Learn about Dick and Libby (pictured here) and their commitment to RV on page 4.
The doors of Rescue Village reopened in July 2021, and more than 5,000 mask-wearing visitors came through the doors to adopt 1,486 dogs, cats, domesticated barn animals, and small creatures. Just some of these animals included 435 stray cats, 345 owner-surrendered cats, and 151 owner-surrendered dogs, all of whom found new homes. Rescue Village’s foster network also took in an additional 590 animals, helping reduce the stress of shelter life for animals waiting for their new families.

2023 surgeries were performed on Rescue Village’s animals and community cats, along with more than 10,000 vaccinations, exams, and other medical treatments. Healthy animals facilitate happy adoptions!

Rescue Village investigated and followed up on more than 1,400 animal neglect, abuse, and cruelty complaints through its humane law enforcement activities, some of which turned into search warrants, court dates, and partnerships with the Geauga County Sheriff’s Office. Rescue Village is a law enforcement agency, and it takes this work very seriously on behalf of the animals.

In September, Rescue Village’s Woofstock attracted 3,500 people and 2,000 dogs in what turned out to be one of the biggest one-day celebrations of all things dog in the organization’s history. Rescue Village also celebrated 20 years at 15463 Chillicothe Road, reconnecting with old friends and new ones while eating ice cream on a beautiful summer day.

All of this work was done by 30 dedicated and resilient employees (down from a pre-pandemic staff of 50) and dedicated volunteers. Everyone was challenged this year and we have come through stronger.

Rescue Village’s work was made possible by the 7,751 generous people who made financial contributions in 2021 – Rescue Village is funded solely by its contributors, and we can never say thank you enough to everyone who gives so charitably.

Rescue Village hired a new executive director in March. A new board president and slate officers were elected in December. And with these changes is a continued dedication from all the staff and the board toward building a more vital organization geared for more significant and strategic positive impact, meaning more animal lives saved.

Rescue Village remains steadfast in providing humane solutions for animals and their people. As we look back at 2021, we know that the work is a strong foundation for the lifesaving work that is to come in 2022 and beyond.

Kenneth Clarke
Executive Director

Carrie Fisher Radivoyevitch
President, Board of Trustees
Mission in Motion: Actions Empowered by Donors

The Impact of our 206 Volunteers

69,639 Hours volunteered in 2021

2021 Foster Homes

590 Animals fostered

2021 Animal Intake

1,557 913 Cats, 489 Dogs 107 Barn Animals 48 Small Animals

9,773 Over the Last 5 Years

2021 Animal Adoptions

1,486 865 Cats, 469 Dogs 105 Barn Animals 47 Small Animals

9,072 Over the Last 5 Years

2021 Pet Food Pantry

17,000 lbs Food given to more than 75 families in need directly through RV and in partnership with 14 agencies or pantries

2021 Functional Expenses Breakdown*

Expenses
Programs $2,300,330.43
Fundraising $442,285.19
Management $90,075.49
Total Expenses: $2,832,691.11

*These financials are unaudited. Our most recent audited financial statement and 990 can be found at www.rescuevillage.org/financials.

2021 Live Release Rate

Dogs 99%
Cats 98%
Barn Animals 95%

2021 Humane Law Enforcement

1,400 Number of Humane Law Investigations

12,340 Miles Driven to Investigate

2021 Humane Education

1,283 People reached through Humane Education programs

2021 Surgeries

2,023 899 Shelter surgeries 788 TNR surgeries 336 Fix-It-in-the-Farmland surgeries

Over the Last 5 Years

863 Cats, 469 Dogs 105 Barn Animals 47 Small Animals

899 Miles Driven to Investigate

899 Shelter surgeries

788 TNR surgeries

336 Fix-It-in-the-Farmland surgeries

2021 Surgeries

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899 Miles Driven to Investigate

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899 Shelter surgeries

788 TNR surgeries

336 Fix-It-in-the-Farmland surgeries
In February 2021, Rescue Village launched a new program to help individuals and families in need during difficult times. The new Community Guardian program takes in pets on a temporary basis for people in need of assistance that are experiencing hardships, such as hospitalization, drug or alcohol rehabilitation, or eviction.

“We recognized the need for this program during the pandemic,” said Andrea Giorgio, Intake and Rescue Manager at Rescue Village. “People were being furloughed or losing their job and the entire animal welfare industry was seeing the increased need for opening other avenues to help people.” Designed to keep pets out of the shelter and with their owners, the Community Guardian program provides assistance to anyone in need, not just those in Geauga County. The intake of these pets is assessed on a case-by-case basis, either through direct contact with the individual, or through a local service agency or family representative.

“Many senior citizens will refuse medical treatment because they have no options for pet care or simply can’t afford boarding their pet while they are in the hospital,” said Giorgio. “A program like this helps relieve that issue and gives them a cost-free option along with peace of mind.”

When the pets are brought to Rescue Village, they receive a medical exam to ensure our clinic team has a good baseline for care and to identify any medical or behavioral issues. The pets are also vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and microchipped. Community Guardian volunteers then take these pets into their homes and treat them as one of their family members.

Pets in the program stay in foster homes for at least 30 days to upwards of 90 days if needed to allow the pet owner to continue managing their situation. This gives them peace of mind knowing their pet is safe and sound. One of Rescue Village’s proudest moments of the program was helping a woman who had been evicted and was living in her car with her cat.

Being able to witness the reunion of the owner with their pet is overall the best part, Giorgio said. Happy tears abound amongst the owner and our staff when they see their pet again after having overcome their struggles. Knowing we have saved one more animal from needing to be rehomed while helping a family or individual keep their furry family member makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks to the support of our community and the Community Guardian volunteers, this crucial new program at Rescue Village allows us to help more people and animals in dire need.

Rescue Village relies on the generosity of donors, supporters, and volunteers every day. Meet Dick and Libby Larrabee, pictured on the cover (with Cheech). This dynamic duo is just one example of how support from individuals in our community allows Rescue Village to continue our work of saving lives, reducing pet overpopulation, and finding loving homes for animals in need.

Not only are Dick and Libby long-term donors, but Dick has been a volunteer for over 11 years as part of our Welcome Desk team. A cat-lover at heart, Dick began volunteering after he retired. “I love animals and love talking with people who love animals, so volunteering in a Welcome Desk position seemed like the perfect fit for me. I wasn’t sure at first because there’s a lot to learn about animal welfare. But helping people and animals is part of who I am,” he said.

In addition to donating and volunteering, Dick and Libby also support Rescue Village by attending events, such as Barks and Brews, a new event added in 2021. “We enjoy socializing with other animal-lovers and knowing that it’s going to support the animals. We have a passion for caring about animals and always enjoy Rescue Village events,” said Libby.

Dick and Libby are also adopters! The couple adopted two elderly cats from Rescue Village after bonding with them in Marino’s Cool Cat Café.

There are so many ways to support Rescue Village and the work it does every day. That support allows Rescue Village to thrive and make a big impact in Geauga County and our entire community.