

Vicki Davis, Thank You for (Almost) 40 Years of Service!

Tri-County Humane Society has changed a lot over the years. One constant: Executive Director Vicki Davis, who started her career with TCHS in December 1984.

When Vicki started, she was the only full-time employee; she managed four part-time staff members and about 50 volunteers.

(She also cleaned cages, did adoptions, did intakes, ordered supplies, did the medical work, wrote thank you notes—she did whatever needed to be done.)

Flash forward (almost) 40 years, and TCHS has about 30 employees, half of which are full-time, 200 volunteers every month in the shelter, and we adopt out about 300 to 400 animals every month.

We've come far, and Vicki has been a major part of that journey.

We can't thank her enough for everything she has done for animals, for people, and for Central Minnesota.

"If you had to single out the one biggest change in animal welfare you've seen over your career, does one come to mind?"

"The animal welfare community/ organizations have become much more professional and are managed like a business. The other big change— the placement rate has improved significantly. That's the one big goal I was committed to: Stop having to euthanize healthy animals. When I started, the rule was I had to euthanize half of every black Lab mix litter, animals over 7 years old, and anything with medical issues, whether serious or not. I either had to quit or change it. I couldn't be more proud of where we are today."

"What's the first thing you're going to do in retirement?"

"A lot of nothing. And while I'm getting good at that, I expect to smile when I realize I don't have emails piling up."



BOTTOM: Vicki and Abbi. **LEFT:** Vicki in her office in the former shelter.



TOP LEFT PHOTO: Vicki delivers her address at a Wine, Kibbles & Bids celebration. **TOP RIGHT:** Board Member Cheryl Ley and Vicki talk at the groundbreaking for the current shelter in 2019.



Vicki (far left) with the TCHS staff in the late 1980s, in the then-new shelter. She said that building seemed like "the Taj Mahal. A building meant to be an animal shelter." Moving into our current shelter, which opened in September 2020, was surreal, she said. "The surgical suite in the center of the building puts it over the top. That wasn't even a dream in the '80s."



Vicki and TCHS mascot Badoo; he was TCHS' first canine mascot.