

# 2024 Annual Report



**West Suburban**  
Humane Society



**Skittles**

Adopted December 2024



**Miles**

Adopted June 2024



**Phoebe Bridgers**

Adopted July 2024



**Keiko**

Adopted November 2024

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



Dear friends,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at West Suburban Humane Society, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the compassion and dedication of our community. Together, we have continued to transform lives – both for the animals in our care and for the individuals and families who welcome them into their hearts and homes.

This year, our team worked tirelessly to provide love, shelter, and medical care to 612 animals in need. From heartwarming adoption stories to the lifesaving medical treatments we made possible, every milestone we achieved is a testament to the power of our shared commitment.

We also took important steps to expand our impact. Whether through enhancing our community outreach programs, offering resources to help pet owners in crisis, or educating the next generation of animal advocates, our work continues to extend far beyond the walls of our adoption center.

Of course, none of this would be possible without you – our donors, volunteers, adopters, and advocates. Your unwavering support fuels our mission and allows us to envision a future where every animal is given the chance they deserve.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as inspired as I do by the progress we have made together. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Here's to another year of hope, healing, and new beginnings.

With thanks,

*Carolyn Mossberger*

Carolyn Mossberger

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## 2024 Board of Directors

### **President**

Mark Motuelle

### **Vice President**

David Welch

### **Recording Secretary**

Sarah Marshall

### **Controller/Treasurer**

Kerry Kopera

### **Directors**

Dr. Lyn Edmonson

Bob Koch

Marci Levites

Susan Liddi

Scott McMillin

Brian Wasielewski

Maria Wrobel

# Success Story: Sybil, Nightshade, & Axel



Nightshade, Sybil and Cobweb came to us in August. The three kittens were 3 months old, and arrived on a transport from an agency in Nashville. Nightshade and Cobweb were diagnosed with Feline panleukopenia (FPV), a highly contagious, potentially fatal disease. FPV often causes life-threatening dehydration and shock, and can require intensive care and monitoring, often including IV fluid therapy, nutritional support, as well as pain and anti-vomiting medications.

Nightshade was hospitalized and while he has recovered, he has neurological damage making him a bit “wobbly.” Unfortunately, Cobweb did not survive.

Both animals received the Above and Beyond care that we are committed to provide all our animals, which is made possible by donors like you. Nightshade’s hospitalization and care exceeded \$4,000, which does not include the ‘average’ expenses we incur with all our animals, including spay/neuter, vaccinations, and routine medical care.

Fortunately for Nightshade, his foster family has adopted him (and his sister Sybil), wobble and all.



When we take in an animal at West Suburban Humane Society, we commit to caring for that animal for the rest of their lives. Such is the case with Axel. Axel was adopted from West Suburban as a three-month-old puppy. For nine years, he lived a happy life with his owner. Unfortunately, his owner passed away recently, so Axel was returned to the adoption center.

As you can imagine, the first few weeks were tough for Axel. He didn’t understand where his owner was or why he was in a strange place. In looking at his medical records, we noticed that he had lost a significant amount of weight over the past year and was having a lot of gastrointestinal (GI) issues. We made a vet appointment for Axel to have a senior wellness check-up. The bloodwork showed that Axel was losing protein. More tests were done, but unfortunately, they were inconclusive. Axel either has Irritable Bowel Disease or GI Lymphoma.

The vet recommended a special diet, medication, and a probiotic. The good news is that Axel’s GI issues are improving, and he is beginning to gain weight. With love and attention from the staff and volunteers, Axel is starting to relax and feel comfortable at the adoption center. He even got to attend Barkapalooza where he had a great time getting lots of attention and pets!

At West Suburban, we make a lifelong commitment to the animals in our care. We provide whatever they need medically to ensure a good quality of life and ready them to find their family. We couldn’t do that without the support and generosity of our amazing donors.

Axel’s health is improving and he is thriving in the care of a loving foster family.



# 2024 Impact Report



**557**

pets adopted including 199 dogs and 358 cats.



**275**

kids participated in our humane education program and learned about rescue. We hosted 77 birthday parties and 42 school/group tours with 100 kids in attendance.



**\$439,704**

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



**11,920**

pounds of food donated to local food pantries and other rescues 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

## Volunteer Support

WSHS was supported by:

**437**  
volunteers



**29,500**  
volunteers  
hours



**10,500**  
hours  
dedicated  
to cats



**17,200**  
hours  
dedicated  
to dogs



The remainder of the hours were spent on the hundreds of other duties that keep our rescue running. We also have tons of volunteers that spend countless hours fostering dogs and cats in need.

# 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



- |  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Traub and Associates</li> <li>ABA of Illinois LLC</li> <li>Abbvie</li> <li>Aileen S. Andrew Foundation</li> <li>Ally Financial Inc.</li> <li>Alter Brewing Company</li> <li>Amgen Foundation</li> <li>Amsco Engineering, Inc.</li> <li>Annelyn Education Fund</li> <li>ASPCA</li> <li>Attwell Family Foundation</li> <li>Arthur J. Gallagher</li> <li>Arway Confections</li> <li>Baig of Tricks (In-Kind)</li> <li>Bark Avenue Daycamp</li> <li>Bubblehouse Brewing, LLC</li> <li>Busey Bank</li> <li>Caterpillar Foundation</li> <li>Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cisco Systems, Inc.</li> <li>Citgo</li> <li>Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc.</li> <li>Companion Animal Rehab</li> <li>Crowe Foundation</li> <li>Culver's Downers Grove</li> <li>CVS Health</li> <li>Daimler Truck</li> <li>Downers Grove Area</li> <li>Newcomers Association</li> <li>Downers Grove Women's Club</li> <li>Dynamic Manufacturing</li> <li>Emergency Veterinary Services of Lisle</li> <li>Eric Holby Animal Welfare Foundation</li> <li>Exelon Foundation</li> <li>Ferrari Club of America</li> <li>- Central States Region</li> <li>Fetch Pet Care of Wheaton, IL</li> <li>Friends of FCAC</li> <li>Grant &amp; Power Landscaping, Inc.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy Dog Barkery</li> <li>Helen M. Harrison Foundation</li> <li>Integra Asset Solutions</li> <li>John Burns Construction</li> <li>Jones Lang Lasalle</li> <li>JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.,</li> <li>Central Trust Services</li> <li>K2N Crest P.C.</li> <li>Kolnicki Peterson Wirth, LLC</li> <li>KPMG Gives c/o Bergen</li> <li>County's United Way</li> <li>LeafGuard</li> <li>Lemmco, Inc.</li> <li>Lisle Savings Bank</li> <li>Mary Lou Downs Foundation</li> <li>McNees and Associates</li> <li>Midwest Waste Consultants, LLC</li> <li>Mike Agruss Law</li> <li>Miller Cooper Charitable Foundation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Financial Services</li> <li>New York Life Insurance Co.</li> <li>NP 2022 Holdings, LLC</li> <li>Oakbrook Kennel Club</li> <li>Oberweis Dairy</li> <li>Old Second National Bank</li> <li>Orix Foundation</li> <li>Partners and Paws</li> <li>Veterinary Services</li> <li>Paws in Paradise</li> <li>Pet Butler</li> <li>PetSuites of Naperville</li> <li>Philadelphia Insurance</li> <li>Pledgeling Foundation</li> <li>Regal Mutt</li> <li>RMB Capital</li> <li>Robert Bair Plumbing,</li> <li>Heating &amp; Air</li> <li>Select Equity Group Foundation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sikich</li> <li>Solid Foundation Therapy/Optimal</li> <li>Massage and Fitness</li> <li>Specialty Construction</li> <li>Stantec Consulting Services</li> <li>St. Paul's Church By-The-Lake</li> <li>Suburban K9</li> <li>Tad and Christine Render</li> <li>Charitable Fund</li> <li>Thrivent</li> <li>Transunion</li> <li>VCA Arboretum View</li> <li>Veterinary Emergency Group</li> <li>William and Evelyn Fuchs Family</li> <li>Foundation</li> <li>Zealth Digital Marketing</li> </ul> |
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## 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 2024 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 2024 WSHS was supported by 437 volunteers giving more than 29,500 hours. The cats benefited from more than 10,500 volunteer hours and the dogs from more than 17,200 volunteer hours. The remainder of the hours were spent on the hundreds of other duties that keep our rescue running. Volunteers are also involved in special events and fundraisers, including adoption events, our annual golf outing, and Barkapalooza. Additionally, WSHS volunteers contribute their time and expertise to the shelter by serving on special advisory groups such as Fundraising and Marketing.



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).**



# 2024 Fundraising Events



2024 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 three new Barks, Bingo and Brews, as well as long-standing favorites including Barkapalooza, our Golf Outing, Pawction, Trivia and more!

## Barkapalooza 2024



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



There was lots of entertainment including music by the Carl Hix Ukulele Band.



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



Deacon Greg gives the Pet Blessing at the start of Barkapalooza 2024.

**SAVE THE DATES**  
for our 2025 Signature Events:

- Trivia Night – April 12th
- Golf Outing – July 28th
- Barkapalooza 5K & Rescue Fest – September 28th
- Pawction – December 6th

# 2024 Fundraising Events



Our annual Pawction raised over \$30,000 for our cats and dogs.



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



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



Our Girl's Night Out event brought out 75 guests at Clara's in Woodridge.

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	Clyde Fazenbaker	Jill Kurth	Kathyn Richert
Linda & Steve	Jeanette Foster	Shannon Lenz	Matthew Richert
Kathleen Andersen	Barbara F.	Denise Lores	Dorothy Ryan
Pauline Annicks	Dione Gacke	Bernard & Janice Mack	John Sacher
Linda Autz	Kathleen Gilbert	Ray McDonald	Larry Sacks
Lorie Bonham	James Grabowski	Jane & Charles McLagan	Scott Schneider
Gloria Bornsen	Irene Halicka	Janice Millington	Patricia Schwartz
Carolyn Boucek	Paul Hedburn	Kurt Mohr	Christine Sinn
Lyndell Bowman	Charles & Diane Hlavaty	David & Christina	Dorothy Smith
Herbert Brown	Brian Hofmann	Morrison	Eleanor Swiglo
Celeste Burke	John Hoh	Carolyn Mossberger	Jacqueline Torrance
Patty Christophersen	Patricia Holman	Helen Nowicki	Eric Van Clevon
Roberta Clark	Stephan & Susan Jordan	Reed & Ute O'Malley	Gary Vandervest
Virginia Croan	Amanda Kass	Valerie Onorato	Otto Vollenwider
Sylvester Czopek	Braden Kass	Neal Oppenheimer	Mildred Vondra
Stanley Drohomirecki	Charles Kastner	Sara Orr	Rachel Watson
Chuck & Mary Edwards	Michele Kielbasa	Ernestine Ostrowski	Laureen Westberg
Richard Eppinga	Kerry Kopera	Rich Penner	John Wharton
Matthew Faleni	Catherine Kosin	Judy Reeder	Karen Wilger

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

# 2023 WSHS Financial Statement



## Revenue

Contributions	\$708,560
Bequests	\$1,105,553
Events	\$245,164
Adoption Fees	\$99,077
In-Kind Contributions	\$105,409
Investment Income	\$107,771
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,371,534</b>

## Expenses

### Program Services

– Animal Care and Education	\$364,658
– Vet Care and Medical Supplies	\$233,636
– Food and Supplies	\$155,663
– Spay/Neuter	\$50,333
– Other Program Related Costs	\$254,464

### Supporting Services

– General and Administrative	\$86,407
– Fundraising	\$201,801

**Total Expenses** **\$1,346,962**

**Change in Net Assets** **\$1,024,572**

**Net Assets , Beginning of Year** **\$5,034,184**

**Net Assets, End of Year** **\$6,058,756**

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 3 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 more than 31,000 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)

