Saving pets, serving communities:
300 procedures and a lifetime impact

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The Journey: Supporting Tucker’s life from puppy to senior

Tucker was just a small puppy when he was adopted from St. Hubert’s. Eight years later, he was brought back to the shelter when his older owner fell ill and could no longer take care of him. This sweet dog had lost the only companion he’d known his whole life, and despite our best efforts to make him comfortable, transitioning back to the shelter made Tucker so nervous and stressed he stopped eating. That’s when loving foster Rhea stepped in to help.

Rhea took Tucker home, and within days he was eating again. But soon after, Tucker developed a respiratory infection and Rhea had to bring him back to the shelter for treatment. While Tucker was back in the shelter, Rhea made sure he felt supported. She emailed every day to check in on him, and even stopped by to drop off the rice-and-chicken mix that had spiked Tucker’s appetite.

Weeks passed, and when Tucker started feeling better, Rhea was ready to welcome him home with open arms. Slowly but surely, Tucker’s confidence grew, and now he enjoys spending his days playing outside or getting some exercise with his foster mom while he waits for his new home.

Our foster program, made possible by generous donors like you, gave Tucker a home to recover in when he needed it most. Your support of St. Hubert’s allows us to give animals, especially those who might be overlooked, a second chance at a fulfilling life. Rhea knows it, too. In her words, “Tucker had his whole world turned upside down, lost everything he knew, but came out of that still having an endless capacity for love and loyalty. There is something special about this dog, and I know someone out there will be able to see that the way we did.”

Rhea was right, and we’re happy to share that Tucker is now with his new adoptive family.
A Message from Lisa LaFontaine

For many of us, the past two years have been rife with challenges, adjustments, and most of all, unknowns. Despite all the uncertainty, we know that our new “normal” encourages us to embrace constant change and sometimes reprioritize our activities in real time. Together, we have built an organization that is ready to rise and adapt to any challenge. In fact, for every challenge we face, we seem to come out stronger.

This past year, more people united around a shared belief that caring for animals brings comfort in times of grief, and joy during ongoing uncertainty. Because we believe this so strongly, we have sought out new ways to keep families together through crisis. With initiatives like our Emergency Boarding program, we have given emergency care and shelter to hundreds of animals (like Boots, who you will read about in this issue). This has helped give people who are struggling the bandwidth and peace of mind to do difficult things—escape domestic violence, find stable housing, recover from illness, or manage other life challenges that would have otherwise led to separation.

With your unwavering support, we have also expanded our community outreach, and provided spay/neuter services to more than 300 family pets in December and January alone. Our staff and volunteers continue to show their compassion to every animal who comes into our care, no matter what their stage of life. In this issue, you’ll meet Tucker, who first received our help as a puppy, and later found the love and care he needed at St. Hubert’s as a senior when his life was turned upside down.

From helpful tips on on-the-ground updates, I hope this issue of Humane News provides you with some hope for all the good we will accomplish this year. Please know that the accomplishments you see on these pages—the families we have helped stay together, the animals we have saved, and the lives we have touched—reflect your unwavering dedication to St. Hubert’s. Our life saving work would be impossible without generous donors like you. Thank you for everything you do to make our work possible.

Countless animals and people have already found joy this year because of you. Countless more animals remain with their families today because of you. Thank you for stepping up to lend a helping hand whenever we needed you.

As you read about how our work makes lasting impacts in our community, I hope you reflect on the impact you’ve made through your compassion and support—make these stories possible.

All my best,

Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mark and Arlene—two St. Hubert’s superheroes

Mark and Arlene Swotinsky have always loved animals. That’s why, after retiring in the summer of 2016, they decided to follow their hearts and join the St. Hubert’s volunteer team.

In the five years since Mark and Arlene joined our shelter family, they have been involved in every aspect of our lifesaving work—from lending their time as foster parents to a mom and her six-week-old puppies, to attending as many fundraising and adoption events as they could fit in their calendars, to matching countless animals with their loving homes.

As a volunteer adoption counselor, Mark especially enjoys helping older dogs find a place to live out their golden years, while Arlene takes pride in ensuring everything is running smoothly once an animal is in a new home by performing post-adoption phone calls.

“We both appreciate the dedication of the staff and how well looked after the animals are,” says Mark. “All of this could not be accomplished without the support of those who give donations.”

Our lifesaving work is only made possible when kindhearted people join together to help animals in need, and we’re so grateful to have volunteers like Mark and Arlene form part of our St. Hubert’s family.

If you’re interested in joining the volunteer team at St. Hubert’s, please visit https://www.sthuberts.org/volunteer for more information.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

A temporary home for Boots to keep a family together

With continual support from kindhearted donors like you, St. Hubert’s can secure safe housing for pets when their people are most in need of a shoulder to lean on. Our Emergency Boarding program allows us to help families in need of boarding a pet.

This can include helping domestic violence victims leave abusive or unsafe situations by ensuring that their beloved animals will remain cared for while they relocate. In addition to providing emergency sheltering or foster care, generous donors also make it possible for us to supply necessary medical care, like spay/neuter, for all animals we take in—at no cost to their guardians.

This program also aids with displaced animals like Boots, a cat who found himself living in a truck with his family after they were evicted from their home. Boots’ family reached out to several places for help, but no one could take the cat in. When he arrived at St. Hubert’s, we brought Boots into emergency boarding and cared for him while his person secured new housing. Two and a half months later, Boots was reunited with his family.
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