

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



West Suburban
Humane Society

At West Suburban Humane Society, our mission is to work towards the day when all dogs and cats are loved and cared for and pet owners have access to essential resources so they may enjoy a fulfilling relationship with their pets. In doing so, we strive to:

Provide compassionate care for cats and dogs on their journey to compatible and loving homes.

Engage our community and serve as a resource for a variety of pet-related topics and challenges.

Team with volunteers of all abilities and strengths to build a robust network of support in our community.

Strengthen the human-animal bond through advocacy, humane education, and promotion of animal welfare initiatives.

By working together, we can change the lives of the dogs and cats that have forever changed us.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our board members, staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. Because of your commitment, compassion, and belief in our mission, this year was one of meaningful growth and powerful impact.

Together, we helped 605 animals find loving, forever homes—each adoption representing a new beginning made possible by a caring community. We also reached an exciting milestone by launching our first-ever pet therapy dog team, expanding the ways our animals bring comfort, healing, and connection beyond our walls.

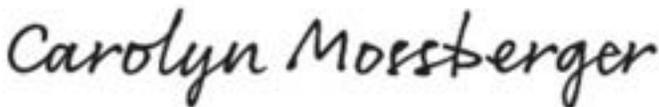
Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we continued to provide rescue care that goes above and beyond, ensuring every animal received the medical attention, enrichment, and love they deserved. Your generosity also allowed us to extend our reach into the community by distributing more than 14,000 pounds of pet food to local food pantries and offering low-cost resources to individuals and families in need.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support fuels every rescue, every recovery, and every success story.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are inspired and energized to continue our mission—saving lives, strengthening our community, and creating a brighter future for animals and the people who love them.

Thank you for being such an essential part of our journey.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Carolyn Mossberger

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Motuelle

President

Dave Welch

Vice President

Sarah Marshall

Recording Secretary

Kerry Kopera

Treasurer

Bob Koch

Director

Marci Levites

Director

Susan Liddi

Director

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Director

Maria Wrobel

Director

SUCCESS STORIES

Belle

On the Monday before Christmas, one of our rescue partners emailed asking for help with a dog named Belle. The pictures of her were heartbreaking. Belle had clearly been neglected and was in desperate need of medical attention. At West Suburban, we recently spent more than \$18,000 on a litter of panleukopenia kittens and hesitated to take on another medical case. But one look into Belle's beautiful, sad eyes, and we knew we couldn't say no.

Belle was transported to our shelter on December 30. This poor girl arrived with little hair left on her body. Her skin was hard and saggy, her body was swollen, even in her ears, and she had a large growth on her paw. Belle also had numerous litters of puppies and needed to be spayed and have dental work done. Despite everything she'd been through, Belle was gentle and loving.

Our first step was to schedule an immediate vet appointment. Amazingly, Belle's bloodwork results showed she was heartworm-negative and free of internal parasites. Her road to recovery was long and costly. We needed to address her severe skin condition before removing the growth on her paw, getting her spayed, and performing a dental cleaning—all to give her a chance at the healthy, happy life she deserves in a home of her own.

Belle is currently in a loving foster home where she is recovering away from the stress of the shelter. As a matter of fact, her foster home is so smitten with her that they have decided to make her a permanent member of their family.



Sesame

Four-week-old Sesame was in rough shape when he arrived at WSHS on a transport from Franklin County Animal Control. He was hungry, dehydrated, and covered in fleas. Our team immediately jumped into action. We gave him a warm bath, treated the fleas, and got some much-needed food into his tiny belly. He was then placed in a loving foster home to rest and recover.

But later that night, Sesame took a turn for the worse. He became lethargic and refused to eat. His foster family didn't hesitate; they rushed him to the emergency vet, where Sesame was admitted for two days. He was suffering from dangerously low blood sugar, severe dehydration, and a low body temperature. It was a critical situation for such a fragile little life.

Thanks to swift medical care—and the unwavering compassion and commitment of our team and the foster family—Sesame pulled through. Sesame has made a full recovery and has since been adopted into a loving family.

2025 IMPACT REPORT

605

Pets adopted, including 197 dogs and 408 cats.



325

Kids participated in our humane education programs and learned about rescue. We hosted 85 birthday parties and 42 school/group tours with 409 kids in attendance.



473,918

Dollars spent on food, veterinary care, and medical supplies for our dogs and cats.



14,980

Pounds of food donated to local food pantries and other rescues to keep pets with their families.



\$50

Pays for one breakfast for all animals in our Adoption Center.

\$100

Pays for one spay surgery to keep the kitten population down.

\$250

Pays for a vet visit for one animal.

\$500

Covers the cost of one animal during their stay at the Adoption Center.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

WSHS was supported by:

444

Volunteers



30,605

Volunteer hours



10,328

Hours dedicated to cats



18,041

Hours dedicated to dogs



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS

WSHS is fortunate to have many dedicated partners who share their time, talent, and treasures to ensure that we are able to provide the best treatment for the dogs and cats in our care. This generosity allows WSHS to continue to care for our animals and place them into their forever homes at a reasonable fee for adopters and within a manageable budget for the adoption center. WSHS attributes a large portion of our success to the generosity of our partners, who provide an array of essential services. We thank them for their dedication towards animal welfare and continued commitment to WSHS.



4 Paws Imaging Centers
Alliant Foundation
Alter Brewing Company
Animal Rescue Corps Inc.
Anonymous
Anselmo & Wojcicki, LLP
Artistic Grooming (In-Kind)
ASPCA
Atwell Family Foundation
Baig of Tricks (In-Kind)
Baird & Warner - SmartMove Team
Bark Avenue Daycamp
Bessemer Giving Fund
Blackberry Market
Busey Bank
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc. (CARS)
Club Pilates
Congregation Etz Chaim
CTC Philanthropy CTC Trading Group
Culver's Downers Grove, IL
Curi Capital
DAFgiving 360
DeSpir Logistics, LLC
Downers Grove Junior Women's Club
Edlong Corporation
Emergency Veterinary Services of Lisle
Enjoy Your Dog (In-Kind)
Eric Holby Animal Welfare Foundation

Exelon Foundation
First Financial Bank
Friends of FCAC
Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Grant and Power Landscaping
Happy Dog Barkery
Health Care Service Corporation
Helen M. Harrison Foundation
Integra Asset Solutions
KPMG Gives c/o Bergen County's United Way
Leaf Guard
Lisle Savings Bank
Long Grove Confectionary
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
MBS Pilates
McMaster-Carr Supply Co
Midwest Waste Consultants
Mike Agruss Law
Miller Cooper Charitable Foundation
Nancy Allison Perkins Foundation
NP 2022 Holdings, LLC
Oak Brook Kennel Club
Oakwood Construction Services, Inc
Old Second National Bank
Partners and Paws Veterinary Services
Petfinder Foundation
Pledgeling Foundation
Pond House Woods Foundation

Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Robert Bair Plumbing, Heating & Air
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
RWE Design Build
Saint Mary of Gostyn Church
Salt Creek Club
Seldon Fox, LTD
Specialty Construction
St. Elmo Commandery #64
St. Paul's Church By-The-Lake
Suburban K9
The Ambler Family Foundation
The Friendly Vet
The Violet Belohlav Trust
Thrivent (In-Kind)
Tierra Distilling (In-Kind)
UBS
Urban Veterinary Associates
VCA Arboretum View Animal Hospital
VCA Aurora Animal Hospital
VCA West Suburban Veterinary Hospital
Wabash County Animal Shelter Buddies
William and Evelyn Fuchs Family Foundation

GET YOUR COMPANY INVOLVED

- Form a team at our Barkapalooza 5K Run or Family Walk
- Host a "Give-Back" Day where a portion of the day's proceeds are donated to WSHS.
- Form a team at Trivia Night for an employee outing.
- Collect donations for our Adoption Center from your customers or employees.
- Ask customers to donate at the register or set out a donation bucket for cash/change.
- Have a jeans day or "Flip-Flop Friday".

If you are interested in learning more about our corporate partner program, contact our Director of Development at development@wshs-dg.org.

HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Humane Education program promotes respect, empathy, and compassion for animals and educates people of all ages about animal homelessness, shelters, adoptions, and the proper care of domestic dogs and cats.

Humane Education program offerings include:

Shelter Tours

Facility tours for scouts and other groups. Tours include an opportunity to learn about what we do, an overview of how we operate, and a visit with some of our animals.

Programs for Youth/Summer Camp

After school, break, holiday, and summer programs for children grades K-8.

Programs for Adults

Customized presentations and educational programs for adults.

School/Youth Group Presentations

Customized presentations for schools, churches, clubs, libraries, and other organizations serving youth.

WSHS University

Videos made by our volunteers and staff on humane education topics.

Party Pals and Fundraisers

Support the shelter with themed birthday parties and other fundraisers for children or adults.

Therapy Dog Program

Our therapy dog team visits schools and libraries and participates in Barks and Books, a read to the dogs program.

For more information, contact the Humane Education Manager at humaneeducation@wshs-dg.org.

West Suburban Humane Society is proud to introduce our first-ever therapy dog team!



Wonder

Wonder was adopted from West Suburban Humane Society. She is half corgi and half mystery, but she looks like a shrunken yellow lab. She is almost 10 years old, but you would never guess it. She loves to be outside and take walks, and play fetch with her toys inside, and she will do any of her many tricks for the reward of a carrot. While Wonder loves some play time, she is a very calm little 20 lb. dog who just loves nothing more than lying next to you and getting pats.

Piper

Piper is a 1.5-year-old "miniature golden retriever," but we just call her "fun size." She is 80% golden retriever & 20% cocker spaniel. Piper loves long walks, playing outside (even when it is freezing), belly rubs, and snuggling next to me when I am reading. Probably Piper's best trait is that once she knows you, she loves you!



THANK YOU TO THE WSHS LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Legacy Society is a recognized group of committed WSHS supporters who have chosen to make planned gifts to WSHS. A gift from an estate helps assure the continuity of quality services and the future of WSHS. A planned gift signifies the donor's lifetime commitment to WSHS. It allows him/her to make contributions to WSHS that are not "out-of-pocket" during the donor's lifetime and can be tailored to meet the donor's priorities. Planned giving can help with effective estate planning.

Anonymous	Jill Kurth
Erik & Kathy Andersen	Shannon Lenz
Pauline Annicks	Denise Lores
Linda & Steve Autz	Bernard and Janice Mack
Nikki Boehm	Ray McDonald
Lorie Bonham	Jane and Charles McLagan
Gloria Bornsen	Steve and Kris Mezatis
Carolyn Boucek	Janice Millington
Lyndell Bowman	Kurt Mohr
Herbert Brown	David and Christina Morrison
Maria Capozziello	Carolyn Mossberger
Carol Carr	Helen Nowicki
Patty Christophersen	Reed and Ute O'Malley
Roberta Clark	Valerie Onorato
Virginia Croan	Neal Oppenheimer
Sylvester Czopek	Sara Orr
William Dillon	Ernestine Ostrowski
Stanley Drohomirecki	Rich Penner
Chuck and Mary Edwards	Matilde Ramos
Richard Eppinga	Judy Reeder
Matthew Faleni	Kathyn Richert
Clyde Fazenbaker	Matthew Richert
Jeanette Foster	Dorothy Ryan
Barbara F.	John Sacher
Dione Gacke	Larry Sacks
Kathleen Gilbert	Scott Schneider
Jim Grabowski	Patricia Schwartz
Diana Grandel	Christine Sinn
Jan Lynn Greske	Dorothy Smith
Irene Halicka	Ian & Stephani Suwanski
Paul Hedburn	Eleanor Swiglo
Charles and Diane Hlavaty	Jacqueline Torrance
Brian Hofmann	Eric Van Clevon
John Hoh	Otto Vollenwider
Patricia Holman	Mildred Vondra
Stephan and Susan Jordan	Rachel Watson
Mandy Kass	Laurie Westberg
Charles Kastner	John Wharton
Sara Keough	Karen Wilger
Michele Kielbasa	

***Interested in making a lasting legacy for our animals?
Contact our Executive Director at director@wshs-dg.org.***

THANK YOU TO THE 2025 WSHS VOLUNTEERS

WSHS is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers. With their help, WSHS is able to operate smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In 2025, WSHS was supported by 444 volunteers giving more than 30,605 hours. The cats benefited from more than 10,328 volunteer hours and the dogs from more than 18,041 volunteer hours. The remainder of the hours were spent on the hundreds of other duties that keep our rescue running. Volunteers are also involved in special events and fundraisers, including adoption events, our annual golf outing, and Barkapalooza. Additionally, WSHS volunteers contribute their time and expertise to the shelter by serving on special advisory groups such as Fundraising and Marketing. WSHS is also fortunate to have more than 50 volunteers who act as temporary care homes, providing constant and individualized care for cats, dogs, puppies and kittens in their homes. The staff of WSHS believes our volunteers are the best in the business and we're not alone. Volunteers are the heart of WSHS. The passion and commitment of our volunteers make it possible for WSHS to achieve our mission of rescuing, providing care, and placing so many animals in their forever homes. On behalf of the entire staff and the Board of Directors, thank you to all of our volunteers!



If you are interested in joining our WSHS Team as a volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@wshs-dg.org.

FOSTERING

WSHS is always looking for compassionate volunteers to provide temporary care in their home for animals who are not yet available for adoption. There are many reasons a dog or cat may need a foster home:

Underage

Puppies and kittens are not ready to be adopted until they are 12 weeks old. They need time to receive two sets of vaccines, for their immune systems to develop, and to learn early socialization skills. They also need to be big and healthy enough to be spayed/neutered.

Medical Recovery

Foster homes are a great place for a sick or injured animal to heal, whether they are recovering from something as routine as a spay/neuter surgery or something more complicated like an orthopedic surgery.

Fostering can be a great way for you to enjoy an animal in your home without assuming full responsibility for their long-term care. The foster time commitment varies and is dependent upon the animal's needs. Sometimes, we rescue dogs when we don't have kennel space, and you may be asked to provide a home for a week or two until a run becomes available. An animal recovering from minor surgery may only need a week of home care until his wound heals or may need to stay for 4-6 weeks to recover from major surgery. Puppies and kittens are usually in foster care for 4-6 weeks. A pregnant mom will need at least a couple of months to give birth and wean her babies.

WSHS will provide the supplies you need to take care of your foster animal. We also provide all veterinary care through our network of veterinary hospitals. We are committed to providing the support you need for the duration of the foster period. Our goal is for you to have a positive and rewarding experience while helping an animal in need.

If you are interested in learning more about our foster program or becoming a foster volunteer, contact our Foster Coordinator at animalcare@wshs-dg.org.

Socialization

The level of activity at our adoption center can be overwhelming for some animals or an animal just might need a break to get some one-on-one love and attention. Whatever the reason, foster families can provide much needed personal home time for a cat or dog.

Behavior

Some animals come to us neglected, mistreated, or simply lacking the socialization they need to find the right home. Our foster homes provide the enrichment, training, or behavior modification needed for these loving pets to attract the perfect family for them.



2025 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2025 offered a variety of fundraising events, providing opportunities to showcase our animals, and bring the community closer to our mission. We held a new Kittens and Cocktails event, as well as long-standing favorites including Barkapalooza, our Golf Outing, Pawction, Trivia Night, and more!

Barkapalooza 2025



Deacon Greg gives the Pet Blessing at the start of Barkapalooza 2025.



Awards were presented for the top overall 5K finishers.



There was lots of entertainment including music by the Carl Hix Ukulele Band.



We had fun contests including dog and owner lookalike challenge and a costume contest.

2025 FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Ten staff and board members participated in Caged for a Cause raising \$27,000 for our cats and dogs.



Our first Rock n Roll Bingo included a "dress like your favorite music era" costume contest.



68 golfers joined us at Prairie Landing Golf course to raise over \$46,000 for our cats and dogs.



Our annual Pawction raised over \$30,000 for our cats and dogs.

SAVE THE DATES

for our 2026 Signature Events:

- Trivia Night - Saturday, May 9th
- Golf Outing - Monday, July 27th
- Barkapalooza 5K and Rescue Fest - Sunday, September 27th
- Pawction - Saturday, December 5th

To get involved with our fundraising events, or host an event at your place of business, contact our Events Coordinator at events@wshs-dg.org.

2024 WSHS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUES	
Contributions	667,735
Bequests	37,775
Events	307,467
Adoption Fees	94,905
In-Kind Contributions	88,619
Investment Income	102,336
Total Revenue	1,298,837
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
- Animal Care and Education	395,012
- Vet Care and Medical Supplies	283,846
- Food and Supplies	160,990
- Spay/Neuter	69,332
- Other Program Related Costs	221,208
Supporting Services	
General and Administrative	102,058
Fundraising	201,023
Total Expenses	1,433,469
Change in Net Assets	(134,632)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,058,756
Net Assets, End of Year	5,924,124

West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS) is a volunteer-based, animal welfare organization that was founded in 1972 as a lost and found referral service. We provide housing for up to 25 dogs and 60 cats at a time. We operate at full capacity at all times with animal care and adoptions being provided by 4 full-time and 10 part-time employees and over 400 volunteers. Our adoption center is open to the public six days a week. Since 1972, we have adopted more than 33,000 dogs and cats to loving families.



West Suburban
Humane Society

Contact Us:

West Suburban Humane Society

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www.wshs-dg.org

