



Tri-County Humane Society

2012 Annual Report

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Mission Statement

We believe in the human/animal bond and exist to support Central MN by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs.

Put your paw in my hand...



2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Zimmer



Shelter Mascot

WIBS

(Wish I'd Been Spayed)

Message from the Executive Director

Dear friend and animal lover,

As I reflect on our accomplishments in 2012, I can honestly say I don't remember being so excited to put an annual report together and get it out to anyone willing to listen to me brag!

One of our goals for the year was to bring low cost spay/neuter to our community. The MN Spay Neuter Assistance Program (MNSNAP) mobile clinic came to the shelter's parking lot 6 times last year. On each visit they did surgery on 30-40 animals! Animals that otherwise may have produced litters that ended up at the shelter.

Another goal was to shorten our animals' length of stay prior to adoption, which we succeeded in doing with only 7.2 days for dogs and puppies and 12.8 days for cats and kittens. We also had our first full year of all animals getting spayed or neutered before adoption! Considering that the length of stay includes the time it takes to get spayed or neutered, our animals had a VERY short wait before making their way to their new home.

We really made an effort to lower the euthanasia of treatable and rehabilitable animals. As you can see on page 8, we went above and beyond in helping animals who in years past would have been euthanized because we didn't have the resources to provide for them.

How is it possible we were able to adopt out MORE animals this year while taking in fewer? You, my friends, are the answer to that question. You, partnering with my remarkable staff and giving them the tools they need to do this rewarding work, is the recipe for this success.

As one of my board members suggested, we should be ringing a bell with each one of these victories. She's right. So move over Westminster Bell Choir! Tri-County Humane Society's getting ready to perform at Carnegie Hall!

Thank you for the part you played in giving me such great material for this annual report!

For the animals,

Vicki Davis, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator
Executive Director

P.S. I just can't stop... Once again we were awarded Charity Navigator's highest rating of 4 stars, and met all accountability standards of the Charities Review Council, proving our ability to effectively manage our finances and be good stewards of your donations.



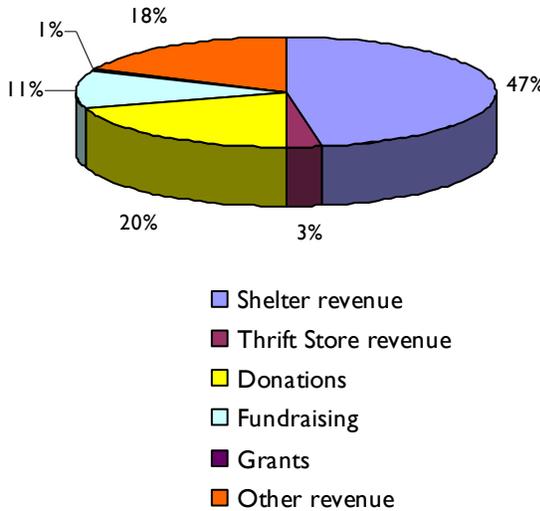
Country Gallery



2012 Financial Snapshot

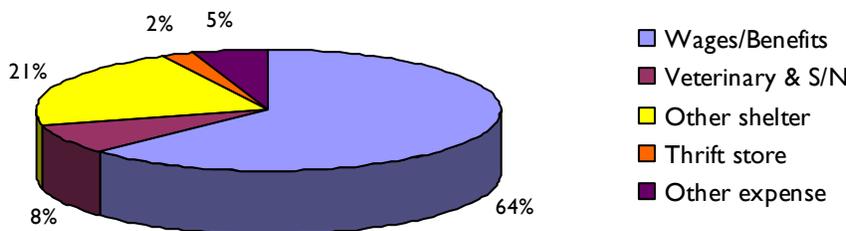
Sources of Funds

Shelter revenue	\$436,622
Thrift store revenue	\$25,273
Donations	\$187,423
Fundraising	\$103,187
Grants	\$5063
Other revenue	\$168,577
Total Sources	\$822,958



Uses of Funds

Wages/Benefits	\$510,510
Veterinary & S/N	\$67,576
Other shelter	\$173,049
Thrift store expense	\$18,619
Other expense	\$42,353
Total Uses	\$812,107



For the animals in our care we provide:

- ♥ Vaccinations, micro-chipping, deworming, an overall health check and any required medication or surgery.
- ♥ Healthy food, water, a comfortable place to sleep, and toys.
- ♥ Enrichment opportunities such as love, walks, play time, and basic training.
- ♥ Grooming, baths, brushing, and bandanas.
- ♥ Behavior assessments on all dogs available for adoption.
- ♥ Advertising to promote those available for adoption.
- ♥ A website with photos of animals available for adoption.
- ♥ Foster care for animals in need.

Assets and Liabilities

Current assets	\$194,083	
Properties & equipment	\$638,240	
Other assets	\$1,015,118	
Thrift Store	\$4373	
Total Net Assets	\$1,851,814	
		Current loans or long term liabilities \$0

I will never let it go.

Put your trust in me...



Mary Geller and Gina Fox accepting a donation from Grand Casino

In two short years serving on the TCHS board I have become truly humbled by all the individuals in our community who support the animals we serve. Through generous gifts of time, talent and treasure we have succeeded in meeting our annual goals. I feel like we have so many strong supporters lifting us up and allowing us to help each and every animal that finds shelter through our doors.

Mary Geller,
TCHS 2nd Vice President

2012 Highlights

Companion Walk Woofstock: 5k Companion Walk for animals on September 8th! The weather was beautiful, the disc dog demos and hot dog eating contest made for some GREAT entertainment, and there were TONS of prizes and freebies being handed out from exhibitors, games and contests. We surpassed our goal and raised a grand total of \$50,525 for the animals!



Our gift wrapping booth at Crossroads Center raised \$10,032! 216 volunteers cheerfully put in 1047 hours wrapping gifts and helping spread the good word about animals available for adoption at the shelter.



Pose your Pet with Santa Paws fundraiser was a success, raising \$7622.



Our 11th Annual Wine, Kibbles & Bids event on May 4th, held at the Gorecki Center, College of St. Benedict raised a total net profit of \$24,600! 220 supporters came together to celebrate the bond between humans and animals and raise funds for the shelter. The evening included wine and beer tasting, a gourmet dinner, and a large silent auction featuring items from 200 contributors! We raised \$5,850 for our spay/neuter fund as well!



Find your feline friend today!

Kittens: 2 for the price of 1

Cats 6 months and up: NAME YOUR OWN PRICE!

Cats 2 years and up: FREE to seniors, veterans, & military personnel.



Cat Sale

We're saving lives through new promotions like the "Name Your Own Price" cat sale. As long as we are challenged with the influx of cats we're seeing, we will keep the promotions going to keep saving more lives.

More Good News....

Isi was transferred to our shelter on 7/17 through Leech Lake Legacy. She was adopted out of our shelter on 7/21 and this is the follow up from her new family....

"Last Saturday my boyfriend, his son and I decided to visit the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud. We looked at many dogs, but put a deposit down on a pretty little pit named Isi. We had planned to think about it overnight but after lunch went and got her. As I was going through her paperwork on Tuesday, I noticed she came from Leech Lake Legacy. Not knowing what that was I looked it up. It was then that something hit me! My boyfriend is a Leech Lake Band Member and he too was adopted from the LL reservation as a baby. Seems like we really did make the right choice! Isi is a beautiful little girl and we all love her already and she has adjusted quickly!"



MORE PETS FIND HOMES IN 2012

Year saw less surrendering, more adoption

By Amy Bowen
abowen@stcloudtimes.com

Animal adoptions at Tri-County Humane Society increased more than 5 percent during 2012.

More than 3,000 animals were adopted through the organization last year, said Jon Rand, human resources and operations manager. At the same time, the number of animals surrendered declined.

"What a winning combination," said Vicki Davis, executive director. "It's the first time."

The good news stems in part from a national humane society movement to become more customer-friendly and make adoptions easier.

Some humane societies and rescue groups are restrictive in who they place animals with, Davis said. But most people who want to adopt a pet are good, she said.

"This humane society embraced that," Rand said. "What can we do to help get animals in peo-



Lonnie Davis, South Haven, tries out a cuddle with Jackson, a 2-year-old neutered male cat, Thursday at the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud. The humane society has seen adoptions of cats go up while surrenders are down. Davis, a frequent donor of pet food, would like to have a cat and really likes Jackson, but she has a dog that won't play nice with cats, she said. TIMES PHOTO BY KIMM ANDERSON, KANDERSON@STCLOUDTIMES.COM

See PETS, Page 2B

MORE Watch video ONLINE from the Tri-County Humane Society's shelter at www.stctimes.com.

Pets

From Page 1B

ple's houses? And it paid off."

Adult cat adoptions jumped to an all-time high. More than 920 adult cats were adopted, a 42 percent increase from 2011.

The humane society offered a name-your-own-price promotion for adult cats for part of 2012. Some people have paid \$1. Others have paid the asking price, Rand said.

The humane society also offers free cat adoptions to senior citizens and veterans and a two-for-one promotion for kittens.

"We would rather lose money than put animals to sleep," Rand said. "We had this big push to adopt out adult cats. Everyone wants a kitten. But no one wants an adult cat."

The humane society also used its pet foster



Butters, a 2-year-old female, peers out from her cage Thursday at Tri-County Humane Society.

care program during busy times. This allowed animals to stay in homes until shelter space opened up. During the summer, about 100 animals were staying in foster care at any one time. Now, just a handful of animals are in foster care.

Euthanasia numbers have decreased. Between

DAILY POLL

Did you get a new pet in 2012? Vote online at stctimes.com. Results will be on tomorrow's Opinion page.

2011-2012, the rate for adult cats decreased 47 percent, Rand said.

More people seem to be spaying and neutering their animals, which has lowered the number of surrenders, he said. Not as many kittens and puppies are coming in.

The humane society will host low-cost spay and neuter clinics at least once a month this year. Last year, they held several clinics, and every one was booked, Davis said.

"That mentality and philosophy of our community are changing," Rand said.

Follow Amy Bowen on Twitter @stctimesamybowen.



Luke Serbus, 18, Kimball, cuddles Oliver while his grandmother, Lonnie Davis, South Haven, holds Jackson on Thursday at the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud. The two cats are among those up for adoption. TIMES PHOTOS BY KIMM ANDERSON, KANDERSON@STCLOUDTIMES.COM

I will never, ever leave you.

Put your heart in my heart...

Success Story

Dear Tri-County Humane Society,

I just wanted to let you know how Abe, the French Mastiff, is doing. I know he made many friends while he was at the shelter. I'm happy to say that he is doing great! His eyes look great and now that he is on a grain free diet, his skin and ears have cleared up nicely. He spends much of his day sleeping on the couch or living room floor (he is known in our house as the living breathing rug). He loves his new pal, Wheeler, who is a 16 year old blind and deaf miniature poodle. They make an interesting duo. In about two weeks he will get to try his first day of daycare at La Dee Dogs! I just wanted to let you all know that Abe is doing great and is very spoiled in his new home.

Sincerely,
Shelby G.



GUTHRIE (OK) NEWS LEADER 7-31-12

Abe finds adopter despite hard past

Abe's wizened expression reflects a hard past. At some point, he was peppered with birdshot, which remains in his rump. Thin, wormy, with bad teeth and entropion, a condition in which the eyelashes rub against the eye surface, he landed in a shelter, where he was close to being euthanized. Fortunately, someone adopted him, but when Abe's medical issues mounted, the man turned him over to Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud, Minn. That was Abe's lucky day because the staff was able to get his eyes fixed and get him some dental care.

He was posted on Petfinder.com, and Shelby Gunderson saw his listing. "I have always been in love with the Dogue de Bordeaux breed," the Sauk Rapids, MN, woman says, so she went to meet him.

He could hardly open his eyes from having entropion for eight years, but he came to the front of the run to greet her. "He pulled at my heartstrings, and I just had to take him home."

He shares home with three dogs, with whom he gets long well, and two cats, who "at first were not real thrilled with the giant snoring dog I bought into their lives," Gunderson says, "but now love to cuddle up next to him."

She works at a dog daycare and boarding facility, so Abe goes to work with her. "He loves to be with other dogs and loves all the attention he gets when we are out somewhere. Everyone wants to pet him because he is so big."

Big or not, he's a couch potato, and Gunderson's mother calls him a living, breathing rug. "What surprises me most about Abe," Gunderson says, "is that even after all the neglect and abuse he has suffered ... he still is such a loving and trusting dog." Dogs like Abe set a good example for humans.



TCHS is an open-admission shelter, accepting any animal brought to us regardless of size, age, temperament or location from which it was found. Most of the animals we see are dogs and cats, but we do accept birds, ferrets, rabbits and other small animals. On an annual basis the shelter gives refuge to approximately 3,800 pets and indirectly serves over 65,000 animals and their owners from mostly the Central Minnesota area.

At the State Level



MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership in Animal Welfare)

Our mission is to encourage collaboration among Minnesota animal welfare organizations and engage the community to ensure a home for every companion animal in Minnesota and to advocate for responsible pet ownership. Vicki Davis is a board member of MnPAW and was Secretary in 2012.

Highlights of MnPAW's focus in 2012:

The Great Minnesota Pet Together was held October 6 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. More than 25 rescue and animal welfare organizations engaged in this community adoption event – Tri-County Humane Society was one of them. There were a total of 68 adoptions; 52 dogs and 16 cats. All of the pets TCHS brought to the event were adopted by noon!

The 1st Annual MnPAW Conference was held July 29. Session topics were -

- ◆ The Four C's: Collaboration, Community, Creativity & Compassion.
- ◆ Breaking Down Barriers: How Can Animal Welfare Groups Work Together to Help More Animals.
- ◆ When Hearts are Larger than Hands: Creating Balance in your Life to Help More Animals.

Featuring: Linda Harper, PhD and Author and Marilou Chanrasmi, MnPAW President and Animal Welfare Advocate.



The Minnesota Animal Welfare Conference is an annual educational and networking opportunity for the state's animal welfare community. Tri-County Humane Society organizes this conference because we believe that providing affordable opportunities for continued education and networking among the various animal groups is key to making Minnesota a more humane community. The conference in 2012 featured nationally known speakers who addressed "The Five Freedoms": Freedom from hunger and thirst. Freedom from discomfort. Freedom from pain, injury or disease. Freedom to express normal behavior. Freedom from fear and distress.

TCHS 2012 Statistics

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	OTHER	TOTAL
2011 INTAKE	1008	411	1338	1431	299	4487
2012 INTAKE	907	250	1249	1047	355	3808
2011 ADOPTIONS	739	367	648	798	297	2849
2012 ADOPTIONS	748	248	922	757	331	3006
2011 EUTHANASIA	326	37	841	626	17	1847
2012 EUTHANASIA	193	8	442	240	13	896

15% fewer animals were surrendered and 6% more were adopted, resulting in **52% fewer** being euthanized! The most common reason for canine euthanasia was food aggression and for felines the most common reason was upper respiratory infection.

(The 2013 MN Animal Welfare Conference will be addressing food guarding behavior modification.)

I will forever give you love.

Put your paw in my hand...



It is an honor and a pleasure to share in TCHS' growth throughout the last 2 decades. Back in the 70's and 80's many animal shelters served as warehouses where pets waited to be adopted, if they were healthy enough. Our present shelter was designed not only to house more pets, but services were also expanded to include spay and neuter surgery, client education, behavior, and training. Our goals have changed from just finding a home for a pet to finding the right family and creating a special human-pet bond. It makes my day when I walk into my clinic exam room and meet the family of a pet I have helped at TCHS. I look forward to the next few decades of service until all pets have a loving home. I owe my professional career as a veterinarian to my first volunteer job at TCHS!

*Lois Harmon, DVM
TCHS volunteer, 1983-88
Consulting Veterinarian,
2004 - present*

Medically Speaking

Spay and Neuter Surgeries: 1,683	Dew Claw Removal: 3
Above and Beyond Surgeries -	Tail Amputations: 2
Hernia Repair: 24	Eye Entropion Surgery: 2
Dentals: 15	Eye Removal: 2
Leg Amputations: 8 (2 dogs, 6 cats)	Fracture Repair: 2
Tumor Removals: 3	Skin Tag Removal: 2



- MNSNAP (Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program) started coming to TCHS regularly starting in March 2012.
- Many local veterinary clinics provide us low-cost veterinary services: Advanced Care Pet Hospital, Banfield Pet Hospital, Boysen Animal Hospital, Companions Animal Hospital, Granite City Pet Hospital, MN School of Business, Pine Cone Pet Hospital, and the University of MN.
- We are grateful to Dr. Lois Harmon, our veterinarian, and to the veterinarians who volunteer their services: Dr. Traci Diggs, Dr. Karen Gjevre, Dr. Heidi Kobulbeck, Dr. Anne Lottie, Dr. Jennifer Melling, Dr. Tom Rohman, Dr. Jamie Shriver, Dr. Tim Simpson, Dr. Heather Vogl, and Dr. Laura Wilant.
- We lowered euthanasia rates by 52%
 - 2011: 1848 total animals euthanized. (667 cat/ kittens for Upper Respiratory Infection.)
 - 2012: 896 total animals euthanized. (157 cat/ kittens for Upper Respiratory Infection. 127 animals euthanized on request, which is when someone's pet has depleted all quality of life.)
- 624 animals were sent to foster care using 114 different foster homes. (Most common foster care need was treatment for upper respiratory infection.)

At the National Level



The National Federation of Humane Societies (NFHS) is a trade federation dedicated to representing and advocating for the interests of local animal welfare organizations, animal shelters, rescue groups and animal care and control agencies. The members truly believe this federation for the animal welfare community has tremendous potential to improve animal sheltering and make a real difference in the lives of companion animals. Vicki Davis is a member of the NFHS and works on the best practices committee.

From Steve Putnam, CEO of The National Federation of Humane Societies:

What's the right word?

I searched for one word to sum up the work of TCHS and came to the conclusion that there isn't ONE word that can possibly cover the amazingly good work done each and every day.

Compassion. The dedicated staff and volunteers strive to provide loving care for every animal that enters the shelter.

Commitment. From the Board and supporters to provide TCHS with the resources necessary to find a loving home for the animals.

Vision. The executive team is active at the state and national level to share ideas and stay current on all the latest trends in humane animal care.

Leadership. Vicki Davis and her team provide the leadership to bring all of these attributes together to form a cohesive effort to place every animal possible in a forever home, to provide compassionate humane care for every animal entering the shelter and the vision to tackle the toughest problems like pet overpopulation at the local level through spay and neuter efforts.

I think I have narrowed my word search to describe TCHS down to two....Effective and Awesome!

The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) is a non-profit individual membership organization of professionals in animal welfare, care and control, dedicated to the growth and prestige of our industry.

SAWA strives to advocate humane ideals through professional advancement of members. Animal welfare leaders network with peers, establish mentor relationships, share best practices, form successful collaborations, and advance the field.



SAWA members benefit from targeted education and professional certification. SAWA Certified Animal Welfare Administrators (CAWA) possess well rounded experience and unique animal welfare knowledge to support agency missions and long term growth. Vicki Davis is currently the only animal welfare administrator in MN to pass this certification. SAWA members collaborate to rescue, shelter, rehabilitate and find good homes for animals.



In the 15 years I've been involved with the TCHS board of directors, there has been tremendous progress in the shelter operations, financial position, and therefore the services offered to the animals and people of central Minnesota. For example, achieving the goal of spaying/neutering all animals before adoption was only a distant dream, but in 2012 that dream became reality through the dedication and perseverance of the talented TCHS staff, volunteers, and supporters. TCHS stands on a firm foundation and is well poised for offering innovative and much needed services like community spay/neuter clinics, animal welfare education, and quality care for the animals in 2013 and beyond.

*Karen Zimmer,
Current Board Member*



I will always keep you from harm.

We promise to love and care for them...

SHELTER STAFF

Executive Director
Vicki Davis

HR/Operations Manager
Jon Rand

Office Manager
Jennifer Jackson

Customer Service Manager
Anna Stratton

Customer Service Lead
Mae Marcattilio-McCracken
Jennifer Varner

Animal Care Manager
Rachel Melling

Animal Care Supervisor
Andrea Jaekel

Animal Care Technicians
Bonnie Alexander
Heidi Loch

*Manager of Fund
Development*
Marit Ortega

Volunteer Coordinator
Kimberly Williams

Staff
Keri Jo Albrecht-Beck

Rebecca Christ

Kay Klein

Adam Lewis

Amanda Poepke

Jaclyn Rose

Kamaria Roth

Heather Royalty

Kendra Winkelman

Alan Zimmerman

Volunteer Spotlight



Above and Beyond 2012:

Brooke Strassburg donated so many hours in 2012 that we couldn't keep up and lost count! She does numerous miscellaneous activities from special event committee work to weekly wish list deliveries and much, much more. Brooke has helped coordinate the Companion Walk, Wine Kibbles & Bids, and Santa Paws. With the help of her employer, Kloster Commercial Resources, she has kept the shelter stocked with a variety of supplies and flyers. She's always thinking of the animals and how she can help us help them. Her willingness to help has truly been above and beyond!



Adult Volunteer of the Year 2012:

Kathy Huben volunteered 123 hours to the shelter in a variety of ways - from dog walking to grounds maintenance. As a dog walker, Kathy braved rain, sleet and snow to help ensure all the dogs got some fresh air and exercise during her shift. She has also worked tirelessly to maintain our walking trail by mowing on hot summer days or tramping down the path with her snowshoes in the winter. Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed. It's been greatly appreciated by staff and especially by her furry friends!



Junior Volunteer of the Year 2012:

Olivia MacDonald volunteered 95 hours in 2012 as an animal caregiver and senior center visitor. Olivia always has a smile on her face and is willing to do any task asked of her from laundry and dishes to cage cleaning and customer service. There is no job too demanding for her! As a senior center volunteer, Olivia has brought many smiles to the faces of Talahi Senior Campus residents by bringing our education animals, Hershey and Sir Lops A Lot, in for scheduled visits. She has been a great asset to our organization and we hope she continues in the future!

Our amazing volunteers blessed us with the gift of 33,841 hours of time in 2012. 441 new volunteers were trained, and we provided 166 humane education visits that reached 4877 people. We gave 58 tours of the shelter and brought TCHS to 17 community events.

Vision for the Future

- We want to bring more low cost spay neuter to our community to assist people who would otherwise not be able to afford it.
- Concentrate on lowering euthanasia of treatable and rehabilitatable animals, and offering more enrichment during their shelter stay.
- Your gifts will help the goal achieved in 2012 of 100% animals being spayed or neutered before adoption to carry on in 2013. Help us keep it going and become the norm.
- Bring additional awareness to the community about Tri-County Humane Society and the fine work we do for animals and making TCHS the first stop for people looking for a pet.

For Pets' Sake Thrift Store

In the summer of 2012, TCHS was approached about taking over a thrift store that was already up and running. It was a package deal – everything in the store would be handed over, if we just took over the lease. After a great deal of research, we accepted the offer.

I know colleagues across the nation who supplement their shelter's income through a thrift store and it allows them to do remarkable things for the animals. It also provides another avenue for people to help animals - donating new or gently used items and/or volunteering at the store. The other bonus is all the new friends we're making by having another presence on the west side of town.

If you think about it, there really is a similarity between an animal shelter and a thrift store. We deal with "gently used" pets every day and find new homes for them. Our mailbox is inundated with happy ending stories due to the treasure of a pet they found at our shelter. We've just expanded our re-homing efforts in a way that will help the ones we care about so much, the animals.

We look forward to our humane society benefiting greatly from the revenue generated in our new thrift store.

For Pets' Sake, located by the MN School of Business, 1313 2nd St. S. Waite Park, MN
Phone: (320) 253-5458
www.tricountyhumanesociety.org/thrift-store



I have experienced an ongoing professional and casual relationship with the Tri-County Humane Society and their staff for almost a decade and a half. During the time I worked for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, headquartered in New York, I witnessed this organization continually implementing new best practices for animal shelters as determined by national standards. The management staff is held in high regard by professionals across this country.

I am pleased with the support that the Board of Directors has directed toward hosting the annual Minnesota Animal Welfare Conference where management, staff, and volunteers from rescue groups, animal shelters and veterinary clinics learn from professionals from around the United States and from one another. This networking opportunity is invaluable.

Darlene Larson, recently retired from the ASPCA

That is our pledge to you.