



December 2010

# Legacy Guild

## Financial Stability Now...and for the Future

In a time where many Americans are facing bankruptcy and postponing retirement, decisions we make regarding our personal finances help to define who we are. Similarly, in a climate where many businesses and non-profit agencies cease to exist, the financial status of the Humane Society of South Central Michigan speaks volumes about how we function as an organization.

The Humane Society receives no governmental or tax dollar support and is not affiliated with animal control. Approximately 87 percent of our funding is received through donations; the remaining 13 percent of our revenue is obtained through adoption and service fees for the animals in our care.

In 2010, the annual operating budget for the Humane Society was \$557,627. We are well on track to exceed our projected revenue, while keeping our expenses near projected numbers. Due to the receipt of several large bequests in 2010, we have been able to survive another difficult economic year without making cuts or reducing the number of animals for which we provide care. In fact, we have been able to grow some of our programs, including adding more Low Income Spay and Neuter (LISN) Program surgeries, helping combat the pet overpopulation problem in our community, and

introduce our new community education program. Our small year-end surplus will be used to make some repairs to the facility as requested by the Department of Agriculture during our last inspection, including refinishing the epoxy finish in our inside adoptable and stray dog kennels. Maintaining our facility is critical to providing humane care for the animals we serve, and protects our investment long-term.

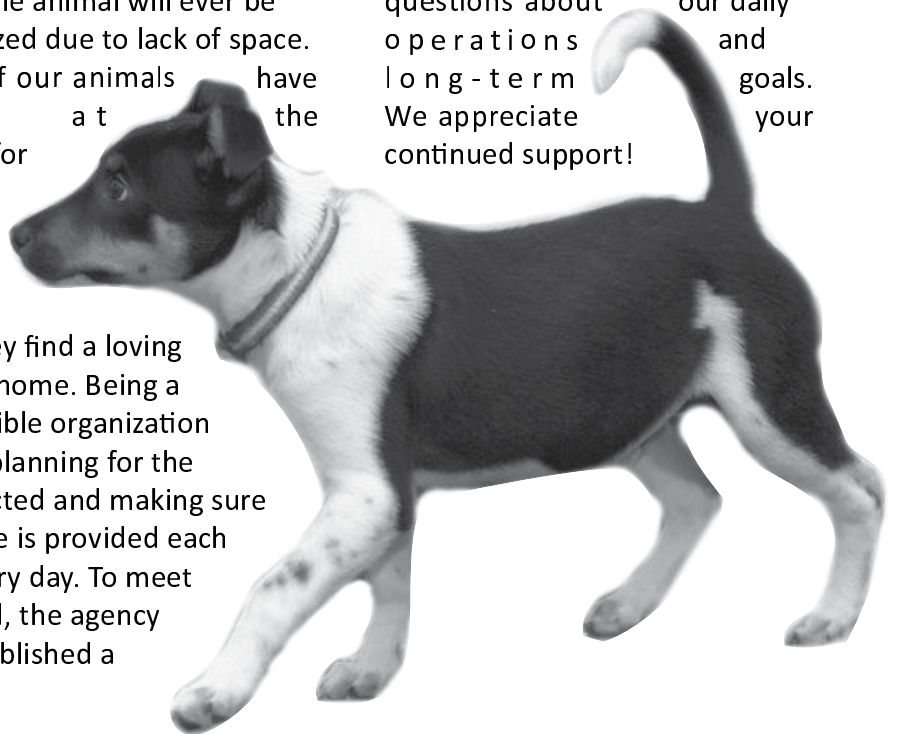
More than 100 dogs and cats rely on our organization for their daily care. Staff members clean kennels, provide food, water, medical care and love each day. What would happen if we weren't here to provide for those needs?

At the Humane Society, no adoptable animal will ever be euthanized due to lack of space. Some of our animals have been at the shelter for awhile; this is their home until they find a loving forever home. Being a responsible organization means planning for the unexpected and making sure that care is provided each and every day. To meet that end, the agency has established a

contingency fund.

In the event that the unexpected happens, the agency has reserved six months of operating expenses to ensure that daily care is provided for the animals, no matter what. The money in the contingency fund will only be touched in cases of extreme emergency, not to cover shortfalls in revenue or regular expenses, and must be voted on by the full Board of Directors. Interest accumulated through the fund will be rolled into general operations.

As a key stakeholder in the Humane Society of South Central Michigan, we value your input. We encourage you to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one tour of our facility, where you can ask questions about our daily operations and long-term goals. We appreciate your continued support!



# Welcome to the Legacy Guild!

In 2010, the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of South Central Michigan set forth a plan to form a Legacy Guild. The Legacy Guild Committee is made up of members of the Board of Directors and people in the community with a shared vision. Current members include myself, Jessica Gilbert, Sarah Lincoln, Joseph Messenger, Tina Slayton and Jake Worgess. The goals of the Legacy Guild Committee are:

- Create community-wide awareness of Legacy Guild
- Increase the number of bequests made to the Humane Society
- Provide recognition of those who wish to remember HSSCM while they are still alive, and recognition of those who have passed and provided for the shelter animals through planned gifts.

As a continued supporter of the

Humane Society, you recognize the value of a society where every pet is a wanted pet. Through the years, HSSCM has been able to touch the lives of so many homeless companion dogs and cats, simply because you cared enough to make a difference in their lives. Every animal who has found a home through our adoption program has been helped directly by your support. Since 1887, HSSCM has been able to make a difference in the lives of thousands of animals.

A person becomes a member of the Legacy Guild when the Humane Society of South Central Michigan receives notification of a planned gift. Notification can occur in several ways, including writing a letter stating your intention, providing copies of documents pertaining to the planned gift or requesting a personal meeting with the Executive Director and a committee member of the Legacy

Guild to discuss your wishes. In making any type of planned or major gift, consultation with your tax, financial and legal advisors is essential.

I am so pleased to offer you this, our first Legacy Guild newsletter, to help you stay more connected to the Humane Society of South Central Michigan. This biannual publication will provide relevant organizational information that you, as a key stakeholder, will find interesting. Not only are you a supporter of HSSCM, you are an integral part of the mission and vision of the organization. I encourage you to join in our planned activities, and to contact me for one-on-one behind the scenes tours at the shelter. Thank you for your continued support!

---

## Legacy Guild Gifts

The following individuals have provided gifts to the Humane Society in recent years:

Ruby M. Baker

Barbara McLain Behnke

Robert L. Coriell

Glenn Corliss, in memory of Roger & Ruth Udell and Alfred & Dorothy Rowley

John G. Couray

Albert C. Gubitz, Jr.

Eleanor L. Harrison

Deborah E. Hibbs

Margaret R. Hughes

Marion E. Lilley

Donald R. Matrone

Robert B. Miller, Jr.

Rose V. Offenbacher

Herta Oswald

Eva C. Plummer

Olivia Caroline Rayl

Joseph Reisner

Gwendolyn A. Roberts

Betty M. Root

Margaret M. Spencer

Frاند and Doris Tuchtenhagen

Phillip H. Voelker



## A Devoted Companion... *by Jake Worgess*

Two years ago my wife and I added another puppy to our family. We were confronted by the same challenges faced by dog owners everywhere: the clean-up of countless accidents, house breaking, crate training, obedience school and, of course, the destruction of several pairs of shoes. Our dog Henry added his own wrinkle by swallowing acorns whole and then regurgitating them in the house. Usually this would occur sometime between 3:00 and 6:00 am. It was during the clean-up after one of these instances that I asked myself: why did I get another dog?

Today, like every other day, Henry answers that question for me. Every time I come home he greets me like I've been gone a month. Every evening during our walk he helps me to unwind put my worries aside for another day. Even as I write this he is curled up at

my feet. If I were to get up for any reason he would undoubtedly follow me around the house until I sat down again. At that point he would curl up at my feet again or, more likely, on the couch beside me. He is exactly the dog I wanted. A devoted companion who loves unconditionally.

Before I joined the board at the Humane Society of South Central Michigan I would take having a dog like Henry for granted. Not so much having a dog but getting a dog. I mean you can get a dog anywhere right? The truth is that although there is no shortage of dogs there seems to always be a shortage of loving homes for those dogs. And there lies the true value of the Humane Society. Although we house and care for hundreds of dogs each year we are much more than a shelter. Our goal is to find that perfect home for every animal

in our care. Through the efforts of our dedicated staff and countless volunteers we strive to place every animal in not just any home but the right home for both the animal and its new family.

Since joining the board I've learned many things about the Humane Society, animal welfare, and also about fundraising. As you've learned in this newsletter, the Humane Society of South Central Michigan operates largely on the generosity of our many donors. Though our fundraising efforts and the many financial contributions we receive we are to continue and expand our operations. To our valued supporters I ask you to consider including the Humane Society of South Central Michigan in your end of life planning. By planning your bequest now, you enable us to help another generation of dog like Henry.

---

## Home for the Holidays Preview Event

What is the one thing every cat and dog in the shelter today wants for Christmas? A loving forever home of their very own! While we may not be able to provide that gift under the tree, we can ensure that every animal receives the very best in daily care during their stay in the shelter. Won't you come out and visit the animals, and spread some holiday cheer?

Our Home for the Holidays Open House will take place on Friday, December 10, 2010 from 5:00 - 7:00pm at the shelter. This year we are offering a very special preview event for special donors and members of the Legacy Guild. You

are invited to join us for our Home for the Holidays Preview Event, which will take place Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 3:00pm.

Enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour led by staff members, a question and answer session with staff members and snacks. You'll have the opportunity to spend extra time with the dogs and cats without the crowds, and learn more about the daily operations of the shelter!

This year, help the Humane Society animals by lighting our Memory Tree. With each donation of \$5.00, we will illuminate a white

light to remember a friend who has passed on, or a red light to honor that loving friend still by your side.

To reserve your place at our special preview event, call 269.963.1796, ext. 13.



## Board of Trustees 2010-2011

### Officers

Tina Slayton, Board Chair  
Battle Creek  
Kim Brubaker, Vice Chair  
Battle Creek  
Keith Easterday, Treasurer  
Galesburg  
Kate Miller, Secretary  
Battle Creek

### Trustees

Jennifer Aschenbrenner, DVM  
Homer  
Jenny Barnett - Battle Creek  
Wanda Cascarelli - Marshall  
Robin Dickmann - Battle Creek  
David Grey - Kalamazoo  
Sarah Lincoln - Battle Creek  
Curtis Whitaker - Battle Creek  
Jake Worgess - Kalamazoo  
Lee Zick - Battle Creek

## Staff Members

Jessica L. Gilbert  
Executive Director

Melissa Sawyer  
Finance Director

Carrie Bammer  
Animal Care Manager

Lori VanRyswyk  
Licensed Veterinary Technician

Charlie Caldwell  
Administrative Assistant

Alexis Fidelman  
Volunteer Coordinator/Receptionist

April Horning - Veterinary Assistant

Lori Lamkin - Kennel Technician

Quinton Sawyer - Kennel Technician

Jackie Schneider - Kennel Technician

Tabetha Sineath - Kennel Technician

Diane Sly - Receptionist

Onsby (JR) Smith, Jr. - Maintenance

Tanya Willavize - Kennel Technician

---

### Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Friday noon to 6:00pm  
Saturday - 11:00am to 4:00pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday

Phone: 269.963.1796

Fax: 269.963.3365

[www.hs-scm.org](http://www.hs-scm.org)

The Humane Society is always in need of dog, puppy, cat and kitten food without red dye, kitty litter, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, paper towel, collars and bedding for the animals.



Humane Society  
of South Central Michigan  
2500 Watkins Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49015