Selecting what to include in this newsletter is always challenging – we have so many wonderful stories and “happy tails” to share. However, for this special edition “2015 Annual Report,” we want you to see the total effect of your support in 2015 – and how those results set the tone for 2016.

You helped 1,441 homeless pets find homes last year. We are on track to complete 1,600 adoptions this year. You took advantage of our community outreach programs, and that spurred us to open a low-cost, full-service Animal Clinic that’s open to the public.

As the area’s largest no-kill shelter, we feel a responsibility to keep finding new ways to help more animals and more people in our community. We cannot move forward without reflecting on where we’ve been. 2015 was a tremendous year for HSSC, and 2016 is proving to be even better.

We know you have many choices of organizations to support, and we take your investment in HSSC very seriously. That’s why we are so proud of our 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. As you’ll read about in this issue, a 4-Star Rating is only achieved by organizations that can objectively prove their worth. This rating is the product of many years of hard work, and we are committed to maintaining it.

We are honored to have your trust and support.

Sincerely,

Christen Benson
Executive Director
Every animal coming through the doors of the Humane Society of Sarasota County deserves a second chance. We pride ourselves on being the area’s largest no-kill shelter, giving homeless pets a second (and sometimes a third or fourth) chance at a new life.

Pets up for adoption at HSSC have no time limit. Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to find them homes. Animals are profiled on our website and featured in traditional and social media outlets to reach potential adopters. They are provided enrichment and loving care for as long as they stay with us.

**Thanks to your support, 2015 was a remarkable year for saving animals:**
- 1,441 animals were placed in loving homes.
- 1,517 animals entered HSSC – an average of 6 animals every day we were open.

**We expanded our partnerships with other animal service organizations:**
- 1,272 animals were transported to HSSC from other shelters.
- 787 of those animals came from high-kill shelters in Florida.

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**Happy Tails**

ADOPTION SUCCESS STORIES

We are so grateful for all the wonderful folks in our community who chose to adopt and not shop! We want to hear from you! To submit your happy tail, send an e-mail with your favorite picture to happytails@hssc.org

**“KarMa (formerly Myra) came from a high-kill shelter in Miami. She stayed at HSSC for many weeks. She was very quiet and depressed. She didn’t wag her tail much or show a lot of excitement, until we made her a part of our family. She’s very loyal and obedient. You could say she’s the perfect friend!”** --Karen & Mark

**“Jupiter was waiting for me to find her...and I did! I knew instantly that she was a perfect fit for my family. Jupiter has found her forever home.”** --Marlene

**“I love Duke, and he will be with me until the end. Thank you for giving him a chance!”**

--Randy
THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, ANIMALS LEAVING HSSC WERE GIVEN THE BEST START POSSIBLE IN 2015:

- Performed a total of 991 surgeries, including 869 spay/neuter surgeries and more than 100 dentals.
- HSSC is one of the only shelters in the area to treat heartworm-positive dogs – the treatment process is expensive and takes several weeks, but we believe these dogs deserve a second chance.
- 95% live release rate. Animals are only euthanized when there are severe medical or behavioral issues. No animal is ever euthanized to make room for another.

In February 2016, we opened the Animal Clinic of the Humane Society of Sarasota County to bring quality, affordable veterinary services to owned animals in our community.

MASON

Mason was adopted as a puppy from HSSC but was returned seven years later by his owner. He was thin, had ringworm, and was heartworm positive. We were able to give Mason the love and medical care he desperately needed. After a lengthy recovery, he was adopted into a wonderful family with four children.

14,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers are indispensable to the operations of the Humane Society of Sarasota County. With their help, we are able to care for many more animals than we could with staff alone.

Volunteers provide essential support in animal care and training/enrichment; they help keep the shelter clean; they act as matchmakers for adoptable animals and potential adopters; they handle animals at adoption events; they foster the most vulnerable animals; and so much more. We simply could not survive without them.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, IN 2015:

- Volunteers put in more than 14,000 hours of service – that’s equivalent to 6.5 full-time employees!
**Community Outreach**

**HUMANE EDUCATION**

The Humane Society of Sarasota County’s Education Program places emphasis on promoting humane education throughout the community. Humane education is the teaching of compassion and respect as related to animal welfare. Humane education helps build empathy. The HSSC Humane Education Program uses the principles of the human/animal bond to provide enriching, fun lessons for children and adults.

**Thanks to your support, in 2015:**
- 94 children participated in HSSC’s Teen Club and “Fur Fun” Summer Camps.
- Children enjoyed reading “fur fun” – practicing their reading skills on our canine listeners.

**EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

Nearly every weekend, the Humane Society of Sarasota County is out in the community with adoptable pets and our Mobile Adoption Center (“Big MAC”). In 2015, HSSC participated in 45 events.

**These are just a few of the events you attended:**
- Paws on the Catwalk Luncheon
- Hot Dogs & Cool Cats - Laugh Your Paws Off Gala
- “Adopt While You Shop” at Westfield Sarasota
- Tommy Bahama Dog Days of Summer
- Ron Gordon’s Humane Society Golf Tournament

**HSSC also served the community by offering:**
- A weekly pet food pantry
- Affordable K-9 behavior training classes

**PET THERAPY**

The Humane Society of Sarasota County’s Pet Therapy Program began in 1992. After a short hiatus, the Pet Therapy Program was reinstated in 2015. We connect certified pet therapy volunteer teams with area nursing homes, assisted living facilities, social service agencies, schools, and libraries.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO TOOK PART IN OUR SUMMER CAMP & TEEN CLUB**

**NUMBER OF YEARS DEDICATED TO SERVICING THE ANIMAL WELFARE NEEDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

**POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO 350 FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH OUR PET PANTRY PROGRAM**

*These numbers are unaudited. Please visit our website at www.hssc.org for access to our most recent IRS FORM 990 and 2014 audit.*
In 2015, HSSC's average operating cost was $4,080 per day.

Visit www.hssc.org for the complete Audited Financial Statements

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IN MEMORY OF PERSON

Ada Warren
Judith & Harris Stravitz
Alice Spears
Kevin McDonnell
Ben Reinhardt
Toni Werner
Bruce Wallace
OHP 5, LLC
Bud Goldstein
Stanford & Rona Ross
Charles O'Grady
Rosemarie Bender
Corinne Cooper
Amy Glasgow
Barbara McKown
Charles W. Baunknight
Christine E. Batchelor
Estelle & Charles Holmes
Henry P. Trawick
Jacqueline S. Boucher
Karen & Patrick Diffley
Kathryn & Richard Stern
Michael Hils
Newby Management
Tina Rood-Crawford
Cory Kurvin
Leslie A. Hamel
Daniel A. Gobic
Barbara & Gregg Kaplan
Darlene & Elizabeth LaForge
Jessica Chmiel
Mary & Earnst Runco
Mr. & Mrs. David Runco
Mr. & Mrs. John Semczuk
Pat Boyer
Paul Marquis
Richard Cecco
Victoria & Ernesto Runco
Dino Charters
Anne Kircher
Diane & Mark Horn
Linda & Larry Ingham
Donna Marie Miller
Karen & Jim Stark
Elizabeth (Peg) Flannigan
Elizabeth Zeilas
Elizabeth Ann Siedsoma
Frances Pellizzari
Fitz May
Deborah Simmons
Fred Hintz
Linda Seitz

Gerlinde Smith's Mother
Cathy Layton
Gordon Neale
Marsha Shuford
Harold R. Williams
Virginia C. Braune
John J. Williams, IV
Carol L. Lyons
Dawn A. Allen
Suncost Communities Blood Bank, Inc.
Wilma McCarthy & Teresa Rafa&-
Jack Schultz
Linda Booth
Stephanie & Jim Letchinger
Jennifer Yontz Little
Rosemary Maglio
Joan Resker
Cheryl & Jim Winterhalter
Deborah Poff
Donald Kettl
Joan Van Vlaenderen
Kathleen Balchin
Robin White
Joe Casole, Jr.
Heather Maxwell
Joe Williams
Shirley R. Miller
Joseph Casole
Margaret & Ronald Barger
Sharon & Mark Serravalle
Kent Pershing
Kristin Decker
Kent Reedy Falter
Lawrence V. Lepley
Laura Harris
Doris & James Goese
Leslie Shelley
Gail & Gordon MacPhail
Mary V. Fox
Linda “Britt”’’ Alton
Donna & Michael Pachota
Lois Sanders
Nancy A. Romine
Lorraine Holak
Lisa Holak
Margaret Havlena
John Holak
Marsha Abel
Stanford H. & Rona Ross
Mary Jane Bohley
Marily Hubbard
Mary Serkland
Kathy Buhta
Marilyn C. Meyer
MaryEileen Sterling
Kathleen Lehner
Neal Gray
Oakwood Manor HOA of Sarasota
Ralf Rischer
Patricia Garrett
Sally LaDage Scarce
Pamela & Jerry Logue
Sandy Martin
Andys I. Thompson
Susan Nikc Willott
Lisa & James Willott
Sylvia Gray
Charlotte & Tim Nault
Thomas Creel
Stanford H. & Rona Ross
Thomas Salamone
Margretta E. Murphy
Virginia A. Hogan
Diane Shupp
Wanda & Joe Muhle
Jeanne & David Omelia
William Gismondi
Sylvia & Roger Rainville
IN MEMORY OF PET

Abby
Diane Schmidt
Jane Hottinger
B.B. Campbell
Josephine K. Learned
Bosco Reinbold
Terry Grant
Bosley
Josephine K. Learned
Bradly Jalwan
Andrew Jalwan
Dickens
Wendy Palto
Falstaff
Stanford H. & Rona Ross
Flagler
Joshua Green
Frankie
Virginia & Paul Primamore
Fredde
Jeannie Buliffant
Kahua
Chris Miller
Lilly
Diane Lambrj
Max
Jason Hinson

IN HONOR OF PERSON

Andrew Shannon's Birthday
Josephine K. Learned
Bailey Jane Saslow
Barbara & Jeffrey Duncan
Charles Baumann
Dottie Rutledge
Cheryl Engle's Birthday
Josephine K. Learned
Don Bailey
Dottie Rutledge
Dr. Stephen Romero & Staff
Beth Leslie
Emme’s 9th Birthday
End & Jerry Wildman
Graham Edwards
Carrol Jacobs
Harry Shannon’s Birthday
Josephine K. Learned
Jehuda Fisher's 80th Birthday
Susan Dauphinee
Jock’s Birthday
Mark Earnhardt
Jon Shannon's Birthday
Josephine K. Learned
Judy Hall’s 40th Birthday
Suzie & Arnie Moschin
Kelley Nathan’s Birthday
Patricia Hughes
Larry Opdahl
Rick Belsile
Lee Shannon’s Birthday
Josephine K. Learned
Lora’s 11th Birthday
Alison & Joseph Rini
Marcia Kagan’s 70th Birthday
Beverly Nadler
Marianne Piro
Sue & Tom Kaiser
Mellissa Morris, Chubb Insurance
Dottie Rutledge
Michael Corley
Dottie Rutledge
Mike & Kristin’s Anniversary
Helen L. Dilley
Nicholas & RoseMarie
Generalovich
Rosi & Brian Generalovich
Richard & Maureen Senecal’s
50th Wedding Anniversary
Michael Nemser
Rob Lane
Dottie Rutledge
Ruth & Diane Henderson
Kathleen Decko
Matthew Stacy
Susie Bowie
Dottie Rutledge
Val Lucas’s 60th Birthday
Donna Chronc
Vickie Grosvener
Marie & Ronald Gaffney
Wedding of Sara Lentz &
Shairah Levine
Suzie & Annie Moschin
IN HONOR OF PET

Emmie
Gail Fegan
Frankie O’Grady
Jennifer & John McDermott
Maggie
Perry Dunmore
Marjorie Morgan's Cat
Melliss K. Swenson
Sunny
Dianne L. Ochiltree

To make a memorial donation, please call 941.955.4131 x101 or visit www.hssc.org
Sound fiscal management and a commitment to accountability and transparency have earned the Humane Society of Sarasota County a 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the first time that the Humane Society of Sarasota County has earned this top distinction. Of the more than 1,500 Sarasota-based non-profit organizations, only 7 have achieved Charity Navigator’s 4-Star Rating. The Humane Society of Sarasota County is the only local animal welfare organization to be rated.

The Humane Society of Sarasota County’s coveted 4-Star Rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities. Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only 1 in 4 earns 4 stars – a rating that demands rigor, responsibility, and commitment to openness.

“It’s important our donors trust that we’re using our funding wisely to accomplish our mission of promoting responsible pet ownership and securing permanent homes for all adoptable animals,” says Christen Benson, Executive Director of HSSC. “Our 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously.” Learn more at www.charitynavigator.org

The Animal Clinic of the Humane Society of Sarasota County provides excellent veterinary care at an affordable price. The Animal Clinic is a full-service facility for cats and dogs. It is open to the public, and there are no income requirements. All proceeds from the Animal Clinic benefit the shelter pets at the Humane Society of Sarasota County.

Preventive Care • Wellness Exams • Dental Care
Digital X-Rays • In-House Diagnostics • Pet Food & Supplies

1090 N. Tuttle Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34237
941.364.3605 • www.hsscclinic.org

SAVE THE DATE
19th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest
October 26, 2016
Phillippi Farmhouse Market

24th Annual Hot Dogs & Cool Cats – Laugh Your Paws Off Gala
Featuring Larry Miller
November 12, 2016
The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Larry Miller

11th Annual Paws on the Catwalk Luncheon
April 20, 2017
The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Visit www.hssc.org for a complete list of events.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

From donation drives to doggie banks, sponsorships to offsite events, HSSC’s Community Partners provide invaluable support each year. Thank you for helping HSSC save lives in our community!

For more information about being a community partner, please contact Autumn Steiner at 941.955.4131 x121.