

Annual Report from 2019

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Co-Treasurer

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Year in Review

by Elisabeth Strillacci

2019 was a year of contrast – one of our best years ever, but at one point, one of our worst.

It was one of the best in large part because at long last, (after more than 40 years) we have a home of our own! Over all these years, our “stuff” has been stored in volunteers’ homes! We initially thought we would build a 2,800 square foot building, putting an end to the need to transport animals for our spay/neuter clinic and allowing us to bring the pet food pantry indoors, no longer having to use tents, regardless of weather. For so long, we have persevered, opening the pantry where the temperature was 25 or 95 degrees, in rain, sleet and even snow.



Ribbon cutting ceremony

But good fortune smiled on us, and we found ourselves with an opportunity to buy an 18,000 square foot building – for the same price as a new building six times smaller! Yes the building we had an option to buy is not new, but well built, and a previous business had already upgraded electrical, heating and air systems and had put on a new roof. The building has ample space for us to develop a low-cost spay/neuter clinic of our very own, on site. The existing owner was willing to work with us on the purchase as well. It was an unbelievable blessing!

Bruce Kingsbury, our president, and Becky Everhart, one of our treasurers, signed on the dotted line and the building was ours!

Then fate stepped in. Two short days later, Becky was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer – the worst of the year. Becky was at the first meeting more than 40 years ago with Gay Hutchins, Corkey Briggs and a small group of supporters that started the Humane Society of Davidson County.

Becky did get to enjoy a few months with us in the new building before we lost her on October 23, 2019. Before her death, Dr. Greg Hedrick presented her with a plaque in honor and appreciation for all the work she did for the people and the animals of Davidson County. We are still feeling her loss.

At the moment, there are no animals housed in the new building (except in cases of extreme emergency or for a short term). It has always been our philosophy that animals do best in foster homes, not confined in cages and left alone in buildings overnight. (A reminder, we need more fosters! Fostering saves lives!)

We DO, however, intend to develop space for a spay/neuter clinic on site. Two vets and two vet techs have come to tour the building, and all believe we can make it happen. The next challenge is two-fold, therefore. We need to raise funds for the interior construction of the clinic, and perhaps even more challenging, we need to get our County Commissioners on board.

We remain, as we will likely always be, a work in progress. But we have a place to call home now – a roof over our heads and walls to protect us. And so we carry on!

We continue to offer the following:

- 1) Pet Food Pantry – first Wednesday every other month, now in our new home!
- 2) PetSmart Adoption Fair – the first and third Saturday every month, PetSmart, Lowes Plaza
- 3) Thrifty Paws Shop – Second and Fourth Fridays and Saturdays each month, in our new home! Friday hours are 2-5 p.m., Saturdays hours are 10-2
- 4) Spay/neuter Transport to Greensboro – Third Wednesday of every month, departs 7 a.m.

We also held our annual yard sale in July and the 17th annual horse show in the summer of 2019, where our fundraising topped previous years!

Our volunteers remain the heart of how we do what we do, and we remain grateful for all of their hard work and dedication. As noted, we are always looking for more volunteers, including fosters. Without you, the animals often don't stand a chance. But when someone is willing to stand up and invest in an animal, oh! The difference it can make!

Buddy is one such animal. He found his way one night to the perfect house. While he would not allow Holly to get close enough to touch him, he would eat the food she put out and drink the water before sneaking away. Holly could see he was painfully thin, had a collar on and was limping. She determined she was going to do whatever she could to help Buddy.

For three nights, she stayed out in her carport, talking to Buddy softly, offering him food and coaxing him to trust her. When he finally allowed her to get her hands on him, she realized she was holding a pit bull mix, and that she knew next to nothing about him. The collar had no name of an owner or of the dog, and it was so tight it had rubbed the skin on his neck raw, leaving an open wound. Holly called the Humane Society and together, we got him to the vet for immediate attention. The vet told us Buddy was severely malnourished, was heartworm positive, and had been hit by a car, likely long ago. The injury had healed incorrectly, and Buddy had simply learned to limp along as best he could. For many dogs, all of that information would mean euthanasia. Overcoming his physical issues would be challenging enough, as heartworm treatment is expensive and difficult, but there was going to need to be healing from whatever emotional trauma Buddy had survived as well.

Holly went all in. She took Buddy home, got him on a healthy diet to add some needed weight, and began heartworm treatment. When he was eventually stable – weight up, neck healed and on the road to health, he was moved into one of our marvelous foster homes, where he was evaluated for temperament, ability to get along with other dogs and children, strangers, and yes, cats. He was deemed a true gentleman on all fronts, his foster mom noted, saying he was

the sweetest dog she'd ever had. He was placed in a home, but it was not a perfect fit, so he came back to foster for a few weeks before his furever mom arrived. His mom was seeking an older dog to love, and met and fell in love with Buddy from the start. Buddy now has a furever home AND office, as he travels to work each day with his mom.



Buddy

A happy ending like this is always what we strive for! We cannot get here every single time, but stories like Buddy's are the reason we keep doing what we do.



THRIFTY PAWS

Janet Fluharty

We're proud to introduce our new thrift shop, **THRIFTY PAWS**, to you in this newsletter. It's stocked full of household items, china, glassware, dog and cat supplies, children's toys, pictures, furniture, clothes and much more. We had a soft opening in August and we have continued to be open on the second and forth weekend of each month. Friday's 2:00 to 5:00 and Saturday's 10:00 to 2:00.

Our property is located at:

1120 Piedmont Dr. Lexington, N C .

Drive around to the back of the building and come up the ramp.

It has been fun setting up displays and decorating for your enjoyment and shopping experience. There's been a lot of great and encouraging response from the public thus far and we'd love to have all of you come visit us. We also have our foster dogs on site at times in the shop and they give lots of kisses and love all the attention. Needless to say we are pet friendly so bring your dogs when you come visit.

Our shop thrives on your generous donations, and your donations help us fund all of the projects that help the animals and people of Davidson County. Please call us if you have a big delivery or feel free to drop off your donations up the ramp under the sheltered area. Thanks so much for you support and contributions to THRIFTY PAWS and please tell everyone about us!

Janet Fluharty – Thrifty Paws Coordinator

336-250-7114



2018
Vet Bills \$38,807.58
Pet Food Pantry 11,939 lbs
3,655 Cans for 2,489 Animals for 342 Families
34 Adopted Animals



The Humane Society of Davidson County gratefully acknowledges these
Memorial and Honor gifts received between December 2018 and December 2019:

<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>BY:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>BY:</u>
Marty Gillmore	Donald & Martha Embry	Becky Everhart	Janet Griggs
Lynn Griggs	Janet Griggs	Becky Everhart	Gretchen Reside
Ann Parrish	James Hudson Jr.	Becky Everhart	Tammy Michael
Charles Henry Fritts	Perry Walters & Family	Becky Everhart	James & Elizabeth Leonard
"Chase"	Ed & Linda Long	Becky Everhart	Gwynne Masline Chadwick
Lewis Saintsing	City of Thomasville	Becky Everhart	Nancy K. Summer
Preston Schwartz	Alan & Melody Williams	Becky Everhart	Celia Mabe
Todd Hanes	Tammy & Gary Michael	Becky Everhart	Gregory & Sandra Rice
Susie Hedgecock	Larry & Libby Essick	Becky Everhart	David & Jody Fleming
"Silver"	Mrs. H. Cloyd Philpott	Becky Everhart	Janet Fluharty
Mike Blackwelder	Margaret House	Becky Everhart	Marilyn Hilton
Mike Blackwelder	Noel & Jean Leatherman	Becky Everhart	Jane Everhart
Mike Blackwelder	Bruce & Paula Hodak	Becky Everhart	Harriet Hege
Mike Blackwelder	Charles Bowyer	Becky Everhart	Cynthia Link
Mike Blackwelder	Wayne & Pam Alley	Becky Everhart	Howard & Mary Gold
Mike Blackwelder	Oscar & Nancy Kirkus	Becky Everhart	Judith & Christine Williams
Mike Blackwelder	Carla Harper	Becky Everhart	Martin & Tami Burkhardt
Mike Blackwelder	John & Susie Smith	Becky Everhart	Sue Beck
Mike Blackwelder	Shirley Crotts	Becky Everhart	Rita Leta
"Ellie"	Charles & Melinda Caddell	Becky Everhart	Tony & Judy Foster
Goldie Norman	Teenie Tilley	Becky Everhart	Windley & Jane Dunbar
John W. Barrett	Mrs. H. Cloyd Philpott	Becky Everhart	Tammy Sneed
"Marley"	Sheila Everhart	David Bean	Carmen Walker
Reid & Lynn Younts	Gay & Dewey Hutchins	Janet Myers	Trinity United Methodist Church
Reid & Lynn Younts	Sheila Everhart	Homer Shipwash	Jean McCoy
Janet Myers	John & Jerrie Burton	Homer Shipwash	Steve & Vikki Hodges
Janet Myers	Jack & Nancy Bilson	Homer Shipwash	Philip & Fonda Comer
Leda White	Kay Stroud	Homer Shipwash	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Royster
"Rosie"	Barbara Presnell	Homer Shipwash	James & Sherry Pauley
"Hunter"	Pat Masters	Homer Shipwash	Robert & Mary Walser
		Homer Shipwash	Creative Carpets

Thank you!

Humane Society of Davidson County

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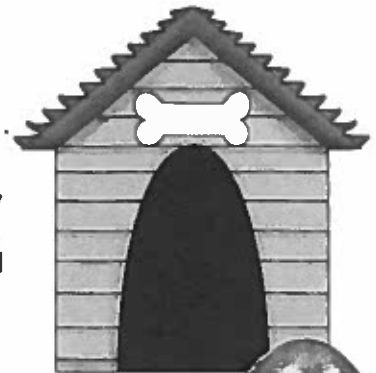
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Wonderful HSDC Members

One more wonderful story. One of our members used to ride by a large dog in a very small kennel. He felt so sorry for this beautiful (as he put it "majestic animal") that he called us and asked us to investigate and see if the owner would be open to having the kennel made larger. Our investigator went out and talked with the owner and she said she did not have the money to get a larger kennel. We explained that there was a person that would like to remain anonymous that would make her kennel larger if she would allow. She agreed and the next weekend this wonderful man bought fence to match what she had, hired a man to go out and make this dog a big run that included a tree for shade. What a wonderful man... that would take the time and money to help this one dog. We are blessed by people like this!



Please renew your membership. We thank you for your support.

\$25 Single

\$15 Seniors

\$40 Family

\$75 Patron

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Your membership dues are tax deductible as a donation to a 501(c)(3) charity. We will never share your information.

www.humanesocietyofdavidsoncounty.org