



WINDHAM COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY



Making Friends For Life. Your Friendship Saves Lives.

596
Adoptions

Sweet Luke, with the velvety soft ears, was adopted over the weekend. We are so happy that he is now able to grow & thrive in his new home. Mom & Pop report that he is adjusting well, and are thrilled to have him in their lives.

WCHS is so grateful for all of our adopters.

Kindness comes in all sizes. Each year we're touched by the number of youths that opt to forgo birthday gifts and instead give gifts to the animals.

This little animal lover brought joy to the dogs and cats with his donation of tons of toys.



14,349 shelter
Pet -Meals
Served

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Thank You For Being A Friend

Dear Friends,

What a year - because of your friendship, 2023 was filled with happy-ever-after stories, tons of spays/neuters, and the official groundbreaking of the shelter expansion project. When there was a challenge ahead of us it was the friendship of WCHS supporters -- YOU-- there, ensuring us things will be okay. The tagline, *Make a Friend for Life*, is at the core of WCHS.

Friends provide comfort, security, and joy to your life. As I started tallying the various highlights from 2023, it became clear that the unifying theme is the power of **friendship**.

I can't help but be moved by the generosity of so many friends. Take Ms. George, who established a fund to support the Pet Care Assistance Program, or the \$35,000 raised by supporters who organized fundraisers on our behalf. Then there are our fantastic volunteer friends, who go the extra mile for the animals. Like one day when a volunteer took Walter out on a hike and they crossed paths with Walter's future adoptive family.

Company friends like One Stop and Automall who generously donated toward Newt and Horus' orthopedic surgeries.

Then we have long-time friends who thought of WCHS before their departing and left a gift in their wills that took the risk out of moving forward with the construction project before all the funds were raised - friends make WCHS the amazing organization it is.

We also said "goodbye" to longtime friends who gave their time each day to care for the animals or give a helping hand where it was most needed.

We are honored to have your friendship. **Thank you for believing in the mission and our team and being part of the life-saving work.**

I hope you enjoy reading our 2023 Impact Report.

Maya Richmond,
Executive Director

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.



Newt was brought to WCHS after being hit by a car. Despite the pain she was in she remained very friendly. Generous donors helped her get back on her paws again by funding her orthopedic surgery. She is now loving her new life thanks to donors like you!

A Community Supported Resource



The cost to operate last year was **\$780,000**.

Programs (animal care, adoption, veterinary services, humane education, and volunteers) accounted for 75% of annual expenses.

\$3 is raised for every \$1 spent on fundraising activities. Ninety percent (90%) of all WCHS' donations come from individuals.

WCHS is a lean, growing organization that operates on less funding than peer organizations. Increasing the annual fund is crucial to WCHS meeting growing animal welfare needs.

Non-operational or "unusual income" for 2023 was \$2,607,300. This includes restricted donations to the Building a Better Future Capital Campaign, Covid-related Employee Retention Credit (ERC), and Bequests received.

Forty percent of the \$2,777,440 construction budget was paid in 2023 from non-operational income, leaving \$1,626,107 to pay in 2024.



Friends Look After Friends

Special Thank You to Our Fundraising Friends

From Facebook birthday fundraisers, bottle drives to yard sales and community events, these friends' creativity and work raised over **\$35,000!** Special mention to Putney Road Redemption Center, Saint Mary's of the Mountains, Sunrise Rotary, BS&L, and The Reformer. An extra shout out to **Phinney's Phriends** for raising \$3,000 at their second annual Christmas in Grafton booth.

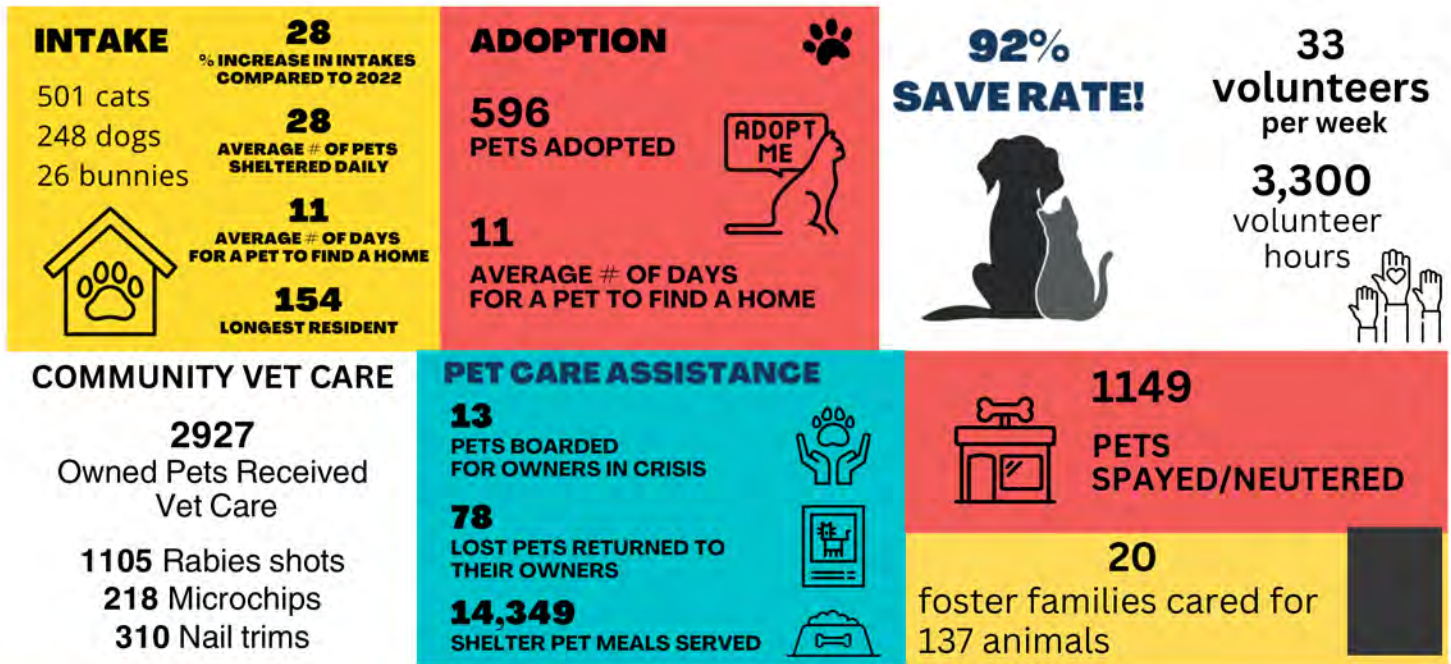
Lending a Paw by Funding Pets Well-being

Marilyn George established the **OC Tober Fund** in honor of her beloved rescue dog, OC Tober. The Fund supports WCHS' **Pet Care Assistance Program**. Through her generosity WCHS is able to subsidize the cost of veterinary care for pet parents facing financial difficulties. This help allows them to continue caring for their pets.



**2023 financial information comes from the WCHS' end of year P&L and Balance Sheets.
The annual filing of WCHS' 990 takes place in late spring.

Your Donation At Work




Our Volunteers Are The Best

Volunteers are the backbone of every accomplishment. Whether working side by side at a clinic, collecting coins from area stores, to fostering tons of kittens or being a mascot at the Walk for Animals, their compassion, energy and dedication makes WCHS that much more successful. We appreciate all they do!

Volunteer Spotlight



Lorraine and Rick have volunteered for 10 years. They do everything from cleaning the shelter, walking dogs to keeping our walking paths clear.

And of course they occasionally bathe a dog or two. It was their love of  Malamutes that brought them to volunteer.

They wanted to do something meaningful and 'help out the animals.'

Mary is a retired RN who loves animals. She joined WCHS in fall of 2022 and since then she has volunteered over 140 hours!

She is a very well-rounded and willing helper. You may have seen Mary at a fundraiser or walking dogs.

While the shelter is under renovation and there are fewer dogs to walk Mary is putting her nursing skills to use volunteering at our high-volume spay/neuter clinics.



Due to space limitations while the shelter is under construction the volunteer program is not accepting applications. People can still help the animals by holding pet food drives or making pet enrichment toys.

Building A Better Future



Cortney Manix, Maggie Smith, Beth McDermet, Marilyn George, Annie Guion, Greg Lesch, Sue Kelly, Linda Hoag, Bradly Hamilton, Julie Hamilton, Kelly Carlin, Ross Kinney and Maya Richmond.

On July 20th WCHS board members, former board members, donors and friends gathered for the official **ground breaking ceremony**. This January the addition opened. Pictured below is the reception desk inside the **Pet Wellness Center** and a peek at Dr. Torcoletti preparing for surgery.



Join the “Builder” and Make Tomorrow Better

Over 260 amazing friends donated to improve the shelter to better meet the needs of the animals, and to allow WCHS to expand programs.

Construction of the 2,000 sf addition began in July. The addition houses a surgery suite, exam room, treatment room and dedicated lobby for clients needing care for their pets. During the next six months the shelter will be under renovation.

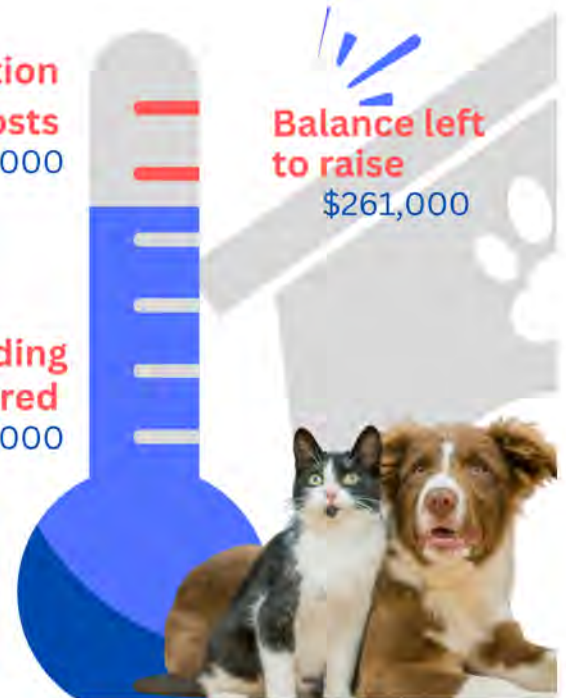
Renovations include:

- a more modern kennel designed to reduce reactive barking.
- a 3-season Catio for cats to bask in the sun.
- separate dog and cat areas for intake and sick isolation.
- a Meet and Greet Room to get to know a pet.
- private space to discuss pet retention options with pet owners prior to surrendering the pet.
- a Shelter Medical Suite for examinations of new animals upon entry, and to treat sick animals without having them throughout the facility.

Construction Costs
\$2,775,000

Funding Secured
\$2,514,000

Balance left to raise
\$261,000



There is Still Time to...

...change the world for tomorrow's animals...

Give in your honor or memorialize a beloved friend or family member with a **Naming Opportunity** outside one of the rooms. Donors over \$1,000 will be listed on the campaign “honor roll” which will be displayed in the lobby.

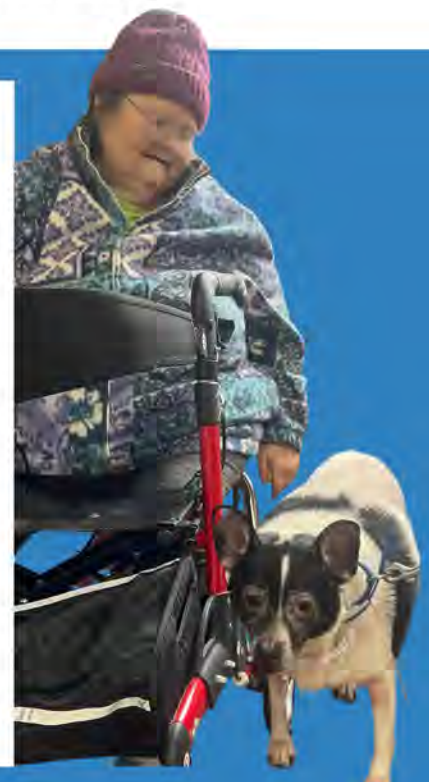
For more information visit www.windhamcountyhumane.org or contact **Maya** at 802-490-2856 or by email at maya@windhamcountyhumane.org.

Extending Compassion Beyond Walls & Hours

At 16 "**Flower**" was his Mom's best friend. He and his owner were both on hospice care when we saw him for an ear infection. Dr. T treated the infection, sent him home, and told the owner to return “when the time was right.” That painful day arrived a couple months later.

After the euthanasia a longtime volunteer followed Flower's Mom home and helped her lay Flower to rest in a peaceful spot in their backyard. She told us that she “*was really struggling to just get from day to day. Her own medial bills prevented her from affording vet care, and our kindness went a very long way for her.*”

The **OC Tober Fund** made Flower comfortable in her final days, and allowed her mom two extra months with him.



Leave a Story. Leave a Legacy



The Brattleboro region has a rich history of surprise bequests from unassuming residents. This year, we read about Geoffrey Holt's leaving \$3.8 million to Hinsdale, NH, and it reminded us of Ronald Read's \$4.8 million gift to the hospital. But these aren't the only benefactors who gave transformational gifts to area charities.

There is also **Mary Jane Merenda**. Born in the area, Mary Jane's life was filled with tough times and sadness. She had a difficult childhood, and the happiness she found as a young adult ended with the death of her husband and son. Work helped her keep going. She waited tables and was the hostess at The Country Kitchen in West Brattleboro. Unbeknownst to many, Mary Jane invested her tips in the stock market. It turns out she was pretty good at picking winners. Upon her passing, her portfolio was valued at over \$8 million. Mary Jane gifted the majority of her estate to several area humane societies.

We are pleased to honor her life and love of animals by investing her remarkable gift in **Building a Better Place** for tomorrow's animals. Her gift provided an assurance that the construction project could move forward before all the funds were raised.



Bequests provide charities like WCHS with the ability to make improvements, start new programs, and so much more. We are touched that longtime friends **Donna Saunders, Phyllis Green, Patricia Cameron** and **Dianne Shapiro** remembered the animals in their wills.

Rebel Was Our Cause

After being passed by a few times and knowing Rebel needed a special home, she was selected to be Automall's "billboard" fur-baby.

Her mug was featured in a series of boosted social media posts. One of the posts slid into the feed of the perfect pet parents for Rebel. After exchanging some information with the adoption team they drove from Rhode Island to meet Rebel.

It was like Rebel's personal Uber arrived - without a woof or wink back at the staff she was "off!"

"As animal lovers, we take great pride in supporting the Windham County Humane Society and their efforts to make sure all animals find loving homes. We are delighted to see how our contributions make a difference in the lives of so many animals, especially dogs that are often passed over like Rebel."

- Andrea McCauley, Vice President, Brattleboro Automall



Automall is one of WCHS' 2023 **Business Pawtners**.
WCHS is grateful for the support of many local businesses.



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Savings & Loan

Save the Date



Here is your opportunity to WIN BIG & support WCHS' amazing work.

The Rescue Raffle runs from March 19, 2024, to June 20, 2024.

Ticket sales will end at noon on June 19, 2024.

The drawing will be at 1:00 pm on June 20th

Each ticket is \$10.00.

Tickets are **ONLY** available on our website.

Scan the QR code for information or to purchase Raffle Tickets or go to our website at:



www.windhamcountyhumane.org/events/raffle.



Donate



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