



# A YEAR BY DESIGN:

Built for Fort Wayne's Pets & People  
Annual Report 2025



260-744-0454



901 St. Francis Drive, Fort Wayne, IN



HumaneFW.org

# Hello Friends...

On behalf of the tens of thousands of animals we were able to help in 2025, thank you! It's hard to believe that it's already been five years since the Allen County SPCA, HOPE for Animals, and the Fort Wayne Pet Food Pantry merged to become Humane Fort Wayne.

In those same five years, we built our state-of-the-art Sharon Bodenhafer Critter Center on St. Francis Drive, and we were awarded the prestigious \$1 million grant from PetSmart Charities to increase access to affordable veterinary care!

Today, Humane Fort Wayne employs 80 full and part time staff and boasts nearly 200 active volunteers. The growth we've experienced has been downright incredible. And it's only been possible because this community has invested their hearts and their dollars in our mission to serve as a trusted partner, providing comprehensive, lifesaving resources to pets and their people.

But we won't stop now. We can't. The expansion of our services has revealed even more the true need in our community.

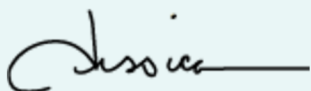
So, what's next? With both our clinics and our shelter fully functioning, we will now turn our attention to our flagship facility, the former ACSPCA on Hanna and Pettit. Since the mergers in 2021, Hanna Street has been home to our Pet Promises program and has been the hub of our pet food pantry. My vision for that location is to renovate the entire facility to become Indiana's only freestanding social service agency for pets and people. We'll repurpose the now-empty kennels to provide more emergency housing for pets in crisis, expand outreach to the neighborhood, and ensure that wrap-around services are available to the pets who need us most.

Additionally, we are committed to serving as an incubator for more young people interested in veterinary medicine by partnering with area schools and vocational programs so that students can learn hands-on how to professionally care for animals. It's our hope to help create the next generation of animal welfare professionals right here in our own community.

Again, it is only because of your support that we have the audacity to dream this big. To save and serve so many animals. To be a lifeline for the pets and people who have the greatest need.

We couldn't have gotten here without you, and because of you, we'll go further still. Join us please, as we continue to change the landscape of animal welfare in Fort Wayne and beyond.

Gratefully,



Jessica Henry-Johnson | Executive Director



# GAINING GROUND

A new home means new possibilities. The Sharon Bodenhafer Critter Center didn't just give us space — it gave us the capacity to dream bigger, serve more, and reach further than ever before.

## Adoptions

## Surgeries

## Wellness Visits

**2024:**

**1,985**

**10,581**

**14,943**

**2025:**

**3,084**

**12,081**

**15,655**



Dear Friends of Humane Fort Wayne,

At the end of 2025, two dedicated board members termed-off our board of directors. Please join me in thanking Kathleen Smith and Erika Halliwill for their years of service helping advance the mission of Humane Fort Wayne. These board members' countless contributions of time, talent, and treasure are so appreciated.

Speaking of contributions, on behalf of our board, thank you for ensuring that our future remains bright! With our shelter and clinics fully operational, we are turning our attention to what comes next, and what comes next is bold!

This is what your investment makes possible - not just the work of today, but the vision for tomorrow. Our beloved organization continues to excel because YOU, our community of supporters, make it all possible. And we are just getting started.


With gratitude,  
Lona Pritchard | Board Chair, Humane Fort Wayne







## BY THE NUMBERS: 2025 STATISTICS

 **3,084**  
Adoptions  
(New record!)

 **15,453**  
Pets served in  
Clinics

 **12,081**  
Spay/Neuter  
Surgeries

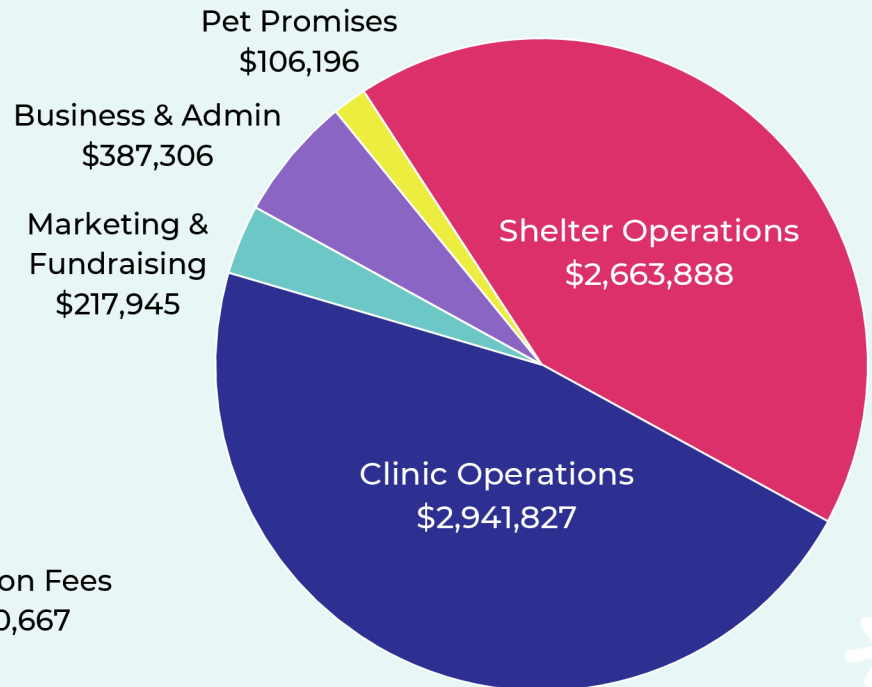
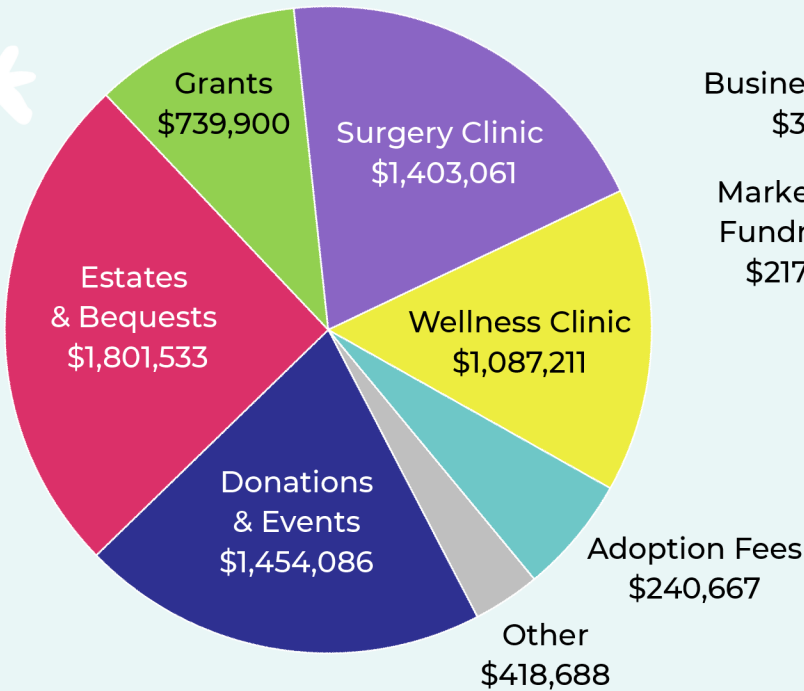
 **243,113**  
Pounds of free pet  
food distributed by  
our Pet Food Pantry

 **2,180**  
Community Cats  
Altered

 **20,374**  
Volunteer hours  
completed by 874  
volunteers

### OPERATING REVENUE

### OPERATING EXPENSE



# COMMUNITY: Building Together

## The Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show

The Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show chose Humane Fort Wayne as their 2025 Charity of Choice, and the community showed up in a big way.

Show-goers got their fill of puppy snuggles and kitten cuddles, and in return, their generosity translated into a \$25,000 donation to directly fund the care and services our animals depend on.

It's a perfect example of what makes Fort Wayne special: neighbors supporting neighbors and the pets who need them most.

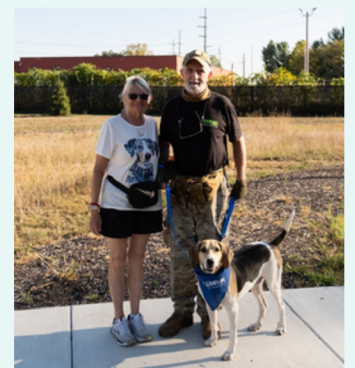


## Pet Loss Support Groups

In 2025, we launched our Pet Loss Support Groups for the community. Humane Fort Wayne is proud to partner with Beyond the Rainbow Bridge and Dr. Paula Neuman to bring our community a safe and compassionate space to discuss the pet loss and the subsequent grief it creates in our lives.

## Love Lives On Memorial Pet Walk

Last October, we hosted our very first Love Lives On Pet Tribute Walk, a celebration of the love that endures long after our pets cross the Rainbow Bridge. It was exactly the kind of community moment we dreamed of when we built this place: friends gathering together to remember, reflect, and honor the animals who forever changed their lives.



# MOMENTS: Connecting Together



## First Bonded Trio Adoption!

Sometime it can be tricky to find an adopter for senior pets and bonded pairs. After Annie, Chico, and Gracie's owner passed away, we were determined to find them a new home — together. In January, Annie, Chico, and Gracie were the first pets to be adopted out from us as a bonded trio!

## Anni-fur-sary Adoption Event

On September 6th, we celebrated ONE year in our new facility, the Sharon Bodenhafer Critter Center, with our One Year Anni-fur-sary Adoption Event! 32 pets found homes in one day!



## 2025 Beagle Reunion

Three years later, these Beagle tails are still wagging!

In September, we celebrated the 3rd Beagle Reunion—a special gathering of the amazing dogs rescued from the Envigo breeding facility in 2022 and found their forever homes through Humane Fort Wayne.

Seeing these once-vulnerable beagles living their best lives, surrounded by families who adore them, is a powerful reminder of what compassion and community can do.

To all the adopters who opened their hearts and homes, and to everyone who supported this journey, you've given these beagles the happy endings they always deserved. Here's to many more years of wagging tails and joyful reunions!



# FOSTERING SAVES LIVES: A Sunny Second Chance: Ray's Story

When Ray arrived at Humane Fort Wayne, she was dangerously emaciated — her body a quiet testament to a long period of struggle. She had come in alongside her companion, Charlie, surrendered by an overwhelmed caretaker who, in asking for help, gave both dogs their greatest chance.

Charlie was healthy enough to be vetted and adopted quickly. Ray's road would take longer.

Ray entered a foster home to begin the slow, careful work of healing. From the moment she arrived, her foster family could feel the tension humming through her. On her first night, they gave her a warm bath — not out of necessity, but in the hope that warmth and gentle touch would signal calm and care. Trust came in small moments: a relaxed sigh, a tentative tail wag, and the gradual realization that sudden movements no longer needed to be feared. Healing didn't happen in grand gestures. It happened in hundreds of everyday moments of gentleness, consistency, and compassion.

That's what fostering really is — not just giving a dog a temporary place to stay, but being present for the delicate, beautiful process of a frightened heart learning to feel safe again. Ray was their third foster, and like every dog before her, she reminded them that trust can be rebuilt, that kindness has ripples, and that even small acts can change a life.

Every foster placement is backed by veterinary care, nutritional resources, and staff coordination made possible by this community's generosity. Ray's journey to her goal weight of 35 pounds represented weeks of that investment paying off.

Then something extraordinary happened. Just as Ray was being prepared for adoption, Charlie's new family saw her story. They knew the two dogs had lived together before coming into care. They knew what they had to do. When Charlie and Ray were reunited in the meet and greet room, just like that, Ray was home.

If you've ever wondered whether fostering might be right for you, consider this your invitation. You don't have to be ready for forever to make a difference. Sometimes, being a safe place for now is exactly what a dog needs.

Stories like Ray's are why this work matters and why this community is so powerful.

Thank you to Ray's Fosters and Adopters and Humane Fort Wayne supporters for being part of it.



# Our Volunteers

**In 2025, 874 volunteers completed 20,374 hours!  
That's the equivalent of \$708,811!**



**Congratulations! Carolyn S. was our Volunteer of the Year  
and Christina O. was our Lifesaver of the Year!**

## Foster Program

**In 2025, we had 1,862 pets in foster - 305 dogs and 1,557 cats! This includes the 592 pets in foster through our Show Me the Mommy Program!**

Show Me the Mommy is a program that allows owners to keep the mother animal at home, and once the babies are weaned, they enter the shelter's adoption program. Humane Fort Wayne provides all supplies, food, and medical care for free — and will also spay the mom at no cost.



# GIVING: Inspired Together

## Foxy's Food Fund

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised \$27,000 for Foxy's Food Fund — enough to feed our shelter dogs for an entire year! A special thank you to Byron & Linn Braun for their generous \$10,000 match in honor of the beloved Foxy.



## Zeigler Subaru of Fort Wayne Loves Pets



We were so grateful to be Zeigler Subaru of Fort Wayne's 2025 Hometown Charity of Choice.

Thanks to their partnership, we were honored to be the recipients of an incredible \$22,285 through the Subaru Share the Love Event!



On October 11, 19 pets found their forever homes at the Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Event at Zeigler Subaru of Fort Wayne!

## Giving Tuesday

We are humbled to be part of a community fueled by compassion and inspired by generosity. Because of YOU, Giving Tuesday was extraordinary.

Together, you helped raise an incredible \$222,815, including our full Challenge Match, to support Humane Fort Wayne's mission and touch the lives of more and more pets each year.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to our Challenge Match Sponsors and to every single one of you for your unwavering support.

## Giving Tuesday

# \$222,815 Raised



# GIVING: Inspired Together

## MidWest America Federal Credit Union

Thanks to MidWest America Federal Credit Union, \$16,813 was donated to Humane Fort Wayne in 2025 through their Affinity Card program!

As a MidWest America FCU member, you can choose a Humane Fort Wayne Affinity Visa® Debit Card instead of the standard debit card. Then, every time you use it, MidWest America makes a donation to help save lives.

Want to help save lives with every swipe? Stop by any of MidWest America's 15 locations or learn more on their website [mwafcu.org](http://mwafcu.org)!



## The Power of Planned Giving

Some of the most powerful acts of generosity happen quietly — written into a will, designated in an estate plan, set in motion long before they are ever felt.

Planned giving is one of the most meaningful ways to ensure that Humane Fort Wayne can continue serving pets and people for generations to come. A gift planned today, made for the future, carries your values forward long after you're gone.

If you've ever thought about leaving a legacy for the animals you love, we'd be honored to talk with you about how to make that vision a reality.



# Increasing Access to Care

Kim and Honey are soulmates. So when Kim noticed that Honey had stopped eating, she knew right away that something was wrong.

Kim's budget was already stretched thin, but she couldn't watch Honey suffer. And so, Kim didn't hesitate to use her utility money to take her cherished companion to the vet, thinking she'd just need some antibiotics and TLC.

But things were a lot more serious. Honey had a life-threatening pyometra (uterine infection) and to survive, she would need emergency surgery. Kim had no idea how she could afford the expensive procedure, but she couldn't give up on her best friend.

Desperate, Kim started calling every place she could find within a 50 mile radius on the off chance that she might be able to get some help. That's when she found us.

Thanks to the Accelerator Grant from PetSmart Charities, Humane Fort Wayne is working hard to increase access to affordable veterinary care in our community. And because of their support, we didn't have to hesitate to offer Kim the care that Honey urgently needed.

We scheduled Honey's surgery right away at our Spay/Neuter Clinic and one of our surgeons successfully performed the emergency surgery that would save her life.

After a cozy nap with blankets and snacks from our staff, Honey was ready to go home. When Kim came to pick her up, there wasn't a dry eye in the room. Their love for each other was evident to all of us.

Honey is recovering well in the loving home where she belongs, and we're beyond grateful to have been part of her journey.



# Increasing Access to Care

## Clinic Plus

2025 marked our first (of three) funded year from the PetSmart Charities Accelerator Grant. We utilized that installment to hire more staff to be able to offer weekend wellness hours and to launch Clinic Plus - expanded veterinary care beyond the basics.

Our Clinic Plus Clinic offers a range of basic and supportive care services for pets, including:

- Skin and ear care
- Mild sedated exams (CHILL)
- Technician-only services
- Euthanasia services



## No One Should Say Goodbye Alone

When Leslie's dog Prince Naughty was near the end of his life, she faced an impossible situation; she couldn't afford a vet, but couldn't bear for him to die alone. The municipal shelter could euthanize him, but the family wouldn't be allowed in the room, so a staff member pointed her to Humane Fort Wayne.

There, the Pet Promises and Clinic+ teams quickly arranged a compassionate send-off. The exam room was set with soft comforters, a dog bed, and a sound machine playing birdsongs. Leslie and her daughter stayed by Prince's side. Her husband carried him in. They had the time and the space to say goodbye. When the family was ready, they invited the vet in themselves.

That last detail, giving the family control over that moment, was intentional. Every part of the experience was shaped by staff asking: If this were our pet, what would we want this to feel like?

Affordable, humane euthanasia means no family and no pet has to face that moment alone. As a client once put it: "When you really love something, you lose it hard." Grief is the price of love — and families deserve dignity and support when paying it.



Prince Naughty



# Our Locations

## Sharon Bodenhafer Critter Center

901 St. Francis Drive, Fort Wayne

- Adoption Center and Education
- Shelter/Volume Surgery
- Foster/Volunteer Hub
- Clinic Plus
  - Skin/Ear Services
  - Mild sedated exams (CHILL)
  - Technician-only services
  - Euthanasia services



## Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic

1333 Maycrest Drive, Fort Wayne

- Public Spay/Neuter Services
- Community Cat Services
- Affordable Walk-In Wellness Services



## Hanna Street

4914 S Hanna Street, Fort Wayne

- Pet Promises Hub
- Pet Food Pantry
- Pet Social Services



# Our Mission

Humane Fort Wayne is a trusted partner providing comprehensive, lifesaving resources to pets and their people.

# Our Vision

Creating a compassionate world for pets and their people.

# Core Values

Compassion, Respect, Collaboration, Innovation, Resiliency, Fiscal Sustainability

# Board of Directors

Lona Pritchard  
**Chair**

Sarah Noack  
**Vice Chair & Secretary**

Patrick Davis  
**Treasurer**

Sarah Carter

Jason Grover

Michelle Hipkind

Debra Louis

Dawn Ritchie

Kathy Roudebush

Reneta Thurairatnam

**We're for people. We're for pets.**  
**We're for *Love*, Unleashed.**



Humane Fort Wayne is a not-for-profit organization and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Shelter EIN: 35-6042135

*HwMame*

**FORT WAYNE**