



est. 1974

Celebrating 50 Years

Tri-County Humane Society's

2024

Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

We believe in the human-animal bond and exist to support the animals and people of Central Minnesota by practicing and promoting quality animal care, offering compassionate customer service, and providing humane education.

Incorporated Dec. 11, 1974

Board of Directors

President

Ryan Coye

1st Vice President

Blair Schrader

2nd Vice President

Jody Terhaar

Secretary

Kelly Werner

Treasurer

Lacey Solheid

Members at Large

Emily Bezdicek

Pat Dosch

Cheryl Ley

Bill Nelson

Dawson Quick

Kris Stewart

Meghan Woods Lehrer

Karen Zimmer

Tri-County Humane Society

735 8th St. NE St. Cloud, MN 56304

P. 320.252.0896 F. 320.252.1325

pets@tricityhumanesociety.org

www.tricityhumanesociety.org

TCHS Shelter Hours:

12-6 p.m. Monday through Friday

12-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Closed on holidays

MBAH Kennel License MN140200

Message from The Executive Director

Dear Fellow Friend of Animals,

The year 2024 marked a major milestone for Tri-County Humane Society as we celebrated our 50th year in service to companion animals and people in Central Minnesota.

The pages of this annual report reflect some of the highlights of the year. More importantly, though, we recognize that the accomplishments in 2024 would not have been possible without the long-standing history and reputation that TCHS has built over the last five decades.



Beginning in 1974, TCHS has served the community out of three different shelters on the northeast side of St. Cloud, and as we've expanded our physical space, our programs and services for the animals and our community have also grown. Beginning in 2011, we've made sure all dogs, cats, and rabbits are spayed or neutered prior to adoption; over 3,000 surgeries were performed in our Surgery Suite in 2024 alone (see Page 5). We're also doing more medical treatments and procedures than ever before, such as dentals, heartworm treatment, and amputations. In an effort to reunite lost pets with their people, we've been microchipping every dog and cat adopted from us for decades, and we've started hosting microchip clinics for the public as well (see Page 10). But perhaps our most notable accomplishment began a decade ago: Since 2015, our adoption rate has been in the 90th percentile.

We've come a long way from our humble beginnings in that first shelter, a converted gas station on Lincoln Avenue. But there's one thing that hasn't changed: Our commitment to compassionately serve pets and people in Central Minnesota.

To all who support our work for animals - THANK YOU. We could not do this work without you.

For the animals and the people who love them,

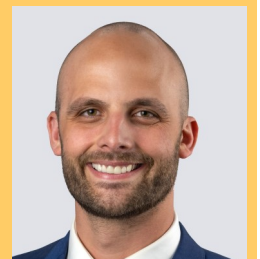
Marit Ortega

Executive Director, ed@tricityhumanesociety.org

Message from The Board President

As I step down from my role as president, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated Tri-County Humane Society team. Over the years, the organization has worked tirelessly to provide a safe haven for animals.

I'm also especially proud of Executive Director Marit Ortega for carrying on our legacy of compassionate leadership during her first full year as director. This was evident during the Crosby cat rescue, when more than 90 cats received urgent help, reflecting TCHS' unwavering commitment to animal welfare. I'm grateful to the staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners for making my tenure so meaningful. Thank you for your dedication to the animals and TCHS. I look forward to supporting our mission in my ongoing role on the board.



Ryan Coye

2024 WAS A YEAR TO

Celebrate.

Tri-County Humane Society marked its 50th year of serving the pets and people of Central Minnesota.

2024 WAS A YEAR TO

Come together.

TCHS did its largest single-day intake, with 94 cats from a Crosby home brought to us by the Minnesota Federated Humane Societies.



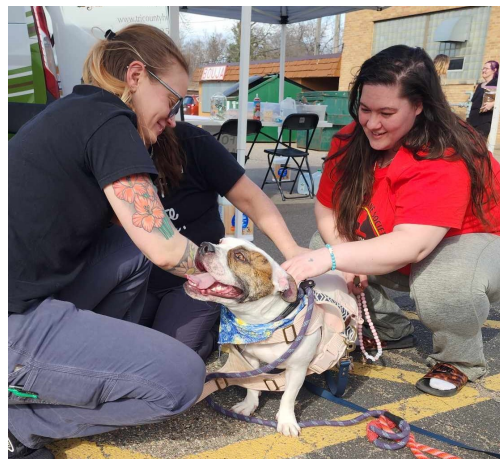
For many of the 94 cats, the only option was humane euthanasia, but we did adopt out 54 of them and returned 2 to their owners. Our community and beyond rallied around TCHS, raising \$70,000 for the Crosby cats. **See Page 8.**

Right: The former Estelle 68, a Crosby cat, on her adoption day.

2024 WAS A YEAR TO

Reach out.

TCHS organized 6 microchip clinics for the public, hosted the Minnesota Animal Welfare Conference, put on classes for kids, and partnered with other rescues. **See Page 10.**



Team Members

Executive Director

Marit Ortega
Vicki Davis (retired Feb. 3, 2024)
ed@tricityhumanesociety.org

HR/Operations Manager

Laura Lund
hreticityhumanesociety.org

Director of Veterinary Services

Rose Hegerle, CVT
animalcare@tricityhumanesociety.org

Customer Service Manager

Kari Boehmer
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Volunteer Coordinator

Olivia Schomer
volunteer@tricityhumanesociety.org

Manager of Fund Development

Emily Prodinsky
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Marketing/Communications Manager

Kate Kompas
marketing@tricityhumanesociety.org

Office Manager

Lisa Pederson
office@tricityhumanesociety.org

Animal Care Supervisors

Kallie Braun
Christina Hegstad, CVT
Sable Jenkins, CVT
Bryn Liffbrig

Animal Care Technicians

Jasmine Golla, CVT
Jennifer Hass
Hannah Smith, CVT

Customer Service Leads

Tori Brownie
Breanna Westby

Animal Caretakers/Customer Service

Adam Lewis
Cassidy Morris
Joy Schoenberg

Part-Time Shelter Staff

Valleri Abear
McKenzie Allen
Marie Andrescik
Kayla Carry
Alicia Chan
Jacqueline Cross
Cali Emon
Olivia Gielen
Rachael Gooding

Katelyn Jabas
Conner Jacobs
Ashley Johnson
Caitlin Kertz
Tina Lamberts
Brandon Packa
Hanna Schmidt
Anna Steman

Animal Statistics

Number of animals taken in: **5,160**

Number of animals placed*: **4,489**

**Placement includes adoptions, reclaims, transfers, and Return to Field cats*



Intakes by Geography

St. Cloud and surrounding areas*:

2,350

Elsewhere in MN:

2,810

Top reasons for rehoming are too many animals and unplanned litters.

**Includes St. Cloud, St. Joseph, Sartell, Waite Park, Sauk Rapids, and Rice.*

A Quick Turnaround!

*The average length of stay for any animal at TCHS last year was only about **8 days**.*



Stray Reclaim Efforts

TCHS is committed to reuniting lost animals with their humans. Last year, our reclaim rate for stray dogs was **45%**, while our cat reclaim rate was **7%**. The national reclaim rate for stray dogs is 16%, while the cat reclaim rate is only 3%, according to data from Shelter Animals Count.



Animal Intakes

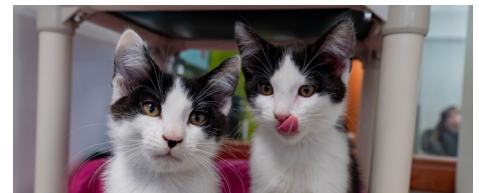
Owner surrenders: **2,913**

Strays/other*: **1,522**

Transfers: **595**

Return to Field cats: **130**

**Other includes animals brought to TCHS for safekeeping and bite quarantines*



Animal Placement

Dogs placed: **877**

Cats placed: **1,596**

Kittens placed: **1,349**

Puppies placed: **368**

Others placed: **299**

TCHS is an open-admission shelter with no time limits on our animals. Animals are humanely euthanized only if there is a medical or behavioral issue that warrants the procedure.

2024 WAS A YEAR TO *Save animals.*

Our animal care and medical teams went above and beyond in 2024, from performing thousands of surgeries to treating the most vulnerable animals.



TCHS team members mark vet Dr. Deanna Quade's (center) 1,000th surgery in June 2024.

Surgery Numbers

Total surgeries: **3,082**

In-house surgeries: **3,016**

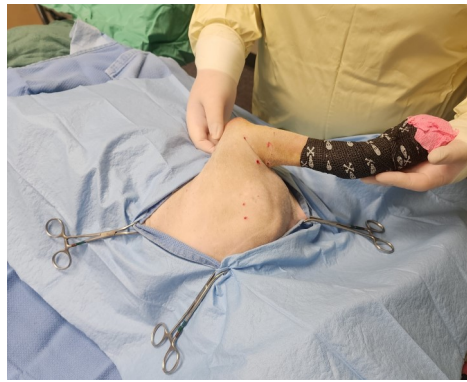
In-house spays: **1,414**

In-house neuters: **1,497**

Other surgical procedures performed in-house last year include hernia repairs (36), dental procedures (16), eye removals (12), and limb or tail amputations (9).

Team TCHS Spotlight

Vorik is an absolute sweetheart who came to TCHS in November 2024. Our intake staff noticed that Vorik was not putting weight on his front right leg, which was covered in scabs and wounds. TCHS' vet Dr. Deanna Quade examined Vorik and determined his leg needed radiographs.

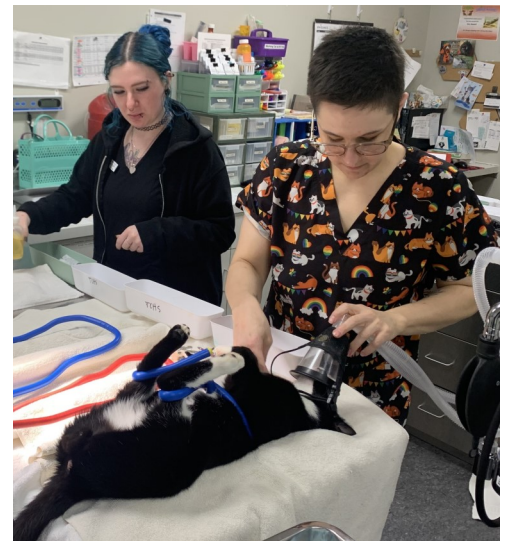


What Dr. Quade concluded: Vorik likely suffered a gunshot wound that caused significant, irreparable damage to his bone in that leg. She recommended amputation, and by the end of that day, the doctor and TCHS surgery technicians successfully completed Vorik's lengthy surgery.

While we don't know the circumstances behind the beginning of Vorik's story, we are happy to report he adjusted well to life with three legs – and got adopted in December 2024!



The Crosby cat intake (see Page 8) required 67 surgeries, including spays, neuters, eye removals, and dental extractions.



Hannah S. (left) and Christina H., certified veterinary technicians, work in the Surgery Suite.

2024 WAS A YEAR TO

Be a team.

TCHS foster homes: **132**



TCHS placed **964** animals in foster homes last year, a 13% increase from 2023.

That was **773** cats/kittens, **143** dogs/puppies, **20** guinea pigs, **18** rabbits, **4** tortoises, **3** hedgehogs, **1** chicken, **1** gecko, and **1** bearded dragon.

Volunteers started TCHS 50 years ago. Today, our volunteers and fosters are still the backbone of our shelter.

Top Foster Homes By Animal Numbers

1. Marie Gertken, 35 animals.
2. Jody and Karl Terhaar, and Nancy Sturtevant, tied at 22 animals.
3. Cynthia Ryg, 20 animals.
4. Kirstin Edralin, Becky and Dan Rossow, and Catherine Verrilli, tied at 19 animals.
5. Lori and Jeremy Carr, 15 animals.

Team TCHS Spotlight

Kratos came to TCHS in late February 2024 as a stray. Even at first glance, it was clear Kratos needed help! He was severely malnourished, dehydrated, and nervous with new people and environments.

Kratos was started on a very strict portioned diet to avoid complications of chronic malnutrition, and he received supportive medical care daily. After his five-day state mandated stray hold was up, a TCHS staff member decided to foster him until he was ready for adoption. He spent 4.5 weeks in their home.

It would be an understatement to say his foster absolutely fell in love with Kratos! He spent those weeks playing with the resident dogs, enjoying every meal *thoroughly*, and learning to trust again.

Once his neuter surgery was completed, he was available for adoption, and he got adopted within two weeks!



Total volunteer hours: **15,764**

Number of volunteers: **550**

The above numbers do not include community service workers, volunteerism for church or school credit, or one-time group volunteer projects.

Volunteers of the Year



Diane Dold
Above and
Beyond
Volunteer



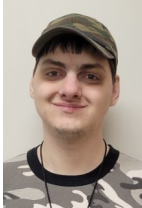
Miranda Gilbert
Adult
Volunteer of the
Year



Jaelyn Olson
Junior
Volunteer of
the Year



Megan
Gonrowski
Dedication
Award



Adam
Justin
Dedication
Award



From left: Volunteers Kateri Fischer, Kathy Ludwig, and Mentor Volunteer Pam Gacke.

**Numbers of hours
volunteers spent in the
shelter:**

7,955



(Left): Volunteer Betty Thell with a friend. (Top): Mentor Volunteer Dog Walker Tracey Worzala.



Volunteers Amy Boser (left) and Barb Revier at the 50th Anniversary Gala.

More Volunteer Impact

Hours spent dog walking: **2,949**

Hours spent assisting surgery: **1,103**

Office work: **460**

Apply at our website to join our volunteer and/or foster teams!



**Number of hours volunteers
spent cleaning/organizing: 877**

2024 WAS A YEAR TO DO SOMETHING

Unprecedented.

In a milestone year - our 50th in business - Tri-County Humane Society took on one of its biggest cases in our history: a 94-cat intake from a Crosby residence. The effort was a true community undertaking, as TCHS staff and volunteers worked together and donations poured in from across the nation.



The historic intake happened April 11, 2024. The Minnesota Federated Humane Societies had reached out to TCHS for help with the case; a large number of cats were living in a home and needed immediate intervention. We initially were told it could be 50 cats. We knew it would be a big undertaking, one that would test TCHS' capabilities and resources. But we also knew these

animals desperately needed help. As Minnesota Federated Humane Societies and Crosby police began removing cats, they discovered there were twice as many as they originally thought.

TCHS' medical and animal care staff worked diligently into the night to process the 94 Crosby cats that arrived. It was clear some of them would be candidates for adoption almost immediately after their five-day stray hold was up, while others would have a long road ahead of them. For many, though, humane euthanasia was the only option.



Kraemer was the first Crosby cat to get adopted!

Amazingly, we discovered during the intake that one of the 94 cats was microchipped, and when we contacted the owner, they told us their cat had been missing for seven years! They drove to TCHS from Crosby and were reunited the same night. We had another happy story soon after: We reunited a cat named Cougar who went missing from his Sartell home in October 2023 with his family. A KARE 11 news crew was at our shelter when Cougar rejoined his family six months to the day after he'd gone missing.

As more and more statewide media picked up the story, more people reached out to TCHS to help. We received many financial donations - when all was said and done, about \$70,000! - as well as cat and kitten food and other supplies.

We remain grateful that we were able to help, and that so many community members rallied around us. We're also thankful so many people opened their homes to a Crosby cat - the first was adopted April 17; the last, in August. We hope they're all thriving.



Scan the QR code to watch KARE 11's Crosby cats story!



Crosby Cat Report

- 2 returned to their owners
- 54 were adopted into loving homes
- 4 died on their own despite our best efforts
- 34 were humanely euthanized due to serious health issues

2024 WAS A YEAR TO

Level up.

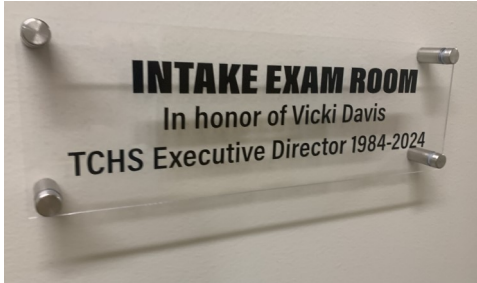
On average, 14 animals arrive at Tri-County Humane Society every day. The shelter's intake room is

important for many reasons - key among them is that it's the animal's first stop on its TCHS journey. Staff

assess, vaccinate, deworm, examine, and start to build a relationship with that animal in the intake room.

TCHS had long wanted to upgrade our intake room to deliver more efficient care. Thanks to donors, we were able to complete our renovation in the summer of 2024. The work included adding a sink, countertop, cabinets, and an office work station so staff can update animal records in real time.

We'd like to give special thanks to Keystone Design Build for its work, and to the following donors who pitched in to make it happen: Anonymous Friends of Animals, Jason Bernick, Julie Aronson Dehnel, and Marian Durrwachter. The animals and the staff are better off for this improvement!



Team TCHS Spotlight

Pucci was a kitten who arrived at TCHS with three cuterebra embedded in her neck. (Cuterebra is the larva stage of the botfly, and they migrate into animals' skin to develop, leaving open and infected wounds.) Our medical team extracted the cuterebra with skill and precision; the procedure has to be done carefully or it can have complications such as an anaphylactic reaction. Pucci recovered nicely, and she was adopted!



2024 WAS A YEAR FOR *Community outreach.*

TCHS made an impact in animal and humane education, in lost animal reunification, and assisting other rescues.



TCHS put on classes geared toward kids that demonstrated so-called “creepy-crawly” animals are nothing to be afraid of and can make great companions!



Tri-County Humane Society organized 6 low-cost microchip clinics for the public, including one at an offsite location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton School (top). We administered 386 microchips through these clinics!



The Minnesota Animal Welfare Conference is an educational and networking opportunity for animal welfare professionals. TCHS again organized and hosted this event June 11 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. Our speakers were Erica Schumacher, DVM, Outreach Veterinarian, Shelter Medicine Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine; Lauren Fries, Shelter Behavior Services Supervisor, Animal Humane Society; Dr. Graham Brayshaw, Director of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Humane Society; Monte “Awan” Fronk, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Tribal Emergency Management; and TCHS’ own Rose Hegerle, CVT, Director of Veterinary Services.



TCHS frequently worked with Minnesota rescue partners, particularly Leech Lake Legacy with 319 transfers.

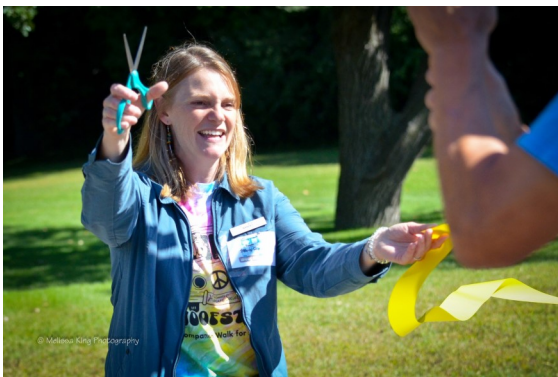
2024 WAS A YEAR FOR
Special events.



Santa Paws featured a colorful holiday backdrop for our portrait fundraiser.



- Fundraising Events**
- 50th Anniversary Gala: \$81,103**
 - Give to the Max: \$44,004**
 - Companion Walk: \$40,028**
 - Santa Paws: \$9,200**
 - Winter Online Silent Auction: \$4,625**
 - Tats for Tails: \$3,911**
 - Tip a Pint for Pets: \$2,750**
 - Flower Fundraiser: \$2,165**
 - TCHS Virtual Birthday Party: \$2,012**
- These amounts reflect net revenue.*



For our Companion Walk, we went with a throwback theme: Woofstock! (Top): Our volunteers lead the walk Sept. 7 at Wilson Park. (Left): Executive Director Marit Ortega cuts the ceremonial ribbon to signal the walk's start.



To mark our milestone year, the 50th Anniversary Gala took the place of Wine, Kibbles & Bids. The celebration took place May 2 at Harvester Square in St. Cloud.



2024 WAS A YEAR TO *Support.*

TCHS depends on our generous community of givers to help us do our work. Without them, the thousands of TCHS success stories every year would not be possible. Thank you to our top monetary donors of 2024.

Aaron Selix
Advanced Care Pet Hospital
AIS Planning
Alan and Michele Haus
Alison Fischer
Allan Vergin
Amber and Sophia Duininck
Anderson Family Foundation
Anderson Trucking Service, Inc.
Andrew Larkin
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Community Foundation
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ASPCA Grants**
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Barb and Rollie Anderson
Barbara Rudquist
Barry and Allison Schmidt
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Veterinary Clinics
Becky Coulter and Sanford Moskowitz
Ben and Joni Lohre
Bernice Berns
Betty and Clifford Johnson
Bev Carlson
Beverly Mallgrave
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Blair Schrader
BluePearl Referral and Emergency
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Bridget King Estate*

Carla Cantrell
Carrie Schymanski
Cary and Renee Swenson Family Fund
Casey Maas
Chad Hallonquist
Chris Shorba Fund of
Central MN Community Foundation
Christine and Shawn Klimpel
Christine Spanier
Christopher Newman and
Michael Romanski
Cindy and Dwayne Dockendorf
Club Almar Sports, Inc.
Coborn's, Inc.
Colette Neron and Bob Ellenbecker
Craig Alan Rausis Exsted
Crew Car Wash
Curt and Enid Lundgren
Dale and Patty Evens
Dan and Fawn Wright
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Dawn Campion
Deanna Lundquist
Debbie Harmon
Diane M. and Charles Driver
Diane Neumeister
Dick and Judy Pike
Dina Pierskalla
Disc N Dogs
Donald Burton
Donna Peterson
Donna Stelzner
Dorein Johnson
Dr. Rachel Schuneman and Dr. Yang Lo
DuckyWorld Products
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Elizabeth and Richard Rauenhorst
Ellen E. Brown
Eugene and Diane Dold
Falcon National Bank

FS3, Inc.
Gate City Bank
Gilleland Chevrolet
Granite Rotary Club of St. Cloud
Helen Trisko
Hillary and Terry Vermillion
Hydrostat, Inc.
Jackie and Dick Lundstrom
Jackie Curtiss
James and Barbara Wilmesmeier
James Hart
Jan and Jim Hovda
Jan Ritsche
Jan Stanley
Jane and Tom Grones
Jane Roberts
Janet Hofmann
Janet Towner
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Jason Farrell
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 Marco
 Margaret Lewis
 Margie Schlangen
 Marilyn and Jane Thielman
 Marilyn Fischer
 Marilyn Skurdahl and Deb McCarl
 Marit Ortega
 Mark and Jeanette Volkmuth
 Mark and Sandy Hanneman
 Mark and Sue Durant
 Mary and Kent Hinkemeyer
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 Mary Davis
 Mary Fields
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 Maymie Ecker
 McDowall Company
 Meghan Woods Lehrer and Matt Lehrer
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 Community Foundation
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 Pantown Brewing Co, Inc.
 Pat and Ron Thompson
 Patricia Fair
 Patricia Fischer
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 Patricia Rosendahl
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 Perry and Terre Severance
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 Raising Cane's
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 Rebecca Benoit
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 Rick and Helga Bauerly Foundation
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 ROCORI Middle School
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 Sexton Family Foundation
 Sharon and Rod Meyer
 Sharon Welke
 Sharon White
 Sheila Nahan
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 Sherie Danner
 Sherm Roser*
 Sherry and Greg Nemecc
 Shirley Fiala
 Skate Free Charlie
 St. Cloud Area Golden Gloves Boxing, Inc.
 St. Cloud Hospital ICU Team
 St. Cloud Morning Optimists Club
 Stephanie Holden
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 Susan Anastasio
 Susan Dege
 Susan Rosenberg and Jeffrey Roos
 Tami Luark and Jim Ergen
 Taylor Montag
 The Kremers Boys
 The Norton Family
 Theophanis Hortis
 Thomas Herkenhoff
 Tiffany Smith
 Tim and Patty Simpson
 Tom and Linda Hynes
 Tom Becker
 Tom and Sue Eickhoff Charitable Fund
 Tom Lynch and Mary Burdick-Lynch
 Tracey and Bill Worzala
 Trisko's Jewelry Sculptures Ltd.
 Troy Freihammer
 Victoria Johnson
 Warren Determan
 Wayne and Juli Schluchter Fund of the
 Central MN Community Foundation
 Wayne Chmelik
 Wendy and Steve Shaler
 Wolters Kluwer Financial Services
 * *Bequests* ***Grants*
*Thank you to everyone who gives to TCHS, whether
 it's monetary or in-kind, including those who wish to
 remain anonymous.*

Kennel Sponsors



Annual gifts from our kennel sponsors help us provide compassionate care, enrichment, and comfortable living spaces for TCHS animals. TCHS places a personalized plaque next to each sponsor's kennel.

Cat Kennels

AIS Planning

Bill & Judy Atkinson (4)

For Mary Flock - in memory of all my loving pets
In memory of Rainey
In memory of Smokey I & II
In memory of Sassy

Barb Corson

In memory of Tuna and Carly Corson

Bauck Family

Becker, Foley, & Mille Lacs Vet Clinics

The DeGraaf Family

In memory of Morris, Joyce & Starbuck

Evan & Carol Jones

Mary Petersen

In memory of Jan Petersen

Jim & Joanne Schultz

JJS Property Management

Julie Aronson Dehnel (2)

In memory of Dr. Luther Dehnel

Marla Johnson, Edie

Ferguson & Lacey Solheid

The Hainline Family

Margie Schlangen (2)

In honor of Giles
In memory of Molly

McDowell Company

John & Cherie McDowell

The Norton Family (4)

In memory of Buddy
In memory of Miss Kitty
In memory of Bob
In memory of Clementine

The Schoenbergs

In honor of Auggie, Scooter, Max, and Axle

Olivia Schomer

In memory of Sam the cat

St. Cloud Hospital Intensive Care Unit Staff "Not just caring for people"

Stephanie Horvath (2)

In honor of cats Lola & Keesha
In memory of Wendy & Kirbee

Susan & Curt Sauer

In memory of "Titus I & II"

Terry & Kirk Atkinson

In memory of Meg & Sylvie

Dog Kennels

Audio Video Extremes

Kip's Kennel
Rich & Jodi Erkens Family

Carla Cantrell

In memory of Lucy & Kaydee

Chris Newman & Michael Romanski

Heart and Sole Farm

Colette Neron & Bob Ellenbecker

In memory of David Neron

The Coye Family

In honor of Alfie

Dale & Patty Evens (2)

In loving memory of Casey Evens.

Dave & Laura Light

In memory of Mackenzie & Belle

David & Joanne Dickson

In memory of Meisha, Margo, Maddie & Maggie

The DeGraaf Family

Sponsored by Larry, Jeannie, Kimberly, and Ryan

Dina Pierskalla

In memory of Carol Harbeck

The Fischer Family

In memory of Dugal

JJS Property Management

Joshua Kardell and Luna

The Kennedy Family

In memory of Dr. Keith Kennedy and Mrs. Vonetta Kennedy

Lynn J. Cairns & John D. Olsen

The Lyons Family

Mary & Kent Hinkemeyer
In memory of Genni, Annie, & Mandy, beloved pets

Midwest Compliance, Inc.

Sauk Rapids, MN

NC's Doghouse, Inc.

The Norton Family

In memory of Dove

Perian Stavrum

In honor of Keeleigh, Tucker, & Arnie

St. Cloud Golden

Gloves Boxing

In memory of Butchie

St. Cloud Hospital Intensive Care Unit Staff "Not just caring for people"

The Strommen Family

Sue Wahl Storbeck

In honor of Lee Storbeck, lover of people and puppies

Suzanne Ross

In memory of Doris E. Ross

Cat Colony Sponsors

Bill & Judy Atkinson

Zippy's Room



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Constant Companions are supporters who donate monthly to TCHS, creating a reliable source of revenue for the animals.

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TCHS Financials

Revenue

Programs	\$1,003,888
Donations/Fundraising	\$941,368
Bequests	\$101,691
Grants	\$11,000
MN Animal Welfare Conference	\$12,937

TOTAL \$2,070,884

Expenses

Programs/Operations	\$1,890,474
Fundraising	\$24,897
Education/Training	\$11,552
MN Animal Welfare Conference	\$6,061

TOTAL \$1,932,984



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



est. 1974

TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



THANK YOU
FOR CELEBRATING
WITH US!

