Bangor Humane Society 2018-2019
Annual Report





Celebrating 150 Years Of Serving The Greater Bangor Community



The former Bangor Humane Society located on Mt. Hope Avenue before the 1996 capital campaign.

Celebrating 150 Years...

Leadership Staff

Executive Director: Suzan Prendergast **Operations Manager: Christopher Young Director of Development** & Public Relations: Stacey Coventry **Bookkeeper & Office Manager:** Sheila Knapp **Volunteer & Community Outreach Director:** Katelyn Stoddard **Animal Care Coordinator:** Sam Carruth **Licensed Veterinary Technician:** Allen Batchelder **Foster Care Coordinator:** Caitlyn VanAvery

Produced By: Stacey R. Coventry Designed By: Edner Mae Fago Cover Photography By: Stray Duck Foto Printed By: Creative Printing Services ounded in 1869, the Bangor Humane Society was created during a time when Bangor was a thriving logging community. While that culture boosted the local economy at the time, it also resulted in the increased abandonment of children and animals left behind by a transient population.

A group of concerned citizens gathered to create a society to help care for and prevent cruelty to children and animals, making Bangor one of the first in both the State of Maine and in the nation to take an active interest in addressing the welfare of its community's homeless pets and orphaned children.

Eventually, in 1916, the mission of the Bangor Humane Society would be divided to solely focus on homeless domestic animals as other organizations had been formed to focus on child welfare. In 1928, BHS placed 34 homeless pets into new homes.

In our earliest days, BHS operated without a formal brick and mortar facility, operating solely out of a society member's household. In 1933, the purchase of a building on Howard Street became one of the first animal shelters in the state. During the 1960s, BHS moved into a small brick building on Mt. Hope Avenue serving communities that spanned from Caribou to Biddeford. In 1963, BHS placed 1,152 animals into new homes.

After a \$2.5 million capital campaign, in 1996 the facility that is now known as the Bangor Humane Society was built and merged with the city of Bangor to expand agency services to include the stray and abandoned animals previously managed by local municipalities. Twenty years ago our annual budget was \$500,000, our annual intake peaked around 10,000 animals, and our live release rate fluctuated between 50-60% annually.

Today, BHS serves over 200 communities in the Greater Bangor area, remains

the largest animal shelter in northeastern Maine, and cares for nearly 3,000 animals annually. The decline in our annual intake can be attributed to diligent spay/neuter efforts statewide and both a local and national animal welfare movement that encourages pet adoption from local animal shelters. That decline has afforded us the ability to redirect resources to the most vulnerable and to the most in need.

Earlier this year, the old brick building that remained on the property as a reminder of how far we have come was demolished in order to make room for an upcoming facility expansion and renovation.

Over this last year, we not only launched our \$1.75 million Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life campaign to support these capital changes, but we re-designed our website to give us a more modern look, expand our reach, and serve as a relevant resource for our community; we purchased a brand new transport van customized for animal relocation made possible by a grant from the ASPCA; and we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Paws on Parade. In 1994, the first Paws on Parade raised \$9,000 in revenue; the 25th Paws on Parade in 2018 grossed over \$90,000 to directly support our mission.

As we reflect on our incredible history and celebrate our 150th anniversary serving our community, this year's annual report is dedicated to you. Whether you have been supporting our work for decades or you are a new member to our growing family of adopters, volunteers, donors or partners, your story is our story. Thank you for being a part of our community and our life-saving work. It is with privilege we celebrate our amazing journey through each remarkable adoption story featured in this year's report.

Every match made is a life saved.

Letter from the **Executive Director**

"I knew the moment I locked eyes with that puppy in our back hallway that he was meant to be mine (or I was meant to be his). And, I knew his name was not Gator, it was Bear."

Eleven years ago when I began as the new Executive Director for BHS, I was focused on staff development, building a sustainable revenue strategy, and creating a clear vision to chart our course for the future.

I made it two months before I walked through the halls and locked eyes with one of our residents. The day I met eyes with a four month old puppy named Gator, not only changed my life personally, it also inspired the start of new policies, procedures and programs that are the foundation of our mission today.

Gator was covered in demodex mange, which caused extreme hair loss, scaly skin and a severe infection all over his body. He demonstrated aggression toward food and other animals. Both his temperament and his health made his adaptability highly questionable.

I knew the moment I locked eyes with that puppy in our back hallway that he was meant to be mine (or I was meant to be his). And, I knew his name was not Gator, it was Bear.

In that moment, I also knew that it was time for a change.

Soon after, I adopted Bear and took him home. Adopting a dog with health and behavioral issues certainly came with its challenges at first, but it has also come with the huge reward of a lifelong companion who has transformed into a loving protector and best friend void of all issues he had in the beginning. At age 11, Bear, or Bubby to us, loves his canine sisters, sunbathing by the lake and taking car rides with my son and I.

Bear's biggest legacy will be the shift he inspired in me and the leadership team at BHS. Bear helped transform our thinking away from "if" we can save this animal to "how" are we going to save this animal? If it was possible for Bear, why couldn't it be possible for all the animals that came to us?

For the last decade we have made a commitment to direct more resources to rehabilitating the medical and behavioral needs of the animals in our care. We started taking more risks in order to grant more second chances. And, we have stopped judging a book by its cover; both animal and human alike.

Today, how we do business has changed. Our current policies, procedures and programs mirror that change. All that is left is for the building to support those changes as well. Until now, we have successfully worked around the challenges the building creates for us and in doing so we have achieved a 95% live release rate! So just imagine what we can do if the building worked for us instead of against us.

So, I invite you and everyone in our community to come in and see what we do and how we do it. Our staff and I would love to give you a tour so you can see how far have we come, how amazing our life-saving work truly is and how we can envision our future-- together.

With gratitude,

Suzan Prendergast & Bear





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Letter from the President

I start my time as President of the Board of Directors for the Bangor Humane Society at a very exciting point in its history. We are about to begin the renovation and expansion of the current building, which we view as a true turning point. We are moving from a position of simply housing and adopting out rescued and surrendered animals, to building collaborative partnerships beyond the borders of our local community in order to save more lives.

Over the years, Bangor Humane Society has developed strong working relationships within the cities and towns we serve for the betterment of the animals in our communities. These partnerships have made it possible for us to achieve the level of success we have. As we move forward, our future success will only be possible by strengthening the bonds we have forged over the last two decades, while continuing to create new ones. We are all truly in this together.

The current mission of the Bangor Humane Society is focused on providing the best possible outcome for all animals brought to us. Over the past 10 years we have seen our live release rate climb to an incredible 95% last year. This means that 95% of all animals that were entrusted to us were matched with a new family and given a new and better life.

I look back on what has been accomplished with true amazement, and I look forward to our future successes with renewed excitement. None of this would have been achieved without the help and cooperation of the communities BHS serves, the dedicated staff and volunteers, all of our donors and every single person who comes in to adopt a pet.

Mahatma Gandhi once said that "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." If that is the case then we the Bangor Humane Society, along with all of our working partners, are truly part of a great nation.

I thank you all for your help and dedication to the Bangor Humane Society. Your support is very much appreciated. We could not do it without you.

Regards,

Buddy Angst

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"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

- Mahatma Gandhi



The Family We Choose for Ourselves

TIM GRIFFIN AND SUSAN LAZOR WITH IZZY, THOR AND KATIE

rowing up and now residing in the Greater Bangor area, Tim Griffin has witnessed the Bangor Humane Society change and evolve since the late 1980's when he adopted his first dog. A college student at the time, he recalls "having no business" adopting a dog and so he eventually placed it in a home better suited for the commitment. But back then, caring for nearly 10,000 homeless animals every year, sending one into any home over euthanasia was a risk the BHS staff and volunteers were willing to take. A decade later, when Tim was in a better situation to offer a lifelong commitment to a companion pet, he returned to the BHS. Reflecting the animal welfare world at the time, BHS had taken on stricter policies, often creating barriers to adoption. Tim had an unwavering loyalty to the heart of the BHS mission and had a persistent compassion that it was all with the best intention of the animals in the care of BHS. He has embraced BHS, our mission and our pets every step of the way. Eventually his patience paid off and BHS policies balanced caution with openness, matching Tim with a bonded pair of collies, an experience he describes as "love at first sight."

So began his love affair with pet adoption. Over the years, Tim would go on to adopt from various rescue groups and in 2010 became a BHS volunteer where he walked shelter dogs twice a week. By this time he had met his partner Susan Lazor, who shared Tim's passion for pet adoption. When they met, they blended their rescue fur family with Tim's dogs and Susan's rescues, a greyhound and a cat.

Susan believes, "there are so many pets that need homes. People get a puppy, it becomes too much and suddenly they become disposable. I believe when you adopt a pet it is a lifetime commitment. I also think that adoption fulfills a need and an intrinsic desire to help the community."

For more than a decade, Susan and Tim have gone on, together, to help their community through pet adoption. Susan and Tim have often returned to BHS to add to their family. In 2010, Tim and Susan adopted their first BHS rescue dog together, a sweet Rottie named Katie, still thriving with them today. Then came Takeo, a loving mouser to balance the pack and befriend Susan's cat, Ike. Eventually, Fernando an energetic feline antagonist would join their family. Most recently followed by, Izzy, a puppy from one of our Southern transport partners.

One of their rescues in between had a special full circle connection for Tim. In 2012, Tim reached out to BHS in search for a shepherd. That call led him to a beautiful young German Shepherd residing at BHS at the time. Tim resonated with the dog's surrender story; his original owner had been a young college-age young man who had quickly become overwhelmed with the proper care and training of the dog. Tim and Susan connected immediately to him. They adopted him and named him Thor, dog of Thunder. Seven years later, Thor, a lover of footballs and a true ladies' man, has become Tim's co-pilot in car rides and in life, exuding a charismatic, Godly presence that built himself quite a fan club from Maine to Canada. Earlier this summer, Tim and Susan had to say goodbye to Thor when he lost his battle with aggressive cancer. The emptiness he's left behind in their home and their hearts is as big as the presence that radiated from him every day on this earth.

Approaching that loss, Tim posed the philosophical question, "so why do we keep adopting? The losses are so hard and it hurts so bad. Why do we keep doing it? It defies all logic." When the question was returned to him, he answered with a simple and profound one word answer, "Love."

His explanation is something only those who have been touched by the unconditional companionship of a pet can understand. "The love you get back is worth all the suffering," says Tim. "My advice, don't hesitate to adopt. Do your homework. Be honest about what your lifestyle has to offer and listen to the adoption counselor staff at BHS to find your right match."

As a member of the community and extended BHS family who has witnessed decades of transition and change for BHS, both in internal culture and in physical brick and mortar, Tim looks optimistically towards the future. He hopes that in the next 150 years there will be no need for animal shelters because we, as humans, will provide our companion animals with the loving homes and the lifelong commitment they each deserve. Until then he says, "keep choosing adoption, because they give us so much more than we can ever give them."

Granting Second Chances

Over the last twenty years, foundational support as amounted to over \$2.5 million.

In FY19, **245 animals** were transported to our shelter and adopted.

oundational grant awards over the decades have supported our life-saving work. They have not only been essential in sustaining our day-today operations year to year, but they have also had a significant direct impact on helping us expand our capacity, create and implement innovative programming and fund essential capital projects and equipment.

Last year, the ASPCA awarded BHS a grant to fund a brand new customized animal transport van for our animal relocation program. In 2018, expanding our out-of-state transport program became a strategic priority; not only as our moral obligation to save as many lives as we humanely can within the animal welfare sector, but also to ensure the sustainability of our agency's mission for the long term.

According to Lou Guyton, Senior Director to the ASPCA's Animal Relocation Program, in providing financial support, the ASPCA looks to their shelter partners to demonstrate a commitment to driving forward the animal welfare movement, being open to the best solutions, and caring deeply about results that positively impact at-risk animals.

"In order to make the biggest impact on saving animals' lives, the ASPCA believes it's important to support shelters across the country through grants and training. By working together toward a common goal, we aim to improve the outcomes for animals in need across the nation," says Guyton. "BHS is uniquely

positioned in Maine because of the vast numbers of communities they serve. Providing safe and loving homes for companion animals continues to be at the core of their work, while evolving to support and impact their community with additional services to help keep people and pets together."

When Angels & **Superheroes Have Paws**

Highly adoptable dogs and puppies are in high demand in Maine. Their adoption fees help fund the direct care of the more vulnerable animals in our care requiring more resources, like neglected and abandoned strays. Additionally, as our intake numbers decrease, our empty shelter kennels demonstrate a life that can be saved from another area of the country.

Nothing depicts this more beautifully and concretely than through the Orndorff Family's adoption story. In 2015, when they lost their Chocolate Lab unexpectedly, the house simply didn't feel the same without a dog. After several weeks of grieving, Sommer Orndorff came across Marvel on the BHS website. Marvel was a stray that arrived at BHS malnourished and in poor condition. He was named for the mask he wore and his superhero strength that helped him survive abandonment during the depths of a cold, snowy Maine winter. He was a senior dog when the Orndorff family adopted him, so they understood their time with him may be brief but they were committed to giv-





ing him the best life possible with whatever time he had left as a way to honor their sweet old girl who passed away too soon.

Two years ago, the Orndorff family decided to add another BHS resident to their pack. This time, Sommer stood in line on a blustery winter's day for a chance to adopt a puppy from one of the first groups transported from Georgia through our program. Sommer met the last female pup, an excited runt of the litter, whom she brought home and named Maggie. Marvel has spent the last two years helping his humans raise Maggie. "Marvel found his forever home and refused to let it go for four wonderful years ,until he passed away this summer at an estimated age of 20!" says Sommer fondly.

For dogs, like Maggie, in Southern shelters, euthanasia is a daily reality especially for stray dogs who end up in overcrowded facilities. So, in November 2018, when shelter staff in Georgia asked us if we had room for one more pup slated for euthanasia, we said yes. We had no idea, until

"They give us so much. We need them as much as they need us. Our home would be so empty without them and there is so much more joy in our lives with them in it."

she arrived, that this sweet two-year-old girl named Halo, who loved to give gentle hugs, was also pregnant. What should have been a short stay for Halo, turned into a three month residency. Halo's puppies were quickly adopted, as puppies in a shelter often are, but it took Halo a little longer as she recovered postpartum. At the time, Samantha Anderson had finally convinced her husband, Dustin, a self-proclaimed cat guy, to adopt a dog. Their search required a sweet, gentle-tempered, laid back dog who could get along with cats, dog friends and children. Their search ended when they met Halo and adopted her after taking her on a Dog's Day Out adventure. They visited with her regularly at the shelter for a month until she was cleared medically to go home.

Six months later, Halo's - now Sadie's - life in Maine is filled with long naps on the couch after doggie daycare play dates and walks with her humans. In addition to



Marvel and Maggie



Dustin, Samantha & Sadie (Halo)

Samantha and Dustin, her pack consists of two BHS feline alumni and in January 2020 will grow to include a little human as well.

Samantha cannot imagine life without Sadie and their two BHS rescue cats. "They give us so much. We need them as much as they need us. Our home would be so empty without them and there is so much more joy in our lives with them in it." It is a life and bond, one of many, now made possible through the second chance and new beginning granted through our transport program and generous foundation partners."

In the last 20 years, our largest foundational supporters have been:

Whitley Foundation
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
Laura J. Niles Foundation
Petco and Petsmart Foundations
Lyman Pope Foundation
Martha Morse Foundation
BJ's Charitable Foundation
Michele & Agnese Cesto Foundation
Belvedere Fund
ASPCA

Cinderella allows her human Shellie into her space to put her harness on so she can train with her pack of sled dogs.

Humane Rescue Operation: Working with State of Maine Animal Welfare

"The impact is significant.
We can only continue with our role to educate, instruct and enforce the animal welfare laws knowing there are options for placement of animals that come into our possession with partners like BHS."

Doug Radziewicz, District Humane Agent for State of Maine Animal Welfare Program



ver the years, we have partnered with various shelters and rescue groups across the state, and now country, to save as many animal lives as we humanely can. Additionally, we have worked closely with the State of Maine Animal Welfare Department to not only advocate in the legislature to help strengthen and pass laws that protect our community's animals, but to also rescue hundreds of them from some of the worst cases of neglect and abuse each year. Often these cases are challenged by extended court battles and long roads of physical and behavioral rehabilitation for the animal victims. These rescue stories are often some of the most emotionally charged, but they are also some of the rewarding.

A Cinderella Story

Shellie O'Brien recalls that they didn't find Cinderella, Cinderella found them. Cinderella was one of 40 severely abused and neglected huskies that were seized from a private Maine residence by the State Animal Welfare Department in June 2012. BHS served as a triage location for the state and chose four of the huskies to try to rehabilitate and rehome. Through a partnership with Muddy Paw Sled Dog Rescue, that took two of the huskies, we placed Cinderella with the O'Brien family in British Columbia, Canada. The O'Brien's personal mission is to rescue neglect-

ed and abused huskies and rehab them through their sled dog family on their 125 acre property. In 2013, Cinderella became the first dog we transported through air flight for a chance at a new international beginning.

Initially the O'Brien's planned to foster and rehabilitate her in order to find her a forever home. However, that plan quickly changed when Cinderella (whom Shellie now affectionately calls Cindy or Cinderelly) stole Shellie's heart within days of her arrival. Shellie couldn't imagine sending her to yet another home or placement, so Cinderella was there to stay, becoming the 18th member of the O'Brien's sled dog family.

"To experience their recoveries as they learn love is incredible. The bond created with these wonderful rescue dogs, that have literally survived hell, is very special to say the least," says Shellie. "Our rescues love more and love differently than our other companion dogs – it's like they know what 'bad' is and experience their lives in a different way than those brought up surrounded by love."

At first, Cinderella's sled dog training began with mentorship from KitKat, another O'Brien rescue with whom Cinderella had bonded strongly. Since 2014, Cinderella has grown to happily allow her humans into her vulnerable space (the only time she does so) to connect her to her sled dog harness. According to

Shellie, Cinderella isn't the hardest puller or the fastest runner, in fact, she sometimes doesn't pull at all, she is simply just there to run with her teammates.

"Normally this isn't a good sled dog quality, but for her it's special," says Shellie. "The other dogs pull because they love to pull. I was worried she was pulling to run away from what is behind her, so when I see her tug-line go loose, I smile. She's not running from anything she's just running for the fun of it!"

Shellie loves to reminisce on what she considers a pivotal moment in Cinderella's recovery, the day Cinderella escaped. "We were hooking up a team and she was sitting patiently waiting to go. A friend of mine was visiting and accidentally startled Cinderella. She was out of her collar like hudini before I could get to her and she bolted. Not knowing what to do. I just hopped on the quad and followed her. That's when I realized she was actually running the trail. I stayed behind her until a moment came when I realized she had begun to follow my lead! I drove to our house and she followed me. As soon as she saw the front door open, she ran inside! When she ran into our house I remember thinking, 'oh my goodness, she loves us!""

Cinderella has never joined the family on sled dog events, and most likely never will, because the O'Brien's believe it would cause too much stress and trigger old traumas. They also believe that Cinderella has found her purpose and love in running and training with her sled dog family. Additionally, Cinderella has also found her voice as the loudest dog in their pack. She "a-boo-woos" affectionately to let her humans know she loves them, even if she prefers to do so from a distance. She also has a doggie door that allows her access of her own free will, into the family's main house or to their doggie barn.

"At first I was sad she would never be happy sleeping in our bed or cuddling on the couch. It was heartbreaking to know she will never experience this in a positive way," says Shellie. "Then I remember where she started and I can see how happy she truly is with her humans at a distance. It's not about what I think should maker her happy, it's about what makes her happy, so we do our best to meet her where she is at and to let her live 'her' best version of life." ■

Resuscitating Hope:

Collaborating with the Veterinary Community

econd to salaries, veterinary care continues to be our biggest expense. Most of the animals that arrive at our shelter doors are victims of abuse and/or neglect. At BHS we are committed to investing in every animal, regardless of need, in order to give them a second chance and a good quality of life. Every day we provide life-changing veterinary and rehabilitative care to every animal in need that comes through our doors. Each year these expenses include vaccinations, physical and ongoing wellness exams, diagnostic testing, specialized surgeries, emergency care, rehabilitation, life-long disease care and management, and spay/neuter to ready them for adoption. These critical life-saving and life-changing expenses impact

our budget over \$200,000 annually.

Our staff spends more time than ever before delivering compassionate supportive care to the animals at BHS that are the most in need. Often these residents require longer lengths of stay with us until their bodies and hearts are healed enough to go into a new home. For many of our staff, their experience within the field of shelter medicine has not only provided their individual veterinary careers with foundational roots, but has become intertwined in their personal lives as well. It comes to no surprise for those employees who invest countless hours nurturing and rehabilitating these guests back to health, giving them the ultimate second chance, that every now and again, they fall in love and create a bond for life.

Last year we spent \$63,604.11 on outside specialized vet care alone thanks to our local partnerships with:

Broadway Veterinary Clinic Veazie Veterinary Clinic Penobscot Veterinary Clinic Kindred Spirits Veterinary Clinic River Road Veterinary Hospital

Be Happy, G

When Ginger, a twelve-year-old shepherd mix, arrived at the Bangor Humane Society in 2013 through an Animal Welfare seizure, she was in rough shape. Staff could count every rib in her body, she had large dangling masses, her eyes were hazy and her spirit defeated.

When BHS staff person Aron Nichols first met Ginger, he cared for her in the same manner as he would the dozens of guests that rotated through the shelter in need of compassion and care. From time to time, Aron would sit in Ginger's kennel at the end of the night while she ate her third meal of the day. As she gained weight and her strength grew, so did their bond. During one of Ginger's exams, she was diagnosed with cancer and given one to six months to live. At the time, BHS did not have an adoption or foster program

for hospice patients, but Aron recalls that in the same moment of her diagnosis, he decided to adopt her, marking the start of our hospice adoption program.

"I didn't feel like it was fair for this dog, that walked in our door having completely given up on life, purely in survival mode, and was now regaining strength, weight and a personality, not be allowed that time- even a short time- simply because she had a terminal illness."

Looking back, as a twenty year old college student who already had one dog, Aron feels fortunate to have had a support system that afforded him the opportunity to adopt Ginger. Aron and Ginger overcame the initial challenges of transitioning home but eventually found a routine that worked for both of them.

"She never went far from you, didn't bark much, always greeted you happily, and loved her walks. It was like I had known her for her whole life, and she had known me for her whole life as well," recalls Aron fondly. "I didn't know immediately that I loved her. I think that was because I was protecting myself from losing her."

From a young age, Aron knew that he wanted to pursue veterinary medicine as a way to combine his love for animals with meaningful work. Aron holds a deep appreciation for all he learned while working at BHS as he now enters his senior year of veterinary school.

"BHS taught me a lot about the human-animal bond," reflects Aron. "My time there showed me that there's just no shortage of impressive people who step up, adopt, foster, and even, at times, surrender when they knew they weren't a great fit for their pets anymore. I watched people be generous with themselves, their time, their money, and their hearts."

Aron and Ginger had nine months together before she lost her battle to cancer. Aron now looks back on their journey as one of the most transformative relationships in his life to date; one he honors through a customized license plate that reads (Be Happy Ginger).

"During our time together, Ginger taught me more about resiliency, forgiveness and the value of our present experience than any prior relationship," says Aron. "She showed me the power of our everyday interactions and how extraordinary we become by doing what comes from a genuine place. In a lot of ways she gave me the compass I still use today. She offered the ability for me to see myself. Albeit, I'm imperfect, but perfection really isn't required. I just had to show up as myself and be there."

Poppy's Special Preamble

A love and compassion for animals has been deeply rooted in Erica Neal's family since childhood. Growing up, pets were always a cornerstone with her family's composition. So, it was no surprise to those that knew her best, that she would go on to seek a career in veterinary science. While pursuing a degree as a veterinary technician, Erica looked for a job that would connect her to animals and be flexible with her studies. In 2006 she was hired at BHS as an adoption counselor and eventually became the agency's veterinary technician.

During her employment at BHS, she



ARON AND GINGER

witnessed thousands of animals find refuge and the second, third, fourth (or sometimes more) chance they deserved. Over the years, her very own family has grown to include a multitude of fourlegged members, most rescued from local shelters, but one of her adoptees in particular holds a very special place for Erica.

In October 2009, a small Jack Russell Terrier mix arrived at BHS as a very pregnant stray. When no one came to claim her, Poppy entered foster care for over a month until she had her puppies. One of the puppies was born with a skull deformity and received life-saving care from a local veterinarian and would eventually be adopted by Erica's parents.

During her stay and natal care, Erica had developed quite a bond with Poppy. Knowing her situation at the time was not ideal for adopting Poppy, Erica believed that it was in Poppy's best interest

"Poppy has been the one constant in my life; through moves, new jobs, and really, hard times. Even though we've really only been together for 6 years, it feels like she's always been with our family..."

to go up for adoption and be placed with another family. Three years later, Poppy returned to BHS once again as a stray. By this time, Erica had changed jobs, now working at a private vet clinic, when she learned of Poppy's return, again remaining unclaimed. Erica was reunited with Poppy and adopted her. Once home she discovered a malignant tumor on Poppy's leg.

For months at a time Poppy underwent different types of chemotherapy, until finally entering remission. Late 2015, after being sick on and off for a year herself, Erica was diagnosed with lymphoma and also endured rounds of chemotherapy. They were by each other's side together through it all.

"Poppy has been the one constant in my life; through moves, new jobs, and really hard times. Even though we've really only been together for 6 years, it feels like she's always been with our family," states Erica. "She has taught me to enjoy the



ERICA AND POPPY

little things, rolling in the dirt and on the carpet on your back, making snow angels, early morning sprints around the house waiting to go outside, sitting in the window in the sun and watching the world go by. These are her favorite things. She loves everybody and everybody loves her. She's an exception in so many ways and she is perfect."

Today Erica and Poppy both remain in remission, though at 15 now, Poppy's

health is declining, a fact that is understandingly difficult for Erica to confront. Even though it has become the least of her health problems, Poppy's tumor still exists; only now as a silent reminder of what she and her human have survived together.

A Gift that Keeps Giving

I and Esther Bushway have supported the Bangor Humane Society with their charitable giving for nearly three decades. Back in the '80s, before BHS spayed/neutered animals before adoption, one of their friends unknowingly adopted a pregnant cat from BHS. The Bushways decided to welcome one of the kittens into their home and they named him Roger.

Over the years homeless cats in need would often find their way to the Bushway residence in Veazie. Al and Esther would take them in, feed them and bring them to their veterinarian for an exam. The Bushways would fund any medical care deemed necessary and, once healthy, would adopt them permanently into their household or work with their veterinary clinic to find each cat the new home he or she deserved.

Al and Esther believe helping the abandoned strays in their neighborhood is not only the right thing to do, but it is a way they can help alleviate the burden on their local animal shelter.



ESTHER & AL BUSHWAYS WITH THEIR CAT ZOE

Not only do they believe in doing whatever they can to help whatever critter arrives at their doorstep in need, but they have also been motivated to support the BHS mission monetarily since the mid 1990s not only annually but through both the 1996 and current capital campaigns

for the facility as well.

"By helping BHS they can help so many more animals in need," says Esther, who credits Roger, the first cat she and Al adopted together, as the one who first inspired their annual giving.

As part of our annual Golden Paw Societ for leadership giving, and Kennel Sponsorship program, they help provide animals in need with a warm place to stay, food, medical care and all the love they need and deserve while they reside at BHS. Their kennel has displayed the names of their beloved Roger, Rascal, BK, Oscar, Zoe, Jasper I and II; honoring each of their feline legacies, while also demonstrating the deep empathy and commitment the Bushways have to the homeless pets in their community.

BHS is grateful for our entire donor family, that not only includes new supporters year after year, but also is built on a foundation of loyal community members like the Bushways who commit to putting BHS's mission at the center of their annual charitable giving plan.

To learn about all the ways our incredible community supports our work, visit www.bangorhumane.org. ■

Our 2018-2019 Golden Paw Society

Individuals who gave an annual gift of \$1,000 & more

Joni Decato
Amy Faircloth in memory of Dean Lewis
Cathy Anderson
Mary Jane Low
Annerie Mailepors
Mary Voisine
Alfred and Esther Bushway
James Cohen
John, Mary, Rizzo and Riley Cole
Jane and Scott Folsom
Jude and Ward Gagner

Harold and Joyce Gordon
Stanley and Marie MacMillan
Emily and Judson McIntosh
Beverly Michaud
Lani K. Naihe
Kara and Jeff O'Sullivan
Patricia Shaw
Jason and Angela Williams
Mary and David Scott Warner

Businesses who gave an annual gift of \$1,000 & more

Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, C.P.A.
Batteries Plus and Bulbs
Cross Insurance
Darling's
Downeast Toyota
Dysart's Restaurant
Green Acres Kennel Shop
Katahdin Trust

Maine Paper and Janitorial Products

Mason's Brewing Company, LLC MEMIC Quality Jewelers Quirk Subaru of Bangor Subaru of New England Rideout's Market Penobscot Veterinary Hospital Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Grantors that awarded us \$1,000 & more

The Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation
Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Laura J Niles Foundation
Petsmart Foundation
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
ASPCA
The Hannah Chadwick Charitable Fund
Edward Mayo Bayard Trust
Carl E. Danforth Trust
Joan C. Pederson Fund
Nancy O. Egery Fund

Financial Operations Report

Fiscal Year May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

The programs and services offered by the Bangor Humane Society are funded primarily through private donors and foundations. We depend on your support and generosity to help us continue saving lives. All contributions, large and small, truly make a difference in the lives of our shelter animals.

Total Income	\$2,729,908
Unrestricted contributions (includes grants and kennel sponsorships)	\$1,953,030
Restricted contributions (includes grants)	\$125,029
Paws on Parade:	\$91,377
In-kind donations	\$499
Net income for investments	\$81,156
Total Expenses	\$1,353,440
Programs	\$1,052,506
Fundraising	\$109,770
Administration	\$93,819
Capital Investments	\$97,345

Income vs. Expenses	Volunteer Service Value (\$25.43 per volunteer hour based on a state of Maine independent sector report)	\$102,406.61
2018 vs. 2019	Active Volunteers 4.027 hours recorded	140
2018 Income: \$1,270,231 2018 Expenses: \$1,236,740	Active Foster Families 300 animals given a second chance through foster care	25
2018 Expenses: \$1,236,740	Spay/Neuter Surgeries	1,519
2019 Income \$2,729,908	1,362 rabies vaccines Onsite Tours with scouts, schools, businesses, etc.	26
2019 Expenses: \$1,353,440	Distributed Value of spay/neuter vouchers	\$45,115

Partnering to Save Lives

The old adage "it takes a village" is not just an old cliché, it's an everyday reality in the world of animal sheltering. The successes and milestones we have experienced as an agency over the last 150 years would not have been possible without the relationships we have built within and across our community: offsite adoption ambassadors, our volunteer and foster network, business sponsors and media partners.

Each year, our partnerships in the community help us reach and expand our life saving goals to enrich the lives of our shelter guests during their stay, create more families, market innovative programming, educate our community about humane animal care and sustain our annual operating budget that is necessary for us to save thousands of lives each year.

Over the last decade alone, some of our partners include: WABI, WKIT, The Bangor Daily News, Downeast Dog News, The Maine Edge, Blueberry Broadcasting, FOX ABC Maine, Newscenter Maine, Petco Petsmart, Loyal Companion (previously PetLife), Aubuchon Hardware, Blue Seal, Loyal Biscuit, Old Dogs New Digs and Penobscot Theater

Some of our innovative programs are: Barn Buddies, Adoption Ambassadors, Fast Track Dog's Day Out, Kids' Give Back, Cats on Laps, Pet of the Week.

Finding Joy in Adoption

Joy Hollowell, TV anchorwoman for WABI, has always leaned more towards the feline persuasion than canine. In 2011, after a couple years of grieving from the loss of their family cat, Joy's husband and two boys convinced her to open their home to a dog.

"It was never an option not to go to our local shelter and adopt our next pet," says Joy. "So I reached out to the staff at the Bangor Humane Society who worked with the long list I gave them of everything I did and didn't want in a dog."

A few weeks before Christmas, Joy received a call from BHS staff that a litter of collie-mix puppies had been surrendered, a rare once in a lifetime adoption opportunity. After talking extensively with the staff, Joy and her husband, Chris, did some research on the breed. They set up a surprise meet and greet with their boys, who were about 8 and 5 at the time, and the litter of puppies. It didn't take long for them to choose the sweetest, calmest runt of the litter. Days before Christmas of 2011, they welcomed her into their home and named her Willow.

"She is the perfect fit; so sweet and gentle, loves the outdoors, going hiking, walking and camping with us. She is everything I wanted in a dog and nothing I didn't want," says Joy eight years later. "You can see the admiration and love she has for her boys, now 13 and 16."

Willow has definitely grown into a true leader of her pack; she's found purpose in protecting her boys and keeping her family together, getting upset if they ever separate from each other.

"Willow brings all four of us such happiness and fulfillment. We are truly humbled by her overwhelming and unconditional love," says Joy.

One of Joy's fondest memories with Willow is a trip they took to Cranberry Island to have a reunion with one of Willow's littermates. As they traveled on the ferry over to the island, several locals recognized Willow as the sister of the infamous "Toby from Cranberry Island" over their recognition of the local TV celebrity! Years later Toby and Willow still stay in touch, exchanging annual birthday and Christmas cards.

"She is the perfect fit; so sweet and gentle, loves the outdoors, going hiking, walking and camping with us. She is everything I wanted in a dog and nothing I didn't want," says Joy eight years later. "You can see the admiration and love she has for her boys, now 13 and 16."

While the Hollowell's found their own joy through pet adoption at the Bangor Humane Society eight years ago, for decades, Joy and her TV family at WABI,

CHRIS ZAKARIASEN AND JOY HOLLOWELL WITH THEIR SONS WYNTER AND SKYLER AND WILLOW ON FAMILY SUMMER CAMPING TRIP





GINA AND PIPPA

have helped thousands of local homeless pets find a second chance by lending their media spotlight through their Pet of the Week segment.

"I love when you come on the show with an animal, especially one who's had a tough life or is one of your long-term residents and you tell their story because 9 times out of 10 it has a happy ending and they get the happy life they deserve," says Joy. "We provide a space and an opportunity for them to show off their personalities. Every time it's like 'cue the cuteness' because they always show off like it's their adoption audition, like they know, 'this is my moment!""

Viewers who are faithful followers of Pet of the Week and find their match through the segment, often send WABI happy tail updates. For Hallowell, she not only has found incredible joy through her family's very own adoption story, but in every match she's helped facilitate when she's shared the media spotlight with a furry guest over the decades.

Good Morning, Pippa!

Gina Marini has had a deep love for rescuing animals, particularly rabbits, ever since she was a young girl. As a child, she remembers walking into pet stores and

falling in love with the biggest, fluffiest bunny in need of a home. Over the years, she has fallen in the love with the big personalities rabbits often exude, and has developed quite an extensive knowledge and resume in rabbit care.

When Gina became part of the team at FOX ABC Maine, it was no surprise that its Good Morning Maine weekly, Pet of the Week segment, quickly became her favorite.

"I just love the BHS and the work you do. I remember one of the first interviews I did there about a surgery performed on a very young kitten," says Gina. "I quickly saw the lengths and resources you are willing to provide to save a life. You really care."

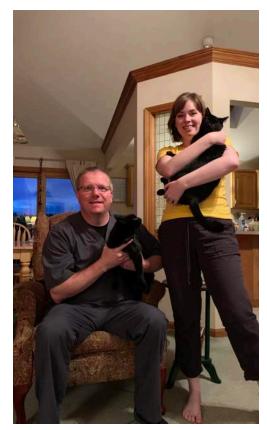
In 2017 when Gina first met BHS resident, Pippa, a black and white bunny at one of our off-site adoption locations, she thought she would offer companionship to her rabbit, Penelope, during her long work days. Though they seemed to get along during their bunny meet and greet, once home, Pippa and Penelope never quite hit it off as Gina had hoped. Both territorial and competitors for Gina's affection, Gina now has to provide them with their own space so they could coexist peacefully.

"A lot of people don't realize how much goes into the care of a rabbit. Pippa had only known life in a cage surrounded by noise and chaos in the home. I knew I could give Pippa the cage-free life she deserved," says Gina. "When I adopted Pippa, I made a commitment to her. It's taken some time, but she has really come out of her shell." Ironically, Pippa bonded with Gina's shy cat, Basil, and the two have become great friends two years later.

"She brings so much love, joy and happiness to my life. She's a toe nibbler and sometimes helps herself to her treats, but I can't stay mad at her for long. I enjoy my coffee with Pippa snuggles every morning and I am grateful how she's brought Basil out of his shell," says Gina. "Making a difference in an animal's life through pet adoption has given my life a purpose."

Words From Our Adopters

A Feline Cure-All



THE POTTER FAMILY WITH COLLIE & SEAMUS

"My family and I adopted our first cat ever from the Bangor Humane Society two years ago. My dad has had pet allergies and asthma since he was young, so we never thought we would be able to have an indoor pet. We adopted Collie in November of 2017 for a family member who lives a few hours away and had been searching for a black cat in her area. We kept Collie at our house for a few days until we were available to make the drive and give her to her new family. During that time, my dad noticed that he didn't have any allergic reaction to Collie-something that had never happened with any cat all his life. Long story short, our family member let us keep Collie as our miracle cat. She was desperate for affection in the shelter, but now seems calm and confident that she will always be loved. She loves playing in piles of hay in our garage and watching birds out the window. We rolled our allergy luck again in March of 2019, when we saw Seamus' picture online and were drawn to come visit him. We adopted him and brought him home that day. He was very sick with a cold at first and couldn't stop sneezing, but he

was so happy to be home that he purred with his mouth open when he couldn't breathe through his nose. Again, my dad had no allergic reaction, and we got to keep Seamus. Seamus is a playful and affectionate cat who loves rough-housing with his sister, Collie. We are so lucky to have found two wonderful black cats through the Bangor Humane Society. Our lives have been enriched in ways we could never have imagined. Thank you for the services you provide for animals and the humans who love them."

- Lauren Potter

[We] Love Lucy

"My boyfriend and I have adopted two beautiful cats from the Bangor Humane Society. The first was our sweet Maggie at the end of last summer. Then, a couple months later, we went back to the shelter just to look around and visit. We were not expecting to adopt another cat, but then we saw Lucy.

We fell in love with her instantly and decided to bring her home. Our cats are

two of the best decisions we've ever made, and have adjusted perfectly to us, our home, and each other.

Recently, I was casually scrolling through a friend's Instagram and found myself over a year back in her feed. That's when I started seeing pictures of a beautiful calico cat that bore a striking resemblance to my Lucy. I ran to find my cat in the house and compared her markings with the kitty in the photo. That's when I reached out to my friend.

The sweet, chunky calico we adopted last fall was that same cat that she (unfortunately) had to give up the last spring. She and I have been friendly for years, always saying 'hello' and briefly catching up when our paths cross. Because we aren't close friends, she and I hadn't discovered our love for the same feline, until then. Once I reached out, for an entire day we swapped photos back and forth of, who we believe, to actually be the sweetest cat in the world- sweet Lucy.

Thank you, BHS for helping bring her into all of our lives."

Casey London



CASEY LONDON WITH HER BOYFRIEND AND THEIR CATS LUCY AND MAGGIE



THE HOTCHKISS FAMILY

Creating a Legacy of Kindness

Colleen Hotchkiss and Kacee Mae found each other at the Bangor Humane Society in 2003. Kacee Mae was a twoyear-old year old mixed breed that had been adopted and returned twice and Colleen was seeking a companion to keep her company during late night study sessions for nursing school.

Colleen always knew that when she was ready to bring a dog into her life, it would be through adoption. She visited with several dogs at BHS, but knew from

the moment she saw Kacee Mae that she was her dog. Colleen became Kacee Mae's third and final adopter and Kacee Mae became a loyal companion as Colleen's hiking partner and study buddy and was by her side through nursing school, graduation, marriage, the adoption of three more rescue dogs, and the birth of Colleen's son before passing away at 13.

Colleen is grateful that her son got to experience Kacee Mae's presence before she left their pack. Now believes her responsibility is to teach Owen not only to be kind and respectful towards animals, but that every animal deserves to experience the unconditional love and commitment they offer to us.

The Hotchkiss family, which now consists of Colleen, her husband, her son Owen, BHS alumna Maddigan and Mulligan and another rescue Murphy, believes that adopting a rescue animal is one way they can help put some kindness back into a world that seems to lack it these days

Intake Stats:

Cats Surrendered: 924 Dogs Surrendered: 321

Small Animals Surrendered: 102

Stray Cats: 743 Stray Dogs: 207

Stray Small Animals: 17 Cats transferred in: 87

Dogs transferred in: 155

Small Animals transferred in: 3

TOTAL: 2,560

Outcome Stats:

Cats Adopted: 1558

Dogs Adopted: 453

Small Animals Adopted: 118 Cats Returned to Owner: 86

Dogs Returned to Owner: 177

Small Animals Returned to Owner: 2

Cats Transferred: 1 **Dogs Transferred: 2**

Small Animals Transferred: 3

TOTAL: 2,400

Live Release: 95%

Hey Mr. DJ, Adopt this Dog!

Mike Dow, local radio DJ and contributing writer to the Maine Edge, has been a close friend of the Bangor Humane Society since the 1990's and a supporter of animal rescue and adoption for most of his life. From 1997-2002, he served on our Board of Directors and has given a voice and personality to our annual Paws on Parade event for more than a decade.

For Mike, one Paws on Parade, twelve years ago in particular, goes down as more memorable than the rest. Mike had adopted cats from BHS, but his house remained empty of canine companionship after the loss of his Golden Retriever. One week after Paws on Parade 2008, Mike received a call from a BHS staff asking him to consider meeting a young black lab in need of a guy just like Mike, loyal, calm and compassionate. Mike agreed and remembers when he first met the black lab, who was emaciated, extremely nervous, had extensive hair loss and struggled to connect to humans, he was unsure if they were a match. Mike was told that the dog's previous owner had drugged him to keep him from barking and that this pup didn't know how to engage in simple play, to say the least.

Lacking that immediate spark, Mike, left to think about it some more, only to find that he simply couldn't stop thinking about the black lab he'd met at BHS. He decided to return and requested another visit. This time when the dog saw Mike he had a little more wag in his tail and seemed genuinely happy to see him. Mike took him to the fenced in pen behind BHS and attempted a game of fetch. The pup wasn't used to playing but took to it quickly. Mike became so enamored with the dog's resilient spirit that unfolded before him that he adopted him and named his new companion Gordon.

Mike has devoted over a decade to helping Gordon continue his transformation into a more confident version of himself through the guidance of local resources like Green Acres Kennel and the Canine Camp. Gordon, who is now a healthy, and thriving and energetic 13 year old, has become a canine mentor for the shyest of playmates who need a gentle nudge from someone who understands. Gordon's laid back energy has been a perfect match



MIKE & GORDON

for his new human blended in well with Mike's feline residents and, after some time, accepted Mike's new wife into their pack as well.

Gordon still remains a bit introverted with new humans, but Mike has faithfully watched Gordon grow, evolve and transform, a gift Gordon has also given back to his human.

"Gordon has taught me patience and the importance of reflection. He has helped me develop empathy for his past and how that affects his present," says Mike. "I cannot imagine life without him. He makes me happy and is the highlight of my day. The welcome he gives me when I get home is like he has won the lottery. Every day I thank god for BHS and for matching me with the love of my life."

Just as he has offered an unwavering loyalty to his best friend, Mike has remained patient and steadfast in his support of BHS, as we have done the same. Mike also credits his relationship with Gordon to his growing appreciation of the BHS mission over the years.

"From my time serving on the BHS board of directors, I could never have imagined the dramatic shift that has happened in such a short amount of time," says Mike. "BHS is better than it's ever

been and I hope the public continues to realize how valuable BHS is to our community. It is life changing for the animals and the people it serves."

Not only does Mike Dow continue to support our Paws on Parade as our event emcee, but in 2016 Gordon won oldest BHS alumni in attendance and Mike now serves on our Paws on Parade committee.

"As for the future, I hope our community will be more patient and compassionate towards the people and animals at BHS," says Mike. "As for me personally, I'm a lifer. I will always be an adopter for life."

Our 25th
Paws on Parade raised
over \$91,000 &
celebrated with 800 two
& four legged
participants on the
Bangor Waterfront

The Art of Adopting a Dog

"Call it fate, call it luck; all I know is I was meant to be his dog."

– Enzo, The Art of Racing in the Rain, a novel by Garth Stein



CHASE AND REMI

hase Hutchinson and his dog Remi's adoption journey is a poignant example of when life imitates art. Eight years ago Remi arrived at the Bangor Humane Society as a stray puppy stricken with parvo. Back then, parvo was often a death sentence for dogs, especially if they were diagnosed in a shelter environment where the highly contagious disease could spread through the entire canine population. Remi arrived at BHS when we had begun a commitment to investing whatever resources and time was necessary to save a life.

He eventually beat the odds and survived parvo earning him the name "Miracle" by BHS staff. Not only had he fought hard against parvo, but the staff fought against the constraints of a facility not built to help them save lives. Parvo requires strict guarantine for a minimum of

two weeks, an option not built into the current building design. BHS staff worked around those challenges and found creative solutions within the space we had in order to give "Miracle" a chance, even if that meant quarantining a puppy in the only isolated room available: a kennel in cat maternity.

Once healthy, he was adopted by Lisa Hutchinson and her family who gave him the name Remi, short for "remedy," as he was believed to be a cure for the family's grief over the recent loss of their family dog.

At the same time, Lisa's oldest son, Chase was studying at Maine Maritime Academy and had decided that he and his roommates wanted to adopt a puppy. Knowing that a puppy can make life inconvenient for a group of college boys to say the least, Lisa encouraged Chase to take Remi, who was about 8 months old

at the time, to see if he could juggle a puppy with college life. She knew if it didn't work out, Remi would just return home with her.

Remi never returned home to Lisa, at least not in any permanent sense, because 7 years later it has become clear that home for Remi is wherever Chase is.

With a strong desire to prove to his parents, himself and to Remi that he was responsible enough to have a dog of his own, Chase accepted the challenge to care for Remi. In return, Remi has given Chase the unconditional and unwavering loyalty that only a dog's companionship can provide. Over the years, they have found their own rhythm and language, mirror each other's energy and are reflections of the best in each other.

"I'm so proud of the dog Remi has become and am so lucky that he has been able to adapt and fit into my life like he



CHASE AND REMI

has," says Chase. "When I make plans, the first question I always ask is 'can Remi come?' If my plans can't include Remi then I change my plans."

Remi has accompanied Chase to college parties, traveled with him across the country for work, assimilated into a pack of ranch dogs in Texas and affectionately watches over the daughter of Chase's girlfriend. Wherever Chase goes, Remi willingly follows and adapts accordingly to the environment in order to please his boy and be by his side. As a result, Remi, a once timid pup has now blossomed into a social butterfly. In those rare circumstances where he can't join his boy, Chase has filled his life with friends, college roommates, family members, co-workers and employers who have supported him in fulfilling his promise to Remi.

"As Remi gets older, it makes me really sad to think about a future without him," says Chase. "I don't think that there will ever be another dog as good as Remi. At the same time, I am excited to think about the next dog that will come into my life. Whoever that dog is, it will be because of

"I don't think that there will ever be another dog as good as Remi. At the same time, I am excited to think about the next dog that will come into my life. Whoever that dog is, it will be because of Remi."

Remi."

So you can call it fate, or luck, or even a miracle, but for Chase nothing is truer than this: Remi was always meant to be

Remi's story demonstrates why our capital campaign, Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life, is so critical for the future of our mission. In order to save more animals and facilitate more life-long relationships like Chase and Remi's, we must transform our facility. To learn more or support our capital campaign visit www.bhsbuilding4tomorrow.org.

welfare through education and advocacy. quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane

