

2024 **spca** cincinnati

ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends of the **SPCA Cincinnati**,

It's an honor to write to you for the first time as President & CEO of the **SPCA Cincinnati**.

Since joining this spring, I've spent every day listening, learning, and leading with one core belief: animal welfare is human welfare. How we care for animals reflects who we are as a society. And I believe the **SPCA Cincinnati** is ready to lead—not just locally, but nationally—in showing what compassionate, community-based animal care truly looks like.

That belief is backed by action.

In 2024, more than 2,500 animals entered our care, and over 2,400 were adopted into loving homes. We performed 2,100+ lifesaving surgeries, distributed more than 100,000 pounds of pet food, and reached over 2,000 people through humane education. Our foster network supported 658 animals—many of them fragile, newborn kittens. Thanks to your support, over 100 veterans and people in crisis found healing through adoption.

Behind every number is a story: A dog like Miss Scarlet, who survived a gunshot wound and found love in the arms of her new family. A child meeting their first therapy dog. A parent who didn't have to choose between feeding their kids or their cat.

Animals are one of the few things in this world that can truly bring people together, regardless of our differences. That's the power you help unlock every time you support our work.

At the same time, we know challenges are growing. That's why we've launched a bold strategic planning process—to meet this moment not just by responding, but by reimagining our future.

To our staff, volunteers, donors, fosters, and community partners—thank you. You are the heart of this work.

Onward—together,



PRESIDENT & CEO

CHRIS SEELBACH



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of the **SPCA Cincinnati**,

After 28 years of dedicated service at the **SPCA Cincinnati**, Mike Retzlaff has retired as President & CEO. I want to thank Mike for his unbelievable commitment to the organization. During his tenure, Mike has ushered in numerous new programs, including our **Chow Now Pantry**, the **Shelter2Shelter** program, and free vaccine clinics. These programs not only serve the animals in our community but also profoundly impact the lives of pet owners. Mike will be deeply missed, but I take pleasure in knowing he's on a golf course, thoroughly enjoying life!

I recently corresponded with our new President & CEO, Chris Seelbach, and he ended his email with a powerful, one-word sentence: "Onward." After I read that, I sat back in my chair and smiled. Chris's energy and passion for animal welfare are infectious, and he is brimming with many dynamic ideas. He is focused on learning and implementing best practices from humane organizations nationwide. He is committed to making the **SPCA Cincinnati** a national leader in animal welfare. It makes me very excited for the future of **SPCA Cincinnati**, the animals in our care, and the members of our community who will benefit from our new initiatives.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all of our Donors, Staff, and Volunteers who show up daily to be the voice for the voiceless. Together we go farther.

Onward,



JOELLE RAGLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF MIKE RETZLAFF

After nearly three decades of devoted service, **Mike Retzlaff retired as President & CEO of the SPCA Cincinnati in June 2025.** His steadfast leadership helped shape our organization into one of the country's most respected humane societies and changed the lives of more than 100,000 animals and the people who love them.

Mike's impact can be seen across every inch of our organization, from the facilities he helped build to the programs he pioneered. Under his guidance, the **SPCA Cincinnati** expanded its reach and deepened its roots in the Greater Cincinnati community.



STANDOUT ACHIEVEMENTS

Some standout achievements from his tenure include:

- ✓ **2002 to Present:** Built and sustained strong media partnerships to promote adoptable pets
- ✓ **2008:** Opened the Sharonville Humane Center
- ✓ **2009:** Acquired Simmonds Farm
- ✓ **2020:** Completed the K9 Kennel Expansion Project
- ✓ **2020:** Launched the Chow Now Pantry, providing free pet food to families in need

Mike also helped launch many beloved traditions, including the **Adopt-A-Pet Fund Telethon**, **Fur Ball**, **Bark in the Park**, and **Tails on the Trail**, bringing the community together to support our mission. His legacy lives on in every adoption, every rescue, and every animal we serve. Longtime **SPCA Cincinnati** supporters Peter and Vicki Alpaugh have made a generous gift in honor of Mike Retzlaff to support our ongoing work for animals in need.

If you'd like to contribute to this fund in Mike's honor, please contact us at info@spcacincinnati.org.

Thank you, Mike, for your vision, passion, and extraordinary service. You leave the **SPCA Cincinnati** stronger, more compassionate, and ready for the next 150 years.

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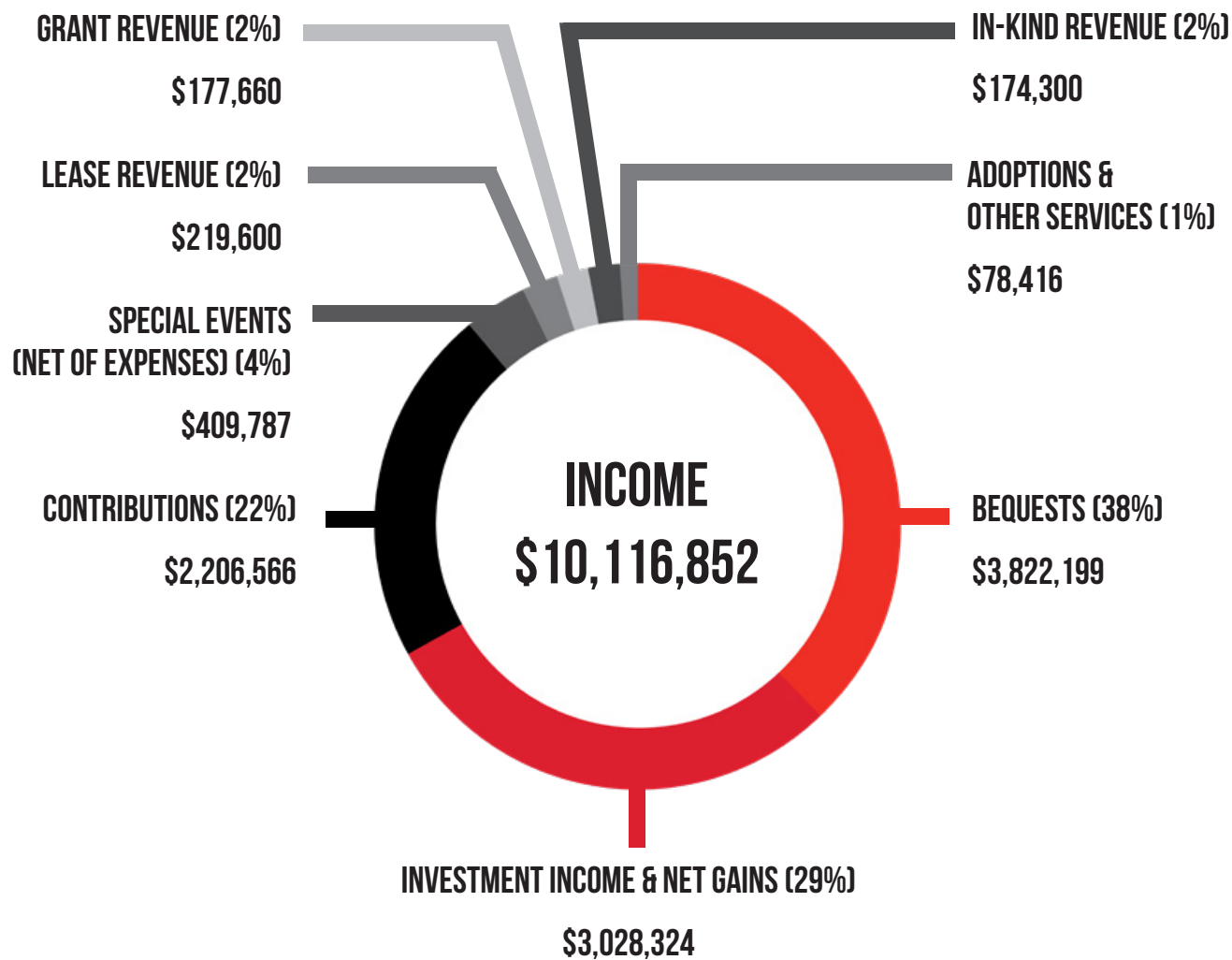


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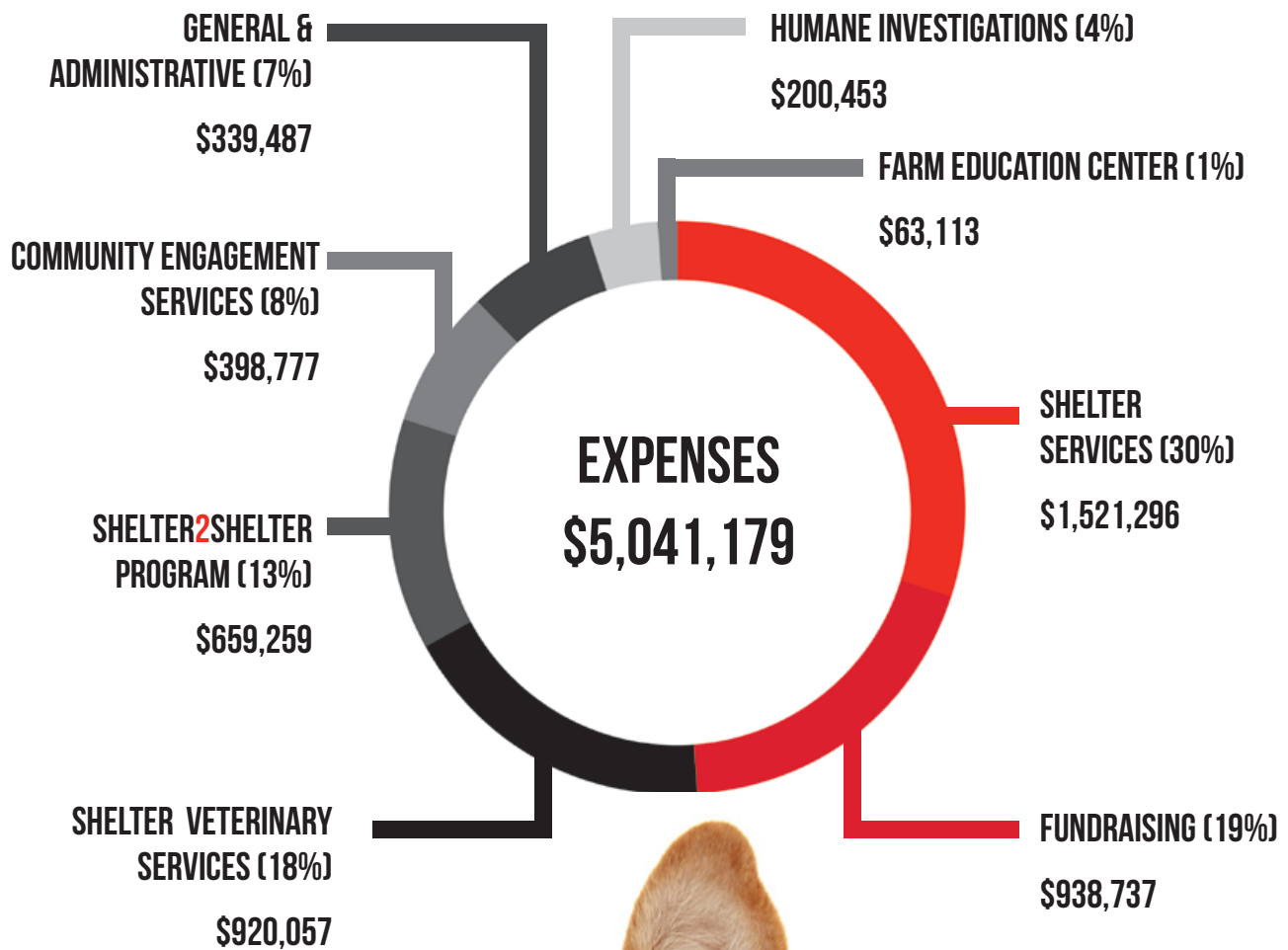
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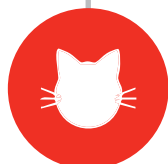
2024 AT-A-GLANCE



2,568 ANIMALS ENTERED OUR FACILITIES



2,407 PETS WERE ADOPTED



3,500 AT-RISK KITTENS RECEIVED SPECIALIZED CARE BY SPCA STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND FOSTERS DURING THE LAST FIVE KITTEN SEASONS



1,039 ANIMALS WERE TRANSFERRED INTO OUR CARE VIA THE SHELTER²SHELTER PROGRAM



267 VOLUNTEERS GAVE 21,096 HOURS OF THEIR TIME, 9,793 OF WHICH WERE SPENT WALKING DOGS

VETERINARY SERVICES



4,992 VACCINES ADMINISTERED



487 HEARTWORM TESTS PERFORMED



1,921 DOSES OF HEARTWORM PREVENTION ADMINISTERED



8 DOGS TREATED FOR LIFE-THREATENING HEARTWORM DISEASE



4,186 DOSES OF EYE MEDICATION WERE GIVEN
TO NEARLY **300** ANIMALS IN OUR CARE



1,050 STOOL SAMPLES TESTED
FOR PARASITES



1,241 CATS TESTED FOR
LEUKEMIA (+/- FIV)



1,364 SPAY/NEUTERS PERFORMED
IN OUR ON-SITE CLINIC



2,100 SURGICAL
PROCEDURES PERFORMED



PROGRAMS



ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERAN PROGRAMS

Pets can bond with us in ways that humans sometimes can't. They also have the power to improve mental well-being. **SPCA Cincinnati** gives back to those who serve and protect our country. For veterans and active service members, a pet adoption at the **SPCA Cincinnati** is **free**. We pair service members with a shelter animal of their choice, be it a dog, cat, or perhaps even a rabbit or hamster. We also accept Veteran Pet Adoption sponsorships to help fund more adoptions. Additionally, the **SPCA Cincinnati**

partners with the Cincinnati VA Medical Center to provide pet therapy and distribute pet food and supplies to the animals of local veterans through our Chow Now Pantry initiative.

76

PETS WERE ADOPTED THROUGH THE PETS FOR VETS PROGRAM IN 2024

CHOW NOW PANTRY

The Chow Now Pantry is an **SPCA Cincinnati** program fostered by community relationships that feeds thousands of dogs, cats, and small animals annually. Our story began in 2020 with our Chow Now Pantry Food Truck visiting various pop-up locations in the Greater Cincinnati area. Pop-up locations have now turned into regular, twice-monthly distribution stops with our partners Tikkun Farms in Mt. Healthy, CAIN Ministries in Northside, serving veterans at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, and Pets in Need in Lockland. The Chow Now Pantry is also proud to be the pet food supplier for seven St. Vincent DePaul locations, as well as Operation Give Back in Blue Ash.



100K
LBS.

OF PET FOOD WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH OUR CHOW NOW PANTRY IN 2024,
SERVING **25,000** ANIMALS.



PROGRAMS

FUR BALL GALA



The **SPCA Cincinnati** Fur Ball Gala is our largest and most significant annual event. This premier event brings together our generous sponsors and donors, committed board members, tireless Fur Ball committee, dedicated volunteers, and hardworking staff to celebrate achievements in animal welfare throughout the year and, most importantly, to raise critical funds.

Our **22nd Annual Fur Ball Gala: Animal House** was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Sharonville Convention Center. Our Presenting Sponsor, **IAMS™**, and our Platinum Sponsors, **Gorilla Glue** and **Swiffer**, and all of our other generous sponsors and media partners helped make the 2024 Fur Ball possible.

The evening was filled with collegiate fun and youthful nostalgia, where every guest was a pledge of our 2024 **Sigma Pi Chi Alpha (SPCA)** Pledge Class. It was a roaring success for everyone, especially our animals. We adopted out **11 dogs, 8 cats, and one rabbit!**

With your help of our “pledges”, the **SPCA Cincinnati** raised over **\$606,000** to save more animals’ lives, surpassing the previous year’s total! ALL the money raised here stays here. We are an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit and are not affiliated with any national animal organization.

A very special thanks to **Prestige AV & Creative Services** for ensuring that the party didn’t stop until we dropped! Thanks to our media partners, **Local 12 WKRC-TV**, **103.5 WGRR**, and **La Mega 97.7 FM**, for being steadfast friends and supporters. **David McCreary**, our Master of Ceremonies, kept us smiling and engaged all evening. It was truly a night to remember.

\$606K

RAISED AT THE 2024 FUR BALL GALA TO PROVIDE CARE AND SHELTER TO ANIMALS IN NEED.

PROGRAMS

FOSTER PROGRAM

Foster parents provide temporary homes for animals prior to adoption. Fostering is a wonderful and personal way to contribute to saving and improving the lives of homeless pets.

There are several reasons why a pet may need foster care.

- Newborn animals that need to be bottle-fed, or mothers with nursing babies. Very young animals who are weaned but not old enough for adoption also benefit from the care of a foster parent.
- Dogs with mild to moderate behavioral issues who require some behavior modification and work, such as shy dogs who need socializing, and/or long-time residents at the shelter.
- Some animals need time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption and may need more attentive and personal medical care, which can be more easily provided in a foster home.
- Short-term care for animals who will be going to a rescue group.

Providing foster care for a week, a month, or more can be a lifesaving gift for an animal. One of our newest and most exciting foster programs is our **Paw Pass Program**. A “Paw Pass” is a hall pass for dogs! A “Paw Pass” can include field trips (day pass) that last an hour or all day, as well as overnight stays, and weekend “staycations”. This program is catered to long-timers -- dogs showing signs of kennel fatigue, who are shy, recovering from medical treatment, and others approved by the foster team. The **SPCA Cincinnati** also provides fosters with the supplies needed for the agreed-upon foster duration.

658

PETS WERE FOSTERED IN 2024.



PROGRAMS

HUMANE EDUCATION



The **SPCA Cincinnati** offers humane education for children in the Greater Cincinnati Area, visiting schools, scout troops, and other groups. We believe that respect for all life starts with teaching children to respect animals, which includes learning about safety and responsible pet care.

Our Junior Service Program, presented by MedVet, is an opportunity for kids ages 12-18 to volunteer at the **SPCA Cincinnati** and participate in activities that directly benefit the well-being of the animals at the **SPCA Cincinnati** Shelter, as well as the animals of the surrounding communities through our Chow Now Pantry program.

In our Pet Therapy Program, volunteers and their animals go through months of training to be registered through Pet Partners to ensure that their dogs can provide the love and affection to those who most need it. Pet therapy, also known as animal-assisted therapy, offers a myriad of benefits for individuals of all ages, including emotional support, stress reduction, physical health, and cognitive benefits. **SPCA Cincinnati** and our Pet Therapy Team visit schools, nursing homes, libraries, and the Cincinnati VA.

112

HUMANE EDUCATION EVENTS WERE HELD IN 2024, REACHING 2,000 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

SAFE HOME SAFE PETS

In partnership with organizations like Women Helping Women and YWCA, **SPCA Cincinnati** provides temporary emergency housing and foster care for pets of domestic violence survivors—because no one should have to choose between safety and their beloved animals. Abusers often use pets as tools of control, and many victims delay leaving dangerous situations out of fear for their pets' safety. Thanks to a 2023 RedRover grant, our shelter now includes a sanctuary room where survivors can spend time with their pets during this critical transition. Over the past five years, we've sheltered more than 100 animals, helping families stay whole while they heal.

10

PETS RECEIVED TEMPORARY SHELTER AT SPCA CINCINNATI WHILE THEIR OWNERS SOUGHT SAFETY AND STABILITY AFTER FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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JOIN US IN CREATING A KINDER FUTURE

YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR MISSION

At the **SPCA Cincinnati**, we believe in a future where every animal is safe, loved, and given the chance to thrive. That future isn't possible without you. As we build on 152 years of lifesaving work, we invite you to be part of the next chapter.

Whether you've supported us for years or are reading your first annual report, there are meaningful ways you can get involved—starting today.

BE AN ADVOCATE

- 🐾 Share our mission with your networks.
- 🐾 Invite us to your workplace or community group.
- 🐾 Support our humane investigations and speak up for animals in need.

Contact volunteer@spcacincinnati.org for a humane education visit

ADOPT. FOSTER. VOLUNTEER.

- 🐾 Open your heart and home to a pet in need.
- 🐾 Lend your time and talents, no experience required.
- 🐾 Provide temporary love and care as a foster family.

Contact foster@spcacincinnati.org

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

- 🐾 Make a one-time or recurring donation.
- 🐾 Include the **SPCA Cincinnati** in your estate plans and leave a legacy of compassion.
- 🐾 Sponsor an adoption, support our Chow Now Pantry, or underwrite a medical procedure.

Contact info@spcacincinnati.org

CELEBRATE WITH US

- 🐾 Join us at Fur Ball, Bark in the Park, Tails on the Trail, or another community event.
- 🐾 Host a fundraiser in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or beloved pet.

Contact our Donor Relations Event Manager mroberson@spcacincinnati.org

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO EVEN MORE.

We've saved thousands of lives. With your help, we'll save thousands more. Thank you for believing in this mission—and for being the difference.

With Gratitude,



CHRIS SEELBACH
PRESIDENT & CEO



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OUR MISSION

We are committed to being a driving force in promoting animal welfare, strengthening the human-animal bond, providing humane education and eliminating pet overpopulation.

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info@spcacincinnati.org

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