

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling warmly as she holds a black and white dog. The woman is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt. The dog has a white face with a black patch over its right eye and black ears. The background is a soft-focus green outdoor setting. The text 'rescue village' is in the top right corner, with 'geauga humane society' in smaller text below it. '2016 annual report' is in green text below that. A decorative horizontal line of small grey squares is at the bottom.

rescue
village

geauga humane society

2016 annual report



our mission:

to act on behalf of animals and inspire people to build a more humane community

our vision:

a humane world where animals are treated with compassion and respect

the stories you helped to write...

There really is no place like home. Thanks to the support of our community, volunteers, donors, partner organizations, and staff we are able to create homes for and keep thousands of pets with their people. This past year was about journeys and how the roads home are changing.

■ We have been working together for many years to change the landscape of animal welfare. Ten years ago, Rescue Village was filled with homeless animals from Geauga County. We committed to spaying and neutering thousands of dogs and cats. We educated the public about kindness, compassion, and responsible pet guardianship. We never thought that only ten years later, there would be too few homeless animals in Geauga County to fill our shelter, urging us to in 2016, become a leader in animal transport in Northeast Ohio.

■ Our state-of-the-art veterinary clinic amazed us in 2016. Thousands of animals received basic vet care, spay/neuter surgeries, and above-and-beyond procedures. With so many animals entering our doors and going home so quickly, we are especially proud of the good health that has characterized our shelter.

■ Still, the challenges are many. Animal cruelty and neglect have not gone away and we are determined to contribute to lessening their scope and stopping offenders in their tracks with our Humane Law Department. Knowledge of our unique barn program expanded in 2016 as did the number of horses and farm animals who were rescued from cruelty and neglect to be rehabilitated, and eventually rehomed.

We partnered with shelters in Cuyahoga County where there is a great need for help finding homes for bully breeds and Pit Bull type dogs. This is a wrenching problem and we feel Rescue Village must do more to help. We look towards bringing more of these dogs to our shelter and helping our surrounding community to understand that every dog must be viewed as an individual. In 2016 we made progress, helped create some wonderful adoptions, and learned valuable lessons.

■ It was a great year for Rescue Village and animals in need across northeast Ohio. We could not have done it without the support of those around us. We are grateful for so many: our hardworking team who does the unending work of sheltering pets; the Board of Trustees who help set direction and provide such earnest guidance; the donors and sponsors who, through generous gifts, enable us to greet new challenges head-on. You are all critical to meeting our mission and we are proud to share our story with you. As you read our 2016 Annual Report we hope you feel a sense of pride in your association with Rescue Village. Together, we are providing more resources to a growing community. Together, we are saving lives.

Sincerely,

Hope Brustein

Hope Brustein
Executive Director

Kathy Leavenworth

Kathy Leavenworth
President



Kathy Leavenworth, President



Hope Brustein, Executive Director

hope & kathy

for even the most difficult to adopt...



Patsy, a sweet senior Beagle, came to Rescue Village from another shelter – a tough road for any dog. She needed surgery for two mammary masses and faced months of recovery in foster care. But going above and beyond for every animal is what we do.

■
During Patsy's recovery, she bonded so strongly with her guardians that when she returned to the shelter she suffered from separation anxiety. We "bent" the rules and allowed Patsy to roam our veterinary clinic during the day in the company of staff, volunteers and other animals. Patsy was even given her own Thunder Shirt to give her more of a sense of comfort. No obstacle was going to stop us from finding Patsy a loving home. Determination drives our hopes and dreams for every animal that comes through Rescue Village and, in Patsy's case, and in so many others, this dream was fully realized.

patsy

...home is a dream come true.



When a cat spends a year at the shelter, our hearts ache. Yet, just as there is a lid for every pot, there is someone out there for every animal and Itty Bitty was no exception. Even a persnickety and aloof cat deserves dignity and a home. So we waited patiently and so did she. We made sure Itty Bitty was given extra enrichment and love. After almost a year of waiting, Itty Bitty found her people and they found her – proving that at Rescue Village, no animal is too old or too “difficult” to get their second chance.

itty bitty

2016 adoptions

949

cats

926

dogs

48

small animals

46

barn animals

1,969

adoptions

to loving homes!



2016 clinic stats

3,550

vaccines
provided

2,065

spay/neuter
surgeries
performed

1,192 shelter surgeries
608 Cat Smart TNR
265 Fix-It In the Farmland

2016 volunteers

451

active volunteers

58,203

volunteer hours

94

foster families

439

animals fostered



2016 education

provided
programs for

102

scout troops,
schools,
senior centers
and RV camps

reaching

4,955

adults and children

to volunteer is to open your heart...

When you volunteer with Rescue Village, you become part of a community of people who believe deeply in our mission. For 451 people in 2016, volunteering was not a job. It was a passion with responsibility!



Our volunteers include adopters wanting to give back, animal loving children, groups from corporate and religious organizations, retirees, and even vocational students. They work in almost every capacity and work with all of our animals, even the very tiniest of them. They may be dog walkers, cat cuddlers, or Welcome Desk volunteers. Barn volunteers help horses and farm animals recover from cruelty and neglect. With over 250 weekly shelter volunteers and over 50 yearly special event committee members – we remain forever grateful for the comfort, care, and love that our village of volunteers gives to our animals each and every day.



spotlight on foster heroes

We often rely on volunteers to foster animals that need time away from the shelter for medical or behavioral reasons. A small, stray kitten named Randy Travis was hit by a car and seriously injured. Our vet treated him but wanted him to recover in a calm and attentive environment. As luck would have it, an expert foster volunteer stepped up to provide the care that Randy so desperately needed. Randy recovered "in the arms of an angel" and was eventually adopted by a Rescue Village Welcome Desk volunteer.



randy travis

inspiring the future of rescue

With the only Humane Education Department in Northeast Ohio, we travel near and far in hopes of increasing awareness and knowledge on many animal related topics. These visits often include a furry friend that helps our Humane Education Coordinator teach participants to live a more humane lifestyle filled with empathy and compassion. In 2016, we touched a 4,955 adults and children through our program.





shelter medicine at the top of its game

The Rescue Village medical clinic is tucked inside the expanded shelter. While it may be out of sight of the public it is at the heart of keeping animals healthy and getting them home. Thousands of vet exams, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, diagnostics, and treatments occur every year. Our Medical Director, Dr. Megan Volpe, leads a talented team of veterinarians, Registered Vet Techs and an experienced senior vet assistant. If you stop by you also just might find clinic cat Lionus happily observing all the action.



the cardiac kids

Every animal who comes to Rescue Village is seen by our veterinary team led by Dr. Megan Volpe. The team provides detailed examinations, spay or neuter surgeries, vaccinations and so much more. The Rescue Village clinic has been ahead of the curve since the shelter opened and 2016 was no different. They are known for keeping our shelter healthy and for above-and-beyond care. In 2016, two dogs, who became known as the “cardiac kids” brought the staff, volunteers, and the Rescue Village community together and became the perfect representation of this standard of care.

Sesame and Cashmere came to us separately but within months of each other and were both quickly diagnosed with life-threatening heart conditions. They went to a cardiac specialist, who determined that they would both need surgery that would cost \$4,000 a piece. The RV staff immediately went into action, reaching out to our community and calling for help. The community responded quickly and the resources were rounded up to save the lives of these two dogs. Both surgeries were successful and both of these dogs went on to find their forever homes and live happy and healthy lives.

Two lives out of thousands – made possible by dedicated and skilled medical experts and by the love and compassion of our humane community.



cashmere & sesame

new road maps to rescue...



Their barks and meows do not reveal where they were born. Their wagging tails, purrs, or initial shyness do not give any clues that their lives began in Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Cleveland's west or east side. These are the "transport dogs and cats." Their journey to Rescue Village and new homes is about extending our moral concern, our love, and the arms of our shelter to dogs and cats who need new beginnings. Even seasoned TV reporters cheered and teared up when 27 puppies arrived from flooded Louisiana shelters in August of 2016. Without these life-saving transports, many would face an uncertain fate. Thanks to a generous grant from PetSmart Charities, we will be getting our own transport van in 2017 to help even more animals find their ways to new homes.

2016 intake

820

**transfers from
other agencies**

647

strays

583

owner surrenders

53

humane seizures

2,103

animals



2016 transport

820

animals

**transferred to RV
from 10 states**

(720 dogs, 78 cats, 22 other)

713

from out of state

(KY, AK, OK, GA,
IN, MS, TN, AL, LA)

107

**from 8 counties
within Ohio**

2016 outcomes

1,969
adopted

75
euthanized

50
returned to
owner

17
transferred out

9
DOA or died in care

2,103
animals

2016 humane law

453
calls to
humane officer

over
2,000
animals visited

48
animals seized

providing safe haven...

Rescue Village not only offers safe haven for dogs and cats who have been victims of neglect or are in need of sanctuary but we also have the only barn program in Northeast Ohio that can offer safe haven to farm animals ranging from horses all the way down to baby ducklings.

In 2016, we had five pigs come into our program including Petunia the pot-bellied pig who came from a shelter that desperately needed our help in housing, caring for and adopting her out. Petunia was originally found abandoned in a park in the bitter cold of winter. Rescue Village took her in and began the process of finding her a home. In September 2016, Petunia went to a forever home that couldn't have been more perfect. She now lives with horses and dogs and has a beautiful barn with rolling pastures to explore.

Being the only humane society in Northeast Ohio with a barn program, we are often relied on by surrounding counties to take in farm animals from their humane cases in addition to our own. We have a barn on site and a great network of people who have consistently contributed to the success of the barn program.



arnold & baron

2016 financial report*

Operational Funding	Operating	
Support		
Contributions	\$ 847,642	40%
Grants	121,925	6%
Special Events	253,980	12%
Bequests	588,308	28%
Total Public Support	\$ 1,811,855	
Revenues		
Adoptions, Program Fees & Retail	311,611	15%
Other Income	2,746	0%
Total Revenue	314,357	
Total	\$ 2,126,212	100%
Expenses		
Programs**	1,703,555	80%
Fundraising	333,936	16%
Management	121,200	6%
Total	\$ 2,158,690	102%
NET CHANGE:	\$ (32,478)	

*These financials are UNAUDITED.

**Program expense includes \$78K of non-cash depreciation expense.

financials

thank you

Thank you to our 2016 generous donors

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Zoe and her adopter Tara, Ontario, Canada

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