As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that hard work and dedication have improved the lives of thousands of animals - those we rescue, care for, and adopt, and those who benefit from our advocacy, education, law enforcement, and community-building.

Anchored by a professional staff, driven by volunteers, and embraced by thousands of donors, we have built a humane community. TOGETHER we are Rescue Village.

Every animal we touch is unique and their names are memorable…Squeaky, Apple, Clark, Penelope. They may have been rescued from a far-away disaster; found seeking shelter in a warm garage; or surrendered due to a family hardship. We offer comfort to both animals and people, without judgement. We are a safe haven and a good friend.

We continue to reach out to Geauga’s Amish community to offer low-cost spay/neuter services through Fix It In the Farmland. Along the way, we bring practical information and tips about responsible pet ownership. We have partnered with a juvenile correctional facility to bring youth to work at the shelter because we believe that the bonds that grow between people and animals make us all better human beings. We call this program Pawsitive Steps.

• We believe that going above and beyond for animals with medical or behavioral problems, like a little Chihuahua with deformed legs named Tiny Tim, is well worth herculean efforts and the extra expense.
• We believe that saving an unrideable horse, whose trust has been broken, defines kindness.
• We believe that rescuing and rehabbing a very ill kitten dumped in a ditch is not a choice but, rather, a mission.

All of this makes all of us Rescue Village. Each year passes quickly. There is no time to waste. Animals are counting on us and so are people. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Hope Brustein
Executive Director

Kathy Leavenworth
President, Board of Trustees

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**Compassion in Action**

**Thank you!**
Your support is having a positive impact on people and animals in Northeast Ohio.

**The impact of our 675 Volunteers**
67,248 Hours volunteered in 2018. (An increase from 55,496 in 2017.)

**2018 Active Foster Homes**
94

**2018 Animal Intake**
1,145 Cats
1,014 Dogs
51 Barn Animals
27 Small Animals

**2018 Adoptions**
2,053
1,028 Cats
947 Dogs
52 Barn Animals
26 Small Animals

**2018 Spay/Neuter Surgeries**
2,179

**2018 Functional Expenses Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Management</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$2,265,731</td>
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*These financials are unaudited.
For our audited financial statements and 990’s, please visit: www.rescuevillage.org/financials
It has been a year of growing our library of success stories. There are extra high fives and celebrations when we defy the odds, thanks to the skills and heart of our staff and volunteers.

Sophie, a six-year-old dog, was very fearful and treated everyone like a threat. Her basic stress got worse when she was dropped off at RV. Our team quickly put together a behavior and socialization plan. They taught Sophie that people brought treats and not threats. She discovered that trusting people earned her gentle petting. The team worked on manners with the objective of getting Sophie successfully adopted. It took months of training and waiting. Yet, in December 2018, Sophie went home, and the updates we have received have been wonderful!

There is a belief that cats are stubborn. A cat named Diva debunked that myth. Diva just wanted to be left alone. She did not trust humans or even felines. Not a stellar résumé for potential adopters. Our Cat Behaviorist, Wendy, got right to work gently overcoming these barriers. One-on-one sessions spanned several months, but eventually Wendy taught Diva how to let people get to know and love her. Months passed. Diva lived in the cat community room and hung out with other cats. After eight months, the purrfect people walked into Marino’s Cool Cat Café, fell in love, and took Diva home.

A horse name Pi came to RV as part of a humane case in 2017. Pi spent the first 10 years of his life in a weed-filled pasture. He had no contact with other horses and close to no contact with humans. This posed a terribly difficult challenge. Staff, led by Barn Manager Adrienne Johnson, spent most of 2018 working to earn Pi’s trust. She trained Pi to be safely handled and slowly introduced him to other horses. Pi is now ready to be adopted, and we are sure that his newfound confidence and openness are just what is needed to find the right forever home.

What makes Rescue Village different is that we treat every animal as uniquely special. We are not afraid of challenges and push the envelope to help every dog, cat, and horse. Where others often easily give up, our team will stop at nothing to save a life!

Rescue Village strives to be at the forefront of best practices. Animal welfare and the needs of our community are constantly evolving. Not willing to sit still, we are always looking at how we can improve and add to our programs and services.

- After receiving a transformative gift from the Billie Howland Steffee Family Fund of The Cleveland Foundation, we hired our first full-time Barn Manager in 2018. The quality of care of our horses and farm animals grew, and we rehomed 8 horses – more than any other year in our history.
- In August 2018, we launched a pilot program called “Pawsitive Steps.” In partnership with the Cuyahoga Hills Correctional Facility, youth came to the shelter three times a week. Their hands-on experience included directly working with animals. Self-esteem and teamwork grew in a collaborative and dignified atmosphere. Year one was a great success, and we are thrilled to be moving forward with year two.
- Our Humane Education program is one-of-a-kind in Ohio. In 2018, the members of the kids’ service group, P.A.L.S., held the state’s first Youth Advocacy Day, convening at Woofstock in September. Over 500 youth came together to be champions for animals through creative experiential learning stations. We are training future leaders and the compassionate adults of tomorrow – and it is inspiring!

What’s in store for 2019? We will build our Pet Food Pantry program that makes free pet food available to keep people (with limited finances) and their pets together. Our sights are also set on increasing public access to low-cost wellness, including vaccines. We are on the move and, with your help, making every day count.