

# 2023 Annual Report



**West Suburban**  
Humane Society



**Taffeta** – Adopted April 2023



**Robbie** – Adopted August 2023



**Latte** – Adopted December 2023



**Mrs. Maisel** – Adopted October 2023



**Lucy** – Adopted January 2023



**Bolt** – Adopted April 2023

At West Suburban Humane Society, our mission is to work towards the day when all dogs and cats are loved and cared for, and pet owners have access to essential resources so they may enjoy a fulfilling relationship with their pets. In doing so, we strive to:

**P**rovide compassionate care for cats and dogs on their journey to compatible and loving homes.

**E**ngage our community and serve as a resource for a variety of pet-related topics and challenges.

**T**eam with volunteers of all abilities and strengths to build a robust network of support in our community.

**S**trengthen the human-animal bond through advocacy, humane education and promotion of animal welfare initiatives.

By working together, we can change the lives of the dogs and cats that have forever changed us.

# Letter from the Executive Director



On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, thank you for supporting West Suburban Humane Society in 2023. This year, we saw an overwhelming number of animals needing rescue and families needing support.

In 2023, we placed 603 dogs and cats with adoptive families. Our adoption fee doesn't even begin to cover the cost of caring for these animals while they are with us. Some of the animals needed significant medical care before they were adoptable. Several dogs needed heartworm treatment, which is a months-long, very costly process. Lunchable needed surgery after being found with a broken hip. Grayson was diagnosed with epilepsy and needed testing and medication. And, we have several cats at the adoption center with allergies that require an expensive special diet.

We continued to support families so they could keep their pets instead of relinquishing them. We donated 4,689 pounds of food to local pantries to help families in need feed their pets. We also provided low-cost resources for owners who could not afford vaccines or medical care for their pets.

Of course, we couldn't do this without the help of our amazing volunteers. This year, we had 435 volunteers contributing 30,224 hours of service. This includes cleaning animal areas, assisting potential adopters, transporting animals, and caring for cats and dogs. We also had more than 50 foster families open their hearts and homes to take in animals that could not stay at the adoption center. These animals included pregnant and nursing moms, puppies and kittens, animals recovering from surgery or that had other medical conditions, and animals requiring additional socialization.

I am thankful that WSHS has been able to provide above and beyond care to rescue animals, people, and pets in our community. I am grateful for the continued support of our donors, which allows us to continue our work of helping animals in need.

With thanks,

*Carolyn Mossberger*

Carolyn Mossberger

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## 2023 Board of Directors

### **President**

Scott McMillin

### **Vice President**

Mark Motuelle

### **Recording Secretary**

Sarah Marshall

### **Controller/Treasurer**

Kerry Kopera

### **Directors**

Christian Ambler

Colleen Attwell

Dr. Lyn Edmonson

Bob Koch

Marci Levites

Brian Wasielewski

David Welch

Maria Wrobel

# Success Story: Cash, Kylo, & Leah



When we adopt an animal from West Suburban Humane Society, we hope it has found its forever home. However, sometimes a family's situation changes, and the animal needs to return to the adoption center. That was the case with Cash, a Jack Russell Terrier mix adopted in 2016 when he was a year old. Unfortunately, his owner recently passed away, and no one in the family was able to keep Cash. Since adopting Cash seven years ago, the owner also adopted two other Jack Russell Terriers, 10-year-old Kylo and 7-year-old Leah. The family asked if we would be willing to take all three dogs. Of course, we agreed.

Once an animal comes to West Suburban Humane Society, we commit to caring for that animal for the rest of its life. Our commitment can be as simple as offering support to adopters for medical or behavioral questions to ultimately taking the animal back if needed. In the case of returns, we provide the animals with whatever they need to ease their return to the shelter, ensure their well-being, and get them ready to find a new home.

Luckily, we found foster homes for all three dogs, so Cash, Kylo and Leah didn't have to stay in the kennel. All of the dogs required senior bloodwork and updated vaccines, as well as teeth cleaning and extractions. As you can imagine, all these procedures are costly, but we want to ensure the dogs are healthy before making them available for adoption.

At West Suburban Humane Society, we go above and beyond for the animals in our care which we wouldn't be able to do without the help of our staff, volunteers, foster homes, and generous supporters. You all play a vital role in helping these animals stay healthy and find families.



## 2023 Impact Report

**603**

pets adopted including 241 dogs and 362 cats.



**250**

kids participated in our humane education program and learned about rescue. We hosted 40 birthday parties and 61 school/group tours with 100 kids in attendance.



**\$341,690**

spent on food, veterinary care, and medical supplies for our dogs and cats.



**4,689**

pounds of food donated to local food pantries to keep pets with their families.



**\$50**

Pays for one breakfast for all animals in our Adoption Center



**\$100**

Pays for one spay surgery to keep the kitten population down



**\$250**

Pays for a vet visit for one animal



**\$500**

Covers the cost of one animal during their stay at the Adoption Center

# A BIG THANKS to Our Corporate & Foundation Partners



WSHS is fortunate to have many dedicated partners who share their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that we are able to provide the best treatment for the dogs and cats in our care. This generosity allows WSHS to continue to care for our animals and place them into their forever homes at a reasonable fee for adopters, and within a manageable budget for the adoption center. WSHS attributes a large portion of our success to the generosity of our partners, who provide an array of essential services. We thank them for their dedication towards animal welfare and continued commitment to WSHS.

## Corporate Partners



Abbvie	Collins Family Heritage Foundation	Itasca Bank and Trust	Oracle via Benevity Causes	Salt Creek Club
Aileen S. Andrew Foundation	Dynamic Manufacturing, Inc.	KPMG Gives c/o Bergen County's United Way	Partners and Paws Veterinary Services	St. Paul's Church By-The-Lake
Amazon Smile	Eric Holby Animal Welfare Foundation	Lift Works Inc.	Pawsitively Heaven	Strickland Brothers of Downers Grove
ASPCA	Exelon Foundation	Mary Lou Downs Foundation	Pet Resort Inc.	Suburban K9
Athletes for Animals	Grant & Power Landscaping, Inc.	Midwest Waste Consultants, LLC	Pond House Woods Foundation	The Rotary Club of Downers Grove
Baig of Tricks (in kind)	Helen M. Harrison Foundation	Mike Agruss Law	Red Barn Products	Transunion Vanguard Charitable
Bark Avenue Daycamp	Integra Asset Solutions	Old Second National Bank	RMB Capital	Veterinary Emergency Group
Bissell Pet Foundation			Robert Bair Plumbing, Heating & Air	
Busey Bank				
Caterpillar Foundation				

## Get Your Company Involved

- Form a team at our Barkapalooza 5K Run or Family Walk
- Host a "Give-Back" Day where a portion of the day's proceeds are donated to WSHS
- Form a team at Trivia Night for an employee outing
- Collect donations for our Adoption Center from your customers or employees
- Ask customers to donate at the register or set out a donation bucket for cash/change
- Have a jeans day or "Flip-Flop-Friday"

**If you are interested in learning more about our corporate partner program, contact our Director of Development at: [development@wshs-dg.org](mailto:development@wshs-dg.org)**

# Thank You to the 2023 WSHS Volunteers



WSHS is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers. With their help, WSHS is able to operate smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In 2023, more than **435** volunteers contributed more than **30,224** hours cleaning animal areas, assisting potential adopters, transporting animals, and of course, caring for the cats and dogs. Volunteers are also involved in special events and fundraisers, including adoption events, Petals for Pets plant sale, and Barkapalooza. Additionally, WSHS volunteers contribute their time and expertise to the shelter by serving on special advisory groups such as the Finance and Volunteer Advisory Council.



WSHS is also fortunate to have more than **50** volunteers who act as temporary care homes, providing constant and individualized care for cats, dogs, puppies and kittens in their homes. The staff of WSHS believes our volunteers are the best in the business and we're not alone. Volunteers are the heart of WSHS. The passion and commitment of our volunteers makes it possible for WSHS to achieve our mission of rescuing, providing care and placing so many animals in their forever homes. On behalf of the entire staff and the Board of Directors, thank you to all of our volunteers!

**If you are interested in joining our WSHS Team as a volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@wshs-dg.org](mailto:volunteer@wshs-dg.org).**

**WSHS is always looking for compassionate volunteers to provide temporary care in their home for animals who are not yet available for adoption. There are many reasons a dog or cat may need a foster home:**

**Underage:** Puppies and kittens are not ready to be adopted until they are 12 weeks old. They need time to receive two sets of vaccines, for their immune systems to develop, and to learn early socialization skills. They also need to be big and healthy enough to be spayed/neutered.



**Medical Recovery:** Foster homes are a great place for a sick or injured animal to heal, whether they are recovering from something as routine as a spay/neuter surgery or something more complicated like an orthopedic surgery.

**Behavior:** Some animals come to us neglected, mistreated, or simply lacking the socialization they need to find the right home. Our foster homes provide the enrichment, training or behavior modification needed for these loving pets to attract the perfect family for them.



**Socialization:** The level of activity at our adoption center can be overwhelming for some animals or an animal just might need a break to get some one-on-one love and attention. Whatever the reason, foster families can provide much needed personal home time for a cat or dog.

Fostering can be a great way for you to enjoy an animal in your home without assuming full responsibility for their long-term care. The foster time commitment varies and is dependent upon the animal's needs. Sometimes, we rescue dogs when we don't have kennel space, and you may be asked to provide a home for a week or two until a run becomes available. An animal recovering from minor surgery may only need a week of home care until his wound heals or may need to stay for 4-6 weeks to recover from major surgery. Puppies and kittens are usually in foster care for 4-6 weeks. A pregnant mom will need at least a couple of months to give birth and wean her babies.

WSHS will provide the supplies you need to take care of your foster animal. We also provide all veterinary care through our network of veterinary hospitals. We are committed to providing the support you need for the duration of the foster period. Our goal is for you to have a positive and rewarding experience while helping an animal in need.

**If you are interested in learning more about our foster program or becoming a foster, contact our Foster Coordinator at [animalcare@wshs-dg.org](mailto:animalcare@wshs-dg.org).**

# 2023 Fundraising Events



2023 had a mix of new and returning fundraising events, providing opportunities to showcase our animals and bring the community closer to our mission. We held a new Girl's Night Out event in February, several Yoga events, as well as long-standing favorites including Barkapalooza, our Golf Outing, Pawction, Trivia and more!

## Barkapalooza 2023



Awards were presented for the top overall 5K finishers and the top finishers by age group.



We had fun contests, including dog and owner lookalike challenge and a costume contest.



Shrimp and Scallop gave kisses at our "Pooch Smooch" booth!



Deacon Greg gives the Blessing of the Pets at the start of our 2023 Barkapalooza.

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**for our 2024**  
**Signature Events:**

- Trivia Night – May 4th
- Petals for Pets Plant Sale – May 10th & 11th
- Golf Outing – July 29th

- Barkapalooza 5K & Rescue Fest – September 29th
- Pawction – December 7th

# 2023 Fundraising Events



Our first Girls' Night Out brought out more than 50 guests at Clara's in Woodridge.



108 golfers joined us at Prairie Landing Golf course to raise more than \$60,000 for our cats and dogs.



More than 150 contestants joined us for this year's Trivia Night at the American Legion.



Two Bostons in Burr Ridge held a "Pictures with the Easter Bunny" event benefiting our cats and dogs!

To get involved with our fundraising events, or host an event at your place of business, contact our events coordinator at [events@wshs-dg.org](mailto:events@wshs-dg.org).

# Humane Education Program



Our Humane Education program promotes respect, empathy, and compassion for animals and educates people of all ages about animal homelessness, shelters, adoptions, and the proper care of domestic dogs and cats.

Humane Education program offerings include:

## School/Youth Group Presentations

Customized presentations for schools, churches, clubs, libraries and other organizations serving youth.

## Shelter Tours

Facility tours for scouts and other groups. Tours include an opportunity to learn about what we do, an overview of how we operate, and a visit with some of our animals.

## Programs for Youth/Summer Camp

After school, break, holiday, and summer programs.

## Programs for Adults

Customized presentations and educational programs for adults.

## WSHS University

Videos made by our volunteers and staff on humane education topics.

## Party Pals and Fundraisers

Support the shelter with themed birthday parties and other fundraisers for children or adults.

## Kid's Corner

Information, contests and fun things for kids to do.



For more information, contact the Humane Education Manager at [humaneeducation@wshs-dg.org](mailto:humaneeducation@wshs-dg.org).

## Paw Pal

Being a monthly Paw Pal donor is a great way to help animals in need! WSHS is funded entirely by animal lovers like you. It really helps us accept more animals into our care by being able to anticipate monthly revenue. Our awesome Paw Pal members are supporters who set up a donation automatically charged to a credit card each month.

**\$10**

monthly donation  
pays for an  
animals' microchip

**\$25**

monthly donation  
buys our dogs or  
cats a **breakfast**

**\$50**

monthly donation  
buys all our shelter  
pets a **dinner**

**\$100**

monthly donation pays  
for one of our pets'  
**spay or neuter surgery**

Every dollar helps our dogs and cats! For more information on becoming a Paw Pal donor contact our Director of Development at [development@wshs-dg.org](mailto:development@wshs-dg.org).



## Thank You to the WSHS Legacy Society Members

The Legacy Society is a recognized group of Committed WSHS supporters who have chosen to make planned gifts to WSHS. A gift from an estate helps assure continuity of quality services and the future of WSHS. A planned gift signifies the donor's lifetime commitment to WSHS. It allows him/her to make contributions to WSHS which are not "out-of-pocket" during the donor's lifetime and can be tailored to meet the donor's priorities. Planned giving can help with effective estate tax planning.

Anonymous	Dione Gacke	Helen Nowicki
Linda & Steve	Kathleen Gilbert	Reed and Ute O'Malley
Pauline Annicks	Jim Grabowski	Neal Oppenheimer
Lorie Bonham	Irene Halicka	Ernestine Ostrowski
Gloria Bornsen	Paul Hedburn	Judy Reeder
Carol Bousek	Charles and Diane Hlavaty	Dorothy Ryan
Lyndell F. Bowman	Brian J. Hofmann	Larry Sacks
Herbert Brown	Charles Kastner	John A Sacher
Patty Christophersen	Jill Kurth	Scott Schneider
Roberta Clark	Shannon Lenz	Patricia Schwartz
Virginia Croan	Denise Lores	Christine Sinn
Sylvester Czopek	Bernard and Janice Mack	Dorothy Smith
Stanley Drohomirecki	Ray McDonald	Eleanor Swiglo
Chuck and Mary Edwards	Jane and Charles McLagan	Eric Van Cleven
Richard Eppinga	Janice Millington	Otto W. Vollenwieder
Barbara F.	Kurt Mohr	Rachel Watson
Jeannette Foster	David and Christina Morrison	
Clyde A. Fazanbaker	Carolyn Mossberger	

**Interested in making a lasting legacy for our animals?  
Contact our Executive Director at [director@wshs-dg.org](mailto:director@wshs-dg.org)**

# 2022 WSHS Financial Statement



## Revenue

Contributions	\$611,449
Bequests	\$220,000
Events	\$163,663
Adoption Fees	\$83,565
In-Kind Contributions	\$99,651
Investment Income	\$72,473
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,105,855</b>

## Expenses

### Program Services

– Animal Care and Education	\$302,676
– Vet Care and Medical Supplies	\$226,140
– Food and Supplies	\$140,790
– Spay/Neuter	\$34,637
– Other Program Related Costs	\$252,705

### Supporting Services

– General and Administrative	\$73,935
– Fundraising	\$199,826

**Total Expenses** **\$1,230,709**

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$124,854</b>
<b>Net Assets , Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$5,159,038</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$5,034,184</b>

# Success Story: Grayson & Ethan



**G**rayson and Ethan had a rough start in life; one of our volunteers found these young kittens living outside on their own. They were malnourished and unsocialized with humans. Grayson was wobbly and uncoordinated, and after a visit to the vet, we found out that Grayson was also deaf. The vet felt his wobbliness would disappear with good nutrition and general good care.

The volunteer was keeping the kittens in her home and continued to foster them. Once the kittens had gained weight, the volunteer brought them to the adoption center to make them available for adoption. After Grayson had been here for a few days, we noticed that he was still wobbly and would swing his head from side to side when he walked. We scheduled another vet visit and, this time, the vet did bloodwork to rule out a fungal infection. As a preventative, he started Grayson on a four-week course of antibiotics.

Grayson's bloodwork was normal, so after the antibiotics were finished, both kittens were microchipped, and we scheduled their neuter surgeries. Ethan's surgery went well, but Grayson had a seizure after waking up from the anesthesia. The vet hoped this was a one-time occurrence and told us to monitor Grayson back at the adoption center.

All went well for a few weeks, but then Grayson had another seizure. The vet felt our next step should be contacting a neurologist, so we made an appointment for Grayson at VCA Aurora. The neurologist examined him and scheduled him for an MRI. He believes that Grayson has a deep inner ear infection, and the MRI will help them determine the best course of treatment. The vet also prescribed another antibiotic and prednisolone.

As you can imagine, visiting a specialty vet and having an MRI is expensive, but we never turn our back on an animal in need at West Suburban Humane Society. We provide rescue care beyond compare for all animals that come through our door. However, we could only do this for our animals with the help of our generous supporters.

While all this happening with Grayson, you may be asking what about Ethan. Ethan also had his own unexpected issues. He developed a skin infection and lost all his hair on his neck and chin. After two vet visits and four weeks of skin ointment, Ethan has healed, and his fur is growing back.

One of our volunteers who had been following Grayson and Ethan's progress, decided to foster them. After a few weeks of fostering, she decided to adopt them and make them permanent members of her family.



**Grayson**



**Ethan**

West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS) is a volunteer based, animal welfare organization that was founded in 1972 as a lost and found referral service. We provide housing for up to 25 dogs and 60 cats at a time. We operate at full capacity at all time with animal care and adoptions being provided by four full-time and ten part-time employees and over 400 volunteers. Our adoption center is open to the public six days a week. Since 1972, we have adopted 31,000 plus dogs and cats.



## **West Suburban** Humane Society

### **Contact Us:**

West Suburban Humane Society

1901 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: (630) 960-9600

Fax: (630) 960-9604

[www.wshs-dg.org](http://www.wshs-dg.org)

