



Nisha

Nantucket Island
Safe Harbor for Animals

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



OUR MISSION

The mission of Nantucket Island Safe Harbor for Animals, NiSHA, is to rescue and care for animals in need and to advance animal wellbeing through education, advocacy, and community outreach.

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Officers

Sally Charpie, *President*
Jane Carlin, *Vice President*
Christine Swistro, *2nd Vice President*
Judithann Thayer, *Secretary*
Neil Marttila, *Treasurer*

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David Brown
Mary Davis
Neil Foley
Patricia Hambrick
Karen Keelan
Greg McKechnie
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Erica Nahmad
Renee Portnoy

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Mimi Huber
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Pamela Murphy, *Founder*
Scott O'Connor
Grace Traber

Staff

Jessica Castineiras, *Executive Director, Founder*
Stephanie Henke, *Associate Director, Founder*
Jillian Lucchini, *Director of Outreach*
Andrea Morris, *Dog Behavior Specialist*
Johanna Black, *Animal Welfare Manager*
Allison Levy, *Programs Manager*
Susan Richards, *Humane Educator*
Stacey Ferris, *Client Services Associate*

Animal Care Associates

Peter Bulger
Alexa Derr
Angela Gray
Donald Hedges
Youssef Roukhmi

At NiSHA, 2024 was the year of the cat.

Not only did we take in more cats than ever before, it was the first year cats outnumbered dogs. Some theorize that overall warmer temperatures are causing cats to have more litters. Others claim that the higher cost of vet care is preventing spay and neuter . . . leading to more unintended kittens.

Regardless of the reason for the influx, NiSHA welcomed all the cats—and dogs, guinea pigs, a rabbit, 30 buggies, and a snake—through our doors. Being ready for and caring for any animal who shows up at our shelter are our main priorities and are a big portion of our Rescue Pillar. Read more about that on page 7.

We want to ensure we do more than just react to external circumstances—like a cat population explosion—in our community. We also want to be proactive in helping pet families keep the pets they already have, as well as to prevent unwanted litters. Read all about our Assistance Programs on page 16.

Education, too, plays a role in keeping our community's pet population healthy and safe. NiSHA's Humane Education program is not just for kids. Though we do offer a fun roster of programs for youth, our social media, newsletters, and outreach work aim to make folks aware of how they can be part of the solution, by spaying and neutering, by adopting, and by advocating for animals. Read more about our education programming on page 14.

Who knows, next year might be the year of the lizard, and, thanks to you, our most loyal supporters, we'll be ready. **Please read on** for all of the other programs and initiatives as well as the people and animals you helped last year.

photo: Kit Noble Photography



Jessica Castineiras,
Executive Director



Sally Charpie,
Board President

THREE PILLARS

NiSHA offers essential services to the Nantucket community. Those services fall under one of three pillars—Rescue, Educate, Assist—which serve as the foundation of our mission.

Rescue.

Educate.

Assist.



Rescue

Land to Sea Pet Rescue Program: Why We Save Dogs from All Over

We often get the question, “Why do you bring dogs to Nantucket when there are already so many here?” We are so glad you asked!

Nantucket is a dog-loving island. The inability to get a grooming appointment, the number of dog water bowls outside Main Street shops, and the busy vet practices all tell the tale of our love for both resident dogs and those who visit us throughout the year.

NiSHA is in the fortunate position of having a few empty kennels in our shelter: stray dogs go home usually within an hour or two and the number of relinquished dogs has dropped over the years. Our staff doesn't have to make the heartbreaking decisions that other US shelters have to make daily. As the saying goes, “If you are more fortunate than others, it's better to build a longer table than a taller fence,” and that is the very purpose of our Land to Sea Pet Rescue Program. By taking in dogs (and cats) from other US shelters, we are saving lives.

We know that someone looking to add a dog to their family is going to find a dog—whether at the local shelter, from a breeder, or a pet store. By offering social, friendly dogs right here on the island for adoption, some of whom we have brought to the island from other shelters in the US, we help people find their new family members without having to leave the island.

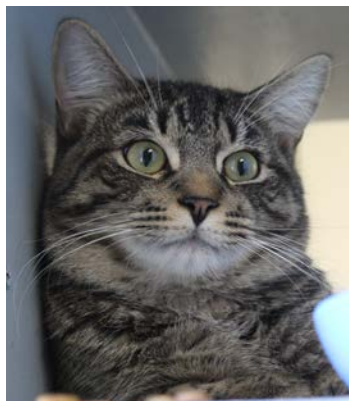
Our Land to Sea Pet Rescue Program has helped save almost 800 dogs so far, dogs who otherwise would most likely have been put down, and it's a number we are proud to talk about!



Rescue

Five Fearful Felines . . . and Their Brave Journey

As part of our Land to Sea Pet Rescue program, NiSHA took in five tabby brothers from an overcrowding situation on Cape Cod. Lee, Malik, Beau, Ronin, and Damien had not had as much care and attention as they should have, and it showed in their behavior: they were shy and didn't welcome a lot of interaction with people. Once we placed them in our "Cheetah Room," which is an open cat room where cats have plenty of places to be social OR to hide, these boys slowly started coming out of their shells and seeking human affection.



The boys waited between three and seven months for their new homes, and while they waited they got to take part in daily enrichment activities with staff and volunteers. They were read to by children, had paper bag toy and treat searches, and even participated in bubble wrap-popping parties, all with gentle human interaction. Each came out of his shell (at his own rate) little by little, a swat at a wand toy here, a furtive rub against a volunteer's leg there.

All the boys were eventually adopted into loving homes (two even went together!), and soon we started getting reports of further progress: Jennifer, who adopted Beau and Damien together, reports "Beau can't get enough attention and is always purring." Skyler says, "Ronin sleeps in bed with [me] and stays by [my] head all night," and Isabelle reports that "Malik is quite a little rascal sometimes but is also very endearing."



We are so lucky to have adopters who respect an animal's need for patience as they adjust to all the changes forced upon them by life's unpredictable circumstances.

Rescue

Why Two (Kittens) Are Better Than One

With the influx of cats in 2024, we were committed to educating potential adopters about the benefits of bringing two kittens home together. This wasn't just a sly ploy to clear the shelter. Adopting two kittens under 6 months old has real benefits for the kittens. Good manners like using the litter box, grooming, and not nipping or scratching, just to name a few, are behaviors kittens learn by interacting with other cats.

Taking two cats together has benefits for the adopter, too. Cats who have playmates will be less likely to pester their people. Two young kittens will keep each other exercised and entertained. And kittens who learn bite-inhibition from a sibling (real or adopted) will leave your hands alone.



In 2024, we had 12 pairs of kittens go home together, and another eight adopters came back shortly after adopting one kitten to scoop up a second. That's 40 cats who have built-in, lifelong playmates and companions.

And if these words don't convince you of the magic of cat pairs, these pictures will.



Rescue

Flower Joins Suzie's NiSHA Pack

Do you remember the old Lay's potato chip slogan, "Betcha Can't Eat Just One?" With a few edits, the same could be said of Suzi Gale and her pack of NiSHA alumni. Nantucket's former Animal Control Officer, Gale was well acquainted with the animals in our shelter. She knew which dogs we had available for adoption at any given time. Heck, she may have been the one who brought them in!

Flower was one of our longer-stay dogs. She was gorgeous, larger, active, and hadn't found her own home yet. In other words, right up Suzi Gale's alley. While she kept her eye on Flower's progress, the problem was that Gale was retiring and moving off island soon, and didn't want to have to move three large dogs.

A few quick words to our shelter staff sealed Flower's fate: "If she's still here after I've moved, I want her," Gale said. We think Flower heard that comment and created her own happy tale, because she patiently sat in her kennel until Suzi was completely moved and settled in her new home, and by Christmas, Flower was enjoying life in her new pack of four.

Flower, far right, shown here with new friends Mindy and Falkor.



Rescue

A Bounty of Budgies

We don't have too many birds fly through our doors in a typical year. So it caught us a little off guard when we got a call from someone needing to surrender 30 of them! These parakeets were from two families and they all needed rehoming at once.

We surprised even ourselves when we found people willing to foster them all—four here, one there, a pair over there. Staff quickly ordered all the supplies needed to care for them, separated them into smaller groups (being careful to keep bonded pairs together and males and females separated), and delivered them to their temporary caregivers.

Miraculously every bird was soon adopted into a new permanent home. We hope we never see 30 birds come in at once again, but if we do, we know we can handle it.



More Littles

Guinea pigs were also popular in 2024. We took in four of them from an overcrowded shelter (two had just been born!), and three were surrendered to us here on Nantucket. Guinea pigs make fun pets—with their high-pitched squealing at every fridge opening—and we usually have no trouble finding them new homes.

Rescue

Happy Tails - Raven

Raven was brought to us as a 7-year old dog, through no fault of her own. Due to her previous experience, she lacked socialization; she was shy, timid, and . . . well . . . chunky! So chunky our shelter staff sometimes needed two people to get her out of her run for her morning walk. She had to be coaxed and pulled and urged to get her wiggle on.

We knew this wasn't the healthiest way for her to live. Right away, we put Raven on a diet, and—despite her reluctance—the staff (and then her foster mom) got her walking. But what really did the trick was our discovery that Raven LOVED other dogs. What better way to lose a few than to romp with a new best friend? Moving forward, we made sure to have Raven work with a canine accountability coach (aka any dog she got to zoom around the yard with that day!).

It took 4 months of the right diet and lots of play to get Raven down to a healthy weight. And look at her now.



Raven was then adopted by a family who knew a little patience would be in order to get her to fully warm up to them, but they had all the time in the world and were soon rewarded with Raven's affection . . . initiated by Raven.

Rescue

Happy Tails - Foxy



It is very rare that a stray dog on Nantucket is not reclaimed within 24 hours, and almost unheard of that he or she isn't claimed at all. Sadly, this was the case for Foxy, a dog whose people left her behind when they concluded their hunting trip.

Foxy was a young Podengo, a lively, intelligent hunting breed that also makes a fine companion. When she arrived at our shelter, she was underweight, which

is how many hunters keep these dogs, thinking being hungry makes them better hunters. She seemed happy to retire from that life, a life often spent penned in a small cage for most of the day. We advertised her as a family dog looking for a new home.

Lucky for Foxy, we had a big fan of the breed in Valeria, who found Foxy's profile on Petfinder just a few days after we posted her. Valeria lived in Missouri, but was not deterred by the distance. She coordinated and paid for transport from Nantucket, and now Foxy has two Podengo siblings, Bruna and Rex. This is what Valeria had to say about Foxy's new life:

"She and Rex are now pair bonded. They can often be found cuddling sweetly on the couch together. They share Nylabones and toys and enjoy running together in the yard. Foxy is sweet and gentle with Bruna, our senior dog, and will sometimes leave behind a little bit of food in her bowl (on purpose) so Bruna can come behind her and eat the leftovers. She is a great dog and we love her very much. She has become part of our family and our pack and we can't imagine life without her."

Foxy is now featured on Valeria's Instagram page, and you can follow her at: @ocavalosirui.

Educate

Susan's Spider Tales

"What does your family do when they see a spider in the house?" asked Susan, our Humane Educator, of the Small Friends preschool students gathered around her. "Scream!" "Squish them!" "My father flushes them down the toilet!"



Though saddened by these somewhat predictable responses, Susan knew this was a moment ripe for a lesson in compassion and care. After reading *Junebug—No Life Too Small* to the class, Susan explained the importance of insects and of showing compassion for all life forms. She then showed the students how we can respect spiders' little lives, while still asking them to continue those lives outside.

Every time Susan presents this lesson to student groups, she acts out gently putting a glass

over a fake spider that she creates with pipe cleaners, sliding the paper underneath, and carrying the bug to a safe area outside. Each child gets to practice this new method of living in harmony with nature.

Susan says that this book and activity has a big impact on kids. After completing the activity, those same children who shouted out the unkind answers, report that they now understand that bugs have feelings too and might actually be afraid of the children, just like the children are afraid of the bugs! With this lesson, they learn how to think about insects as an important part of the natural world with as much right to exist as anyone.

And as with all of our Humane Education lessons, our secondary hope is that each child goes home and "teaches" their other family members to have compassion and respect for all . . . even those scary spiders.

Educate

2024 Jaeger Family NiSHA Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Jaeger Family–NiSHA Fund awards scholarships to students who plan to study animal-related topics in college or other secondary learning settings. Students interested in pursuing any interdisciplinary study that positively impacts animals, improves their lives or environment, embraces humane thinking and compassion, advocates for animals, or supports their intrinsic value are eligible to apply for this annual scholarship.

Since its inception in 2017, 18 scholarships have been awarded, totaling \$20,500. In 2024, the Jaeger Family–NiSHA Fund scholarship was awarded to two Nantucket High School students who are now in college pursuing animal-related careers. Read their exciting updates:



Ava Moss crop, UMass Amherst

Major: Animal Science

Ava is currently completing a semester at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Classes she is taking towards her degree include Island Ecosystems and Wildlife Ecology and Management. Ava is very interested in working with endangered species and in learning about their conservation and rehabilitation.



Shannon Muhr, UMass Amherst

Major: Veterinary Technology/Sociology

Shannon is currently taking courses like Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging, Veterinary Pathology, Veterinary Pharmacology, and Veterinary Clinical Nursing. These classes are giving her the hands-on skills and deep knowledge she needs to work directly with animals, helping to ease their pain and solve their medical issues.

Her internship as a Sea Turtle Rehabilitator at Mystic Aquarium allows her to be part of the effort to protect marine biodiversity and ensure sustainable ocean resources. Shannon feels she is making a tangible difference for animals and the environment.

Assist

Pet Fospice

Imagine being elderly and losing all that is familiar to you: your home, your companions, your routine. We occasionally take animals into the shelter who are experiencing this life passage. Their caretakers have died or moved into assisted living and can no longer care for them. The grief and confusion must be severe for these senior pets, and if they are otherwise in good health, we want to make sure they find the softest, most loving place to live out their golden years.

And that place is not in the shelter. For each of these displaced senior pets, adopters have stepped in to provide Fospice Homes (a combination of Fostering and Hospice care). In these special adoptions, NiSHA provides all of the supplies and pays for any medical care for the remainder of the pet's life. Fospice families provide the warm home, the love, and the care for however much time is left.



In 2024, we had four special Fospice cases:

- **Lily**, a 16-year old dog, was cared for by Kathleen Kelliher.
- **Arnold**, a 17-year old cat, spent two years with Rebecca Vaughan.
- **Luke**, shown above, is almost 20 and lives with his foster mom, Mary.
- **Pepper**, a 17-year old cat, enjoyed his last year of life with Meg Glidden.

We want to thank the Fospice homes that welcome these seniors and give them a safe space to adjust to their new realities.

Assist

Cat Brigade

At NiSHA, 2024 was the year of the cat. We had a record number of cats come in to the shelter and we cared for them until they were reunited with their families or we found them new loving homes. Not every cat we helped came into the shelter. Some were indoor cats who accidentally escaped from their houses and whose families reached out to us for help.

It can take a lot of patience and dedication to get a frightened lost cat to come back home, but lucky for Nantucket cats, we have a few helpful tools in our box. Andrea Morris, NiSHA's Dog Behavior Specialist, doesn't let her title deter her from going above and beyond to help cats, too.

When we get a cat SOS call, Andrea heads to the area where the cat was last seen, sets a humane trap, and turns on the motion-activated cameras. She monitors the cameras overnight, and if a cat does go into the trap, Andrea goes to see if we've caught the right one, not wanting to leave any cat in a trap overnight.

You may have seen posters and social media ads about Chorizo, a missing orange tabby, who escaped on December 11th. He was just one of the success stories this year. After 8 weeks of being cold and hungry outside, he finally walked into one of Andrea's traps and was reunited with his very grateful mom. The whole island breathed a sigh of relief.



Andrea and her team of volunteers have had success trapping other Nantucket cats, and it's always cause for celebration when she gets one who has been missing for a long time. We even have a group of volunteers who sign up just for this purpose: The Lost Cat Task Force.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

MAIN EVENT

woofstock

PEACE, LOVE & LICKS

It was a new field and a new farm, but the vibe was pure vintage at NiSHA's Woofstock 2024! The evening was a meaningful celebration of pet adoption that helped bring awareness to the current plight of shelter animals and how adoption is one way we can all help to solve the current crisis. The event raised a record-breaking amount of money for the animals.



It was our biggest and most successful event to date as co-chairs Suzy McCarthy and Tara Vessels welcomed 500 guests—many decked out in 70's garb—for food, cocktails, dancing, a puppy pawlor, and dogs in their hippie finest parading to the songs of Woodstock. Dukas Auctioneers wowed the audience by auctioning off an African Safari trip, a stay at Turks and Caicos, and floor seats to see NBA champions, the Celtics.



NiSHA's summer gala brings in a large portion of our operating funds, but more importantly it brings in new friends and supporters each year. Who doesn't enjoy a night out for a good cause that features a puppy playpen?



Daffodil Festival Pet Parade

The 2024 Daffy Dog parade was full of sunshine and fun spring-inspired dog costumes. And the winners were. . .



- **1st Place** - Soccer Team: "Ed & Dan" (Boston Terrier rescues) with Jami Gonyea
- **2nd Place** - "Farmer Lola" (a Westie/Chihuahua mix) with Cedar and Hazel Alden
- **3rd Place** - "Wild West" (Piper, Brittany Spaniel & Duffy, a Rat Terrier mix) with Cynthia Von Kampen

All winners received prize bags and gifts provided by Geronimo's and Cold Noses of Nantucket and The Black Dog. Everyone who entered received a complimentary gift bag donated by Get Joy Dog Food.

Thanks to the Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce for hosting at Children's Beach once again. Many thanks to all of our volunteer judges and MC/NiSHA Founder/Emeritus Board member Pam Murphy. It was another year of impossible decision making, but they got it done.

Community Sponsored Events

We have a community filled with generous businesses and individuals who take it upon themselves to raise funds and awareness for NiSHA. From the Nantucket Wine Fest's annual Tito's Yappy Hour and the Shamrock Run, to summer Sip and Shops in downtown retail stores, these events are a fun, creative way for supporters to make a real impact for the animals. Below are just a few from 2024.

Nail Trim Clinics

In 2024, two local veterinary technicians, Mary Naughton and Kisha Knapp, picked up where island groomer Leone Collins (who moved back to Ireland) left off, offering a Nail Trim Clinic each month to the community. A quick, no-appointment-needed service for our island's dogs and cats, the clinic is also a fundraiser for NiSHA. We supply the space and they provide the talent and woman power.



Thanks to our volunteers who help manage the crowds and offer a little dog training and enrichment while dogs and their people wait: Lucy Cobb, Kerry Flynn, Gisli Hughes, Beth Morris, and Lori Smith.

These clinics raised over \$5,000 for NiSHA in 2024.

Nantucket Wine Festival Yappy Hour

Going on 10 years now, NiSHA has teamed up with Tito's Handmade Vodka and the Nantucket Wine Festival to provide a "Yappy Hour" at each year's festival. Tito's supplies the scrumptious Bloody Marys, and the Wine Festival's own Nancy Bean provides the venue and snacks. Guests are encouraged to bring their dogs for a bit of socializing on the lawn: while the humans partake of a little hair of the dog, the hairy dogs partake of canine antics with newfound friends.

This event has raised over \$20,000 for the shelter animals!



Salt House Nantucket

We want to give a special and overdue shout out to Salt House Nantucket. Every month, Salt House donates a portion of the proceeds from their pet-friendly lodging to NiSHA. Not only do they generate substantial donations for the shelter animals, they are providing a much-appreciated service to Nantucket's guests, who can feel free to bring Fido safely along on their island vacation.

To date, the Salt House has raised almost \$6,000 for NiSHA.

Craig Hunter



In September of 2024, NiSHA lost an important part of our family when Craig Hunter, a volunteer with us from day one, passed away after a brief illness. Though her heart was so big she worked with many non-profits, she had a way of making us feel like we were the "only one." She was never one to toot her own horn, so most of us didn't know the extent of her other charitable work on the island.

At NiSHA, Craig was the first to answer any call: from picking up caregiving shifts to being a vital member of the Land to Sea Pet Rescue Program's Transport Team. There was no end to what Craig did for the animals and their people. She stuffed adoption go-home bags, worked the yard at our Meet & Greets, hung up all the adoptable animal posters around town, played holiday elf at Photos with Santa, walked dogs, and helped trap stray cats. And so much more.

In her last few years with us, Craig—well into her 70's by then—carried on Janet Forest's Pan-Nantucket walk after Janet left the island: Craig walked the entire length of the island—from Madaket to Sconset—raising both funds and awareness for NiSHA!

Craig's generosity of spirit will live on in the many animals whose lives she saved and in the staff and volunteers she inspired to be better humans every day.

Fair winds, Craig. You are already so missed.



2024 FINANCIALS

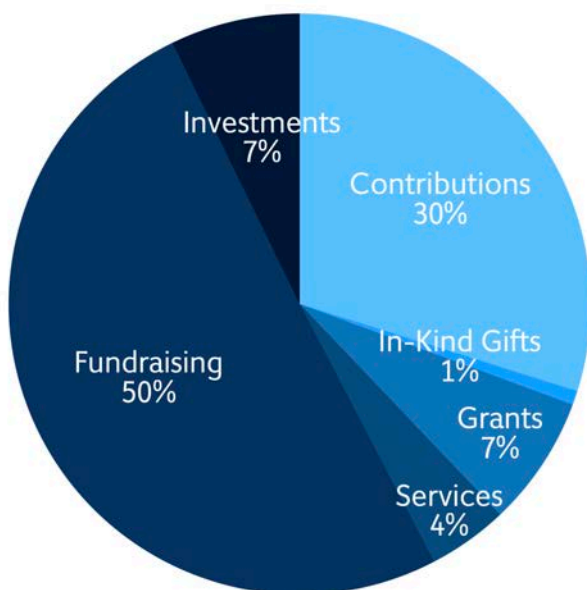
	2024	2023
REVENUE and SUPPORT		
Contributions	530,816	471,615
Gifts-in-kind	14,084	13,875
Grants	129,398	150,725
Program service revenue	79,184	72,900
Net investment return	128,095	100,846
Net support from fundraising events	896,989	585,566
Capital Campaign Donations	2,488,677	4,126,000
Total Revenue and Support	4,267,243	5,521,527

EXPENSES		
Program Services	1,075,621	956,183
Fundraising	149,674	145,919
General and Administrative	131,628	182,920
Total Expenses	1,356,923	1,285,022

ASSETS		
Cash	3,879,021	1,292,620
Investments	863,910	782,961
Property	4,249,951	4,018,887
Total Assets	8,992,882	6,094,468

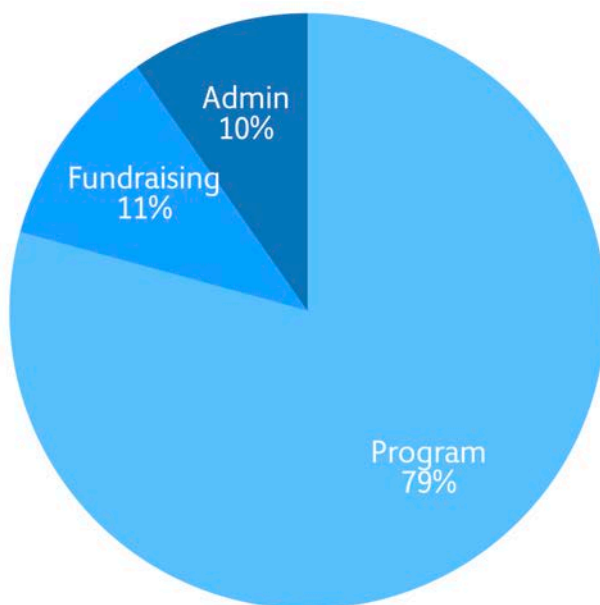
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,251	40,157
Total Liabilities	28,251	40,157

NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	6,135,436	5,353,786
With donor restrictions	2,829,195	700,525
Total Net Assets	8,964,631	6,054,311
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	8,992,882	6,094,468



Income

- Contributions
- In-Kind Gifts
- Grants
- Services
- Fundraising
- Investments



Expenses

- Program
- Fundraising
- Admin

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Businesses

Ampersand Management LLC
 Animal Care with Kindness
 Arena Construction
 Atlantic East Real Estate
 Aunt Leah's Fudge
 Best Buy Employee
 Giving Program
 Blue Beetle
 Botticelli and Pohl
 Cape Cod Five Cents
 Savings Bank
 Cisco Brewers
 Cottage and Castle
 Crayhill Capital
 Dreamline Modular Homes
 Emeritus
 Erica Wilson, Inc.
 Fairfield County Millwork, Inc.
 Fisher Real Estate
 Gartner
 Geronimo's
 Great Point Properties
 Grey Lady Candle
 Gryphon Architects
 Housefitters and Tile Gallery
 Island Energy Services, Inc.
 J McLaughlin
 Joy Food
 JP Morgan Chase
 Lee Real Estate
 Main St Construction
 Marine Home Center
 Lauren Marttila Photography
 Mimi Huber Real Estate, LLC
 Nantucket Bank
 Nantucket Landscapes
 Nantucket Tents
 Nantucket Triathlon Club Inc
 Nantucket Wine Festival
 Nina Liddle Design

NY Dog and Cat Festival
 OCB, LLC
 Offshore Animal Hospital, LLC
 Olson Twombly
 Interior Design
 pACKactive
 Pipes & Shaw LLC DBA
 Veronica Beard (Perch)
 Quidley & Company
 Ramos Plumbing
 Robin London Photography
 Saks, Inc.
 Salt House Nantucket
 Sankaty Innovation
 Seafari Girls
 Second Congregational
 Meeting House
 Ships Inn
 Slow to Rise Bakery
 Southern Tide
 St. Paul's Church
 Stella and Chewy's
 Stop & Shop
 The Black Dog
 The Dobbert Companies
 The Juice Bar
 The Old Spouter Gallery
 The Siasconset Union Chapel
 The Vineyard Series
 Thrive Pet Healthcare
 Tito's Handmade Vodka
 Toscana
 The White Elephant
 Yellow Productions

Foundations

4G Foundation
 Bleu Blanc Rouge
 Foundation
 Bruce and Deborah Duncan
 Foundation

Cape Cod 5 Foundation
 Carlee Charitable Trust
 Clausen Family Foundation
 Community Foundation for
 Nantucket
 Edward H. Benenson
 Foundation, Inc.
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
 Hackett Family Foundation
 John F. Welch, Jr., Foundation
 Karp Family Foundation
 Massachusetts Animal
 Coalition
 MatchProgram
 @point32health.org
 Michael C. Graham
 Foundation
 Mutschler Family Foundation
 Nantucket Golf Club
 Foundation, Inc.
 Robert M and Diane v.S. Levy
 Family Foundation
 Sally and Richard Charpie
 Gift Fund
 SSE Worthington Foundation
 The Martha Morse
 Foundation
 The McCausland Foundation
 The Overbrook Foundation
 The Pabis Foundation
 The Ronald W Hoffman
 & Anthony J. Gampetro
 Revocable Trust
 The Vincent and Carol W.
 Dean Family Charitable
 Foundation
 Verhagen and Van Hook
 Fund

2024 Capital Campaign

Donors

Anonymous
Maureen and Ed Bousa
Jane Carlin and Ben Gifford
Linda and Kim Cassidy
Sally and Rick Charpie
Clausen Family Foundation
DiMartino Family
Bruce and Deborah Duncan
Gartner
Lucile W. Hays
Diane v.S. and Robert M. Levy
McCausland Foundation
Susan and Scott Nelson
Scott O'Connor
Renee Portnoy
Wendy and Eric Schmidt
Judithann and
Richard Thayer
Grace Traber
Clara Urbahn
Suzy Welch
Eve Wetlaufer
Caroline Wolossow

Individuals

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Jane Carlin and Ben Gifford
Sally and Rick Charpie
Lucile W. Hays
Bonnie and Peter
McCausland
Scott O'Connor
Wendy and Eric Schmidt
Grace and Lucas Traber

\$25,000-99,999

Maureen and Ed Bousa
Linda and Kim Cassidy
Justina and Arthur Dodge
Patricia Hambrick and
Harry Wilcox
Susan and Scott Nelson
Richard Phillips
David Portnoy
Renee Portnoy
Tara and Larry Restieri
Clara Urbahn
Suzy Welch
Eve Wetlaufer

\$10,000-24,999

Kim Bepler
Jackie and Bill Bishop
Rose Burdon and Tom Corpor
Healy and Gary Cosay
Linda and Joe DiMartino
Adam Dread
Deborah and Bruce Duncan
Jennifer Eckert
Carolyn and Doug Everson
Kathryn Graham
Leslie King and Bart Grenier
Carolyn and Kevin Holt

Wendy Hubbell
Carl Jelleme
Sarah Johnson
Jill and Stephen Karp
Karen Keelan
Katie and Robert Keith
Suzy and Gary McCarthy
Laura and Brian Millham
Heather and James Mulvihill
Lisa and Rick Noel
Diane Pitt and Mitch Karlin
Tamara and Al Rabil
Karen Rainwater
Sara Sandler and John Finn
Catherine Schulman
Stefania and Juan Speck
Christine Swistro
Tricia and Mark Vanacore
Tara and Michael Vessels
Kathryn Wagner
Clare and James Walker

\$5,000-9,999

Hilary and Scott Andersen
Kathy and Tom Arrix
Christy and Jonas Baker
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Animals we
turned away **0**

Animals reunited with
their families **58**

Nantucket families granted
assistance **229**

Pets adopted into
new homes **202**

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through the doors **260**

Community pets spayed
or neutered **394**

Children who learned compassion
and care for animals **588**

Financial
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Volunteer Spotlight

In 2024, we had so many outstanding volunteers we could not pick just one. So we are hailing two: Gisli Hughes and James Vincent.



Charles "Gisli" Hughes is a long-time foster dad. He has fostered nine dogs for us, often in quick succession, turning one over to his or her new family just as another comes to him. He also is a big part of our Land to Sea Pet Rescue Program. We have many a photo of Gisli snuggling pups on the ferry as they make their way to the island. Gisli is often the first to arrive in the big yard on the day of our Puppy Meet & Greets and the last to leave, as he spends time cuddling, corralling and coordinating the canine meet-cutes. Gisli lives on Nantucket with his two NiSHA alum dogs Betsey and Brewster.



James Vincent is a jack of all trades for NiSHA and we could not appreciate his broad range of skills and interests more. James works with most of the dogs who stay with us, which helps the staff get a broader perspective on each of their personalities and needs. He also does odd handyman jobs in the shelter, like installing portal holes in our cat cages, turning them into cat condos where the kitties can spread out a bit. Most exciting for our staff and volunteers, in 2024

James catered our annual end-of-summer party, and the fact that he was the chef de cuisine at Black Eyed Susans for years had us all very excited to attend. Not all of the jobs he takes on are this flashy: he does a weekly laundry and litter run and makes dreaded dump runs whenever we need to dispose of something large and unwieldy. James lives on island with wife Stacey, also a volunteer, and his two NiSHA alum dogs LeeLou and Ruby.

2024 Volunteers



Aimee Carew Lyons
 Alexa Derr
 Allison Levy
 Alyse Bierly
 Amelia Walsh
 Amy Santos
 Amy Seifer
 Andrea Coffin
 Andrea Morris
 Angie Knapp
 Anne Barrett
 Anne Dyer
 Ashley Langer
 Becky Mack
 Beth Morris
 Betsy Pipes
 Brandi Folger
 Brennen Baker
 Brianna Feerick
 Caroline Collatos
 Carrie Mittenthal
 Cassidy O'Brien
 Catherine O'Brien
 Cecelia Gagnon
 Christine Swistro
 Christy Bassett-Baker
 Christy Tran
 Cindy Hsu
 Cindi Von Kampen
 Claire Lafrance
 Crystal Mautner
 Cullen Devine
 Cynthia Henshall
 Dawson Hsu
 Deb Childs
 Debby Clarke
 Dejaun Allijohn
 Devon Mastroianni
 Diana Silvestri
 Diane Pitt

Dodo Roberts
 Elizabeth Williams
 Elyse Campbell
 Erica Nahmad
 Estella Grow
 Evie Marie O'Connor
 Fernanda Longo
 Flora Medawar
 Francie Baskett
 George Castineiras
 Gisli Hughes
 Hayley Cooke
 Heather Aveson
 Hollie Harris
 Hunter Zeising
 Jack Hunter
 James Vincent
 Jamie Sandsbury
 Jan Jaeger
 Jared Goldsmith
 Jason Jobe
 Jason Mleczo
 Jeannie Critchley
 Jessica Esdale
 Jillian Lucchini
 Jo Costakes
 Jody Newman
 Joe Bedell
 John Weber
 Jonas Baker
 Jonelle Gurley
 Joseph Hsu
 Josh Sandsbury
 Kate Smith-Lin
 Katherine Borneman
 Kathleen Kelliher
 Kayla Larivee
 Keith Yankow
 Kelly Corbett
 Kelly Reid

Kenneth Sylvia
 Kerry Flynn
 Kim Guertin
 Kim Robinson
 Kimberly Faucette
 Kimberly Goulet
 Kristene Pierce
 Kyle Brown
 Lacie Pipes
 Laura Millham
 Laura Stratton
 Lauren Gabriel
 Laurie Jobe
 Laurie Ray
 Lidia Serrano
 Lily Mason
 Lily Sylvia
 Lilyanna Lee
 Lindsay Mullinix
 Lori Smith
 Lucy Cobb
 Madison George
 Mae Mittenthal
 Mandy Mason
 Margaret Brenizer
 Marisa Kafantis
 Mark Dawson
 Mary Arnold
 Mary Davis
 Meg Gallugi
 Meg Glidden
 Megan Gaul
 Megan Trudel
 Melissa Lake
 Mia Pereira
 Mike Harter
 Mimi Huber
 Mitch Karlin
 Molly Carroll
 Neil Foley

Nicole Reindel
 Patricia Hambrick
 Petra Hoffmann
 Rachel Devine
 Ray Sylvia
 Rebecca Vaughan
 Renee Gamberoni
 Renee Portnoy
 Richard Phillips
 Robert Lucchini
 Robert Saurer
 Ron Lynch
 Sadie Paterson
 Samuel Rice
 Scott Thomas
 Sherburne Commons
 Sherry Loucks
 Sonia Scherr
 Stacey St. Peter
 Stephany Hunter
 Susan Richards
 Susan Warner
 Suzanne Gleason
 Sydney Homan
 Tara Riley
 Tara Turturro
 Teddie Mittenthal
 Teresa Cook
 Tricia Vanacore
 Tucker Miller
 Tue Nielsen
 Valeri Osley
 Veronica Hatch
 Veronica Valdiviezo
 Viktorija Starosaitė
 Yu Yan Hayford



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