



Impact Report

2019





Brynda Ivan

from the Board President
& Executive Director

Family + Community = Lifesaving

In 2019, we helped families, we built families, and we were a family. Thousands of stories were written. For dog behavior specialist Will Zaslavsky, the success story that sticks in his heart is about Gambit – a big, beautiful, unruly hound – hard to handle and very difficult to adopt. Gambit needed so much behavioral work. He found it in a team of staff and volunteers who were on a mission. Ultimately, Gambit was adopted. He found a home, and his people grew their family. If you ask our cat behaviorist, Wendy Grellinger, she would name Sabrina, a beautiful black cat that was so obese that she could not walk. With patience, we found a family who fell in love and had a plan to help Sabrina get healthy.

Every rescue and every success is a matter of the heart at Rescue Village. Billie's Barn manager Adrienne Johnson named Beaumont and McKinney the story of the year. Their rescue, when they were both close to death, their rehab, and the months of legal trials to win cruelty charges and successfully defend our law enforcement efforts were worth every bit of hard work, love, money, and worry that was poured into saving them. The odds were against these abused horses. Yet they went on to be adopted with new-found health, rebuilt trust, beauty, and grace.

This is what 7,492 donors and 14,060 gifts can do for thousands of animals and thousands of people! A volunteer corps of 848 people works side-by-side with staff to build friendships, solve problems, and find meaning in the mission. From the everyday to the extraordinary, our humane community has expanded in Geauga County and

far beyond. We serve people in need with running a food pantry so they can keep their pets. We serve veterans and the elderly who crave companionship. We train youth who need second chances. We welcome people who are differently abled. We teach children because they are the future.

At the center, the stars of the show, the bridge that connects it all, are the animals, over 5,000, who were assisted in 2019. We are their voice and, together, we want to thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Hope Brustein
Hope Brustein
Executive Director
Kathy Leavenworth
Kathy Leavenworth
President, Board of Trustees



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Thank you!

Your support is having a positive impact on people and animals in Northeast Ohio.

The Impact of our 848 Volunteers

75,353 
Hours volunteered in 2019.
(An increase from 67,248 in 2018.)

2019 Active Foster Homes

135 

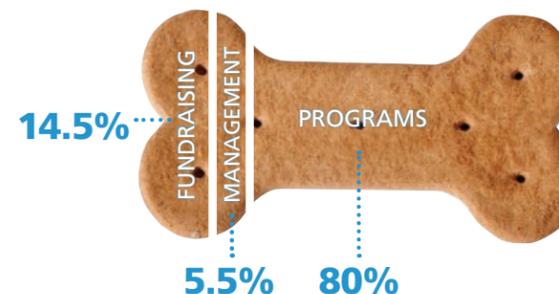
2019 Animal Intake

1,055 Cats
999 Dogs
10 Barn Animals
49 Small Animals

2019 Adoptions

2,011 
987 Cats
962 Dogs
14 Barn Animals
48 Small Animals

2019 Functional Expenses Breakdown*



EXPENSES	
Programs	\$2,412,501
Fundraising	\$ 438,539
Management	\$ 166,895
TOTAL	\$3,017,935

*These financials are unaudited.
For our audited financial statements and 990's, please visit: www.rescuevillage.org/financials

Live Release Rate

96.5%
Dogs & Cats Combined 

2019 Humane Law Enforcement

411 
Number of Humane Law Complaints Investigated

2019 Spay/Neuter Surgeries

2,630 
Spay/Neuter Surgeries

2019 Humane Education

6,306 
Individuals Reached Through Humane Education



Brynda Ivan

Ending Pet Homelessness One Fix at a Time

Spaying and neutering animals, otherwise known as “fixing” them, is a central part of what we do in order to humanely stop the births of unwanted animals which, in turn, alleviates shelter overcrowding. Massive spay/neuter efforts have been a central approach to population control at Rescue Village since 2001. Today’s program is large-scale, high-volume, and multifaceted. Not only do we ensure that every adoptable animal at the shelter is “fixed,” but we also offer low-cost spay/neuter programs to our community. Since 2008, we have run a rural spay/neuter program, called *Fix It in the Farmland*, a collaboration with PetFix Northeast Ohio. We also offer a low-cost Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) service to help manage the free-roaming community cat population in Northeast Ohio, staged at the Rescue Village Clinic. The 2019 numbers were outstanding.

We are especially thrilled with the growth of our TNR program known as *CatSmart*. We increased the number from 554 cats in 2018 to 870 in 2019. The mainstay of *CatSmart* is partnerships with individual “trappers” and small rescues, like Purrfect Partners and Maddox & Friends. Maddox & Friends focuses on transporting cats from dispersed caretakers to Rescue Village and then transporting them back. In 2019, they brought in over 100 cats. Our surgical teams run the clinics on Tuesdays and, if you want to observe, you can see, and definitely smell, how the program works.

You may be aware that in Geauga County, the homeless animal population coming into both Rescue Village and the Geauga Dog Warden has declined sharply in recent years. This is living proof that the spay/neuter strategy works! ■



Couch Surfing – The Fabulous About Fostering



Debo and his mom

Homeless animals, from the tiniest kittens to the largest dogs, and even horses, find time to grow, rehab, and experience relief from shelter stress in the network of foster families surrounding Rescue Village. These temporary homes before adoption grew to 135 in 2019. Another 52 families took in animals through the foster-to-adopt program. The Foster Express Challenge during the holidays set a goal of finding 25 short-term families that would take an animal in for as little as 2 hours and as long as 2 weeks. In total, 37 fosters stepped forward and 14 permanent adoptions took place. What a testament to teamwork and the tremendous compassion among our community members!

Andrea, who is responsible for the foster network, explained, “When we place a dog or cat awaiting adoption in a person’s home, the fosters are our eyes and ears, our socializers, trainers, and sources of love and support. We learn so much more about each animal from their

homestays and can better match their unique personalities and needs with potential adopters.”

The story of Debo, a dog with multiple health problems, is a 2019 highlight. Debo was riddled with allergies and anxiety. He needed time and a lot of assistance. With the help of foster care, Debo grew healthier and more confident. Many months later, we continue to get updates from his family with photos that show Debo taking in all the love (from people and dog friends). Debo’s mom shared this, “We never imagined adopting a third dog, let alone a senior dog. But we are so happy that we did. We didn’t know we were missing so much love in our home, we didn’t know we were capable of loving a third dog as much as we loved our other two, we didn’t know a senior would fit into our lifestyle, but Debo showed us all of these things.”

To inquire about becoming a foster family, please call Andrea Giorgio at 440.338.4819 x 14. ■