Dear Friends of Humane Indiana,

As another new year rings in the promise of something unique and exciting, we want to take a moment to acknowledge our founders and officially kick off our 80th anniversary. We have achieved a milestone not many others can claim - Humane Indiana is celebrating 80 years of serving NW Indiana.

What began as the Hammond Humane Society in 1941 has since grown into an organization with three very separate and distinct missions, remaining steadfast to our founder’s intentions. We annually support over 4,000 dogs and cats, and just this past year took in almost 3,000 injured/orphaned wildlife from over 21 counties in Indiana.

A small but determined group of women led by Evelyn Swelzer began a shelter in a simple 3-car garage on Columbia Avenue. They were strong and vocal advocates for the humane treatment of animals and began placing shelter pets in friendly homes.

Today in its place a “state-of-the-art animal shelter” thrives in Munster. In early 2010, the facility was augmented with the addition of a low-cost spay-neuter clinic, both made possible by the vision and generosity of Estelle Marcus.

In 2015 Humane Indiana expanded yet again. We acquired the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Valparaiso from Judith Cieslak and Jean Preblis, two women with a passion for saving wildlife and bringing education to the masses.

Over the past 80 years, the changes to our organization have been substantial, but our commitment to animal care and the owner experience remains the same. We’re here to help adoptive families make good choices for their new pets, assist families with keeping their pets in their homes, and provide a location for injured and orphaned wildlife to receive needed care. Our values have not changed and it’s why we are still around to serve new generations. Humane Indiana’s success is due to our team of dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, and generous donors.

All of our adopters become a part of our forever family. We meet new clients all of the time who were referred from a friend or family member because of the great experience they had now and years ago. We make sure our clients receive the very best, from pet introduction to a lifetime of assistance so the adoption remains successful.

If you have been a supporter of Humane Indiana in any way today, yesterday, or thirty years ago, we thank you. Without you, without your referrals, donations, and trust, we would never be able to serve NWI with our incredible mission, thank you for believing in us!

Would you consider giving to our $80 for 80 years continue-the-mission campaign?

Sincerely,

Brain Fitzpatrick
CEO
LOOKING BACK ON 2020

Our Foster Volunteers Saved Us
Dozens stepped forward to help place every single shelter animal into a foster home when stay-at-home orders went into place.
Many adopted their foster pet.

21 Families Received Assistance Through Our Crisis Foster Program
1/3 of Crisis Foster clients needed the program’s help due to COVID-related complications.

942 Shelter Pets Found Loving Homes
The biggest challenge for adoptions have been COVID-related.
The Shelter had to run by appointment only, with vigorous cleanings in between clients, slowing down our adoption process.

2021 SAVE THE DATES

Saturdays, June 12, 2021, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Community Park in Munster, IN
Join us for a one-mile, pet-friendly walk to help support local pets. This year, there are two great ways to participate. Choose to join us in-person or participate a virtual walk. Sign up today at HumaneIndiana.org/PawsInThePark

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF OWLS
Saturday, October 23, 2021, 9am-5pm
Porter County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building, 215 E. Division Rd., Valparaiso, IN
Join Humane Indiana Wildlife for a family-friendly day of wide-eyed, owl-themed fun at our 4th Annual Festival of Owls. Meet several owls, including our own ambassadors and join our line-up of owl expert guest speakers as they discuss owls native to Indiana. Tickets go on sale September 1 at HumaneIndiana.org

GALA 2021 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, November 6, 2021, 5pm-9pm
Avalon Manor, 3550 E. Lincoln Hwy., Merrillville, IN
Mark your calendar and don’t miss Humane Indiana’s 80th Anniversary celebration Gala. Help us celebrate 80 YEARS of service to help homeless pets and orphaned and injured wildlife. Join us for an evening of animals and honoring the good that we do together.