2012 Annual Report

Mission Statement
We believe in the human/animal bond and exist to support Central MN by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs.
Message from the Executive Director

Dear friend and animal lover,

As I reflect on our accomplishments in 2012, I can honestly say I don’t remember being so excited to put an annual report together and get it out to anyone willing to listen to me brag!

One of our goals for the year was to bring low cost spay/neuter to our community. The MN Spay Neuter Assistance Program (MNSNAP) mobile clinic came to the shelter’s parking lot 6 times last year. On each visit they did surgery on 30-40 animals! Animals that otherwise may have produced litters that ended up at the shelter.

Another goal was to shorten our animals’ length of stay prior to adoption, which we succeeded in doing with only 7.2 days for dogs and puppies and 12.8 days for cats and kittens. We also had our first full year of all animals getting spayed or neutered before adoption! Considering that the length of stay includes the time it takes to get spayed or neutered, our animals had a VERY short wait before making their way to their new home.

We really made an effort to lower the euthanasia of treatable and rehabilitable animals. As you can see on page 8, we went above and beyond in helping animals who in years past would have been euthanized because we didn’t have the resources to provide for them.

How is it possible we were able to adopt out MORE animals this year while taking in fewer? You, my friends, are the answer to that question. You, partnering with my remarkable staff and giving them the tools they need to do this rewarding work, is the recipe for this success.

As one of my board members suggested, we should be ringing a bell with each one of these victories. She’s right. So move over Westminster Bell Choir! Tri-County Humane Society’s getting ready to perform at Carnegie Hall!

Thank you for the part you played in giving me such great material for this annual report!

For the animals,
Vicki Davis, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator
Executive Director

P.S. I just can’t stop... Once again we were awarded Charity Navigator’s highest rating of 4 stars, and met all accountability standards of the Charities Review Council, proving our ability to effectively manage our finances and be good stewards of your donations.
2012 Financial Snapshot

Sources of Funds
- Shelter revenue: $436,622
- Thrift store revenue: $25,273
- Donations: $187,423
- Fundraising: $103,187
- Grants: $5,063
- Other revenue: $168,577
Total Sources: $822,958

Uses of Funds
- Wages/Benefits: $510,510
- Veterinary & S/N: $67,576
- Other shelter: $173,049
- Thrift store expense: $18,619
- Other expense: $42,353
Total Uses: $812,107

For the animals in our care we provide:
- Vaccinations, micro-chipping, de-worming, an overall health check and any required medication or surgery.
- Healthy food, water, a comfortable place to sleep, and toys.
- Enrichment opportunities such as love, walks, play time, and basic training.
- Grooming, baths, brushing, and bandanas.
- Behavior assessments on all dogs available for adoption.
- Advertising to promote those available for adoption.
- A website with photos of animals available for adoption.
- Foster care for animals in need.

Assets and Liabilities
- Current assets: $194,083
- Properties & equipment: $638,240
- Other assets: $1,015,118
- Thrift Store: $4373
Total Net Assets: $1,851,814

I will never let it go.
Put your trust in me...

2012 Highlights

Companion Walk Woofstock: 5k Companion Walk for animals on September 8th! The weather was beautiful, the disc dog demos and hot dog eating contest made for some GREAT entertainment, and there were TONS of prizes and freebies being handed out from exhibitors, games and contests. We surpassed our goal and raised a grand total of $50,525 for the animals!

In two short years serving on the TCHS board I have become truly humbled by all the individuals in our community who support the animals we serve. Through generous gifts of time, talent and treasure we have succeeded in meeting our annual goals. I feel like we have so many strong supporters lifting us up and allowing us to help each and every animal that finds shelter through our doors.

Mary Geller, TCHS 2nd Vice President

Our gift wrapping booth at Crossroads Center raised $10,032! 216 volunteers cheerfully put in 1047 hours wrapping gifts and helping spread the good word about animals available for adoption at the shelter.

Pose your Pet with Santa Paws fundraiser was a success, raising $7622.

Our 11th Annual Wine, Kibbles & Bids event on May 4th, held at the Gorecki Center, College of St. Benedict raised a total net profit of $24,600! 220 supporters came together to celebrate the bond between humans and animals and raise funds for the shelter. The evening included wine and beer tasting, a gourmet dinner, and a large silent auction featuring items from 200 contributors! We raised $5,850 for our spay/neuter fund as well!

Cat Sale

We’re saving lives through new promotions like the “Name Your Own Price” cat sale. As long as we are challenged with the influx of cats we’re seeing, we will keep the promotions going to keep saving more lives.
I will never, ever leave you.

Isi was transferred to our shelter on 7/17 through Leech Lake Legacy. She was adopted out of our shelter on 7/21 and this is the follow up from her new family….

"Last Saturday my boyfriend, his son and I decided to visit the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud. We looked at many dogs, but put a deposit down on a pretty little pit named Isi. We had planned to think about it overnight but after lunch went and got her. As I was going through her paperwork on Tuesday, I noticed she came from Leech Lake Legacy. Not knowing what that was I looked it up. It was then that something hit me! My boyfriend is a Leech Lake Band Member and he too was adopted from the LL reservation as a baby. Seems like we really did make the right choice! Isi is a beautiful little girl and we all love her already and she has adjusted quickly!"
Dear Tri-County Humane Society,

I just wanted to let you know how Abe, the French Mastiff, is doing. I know he made many friends while he was at the shelter. I’m happy to say that he is doing great! His eyes look great and now that he is on a grain free diet, his skin and ears have cleared up nicely. He spends much of his day sleeping on the couch or living room floor (he is known in our house as the living breathing rug). He loves his new pal, Wheeler, who is a 16 year old blind and deaf miniature poodle. They make an interesting duo. In about two weeks he will get to try his first day of daycare at La Dee Dogs! I just wanted to let you all know that Abe is doing great and is very spoiled in his new home.

Sincerely,
Shelby G.

TCHS is an open-admission shelter, accepting any animal brought to us regardless of size, age, temperament or location from which it was found. Most of the animals we see are dogs and cats, but we do accept birds, ferrets, rabbits and other small animals. On an annual basis the shelter gives refuge to approximately 3,800 pets and indirectly serves over 65,000 animals and their owners from mostly the Central Minnesota area.
At the State Level

**MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership in Animal Welfare)**

Our mission is to encourage collaboration among Minnesota animal welfare organizations and engage the community to ensure a home for every companion animal in Minnesota and to advocate for responsible pet ownership. Vicki Davis is a board member of MnPAW and was Secretary in 2012.

**Highlights of MnPAW’s focus in 2012:**
The Great Minnesota Pet Together was held October 6 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. More than 25 rescue and animal welfare organizations engaged in this community adoption event – Tri-County Humane Society was one of them. There were a total of 68 adoptions; 52 dogs and 16 cats. All of the pets TCHS brought to the event were adopted by noon!

The 1st Annual MnPAW Conference was held July 29. Session topics were -
- The Four C’s: Collaboration, Community, Creativity & Compassion.
- When Hearts are Larger than Hands: Creating Balance in your Life to Help More Animals.

Featuring: Linda Harper, PhD and Author and Marilou Chanrasmi, MnPAW President and Animal Welfare Advocate.

**TCHS 2012 Statistics**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dog</th>
<th>Puppy</th>
<th>Cat</th>
<th>Kitten</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Intake</strong></td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>1338</td>
<td>1431</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>4487</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012 Intake</strong></td>
<td>907</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1249</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>3808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Adoptions</strong></td>
<td>739</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>2849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012 Adoptions</strong></td>
<td>748</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>3006</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Euthanasia</strong></td>
<td>326</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1847</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012 Euthanasia</strong></td>
<td>193</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15% fewer animals were surrendered and 6% more were adopted, resulting in **52% fewer** being euthanized! The most common reason for canine euthanasia was food aggression and for felines the most common reason was upper respiratory infection.

(The 2013 MN Animal Welfare Conference will be addressing food guarding behavior modification.)
Medically Speaking

Spay and Neuter Surgeries: 1,683
Above and Beyond Surgeries -
Hernia Repair: 24
Dentals: 15
Leg Amputations: 8 (2 dogs, 6 cats)
Tumor Removals: 3
Dew Claw Removal: 3
Tail Amputations: 2
Eye Entropion Surgery: 2
Eye Removal: 2
Fracture Repair: 2
Skin Tag Removal: 2

- MNSNAP (Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program) started coming to
TCHS regularly starting in March 2012.
- Many local veterinary clinics provide us low-cost veterinary services:
   Advanced Care Pet Hospital, Banfield Pet Hospital, Boysen Animal Hospital,
   Companions Animal Hospital, Granite City Pet Hospital, MN School of
   Business, Pine Cone Pet Hospital, and the University of MN.
- We are grateful to Dr. Lois Harmon, our veterinarian, and to the
  veterinarians who volunteer their services: Dr. Traci Diggs, Dr. Karen
  Gjevre, Dr. Heidi Kobulbeck, Dr. Anne Lottie, Dr. Jennifer Melling, Dr. Tom
  Rohman, Dr. Jamie Shriver, Dr. Tim Simpson, Dr. Heather Vogl, and Dr.
  Laura Wilant.
- We lowered euthanasia rates by 52%
  2011: 1848 total animals euthanized. (667 cat/kittens for Upper
  Respiratory Infection.)
  2012: 896 total animals euthanized. (157 cat/kittens for Upper
  Respiratory Infection. 127 animals euthanized on request, which is when
  someone’s pet has depleted all quality of life.)
- 624 animals where sent to foster care using 114 different foster homes.
  (Most common foster care need was treatment for upper respiratory
  infection.)
At the National Level

The National Federation of Humane Societies (NFHS) is a trade federation dedicated to representing and advocating for the interests of local animal welfare organizations, animal shelters, rescue groups and animal care and control agencies. The members truly believe this federation for the animal welfare community has tremendous potential to improve animal sheltering and make a real difference in the lives of companion animals. Vicki Davis is a member of the NFHS and works on the best practices committee.

From Steve Putnam, CEO of The National Federation of Humane Societies:

What’s the right word?

I searched for one word to sum up the work of TCHS and came to the conclusion that there isn’t ONE word that can possibly cover the amazingly good work done each and every day.

Compassion. The dedicated staff and volunteers strive to provide loving care for every animal that enters the shelter.

Commitment. From the Board and supporters to provide TCHS with the resources necessary to find a loving home for the animals.

Vision. The executive team is active at the state and national level to share ideas and stay current on all the latest trends in humane animal care.

Leadership. Vicki Davis and her team provide the leadership to bring all of these attributes together to form a cohesive effort to place every animal possible in a forever home, to provide compassionate humane care for every animal entering the shelter and the vision to tackle the toughest problems like pet overpopulation at the local level through spay and neuter efforts.

I think I have narrowed my word search to describe TCHS down to two…Effective and Awesome!

The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) is a non-profit individual membership organization of professionals in animal welfare, care and control, dedicated to the growth and prestige of our industry.

SAWA strives to advocate humane ideals through professional advancement of members. Animal welfare leaders network with peers, establish mentor relationships, share best practices, form successful collaborations, and advance the field.

SAWA members benefit from targeted education and professional certification. SAWA Certified Animal Welfare Administrators (CAWA) possess well rounded experience and unique animal welfare knowledge to support agency missions and long term growth. Vicki Davis is currently the only animal welfare administrator in MN to pass this certification. SAWA members collaborate to rescue, shelter, rehabilitate and find good homes for animals.

Karen Zimmer,
Current Board Member

In the 15 years I’ve been involved with the TCHS board of directors, there has been tremendous progress in the shelter operations, financial position, and therefore the services offered to the animals and people of central Minnesota. For example, achieving the goal of spaying/neutering all animals before adoption was only a distant dream, but in 2012 that dream became reality through the dedication and perseverance of the talented TCHS staff, volunteers, and supporters. TCHS stands on a firm foundation and is well poised for offering innovative and much needed services like community spay/neuter clinics, animal welfare education, and quality care for the animals in 2013 and beyond.

Karen Zimmer,
Current Board Member
Volunteer Spotlight

Above and Beyond 2012:
Brooke Strassburg donated so many hours in 2012 that we couldn’t keep up and lost count! She does numerous miscellaneous activities from special event committee work to weekly wish list deliveries and much, much more. Brooke has helped coordinate the Companion Walk, Wine Kibbles & Bids, and Santa Paws. With the help of her employer, Kloster Commercial Resources, she has kept the shelter stocked with a variety of supplies and flyers. She’s always thinking of the animals and how she can help us help them. Her willingness to help has truly been above and beyond!

Adult Volunteer of the Year 2012:
Kathy Huben volunteered 123 hours to the shelter in a variety of ways - from dog walking to grounds maintenance. As a dog walker, Kathy braved rain, sleet and snow to help ensure all the dogs got some fresh air and exercise during her shift. She has also worked tirelessly to maintain our walking trail by mowing on hot summer days or tramping down the path with her snowshoes in the winter. Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed. It’s been greatly appreciated by staff and especially by her furry friends!

Junior Volunteer of the Year 2012:
Olivia MacDonald volunteered 95 hours in 2012 as an animal caregiver and senior center visitor. Olivia always has a smile on her face and is willing to do any task asked of her from laundry and dishes to cage cleaning and customer service. There is no job too demanding for her! As a senior center volunteer, Olivia has brought many smiles to the faces of Talahi Senior Campus residents by bringing our education animals, Hershey and Sir Lops A Lot, in for scheduled visits. She has been a great asset to our organization and we hope she continues in the future!

Our amazing volunteers blessed us with the gift of 33,841 hours of time in 2012. 441 new volunteers were trained, and we provided 166 humane education visits that reached 4877 people. We gave 58 tours of the shelter and brought TCHS to 17 community events.
Vision for the Future

- We want to bring more low cost spay neuter to our community to assist people who would otherwise not be able to afford it.
- Concentrate on lowering euthanasia of treatable and rehabilitatable animals, and offering more enrichment during their shelter stay.
- Your gifts will help the goal achieved in 2012 of 100% animals being spayed or neutered before adoption to carry on in 2013. Help us keep it going and become the norm.
- Bring additional awareness to the community about Tri-County Humane Society and the fine work we do for animals and making TCHS the first stop for people looking for a pet.

For Pets’ Sake Thrift Store

In the summer of 2012, TCHS was approached about taking over a thrift store that was already up and running. It was a package deal – everything in the store would be handed over, if we just took over the lease. After a great deal of research, we accepted the offer.

I know colleagues across the nation who supplement their shelter’s income through a thrift store and it allows them to do remarkable things for the animals. It also provides another avenue for people to help animals - donating new or gently used items and/or volunteering at the store. The other bonus is all the new friends we’re making by having another presence on the west side of town.

If you think about it, there really is a similarity between an animal shelter and a thrift store. We deal with “gently used” pets every day and find new homes for them. Our mailbox is inundated with happy ending stories due to the treasure of a pet they found at our shelter. We’ve just expanded our re-homing efforts in a way that will help the ones we care about so much, the animals.

We look forward to our humane society benefiting greatly from the revenue generated in our new thrift store.

For Pets’ Sake, located by the MN School of Business, 1313 2nd St. S. Waite Park, MN
Phone: (320) 253-5458
www.tricountyhumanesociety.org/thrift-store

That is our pledge to you.