

FUR THE RECORD

2020 FALL NEWSLETTER



*Clementine,
HSSC Alum*



HSSC
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Making Our Way

IN THE WORLD TODAY



THIS YEAR WILL FOREVER BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORDS □UNPRECEDENTED□ AND □CHALLENGING.□

From the macro level to the micro, 2020 has affected everything worldwide. Here on 15th Street, at the Humane Society of Sarasota County, the literal foundation of our organization is changing. Our new facility is slated for completion by January, giving us one more reason to look forward to 2021.

But 2020 is not over yet, and we can be proud of how we have adapted. For starters, we never ceased operations. Animals are still getting top-notch care before being adopted. Our Animal Clinic is still safely treating owned pets. We took our Fur Fun Summer Camps online, and we have welcomed back volunteers in small groups.

It has not been the year anyone expected, but we are making the most of it. As always, none of it would be possible without you. Thank you for being a constant when everything else has been in flux. We appreciate you more than ever, and we cannot wait until we can throw open the doors of our new space and welcome everyone inside.



Staff inside the future Education & Training Center on July 31, 2020.

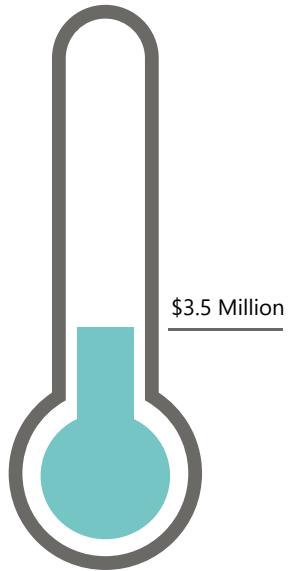


Progress Report

FOUR MONTHS AGO, THE EASTERN HALF OF OUR CAMPUS WAS A FIELD OF DREAMS.

Now, those dreams have become concrete and steel. The future of the Humane Society of Sarasota County rises while the staff, volunteers, and visitors carry on in the present. If all stays on track, we can expect to occupy the new space in January, with the entire project completed by June 2021. Keep up with construction progress and help us meet our fundraising goal at www.hssc.org/give/capital-campaign.

\$8.5 Million





*Kaila White, Animal Care
Specialist, with Grandpa*

A Day in the Life

IT'S A WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SARASOTA COUNTY.

In the Adoption Center, a potential adopter ("PA" in HSSC lingo) arrives for her appointment to meet an available cat, while another PA completes the adoption paperwork and poses for a photo with his new dog. Food bank patrons stop by to pick up bundles of donated pet food. Foster volunteers call to provide updates on their animals. Inside the cat room, a Feline Friend volunteer engages a cat in play with a wand toy.

Upstairs, in the office area known as "the Treehouse," our administrative staffers are busy recording donations, entering invoices, and keeping the business side humming. The balcony of the Treehouse offers a bird's-eye view of the rapidly progressing construction on our new facility.

Meanwhile, in the hallway of the kennel building, animal care specialists push carts loaded with toys and pupscles (i.e., treats in frozen chicken broth) into the wings ("Pods") for distribution to the eagerly awaiting dogs. Another staffer bathes a dog in our K-9 Salon & Barber Shop, and a Canine Companion volunteer checks the whiteboard to see which dogs need walked.

Under the shade sail canopy in the turfed yards between Pods 2 and 3, our marketing team coaxes a rambunctious dog into a sit and livestreams the footage to social media. Back inside, in the "Real-Life Room," so named because it mimics a home's living room, our behaviorists assess a dog to determine its adoption compatibility score.

Over in the shelter clinic, our veterinarian performs a routine spay in the glass-enclosed surgery suite while the receiving staff processes a pair of dogs that just arrived from the county animal services. Outside, in the newly reconfigured play yards, a dog splashes about in a kiddie pool. Owners and their dogs pass by on their way to the Training Building for their weekly K-9 Obedience Course.

Just a mile away, at our bustling Animal Clinic, doctors, technicians, and receptionists move in concert to answer phones, check temperatures, administer vaccines, take radiographs, run lab tests, and consult with clients about their pets' medical needs.

Like a small city, HSSC pulses with activity as our 40+ employees take care of our animals, adopters, clients, donors, and volunteers. Even when the work gets challenging, there's a sense of purpose that sustains everyone. After all, there's no better feeling than knowing your work makes a difference.



We Are HSSC

IN THEIR OWN WORDS, STAFFERS DESCRIBE
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF HSSC.



*Julia Sanchez-Vazquez, Veterinary
Technician Assistant, with two
Animal Clinic patients*



*Mercedes Cruz,
Marketing & Executive Assistant,
embraces "Kitten Season"*



*Kate Rose, K-9 Behavior Program
Coordinator, with hoarding case
animal Miley*



*Rebecca Gustafson,
Director of Operations,
helps with a transport.*

"My job is meaningful because I have the opportunity **to give a voice to animals in need.**" —Alissa Jackson, Marketing Coordinator • "My most heartfelt moment was carrying a dog named Miley out to her new owner's car because she was too nervous to walk out on her own. I set her in the car and told her, "**Go live your best life.**" It was only after I got home that I saw the video of the heartbreaking hoarding case she came from. It was a rush of emotions, the epitome of feeling why I do what I do." —Allison Page, Adoption & Foster Care Coordinator • **After a career in the corporate world, I decided it was time to give back.**" —Erin Jordan, Humane Resources Specialist • "I wanted to work at HSSC since I was 16. Now, after two-and-a-half years of working here, **I'm still excited for my future at HSSC!**" —Mercedes Cruz, Marketing & Executive Assistant • "I have grown to love helping those animals that need it most, especially the severely neglected and senior pets. My favorite time of the year is touring the summer camp kids through the clinic and showing them how much HSSC does for the animals. **They are so sincere in their compassion for the animals**, and I really enjoy teaching them what we do every day." —Taylor Wolfe, Medical Operations Assistant • "**HSSC feels like home to me and our shelter animals are my heart.** I love educating the public about animal welfare and spreading our mission throughout our community." —Ginny Armington, Director of Community Outreach • "I never thought when I started at HSSC in 2010 that this 'job' would transition into a 'career.' **Being able to directly effect change in the world of animal welfare, especially in our community,** is why, after 10 years, I'm still here. The staff and animals have become my family, and that family grows with each passing year. I can't wait to see what the next 10 years bring for HSSC." —Rebecca Gustafson, Director of Operations • "**I am proud to say I work for such a great organization** that cares deeply for animals and their well-being." —Kassie Creighton-Wood, Clinic Front Office Manager • "**Seeing how the animals and volunteers help each other grow and heal is amazing.** We are blessed here at HSSC to have an amazing group of dedicated volunteers!" —Mandy Ray, Volunteer Coordinator • "Working at HSSC provides me the opportunity to use my experience and expertise to help animals in need, both in the shelter and at our Animal Clinic. **I treat these pets like they were my own.** Helping these animals is fulfilling and rewarding every day." —Dr. Ivan Ivanov, Medical Director • "HSSC has a great staff and **we're all a family.**" —Jordan Merlet, Animal Care Specialist • "**Helping shelter animals find new homes is so rewarding** and a great way to give back to the community." —Richard Sanford, Animal Care Specialist • "I enjoy the behavior work that I do with the dogs. **This is my passion.**" —Kate Rose, K-9 Behavior Program Coordinator • **Animals have done so much for me in the past, and I feel like working at HSSC is the perfect way for me to give back to them.**" —Courtney Steinway, Animal Care Specialist • "I really enjoy seeing the animals rehabilitated and **living up to their potential.** I love being around them all day." —Genevieve Warner, Animal Care Specialist • "I love to take a scared little dog that acts aggressively, out of fear, and work with them and show them that the shelter and the workers here are not scary and then find the perfect home for them. In other places, a lot of these dogs may not have made it out of the shelter due to their behavior. One of my favorite stories was Baby, a 10-year-old Chow mix that came from a hoarding situation. She was unsocial, had heartworm disease, and was in terrible shape. **With my help, she blossomed** and was adopted by a wonderful couple and got to enjoy the rest of her life in a loving home." —Lisa Merlet, K-9 Behavior Program Coordinator • "**I've never had a harder job or a better job.**" —Autumn Steiner, Senior Director of Philanthropy.

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Sunrise on July 30, 2020, as the first concrete is poured on the second story of the new facility.

The Tail End



Save the Date

A planned gift is an opportunity to ensure that the values you hold dear continue to live on in a legacy of love and kindness. Planned gifts can be made by naming the Humane Society of Sarasota County as a beneficiary in wills, insurance policies, IRAs, and more.

You're invited to attend a **virtual Planned Giving Info Session on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, from 4-6pm**. Our panel of experts will answer your estate-planning questions and provide valuable insight. **There is no cost to attend, and no obligation to make a gift.**

RSVP at www.hssc.org/give/planned-giving/2020-info or by calling Autumn Steiner at 941.955.4131 x121.

Please consider making a difference for homeless animals in Sarasota County for years to come.

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