

Bangor Humane Society | 2017-2018

# Annual Report

"I love my  
humans."

- Baron

Celebrating  
**Happy**  
Beginnings





# I'm Baron

My name is Baron. I'm kind of a celebrity around here, so some of you may remember me. I was seven months old when my family decided I wasn't a fit for their lifestyle and decided to bring me to the Bangor Humane Society. In their defense, I'm a bit of hand-ful-- a 55-pound bouncing ball of energy-- and honestly, they were more like the Netflix and chill kind of humans! I'm a busy boy who needs LOTS of exercise and play, so they thought BHS could help me find a home better matched for my activity level.

When I first arrived at BHS, I don't think anyone would have predicted that I would become their longest staying resident of the year. Even I was surprised! I mean, who could resist this handsome face and boyish charm for 9 months? That's right, 9 whole months. But that's what's so great about the folks at BHS. They let me stay there as long as it took to find the best new family for me. Sometimes perfection takes a while, you know?

Since I saw firsthand the great work that goes on every day at the shelter, they asked me to share my story with those of you who support their important work. First off, let me give you all a tail-wagging WOOF. That's canine for "thank you". Each one of you who volunteers, donates, partners with and works at the humane society help animals like me get a second chance at a great new life - no matter how long or how many tries it takes. You are quite the committed humans, which loyal mutts like me truly appreciate.

Well, I know how much you humans love a good happy ending story, so I am sure you are all anxious to hear about where I am living now... and trust me it's good, so you'll definitely want to stick around to hear about it. But, of all things I learned during my stay at BHS, it really isn't about my happy ending story- or for that matter- any of the residents' happy ending stories. It's actually more about all the **Happy Beginnings**. So, as you follow my journey through this year's Annual Report, it's some of those Happy Beginnings that I would most like to share with you.



“

My **Happy Beginning** began at the **Bangor Humane Society** on August 24, 2017. The first thing I remember about my arrival at BHS is how nice the staff was. I was a little nervous, so one of them gave me a hot dog aka human-dog trust exercise. Good trick humans because you quickly became my kind of people! Rumor around the kennels was that Animal Coordinator, Sam, was the alpha in charge. In other words - she was the one who made sure I had food in my bowl, two walks a day, and any medical care I needed. I learned to mind her, *Keeper of the Squeaky Toys*, right away. That's right, I'm handsome AND smart. The first time we met, I gave Sam my best smile and showed her my smartest trick. I am telling you, she was smitten and we were BFF's from that moment forward...**but that's only the beginning...**”

- Baron

# Executive Director's Message

We are currently living in a time where we are bombarded on social media and various news platforms with negativity and adverse messaging. Here at BHS, we are not immune. Our animals, our people, and our communities encounter and witness painful and devastating experiences firsthand almost daily. But when we do, we confront them, rise above them, heal from them, and are strengthened by them.

We are a place where good things happen; where good people unite to advocate for homeless and abused animals, where second chances are granted, new families are created, and where happy new beginnings emerge out of devastating tragedies.

Photo by Brooke Clay



We are a place of hope, resilience, and purpose. Every single one of our staff, volunteers, donors, adopters and community partners help us meet and overcome those challenges that are very much a reality in the animal welfare sector and the world at large.

They help us rescue animals after national disasters, transport hundreds of vulnerable dogs across the country to find them homes, deliver life-saving medical care to the injured, nurture sick orphaned kittens back to life, help us clean

kennels or walk dogs, provide respite by taking our guests on adventures out of their kennels, and make generous gifts to support our mission.

I am so pleased to celebrate all of you in this year's annual report themed, *Happy Beginnings*. You help us continue the incredible work we started in this community 149 years ago and have joined us in embracing a rapidly changing animal welfare environment to help us write thousands of new beginnings and save more lives every single year.

Thank you for another amazing year. I hope you will continue your journey with us through your charitable giving, volunteerism, partnership or by adopting one of our amazing pets into your home this upcoming year. And, I hope you will join us in a movement to celebrate all the good, positive work happening right here in our own backyard in hopes it will ripple out and inspire our global community.

Warmest Regards,

Suzan Prendergast & Bear

“

***I am so pleased to celebrate all of you in this year's annual report theme, *Happy Beginnings*”***



Photo by Oka Hutchins

## Board of Directors

President: Lani Naihe  
Vice-President: Buddy Angst  
Treasurer: Bob Williams  
Secretary: Susan Reisman  
Members:  
Christopher Barry, DVM  
Patricia Bixel  
Earl Black  
John D. Bunker  
Meaghan Duffey  
John Kenney  
Russ Maynard  
Justin Payson  
Jeff Russell  
Katherine Simoncic

## President's Message

Each and every day, you create new beginnings at the Bangor Humane Society.

Some are more visible than others. The first thing that comes to my mind is when a pet finds his or her forever home with a loving family.

But there are other new beginnings too, such as when a fearful dog begins to trust or when a sick cat starts to heal. Perhaps it's when a shy teenager starts volunteering with us and comes out of his shell. Or maybe it's when a foster family adopts out a litter of kittens by themselves for the first time.

These are just a few of the examples of how your support of the Bangor Humane Society changes lives, both animal and human alike.

As you'll read in the pages ahead, the ways these new beginnings are forged are endless – and every donor, adopter, staff member, volunteer, program participant and community partner plays a part. Whether you fit one or all of those roles, you are a critical part of our team.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express our gratitude for all you do to ensure these new, happy beginnings never come to an end. Whether you give of your time, your talent, or your treasure, your contributions are vital to our work and deeply appreciated.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the new beginnings

you have made possible for both me and my dog Henry, a BHS alum. Adopted at the age of two in 2012, Henry had four different homes before mine. I wasn't really looking for a dog at the time, but once I saw his photo, I knew he was the one for me -- and thankfully, he felt the same way once we met!

It was a new beginning for both of us – for me as a dog mom and for him, who was scared every time I left the house. I took to the dog mom thing right away and in time his separation anxiety eased. Our bond is unbreakable and I am forever thankful to you and the staff at BHS for bringing us together.

In the coming year, the Bangor Humane Society will embark upon a new strategic plan--a new beginning that focuses on the future. The one thing in life that is constant is change, and the world of animal welfare is no different. Our strategic plan will allow us to be on the forefront of that change and ensure we find new and innovative ways to save even more lives.

Thank you for being by our side for all of these new beginnings and for those yet to come. You are the reason all of our accomplishments are possible.

With Gratitude,

Lani K. Naihe & Henry

## Leadership Staff

Executive Director:

Suzan Prendergast

Operations Manager:

Christopher Young

Director of Development & Public Relations:

Stacey Coventry

Bookkeeper & Office Manager:

Sheila Knapp

Volunteer & Community Outreach Director:

Katelyn Murphy

Animal Care Coordinator:

Sam Carruth

Licensed Veterinary Technician:

Allen Batchelder

Foster Care Coordinator:

Roxanne Bowen



The Board and Staff from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation taken from their website. [www.sewallfoundation.org](http://www.sewallfoundation.org)



Sam Carruth & Gruden | Photo by Brooke Clay

“ I am so excited for you to meet my best friend Sam! Not only was she one of the first staff members I met at the BHS, but she spent a lot of time with me. Even though she had lots of other friends to take care of, she always made sure we had time to practice my tricks and introduce me to new people and places. It’s not always easy to show off your ‘good boy’ side from inside a kennel, Sam really ‘got’ me and helped others to understand me better too.”

## Growing our Capacity

In September, the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation awarded us a \$100,000 grant to help us strengthen our human capital for greater impact on our animals. Over the next two years the grant award will help us grow our professional team, invest in training, professional development and competitive wages for our staff, and implement a health and wellness program to increase staff retention and improve their overall mental, emotional and physical well-being.

The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation’s support for animal welfare, one of three areas of focus, is rooted in the interests of its founder and is a testament to the dedicated community in which we serve. Mrs. Sewall was a long-time and passionate supporter of animal welfare organizations in Maine and elsewhere throughout her life, both financially and through direct volunteerism.

Today, the Foundation supports animal welfare organizations working in the State of Maine to build the sector’s capacity and to address the common issue of unwanted cats facing communities and animal shelters around the state. Over the last decade, the Foundation has generously supported our life-saving work at BHS with over \$350,000 in grant awards.

This current grant has allowed us to create a new Animal Care Coordinator position that works closely with our Shelter Operations Manager and Veterinary Care Technician to oversee and coordinate the behavioral and medical care for each one of our shelter guests. Additionally, this position manages our growing animal transport program.

Sam Carruth has worked at the BHS in a direct care capacity since 2014. Her strong work ethic combined with her educational background in animal behavior has had a profound impact on our residents. Last fall she was promoted into the new agency position.

“It is not often a person’s passion and skills intersect in their career. I am one of the lucky few. This promotion means I can continue to make a difference in each animal’s life while also serving the bigger picture,” says Sam. “I am looking forward to helping not only our local animals who find themselves needing a second chance, but also expanding our reach to those who might otherwise never get their first. We are so fortunate to live in an area with such a supportive community that makes everything we do possible. It is a privilege to be able to help save the lives of so many healthy, adoptable animals living in areas of the country where they are not as fortunate.”

**...But that’s only the beginning**



# A Community that Makes a Difference

A year ago Sargent Anthony Campbell, Air Force JROTC instructor at Brewer High School, found himself searching for ways to inspire his students' passion for volunteerism. Through group discussions, his students discovered they had a common interest in animals as well as a desire to serve in a capacity that was positive and empowering. From those conversations, they decided to attend orientation, training and begin volunteering as a group two days a month at BHS during the school year. They are now a core part of our volunteer team that is comprised of hundreds of individuals and dozens of diverse groups ranging from students to business professionals.

"We started with a small group of a few committed students. We washed dishes, organized supplies, cleaned and helped in any way we could. After their hard work, the students were able to spend time socializing the animals. They loved it! As they began to see that their efforts really made a difference, the more excited they were to help. We saw our volunteer group grow to over 15 students for each volunteer visit," shares Sargent Campbell. "But, our students have gained more than volunteer hours at BHS. I have watched our students gain confidence, and for those who struggle with anxiety and other social challenges, it has been very therapeutic for them. They have been amazed at how much work goes on behind the scenes to take care of these animals and help them find homes. Each time they returned, they were so happy to discover how many animals they met had been adopted between visits. The BHS staff and volunteer team are an amazing group of dedicated, professional and compassionate people. Many of our students have expressed a desire to increase their volunteer commitment individually. It's become a group tradition we all look forward to returning to each fall."

## *...But that's only the beginning*

Our first Kids Give Back birthday party was with Lauren Clay, who celebrated her 9th birthday onsite to help our shelter pets.



A group of AFJROTC at BHS: Names Left to Right - Jacob Harper, Sam Stroup, Matt Gross, Tyler Beal, Sean Ward, Jacob Smith, Josh Gifford, Matthew Meservey, Cody Matson and Brooklyn Robinson

## 32 Humane Educational Events

Our staff visited schools, businesses, groups and college campuses to bring humane awareness into our communities.

## 621 Fast Track Dog's Day Out Volunteers

Our Dog's Day Out community tripled! Hundreds of you signed out our shelter dogs for a day outing. From hikes in Acadia, walks in city forest, to afternoon naps at your house, our dogs received lots of attention and shelter respite helping them adventure out of their kennels into new loving homes.

## 63 Tours

Hundreds of school aged youth and individuals from various business and community organizations visited our facility to learn more about our mission and to get a behind-the-scenes look into what it takes to save thousands of lives every year.

## 54 Fast Track Shelter Helpers

Leveraging the success of our Fast Track Dog's Day Out initiative, we launched a Fast Track Shelter Helper program for those individuals with limited or spontaneous availability to volunteer. One of the most crucial things anyone can do to help is our grunt work. From dishes to laundry, these volunteers have helped us meet the basic needs of our shelter every day.

## Celebrating Kids Who Give Back

Some of our biggest philanthropists are youth with a passion for animals. From lemonade stands to collecting shelter items in lieu of birthday gifts, the youngest members of our community make a huge difference. Now, to celebrate those who choose to give instead of get, we host small birthday parties right here at the shelter! Kids will have the opportunity to make toys or treats for some of our shelter guests, as well as posters to help them find new homes!

# Partnerships that Matter



Pet of the Week Staff Left to Right, Mark the Shark Young, Bethany Ward, Roxanne Bowen, Julia Pesce and Bobby Russell

Our media partners help us place our pets into new loving homes every week. Their support helps us reach new audiences and expand our BHS family beyond our brick and mortar. WKIT, WABI, FoxABC Maine, NewsCenter Maine, Downeast Dog News, Bangor Daily News, The Maine Edge, and other local media continue to help us spread awareness about our mission to our community while helping us place more pets into new families every year.

Over 10 years ago, Stephen King's Rock and Roll Station offered us a weekly platform to showcase our adoptable pets. A decade later, our relationship with Bobby Russell, Mark "The Shark" Young and WKIT has grown into an extended family that plays a significant role in achieving our high adoption rate. This year, while our WKIT family remains the same, our staff continues to evolve, grow and change, leading to the expansion of in our BHS Pet of the Week

Team. Now, instead of a role filled by one of our professional staff, direct care staff has the opportunity to become more involved with connecting the community to our adoptable animals.

"We love the opportunity to help showcase a shelter pet outside of their kennel through our weekly segment. Having them visit in the studio removes the stressors of the shelter to show them in a more natural environment," says Bobby Russell. "As animal lovers ourselves, Mark and I really look forward to the segment every week and know our audience trusts us when we back the mission of BHS and one of their shelter pets. We also like to help dispel the myths tied to local animal shelters, like how BHS is actually funded. The new faces of the Pet of the Week team have been incredible. As the direct care givers of the animals at BHS, they really know them. The relationships they have built through their hands on care give them a more in-depth understanding of the pets they are featuring to help make stronger matches."

*...But that's only the beginning*



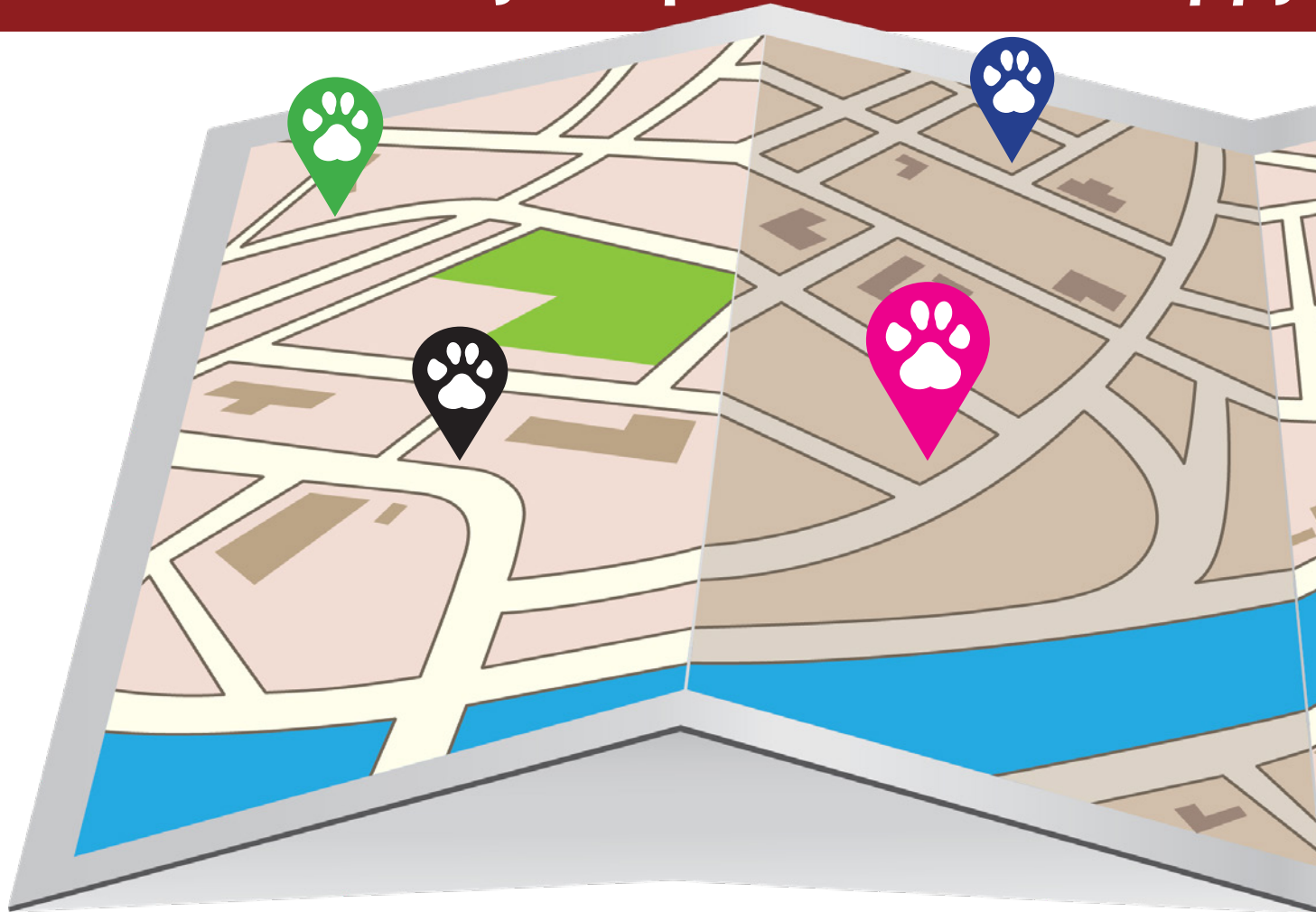
Hunter, a talkative hound mix, found his new home directly through our **Pet of the Week** partnerships this year. Hunter's new dad, a disabled veteran who had been looking for a canine companion, saw Hunter first on **WABI's Pet of the Week** and thought he was one sweet pup! When he got into his truck soon after and turned on his radio he heard Hunter featured on **WKIT**. An experienced lover of the breed, he just knew he had to meet him. He took Hunter to his home through our Fast Track Dog's Day Out program. After an afternoon together, he knew it was a match!



“

This is how I became a celebrity! After I was featured on **WKIT**, my photo went viral on Facebook. One of **WKIT's** fans called my friends at BHS to sponsor my adoption through their *Paw it Forward* program in hopes it would encourage a new family to adopt me. Even though I didn't get adopted right away, BHS and all their human friends go above and beyond to help long term guests like me find a home. Plus, it sure was fun being famous for a while!"

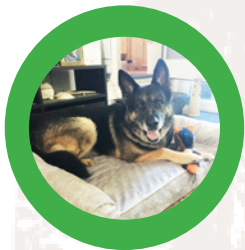
# Our Community Helps Us Create *Happy*



## Sometimes *happy beginnings* come from heartbreaking loss.

“Shortly after adopting Tank, I lost my dog of 10 years. Tank was a blessing that I didn’t know I needed in that hard time. I think we were meant to come into each other’s lives.”

~ Camille Welch,  
Adopter



## Sometimes *happy beginnings* rise from beating the odds.

“Even though it isn’t always easy, honestly, it’s usually pretty messy, I love each time I get a new litter of foster babies. Giving them a chance to survive and get adopted into a happy new life makes it worth it.”

~ Caitlin Ashe,  
Volunteer & Foster Parent



## Sometimes *happy beginnings* are in giving back.

“Downeast Toyota has a long history as a pet friendly business. Our employees reflect and re-inforce that culture in their personal lives and in how they interact with our guests and their four-legged friends. Many of our furry friends were adopted locally and have become regular guests at Downeast Toyota. Becoming a kennel sponsor this year to support the Bangor Humane Society is a natural fit for us. It allows us to demonstrate that at Downeast Toyota we believe, ‘All Roads Lead to a Stronger Community’.”

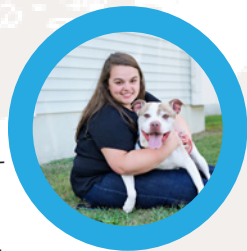
~ Kate Fraser, Human Resources  
Manager at Downeast Toyota



## Sometimes *happy beginnings* come from expressing gratitude.

“Volunteers are so crucial to our mission here at BHS. And while we appreciate them every day, sometimes we are so busy that we forget to make it known. This year, to celebrate them and all that they do, we started the tradition of honoring our volunteer family by having an appreciation dinner where we can focus solely on them and all they do for our staff and our animals.”

~Katelyn Murphy, Volunteer &  
Community Outreach Director







### Sometimes *happy beginnings* help save lives.



“Our new LigaSure machine helps our veterinarians perform more effective and efficient spay/neuter surgeries. It decreases surgical time, doubling the personal investment of our veterinarians and reduces the time our animals have to spend under anesthesia.”

~ Allen Batchelder, Veterinary Technician

### Sometimes *happy beginnings* are in the simple things



“I love our new Wysiwash disinfecting system for our dog kennels. It has decreased the amount of time it takes to clean and is safer for both our staff and animals.”

~ Alicia Roussin, Small Animal Specialist & Adoption Counselor

### Sometimes *happy beginnings* start from working together.



“The new partnerships with area Mobile Spay/Neuter clinics allows us to bring much needed services to communities most in need. It removes the geographic and financial barriers for those loving pet owners who don’t have the resources necessary to prevent unwanted births in their homes.”

~ Trisha Bruen, Bangor Animal Control Officer

### Sometimes *happy beginnings* are found in change.



“As an employee who has been at BHS for nearly 30 years, positive changes have come about under the leadership of our current director. The commitment by our organization’s management team to do the right thing for the animals, regardless of cost has enabled us to achieve a live release rate of 91%.”

~ Chris Young, Shelter Operations Manager

# Financial Operations Report

Fiscal Year May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018

The programs and services offered by the Bangor Humane Society are funded primarily through private donors and foundations. We depend on your support and generosity to help us continue saving lives. All contributions large and small, truly make a difference in the lives of our shelter animals.

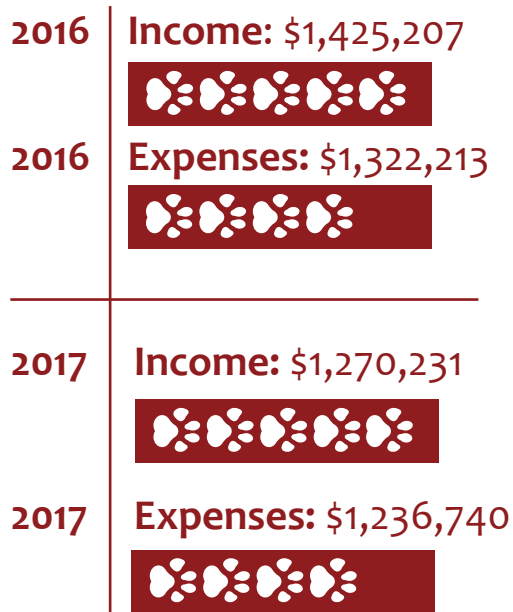
**Total Income** **\$1,270,231**

Unrestricted contributions (includes grants and kennel sponsorships)	\$537,974
Restricted contributions (includes grants)	\$125,029
Program Income (includes adoption fees, stray contracts, and merchandise sales)	\$419,973
Paws on Parade:	\$ 79,421
In-kind donations	\$ 9,526
Net income for investments	\$ 98,308

**Total Expenses** **\$1,236,740**

Programs	\$1,045,385
Fundraising	\$ 92,349
Administration	\$ 83,317
Capital Investments	\$ 15,589

## Income vs. Expenses 2016 vs. 2017



**Volunteer Service Value** **\$123,450**  
 (\$24.69 per volunteer hour based on a state of Maine independent sector report)

**Active Volunteers** **178**  
 Nearly 5,000 hours recorded

**Active Foster Families** **25**  
 342 animals given a second chance through foster care

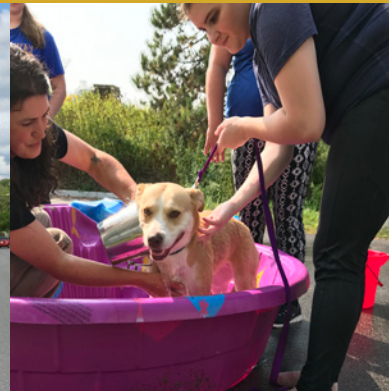
**Spay/Neuter Surgeries** **1,509**  
 1,469 Rabies Vaccines

**Distributed for Spay/Neuter Vouchers** **\$40,259.94**

**Employees** **19**

# Ways to Give

Please visit our website [www.bangorhumane.org](http://www.bangorhumane.org) for a list of different ways you can support our life-saving work with a donation. Over the last three years, our third-party fundraising revenue has doubled. Here are some highlights from the creative ways you helped us fundraise last year.



Diversified Ink in Bangor raised \$4,600 in a tattoo fundraiser, plus donated nearly \$6,000 in in-kind supplies and services.

For Christmas, Chad and Kristen Stanley collected every item off our holiday wish list in lieu of gifts.

In August, Blackstream Custom Cycles and Dysarts Restaurant on Broadway raised over \$5,000 from the Annual Charity Motorcycle Ride.

Last summer, even our BHS staff and volunteers had fun organizing a Dog Wash that raised over \$500 and attracted many alumni back to the shelter to support our cause.

## Our 2017-2018 Golden Paw Society

### Individuals & Organizations who gave an annual gift of \$1,000 or more

Hannah and William Allen  
 Al and Esther Bushway  
 John, Mary, Rizzo and Riley Cole  
 Royce and Louise Cross  
 Joni Decato and Andy Wood  
 Amy Faircloth, in memory of Dean Lewis  
 Scott and Jane Folsom  
 Sheila Wellehan  
 Katherine Coston Whitney  
 Ward and Jude Gagner

Harold and Joyce Gordon  
 Mary Jane Low  
 Stanley and Marie MacMillan  
 Emily and Judson McIntosh  
 Bev Michaud  
 Lani Naihe  
 Jeff and Kara O'Sullivan  
 Pat and Art Shaw  
 Richard and Donna Wallen given in loving memory of Linda Louise Case

### Grantors that awarded us \$1,000 or more

ASPCA  
 Baltimore Community Foundation  
 BJ's Charitable Foundation  
 Doree Taylor Charitable Trust Foundation  
 Edward Mayo Bayard Trust  
 Elmina B. Sewall Foundation  
 Joan C. Pederson Fund  
 John Wikalis Trust  
 Laura J. Niles Foundation  
 Maine Community Foundation  
 Means Family Foundation  
 Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation  
 The Mickey Fund  
 Nancy O. Egery Fund  
 Petsmart Foundation

### Businesses that gave an annual gift of \$1,000 or more

Bangor Savings Bank  
 Batteries Plus and Bulbs  
 Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, C.P.A.  
 Broadway Veterinary Clinic  
 Carden Kennels, Inc.  
 Cross Insurance  
 Downeast Toyota  
 Dysart's Restaurant

Eaton Peabody  
 Green Acres Kennel Shop  
 Katahdin Trust  
 MEMIC  
 Quirk Subaru of Bangor  
 Rideout's Market  
 Veazie Veterinary Clinic

# Granting Second Chances

Tom & Mickey Duffy | Photo by the Bangor Daily News



A generous gift from the Mickey Duffy Rehab Fund this year helped create the Second Chance Fund that will help staff deliver quality and compassionate veterinary care for abused and neglected homeless animals that find temporary residence at the shelter.

In 2011, Tom Duffy, an employee of Penobscot County Courthouse, was awarded custody of a dog that had suffered severe abuse in a highly public case. He re-named the dog Mickey, invested thousands of dollars in veterinary care and rehabilitation until Mickey could walk again, and gave him a happy, life free of abuse.

Recently, both Tom and Mickey passed away. Tom left a portion of his final estate to start the Mickey Duffy Rehab Fund (The Mickey Fund) for neglected and abused animals.

Custodians of the Mickey Fund, Ann Duffy Patterson and Suzy Pope, made a generous gift to the Bangor Humane Society to begin a Second Chance Fund that will help BHS provide life-changing veterinary and rehabilitative care to so many animals in need; an expense that impacted our BHS' budget over \$200,000 last year.

*... But that's only the beginning*

## Ruger receives a Second Chance



Many times animals come to us from loving owners who simply cannot afford the expensive medical care necessary to provide the quality of life that their furry friend deserves. Recently, Ruger, a two-year-old pitbull, came to us with a torn cruciate, causing him pain and lameness. After his family discovered that the surgery and rehab to repair his leg would cost over \$3,000, they made the difficult decision to surrender him to us. Because of the **Second Chance Fund**, Ruger received the surgery and rehab that will give him a chance at a pain-free life, where he can run and chase balls again. He was recently adopted into a new family.

## \$94,248.45 Spent On Specialized Vet Care

Many thanks to our Veterinary Partners: Broadway Veterinary Clinic, Veazie Veterinary Clinic, Kindred Spirits Veterinary Clinic, Penobscot Veterinary Services, and Eastern Maine Emergency Veterinary Clinic.

## A Love like Johnny & June's



This spring a male guinea pig and his pregnant mate were surrendered because their owners couldn't care for the pair and their offspring. Staff separated the pair planning to adopt the male and placed the pregnant mom-to-be in foster care. Unexpectedly, the separation caused extreme emotional distress to the male. Knowing that guinea pigs are social creatures and can become strongly bonded to their mate, BHS decided they needed to be adopted together. For a variety of reasons, ranging from expense to the high risk of the surgical procedure, BHS does not typically spay/neuter small animals, other than rabbits. Naming them after the infamous country music couple, Johnny and June Cash, BHS decided to make an exception by performing the first guinea pig neuter, a \$225 expense, all in the name of love... and adoption.

# Unleashing the Paw-tential at the 24th Paws on Parade

Over the last twenty-four years, our annual Paws on Parade event has grown into an amazing tradition of saving lives. Every year the event brings together hundreds of people and their canine companions from the community to walk the Bangor Waterfront, celebrating our relationship with pets and raising awareness for our BHS mission. Once a year sponsors, teams, vendors, contests and a shelter dog runway take over the waterfront in support of our largest annual agency-driven fundraising event. Our 2017 event welcomed nearly 900 two and four legged participants, 27 corporate sponsors, 22 teams and 25 vendors, raising nearly \$80,000. Cross Insurance championed our cause as our event sponsor and Team Kindred Spirits took home the Top Fundraising Team trophy, raising nearly \$18,000 and breaking the record for most dollars raised by a team in the event's history.

The 2017 Paws on Parade Top Fundraising Individual went to Kara Swartz and her canine duo Harper Grace and Tennyson. Kara and her German Shepherd, Harper Grace, began supporting the BHS mission over five years ago as foster parents. Harper Grace loved her job grooming and nurturing litters of orphaned kittens so much that Kara captured their foster care experience on video and shared it on social media. The video went viral all around the world. During her volunteerism with BHS, she added another German Shepherd, Tennyson, to her family. Over the years, Kara and her pups have fostered dozens of orphaned kittens, pregnant and nursing felines, puppies and adult dogs. Kara has continued to share their journey on their Facebook page, *Ten Shakes of Grace*, which now has over 54,000 fans from all around the globe.

Photo by Brooke Clay



Two years ago Kara's living arrangements changed and created challenges for fostering litters. She decided she needed to stop fostering, but began seeking other ways to support the work of BHS. She shifted her efforts towards fundraising and joined Paws on Parade. In her first year, she set a goal of \$300 and quickly raised \$1,500 through a creative social media campaign that spotlighted her canine celebrities. In year two she raised over \$3,000: and last year, leveraging the Dynamic Duo's incredible fan base, she raised over \$7,000 for Paws on Parade.

"The formula for our success is to just have fun. No one likes asking for money so we just capitalized on the Duo's crazy antics and personalities that have captured the attention of people from all around the world," says Kara. "Over the years we have not only received donations from all over the country, but have had messages from people on the other side of the world connecting to what we do. People from South Africa, Australia, England and across the U.S. say we have inspired them to support their local animal shelter by adopting, volunteering and donating. We think that is just amazing."

## ... But that's only the beginning



“

Did you see me and my friend Sam strut our stuff at Paws on Parade this year? Yep, that was me! I sure had some swagger on that stage and even showed off some of my tricks. I was sure I was going to get adopted right from the runway! But, nope, my new family wasn't at Paws on Parade so I would have to wait a bit longer to go home. But, let me tell you, all the money raised goes to help guests like me get top notch care while we are at BHS. I had several visits to the veterinarian to make sure I was always happy and healthy during my stay. The folks at BHS made sure I got all my shots and the n-word (neutered)! Yikes, that was not my favorite day at BHS. In fact, it still makes my tail tuck just thinking about it, but afterwards I did get extra treats and stuffies, so I guess it wasn't too bad afterall.

# Expanding our Reach

**Total Animal Intake: 2,716**

Last summer we expanded our dog transport program through a collaborative effort with the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society (GAHS) in Lewiston and the ASPCA. Together we brought healthy adoptable dogs and puppies from overcrowded kill shelters from Southern areas of the country to Maine for adoption. We also welcomed homeless dogs from Coastal Texas so they could make room in their local shelters to help displaced pets reunite with their owners during post Hurricane Harvey disaster relief efforts. Additionally, we have helped dozens of dogs from inner city New York find homes in Maine where a rural lifestyle is better suited for their individual personalities and needs.

Our transport program has been a huge success and has become an easy win-win for BHS. We get to help dogs that wouldn't otherwise go up for adoption and they help us provide medical and behavioral care to dogs in Maine that need it most. Last year our transport program provided homes to 175 dogs from Mississippi, Georgia, inner city New York, and Texas through our partner shelters.

Chip McInnis was the first in line to adopt a puppy from our first transport last June. After the loss of their son, Dylan in 2016, he and his wife Jaime were in search of something to help them smile again and heal a little more. Although the McInnis family was already providing a loving home to three felines and two

**Total Cats Surrendered or Transferred in: 998**

**Total Stray Cats: 871**

**Total Dogs Surrendered or Transferred in: 465**

**Total Stray Dogs: 235**

**Total Rabbits: 55**

**Total Small Animals: 92**

senior dogs happily living in retirement, they believed they had room in their home on Pushaw Lake for a spunky puppy in need of a second chance. When Jaime and Chip stumbled across the face of a single chocolate lab mix puppy on our Facebook page, they knew she'd fit in perfectly. Determined to be the first in line on adoption day, Chip spent 15 hours in his car in our parking lot watching hockey games and remembering life with Dylan. The next morning, first in line, he adopted the eight-week old chocolate puppy, now named Morgan Reed, after Jaime's favorite characters on Criminal Minds.

"We can't imagine life without her now. She has given us a new purpose. She requires a lot of patience, but every day she makes us laugh. As we adjust to life without Dylan, some days are harder than others. Morgan seems to know when one of us is having a harder time. She's so loving and loyal, and has been very therapeutic," says Chip. "It has been so much fun watching her grow. We have stayed in touch with two of the families who adopted Morgan's littermates. This year she finally learned to swim with help from one of her sisters who took to it naturally. We encourage anyone who is looking to add a new pet to their family to choose adoption and any shelter that is overcrowded, to partner with an agency like BHS. Someone somewhere wants and even needs the animal you may not have room for."

**...But that's only the beginning**

Chip, Jaime & Morgan McInnis | Photo by Brooke Clay



Photo by Karen Littlefield



# Extending our Adoption Family | 91% Live Release Rate

Total Lives Saved: 2,479

We wouldn't be able to achieve or sustain a live release rate of over 90% without our special adoption programs, adoption partners, and adopters who choose a pet from BHS to complete their family. Last year, 58 cats were adopted through our Barn Buddies program, twice as many as the year before. Sixty-seven of our animals found loving homes through one of our offsite partners: PetSmart, Petlife, Aubuchon Hardware, Blue Seal, Old Dogs New Digs, and Penobscot Theater's holiday shows. Nearly 200 shelter guests found new homes during our annual *Subaru Loves Pets* adoption partner event with the ASPCA and Quirk Subaru. And, 65 shelter guests were adopted through our innovative programs like Adoption Ambassadors and Fast Track Dog's Day Out.

We appreciate each of these partnerships that expand our reach beyond our shelter walls, helping us create new families and save more lives every single day. Our partners grow every single year, embracing new and innovative ways to connect us with amazing adopters that give animals with a variety of backgrounds, special needs and personalities the home they deserve.

Every once in a while we have the privilege of meeting adopters who believe in second chances as much as we do and are willing to do whatever it takes to give their new pet a life free of pain and full of love. In April, Marilyn Cosgrove adopted Elmer, a handsome 9 year old Flame Point Siamese who came to

Marilyn & Elmer

Cats Adopted or Transferred Out: 1622

Cats Returned to Owner: 62

Dogs Adopted or Transferred Out: 481

Dogs Returned to Owner: 181

Rabbits Adopted or Transferred Out: 55

Small Animals Adopted or Transferred Out: 78

BHS as a stray in late January. During his two month stay with us, we uncovered and treated him for a variety of ailments. He had several cysts in his ears, severe periodontal disease that required several tooth extractions, and a painful URI. Once Elmer was on the mend and placed on the adoption floor, Marilyn Cosgrove fell in love as soon as she laid eyes on him. But soon after bringing Elmer home, his health began to quickly deteriorate. Marilyn brought him into BHS where our direct care staff determined he was in liver failure. Without hesitation, Marilyn rushed him to her veterinarian. They placed a feeding tube in his neck to help him eat. Then for weeks, Marilyn spent countless hours feeding him, medicating him and taking him back and forth to the vet clinic for blood work to check his liver and pancreas counts. It took over two months before he started to bounce back to life. Each visit, Elmer showed major improvement. Marilyn covered all of Elmer's post adoption medical care at her own expense, without question and without complaint. She went above and beyond for her new feline companion and continues to send wonderful updates to our staff about Elmer, who is now happy and healthy.

...But that's only the beginning



“

What an amazing sight to see...all those puppies from the South getting adopted into new homes as quickly as they could be unloaded from the transport van! While it was so exciting to see all those dogs get matched with their new families, for guests like me who had been there awhile, it was bittersweet. That's why programs at BHS like Dog's Day Out make my tail wag. Even though I didn't get matched as quickly as those pups from Mississippi, the adventures I had with staff and volunteers through Dog's Day Out made my stay a bit easier and a whole lot more fun!”





## Baron's Happy Beginning

And now for the part you have all been waiting for - the beginning of the rest of my life. After nine long months hanging out at BHS, my friends at BHS set up a play date with me and two nice humans who came to the shelter to meet a real celebrity-me! Boy oh boy did I have fun! I knew instantly I liked these people, so I showed them everything Sam worked so hard to teach me. I must have really impressed them with my charm and tricks because the next thing I knew they were taking me out of the shelter for a whole day filled with fun! I was so excited that sometimes I forgot to be on my best behavior, but that didn't scare them. They knew just how to remind me about my manners, and showed me lots of patience. It was like we had known each other our whole lives.

We came back to BHS and I thought that was the end of our adventure; I had no idea it was only the beginning! Yep, they decided to adopt me! After nine whole months, I had to say goodbye to my shelter friends because I was finally going home! I hugged and kissed all my BHS friends but made sure to give my best friend Sam some extra love because I was going to miss her a whole lot... I knew she was going to miss me too.

It has been over five months since I found my new family and I feel like the luckiest pup in the world! My new mom and dad send updates to Sam regularly - that's right, I am still a celebrity after all this time! My mom told Sam: "Baron is family and he has filled a hole in our hearts that we didn't know we had. Baron will always have a home as long as we live." Doesn't that just make you spin and bounce for joy?!

Wow, what a ride it has been to get to here! Who knows where I would be if it wasn't for BHS? I am so lucky to have met the humans there and can't believe all they did for me - and for every other animal waiting for their own happy beginning. And, an extra special thanks to all of you who volunteer, foster, donate and support BHS to help make more matches.

Because of you, my story at BHS came to a tail wagging end. So, please continue all you do to support the great work happening at BHS so more animals like me can find homes with amazing families like mine. Because...

***... that's only the beginning!***

The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal welfare through education and advocacy.

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