



The WOOD COUNTY  
**Humane**  
Bowling Green, Ohio Society



2016

Annual Report



“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

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## The WCHS Management and Staff

Shelter Manager.....Erin Moore

Assistant Manager/Registered Veterinary Technician.....Alex Jones

Humane Agent.....Katie McClure

Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator.....Tonya Burkett

Behavior and Training Coordinator.....April McCurdy, CPDT-KA

Veterinarian.....Dr. Stephanie Fecht

Animal Care Staff.....Megann Smith,  
Alyssa Webner, Kaitlin Richard, Carson Blaisdell, Anna Hansen, Melanie  
Bracco, Olga Clay, and Bobbie Jo Krassow





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## The WCHS Board of Directors

President.....Heath A. Diehl

Vice President of Administration.....Emily Keegan

Vice President of Shelter Operations.....Debbie Johnson, DVM, CAWA

Secretary.....Andrea Szymkowiak

Building & Grounds.....John Aleksander

Fundraising.....Bethany DeLuca

Membership.....Shawna Leonard

Public Relations.....Andrea Szymkowiak

S.N.I.P.....Leyna Jennings

Members.....Amanda Barnett,  
Louann Cummings, Jack Karsten





## Shelter Report

*Erin Moore, Shelter Manager*

### Dogs

*Received:*

Owner Surrender	68
Transfers	175
Adoption Returns	27
Cruelty Confiscations	13
Strays	1
<u>Abandoned</u>	<u>0</u>
	274

*Outcomes:*

Adoption	260
Transfers	3
Returns to Owners	4
Euthanized	2
<u>Died in Care</u>	<u>2</u>
	271

### Cats

*Received:*

Owner Surrender	213
Transfers	37
Adoption Returns	15
Cruelty Confiscations	0
Strays	322
<u>Abandoned</u>	<u>12</u>
	599

*Outcomes:*

Adoption	526
Transfers	15
Returns to Owners	8
Euthanized	39
<u>Died in Care</u>	<u>12</u>
	600

### Other Animals

*Received:*

Owner Surrender	0
Transfers	0
Adoption Returns	0
Cruelty Confiscations	0
Strays	2
<u>Abandoned</u>	<u>1</u>
	3

*Outcomes:*

Adoption	4
Transfers	0
Returns to Owners	0
Euthanized	0
<u>Died in Care</u>	<u>0</u>
	4

820

Lives Saved

In

2016

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## Key Facts From the Shelter in 2016

### *Regarding Our Dogs:*

- ◆ Transfers in from other agencies are up 161 percent compared to 2015; some partners with which we regularly worked in 2015 include the Wood County Dog Shelter, Lucas County Canine Care and Control, and the Humane Society of the United States Emergency Placement Program.
- ◆ Adoptions are up 78 percent compared to 2015.

### *Regarding Our Cats:*

- ◆ Adoption returns are down 57 percent compared to 2015.
- ◆ Owner surrenders are up 353 percent compared to 2015.
- ◆ Transfers in from other agencies are up 362 percent compared to 2015.
- ◆ Strays are up 13 percent compared to 2015.
- ◆ Adoptions are up 36 percent compared to 2015.

### *Overall:*

- ◆ Adoptions are up 47 percent compared to 2015.
- ◆ In 2016, we completed 509 spay/neuter surgeries in shelter (up 214 percent from 2015), 100 TNR surgeries (up 13 percent from 2015), and 30 rescue partner surgeries.





## Humane Agent Report

*Katie McClure, Humane Agent*

Total Cruelty Complaints: 214

Rechecks Conducted: (including welfare checks, vet confirmation, updates with complainant, speaking with other agencies, drive byes, continued education with owner, etc.): 1,179

Cases Closed: 215

Education - 114

Animal Surrender - 4

Unfounded - 55

Animal Abandonment - 2

Refer to Other Agency - 35

Unable to Locate - 5

Other Agencies worked with:

Wood County Health Department, Northwood Police Department, Bowling Green Animal Control, Hancock County Humane Society, Perrysburg Animal Control, Wood County Sheriff's Department, Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court - Judge Rupp, Fostoria Police Department, Lake Township Police Department, Bloomdale Police Department, Cuyahoga County Humane





Agent, Lorain County Humane Agent, Wood County Children Services, and Luckey Police Department

Continued Education:

Ethical Issues when working on Animal Cruelty Cases - Webinar (ASPCA)

Collaborative Animal Cruelty Investigations - Webinar (ASPCA)

Intervening with Children who are Abusing Animals - Webinar (ASPCA)

Officer Safety - Dog Bite Prevention (ASPCA 25 min tutorial)

Investigating Animal Abuse for Law Enforcement (ASPCA 3-hour course)

Managing Live Evidence in Animal Cruelty & Fighting Cases - Webinar (ASPCA)

Combating Dog Fighting (ASPCA - 2-hour course)

Capital Area HS Continuing Education Seminar (8-hour course) - Investigations using Social Media, Animal Cruelty Veterinary Forensic, Crime Scene Searches and Preparing Felony Charges

National Animal Cruelty Investigations School - Professional Investigator (5 days, 40-hour course) - Animal Law, Report Writing, Constitutional Law, Courtroom Preparation, Biosecurity & Zoonosis, Animal Handling & Behavior, Interview & Interrogation, Basic Photography, Personal Safety, Officer Safety.



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## 2016 Financial Report

### EXPENSES

Special Events	\$ 26,664.49
Development	\$ 7,775.73
Marketing/PR	\$ 124,448.33
Surgery	\$ 25,163.77
Medical Costs	\$ 92,105.43
Payroll	\$ 209,407.53
Operations	\$ 384,170.38
Building and Grounds	\$ 46,148.83
Volunteers	\$ 2,106.65
Professional Services	\$ 3,668.81
<u>Unapplied Payment Expense</u>	<u>\$ 6,430.96</u>
Total Expenses	\$601,414.18

### INCOME

Special Events	\$ 97,921.79
Development	\$320,382.16
Grants	\$ 7,785.00
Operations	\$294,548.02
Volunteers	\$ 670.00
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>\$ 96,637.80</u>
Total Income	\$817,944.77

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## Volunteers Who Logged More Than 100 Hours in 2016

John Aleksander

Bethany DeLuca

Heath A. Diehl

Lynne Helm

Debbie Johnson

Jack Karsten

Emily Keegan

Shawna Leonard

Matt Skivers

Jeffrey Showel

Cynthia Wardlow





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## 2016 Fosters for The WCHS

Phyllis Chaney  
Cufr Family  
Lisa Traxler  
Lisa Kern  
Guck Family  
Chelsea James  
Erianna Sherrod  
Michaela Brickner  
Cassie Bloomfield (formerly Williams)  
Fecht Family  
April McCurdy  
Carson Blaisdell  
Kaitlin Richard  
Alyssa Webner  
Olga Clay  
Alexandria Jones  
Victoria Dawes  
Christy Spontelli  
Tracy DeRan  
Kathy Ledford  
Katrina Livingston  
Luc Gibb  
Devin Bates  
Jeannette Coburn  
Carrie Mccaffrey  
Anna Hansen

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## Annual Award Winners

### MINNIEBELLE CONLEY COMMUNITY AWARD

#### Pisanello's Pizza

*The Minniebelle Conley Community Award is presented annually to a generous community partner whose contributions have significantly assisted us in fulfilling our organization's mission: to bring about the best possible treatment and quality of life for all animals in Wood County. Pisanello's Pizza specifically was nominated for this distinction because of its long-time sponsorship of one of our major fundraising events: the Black Swamp Arts Festival pizza booth. Without the generous in-kind and monetary donations from Pisanello's each year, the BSAF event would not be nearly as successful as it currently is and The WCHS would not be able to fund the annual care of as many animals as we currently are able to fund. Pisanello's nominator referred to Pisanello's as a "consistently generous community partner" and praised its support of The WCHS as both "exemplary and very much appreciated."*

### SPECIAL FRIEND OF THE ANIMALS

#### Lynne Helm

*The Special Friend of the Animals Award is presented annually to one of our supporters who over time has shown a marked commitment and dedication not only to The WCHS, but more specifically to the animals. This award typically is used to recognize those who are instrumental in creating a better quality of life for the animals under our care. Lynne Helm received several very thoughtful and enthusiastic nominations for this award. All three nominators fondly noted Lynne's many years of faithful service to the organization, and shared how Lynne has come to affectionately be known as "The Cheese Lady." All three nominators also praised Lynne for her willingness not only to spend time with the "eager-eyed, playful dogs," but also to work diligently and tirelessly with "the shy, scared, nervous, and sad ones" because she understands that "every dog deserves to be loved." One nominator noted a quality that, for her, makes Lynne uniquely qualified for this award; she wrote, "The degree of trust it takes to allow a dog to leave the shelter is immense, but I would let Lynne do it every minute of every day" because she "takes the time to help these dogs become pets and then teaches them to love like family." And another nominator summed up the general sentiments of all three nominators by noting simply: "Lynne is truly a hero to our dogs, and we are so lucky to have her!"*

### ELLEN FULLER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

#### Phyllis Chaney

*The Ellen Fuller Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to one or more of our many dedicated volunteers in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. Both of Phyllis Chaney's nominators praised her for eagerly and consistently "taking in the hard to fos-*

ters, including cats and kittens who have ringworm.” (One nominator went on to note: “A visit from Phyllis is filled with mixed emotions because we know it means that ringworm is in the lobby, but it’s like our favorite aunt is in town!”) Phyllis’s nominators also agreed that “selfless doesn’t even begin to describe this amazing lady,” and one praised her willingness to “jump through so many hoops to care for our precious kittens and cats.”

## WANDA LOOMIS HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR Jean Miller

*The Wanda Loomis Humanitarian of the Year Award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates a marked devotion to and an active engagement in the promotion of animal welfare in Wood County. Jean Miller was nominated for this distinction for many different reasons. Jean’s nominator commented on the many generous monetary donations that Jean has made to our organization over the past couple of years and the “priceless contributions” that those donations have enabled us to make to the lives of the animals we serve, as well as to the larger community of northwest Ohio. Specifically, Jean’s nominator noted that Jean’s donations have funded our new surgery suite, which has “aided WCHS in spaying and neutering our shelter animals, but also allowed us to make significant headway in our spay/neuter efforts within the community.”*







## From the President

The calendar year 2016 brought great growth, change, and evolution to The Wood County Humane Society (hereafter The WCCHS).

In January, we began the year with a strategic planning session led by Dr. Sharon Clifford, who very generously donated three hours of her time to assist us in our efforts to envision a desired future for the organization and to translate that vision into a set of goals, objectives, and steps to achieve it. With Dr. Clifford's guidance, we collaboratively drafted a revised mission statement, we crafted a vision statement (which our organization has never had), and we identified the set of core values that direct our efforts to bring about the best possible treatment and quality of life for all animals in Wood County. This session also served as an important team-building experience for our Board members—most of whom were relatively new not only to the organization, but also to one another.

In September, we invited shelter management and staff to participate in a joint Board-staff strategic planning session, modeled on Dr. Clifford's work with the Board earlier in the year. That

meeting took place in the Conference Room at the Holiday Inn Express in Bowling Green, which was generously donated to us by their management, and it began with a potluck provided by the Board. During that session, Board members and staff collaboratively drafted a revised mission statement and then identified a set of current concerns and future goals intended to direct our decision-making over the coming months. Like the earlier strategic planning session, the September one served important team-building functions, allowing Board and staff some much-needed time to foster meaningful connections based on shared values and objectives, to establish a positive team culture, and to align ourselves to a shared purpose and to shared goals.

One of our key objectives for 2017 is to ensure that all of us continue to work toward common goals by holding additional joint strategic planning sessions where shelter management, shelter staff, and Board members can work collectively to assess where, as an organization, we are, to define where, in the future, we would like to be, and to determine how, in the present, we can work toward that vision.

As part of our long-term planning, we approved investment in several “systems” designed to streamline and render more current some of our key responsibilities as a Board and as an organization. In particular, we outsourced our payroll management to a local payroll company. We also invested in Grizzard, a direct marketing agency for non-profit fundraising, and in Donor





Perfect, which is a donor management software program that allows us to more efficiently and effectively track our membership and donors. Within the shelter, we transitioned to Chameleon, a new and more efficient shelter management software that already has dramatically improved



the everyday operations of shelter business. Putting such systems in place was a top priority for the Board from our first meeting in 2016. Doing so, we felt, would allow the organization to “run” and be self-sufficient, regardless who was serving on the Board of Directors at any given moment. In 2017, we will continue to identify areas where we can improve and streamline outmoded processes, as well as actively assess the new processes and systems that we have put into place, always with an eye toward the long-term health and stability of The WCHS.

This past year also marked a renewed investment in Continuing Education for shelter management and staff. A long-term, organization-wide investment in Continuing Education efforts is vital to the longevity and health of The WCHS. The business world, as well as the world of non-profits, is constantly changing and to ensure that our insights, our practices, and our people do not become obsolete, we must work diligently to remain knowledgeable of best practices in each of our areas of expertise. Doing so not only revitalizes our organization and helps us remain successful, but also re-energizes our most valuable of resources: the human beings who do the important work of caring for the abused, neglected, and needy animals of Wood County and making sure that those animals find their forever homes.

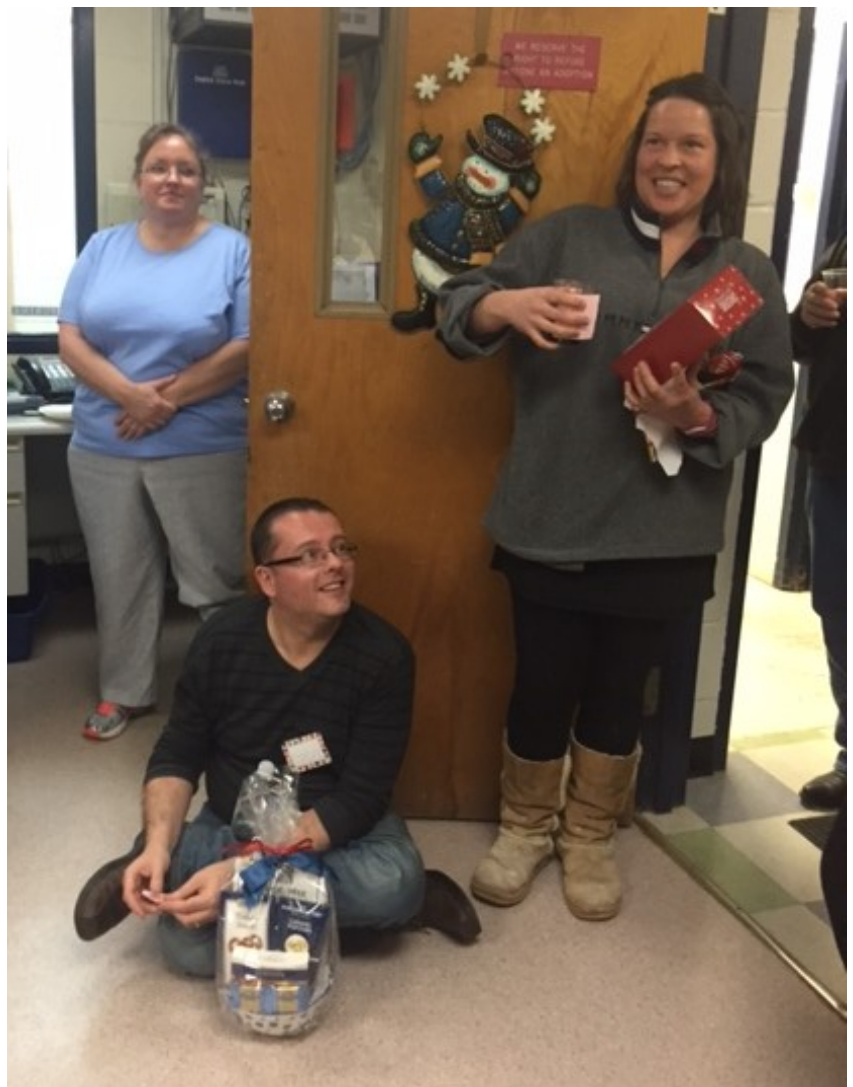
Our Humane Agent, Katie McClure, took advantage of many Continuing Education opportunities this past year; what follow are some of the highlights of Katie’s efforts in 2016. Katie participated in a number of ASPCA-sponsored webinars over the past year on such



topics as “Ethical Issues When Working on Animal Cruelty Cases,” “Collaborative Animal Cruelty Investigations,” “Intervening with Children who are Abusing Animals,” and “Managing Live Evidence in Animal Cruelty and Fighting Cases.” Katie also completed the Capital Area Humane Society Continuing Education Seminar, an eight-hour course that covered such topics as: Investigations Using Social Media, Animal Cruelty Veterinary Forensics, Crime Scene Searches, and Preparation of Felony Charges. And, late in the year, Katie completed a five-day, forty-hour Professional Investigator course with the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School, where she learned about Animal Law, Report Writing, Constitutional Law, Courtroom Preparation, Biosecurity and Zoonosis, Animal Handling and Behavior, Interview and Interrogation, Basic Photography, Personal Safety, and Officer Safety.

Long-time staff member April McCurdy not only took advantage of many Continuing Education opportunities in 2016, but also enjoyed a change of responsibilities. Over much of the 2016 calendar year, April worked diligently to receive her CPDT-KA (Certified Professional Dog Trainer, Knowledge Assessed) certification and was promoted to the position of Behavior and Training Coordinator. Some of April’s Continuing Education efforts include: the three-day Wolf Park Seminar where she learned about how brain chemistry affects how dogs learn; the Great Lakes Animal Welfare Conference, where she learned how to create and implement standard operating procedures and how to place hard-to-place dogs; a webinar on the topic of Behavior Enrichment; a webinar on how to make the transition to shelter life less stressful for dogs; a webinar about how to safely transport animals and build up The WCHS’s transport program; and a seminar about the differences between fearful and feral dogs and how to better handle the fearful dogs we receive.

Staff management, too, participated in many Continuing Education efforts. Our Shelter Manager, Erin Moore, and Assistant Manager, Alex Jones, completed several webinars from our vaccine provider about animal-related health topics, and for their participation, Erin and Alex earned us several grants of vaccines and pain medications for



our animals. Erin also attended the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Expo in May to learn about “Adopter’s Welcome,” which helped her clarify and implement our current adoption policy and procedures.

Our commitment to Continuing Education for shelter management and staff will continue in 2017. Already our Shelter Manager and Assistant Manager have signed on for an intensive eight-week Effective Leadership Development (ELD) program through Leadership Management International. The program focuses on several key areas of leadership including: the art of delegation, how to exercise authority effectively, how to manage time efficiently, how to handle and prevent problems with others, and how to train, motivate, and develop people to a higher level of productivity. As a capstone to the ELD program, each of our managers will identify and complete a long-term project that will benefit the shelter and our organization. We are very excited for the many opportunities that this experience will open up for Erin, for Alex, and for The WCCHS and we appreciate very much the commitment that all of our shelter management and staff have demonstrated toward honing and refining their already strong skillsets.



Finally, in 2016, the Board laid the groundwork for two very important initiatives that are designed to ensure the health and the longevity of The WCCHS. First of all, we approved the formation of an Executive Director Exploratory Committee. Led by Board Member Louann Cummings, this committee began with the basic charge of determining whether The WCCHS would benefit from hiring an Executive Director. Over several months, the Committee Chair and its members have been actively engaged in rigorous research regarding the nature, scope, and purpose of Executive Directors in non-profit organizations. The Board also was incredibly fortunate to enjoy a visit from Steve Kiessling, Executive Director of Nature’s Nursery, in October. For nearly two hours, Kiessling shared insights from his many decades of experience serving in Executive Director positions and entertained a variety of questions from our Board. As we move into 2017, the Executive Director Exploratory Committee will turn its atten-



tion to crafting a proposal for hiring an Executive Director, which the Committee anticipates bringing before the full Board for consideration and a vote early in the new year.

The Board also approved the formation of a Capital Campaign Committee. Led by Board Member Jack Karsten, this committee is in the very early stages of planning for a major renovation to our existing shelter building. To date, the Capital Campaign Committee has performed an extensive inspection and evaluation of our current facility and determined, with the assistance of Building and Grounds Chair John Aleksander, a prioritized list of needs and wants for the facility. The Committee also has engaged the services of Poggemeyer Design Group for a needs analysis.

It has truly been my honor and my privilege to serve as President of The WCHS Board of Directors for 2016 alongside such enthusiastic, committed, and smart people like my fellow Board members, our shelter management, our staff, and our many devoted volunteers, members, and donors. I also count myself as incredibly fortunate to reside within a community that, through its strong and continued support of an organization like The WCHS, recognizes the value of all creatures great and small and reinforces the powerful belief that “[t]he greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Together, we not only bring about the best possible treatment and quality of life for all animals in Wood County, but also create a healthy and vital community founded on the values of benevolence, compassion, and unity. Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to working with many of you in the coming year.





## Vice President of Shelter Operations Report

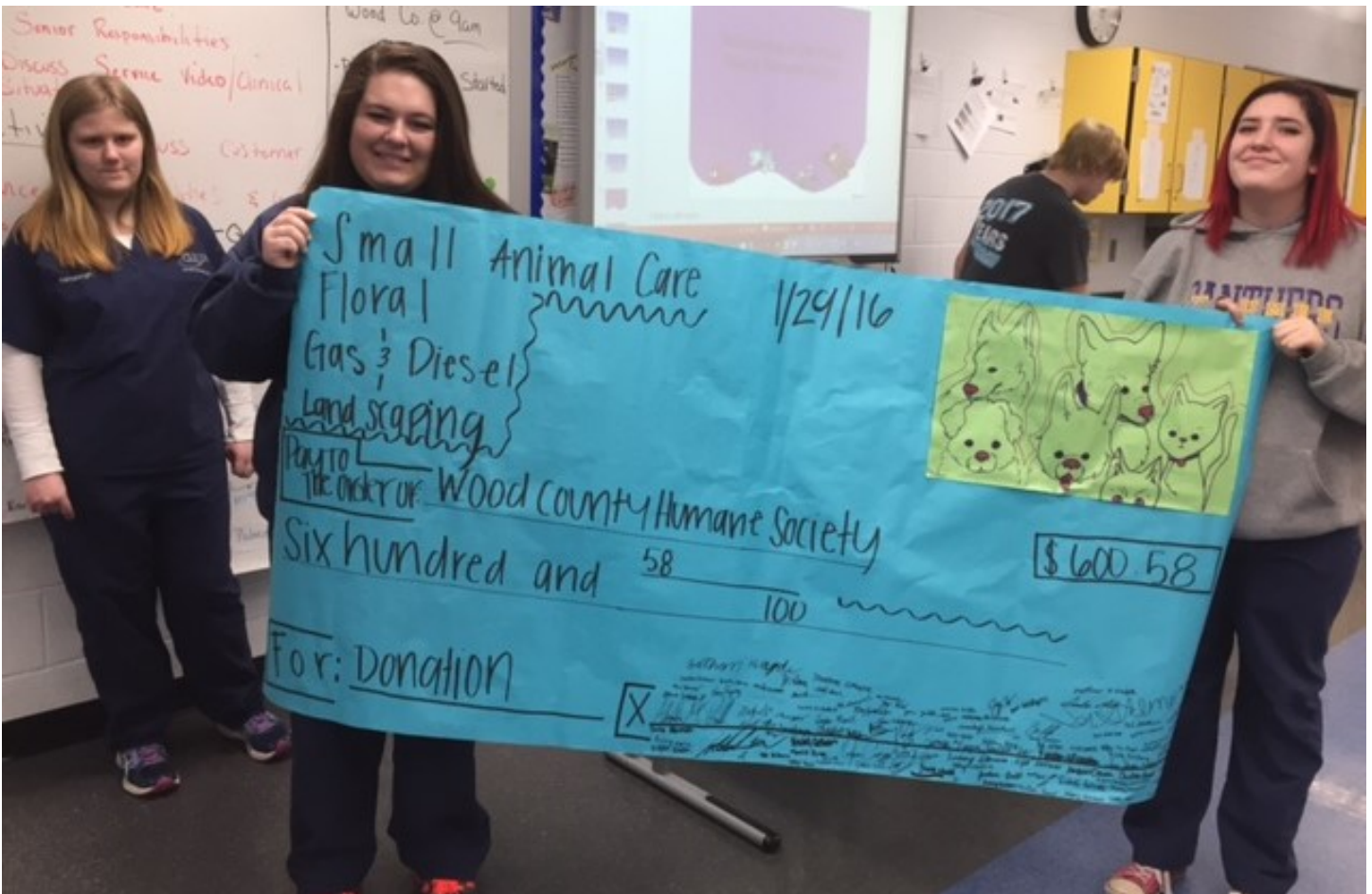
*Debbie Johnson, DVM, CAWA*

2016 has been another busy and exciting year at the Wood County Humane Society!

We have had several additions to our team of animal lovers. Alex Jones, RVT, joined us early in 2016 on a part-time basis. Alex is a registered veterinary technician and assists our veterinarian in surgery, performs dental cleanings on our animals when indicated, and administers treatments. Alex has been a much needed and very welcome addition to our team. This summer Alex became a full-time employee when she was named Assistant Shelter Manager.

Megann Smith moved into the role of Administrative Assistant, handling all of our donor data and all aspects of our social media, and Tonya Burkett became a full-time employee with the addition of Outreach Coordination to her responsibilities as Volunteer Coordinator.

We continued with our efforts to spruce up our building, turning a former closet/storage area into an office for our Volunteer Coordinator and our Humane Agent. This gives volunteers a place to check in and see what's on our plate for the day. We also painted and reorganized our office/adoption area, and added a storage container behind our building to help keep all of our





supplies organized and at the ready. We also expanded our hours of operation this year to be more convenient for our supporters. We are now open from 12-7 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 12-5 Thursdays thru Sundays.

We formed several new partnerships in 2016. We now house cats full time at the Petco store in Bowling Green, in addition to housing cats at PetSmart in Findlay. We've also begun partnering with students from the Small Animal Care class at Penta Career Center. Their students come to our shelter weekly to help with cleaning and feeding of our animals. They have also raised money for us and donated supplies and toys. We love partnering with other like-minded community groups like this!

In May, our Shelter Manager and our Volunteer Coordinator attended the HSUS Animal Care Expo conference, the largest conference in the United States for shelter staff. Both gained valuable information in several areas including recruiting and retaining volunteers, and implementing the HSUS program "Adopter's Welcome," which outlines industry best practices for adopting out animals. We have implemented many great ideas that came from this conference. Our Humane Agent also attended the first in a series of three conferences that will provide information on the most up-to-date methods of successfully investigating and prosecuting animal cruelty and neglect.

We were very happy to receive two significant grants this year. We were awarded a grant for \$3,000 from the Ohio Pet Fund to purchase a new heated surgery table. The Ohio Pet Fund is



funded through specialty license plate purchases, which is one more way animal lovers can help support animal welfare organizations in Ohio. We also received a grant from the Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust in the amount of \$5,100. This grant supported sending Erin and Tonya to the HSUS Expo, Humane Agent Katie to the conference on investigating cruelty, and also covered the costs of having longtime staff member April McCurdy achieve her CPDT certification.

The Certified Professional Dog Trainer course allowed April to build on her talent for animal handling, and has already greatly benefited our animals. April provides training and enrichment for our dogs and cats to help them stay mentally healthy and to help them become more adoptable through better behavior. Starting soon, April will also be offering canine obedience classes to the public. Revenue from these classes will help us to better care for our animals.

This year is our first full year of providing medical and surgical care for our animals in-house, and adding this service in our shelter has helped us in so many ways. Being able to address medical issues quickly has helped us to keep our animals healthy and to be available for adoption much more quickly. This has allowed us to greatly increase the number of lives we can save. In the past two years, we have taken in approximately 525 animals each of those years. Our number of lives saved was 461 in 2014 and 565 in 2015. We decided to set a goal of saving 625 lives this year. Happily, we have blown past that goal, having saved 748 already by the end of November!!!







Our ability to help animals move through our shelter more efficiently has also allowed us to expand our reach and help other organizations in need. As of the end of November, we have transferred in 194 animals from other shelters and rescues including the Wood County Dog Shelter, Lucas County Canine Care and Control, Ohio Small Dog Rescue, Detroit Animal Care and Control, and HSUS. We also partner with the City of Bowling Green to take in friendly stray cats, and have taken in 51 cats so far this year.

We have also responded to 192 cruelty calls and performed 100 spays or neuters on stray cats this year. If you live in Wood County and have problems with stray cats, then we can help you by altering this cat for a small fee. We also held our first Rabies and microchip clinic at our shelter this summer, vaccinating 15 pets against Rabies and inserting microchips in 10 pets.

We are grateful to be able to help an increasing number of homeless animals in Wood County, and recognize that we could not accomplish this important work without you, our supporters. Whether you donate money or supplies, “like” us on social media, share pictures of adoptable animals, clean cages, walk dogs, play with cats, host or attend fundraising events, or help us in any other way, each of our successes is also your success. When we saved over 700 lives this year, each one of those numbers represents a family completed, a best friend made, and a life saved, and you played a part in each and every success. We hope you share our pride in what we have accomplished during this year, and our excitement for what we can accomplish together in 2017!



## Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Report

*Tonya Burkett, WCHS Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator*

The calendar year 2016 brought many new faces to the Wood County Humane Society. We had 203 individuals who completed approximately 3,538 volunteer hours with our organization. Our individual volunteers help with day-to-day operations and animal care while also assisting in our events and fundraisers. We also had several groups that donated their time and support to the WCHS. A few organizations that had group volunteers or held a donation were: Person Centered Services, Pathstone, Behavioral Connections, and Owens Illinois.

The WCHS also opened new doors to spread education in our community. Students from Lake Middle School made large dog beds and donated them to the shelter and also enjoyed a discussion about the organization. Montessori students made wonderful toys and treats for the shelter animals. Bowling Green High School had members of its Key Club volunteer at the shelter. The Small Animal Care Class at Penta Career Center brought students each month to volunteer caring for our animals by dog walking, cleaning kennels, and assisting in laundry and other daily operations. Penta Career Center also invited the WCHS to participate in its annual Penta Ag Day and, for the first time ever, Penta Wellness Day.

Students in higher education were also thinking of us throughout 2016 and participated in volunteering at the shelter, holding several events and fundraisers. BGSU Zeta Lambda Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, BGSU Delta Sigma Pi, BGSU Sigma Chi, BGSU Pet Rescue and Adop-







tion Learning Community, Alpha Phi Omega Co-ed, Omega Phi Alpha National Service Fraternity, BGSU Alpha Tau Omega, BGSU Scuba Diving Club, and several groups from a BGSU Management Course chose to partner with us to change the lives of many animals. The student group, BGSU Friends of the Wood County Humane Society, held several fundraisers in our honor and have committed to volunteering at the shelter on a weekly basis. In addition to school groups, we also had k-12 4-H students, Boy Scout Packs, and Girl Scout Troops.

In addition to working with student groups at BGSU, the WCHS attended the BGSU Dance Marathon by bringing dogs to visit the kids and dancers and also the BGSU Literacy in the Park to promote literacy in the community by reading to dogs and making “dog eared” bookmarks. We are looking forward to the expanding our impact within the community in 2017.



## Building & Grounds Committee Report

*John Aleksander, Committee Chair*

2016 proved to be another busy and fulfilling year for work at the Shelter. Some of the major accomplishments will be discussed below but none of these projects, or the multitude of smaller projects not listed, would have been possible without the efforts and dedication of a number of volunteers from the Board, the Shelter staff, WCHS members, BGSU students and the community at large. Many thanks and much appreciation for all of the hard work!

The first significant project of the year was the replacement of the aged hot water heater serving the Shelter. Research was conducted to determine the most efficient means of providing hot water for the many uses within the building; a conventional water heater with a tank (similar to the old unit) was compared to a tankless on-demand water heater. The determination was made to pursue the on-demand water heater because of the many advantages and long term cost savings. Three companies (Dimech Mechanical, Dunbar Mechanical, and Commercial Comfort Systems) were solicited to provide quotes that included reviewing pertinent usage information and touring the Shelter. After reviewing the quotes, Commercial Comfort Systems was selected to install a new Rinnai RUR 98 on-demand hot water heater for \$3489.62. The unit has been in operation since March of 2016 and has been performing well.

The second significant project this year was the expansion of storage space for the Shelter. The first component of increasing storage was a complete renovation of the existing shed by a local Boy Scout troop, their Scout Masters, and volunteers. This multi-day project included a new roof, vinyl siding, and doors on the outside of the shed as well as new interior flooring and multi-tiered shelving. This project significantly increased the aesthetics and storage capabilities of this 12 ft. by 11 ft. shed. Many thanks to all involved!





The second component of increasing storage space involved our purchase of a used 40 foot corrugated steel storage container (windproof & watertight) to be placed on Shelter property. After determining a potential location for the container, a request for a permit, including a site plan, was submitted to the City of Bowling Green zoning department for their approval. After the permit was issued, Jim Palmer Excavating was hired to excavate and install a stone base in an area approximately 180 ft. long by 18 ft. wide by 8 inches deep to the west of the existing outdoor dog kennels. This stone pad, consisting of 130 tons of stone, would support not only the new 40 ft. long by 8 ft. wide by 9 ft. high storage container, but also the newly remodeled and relocated shed. Once the container was in place, 8 sections of commercial grade pallet racking were installed inside, in various configurations, to allow flexibility for storage needs. Staff have utilized a majority of the space in the storage container and reorganized existing space in the Shelter to alleviate some of the massive storage issues experienced in the past. The shed renovation and storage container purchase have provided much needed space to help with the effective operation of the Shelter.

The final item I'd like to mention is the progress being made to determine the future of the physical plant of the Wood Count Humane Society. The Board recognizes the shortcomings and limitations of the existing building in which we house our operations. It has deemed that we look into alternatives that would allow us to better serve the animals, staff, and public in the future. To that end, it authorized the hiring of Poggemeyer Design Group to provide an initial evaluation of the existing structure and potential options for the future. Jack Karsten and I have met with Poggemeyer representatives several times for tours of our facility and to share input of existing physical plant issues and needed changes. I'd like to stress that this is a very preliminary assessment of existing facilities to help determine the feasibility of renovation/expansion on our existing site. As this process moves forward, everyone involved including board members, staff, WCHS members, and the community, will have ample opportunities to provide input and opinions into the planning process. One step at a time towards a better future for all!



These are the highlights of the past year for the Buildings & Grounds committee. In addition, there were numerous smaller projects that have hopefully improved the quality of life for our animals as well as helped our staff in their daily efforts. If there are any questions, comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Committee members listed below. Again, we extend our thanks to everyone who helped with all the projects this past year and we look forward to continuing this important work in 2017!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee was composed of John Aleksander, Debbie Johnson, Jack Karsten, and Emily Keegan.





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## Fundraising Committee Report

*Bethany DeLuca, Committee Chair*

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for planning and carrying out major and minor events throughout the year to raise much needed funds required to fulfill our mission at WCHS.

In May, we celebrated the Wine and Dine at The Hilton Garden Inn with presenting sponsor Paws and Remember. The wonderful ballroom created the perfect atmosphere for our guests to enjoy a night of music provided by Suburban Legend, a live auction emceed by the ever-famous Jerry Anderson, a silent auction, as well as food and wine. Our generous donors, sponsors and all who attended made this event a success. Thank you Heidelberg Distributing, WBGU TV, Lamar, Third Street Cigar, Perrysburg Animal Care, Metro Homes, and Invisible Fence.

The WCHS annual Garage Sale was once again organized by Joe Schroeder and Stephanie Ringler. Their tireless efforts in organizing such a great event continues to pay off. In 2015, organizers raised \$14,000 for the organization. This year, organizers hoped to at least match last year's sales, and they did just that. The total raised from the 2016 WCHS Garage Sale was \$14,542. The most amazing part is that all proceeds from the event go toward animal care, staff salaries, and shelter maintenance. Thank you, Joe and Stephanie, for all your hard work!

The Mutt Strut took place on a beautiful October Sunday at a new location, Fort Meigs in Perrysburg. With access to the large lawn, Fort Meigs allowed for many new sponsors and vendors such as Perrysburg Animal Care, Three Dog Bakery, Pet Wants Perrysburg, and Costco. A





micro-chip clinic, games for dogs and adoptable animals from the shelter were also offered to those in attendance. A huge thank you to Aimee from WIOT and The River for being the Emcee for the Beauty Pawgent. With lots of room to grow, we hope you keep next October in mind for another family friendly event that allows your best fur friend to attend. Thank you to our sponsors: Perrysburg Animals Care, Paws and Remember, Three Dog Bakery, Pawsitively Good Dogs, Pet Wants Perrysburg, Costco, Newlove Realty, First Insurance Group, Country Squire Animal Hospital and Walmart.

A huge “Thank you” to everyone who attended our restaurant nights. Thank you to Granite City, Panera, and Chipotle for helping raise money for the WCHS.

Thank you to Amanda Barnett for organizing a gift wrapping day at Books-a-Million in Levis Commons. All our wrapping paper and supplies were donated, so all donations from the went directly to supporting the WCHS. And thank you to Harley Davidson in Perrysburg for hosting a gift wrapping event.

Next year brings lots of new ideas! Keep checking our Facebook page and the fabulous newsletters for upcoming events. As always, we are looking for people to help organize and assist with these events, as well as new ones. The Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. If you are interested in joining this committee, then please send an email to the Fundraising Committee at [wchsfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:wchsfundraiser@gmail.com) for more info.



## Membership Committee Report

*Shawna Leonard, Committee Chair*

Primary responsibilities of the Membership Committee include:

- To plan and implement mailings to solicit new donor acquisitions, retention;
- To complete required Grizzard work and deadline edits; and
- To acknowledge all monetary and in-kind donations.

2016 summary of Membership Committee activities:

- Aided in the implementation of Donor Perfect in donor acknowledgement;
- Aided in piloting and implementation of Grizzard Communications;
- Completed work for three campaigns through the first year of Grizzard partnership;
- Helped to raise \$32,590 through Grizzard Campaigns in 2016 (as of report on 12/02/2016); and
- Secured Holiday Inn Conference Room for Strategic Planning Meeting through Grizzard campaigns.

In total, Chair spent over 150 hours on committee work during the 2016 calendar year.







## Public Relations Committee Report

*Andrea Szymkowiak, Committee Chair*

The Public Relations Committee has strived to keep The Wood County Humane Society in the media spotlight and the northwest Ohio communities up to date with current events. For the second year, our newsletter, *Animal Corner*, was published electronically in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Heath A. Diehl spearheaded the newsletter with intriguing shelter updates/adoptions and recruiting column writers.

Furthermore, Mailchimp, a mass e-mail distribution site that allows us to more effectively and efficiently target important communication to our membership, was regularly utilized throughout the year. Distribution announcements such as upcoming events and fundraising campaigns are a few ways we took advantage of Mailchimp.

Over twenty-five press releases were also written and sent to the media for the year 2016. This included two major initiatives. The WCHS took action as emergency placement partners for Humane Society of the United States. In both cases, our shelter assisted with taking in displaced animals, one from a hoarding situation and the other with Hurricane Matthew. Several of our press releases resulted in further media coverage on news channels with staff interviews or publishing events in newspapers.





## Capital Campaign Committee Report

*Jack Karsten, Committee Chair*

The WCHS Capital Campaign Committee was formed in February 2016. The following provides a timeline of the Committee's activities for the 2016 calendar year:

- March 2016:** Met with Building and Grounds Committee Chair and went over facility needs, including: repairs required, things to be replaced, and shortage of office and meeting room space
- April 2016:** Contacted Poggemeyer Design Group for assistance with needs analysis
- May 2016:** Building and Grounds Committee Chair and Capital Campaign Committee Chair met with Poggemeyer Engineers and designers and inspected the facility and grounds
- June 2016:** Poggemeyer Design Group provided the Board of Directors with a quote on preparing a design study, which the Board approved
- September 2016:** Committee Chair received the preliminary study which was shared with the Board of Directors. Building and Grounds Committee Chair and Capital Campaign Committee Chair subsequently met with Poggemeyer representatives to go over the initial study and clarify our understanding, and to suggest some changes.
- October 2016:** Committee Chair received an adjusted study and presented it to the Board of Directors

# Thank you



to all of our members, our community partners, our volunteers, our staff, our adopters, and our supporters for helping us place 820 animals in their homes during the 2016 calendar year. Together we are bringing about the best possible treatment and quality of life for all animals in Wood County.