



Raise the Woof

A Campaign for the Humane
Society of North Central
Florida



**humane
society**

OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA



humane society

OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Mission Statement:

To eliminate the needless euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets in North Central Florida.



Vision Statement:

To make North Central Florida a sustainable no-kill community where we strive to act as advocates for pets and pet owners, match pets and people for a lifetime, and promote the spaying and neutering of companion animals through education and outreach.

Core Values:



Compassion



Collaboration



Community

“We have a fantastic staff and a dedicated group of volunteers committed to making our vision a reality. Now it’s time to focus our attention on the shelter. Investing in our shelter today will have a direct impact on the number of lives we are able to save tomorrow.”

- Naima Cortes-Stoneberger, HSNCF Board President



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Dear Friends,

For as long as I can remember, I have been passionate about animal welfare.

There is no one doing more for animal welfare in our community than the Humane Society of North Central Florida. Without them, thousands of animals would have no shot at survival. Caring for lost, abused, abandoned, and injured animals is more than a job for them. It's a labor of love. There is an incredible passion on the part of leadership, the staff, the board, and the volunteers for every animal under their care.

Unfortunately the conditions at their shelter no longer match the quality of care they provide. The animals need our help today.


I'm excited to announce my support for Raise the Woof. Through this capital campaign, the Humane Society of North Central Florida will make the safety improvements the shelter—and the thousands of animals they care for every year—need. By replacing the roof and installing a new HVAC system, they will immediately increase their capacity, improve conditions, and free their staff and volunteers to focus on what matters most: North Central Florida's abandoned, lost, stray, injured, and sick animals.

These projects are not indulgences; they are crucial to ensuring safe, healthy conditions for the staff, the volunteers, and the animals they rescue. That's why I'm making Raise the Woof a priority, and why I'd like to ask you to do the same. Together, our gifts will help the Humane Society save more lives today, tomorrow, and long into the future.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Foley
Friend of the Humane Society
Athletic Director Emeritus, Florida Gators



A woman with long blonde hair is smiling and holding a small, light-colored kitten. She is wearing a dark watch on her left wrist. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

“I’ve seen the difference the Humane Society makes in the lives of the animals they save and in the lives of the people who adopt them. When you turn around an animal’s life, it turns the lives of humans around, too.”

- Rita Garrett,
Volunteer, Foster Parent, and
Adoptive Parent

Saving More Lives Every Year

Ever since the Alachua County Humane Society, Gainesville Pet Rescue, and Helping Hands Pet Rescue joined forces in 2018 to become the Humane Society of North Central Florida, we have been on a mission to eliminate the needless euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets throughout our region.

We knew we could save more lives together and we have. The Humane Society of North Central Florida takes in 2.5 times more animals than we did just five short years ago.

- **We provide loving care for animals** at the shelter and in foster homes and get them ready for adoption.
- **We advocate for pets and pet owners** and provide education and outreach to promote animal welfare.
- **We perform thousands of spay and neuter** surgeries on healthy animals and hundreds of complex operations as we nurse sick and injured animals back to health.
- **We have become a national leader in disaster relief** by triaging animals during major storms and coordinating their moves to partners in neighboring states.
- We collaborate with nonprofits and social service agencies to help keep pets in their homes and **address the underlying causes of pet abandonment and overpopulation.**
- **We have forged partnerships with rural county shelters**, establishing our organization as a model for rural county outreach.

We believe in compassion,
collaboration, and community.
**Together with our volunteers and
partners, we have made Alachua
County a safe haven for animals, and
our efforts are improving outcomes
for animals across the much wider
21-county region we serve.**

2021 Statistics



2,834
Lives Saved



7,869
Low-Cost Vaccines Given



2,594
Forever Homes Found



4,955
Spay/Neuter Surgeries



1,314
Foster Homes



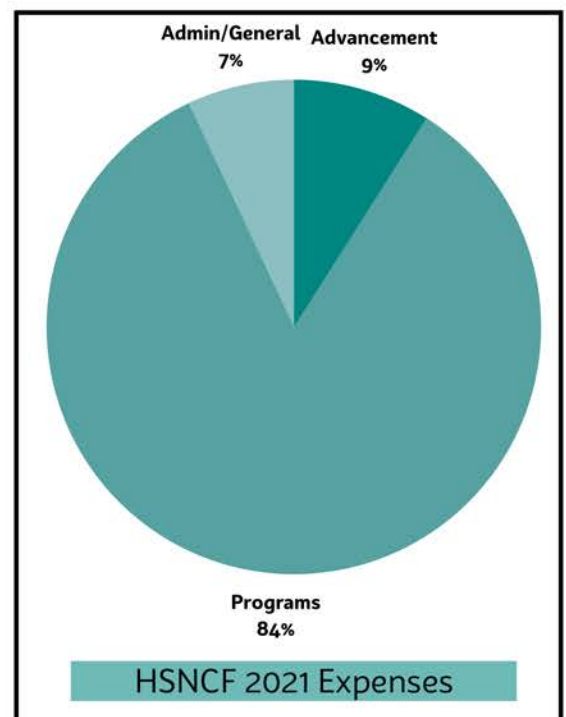
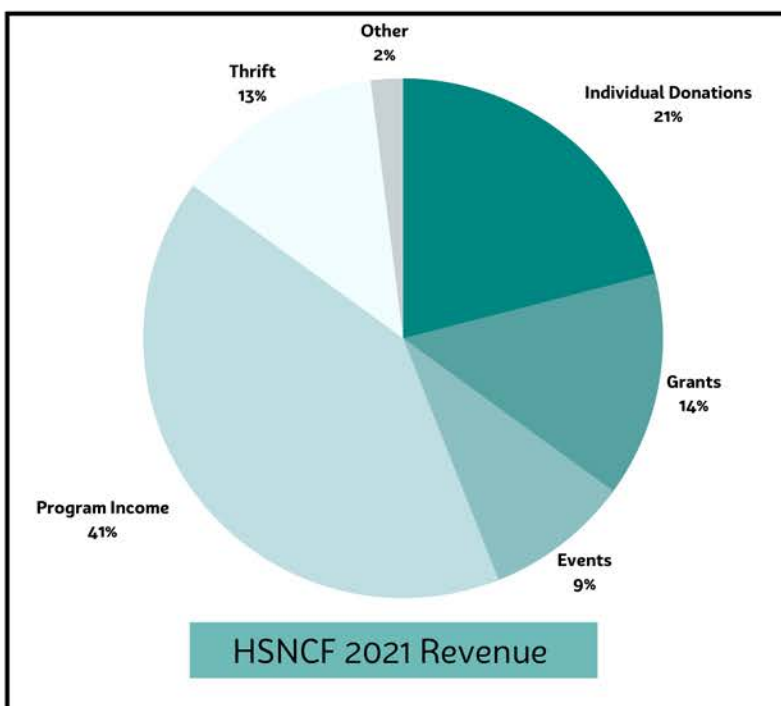
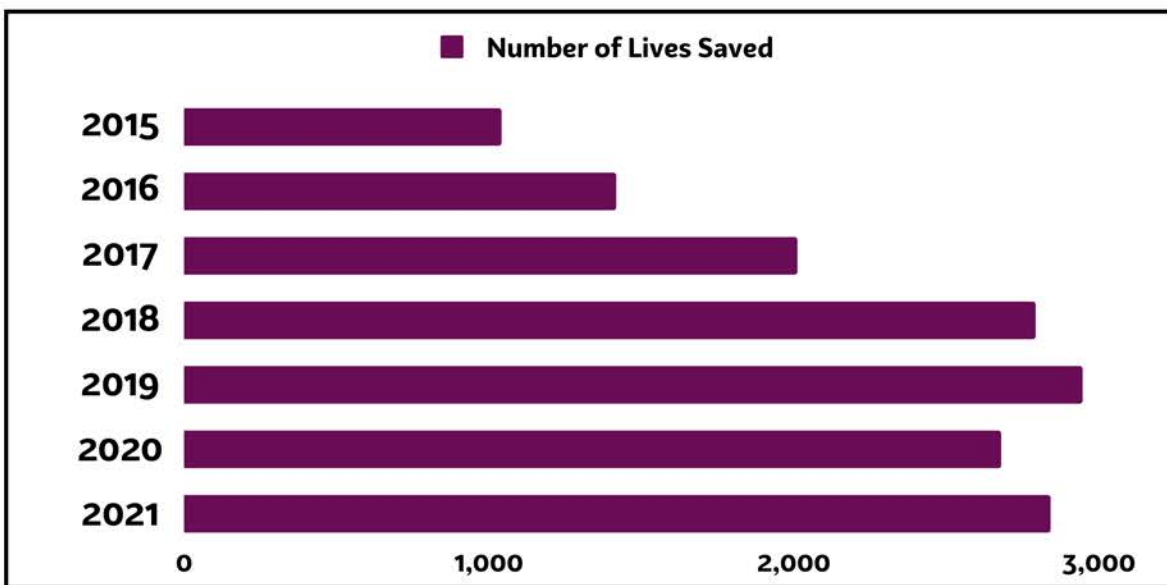
103,165
Days of Foster Care



21
Florida Counties Served



20,440
Volunteer Hours, equivalent to
10 full-time staff positions



Shelter Realities: Outdated, Poorly Ventilated, and Under Water

The Humane Society of North Central Florida has achieved so much. We have a dedicated, talented, and driven staff. We have loyal, hard-working volunteers. We have a strong track record of responsible fiscal management.

But our shelter is in bad shape. If you've been inside, you've seen the buckets on the ground and the kennels that stay empty because the roof above them leaks. You've seen us scramble to move animals when storms strike. You've felt the dampness in the air, the heat that radiates off the walls despite a constantly running HVAC system.

You understand that **these conditions make life even harder for the animals we care for.** And spending time, year in and year out, on temporary solutions for these problems forces us to spend less time and energy on the animals at the heart of our mission.

“We are supposed to be a safe haven for the many animals we rescue from difficult situations. But right now, when every storm brings new leaks, we aren't able to provide the level of safety and security our animals need.”
- Margot DeConna,
Director of Advancement



A Day in the Life of HSNCF: Storms, Strays, and Saving Lives

For the staff at the Humane Society of North Central Florida, no day is ever the same, and those days can quickly stretch into nights. Each storm brings new damage. And when it's time for clean-up—clearing soggy ceiling tiles that have fallen to the ground, mopping areas where new leaks have sprouted, “We are always willing to roll up our sleeves and dig in,” adds Associate Director Chelsea Bower. Imagine how much more HSNCF could do for animals if we could give 100 percent of our energy to them instead of the building.

If some days start with storm clean up, others begin with storm preparation. “National organizations like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) look to us as a leader in our region, and our state, for our disaster relief work,” says Chelsea. Before Hurricane Irma hit in 2017, HSNCF arranged flights and ground transportation that moved 550 animals out of the state before the storm. That puts HSNCF on the leading edge when it comes to programs that take a holistic view of animal welfare.

And HSNCF's efforts are changing the landscape locally, too. Partnerships with rural shelters, nonprofits, and social service agencies across HSNCF's 21-county service area address some of the underlying conditions that lead to pet abandonment and overpopulation. Our food banks help keep pets with families during economic difficulties. Our spay-neuter clinic makes surgery accessible to community pets. A new program provides a temporary home for pets if their families are unable to care for them due to an illness or hospital stay. “Our job is to identify needs in the community and meet those needs before they become a problem,” says Chelsea. **“When we get communities the resources they need, we keep animals from ending up in shelters in the first place,” she explains.**





A Day in the Life of HSNCF: Storms, Strays, and Saving Lives

If and when animals are in danger, HSNCF is always there. On a single day in 2020, Chelsea rescued 40 dogs from a Dixie County shelter where they would have been euthanized. “They were skinny and covered in mange and only got skinnier and more hairless the more I walked down the aisle,” says Chelsea. In the end, she coaxed 39 dogs into 17 kennels and one into the front seat of the van. Under HSNCF’s care, they all regained their health and were adopted. “That’s just how passionate we are,” says Chelsea. “We live and breathe helping pets and the people that love them.”

That’s exactly why the staff of HSNCF is doing everything they can to make Raise the Woof a success. “Our facility is so behind everything else we are doing,” says HSNCF board president Naima. “We don’t want to be limited by it any longer.”



The Campaign for the Humane Society of North Central Florida: Raise the Woof!

The time has come to invest in our facilities and their long-term sustainability so that we can give 100 percent of our time, energy, and resources to the animals that need us most. Through Raise the Woof we will raise funds to:

Replace the Shelter's Roof

Our roof is the single biggest factor limiting our ability to save more lives, care for more animals, and advance animal wellbeing in Alachua County and our neighboring counties. Why? Leaks in the roof render parts of our shelter unsafe and unusable.

Over the past five years, while we worked to strengthen our financial foundation and more than double our capacity, we made repair after repair. Unfortunately, the roof's condition is only getting worse. With little slope, water pools on its surface instead of running off. Flashing has deteriorated beyond repair, resulting in new leaks with nearly every storm.

We simply cannot afford to waste more time, energy, and money on repairs that do not resolve the underlying problem. Our decades-old, nearly flat, tar-and-gravel roof has come to the end of its lifespan.

Through this campaign, we will install a brand-new roof system. A new roof will IMMEDIATELY

- **Seal the building's envelope**, eliminating leaks and enabling us to permanently solve problems caused by past water intrusion, including mold and mildew.
- **Protect our animals**, staff, and equipment during inclement weather.
- **Allow us to shelter at least 50 more cats and 30 more dogs.**
- Enable us to **increase our capacity for low-cost veterinary care** by at least 50 percent because we will be able to complete grant-funded upgrades to the clinic, which have been on hold until we could guarantee a secure, leak-free environment for equipment.

Replace the HVAC System

Replacing the HVAC system and improving the layout of our duct system will

- Allow us to keep the shelter's temperature within recommended ranges so animals are more comfortable.
- Create separate circulation systems that help reduce the risk of illness and disease transmission.
- Improve air filtration and reduce odors, making the entire shelter a more pleasant place to work, volunteer, and adopt animals.

The Campaign for the Humane Society of North Central Florida: Raise the Woof!

More Happily Ever Afters

Gladys Cofrin knows foster dogs. Over the years, she and her husband Dan Logan have fostered more than 300 dogs with special needs. They even built a special home for those dogs—a place they call the Foster Barn—to better meet their needs.

One Valentine's Day, they welcomed a spotted hound with big ears. Named for the holiday that brought her to them, Valentine cowered in her crate when she first arrived. "I don't think she had ever been in a building," says Gladys. "She was so full of fear, almost too afraid to take the treats I offered." But Gladys and the staff at HSNCF never gave up on Val. With good food in her belly, veterinary care, and Gladys and Dan's support, Val slowly regained her physical health.

But regaining her mental health—experiencing the world without fear—was a much more challenging journey. To try to give her the calm, safe, and secure environment they knew she needed, Val spent time in a staff member's office during the day. "In the beginning when I came in to visit, she would hide anywhere she could," explains Gladys. That all changed the day Val met former board member, Martha Kern. They formed an instant bond and Martha took Val home that same day. Once home, Val began to blossom. "That's just one story of many that demonstrates how far everyone at HSNCF is willing to go for the animals they rescue—I've got so many," says Gladys.

“The Humane Society of North Central Florida is one of the best nonprofits in Gainesville. They are creative. They are adaptable. They are community oriented. They are responsible managers of their funds. They are crucial to our community maintaining the no-kill, live release rate of 90 percent,” Dan explains. “Not having to focus on maintenance and constantly fixing their facility will mean they can focus on their mission: reducing needless pet euthanasia and saving more lives across North Central Florida.”



Investing in our Campus So That We Can Invest More in North Central Florida's Animals

The Humane Society of North Central Florida is a vital part of our community. Together with our animal rescue partners, we have made Alachua County a no-kill county, and our efforts are improving animals' lives.

With a gift to this capital campaign, you will be a spark that ignites life-saving change. You will be the reason our staff and volunteers can focus their energy on rescuing more animals and strengthening programs to address the underlying causes of abandonment and overpopulation across our 21-county service area.



Your gift will improve the lives of North Central Florida's animals today, tomorrow, and long into the future.



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