



IMPACT REPORT 2020

YOU ARE THE REASON

The lives of 739 cats and dogs in need in Chatham County are better because you care. As volunteers, foster caregivers, and donors, you each made many lives better.

46 YEARS STRONG
SERVING SINCE 1975

Chatham Animal Rescue & Education
PO Box 610
Pittsboro, NC 27312

chathamanimalrescue.org
chathamrescate.org

You Made a Difference

The lives of 739 cats and dogs in need in Chatham County are better, because you care. From beginning to end, you - our volunteers, our foster caregivers, our donors — you each made many lives better.

You Made Life Better

With your donations, this loving kitty, Cassius, had the chance to be loved in a forever home. Born and raised on the streets of Siler City, NC, he relied on garbage cans and kind people to provide food, which on occasion was only soggy bread. Somewhere along the way, his back was broken and healed on its own. Finally, he was trapped, vaccinated, neutered, microchipped and forced to interact with human beings. Much to his surprise, he learned humans are very patient, kind and loving. With a healed back, this handsome boy has the most adorable bunny hop to go fast, and the best adopter ever who made a love connection with this truly lucky boy.



Here's an update from Jennifer, his adopter—

I have wanted a cat for as long as I can remember, but I wanted to make sure I would be able to commit to looking after my pet and giving my pet a fulfilling life. I finally felt like it was time to adopt, now that I am an adult and will be starting a full-time job soon. Loki (AKA Cassius) came to me just as I am about to venture solo into the world for the first time in my life. ***He's been such a loving and wonderful addition to my life.*** Within a few days, he was confident enough to come up to me and ask for attention. He kept me company during my last-ever finals season – napping comfortably beside me as I wrote final papers. He's a silly and curious boy who makes every day exciting. Every evening, he turns into a cuddle monster, asking for pets and snuggles.

Now, I can't imagine moving on to the next chapters of my life without my loving boy by my side."

You Made Life Easier



A joyful sight to see Ezra, the “wonder dog”, standing on his hind legs.

You first gave Ezra the chance to live, then helped make his life easier.

When Ezra’s owner surrendered him for euthanasia due to a genetic abnormality preventing the use of his back legs, CARE volunteers stepped in to give him a chance for a happy life. We knew that it was going to be a difficult journey, but we also knew that Ezra was worth all our effort. A CARE foster caregiver with a soft spot for giant breed dogs made the commitment to help Ezra walk again. Thanks to the surgical staff and the rehab team of Quartet Specialty Veterinary Hospital, and especially his wonderfully dedicated foster family, Ezra’s journey for full mobility is almost complete.

Ezra is on his way to a fully mobile and happy life. It would not have been possible without the support of many generous donors to CARE and dedicated CARE volunteers. The entire CARE family has celebrated every step to his success along the way. The first time Ezra was able to stand on his own to eat and drink brought tears of joy to his foster parents.

Ezra has come a long way. He even participated in a CARE mile-long walk for foster dogs and volunteers. Although Ezra wasn’t able to complete the entire walk, he was the official “finish line” welcomer greeting the other participants with a happy smile and tail wag. Ezra’s uphill journey has been long, but he reminds us to celebrate each of his victories along the way.

Volunteers • Fosters • Donors

People Who Care

You Make the Difference

SHELLY — Volunteer

I've been a volunteer with CARE since late 2018, where I started in the PetSmart Cat Adoption Center and also on the Marketing Committee. It's been so rewarding to work with this group of dedicated animal lovers! My most memorable experience so far is when the Cat Welfare Committee stepped in to help me "pre-foster" a friendly Mom cat and her 6 kittens, who emerged from the woods next to my house two summers ago. They provided all the supplies, food and medical care for this family and gave me lots of helpful advice on socializing the kittens so they would be adoptable. When one of our regular foster homes had space for them, off they went. What a sad day for me as I had grown SO attached to them! But before long, all of the kittens— and even the Mom — were adopted to loving homes. I've also helped care for some Community Cats near me, again thanks to help from the Cat Welfare Committee. *I'm really proud to be part of this all-volunteer group who works tirelessly to support dogs and cats in need in our county.*



AMY — Volunteer

My animal companions have always been an important part of my childhood and adult life. While I was aware that many homeless and unwanted animals wound up in shelters or roaming the streets, hungry and sick every year around the country, I never really understood how dire the situation was until I moved to North Carolina. NC is not the worst state when it comes to euthanized animals in our shelters, yet it ranks third highest.

I started visiting shelters and learning how desperate they were for adopters and foster caregivers to save the many wonderful animals waiting for a chance. I had a choice, I could walk away and try not to think about it because it is painful, or I could make a difference in an animal's life, giving them the chance they so desperately deserve.

I chose the latter and I was lucky enough to have an established and amazing rescue group in my community to partner with. I have been fostering dogs, cats and kittens for almost five years. Every animal that has entered our home has been deserving of a chance.

These animals bring our family joy every day and we smile knowing we have found them all wonderful homes. People tell me "I could never foster, I would want to keep them all." I never understood that statement given the alternative those animals face. *I absolutely fall in love with every single foster that enters our home and the life that animal will now have is worth any pain of saying goodbye. It is one of the most selfless things you can do.* I feel honored to be a part of such an amazing organization that is making a difference right here in our own community.



Donors of All Ages



JANIE with Lola

I have always loved animals and gave to national charities for many years. Then I heard about CARE and what they are doing locally, and I wanted to make a bigger impact on my community. About five years ago I chose CARE as my charity. They are making a huge impact on our Animal Resource Center (ARC) in Chatham County, they are placing dogs and cats into loving homes, and they are pro-active in their spay and neuter programs. I am proud to be a CARE donor and appreciate all that they do.



EMMALIA with Daisy and Gena

What do you tell children when they, like you, want to adopt all the homeless dogs and cats they see on the ARC list? There are only so many pets that can reasonably fit into a busy family's life! My daughters want to share the big love they have for our rescued dogs with all homeless pets.

From donated dog and cat supplies in lieu of presents at birthday parties, to entrepreneurial ventures to support CARE, they channel their love for homeless pets. My daughter, and her posse of friends on the block, worked together

with the help of parental marketing to create, bake and sell pumpkin oatmeal dog treats to the residents and the dog walking population of Briar Chapel. The excitement and purpose these young entrepreneurs exhibited, with the goal of raising as much money for CARE as possible, was impressive. They tirelessly manned the table on a warm day, made and hung signs advertising their cause and counted their money carefully. The pride on their faces when picking out items from the CARE wish list was priceless! They have plans to be back in business again with more efforts to gain awareness for the homeless pet population in our area.

Our Community

CARE's Low Cost Microchip Program — *Meeting a Community Need*

When Trevor, Leila's Japanese Bob-tail cat from Vietnam, disappeared from her house in a heavily wooded area of Chatham County, she was terrified something had happened to him.



She looked and looked, called, posted flyers and contacted every agency she thought should be able to help. Fortunately, Trevor came home on his own, but Leila was concerned about the lack of any coordinated system for reuniting lost pets with their owners in Chatham. Leila contacted CARE to brainstorm about how she and CARE could make a difference.

After lengthy discussions with the CARE Board of Directors and volunteers, the focus narrowed to the benefit of microchips in returning lost pets. CARE already chipped all adopted foster pets, but not community cats, and the ARC in Chatham County was not chipping any of the pets adopted from there. Realizing we knew very little about

how many dogs and cats in Chatham County were microchipped, Leila funded a short-term research project to interview veterinarians and conduct a survey of pet owners and other stakeholders. The resulting analysis disclosed the reasons folks don't chip their pets, principal among them a lack of understanding of the way microchips work and the, to many, high cost to microchip a pet.

This analysis was sent to all participants in the survey, veterinarians, and the ARC. Subsequently, CARE made a presentation to the Board of Health (BOH) who oversaw the animal control program at the time. The BOH voted the same night to require chipping of all dogs and cats adopted from the ARC! With funds provided by Leila, CARE was able to place billboards in both Siler City and Pittsboro, touting the value of microchipping and to offer CARE's first low-cost Microchip Clinic at Pittsboro Pet Supply.

Leila's dedication to finding a solution, and her generosity, allowed CARE to *launch a new program based on a real need, and her generous bequest on her death will allow CARE to continue this program well into the future.*

Check out CARE's Blog for All Pet Owners (especially Seniors!)

This year of Covid has increased isolation and loneliness, particularly for older adults, and pets have filled the gap for many with affection and companionship. Pet Tips, our new Blog entries, are specifically targeted to support safe and rewarding pet ownership for seniors. A few simple precautions will help keep both owner and pet safer and more secure. We also explore how pets are good for the physical health of our hearts. These Pet Tips articles are also appearing in Farrington Village and Galloway Ridge publications for residents, and in the Chatham Council on Aging Newsletter for clients.



Find our blog at: www.chathamanimalrescue.org/care-blog/

Our Numbers 2020

in review



Total Animals Helped, Including Lillie's Fund = 739

Cats

Cats in Foster Care / Adopted
123 / 87 +11% / +10%

Courtesy Cats on Website
57

Community Cats Helped
166

Cat Adoption Days
31

Total Cats Helped
346 +14%

Dogs

Dogs in Foster Care / Adopted
99 / 92 +5% / +35%

Courtesy Dogs on Website
41

Community/Shelter Dogs Helped
20

Dog Adoption Days
6

Total Dogs Helped
160 +50%

All Cats & Dogs

Microchipped
551 FANTASTIC!

Spay and Neuter Surgeries
613 EXCELLENT!

Lillie's Fund
Vouchers Issued/Redeemed
302 / 233 GREAT!

Total Volunteer Hours
29,416 WOW!

Volunteers responded to over
two thousand voice mail, email
and website inquiries!
WOO HOO!

CARE Volunteers work tirelessly year-round to serve all the animals and raise funds to support the animals and the organization.

Income

Total income \$226,180

Expenses

Total expenses \$149,410

Increased CARE Revenue by 43% over prior year.

About Chatham Animal Rescue & Education (CARE)

The mission of Chatham Animal Rescue & Education (CARE) is to promote the health and safety of all dogs and cats in Chatham County, NC. CARE foster caregivers provide loving, stable homes to homeless cats and dogs, helping them become the best possible pets for their future forever families. CARE works with the Chatham County Animal Resource Center to save the lives of unwanted cats and dogs, manages feral cat colonies, and serves as an educational resource. CARE's Lillie's Fund is a targeted spay/neuter program, subsidizing sterilization surgeries for pets owned by lower income families in Chatham County. CARE is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that has served the community since 1975 and relies on individual and corporate donors for support.

As a volunteer-based organization, we are completely reliant on the dedication of our wonderful volunteers to support our mission.

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Thank You
for making it all possible