As the area’s premier no-kill shelter, we take our commitment to our animals and supporters seriously. You can trust that your donations are being used wisely.

The Humane Society of Sarasota County is on the brink of a major transformation—both of our physical space and our programs. I can’t help but reflect on the transformations we see every day at HSSC.

We are fortunate to be the piece that connects families and animals. There’s a display case in our hallway where we post the current month’s adoption “farewell” photos. It’s so lovely to walk by this case and see it filled with smiling photos of families at the beginning of a lifelong friendship with their new pet.

We see many other transformations. Animals come to us sick and sad, and they leave healed and happy. Volunteers begin as strangers, only to grow into advocates of the mission and friends of the staff and each other. Staff members form lasting bonds and regard one another as family.

Then there’s the transformation of the community through our programs. Retention-focused outreach efforts like our Pet Pantry Program, K-9 Obedience Training Courses, and our public Animal Clinic provide vital services and help keep pets in loving homes. Multi-generational initiatives like Pet Therapy and Humane Education not only bring comfort and joy in the moment, they have the power to change the animal welfare landscape by teaching compassion and respect for animals.

HSSC has already transformed drastically since our founding in 1952. As you’ll read in this newsletter, we are a thriving organization of dedicated staff and volunteers, all working together to serve over 1,800 homeless animals each year.

While we grow and change and transform, one thing remains constant—our belief that people who love animals can achieve incredible results when they work together. What a tremendous return on investment this has been for over 67 years...and we’re just getting started!

CHRISTEN BENSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HSSC is the area’s premier no-kill shelter, and in recent years, we have made it our priority to expand our reach in the community. We have seen our adoptions increase each year—474 cats and 1,247 dogs were adopted in 2018 alone—and we have expanded existing programs and created new ones that impact the lives of both animals and people. While we work tirelessly to continue our mission, the fact remains that we are severely limited by our current facilities.

The need is great, and the time is now.

We’re in the beginning stages of a capital campaign to renovate and expand our shelter. With the completion of this project, HSSC will solidify our role as the animal welfare hub of Sarasota and beyond. The enhanced facilities will allow us to shelter, treat, and find homes for 3,000 animals each year—effectively doubling our current abilities.

Our new facility will be a friendly space where people and animals can interact. Some of the enhanced interior and exterior features will include generously sized pet-acquaintance rooms; increased ability for animals to exercise and enjoy fresh air and the outdoors; spacious common areas; and multi-purpose education and meeting spaces. With the expanded opportunities for animal welfare and humane education, HSSC will be positioned as a leader in best practices for humane animal care.

Construction will be divided into 3 phases to minimize disruption for our shelter pets and to allow us time to raise the funds, as we will not be taking on debt. We expect the project to take 18 months and to cost approximately $8,500,000. This will be the biggest project in HSSC’s 67-year history.

We hope you will join us as we build the future of the HSSC.

We’re putting all the pieces in place—permits, plans, giving levels, naming opportunities, and so much more. Visit www.hssc.org/give/capital-campaign/ or call Christen Benson at 941.955.4131 x102 to learn how you can be part of HSSC history.
Year after year, HSSC employees and volunteers put in hard work, and they reap lifesaving results. It takes a tremendous amount of time, energy, and money to operate a facility as robust as HSSC. Our 2018 Operating Expenses totaled $3,133,354. Those dollars were spent feeding, housing, treating, and caring for over 1,800 animals; offering community-enriching programs like humane education, pet therapy, and a pet food pantry; teaching K-9 obedience skills; operating a world-class public animal clinic; or simply keeping the lights on and the building maintained.

From our humble beginnings in 1952, when we had space for just 48 dogs and 6 cats, to 2018, when we found homes for 1,247 dogs and 474 cats, HSSC has had many milestones and there are many more to come. After all, what do you get when you achieve your goals? Bigger goals!

IN 2018
- 1,721 animals adopted (1,247 dogs and 424 cats)
- 1,808 animals brought into HSSC (1,179 of them from crowded shelters in Florida)
- 100 heartworm positive dogs treated and adopted
- 45 Meals on Wheels families served each month (a total of 12,300lbs of dog food, 4,000lbs of cat food, and 12,600lbs of cat litter distributed)
- 3,500lbs of pet food provided through our Pet Pantry to pet owners facing economic hardship
- 29,846 hours donated by 605 volunteers (that’s equivalent to 14 full-time employees!)
- 124 children attended Fur Fun Summer Camps
- 54 teens participated in Teen Club
- 12,458 appointments booked at the Animal Clinic of HSSC
- 39 staffers worked tirelessly

Stay tuned for the 2019 Fall Newsletter, in which we’ll publish our 2018 Audited Financials so that you can see exactly where and how your support made a difference.
2018 ANNUAL GIVING

January 1, 2018–December 31, 2018

VISIONARY ($25,000+)
Community Foundation of Sarasota County–Giving Challenge Fund
Frank J. & Lenora Dupuis Foundation
Marianne Heinz
The Patterson Foundation

HERO ($10,000–$24,999)
ASPCA
Bayside Pet Resort & Spa
Community Foundation of Sarasota County–Helen C. Schwieder Fund
Community Foundation of Sarasota County–Thelma Merker Fund
Ernest A. & Kristine Brown
Fidelity Charitable–Stephen Kaufmann Gift Fund
Gary C. Butler Family Foundation
Greg Steube Campaign
Gulf Coast Community Foundation–Andrew & Audrey Belomyzy Charitable Trust Fund
Mark Hartness Living Trust
Samowitz Foundation

GUARDIAN ($5,000–$9,999)
Arthur S. Karp Family Foundation
Carolyn Hammond Brye Charitable Foundation
Catherine Roeder
Conservatives United Fund
Cornelia M. Cook
David & Candice Miller
Eldridge Body Shop
Gretchen L. Rimmer
J. E. Charlotte Construction Corp.
James D. White Sr. Family Foundation
Jeannine G. McGee
Mahlon Jones
Riverchase Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery
Sabal Trust Company
Stephen Kaufmann
Steven M. & Karen M. White
Swart Family Foundation
Walmart

To learn more about HSSCB Partner Program and other ways to make a gift, please visit www.hssc.org/give/donate/.
BAM BAM

When this edition went to print, Bam Bam was still waiting on his furever famil.
MEDICINE ON A MISSION

His gait is unmistakable. Two rear legs, one hardworking front leg, and a nonstop wagging tail. Like his *Flintstones* namesake, Bam Bam is a good-natured bruiser who wants nothing more than to sniff, play, and love. Not too long ago, though, he was in our Animal Clinic with radial damage to his right front leg. After his owners made the tough choice to surrender him, we amputated his leg and set about rehabilitating him so he could sprint pain free into his furever home.

Bam Bam is just one of the dozens of special needs animals we care for every year. While the majority of the 1,800 animals we care for annually are only here about 25 days from intake to adoption, we accept dogs and cats that we know will need longer, more intense care. Space and time are precious resources, but they’re ones we’re willing to expend on these deserving animals. And thanks to a grant from the ASPCA, we have a small fund to cover the services beyond our in-house medical capabilities, like advanced diagnostics and specialist visits.

In addition to special needs, we also receive hundreds of animals each year with treatable-but-time-intensive conditions like heartworm and ringworm. Other shelters balk at accepting these cases, but we welcome them. Heartworm is caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, and cases are all too common here in subtropical Florida. When we noticed a trend of dogs testing negative for heartworm, only to develop heartworm soon after adoption, we improved our testing.

We have also taken steps to make the treatment process easier on the dog. Previously, heartworm positive dogs would receive a series of injections over a three-week period. The shots are safe, but there is a risk of blood clots, so dogs under treatment cannot exercise. We used to keep the dogs at HSSC until their treatment was finished. The new protocol is gentler and more spaced out. However, we didn’t want to consign dogs to longer stays at HSSC, so we now allow them to be available for adoption a few days after the first injection. This way they can convalesce in their new home, returning to Animal Clinic for the two remaining injections at no charge to their owner. And, of course, we continue to advocate that all pets cats and dogs take a monthly heartworm preventive.

We are proud of the work HSSC does to give shelter animals and owned animals the best in medical care. When we opened the Animal Clinic three years ago, our goal was to provide affordable, high-quality medical care for the public cats and dogs. With almost 7,000 unique patients, it’s safe to say the Animal Clinic is fulfilling that aim.

Whether we’re finding fosters for motherless kittens and puppies, treating illnesses both rare and commonplace, or providing the community with a first-class veterinary experience at value prices, HSSC goes above and beyond medically. We’re the area’s premier no-kill shelter, and a resource for all dogs and cats, for life.
It’s a warm Friday afternoon and students are filtering into the media center, breathless with excitement. Handpicked by their school’s mental health counselor, this small group of Gocio Elementary fourth and fifth graders is the inaugural class of HSSC’s newest humane education program: Collars & Scholars.

The Collars & Scholars Program is a joint venture of HSSC and The Florida Center for Early Childhood, brought together by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Using the principles of the human-animal bond to boost students’ social and emotional health, the program is equal parts invention and reinvention.

HSSC is not new to humane education, having spent years visiting local schools, libraries, and community centers and presenting on everything from empathy to safe animal handling. Thousands of children have attended our Fur Fun Camps, and our certified Pet Therapy teams have helped students improve their reading skills simply by acting as a supportive audience while the children read aloud to the therapy dogs.

Never before, however, had we had the opportunity to build an entire curriculum for a dedicated audience, so we combined our expertise and studied landmark programs like Mutt-i-grees®, which was developed by North Shore Animal League America and Yale University’s School of the 21st Century.

The result was a nine-week course harnessing the latest research in animal welfare and the impact of animals on children’s emotional wellbeing and development.

Through our experience bringing Pet Therapy to senior citizens, hospice patients, people in rehab programs, and others experiencing tough times, we knew that animals can have a profound effect, and emerging research confirms what we have seen for years. Gocio Elementary was chosen as the pilot program location, and lessons began in February 2019.

Collars & Scholars lessons are a mix of group discussion, worksheets, activities, journaling, puppets, games, and ample time to interact with the animal visitors—typically three or four Pet Therapy Teams plus some shelter animals. Presenters and volunteers often sit on the floor with the children, creating a safe, welcoming space.

Said Christen Benson, HSSC’s Executive Director, “Humane education teaches students how to treat animals with compassion and respect and love. They take these lessons, and they can practice them every day throughout their lives.”

Students who began the program as shy and disengaged were, by week nine, eagerly participating, sharing their thoughts, showing respect for others, and actively engaging with the animals and presenters. Their transformation is a testament to the program’s effectiveness.
A great example: the week after a lesson on empathy and compassion, Ginny Armington, HSSC® Community Outreach Coordinator and one of the program’s instructors, asked the students if they had used empathy or compassion in the past week. One student’s response gave her chills: “He said, ‘Miss Ginny, my friend’s grandmother died, and he was really upset, so I said I would share my grandmother with him.’

Suzanne Jones, HSSC® Feline Specialist and another program instructor, noted how one student went from afraid to speak to volunteering to be interviewed on camera for the companion video we’re making about the program. Gocio’s School-Based Mental Health Therapist, Jennifer Garafola, saw the pure joy on her students’ faces as they clamored to cuddle animals and take pictures with them. This program is unique because it helps students identify emotions and feelings through the use of animals, she said.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County believes this program and the collaboration between HSSC and The Florida Center is a way to address the underlying causes of some of society’s most complex problems. Sensitivity to children’s emotional development, coupled with innovative experiences like Collars & Scholars, can position at-risk children for success and lead to fewer instances of animal cruelty and neglect.

“We know these social and emotional skills are necessary for going on to be successful not only academically, but in life. With these kids being our future, is ultimately what the success of this program is,” explained Roxie Jerde, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. “What animals bring to our lives is so special, and by bringing together unlikely suspects, like HSSC and The Florida Center, you sometimes get greater results.”

Having just completed the pilot program, HSSC is already fielding requests to bring Collars & Scholars to other facilities. The Florida Center has invited us to bring a “junior” version of Collars & Scholars to the Starfish Academy, their all-inclusive preschool. Even rambunctious four-year-olds become gentle when holding a newborn kitten.

We look forward to sharing Collars & Scholars with the community, and we are confident it will help fulfill our vision of a community where all animals are cared for and loved.

Funding for the Collars & Scholars Program provided by the Robert Parker Fund at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.
MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Sparky
Joe & Lynn Charles
Spirit McMurray
Carl Savickas
Starry "Tinkie"
Kelly Smith
Stewie Mullaney
Nancy Law
Sweet Kitty Nikita
Ronald & Kim Vincent
Ted
Bennie Stern
Tiki, Cleo, ZsaZsa & Zeei
Patricia Moons
Toby & BJ
Barbara Newton
Toby Edward Walsh
Brian & Loryyne Walsh
Toby Newton
Nancy Delorge
Tribble & Kitten Kaboodle
Sandra Piech
Yodi
Ed & Jackie Tranick
Zoe
Alan & Dorothy Fredland

IN HONOR OF PERSON
Amanda & Jason
Ruth Manrie
Andre Hersom's 9th Birthday
Anthony Oliva
Caroline Williams
Gregory Band & Alexandra Reich-Band
James Woodman
Joan Boggs-Zwemer
Jonathan Evans
Kathleen Hogan
Michael & Cindy Ann Hersom
Murhead & Gaynor Fund at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Nancy Hersom
Nathalie Boyle
Nicholas Monsul
Shelley Greenwood-Labbe
Ann McGough's Birthday
Carol Ladkey
Lola Crichton
Maria Dull
Susan Asseltine
Susan Spittela
Arline Cutler
Kathleen Hurlburt
Arthur & Meade Ferguson
Teresa Jones
Barbara Gardiner
Catherine Bachand
Barbara Parcase
Stephen Brantley
Ben & Heidi Schulz
Christine Schaff
Bennie Hill
Lorie Newcomb
Bonnie McKee
Virginia Hathcock
Braun & Jeanne Graham
Dora Maris Thomas
Candice Hunter
James Hunter
Carl Popke
Robert & Marguerite Edwards
Carol Aronis
Marjorie Cullum
Carolyn Cooper's Birthday
Sarah Cooper
Chris
Susan Chapman
Christopher & Carroll Brown
Richard & Jennifer Starowesky
Cynthia Hebert
Joel Mishlen
Dave Merchant
Carol Jessup
Debbie Voloch
Valerie Tignon
Deidre Ferguson
Lisa Eidridge
Donna Chen
Julia Hix
Doris Fox & Morgan Thomson
Anna Danilevskaya
Dr. & Mrs. Braun Graham
Alfred Hernandez
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Roning
Unique Travel Planners
Dylan & Logan Carrillo's Birthday
Charlotte & Spencer Chapdelain
Jaden Roshenthal
Jill Potter
Kenzie Cleveland
Kim Ragan
Lauren Saxon
Lauren Thompson
Margaret Abbott
Maria Gaeta
Matthew Sandburg
Michaela Macdonald
Mitchell Halperin
Natalia Martinez
Paige McCarthy
Sabrina Lugo
Sarah Hu
Victoria Jaudon
William & Rebecca Leighton
Emmie & Harper
Helen Dickey
Frances Serino & John Greely
John Howard
Francie Pages
Glenda Dimino
Frances Howard
Kenneth & Judith Keyes
George & Mary Lyinn
Jeanette Gilmore
Gilbert McCarthy
Russell & Claudia Lee
Gramma
Kathie Evans
Grandpa Grandpa & GranLane
Calle Whistler
Greg & Tammy Ruda
Jeanette Gilmore
Heidi Neville's 60th Birthday
Alan Burgess
David Cherry
David Ferris
Donald Schreiner
Gayl Ferraro
Jeffrey Reed
Kathryn Mornill
M. E. Koch
Michael Fagan
Michael Neville
Peter Bushinski
Richard Williams
Ronald Randolph
Susan Shaw
Woodrow Charrier
Helene Davis
John & Barbara Kerwin
Howard & Lynn Lockwood
Christina State
Howard Seiler
Bernard & White
Jacques "The Man" Shafie
Charles Long
James Baker
James M. Van Zandt
Alvie Faller
Jane & Mooby Keller
Daniel Reid
Jane Hyslop
Sylvia Weidon
Jeannie Stuart
Sarah Stuart
Jessica Murphy
Carrie Murphy
Jessica Sullivan's Birthday
Linda Greco
Margaret Poole
Jim & Martha Cordell
Steve Freeman-Montes
Joanne Creel
Bethany Creel
Joe Holzer
Emily Kersten
Jon Shannon
Josephine Learned
Josephine K. Learned
Judith Shannon
Judith Ruzumna
Ellen Donnelly
Judy & Rene Piche
Jeanette Gilmore
Judy Centineo
Angie Rains
K9 Korral
Andrea Seager
Karen Silverberg
Richard & Janet Shahalip
Kimberly Kay
Christine Carlson
Kira Gordon
Lauren Cohen
Martha Magenheim
Kit Mounger
Kerry Kichinko
Lynn Billi
Joyce D'Angelo
Vincent Billi
Madeleine Taeni
Eva Weigert
Martin Moore's Birthday
Stephen & Nancy Long
Martyn Grunin's Birthday
Cindy Wichlak
David & Leslie Brown
David Sinclair
Dennis Masterson
Gordon Gruen
Harry Najarian
James Payne, Jr.
Laurence Savage
Michael Gorman
Neal Horst
Nicole Jones
Phil & Gloria Rosen
Sami Winsper
Steve Rosenberg
Matt & Merissa Kihne
Stephan Mort
Melanie Newby
Arlene Smith
Melissa Swenson
Christopher Williams
Julie Bear
Mendell Martin
Sandy Weigert
Michael Sivinski
Thomas & Hwai-Lin Sung
Mr. & Mrs. James Stuart
Gerry Weber
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis
Jeffrey Sembly
Peggy Heaton
Jeanette Gilmore
Ralph Smith
Richard & Jennifer Starowesky
Regina & Sunny Bunt
Isabel Gutierrez
Renée Heiniche
Charlotte Dupre
Rose Chapman
Joel Mishkin
Sally Greenup
Sandy Weigert
Shannon Hickey's 13th Birthday
Russell Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Sid & Lucye Finkelstein
Nathan Miller
Simba Her om
Debbie Murray
Sofie Bonacase
NutritiousYou, LLC
Steve Stockwell
Amanda Cloutier
Amy Primarac
Sue & Dick Beharrell's Anniversary
Owen & Karen Lewis
Susan Evans
Katie Evans
Susan Jones
Greg & Jeri Lynn Towsley
Suzanne Ray
Dana Maratta
Teresa Ann Hoose
Robert & Marka Monik
Teresa Jones
Deidre Ferguson
The Hoskinsons
Sheila Moore
Vickie Grosvener
Judy Martinez
Vivienne Lieberman
Philip & Sara Lieberman
IN HONOR OF PET
Betty Wieser
Michelle Wieser
Dakota
Ettas James
Dorina Betts
Finnie & Chen
Mark & Theresa Binder
Gracie
Diana Venetta
Jeanne Tee & Stella
Lori Zellin Rosmarin
Kathy
Jack Allan
Larry, Foster & Sadie
Bret Kelly
Macey
Teresa Passarelli
Mandy
Patricia Morrison
Mary
Ellen Rothschild
Miss Bailey
Sindy Cary
Oliver Westler
George & Anna Marie Martin
Romeo
Suzy Lodge
Rosalie
Pamela Logue
Sadie Beaird
Pamela Logue
Sky & Kola
Sandra Lyttle
Spike & Cocoa
Colleen Ellsworth
Geoffrey
Robert & Robert Wolfe
Tabitha & Ozzie
Mayo Darby
Tazan & Lucy
Robert & Terri Riebusch
Terry, PI & Rocco McKee
Jeryl Cannon
Zoe
Sheila Vincent
Zoey
Fern Segrelf
Zorl, Rudy & Bing
Rhonda Dejim

8/1/2018–3/31/2019

To donate, please visit www.hssc.org/give/donate/
HAPPY TAIL

“We just wanted to let you know how well little Frog, now Dobby, is doing. It’s one week today he’s been home and he is, knock on wood, potty trained!!! He’s so smart and sweet. We all love him very much already. He sleeps with us at night in bed and sleeps all the way through the night already. He’s eating great and loving life with us. His favorite thing is being outside and killing palm fronds. We’re working on leash walking and sitting right now, and he’s catching on pretty well. Thank you for trusting me to take care of this beautiful little baby. Thank you again!”

Nicole

SAVE THE DATE

Team up and tee off “fore” the 15th Annual Humane Society Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Laurel Oak Country Club.

Whether you’re a scratch golfer or have bogey fever, know that all tournament proceeds benefit HSSC. Golf claps to our Title Sponsor, Eldridge Body Shop. hssc.org/golftournament/

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Teresa Jones

Secretary
Jennifer Steube

Vice President
Justin Leins

Treasurer
Kinga Huse

Janet Boyden
Lisa Eldridge
Katherine Ferrara
Christopher J. Fowler
Sonia Gibson
Mark Kowalski
Julia Montei
Brent Myers
Ricky Perrone

Jennifer Poppen
Elizabeth Rabbitt-Stephen
Jennifer Steube
Jaime Still
Thomas Trinchetto, MD
Jay Turner
Caryn Wilbraham

WHY I SERVE...

“...as the area’s premier no-kill shelter, HSSC engages the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals. That is our mission, but what does this mean to me? It means that each time HSSC touches someone in our community, whether it is through adoption of a next best friend; providing affordable veterinary services; helping seniors through pet therapy; helping teens develop leadership skills and a service ethic through Teen Club; helping children improve their reading skills with Reading Fur Fun with dogs; or assisting pet owners who find themselves in need of pet food; we make our community a better place.

With our hearts, hands, and minds, we can improve lives and create a community where all animals are cared for and loved. We work with other local shelters to place animals in need. We provide compassionate care and find homes for our animals and promote responsible pet ownership. As we embark upon a major renovation and expansion, we continue to move forward with our mission so that we can give even more to our community. I am proud to serve as Board President during an amazing time for HSSC.

—Teresa D. Jones – Partner – Syprett, Meshad, Resnick, Lieb, Dumbaugh, Jones, Krotec & Westheimer, P.A.

CONTACT US

2331 15th Street | Sarasota, FL 34237 | 941.955.4131 | hssc.org