Deandra

Luna

Jessco

Simon

Poppy

5,987 Pets adopted
(up from 5,952 in 2014)

18,418 Animals spayed/neutered
(up from 18,290 in 2014)

4,867 Feral cats spayed/neutered

97.87% Of animals that entered our program were saved
(up from 97.37 percent in 2014)

74% Provided for FREE

510 Special medical operations provided for PAWS animals
To our supporters:
Thank you for helping animals in their
time of greatest need. We hope that
you feel a sense of accomplishment as
you read the stories that follow.

-Your Friends at PAWS Chicago

41,660
Vaccinations, microchips & blood
tests provided

117,007
Volunteer hours =
56 full-time employees
(up from 103,718 in 2014)

2,841
Animals placed in foster care

777
People helped through the
PAWS for Life Program

2,617
People participated in volunteer training

22,150
Pounds of free food distributed by Pet
Food Bank
DEAR SUPPORTERS,

As I look through the annual report, I see the faces of these loving animals and wonder where they would be today without friends like you.

Our growth from a grassroots organization to a national model in less than 20 years has been possible because of your dedication and commitment to PAWS Chicago. With your support, we have been able to lead the way in transforming animal welfare in our community, reducing the euthanasia rate by 80 percent in Chicago since our founding.

These success stories wouldn’t be possible without the support of our generous donors like Rita and John Canning, who appear on the front cover of this Annual Report (see also page 36). The Cannings, whose entire family is involved in saving homeless pets, donates annually in support of our Medical Center and shelter medicine program, allowing us to treat more sick and injured animals.

But we as a community still have more work to do. Homeless, abandoned and neglected animals continue to need us. As we reflect on the more than 8,600 homeless cats and dogs killed in Chicago in 2015, and thousands more in our surrounding communities, we know that we remain the last hope for so many pets in need.

This past year has been particularly challenging for Chicago as an unprecedented outbreak of Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) hit the dog population (see page 21). Virtually every dog at the city pound was exposed to CIV and required quarantine. Some needed advanced medical care. PAWS was able to continue to save CIV-exposed dogs by utilizing our Medical Center to quarantine each exposed dog for the 30-day period they remain contagious. Our Medical Center is the only facility in Chicago equipped to take in a large volume of CIV cases, but this work had a significant impact on our budget. To date, PAWS has treated more than 700 CIV-exposed dogs.

While the CIV crisis hit Chicago particularly hard, it is only one in a long list of infectious diseases that impact shelter populations. We simply do not have enough quarantine space to take in more animals who need us. And so we are proceeding with a major endeavor to expand our Medical Center (see page 22).

All this while we must continue our preventive programs with our Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic and door-to-door outreach in underserved communities, directly reducing the number of unwanted pets that are born and ultimately end up at the pound (see page 10).

On behalf of the animals, thank you for all you have done. We at PAWS Chicago could never extend deep enough appreciation for what you make possible.

Warm regards,

Paula Fasseas
Founder and Executive Chair
A Tradition of Nonprofit Excellence

Charity Navigator, the country’s premier independent charity evaluator, has ranked PAWS Chicago the best performing charity in the nation in the Animal Rights, Welfare and Services category. They have also awarded PAWS Chicago its highest 4-star rating for 14 consecutive years. That’s something less than 1 percent of charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have ever received. The rating is based on efficient use of donor funds and best practices in nonprofit management.

Rupa and Rara greet their fans at a PAWS Chicago Angels with Tails adoption event.
CHICAGO’S PATH TO NO KILL

In 1997, very few people knew that homeless pets were being killed. Virtually no one knew the extent—that more than 42,000 cats and dogs would die that year in shelters. PAWS Chicago was founded to bring attention to the plight of homeless animals and engage the community in becoming the solution to pet overpopulation.

Since then, we have continued to focus on bringing people into the animal welfare community and engaging them to take action in ways that save homeless pets. From the thousands of volunteers, foster families and adopters to outreach initiatives to our free and low-cost spay/neuter and medical services, we work to mobilize and inspire people to become part of the response to homeless pets.

With that foundation of community support, PAWS Chicago has been able to build the lifesaving programs that have made a tremendous impact for homeless animals in our city. PAWS now has one of the largest adoption and spay/neuter programs in the country. Since 1997, Chicago has seen an 80 percent drop in euthanasia rates across the city. These numbers are encouraging, but our work is far from done: 8,682 were killed in Chicago shelters in 2015.

Chicago is at a pivotal point for homeless animals. Because of our engaged and caring community, Chicago now has one of the best No Kill trajectories and could become the largest No Kill city in the nation. But we have more work to do to save every healthy and treatable homeless animal. And we must continue with lifesaving outreach and providing access to spay/neuter services in underserved communities.

OUR MISSION
Everything PAWS Chicago does is guided by a common mission to transform sheltering operations to offer life, not death, to homeless animals. Our mission is:

- To build No Kill communities—starting with Chicago—that respect and value the life of every cat and dog
- To end the overpopulation of homeless animals through solutions, practices and education
- To transform animal welfare by setting higher standards in the way animals are treated and developing a sustainable, solutions-based model

80% drop in euthanasia rates

PET EUTHANIZED IN CHICAGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1997</th>
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Rupa and Rara greet their fans at a PAWS Chicago Angels with Tails adoption event
PAWS Chicago’s lifesaving success is rooted in our comprehensive No Kill Model, designed to bring an end to the killing of homeless pets.

The foundation of our No Kill Model is Community Engagement. By raising awareness of pet homelessness and engaging people in these efforts, we can make lasting change for animals.

**PAWS’ Mission-Critical Programs—Our No Kill Pillars**—Sit atop this Foundation. These pillars are the robust Prevention, Adoption, Animal Health and Behavior, and Volunteer programs necessary to build a No Kill community.
Jessco enjoys her time at the Pippen Fasseas Adoption Center
WE FIRST MET JUANITA WHILE DOING OUTREACH IN ENGLEWOOD. SHE APPROached OUR VAN AND EXPLAINED SHE WAS OVERWHELMED Caring FOR HER DOGS. Her adult dogs, Princess and Lucky, had given birth to at least five accidental litters over the years. Juanita was unfamiliar with spay/neuter. No one she knew ever had a dog that was fixed and she didn’t know where to turn to seek assistance. Our PAWS for Life team discussed the options with her and through the conversation, it was clear she loved the dogs and didn’t want to part with them, but was overwhelmed because of the litters and unruly behavior. She lacked transportation and even a reliable phone. We set up spay/neuter appointments for every last dog in her building. Juanita was so thrilled and relieved at the idea of keeping her dogs. “My dogs are my family. I love them more than anything.”
GETTING TO THE HEART OF PET OVERPOPULATION

We realized early on that curtailing pet overpopulation was key to building a No Kill Chicago. The main tools for reducing the birth of unwanted animals are spay/neuter programs and community outreach. The majority of stray, feral and other homeless pets originate in low-income, under-resourced communities. Important pet resources like free spay/neuter surgeries, information on pet care and training, and affordable medical care are all necessary ingredients to reducing pet homelessness and building a humane community.

SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES
With the PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic located in Little Village and the GusMobile Spay/Neuter Van, which brings spay/neuter directly to neighborhoods most in need, we performed 18,418 spay/neuter surgeries in 2015. Seventy-four percent of client surgeries were provided free of charge.

To understand the impact of a single spay or neuter surgery on preventing animal overpopulation, consider the math. Each unaltered female cat can become pregnant at least two times per year, with an average of 2.8 surviving kittens per litter. Each kitten is then able to become pregnant starting as young as six months old. Following this pattern, one cat and her offspring can be responsible for the birth of 420,000 cats in seven years. Though real-world conditions will vary, this math illustrates the importance of spay/neuter programs.

18,418 spay/neuter surgeries were performed in 2015

CRISIS SUPPORT
The PAWS Chicago Pet Food Bank and Crisis Care Programs offer food, supplies and temporary foster care for pets of families who have fallen on hard times. Our Pet Food Pantry operates out of our Medical Center, and distributes supplies weekly to families in need, keeping pets in homes and out of shelters. In 2015, over 1,000 pets were helped by the pantry and 22,150 pounds of food were distributed.
BULLY BREEDS
During 2015, PAWS launched a campaign for prevention that focused on the particular animals that are most at risk of ending up at the pound and facing euthanasia. These include bully breed-type and other larger dogs, which tend to have the hardest times finding new homes. In 2015, “pit bulls” made up 41 percent of the dogs that ended up at the pound and 53 percent that were euthanized. While adoption is a key element to helping these animals get out alive, targeted spay/neuter programs are essential to lowering the number that end up in shelters in the first place. In 2015, PAWS spayed/neutered 960 bully breeds, up from 855 the previous year.

The save rate for cats at the city pound has increased from 74 percent in 2014 to 81 percent in 2015

COMMUNITY CATS
PAWS Chicago’s Community Cats program is aimed at proactively sterilizing and managing the free-roaming cat population, the source of thousands of kittens born on the streets each year. This program reduces the number of animals entering the sheltering system while also saving kittens and finding them adoptive homes.

In 2015, PAWS performed 4,867 spay/neuter surgeries on feral cats. Since the opening of the Lurie Clinic, PAWS Chicago has sterilized more than 36,000 feral cats. Chicago has seen a significant decrease in homeless cats and kittens that end up at the city pound, with intake falling from 8,591 in 2014 to 6,771 in 2015. Spay/neuter programs are helping to decrease the total population that is coming in and ultimately being killed. The save rate for cats at the city pound has increased from 74 percent in 2014 to 81 percent in 2015 as fewer animals enter the system and more are saved.

During 2015, in recognition of the importance of the Community Cats Program in creating a No Kill city, PAWS Chicago added a full-time staff position focused on the community cat initiatives.
Under-resourced communities do not have access to basic veterinary care, pet food and supplies, and important information on pet wellness and spay/neuter. We’re changing that.

The PAWS for Life program was started to reach Chicago residents and pets who most need our help and to keep pets out of the sheltering system.

In November 2014, we began piloting this program in Englewood, one of the city’s most underserved neighborhoods with more than 49 percent of the population living in poverty and an average per capita income of $11,888.

PAWS for Life works on the ground. By providing access to free spay/neuter and pet care services through door-to-door outreach and building positive relationships with pet owners, PAWS for Life is working directly in communities that would be contributing to pet overpopulation.

With the PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic and the GusMobile Spay/Neuter Van, which brings services directly to neighborhoods most in need, PAWS for Life recognizes that where there are people living in poverty, pets are living in poverty as well. The majority of stray, feral and other homeless pets originate in low income, under-resourced communities, because spay/neuter has traditionally not been affordable or accessible.
As part of PAWS for Life, we are in the community almost daily:

**CANVASSING DAYS**
Our team of staff and volunteers meet Englewood residents where they live by going door to door, block by block. Through this approach, we are able to sign up pets for free spay/neuter surgery and transportation, and help with medical challenges, pet care and basic training.

**COMMUNITY DAYS**
During Community Days, pets and their owners line up for free rabies and distemper vaccinations at our on-site GusMobile. By providing vaccinations, we are helping prevent pets from contracting illness and reaching more people to talk about the importance of spay/neuter. On average, 75 percent of pets at these events are not spayed or neutered, and most have never seen a veterinarian.

But over the past two years, PAWS for Life has found that when it is available and free, community members have been enthusiastic about the benefits of spay/neuter and about 83 percent sign up for services. “We have been overwhelmed by the positive response from the Englewood community,” says Assistant Director for Community Outreach Laurie Maxwell.

**Most stray and feral pets originate in under-resourced communities**

When Laurie meets a person who resists the idea of spaying and neutering their dogs, she shares information on the advantages of getting a dog fixed, including reduced aggression, marking and roaming. Changing minds takes listening and patience, Laurie says. But once it starts, it has a ripple effect across a community. “People tell friends and family, and they start coming to us asking for spay/neuter services. Now, community members literally flag us down in the streets asking for spay/neuter assistance. The word is out!”
PAWS CHICAGO HELPED LAMBY THE CAT FIND HER NEW HOME IN MARCH 2015. SARAH-JAYNE AND DAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT LAMBY IN HONOR OF THEIR BELOVED CAT STITCH, WHO HAD DIED SUDDENLY OF AN UNDIAGNOSED HEART CONDITION EARLY IN THE YEAR. “When we met Lamby, we knew she was coming home with us. She had been adopted and returned once before, and on top of that, she suffers from the same heart condition we lost Stitch to. It seemed a fitting tribute to welcome her to our family,” they say.

And Lamby loves her new family, settling right in and bossing around the other cats in the home. “She’s already laid claim to the comfiest spots in the house. She is playful and funny, and she loves to be the little spoon when we snuggle. Knowing that Lamby has a comfortable, loving home to spend all her remaining years makes us feel incredibly lucky and truly grateful.”

Waiting for her new family
Finding lasting love
The comfiest spot in the house

PAWS works to engage and empower the next generation of animal lovers

See our progress at pawschicago.org/results
FINDING MORE LOVING FAMILIES FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS

Rescuing homeless pets and uniting them with loving families through a robust and visible adoption program is essential to building a No Kill community. Thanks to our Adoption Centers, off-site events and innovative programming, 5,987 animals found loving homes in 2015.

Since adoption and rescue accounts for only 20 to 25 percent of new pets being brought into homes, creating more opportunities for animals to meet interested families is one of the best ways to end the killing of today’s at-risk pets.

PIPPEN FASSEAS ADOPTION CENTER
The Pippen Fasseas Adoption Center in Lincoln Park, which opened in 2007, redefined animal sheltering as the first cageless, state-of-the-art, No Kill shelter in the Midwest. The Center was designed to reduce stress for animals awaiting new homes and provide 100 percent fresh air flow to prevent disease transmission.

The Center includes the Barbara Bradford Kitty City, with designated age-specific rooms and separate condos for felines who prefer “privacy.” In the Marshall Field Family Dog Town, volunteers provide canine residents with at least five walks a day, as well as playtime on the rooftop deck and training to prepare them for adoption.

GLENN L. FELNER
NORTH SHORE ADOPTION CENTER
PAWS Chicago's first satellite adoption facility opened in 2014 in Highland Park. It represents an important step in PAWS Chicago’s mission to build No Kill communities.

The mission of the Center is to help find more homes for pets in need, especially large dogs popular with suburban families, and to bring our progressive sheltering practices to a new community.

OFF-SITE ADOPTION EVENTS
On May 30, 1998, PAWS Chicago was launched with its first event—Angels with Tails Michigan Avenue. By working with stores along the Magnificent Mile and inviting Chicago’s animal shelters and rescues to participate, we broke the silence surrounding the death of thousands of homeless pets by taking the message to the streets and into the stores, and showing off the wonderful pets in need of homes.

Each year, PAWS Chicago continues to host Angels with Tails events. PAWS Chicago also hosted off-site adoption events almost every weekend during 2015, bringing pets to high-traffic shopping centers and retail stores where people will interact with the animals and think about adopting. In 2015, more than 484 PAWS Chicago adoptions took place at these and other events.
FOSTER TO ADOPT

The Foster First foster-to-adopt program was started late in 2015 in response to the epidemic of Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) that hit Chicago last year. CIV is a flu, not a life-threatening disease, but dogs that have it are contagious for up to 30 days. During that time, they can easily spread it to other dogs.

PAWS’ Foster First program gives these sick or potentially contagious dogs a chance to heal in a loving environment while opening up much-needed spots at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center so more at-risk dogs can be saved.

The foster-to-adopt program is the newest addition to PAWS’ foster network. In 2015, more than 2,800 PAWS Chicago animals spent time in foster care. PAWS’ dedicated fosters take in and care for kittens and puppies that are too young or too small to be spayed/neutered. They also nurse to health sick and injured pets that need time for healing before being ready for adoption, and they open their homes to animals having trouble adjusting to shelter life.

FEATURED 5 ADOPTION PROGRAM

In September 2015, PAWS Chicago initiated the Featured 5 program to increase adoptions of long-term, senior or special needs pets.

Our Featured 5 are five cats and five dogs that have been with us for a while and are looking for a lifelong home. Because these wonderful pets need special adopters who can provide them with medical or other support, they have often been overlooked.

PAWS Chicago is committed to finding the perfect home for every cat and dog in our adoption program, so we created the Featured 5 program to make it easier for adopters to give these special cats and dogs the care they need for a happy and healthy life together.

The Featured 5 come with a number of special adoption benefits during their first year:

- Free Merrick Pet Care cat or dog food
- Free wellness care at PAWS Chicago’s Medical Center
- Free private training and evaluation session at PAWS Chicago’s Training Center (for dogs only)

pawschicago.org/featured5
ANIMAL HEALTH & BEHAVIOR

BLAKE ARRIVED AT PAWS AFTER HIS DISABLED GUARDIAN COULD NO LONGER CARE FOR THIS THREE-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN BULLDOG MIX. Unfortunately, Blake was kept outside most of his life, so he needed some time to acclimate to life indoors. We did find out that he loves peanut butter-stuffed kongs, car rides, belly rubs and digging holes in the sand at the dog beach. Blake was so sweet that he even loved going to the vet.

But before Blake was ready for his new home, he needed specialized medical care, which PAWS was able to provide. After surgery on one of his knees, Blake recuperated well, but needed to maintain a healthy weight of 50 pounds. Blake can climb a few stairs here and there, but does best in a home or a building with an elevator. We are so happy to report that after seven months at PAWS, Blake was adopted into a new, loving home.

All PAWS Chicago animals receive treatment through the PAWS Chicago Medical Center

See our progress at pawschicago.org/results
Our No Kill commitment means that we give every pet the individualized treatment and rehabilitation he or she needs. Our robust shelter medicine program treats the physical body, rehabilitating pets suffering from illness and injury, while our behavior programs provide enrichment and training for dogs and cats who have challenging pasts—having suffered mistreatment, abuse or lack of socialization.

**SAVE RATE 2015**
Because of our expert veterinary and behavior teams, we are one of the few shelters in the country that can treat and rehabilitate a large volume of sick, injured and behaviorally challenged animals. In 2015, PAWS Chicago had a 97.87 percent “save rate,” even while taking in a vulnerable population of animals.

**SHELTER MEDICINE**
For generations, getting sick in a shelter meant a death sentence. But the No Kill movement has proven there is a better way.

As a No Kill shelter, PAWS is a safe haven for animals. Through a state-of-the-art shelter medicine program, each rescue receives full medical treatment at the PAWS Medical Center.

The Medical Center—the first stop for homeless animals when they arrive at PAWS—treats the most serious cases. We also utilize a robust foster network for pets receiving more simple treatment or in need of recovery.

**TRAINING & BEHAVIOR ENRICHMENT**
Many of our dogs come to us with emotional scars. We call these pets our “Gold Star” dogs. Some are terrified of people, other pets or loud noises. Others were never socialized in a family and don’t understand basic manners.

These animals receive help at our Training & Foster Care Center. This 3,000-square-foot space is home to
our innovative dog training and enrichment programs. Through the Training Center, our team of behavior professionals and trained volunteers provide our dogs with one-on-one and group training, agility and enrichment.

We know that with the right training and structured environment, pets can overcome a traumatic past. Through our Training Center and expert trainers, we can offer these dogs customized and routine exercise, enrichment and rehabilitation in a controlled, state-of-the-art facility.

And it’s making an impact. We are transforming shy, highly active, under-socialized or previously abused pets, giving them the confidence and training needed to show prospective adopters their true personality and leading to amazing results: In 2015, 153 Gold Star dogs were adopted.

**CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS**

A highly contagious strain of the dog flu, or Canine Influenza Virus (CIV), first struck the Chicago area in early 2015. The H3N2 strain originated in South Asia, and it’s not known how it made its way to the city. CIV is a flu that can cause secondary infections like pneumonia. CIV hit Chicago Animal Care & Control, the city pound, particularly hard. Because of the large populations of animals exposed to one another and a lack of isolation facilities, virtually every dog got CIV. CIV-exposed animals need to be quarantined for up to 30 days to avoid spreading the virus.

During the height of the CIV outbreak, some rescue groups and shelters had to cut down or stop taking in dogs and others suspended adoptions. But PAWS Chicago was able to continue to save CIV-exposed dogs from the pound by utilizing a large, previously unused space at the Medical Center, which was turned into a CIV isolation unit.

PAWS had the only medical center in Chicago equipped to take in a large volume of CIV cases. In 2015, PAWS treated more than 350 animals with CIV.

**CIV is a flu that can cause secondary infections like pneumonia**

![Image of dogs being held by a person, likely after being treated for CIV.](image-url)
MEDICAL CENTER EXPANSION

While we have greatly expanded our capacity to treat sick and injured animals through our Medical Center and foster network over the past year, the limitations of the current medical facility have created a bottleneck in our ability to help save more pets.

Expanding our capacity to treat sick and injured animals is essential to reaching our goal of building a No Kill Chicago. As we get closer, we are seeing a larger percentage of homeless cats and dogs who are either sick or injured. Already, more than 75 percent of incoming animals at PAWS Chicago require treatment for a medical condition beyond the standard care protocol. And many suffer from contagious but treatable illnesses, including CIV, upper respiratory infection, pneumonia, parvovirus, calicivirus, panleukopenia and ringworm.

We are designing our expansion to build out space adjacent to our current Medical Center. The renovation will expand operations with a new medical wing, greatly increasing our capacity. This is key to reaching the day when dogs and cats in Chicago do not have to die because they are sick or injured and require medical treatment.

If you or someone you know might be interested in helping us expand our Medical Center, please contact Sheryl Lesch at slesch@pawschicago.org or 773-697-5203.
SAVING NELL

When we first met four-month-old Nell, she was already battling a cough, fever, runny nose and lethargy. Nell’s Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) progressed quickly to pneumonia, and she needed oxygen support to survive. PAWS provided Nell with TLC for more than a month. She recovered fully, thanks to the special care she was able to receive at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center and time in a foster home where she could rest and just be a puppy. She was adopted into a loving home in August 2015 and her new family reports she is doing well and just graduated from basic obedience training.

SAVING BIJOU

Bijou (PAWS Chicago name Jester) is an energetic girl whose life nearly ended before it began. She, along with her 12 littermates, was left stuffed inside a small duffle bag in blazing temperatures. Thankfully, a volunteer saw the moving bag and sought help at PAWS Chicago’s nearby Medical Center. The kittens received medical treatment and care. While all the kittens found loving homes, Bijou and her littermate Casimir were lucky enough to be adopted together. “They have both adjusted well to their new surroundings. They love romping through the house together and sleeping in all of the soft places,” says Angela, their adopter.

SAVING FRANKLIN

Franklin became part of the PAWS Chicago family when he was rescued from the city pound. Brought in by his owner in severe condition, Franklin had chewed through an electrical cord in his home and was instantly shocked. He had a singed tongue, mouth and cheeks. His owner decided to relinquish Franklin to the city pound. Our intake team heard his story and started working to line up a foster family that could nurse him back to health. An instant favorite, friendly little Franklin stole the hearts of the Medical Center staff as he received treatment for the burns and ulceration in his mouth, purring and kneading his little paws during treatments and while receiving fluids. After about a month in foster care, Franklin was ready for adoption.
VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS AND FOSTERS ARE THE LIFE FORCE BEHIND PAWS CHICAGO’S OPERATIONS. PAWS started as a volunteer-run organization, and to this day remains completely indebted to the volunteers and fosters who touch every aspect of our work. Running our two adoption centers, along with our Medical Center, requires an army of volunteers to ensure that the suites are clean, chores are completed, and that each and every animal receives exercise and love.

In 2015 alone, volunteers dedicated 117,007 hours of service, fulfilling the work of 56.3 full-time employees. Without this impassioned labor force, PAWS Chicago would not be possible. In addition to the time they commit to PAWS, volunteers and fosters also are our ambassadors, engaging new communities.

Volunteer Byron Edingburg at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center

See our progress at pawschicago.org/results
OUR 2015 ALL-STAR VOLUNTEERS

Each year, we recognize a group of volunteers for their extraordinary contributions to building a No Kill Chicago. Meet our 2015 All Stars:

**LESLIE AGNELLO-DEAN:** As a level 3 volunteer, Leslie’s positive impact on PAWS can be seen in many ways—from dog training to running playgroups and helping with everyday chores. But we are particularly thankful to Leslie for sharing her professional expertise in training and curriculum design and spearheading a complete overhaul of our adoption counselor training.

**BARB COOKE:** Running into Barb will brighten anyone’s day and it’s easy to run into her at PAWS. Working at our two adoption centers, she has conducted 176 adoptions in the past year. She’s also always on the go with TEAM PAWS Chicago, having participated in the Chicago Marathon five times as a team member.

**Laurie Gentle:** Laurie is the heart and soul of Angels with Tails, our annual signature adoption event series that takes place in various neighborhoods and suburbs across Chicagoland, orchestrating virtually every detail. Because of this Development Board member’s skillful work, countless dogs and cats have found homes.

**LIZ GRUBBS:** One of the leaders of the Professional Board, Liz has been instrumental in connecting her peers on the Board to the PAWS mission. Under her leadership, the Professional Board continues to exceed its community development goals. She also has helped organize volunteer days for Professional Board members at our Medical Center, is an avid TEAM PAWS Chicago member, a Dog Town mentor and a dedicated foster.

**BRIAN LEE:** It’s nearly impossible to sum up everything that Brian has done for PAWS in his 12 years as a volunteer. You might see him cleaning dog suites to ensure we can open the Adoption Center on time, fixing equipment, driving volunteers to the Medical Center or generally pitching in wherever and whenever we might need a hand. And as an adoption counselor, he facilitated 325 pet adoptions over the last twelve months. There is no job too big or small for Brian, and he can always be counted on to innovate new solutions for any situation that arises.
MIKE LIN: Mike can be found at PAWS just about every weekend—exercising and caring for our dogs. He leads New Volunteer Orientation and is a steadfast volunteer at all of our offsite events. From animal transport and location management to working with potential adopters—Mike’s hard work ensures that dozens of dogs and cats find their new homes.

ALISON LINDHOLM: Alison’s smiling face can be seen every week when she serves as a dedicated adoption counselor, committed to finding the best matches for every family she works with. She is a go-to Lead Volunteer in Kitty City, engaging other volunteers and ensuring that operations run smoothly. And she regularly volunteers for special cat enrichment activities. Alison is a friend and leader for fellow volunteers and cats, both in the Adoption Center and as a foster parent.

MARK LUKAS: Mark helps wake up Chicagoland several times a month by bringing homeless pets to FOX 32’s “Good Day Chicago” to raise awareness about our events and programs. He is a skilled spokesperson who represents PAWS Chicago’s mission across all media platforms and has helped foster countless cat and dog adoptions.

Michele M. McIntire: A true volunteer leader, Michele can be counted on to do anything and everything to benefit PAWS dogs. From leading playgroups to exercising and running dogs, Michele’s countless volunteer hours provide enrichment for some of the dogs that really need it most. A TEAM PAWS Chicago runner, a Dog Town Level 1 trainer, and a regular face in the Adoption Center—Michele is a constant advocate for homeless pets.

SASHI SEKHAR: When stopping by the Medical Center, there’s a good chance you’ll run into Sashi Sekhar. You might see her helping with playgroups for sick dogs or giving extra love and care to our animals in isolation. Or you might see her hosting one of our many corporate or school groups—a critical role that introduces hundreds of new volunteers to PAWS each year.

DANIEL SPELLER: Daniel is an unstoppable force for homeless pets, working in Englewood and Back of the Yards with our PAWS For Life outreach team. In addition to his great community outreach work, Daniel is a regular event volunteer and a familiar face in Kitty City. He’s an inspiration for the next generation of animal enthusiasts, serving as a guide for family service volunteers, our program that enables youth and their parents to give back to the community.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IN AUGUST 2015, PAWS RECEIVED A PHONE CALL ABOUT RUPERT, A FOUR-MONTH-OLD HOUND/LAB MIX. Homeless teens were jumping trains and their puppy got away from them. Unfortunately the puppy ran into traffic and was hit by a car. The teens took the dog to a veterinarian in Berwyn for care but only had $7. They decided to give up the dog and PAWS stepped in to help him.

X-rays showed that Rupert had two fractures and would require extensive medical treatment. The estimated cost of the surgery alone to correct his injuries was $4,000. PAWS can help animals like Rupert because the community helped PAWS, generously donating to our Sick and Injured Fund.

Englewood residents look forward to PAWS for Life Community Days

See our progress at pawschicago.org/results
MOBILIZING PEOPLE TO SAVE PETS’ LIVES

Community engagement is the base upon which all of our programs are built and the foundation for creating lasting change for animals.

TEAM PAWS CHICAGO
TEAM PAWS Chicago is a charity racing and fundraising team benefitting PAWS Chicago. It is made up of 544 animal lovers, advocates, heroes, friends, family, siblings, couples, colleagues, teammates and athletes who have joined together to save the lives of homeless pets. TEAM PAWS Chicago is one of the largest charities in the Chicago Marathon. In addition to marathons, the team features races including 5Ks, half marathons and triathlons throughout the world.

PAWS CHICAGO MAGAZINE
This publication, which has a circulation of 200,000, is seen by more people than any other local Chicago magazine. Its goal is to raise awareness about our mission, dig deep into important animal topics and encourage conscious action on behalf of animals. In addition to being sent to donors, it’s available on newsstands throughout the city.

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY
More than 68 groups (companies, universities, schools, youth groups and more) brought more than 926 people to the Pippen Fasseas Adoption Center’s Judith Blazer Community Room in 2015. In addition, through 164 volunteer orientations, we introduced 2,617 interested animal lovers to PAWS Chicago and the cause of homeless pets.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL
These channels have become some of the best vehicles for promoting the cause of homeless pets. They drive adoptions, volunteering, fostering and financial support, and spread awareness about important animal issues.

- Facebook fans: 81,866
- Twitter followers: 9,095
- Instagram followers: 15,800
- Email subscribers: 120,571
- Web site page views: 9,122,014
MEDIA
Television, print and radio are some of the best channels to reach new audiences and spread the message of animal welfare. In 2015, PAWS was featured in 92 print articles and 811 digital pieces, including 24 on national websites. We also had a total of 227 TV appearances and 217 radio interviews and promos.

IMPACTING THE BROADER MOVEMENT
We work hard to save Chicago’s animals because we believe in investing in our community first and proving, through results, that the No Kill model works. But helping animals knows no borders.

PAWS Chicago is consistently the largest transfer partner from the city pound. Last year PAWS rescued 1,732 dogs and cats through this partnership. PAWS was responsible for 21 percent of all dog and cat transfers out of the city pound.

PAWS also provides spay/neuter services to rescues and community cat groups. Through these partnerships, the PAWS Chicago Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic offers special group pricing for these rescues. Last year PAWS worked with 15 rescues providing them highly subsidized spay/neuter packages.

COMING IN 2017: NO KILL ACADEMY
PAWS Chicago is working on launching a learning center from which we will spread the seeds of our No Kill Model to other animal welfare organizations—helping build stronger No Kill communities in Chicagoland and beyond.

We receive frequent requests from other shelters to share information. The purpose of the No Kill Academy is to expand knowledge about animals, best practices and the No Kill movement across the country.

The No Kill Academy will offer a curriculum focusing on: No Kill organizations looking to expand their impact; traditional shelters planning to adopt the lifesaving principles of No Kill; and animal welfare organizations looking to develop operational excellence in their senior leaders.
Throughout 2015, PAWS Chicago held special events and fundraisers to raise money for and awareness of the plight of homeless animals.
SUSTAINING A NO KILL COMMUNITY

At PAWS Chicago, the important, lifesaving work we do is possible only because of the support of animal-loving community members like you.

We do not receive any financial assistance from federal, state or local government agencies. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters to fund the daily needs of our lifesaving services.
Former PAWS resident Happy enjoying belly rubs
The Canning family was first introduced to PAWS Chicago about 13 years ago. After taking a tour of the Pippen Fasseas Adoption Center and the PAWS Chicago Medical Center with Founder and Chair Paula Fasseas, the Inverness couple “went home and wrote a check for $25,000. We were that impressed,” they say.

Rita and John Canning have also given a pledge of $1 million in support of the PAWS Chicago Medical Center in Little Village. “We want our money to go to work right away. This gift gives PAWS some long term certainty and makes sure that the funds gets used for current programs,” John says.

“The Canning’s donation to PAWS allows the organization to increase our medical care and treat more sick and injured animals,” Paula says. The Cannings started to support PAWS because they were impressed with PAWS’ wide array of services. “PAWS has a great combination of initiatives going on, from finding appropriate adoption homes, to a lifetime guarantee for all of its animals, to getting lots of volunteers,” John says.

But PAWS is also a charitable organization with a combination of factors that can be hard to find: passionate leadership and innovative programs that go beyond the surface to get to the heart of the problem, the couple says. The Cannings are particularly enthusiastic about PAWS’ proactive neighborhood outreach in areas such as Englewood. The PAWS for Life program includes block-by-block canvassing of the area, one of the most economically under-resourced in Chicago. PAWS offers free spay/neuter services for all Englewood animals, as well as medical and behavioral help as needed.

“I was happy enough to learn that PAWS is a No Kill shelter. But they do so much more. Their practical neighborhood programs bring down the kill rate,” John says. “It is a hidden secret about PAWS: Not just is it a place with cute dogs to adopt. It is a place with great proactivity. PAWS’ community programs are very forward thinking.”

And Rita and John are able to judge PAWS based on documented results that show a decrease of 80 percent in euthanasia rates for Chicago since PAWS’ founding. “We are big on demonstrated outcomes—a charity needs to show it’s impact on the pet population and euthanasia rates, and PAWS is able to do this,” John says.

“Working with PAWS makes us happy,” Rita adds. “It is wonderful to be able to be part of seeing something actually change and get better. We like to see our money in action, and we want to be able to see, feel and touch exactly what our money is being used for. It’s all about seeing an impact.”
Rita points to PAWS’ passionate leadership as key to its accomplishments. “When you have a great deal of passion you are almost always guaranteed success. Passion is infectious, and Paula has tenacity and belief in what she is doing. It is her passion and vision that just sells the mission.”

A FAMILY PASSION
Rita and John are not the only Canning family members involved with PAWS. Daughters-in-law Melissa and Jessica are PAWS Chicago Development Board members.

Jessica and her husband, Tim, own Wicker Park-based Scone City bakeshop and espresso bar. They donate 100 percent of proceeds on their doggie scones to PAWS.

Melissa has a special interest in the plight of homeless cats. She and her husband, Michael, founded the Melissa Canning Community Cat Prevention Program in 2012. The program funds microchipping, eartipping, vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries, with the goal of humanely reducing the number of homeless cats living in the city.

John and Rita are also deeply involved with a number of other charities in the Chicago area, focused on poverty, education, domestic abuse and health care.

Why do they care so much about philanthropic work? “We both agreed for a long period of time that philanthropy is a selfish act,” John explains. “We work on causes that give us satisfaction. We focus on philanthropic endeavors where we get satisfaction from seeing the outcomes.”

Rita opened the WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) Safe House. It is the first domestic violence shelter in the northwest suburbs providing housing to abused and homeless women and children.

Through the Big Shoulders Fund, John helped to raise more than $100 million for Chicago parochial schools. Each year, John and Rita also provide scholarships for 100 inner-city students in need. John is a cofounder and chairman of the Chicago-based private equity investment firm Madison Dearborn Partners.

The Cannings recently lost Smokey, their 12-year-old, 135-pound black Labrador Retriever, who joined the family as a puppy. “He’d make us laugh every day,” the couple says. “He was a gentle giant who tolerated being adored.”
ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY
Strong fiscal management is key to optimizing and leveraging resources. We do this by:

• Recognizing the value of every dollar
• Incorporating trained volunteers into everything we do
• Recruiting talented professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, emphasizing private sector experience in our executive management
• Supporting a culture of continuous improvement, always considering how we can do more with less
HOW YOUR DONATION HELPS

$15 provides a microchip to a dog or cat, ensuring they will not be homeless again

$86 sponsors a spay/neuter surgery

$150 fuels a transport vehicle aiding in animal rescue

$263 funds care, vaccinations and spay/neuter for one healthy pet, from arrival through adoption

$1,200 provides critical care to a pet with life-threatening injuries

$4,000 provides for one full day of spay/neuter surgeries on the GusMobile

For more ways to give please visit pawschicago.org/howtohelp
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**NANCY PUTNAM AND RANDY KNUDSON**

Nancy and Randy joined the Lifeline Monthly Giving Program in 2011. Their three cats (Audrey, Kate and Boo) are PAWS alumni. They also have adopted two PAWS Chicago dogs.

By setting up a monthly tax-deductible donation through the Lifeline Monthly Giving Program, Nancy and Randy are helping PAWS Chicago provide shelter, medical care, rehabilitation and behavioral enrichment for hundreds of homeless, injured and neglected animals every month.

“We joined Lifeline because as a volunteer at PAWS, I got insight into the programs and got to see that the money is used well. I am confident it’s put to good use,” Nancy says. She adds that Lifeline is easy to set up and she no longer has to think about writing checks each month.

Learn more at pawschicago.org/lifeline.
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