We are Family

Family is everything, especially at Humane Indiana. Our family has a 78-year history and includes staff, fosters, volunteers, adopters, board members, community partners, and donors. We may have different backgrounds and different reasons that landed us at Humane Indiana, but we share the same compassion for the animals. Since our inception in 1941, our organization has grown from a small caring group of animal-lovers called Humane Society Calumet Area. Today called Humane Indiana, the name is an umbrella for our entities including Animal Shelter, Estelle Marcus Clinic, PAWS Resale & Consignment Shoppe, and Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. All entities work under the same mission. To lead the community in the humane treatment of all animals. But none of this wonderful growth would be possible without the help and dedication of our animal-loving Humane Indiana family. It’s BIG and wonderful, as it includes our shelter, clinic, PAWS, and Wildlife Center, and we’re proud of each family member.

Meet some of our Humane Indiana Shelter Family

Humane Indiana’s family includes women and men of all ages and ethnicities. Some gravitate to cats, others to dogs, and some are both dog and cat people. Some own one pet and some own multiple pets. We even have some family that started as fosterers and have become lovingly known as “Humane Indiana foster failures” simply because they loved their foster so much, they needed to make it permanently part of their family. Every Humane Indiana family member has a story behind what brought them to us, and what keeps them in our family.

Marie Noszak has been a volunteer with Humane Indiana for nine years and is lovingly known as one of our “cat ladies” due to her passion for helping the shelter’s kittens and cats most in need of love and care. Marie began volunteering nearly a decade ago, shortly after she lost her husband and retired. “I love being here; it makes you feel good and everyone’s so nice and friendly!” She explained with a smile while she cradled a kitten struggling with medical issues. “I’ll keep coming to help the animals for as long as I can walk,” she added. We appreciate Marie and rely on her to continue to share her warmth and compassion with our animal shelter family.

Julie Feinstein, Centier Bank’s Corporate Trainer/Officer is passionate about helping homeless pets. She’s adopted several shelter pets over the years and adores CC, a cat from our shelter. She has served as president and member of our board for nearly 15 years, as a way to give back. However, Julie still finds it challenging to walk the shelter floor. “It’s emotionally hard for me to know that this animal has to stay another night in the shelter and is not cuddling up with a family. It just breaks my heart,” she explains with tears streaming. We’re grateful that Julie is part of our Humane Indiana family to serve the animals her heart is committed to helping.

Judy Olen has been a volunteer since 1994. She has served on our board of directors and was president of the board for several years. Judy helped us grow our relationship with Estelle Marcus and continues to support our mission through her time, talent, and treasure. Her compassion for animals extends throughout the country, as she often visits and helps animal organizations during her travels. Her gratitude for the work we do is, at times, felt in the bellies of our staff through lunches she often provides as a thank you. Judy is the epitome of family to our staff and shelter animals.

Commander John Banaszak made a huge impact in the Town of Highland in 2019 by embracing community cats through Highland PD. They’ve successfully aligned themselves with the most up to date industry practices set forth by national organizations, which we support and strive to follow. The results of these changes include a decrease in diseases and reproduction among community cat populations. We’re proud to call the Highland PD family as they continue to support community cats and our mission.

Dave Barney is one of Humane Indiana’s most beloved volunteer dog walkers. Now retired and living in Schererville, Dave has been coming to the shelter for six years. Whether it’s snowy and below freezing or a humid 100+ degrees, he arrives at 8:30am, nearly everyday. The dogs wag their tails incessantly, they know their friend is here to give them their first walk of the day. “I’m here with them every morning, you feel good when the dog recognizes you,” he said while he was walking up with tears. Dave said he’s drawn to the need for his time and service at our shelter and is always happy to see the animals adopted by loving families. “You have a purpose, and it makes you feel good to be here,” he added. For our shelter pets and shelter team, Dave is family.

Scott Filler and his family began their journey with Humane Indiana by bringing their fostering expertise to us. Over the course of 20 years, they’ve fostered dozens of kittens and puppies. “I love that Humane Indiana is able to help on a larger scale because they have the resources to help homeless pets and rehab wildlife,” said Scott, owner of Apex Construction in Highland. He also volunteers as Vice President of Humane Indiana’s Executive Board. “I’ve tried to teach my kids to be compassionate for not-for-profits and to be charitable,” Scott explained. “The only way to do that is to lead by example and actually doing it. Humane Indiana is an extension of my family, I love the animals and love the mission,” Scott said.

Please consider joining our family

Our Humane Indiana Family participates by giving of their time, talent, and sometimes their treasure to help our shelter animals and wildlife in need. We are grateful for each family member and appreciate their heartfelt commitment and dedication which helps us continue the good we do together.

Please consider joining our Humane Indiana Family by making a donation, your heart and support make a difference in the lives of the animals we help.

To learn more about Humane Indiana, visit humaneindiana.org or call 219.922.3811.
SAVE THE DATE

NBC's CLEAR THE SHELTERS - SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH
Humane Indiana Shelter, 421 45th Avenue, Munster, IN
Hosted by NBC and Telemundo, Humane Indiana will join shelters across the country in a nationwide pet adoption drive. Our goal is to help every sheltered pet find their forever home by offering support to adopting families. Thousands of pets will be adopted nationwide during Clear the Shelters. Join us in finding loving homes for our shelter animals. More information coming soon.

PAWS IN THE PARK - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
Munster Community Park, Munster, IN
Get your walking teams ready and join Humane Indiana and hundreds of dog owners as we celebrate pets for health! Rain or shine, join our one-mile walk led by our mascot "Ca" the dog. Enjoy food vendors, pet-friendly vendors, and participate in an agility pet. Dress your pet in fun swag and let's walk to support our shelter animals. More information coming soon.

FESTIVAL OF OWLS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
Porter County Expo Center, 215 E Division Road, Valparaiso, IN
Bring the family for an owl-filled day at Humane Indiana's 3rd Annual Festival of Owls! Located indoors at the newly renovated Porter County Expo Center, this event brings the mysterious, majestic beauty of owls to YOU. Meet LIVING OWL SPECIES NATIVE TO INDIANA and hear from owl experts. More information coming soon.

INTERACTIVE 2020 KIDS SUMMER CAMPS
Animal Shelter, 421 45th Avenue, Munster, IN! Wildlife Center, 570 N 450E, Valparaiso, IN
Imagine a summer filled with critters, wildlife, activities, and fun! Well, look no more parents! From our "Caring for Critters" to "Nocturnal Wildlife" camps, we have something all kids will enjoy. Visit us online for a complete list and descriptions of our upcoming summer camps. Registration now open online at HUMANEINDIANA.ORG/EDUCATION or call 219.299.8027. Your kids will thank you for an unforgettable summer!