



Tri-County Humane Society

Annual Report 2015

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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.

Adopt • Donate • Volunteer

SHELTER STAFF

HR/Operations Manager

Jon Rand

Office Manager

*Marissa Kazeck
Jennifer Jackson*

Customer Service Manager

Anna Stratton

Customer Service Leads

*Mae Marcattilio-McCracken
Adam Lewis*

Animal Care Manager

Andrea Jaekel

Animal Care Lead

Kendra Winkelman

Animal Care Technicians

*Bonnie Alexander
Laura Lund*

Manager of Fund Development

Marit Ortega

Volunteer Coordinator

Rose Hegerle

Part-Time Staff

*Karissa Bot, Brittany Davis,
Kelly Foster, Tiffany Gnirk,
Alexi Goehring, Alexis
Hamacher, Kasey Hanson,
Kumiko Highley, Kay Klein,
Kayla Kosceilniak, Courtney
LeDoux, Chris McIlvain, Sara
Morales, Abra Olson, Nicole
Pitts, Corinne Rankin, Heather
Royalty, Ashley Toering,
Crystal Vos, Kaytland Welsch,
Marion White, Alan
Zimmerman*

Message From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for making my job so rewarding. I fully realize that one of the main reasons we are so successful is because of YOU, our donors, adopters, volunteers and supporters.

We are the reflection of your care and concern for animals.

Here are a few of the highlights from 2015 that we (we in the collective sense, including YOU) were able to accomplish:

- **We finished the year with an overall placement rate of 93.5%! For that to happen at an open admission shelter is amazing.**
- On average, animals spent less than 10 days in the shelter.
- We reduced euthanasia by 60.2% from 2014!
- We spayed/neutered 1668 shelter pets prior to adopting them out, helping prevent future unwanted litters in our community.
- We had a total of 34 mobile spay/neuter clinics come to our area to offer affordable options to people of limited means or with feral cat colonies.

Looking at the animal intake statistics on the next page, it could be said that one of the reasons we were able to do more for the animals in our care was because we took in less animals than in 2014. This is certainly good news that we would like to continue to see in our community! I'd like to go a step further to say that perhaps the reason we took in fewer animals is due to our dedication to spaying and neutering all pets prior to adopting them out. Also, the increased spay/neuter mobile clinics that we hosted this past year may have prevented unplanned litters that otherwise would have ended up at our door.

I have also overheard our incredibly pet savvy shelter staff actually preventing animals from being surrendered to our shelter by offering behavioral training tips and solutions to the problems people are facing with their pets. More often than not, people are calling us as a last resort because they think they have tried everything, and they are relieved and excited when we offer a new potential solution. And if that still doesn't work, we are always here for them.

In this report you'll see the outstanding work that was done in 2015 at TCHS, made possible by the generosity of people like you who care about animals. Truly a stellar year! Other accomplishments are, at the same time, pending due to the lack of resources. Built in 1989, it's no surprise that our current building is out of date and in need of repairs. As we research our options for the animals, please keep us on your radar for future support.

Thank you, on their behalf -

Vicki

Vicki Davis, CAWA (Certified Animal Welfare Administrator)



Statistics

Animal Stats	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	OTHER	TOTAL
2015 OWNER SURRENDER	545	57	1042	845	284	2773
2014 OWNER SURRENDER	683	158	1204	991	375	3411
2015 STRAY INTAKE	99	10	220	210	8	547
2014 STRAY INTAKE	98	27	249	224	7	605
2015 PLACED	546	65	1181	909	265	2966
2014 PLACED	642	169	1148	1005	334	3298
2015 CLAIMED BY OWNER	78	0	21	6	0	105
2014 CLAIMED BY OWNER	70	4	15	2	1	92
2015 EUTHANIZED	39	0	112	79	6	236
2014 EUTHANIZED	84	4	333	144	28	593

Veterinary Services

The wellness of the animals in our care is always at the forefront of our minds. We have a dedicated team of animal health care specialists and are so grateful for the services they provided in 2015.

Special thanks to the many local veterinarians who provide us with low-cost veterinary services:

Advanced Care Pet Hospital, Animal Eye Specialty Center, Banfield Pet Hospital, Boysen Animal Hospital, Companions Animal Hospital, Granite City Pet Hospital & Surgical Center, Minnesota School of Business, The Minnesota State Fair, MN SNAP, Pine Cone Pet Hospital, and The University of Minnesota.

We are grateful to Dr. Lois Harmon, our shelter veterinarian, and to the veterinarians who volunteer their services:



Dr. Ashley Barott, Dr. Traci Diggs, Dr. Karen Gjevre, Dr. Charles Johnson, Dr. Allison Johnson, Drs. Gina & Cal Kobluck, Dr. Ericka Kulzer Gilette, Dr. Anne Lottie, Dr. Colleen Mans, Dr. Jennifer Melling, Dr. Amy O'Brien, Dr. Amanda Poepke, Dr. Marta Powers, Dr. Brett Rabe, Dr. Tom Rohman, Dr. Tim Simpson, Dr. Ellen Smith, Dr. Laura Wilant, and Dr. Lis Wolff Terwey.
***9 new volunteer vets joined us in 2015!**

Retirement 2 ½ years ago allowed me time to volunteer at TCHS, providing veterinary services. I have been extremely impressed with the dedication, compassion, respect and work ethic of all the staff and volunteers. The goal of putting the animal's health & welfare first and finding them loving homes is commendable and makes my job not only exceedingly enjoyable but very rewarding. Whether cat, dog, bird, guinea pig, sick, injured or healthy, scared, mistreated or friendly, "ALL" the animals are provided the best care & are given a chance for a loving home. I'm very proud to be associated with TCHS. Kudos to TCHS! ~Dr. Tom Rohman

Surgeries

1523 Onsite
229 Offsite

Surgery	2015	2014
Cat Spays	716	779
Dog Spays	110	165
Rabbit Spays	21	16
Cat Neuters	682	709
Dog Neuters	116	185
Rabbit Neuters	19	15
Cryptorchid Neuters	4	17
Dentals	47	27
Eye Removals	3	4
Entropion Eyelid Repair	2	0
Hernia Repairs	8	18
Leg Amputations	3	4
Quill Removals	0	2
ACL Repair	0	2
Cherry Eye Repair	1	1
FHO Repair	1	1
Fracture Repair	0	1
Suture Repair	1	4
Tail Amputation	6	7
Tumor Removal	6	10
Wound Repair	2	3
Skin Tag Removal	3	0
Soft Pallet Resection	1	0
Total Surgeries	1752	1970

Happy Endings

Ginger & Lily: Together Again



**Biscuit:
Adopted
7-5-15**



Ginger, a 10 year old Dachshund mix and Lily, an 8 year old Corgi mix came in together on November 11, 2015. Lily's adopters were interested in adopting them both, but Ginger had a deposit already and was adopted to another household. In December, Ginger was returned, so we called Lily's owners to see if they were still interested in Ginger. They took her home immediately, just in time for Christmas!



**Donkey:
Adopted
12-18-15**



**Bandit:
Adopted
Feb. 6, 2015**

Bandit, a 2 year old Yorkie/Pomeranian mix, appeared to have been a bit neglected when he arrived at our doors. After sending him to the MN School of Business to get vaccines and a grooming from their vet tech program, he came back looking like a completely different dog! He was chosen by the little girl pictured above as her birthday gift.



**Muggs:
Adopted
7-17-15**

Foxy: Adopted April 24, 2015

Third time's the charm for this pooch! Foxy was originally surrendered in January of 2015 and was adopted twice and surrendered back to us. We enlisted the help of Prodigy Pups Dog Training who fostered Foxy and helped her work through some of her anxiety and teach her some basic manners. She was adopted for a third (and final) time and is doing great!



Adoption Updates

Tri-County
Humane Society



Teddy: Adopted March 25, 2015

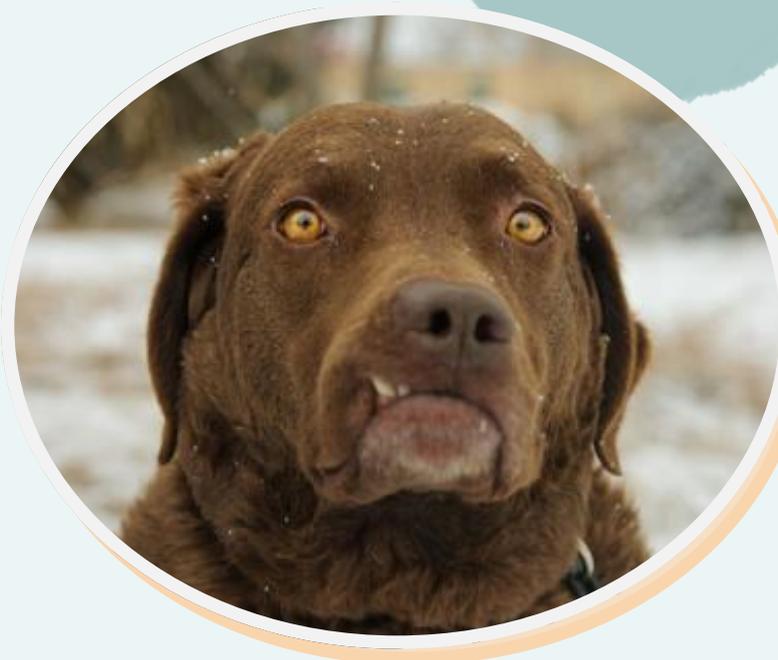
In March we went to the Humane Society because we were considering getting a cat. Teddy was the second cat we held and we fell in love with him. We were just a little hesitant because he was already 5 years old and we weren't sure if he'd be set in his ways or if he'd like our 2 year old daughter. We decided it would be worth a shot, and we came back the next day to pick him up. As you can see by the photos, he's made himself at home and we all love him—especially our daughter. Thanks for a wonderful cat!

~Baerg Family

Sasha: Adopted April 3, 2015

Sasha is adjusting very well. She still lacks self-esteem, but when we call her she comes running with her tail wagging and very happy. The biggest challenge with her is getting her to feel that she does belong and she is family. Her behavior makes me think she has never been a "part" of the family, but she is starting to hold her head up high like she is proud to be a dog! She is a joy to have and I am very lucky to have her in my life. I tell her every day that she is stuck with me whether she likes it or not. Sasha will never have another worry the rest of her life.

~Jolene



Foster Care

Foster care continues to be a critical piece of our lifesaving efforts, and in 2015 we saved 1079 animals by having them go through our foster care program. The primary reason for foster care was to treat upper respiratory infections in cats and kittens, a common problem for shelter cats which can easily overwhelm our small isolation room depending on the time of year. A total of 326 felines were fostered for this reason. The second most common reason for foster care was to assist animals that were either too young or too small to adopt out, making up a total of 266 pets in 2015.

When an animal is too young, sick, injured or just needs someone to teach them basic manners, foster parents help fill the gap between the time the animal is brought to the shelter and the time they are adopted. Our foster program helps us save more lives!

2015 Top 5 Foster Homes:

(Formula for calculating foster care hours: 1 hour per animal per day.)

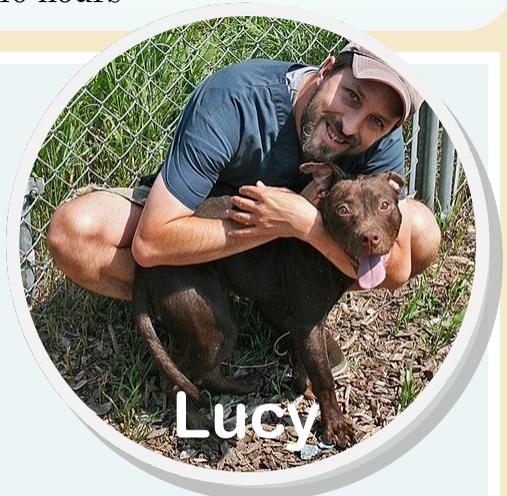
1. Nancy Sturtevant—24 animals, 984 hours
2. Jennifer Greshowak and family—23 animals, 949 hours
3. Gary Nystrom and family—33 animals, 825 hours
4. Paula Jacobs and Family—26 animals, 630 hours
5. Candi Amundson—22 animals, 440 hours

Who remembers the original TCHS shelter on Lincoln Avenue? I have volunteered and supported TCHS since those days. It is because of the unlimited love - given and received by the staff for the animals and animals for the people. By volunteering you learn a lot, and can make a big difference and have fun doing it! I've been able to affect the lives of hundreds of animals that I've fostered in my time volunteering.

To take a quote from Helen Keller, "Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through commitment to a worthy purpose." There is no more worthy purpose than the work that TCHS does.

*~Nancy Sturtevant,
TCHS Volunteer*

Lucy & Bobbles – they're two of the almost 2,000 animals I've had the privilege of taking pictures or shooting videos of at the Tri-County Humane Society. They've helped me to see that the most important part of volunteering isn't necessarily the tasks I normally perform – it's the interaction & socialization between the animal and myself. Building trust & showing them



that they are loved helps them find that home they are looking for. And when they go home, that's the ultimate reward – it puts a smile on my face that I can't wipe off. It helps me to see that everyone who works or volunteers at the shelter truly believes in the work we do, and that what we all do is truly worthwhile.

*~Nick Rasmussen,
TCHS Volunteer*

Volunteer Program



Throughout the year of 2015, we had 947 caring people in our volunteer program. The generosity of those volunteers gave us the gift of 16,726 hours of service!

In addition to the many volunteer opportunities for youth and adults, we offer civil service opportunities to those in need of court-ordered service hours or service learning experiences. In the civil service program, there were 226 workers in 2015 with a total of 982 hours.

There are many areas in which our volunteers provide much needed help, including direct animal care, customer service, and helping us keep up on laundry and dirty pet dishes. Other areas in which our volunteers offer their skills include assisting with surgery, data entry, office work, and special events.

The love and dedication so freely given by our volunteers to the animals enables us to care for thousands of homeless pets each year. Every act of kindness, large and small, makes a difference in the lives of many.

Volunteer Program Community Partners: Benton County Corrections, Chatology Services, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), Saint Cloud Public Library, Sartell High School, Sauk Rapids High School, Stearns County Corrections, United Way of Central Minnesota.

Humane Education / Pet Therapy Visits: Our volunteers made it possible for us to increase our community outreach with the following visits: 50 senior/assisted living facility visits (up from 18 in 2014), 60 community events, 32 birthday parties, 31 shelter tours, 49 offsite adoption events.

Adult Volunteer of the Year: Sherry Roth



Sherry Roth has been a TCHS volunteer since 2013. Since she began, she has taken several roles within our organization. She is fondly known as one of our “cat ladies” with her weekly animal care/customer service shifts in the cat room and sick kitty enrichment shifts in our cat isolation room. She also assists with surgery, animal transports, fundraisers and special events, and she is one of our valued “mentor volunteers”, assisting in teaching and guiding new volunteers in the shelter. It is not uncommon for her to volunteer at the shelter 5 days a week, and in 2015 she served a total of 358 hours of volunteer time! She is a strong advocate for animal welfare and provides invaluable service to TCHS!

Junior Volunteer of the Year: Izzy Gibbs



Izzy Gibbs began volunteering in the spring of 2015. Since then, she has been dedicated to the shelter and our mission and volunteers in many different areas. On a regular basis, she provides the shelter with animal care, customer service, dog walking, office/mailing assistance, and animal photography. Izzy also lends a hand during special events and fundraisers, often putting in long days of volunteer service. In 2015, she served over 145 hours of volunteer time, always with a smile on her face! She is a valuable member of our team!

Above and Beyond Volunteer: Cheryl Ley



Cheryl Ley began volunteering in 2005, and has contributed so much to TCHS. In 2015, Cheryl served as President of the TCHS Board of Directors and she sits on many committees. Among the many talents she brings to TCHS, she conducts marketing and IT research, provides retail coaching, volunteers at special events, and so much more. In 2015, she also helped organize a successful fundraiser to benefit our animals. Cheryl is a great leader and both her and her husband Rich are active ambassadors for TCHS.

Fundraisers

Flower Fundraiser

Our Administrative Professional's Day flower delivery fundraiser raised \$2,124 for the animals, with 194 vases of roses prepared and delivered by volunteers to local businesses!



Wrapping for a Good Paws

Our gift wrapping booth at Crossroads Center this holiday season raised \$8,778 for the animals, thanks to the 250 volunteers who cheerfully put in 1,342 hours wrapping gifts!



30th Annual Santa Paws



We had our best year yet for this holiday portrait fundraising event, raising \$8,283 for the animals with a total of 232 portrait sessions. Photographers Lisa Crayford and Brian Leither from Country Gallery Photography, Kelly O'Donnell, Katie Miller and Clint Buhs generously donated their time and talent, allowing 100% of the proceeds to help the animals.

14th Annual Wine, Kibbles & Bids

The Wine, Kibbles & Bids benefit for animals raised a net profit of \$46,295 for the animals in our care! 260 attendees enjoyed wine and beer tasting complements of Coborn's Liquor, live music from Preston and Paulzine, guest portraits by Country Gallery, over 200 silent auction items to bid on, a wine pull and heads and tails game, and a beautiful gourmet dinner at the College of St. Benedict Gorecki Center in St. Joseph.



27th Annual Woofstock Companion Walk



Woofstock Companion Walk is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and 2015 was our best year yet! 625 people and 275 pets joined us for this 5k walk for animals, helping us raise \$54,659!



Creativity raises pet shelter's live release rate

Stephanie Dickrell, St. Cloud Times May 3, 2015

A combination of creativity and community support have helped bring the live release rate at Tri-County Humane Society up to 97 percent so far this year.

That means the shelter is euthanizing only 3 percent of the animals it takes in, and that's in cases where the animal isn't treatable for illness or injury or able to be rehabilitated for aggressive behaviors.



"I've been doing this for 30 years," said Executive Director Vicki Davis. "If anyone had told me we'd achieve 97 percent, I probably would have fallen off my chair," she said. "It's a dream come true."

The rate compares with 88 percent for the same quarter last year at the shelter.

She said the number of animals that have come into the shelter is similar to years past, so it isn't simply a case of fewer animals.

It is well above the average of 72 percent at some other animal welfare organizations.

Full Article at: <http://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2015/05/03/creativity-raises-pet-shelters-live-release-rate/26844833/>

MARIT ORTEGA, MANAGER OF FUND DEVELOPMENT, TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Tri-County Humane Society recently celebrated its goal of 10,000 Facebook "likes" in celebration of its 40th anniversary this year.

Humane society celebrates 10,000 Facebook 'likes'

SUBMITTED BY MARIT ORTEGA
MANAGER OF FUND DEVELOPMENT, TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Tri-County Humane Society recently made its goal of 10,000 Facebook "likes" in celebration of its 40th anniversary this year. Not bad for a small animal shelter in Central Minnesota. Facebook has been instrumental in helping the Tri-County Humane Society save more lives. To date in 2015, animals are in our care for less than nine days on average until they find a home, and that includes the time needed for the organization to spay and neuter them all first. The Tri-County Humane Society is proud to report a 94 percent adoption rate to date in 2015 — which is really quite amazing for an open adoption at a time. Staff and volunteers joke that they are going to put themselves out of business at the rate they are going. The Tri-County Humane Society would like to include a big "thank you" to all of their supporters and Facebook followers. Together, they are making a difference for animals, one "like," "share," and adoption at a time.

SCTimes
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

tri-county hum

HOME NEWS SPORTS OUTDOORS LIFE OPINION ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS WATCHDOG

Pet of the week: Periwinkle Twinkle

TIMES STAFF REPORT 9 a.m. CST December 4, 2015

Periwinkle Twinkle is an adorable 6-month-old kitten who's packed full of spunk and vinegar. With her active imagination and curious personality, Periwinkle Twinkle makes every day an adventure. She lived well with other cats in the past and, though a bit rambunctious, has interacted well with children, too. Periwinkle Twinkle loves to play and will make a kitty toy out of just about anything. Periwinkle Twinkle is already spayed and ready to make some lucky home a whole lot more fun.

The Tri-County Humane Society is at 735 Eighth St. NE. Details: 252-0896 or www.facebook.com/tricountyhumanesociety.



President

Cheryl Ley

**First Vice
President**

Cyd Reuter

**Second Vice
President**

Emily Bezdicek

Secretary

Sara Goodrum

Treasurer

Matthew Larson

Kurt Durrwachter

Kevin Childs

Mary Geller

Bill Nelson

Connie Schultz

Kris Stewart

Joan Vincent

Ron Von Holdt

National

Animal welfare professionals network and share ideas about how to better improve practices within our industry.

Before research was done and data collected, myths and beliefs were the inspiration behind the policies made. All were done with the best interest of the animals in mind, but unfortunately some had a counterproductive effect. For example, years ago it was believed that screening people very closely prior to adoption was safe guarding the animals. What it actually did was put up barriers for people wanting to get pets from shelters. There are many terrific pet owners who don't have a fenced-in yard and have full time jobs. Those people went somewhere else to get a pet and the pets in the shelter remained at the shelter. Now, through studies done at the national level, we know open and conversation based adoptions are very successful. In fact, research shows that shelters that have moved to that method experience no change in returns and place a lot more animals.

More animals are being adopted because former restrictions which were in place (only based on a theory) were lifted.

TCHS strives to stay on top of the latest research in animal welfare - and in some cases, we're the ones breaking new ground! We owe this growth and leadership to our collaboration with national organizations.

Executive Director Vicki Davis accepted a position on two committees for the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators. She offers representation of the smaller shelters, most of which do not have the resources to be "state of the art," but want to offer "state of the art" care and services for animals.

State

Tri-County Humane Society is a founding member of MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership in Animal Welfare) and is very active in the progressive work being done in MN. This coalition has taken huge strides in the spirit of working together. Networking as we have, animals who would otherwise have been euthanized were moved to a location where their needs could be met and a new home could be found.

The 4th Annual MnPAW conference brought valuable and affordable information to Minnesota's animal welfare community. Session topics by speaker Sherry Woodard, APDT, CPDT-KA, included:

- Cat Socialization, Enrichment and Assessment
- Solutions for Addressing Common Challenges for Shelter & Rescue Dogs

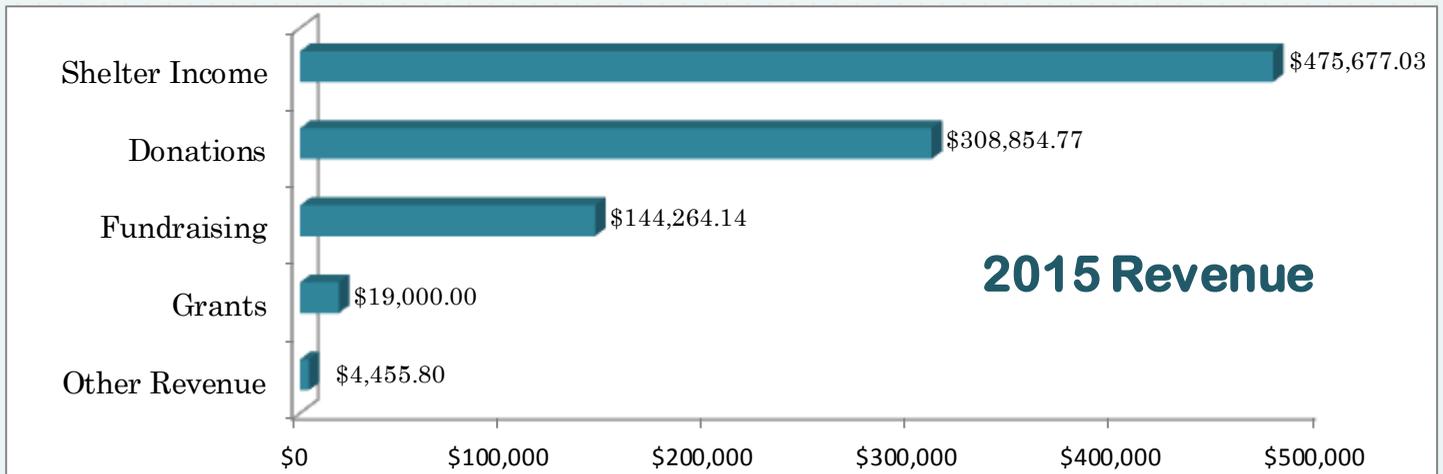
This collaboration continues to expand, be successful, and save the lives of many animals - the one goal all members of MnPAW share foremost.



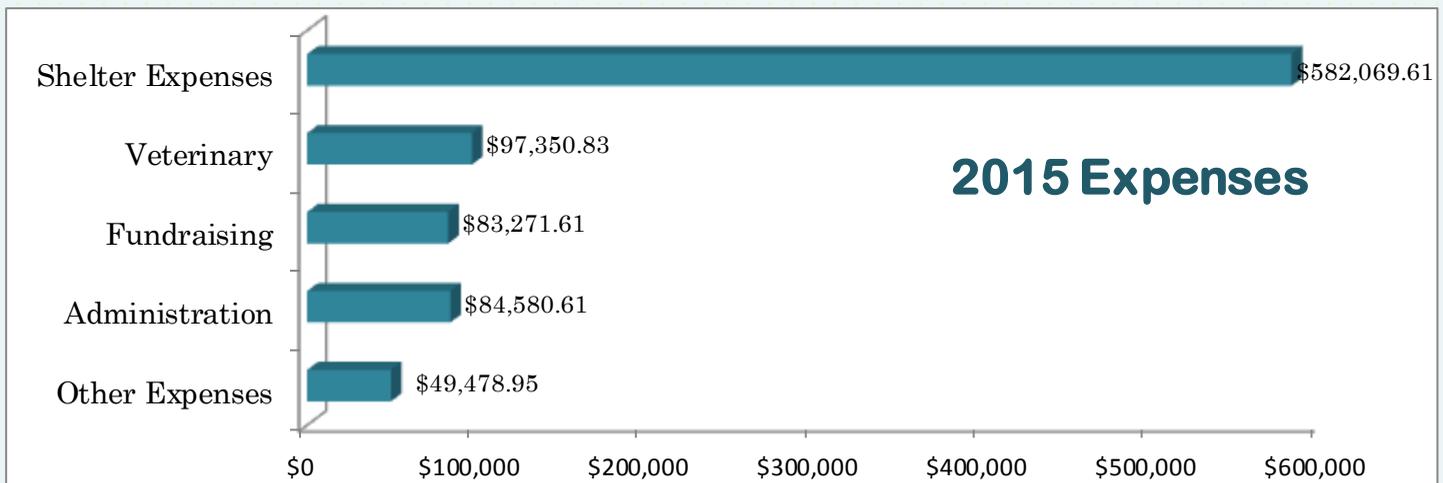
Finance



TCHS is a highly efficient organization which goes to great lengths to reduce our administrative costs so that the majority of funds can be focused on our lifesaving programs. Compared to other organizations with similar budgets, TCHS does a lot more for much less. We reliably receive high rankings according to national charity ranking organizations such as GuideStar and Charity Navigator. TCHS depends on the support of our local community to provide the highest quality services to the animals entrusted



Total 2015 Revenue: \$952,251.74 * Total 2015 Expenses: \$896,751.61



Grants

In 2015, we received a \$19,000 grant from the ASPCA to purchase additional surgery equipment. Our surgery equipment has doubled from one table, anesthesia machine, light, etc... to two of each, which will allow us to go from one pet surgery to the next much more efficiently. This will not only save us time and money, it will allow us to spay/neuter more pets each day, speeding up the adoption process for many animals as adopters are often forced to place a deposit on a pet they are interested in until we can get that animal fixed.



In addition to the veterinary equipment, this grant also included a 6 month trial of Accel, a new veterinary specific disinfectant, to use in all areas housing animals. The disinfectant is not only more effective, it is also much more efficient and less caustic to the environment, and thereby safer for the animals. Our sincere thanks goes out to the ASPCA for their support in our work.



Tri-County Humane Society

Adopt • Donate • Volunteer

Vision for the Future

We envision:

- A time when TCHS has abundant resources and finances to carry out its mission and vision.
- A time when TCHS will use technology efficiently to meet the needs for all staff, adopters and animals.
- A time when the community will be well educated about the TCHS mission, vision, purpose, and practices.
- A passion to continually explore new options and embrace new opportunities and improved animal care and enrichment techniques.
- A time when TCHS is recognized as the leader in responsible companion animal care.
- The continual development of a sound foundation to support the shelter as it evolves to meet ever changing community and animal welfare needs.
- A state of the art facility.

From humble beginnings in a renovated gas station on Lincoln Avenue, the Tri-County Humane Society has made great strides establishing itself as a progressive animal welfare organization in Minnesota and a leader in the humane field nationwide.

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