



**KALLISTA, 1 YEAR 2 MONTHS IN THE SHELTER,
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2023**



2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

ANIMAL HARBOR

www.animalharbor.org

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LETTER FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With your help, for 20 years, Animal Harbor has striven to make Franklin County a better place for companion animals. The work of Animal Harbor saves lives and empowers the community to care for their pets. At Animal Harbor, no animal is ever euthanized for space. The shelter is a safe, loving harbor until every homeless animal finds its home.

The past couple of years have involved much learning and growing for the staff and board of directors at Animal Harbor. Navigating operation of a high demand, managed intake, non-profit shelter during a housing rental crisis, uncertain economic times and high inflation has brought many challenges to our community of pet owners. These factors have caused a dramatic increase in the number of animals that are abandoned in the streets or humanely surrendered.

Sadly, making the choice to bring in an animal on our wait-list or pull an animal from animal control (that may be euthanized if we don't help), has been the theme of the year. It's a conversation our staff has had to have all too often these days. The stress of making these life or death decisions daily and caring for the traumatized animals (and people) takes an emotional toll, pushing many in the animal welfare industry to the brink of exhaustion and burnout. For that reason, in 2022 our organization made a giant leap forward and invested in our biggest asset-our people. We have developed a strategic plan that invests in the animals and the people who care for them, and we continue to focus on staff retention and the lifesaving mission capacity. We completed a pay and salary study, and were able to increase the pay of our front-line staff by 8% in 2022, something that we are incredibly proud of.

Over the past two years we have been laser focused on strengthening the existing lifesaving and wellness programs, growing community pet assistance and spay/neuter programs, and creating a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) program for colony and feral cats.

In this Impact Report, you'll read about how we've increased our capacity to serve the homeless animal community and expanded our low-cost vet services for pet owners. These strategies operationalize our vision to minimize life loss, and to have a community where all adoptable pets have a home. This vision is made possible thanks to caring animal lovers like you. It is through the generosity of our supporters, that lives are changed, every single day.

With a grateful heart,

Emily Holland



My name is Imelda, and I am available for adoption! 2024 will be my year.

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TINA PHILPOTT, VOLUNTEER



“My favorite part about volunteering with Animal Harbor is that I know my work has a **POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE PET COMMUNITY.**”

Tina has been a volunteer for five years, and does it all from cleaning cat kennels to helping at events. She is most notably known for taking incoming phone calls and processing SNAP applications with a friendly tone and beautiful smile.

Hendrey was at the shelter 458 days before he was saved by his foster mom, Joy. Hendrey had such a rough start, dumped in rural Sinking Cove, TN and left to fend for himself. By the time he made his way to the shelter, he was full of intestinal parasites and worst of all- heartworms. After three grueling rounds of treatment, Hendrey was still positive for heartworm disease and had to have a fourth and fifth course of treatment. During this time, he was struggling to cope in the shelter. Any time spent in the shelter is stressful, but spending over one year and undergoing heartworm treatment in isolation is brutal. It wasn't until we connected with supporter Joy that Hendrey's life changed. She said yes to fostering him through his "wait period" (the time required to wait between heartworm treatment and retesting). What we didn't know was when he left the shelter with Joy that he would thrive instantly and connect so deeply with his foster family.

Joy and Bob knew that they couldn't part with Hendrey. They knew that Hendrey was already where he belonged- with them, in his forever home.

The team at Animal Harbor ensures that every animal is well cared for and loved throughout their stay in the shelter. While the average length of stay for adopted animals is 60 days, many animals, like Hendrey, are with us longer than others, but the effort to find a forever home never weakens. We celebrate our long timers. Hendrey's story is all of their stories.

ADOPTED MAY 2023



Mission Moment

At Animal Harbor, no animal is ever euthanized for space. The shelter is a safe, loving harbor until every pet finds its home. Even the harder to adopt have a place here. We do not discriminate against breed or age.



Hendrey's story

458

SHELTER NIGHTS

916

MEALS

1,374

WALKS

675

BELLY RUBS

215

WET KISSES

12

VET VISITS

10

MARKETING PROMOTIONS

2

PARTIES
WITH STAFF

1

FOREVER HOME



YOU SPOKE...

WHY IS THE CAUSE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

"All animals deserve love, the comfort of a good home, good food, nutrition, and access to medical care." - Susan C

"There are entirely too many homeless pets in our community."
-Heather

"I love animals and want them to be loved and properly cared for and treated with respect and kindness." - Susan T

"Animals are selfless, giving, and loving. I think more of my pets than I do most people. Pets provide hours, days, weeks, months and years of joy and happiness yet ask so little in return." -Willard

"They have no way to help themselves. It is up to us to protect and help them." -Shelia

"Without organizations like Animal Harbor so many more animals would suffer a very grim fate. I have seen it."
-Ted

"So many dogs and cats living in sad situations. These wonderful creatures need a voice to help them survive!" -Tina

"Animals need to be cared for as we would care for ourselves." -Mary Kay



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



Before surgery- organs pushed into chest cavity



Dovi in recovery- able to eat and breath on his own!

**DOVI, SURVIVOR OF
PHYSICAL ABUSE
ADOPTED
SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Your belief in the
cause saves lives like
mine!*



After surgery- all organs back where they belong

Dovi was a victim of brutal human violence that the vet reported as the equivalent of being struck by a vehicle. When we received the call to help, we knew that his diagnosis of a diaphragmatic herniation caused by the force of the injury was life or death. We also knew that he would need a costly and risky surgery to survive. We knew we had to save him, and we had to ask for our supporters to help. And that is exactly what our community did. When we ask, you show up. And that makes all the difference in the lives of so many.



MEET JACE AND THE KEDZIERSKI FAMILY.

A STORY OF LIFE CHANGING CONNECTION

Love saves, and I will tell you how I know. Jace was left behind at a local campground. For months he was homeless.

After finding his way to Animal Harbor, he began treatment for heartworm disease, and with many safe nights of sleep and extra food, he was medically cleared, and found his forever family.

Nothing about Jace's story is ordinary – because Jace literally saved his new people.

Jace's new family was suffering indescribable pain after the tragic loss of their young, incredible, and beautiful daughter to suicide.

After long-suffering and struggling to move forward, Renay encouraged her husband, Tim, to consider adopting a dog. After much consideration, they reached out to Animal Harbor.

While one dog caught their eye on the website, another stole their hearts at the shelter during their meet and greet– and that dog was Jace. When Jace came out of his kennel, he ran to Tim, laid at his feet, and looked up at him. That was the moment they knew. Jace was theirs.

Jace had the unique ability to show calmness in moments of unrest. He really lit up the room with his overly friendly personality – like a warm teddy bear.

And that is exactly what Jace provided to his family – warm emotional support and comfort at the end of a hard day.

Jace and his new family were each other's reason to not only survive but to live.

At the 2023 20th Anniversary gala, Jace received the Harbor Hero award, and Tim moved supporters with his heartfelt story of love after indescribable loss.

Your generosity has the power to connect dogs like Jace to families like Renay and Tim. I cannot think of a more powerful expression of love.

**JACE, 9 MONTHS IN THE SHELTER,
ADOPTED MAY 2022**



BY THE NUMBERS 2022&2023

TRANSPORT



800

CATS AND DOGS
TRANSPORTED
AND ADOPTED

SPAY/NEUTER &
TNR



956

ANIMALS FIXED


ADOPTIONS



185

LOCAL
ADOPTIONS

PET MEALS



365

COMMUNITY
PETS FED

VACCINES



112

COMMUNITY PETS
VACCINATED

OTHER



121

ANIMALS
RENDERED
AID

SAVE RATE

98.26%

YOUR
IMPACT
AT WORK

VOLUNTEERS

75



VOLUNTEER
HOURS

2,743



MEET BOW AND ARROW.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY TRUST

In August 2022, we expanded our community assistance programs by adding monthly low-cost vaccine and service clinics. This program has been years in the making, and was made possible by the generosity of our supporters, event volunteers, and the PetCo Love Foundation.

The Couch family attended one of our monthly wellness clinics, and once we learned the story of the dogs in the back of the truck, we instantly knew why this program was so important for our community. Mr. Couch and his family found two puppies (Bow and Arrow) abandoned, emaciated, and with no where to go. They couldn't just turn a blind eye. Being the nice, dog loving people they are, they decided to take the pups in and love them back to health.

They even considered rehoming them at one point, but those that were interested just didn't seem like great pet owners to them, so they decided to keep the pups, love them, and keep them out of the shelter.

The cost of vet services being on the rise, made it hard for them to make appointments for the complete vetting of both of the puppies, so they reached out to us for help.

We thank the Couch family for doing the right thing and most importantly not turning a blind eye to these sweet puppies who were in dire need of intervention and a human hero!

When we are able to offer services to those in our community that step up to do the right thing, we are spreading the message that we are in this rescue gig together, and that is such a powerful thing.



Community assistance programs open up lines of communication and trust. We have an opportunity to start a movement that will improve pet wellness for financially distressed pet owners and keep more animals out of the shelter.

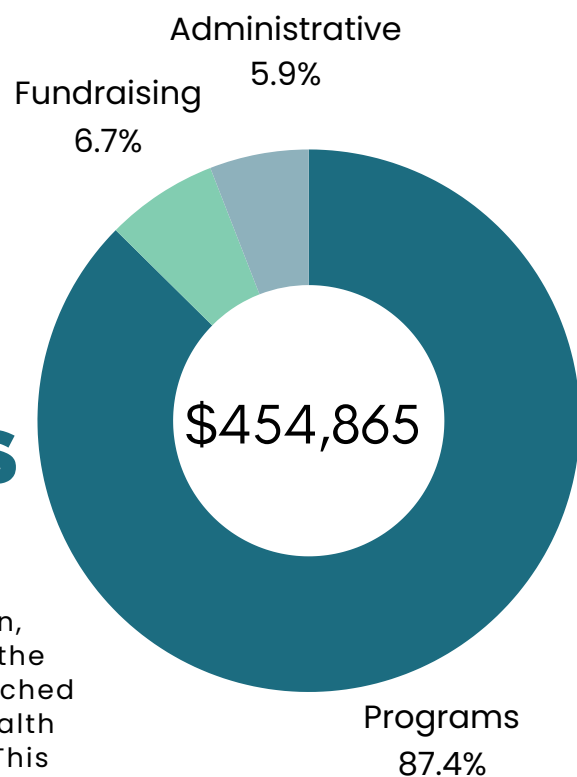
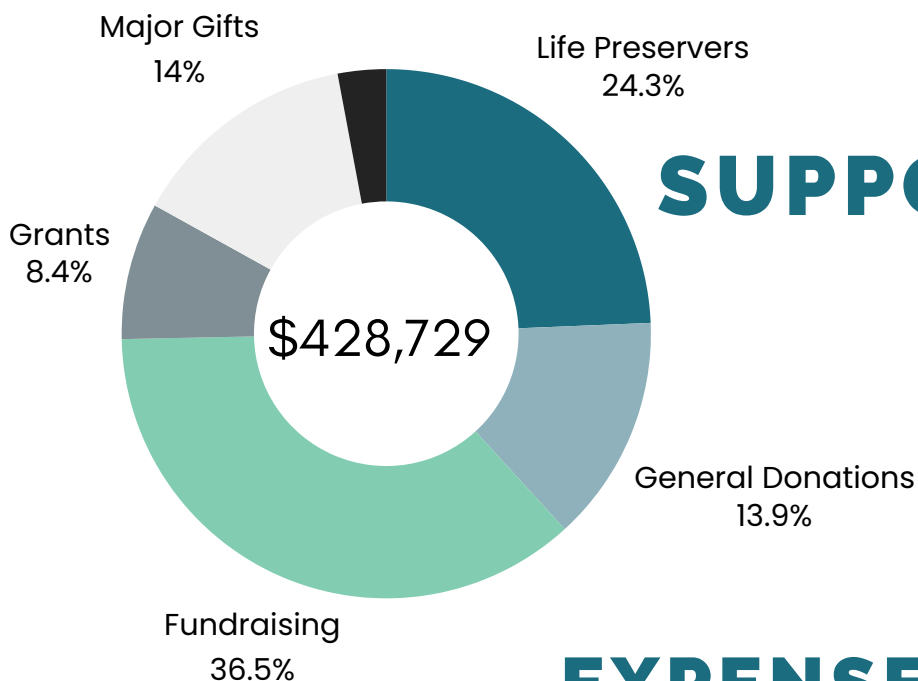
Five-year-old Rocco was found as a stray and bounced from camper to camper to find food at the Circle E Horse Ranch before he came to the shelter.

"Rocco is the first pet cat that I have ever had, and he is wonderful. He's been such a joy in my life."

-Alexa, adopted Rocco in September 2023



2023 FINANCIALS



Thanks to the dedication, compassion, and love of the staff, this little guy was patched up and nursed back to health after a severe leg injury. This journey with **Chance** has, at times, been challenging, but we love him and enjoy his presence in our home. He is **family**. -The Whrays, adopters

LYNDELL, 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS IN THE SHELTER, ADOPTED OCTOBER 2023



2023 EVENTS

20th Anniversary Gala

Animal Harbor "Goes Hollywood" to celebrate twenty years of saving lives with dancing, a wonderful meal, and so much fun. Animal Harbor offers VIP recognition to past board members and sponsors. Two Animal Harbor adoption program alums were presented Harbor Hero Awards for their extraordinary service and dedication to the community and their families.



Call for Animal Harbor Luncheon

October 25, 2024



Bone Drop

We were thrilled with the results of 2023's event, and our hearts are full of gratitude for what this means for the animals that we are able to save because of the generosity of our community!

283 bones were sold, for a new RECORD. This is our largest annual fundraiser, and the funds collected allows us to support our lifesaving and community support programs. This level of success meant everything to us in our 20th Anniversary year.

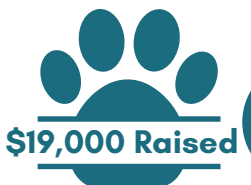


August 24, 2024



Golf "Fore" Paws

Golfers and volunteers filled the greens in 2023, making the tournament a wild success. Animal Harbor honors the life of Linda Winn (creator of the event) by presenting the Jeane Patton Humanitarian Award to her family. Phyllis Larson was also awarded with a Harbor Hero award for her influential work developing the tournament, and for her service on the board of directors.



June 15, 2024



MEET WALLY.

HOW EXPONENTIAL LIFE SAVING HAPPENS

In the Spring of 2022, Animal Harbor set out on a mission to develop a program to address the growing concerns surrounding feral and colony cats in Franklin County. In collaboration with Animal Care Center, this dream became a reality!

That brings us to Wally's story. A supporter reached out describing a heartbreaking situation she witnessed each time she went to Walmart. Dumpster cats, dumpster kittens, and more kittens each time she went. We set out to make a difference for this small population of cats living at Walmart.

Wally was the first cat that the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) team of volunteers trapped and successful rehomed.

Wally was safely relocated to a local barn, where he will live the rest of his life being cared for and not contributing to the homeless cat overpopulation problem in Franklin County.

With TNR, you can stabilize the population humanely, improve the cats' lives, address neighbors' concerns, and help the entire community reach a solution that benefits everyone.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Journey to 20 Years



The Anne Giles Canine Enrichment Program and agility-course expansion was propelled into action August 2022.

The driving force and motivation behind this program is to increase local adoption success rates and quality of life by reducing stress and allowing dogs to "be dogs" in a shelter environment.

"We couldn't be more proud of this expansion and the impact it has had on shelter-dog quality of life and volunteer engagement," Harbor Executive Director Emily Holland



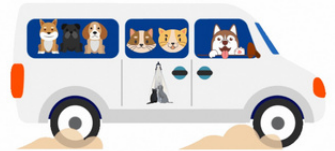
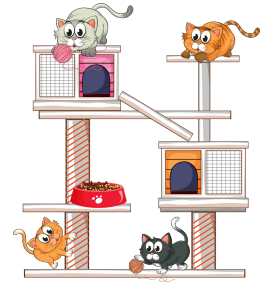
LOOKING UP AHEAD

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

As the shelter ages and programs mature, we must invest in our infrastructure. In the next three years, we have laid out a plan, and there are major needs.

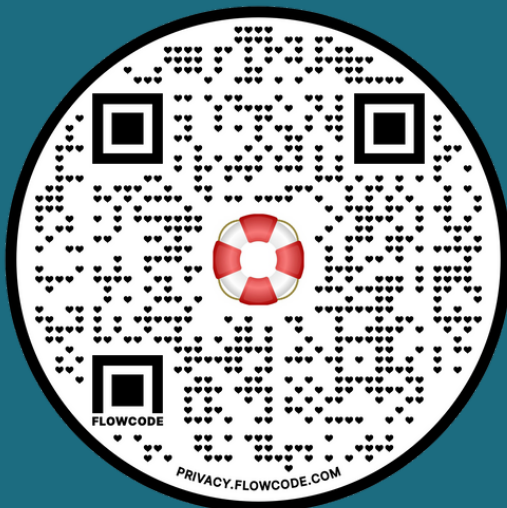
Here are some things that we must consider doing:

- Renovating the cat community rooms, because let's face it, after nine years of being in the shelter and housing thousands of cats, they are in bad shape. Estimated cost- \$7,000
- Expanding our space and building on to the shelter campus so we have a safe isolation area for dogs. Estimated cost- \$100,000
- Purchasing a transport van to transport more animals to safety. Estimated cost- \$30,000



The truth is, we want to do all of these, but without a team of supporters like you who can provide an ongoing runway of support for the day to day expenses it takes to save lives - it feels like a big stretch. You can provide that financial security and allow us to plan for these major improvements by investing in our Life Preserver Program.

**JULIA, 6 MONTHS IN
THE SHELTER,
ADOPTED 2021. STILL
THE LOVE OF WALTER'S
LIFE!**



Help us make both short-term and long-term plans that strengthen our life-saving programs by becoming a Life Preserver.

