we adopted in 2016. We don't know how her life started but she was in rough shape at that time and has some challenges with socializing from her years of neglect and abuse.



We love her, and she is living her best life with us now in Westminster!

We are so appreciative of the work. Glad to support you."- C

**Where there is a will there is a way forward. Friends change our lives!** *Let your friendship leave a legacy of love for today and tomorrow's hurt and homeless animals.*



## Walk for Animals

September 24<sup>th</sup>

Animals give us everything.

If you don't have an estate plan/will, create one! With a plan you can ensure homeless pets have care for years to come.

Name Windham County Humane Society in your estate plan.

info@windhamcountyhumane.org



Become a Monthly Supporter



### Build a Better Future...

As we come out of the Pandemic and look to the future the Capital Campaign is on our minds; especially on days when operations are stifled due to lack of surgical cages, backed-up septic lines, no space for volunteers to fill Pet Pantry bags, and bunnies taking up residence in the lobby.

The role of humane societies is growing to encompass subsidized public veterinary care, community programs to keep pets with their families strong, and to engage supporters on site. Therefore, the types of spaces necessary are also changing.

HELP US  
RAISE THE WOOF!



WCHS is revisiting the existing plans and producing a timeline to move forward because building upgrades have long been a priority!

WCHS  
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Brattleboro, VT 05302  
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You can donate to WCHS online or by mail.