



2012

Annual Report



Our Companions Animal Rescue
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(860) 242-9999 • www.OurCompanions.org



2012 Summary of Operations

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A Letter from Our Companions Founding Directors

Dear Friends,

Our Companions is committed to doing the right thing for animals, regardless of the cost or challenge. What this means is that we go to extraordinary lengths to help animals in need today, while also working to *prevent* animals from becoming homeless tomorrow by addressing the root causes of pet homelessness.

Thanks to the support of our volunteers and donors, we are able to provide our unique public services aimed at eliminating the root causes of pet homelessness to over 2,000 animals in 2012. This is a testament to the resourcefulness, creativity, and passion of our over 200 volunteers and the generosity of our donors who provide the financial resources to make their work possible.

Thanks to the leadership of our donors who contributed to the Capital Campaign to build our Sanctuary on 43 acres in Ashford, CT, we now have one more way that we are able to help animals who have no other place to turn. At the sanctuary, animals will find a safe refuge to rehabilitate and live in an *enriching, cage-free, homelike* environment while they wait for their new forever home.

And thanks to our over 2,000 donors, in 2013 we will be able to expand our programs, thanks to the opening of our new Valerie Friedman Program Center in Manchester, CT. This 6,000 square foot facility be home to our business offices; it will house our critical animal helpline call center, our canine behavioral training and humane-education sessions and will provide a physical space for our political organizing efforts, low cost spay/neuter initiatives and adoption services. These are the programs that truly address the issue of pet overpopulation and homelessness. And now we'll be able to administer them in a far more effective and efficient manner.

Thank you for making 2012 a success, and with your help, we will be able to accomplish even more in 2013.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Linker
Chief Executive Officer

Marie Joyner
Canine Operations Director





Our Companions Animal Rescue

Our Companions Animal Rescue's mission is to create a humane movement to protect and advocate for the lives of companion animals. We will accomplish our mission by offering innovative, life-saving programs, including creating a sanctuary to rescue those who would otherwise be destroyed. We will also collaborate with the animal welfare community to affect public policy, ensuring that every animal's life is valued.



Doing the Right Thing for Animals

Our Companions 2012 Accomplishments

Our Companions Animal Rescue has made continuous progress during the last ten years and is rapidly developing into one of the leading and most trusted animal welfare organizations in this state. The key accomplishments in 2012 are listed below:

Pet Rescue and Adoption

- Opened the first Rescue Cottage at the Ashford Sanctuary
- Rescued and found loving homes for more than 205 pets. 35 % of adopted pets were considered special needs due to medical or behavioral reasons, including pets that are blind, deaf, FIV or FeLV positive. Of these, 11 cats and 3 dogs adopted were guests at the Rescue Cottage. In addition to cats and dogs, small and unique pets were helped as well including: 9 rabbits, 1 bird, 6 guinea pigs, 1 domestic duck and 1 lizard
- Responded to approximately 4,000 calls and emails for assistance on the Animal Helpline
- Added 3 new Helpline volunteers
- Held eleven adoption events in various locations throughout the state
- Added 5 volunteer graphic designers working on the Poster Campaign which promotes adoptable pets
- Scheduled professional photo shoots for 26 pets with Gemineye Images
- Added weekly Adoptable Pet ad in The Reminder News
- Participated in 5 Fox 61 Pet of the Week TV features
- Provided veterinary assistance for 21 sick or injured pet cats, including specialized treatment or surgical procedures through Feline Fur-Get-Me-Not fund
- Provided veterinary assistance for 18 sick or injured pet dogs, including specialized treatment or surgical procedures through Canine Cricket Fund
- Produced PSA video to promote adopting from CT Shelters.

Feline Sterilization and Support Programs

- Sterilized 144 feral cats through our Sterile Feral Programs
- Provided veterinary assistance for 39 injured feral and friendly stray cats
- Increased Sterile Feral equipment inventory by 20 traps
- Successfully partnered with high volume/high quality spay/neuter clinic for TNR
- Added three additional veterinary partners for our Friendly Feline Voucher program.
- Held 8 Trap-Neuter-Return Group Training Classes attended by 35 people
- Issued 102 sterilization and wellness visit vouchers for friendly cats and kittens
- Distributed over 1,400 pounds of food for feral cat caregivers

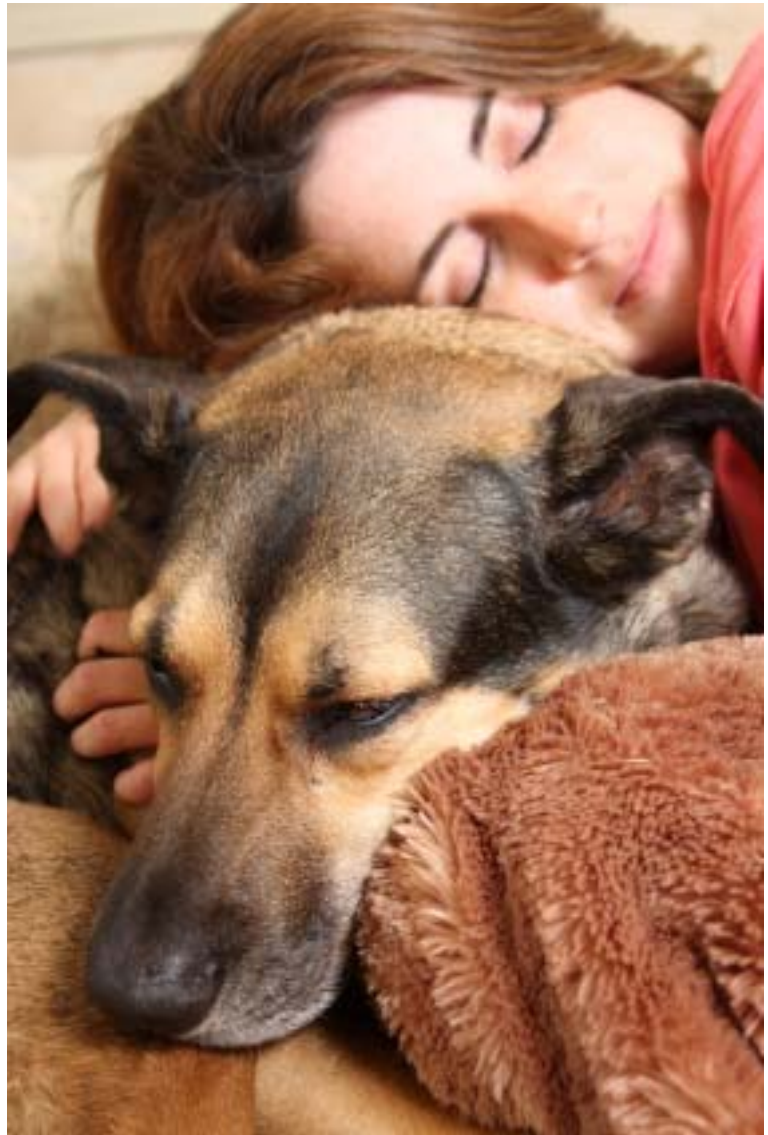
Public Education & Volunteer Support

- Expanded Special Events volunteer staff to 66 volunteers
- Organized volunteers to attend 26 public events
- Trained 31 volunteers to provide specialized care for the cat guests at the Rescue Cottage
- Trained 93 new volunteers to bring us to a total of 230 active volunteers
- Attended the Ashford Farmers' Market weekly May through September

Our Companions 2012 Accomplishments

Canine Behavior & Rehabilitation Programs

- Continued to provide free behavior evaluations and training consultation with Animal Control Officers and other non-profit animal welfare organizations on hard-to-place dogs whenever requested.
- Arranged volunteer attendance at canine behavior seminars with nationally known dog training experts, and continued the Canine College volunteers' education by holding monthly meetings, and reading and discussing books on a wide variety of canine topics.
- Conducted 135 canine behavioral evaluations for adoptable dogs
- Held 141 private dog training sessions with an increased number of them lead by Canine College volunteers.
- Taught 60 dogs in our Family Companion Classes which are team-taught by fully trained volunteers
- Expanded the Buddy Project, a program that teaches special needs and at-risk youth how to train homeless dogs to increase their adoptability. Worked with 4 teens in this program with a total of 32 sessions using 10 dogs.



Our Companions 2012 Accomplishments

Financial Development Highlights

Ashford Sanctuary Capital Campaign:

- Raised \$425,000 toward the \$630,000 goal for Phase 2 of construction which will allow Our Companions to double our capacity to house animals at the sanctuary.

Annual Fund

- Increased Henry and K.K. McLane (leadership giving circle) membership by 6.6%
- Raised \$646,279 in annual giving support, a 12% increase from 2011.





Our Companions 2013 Goals

Below are the goals that Our Companions has targeted for achieving in 2013

Program Goals

- Rescue and adopt 300 pets
- Increase Animal Helpline volunteer staff to add 6 new volunteers
- Increase Cat Sanctuary Volunteer staff to add 25 new volunteers
- Increase Dog Sanctuary volunteers by 25 new volunteers, and provide continued education for all Sanctuary volunteers on dog training and handling.
- Add one new media partner to promote adoptable pets
- Formalize Rabbit Assistance Program
- Start Rabbit Voucher Program for Spay/Neuter
- Hold regular Pet Adoption events at the Valerie Friedman Program Center
- Expand Educational Outreach and Caregiver Support services in Sterile Feral Program
- Add 10 more volunteers in Canine College to conduct and support our classes and private dog training
- Develop an Our Companions' Guide on Positive Training
- Update the Canine College Teaching Manual
- Update the Helpline Training Manual
- Utilize the Valerie Friedman Program Center to provide a location for regular adoption events, canine behavior program, volunteer trainings and meetings, civic group meeting location, feral cat program resources including a food bank, humane education seminars
- Increase the availability and frequency of Family Companions classes offered.
- Add 10 Special Events volunteers
- Implement Shelter Management software



Development Goals

- Increase annual fund goal to \$650,000
- Increase Henry and K.K. McLane membership by 10%
- Conduct 3 donor cultivation/recognition home receptions
- Complete fundraising for second phase of Sanctuary Capital Campaign

Facility Planning Goals

- Complete Phase 2 of Construction of Ashford Sanctuary
- Move offices and complete transfer of program operations at the Valerie Friedman Program Center



Key Developments in Our Companions History

Our Companions Domestic Animal Rescue is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization that was founded in May 2002, with a mission to end the unnecessary euthanasia of pets in Connecticut.

A website was established and direct marketing programs implemented that currently reach over 8,500 households. The fundraising has progressed from an initial annual amount of \$39,000 raised in 2003, to \$896,811 raised in 2012.

In December 2002, Our Companions CT, received a major gift of 43 acres of land (a former factory farm) in Ashford, CT. A plan was conceived to develop this land into a domestic animal sanctuary with pet housing, adoption, and pet rescue facilities.

During 2008, Our Companions raised over \$300,000 for the "Demolition" phase of the capital campaign to remove the factory farm buildings and prepare the site for construction.

Between late 2009 and 2011, Our Companions successfully raised nearly \$1,000 for "Phase One" of the capital campaign. This campaign not only funded the construction of the first sanctuary rescue cottage, garage and gazebo, but also a vast amount of site work to support the first rescue cottage and several more animal housing cottages to be build over the coming years.

Other important developments in Our Companion's history include the creation of a number of programs specifically targeting the root causes of pet homelessness which include: canine behavioral training, sterilization programs, political advocacy programs, volunteer training programs, community education programs, rescue and adoption services.

The Animal Helpline has also been established, staffed by trained volunteers to assist pet owners with a variety of animal welfare related issues and handles approximately 4,000 calls each year. The positive response to the Helpline has been overwhelming, which demonstrates the strong need that exists for animal welfare assistance programs.

Our Companions also assisted in founding the Animal Welfare Federation of Connecticut, which is a coalition of existing animal welfare organizations in Connecticut. Our Companions also was integral in the creation of Connecticut Votes for Animals, a 501(c)(4) organization that is leading the animal protection movement through legislation.

In 2012 Our Companions opened the Valerie Friedman Program Center in Manchester, CT. In addition to housing the organization's administrative offices, this 6,000 facility is home to the Animal Helpline call center, canine behavior and training programs, humane education program, low-cost spay/neuter services and pet adoption services.

Our Companions currently has 8 employees (5 full time & 3 part time), a Board of Directors providing oversight, and over 200 dedicated volunteers who deeply believe in Our Companions mission to end the unnecessary euthanasia of healthy pets.



Our Companions Programs

Our Companions Animal Rescue currently operates many programs that target the root causes of pet homelessness. These programs include:

Family-friendly adoption programs

We know that a proper home exists for most animals - it just takes patience, resources, and a commitment to find it. Over the past 9 years, we've found peaceful, loving homes for some of the state's most difficult to place animals – animals most organizations would have given up on.

Group and private training programs

Behavior problems with dogs are a leading reason why dogs are relinquished to shelters and euthanized. Many adoptions fail due to a lack of training and preparation for both the family and the pet. Our pro-active training program is designed to “save the home” of dogs at risk of being given to a shelter or returned after adoption.

Affordable spay neuter programs for cats and feral cat colonies

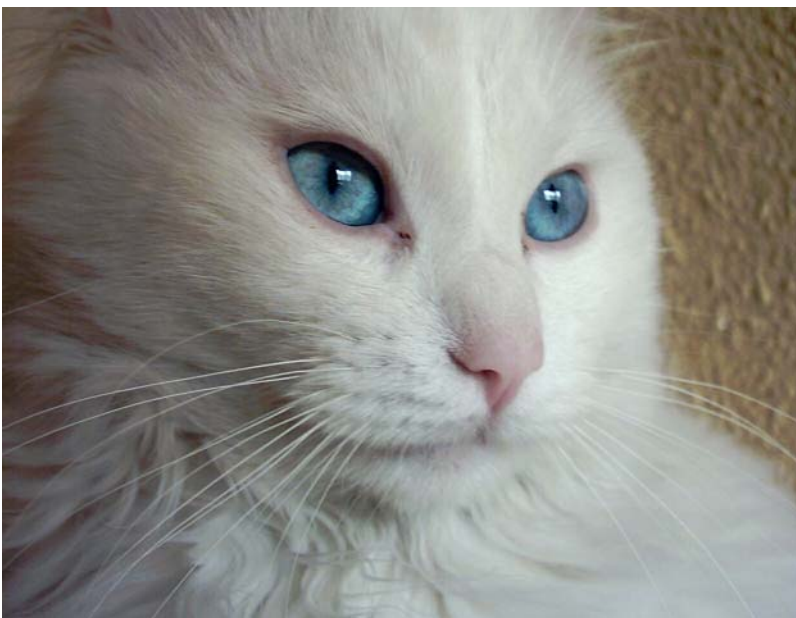
It is estimated that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 outdoor, homeless, and free roaming cats. While the actual population is unknown, there is no question that overpopulation is the leading problem facing cats in Connecticut. Our sterilization programs target the source of this grave problem which contributes to unimaginable suffering of outdoor cats.

Political advocacy efforts

According to the 2010 Animal Legal Defense Fund's “State Animal Protection Law Rankings”, Connecticut is only 35th in the nation compared to other states in overall strength and comprehensiveness of animal laws. Animal rescue organizations have been operating for centuries, yet the problem of animal suffering persists because the laws that protect animals need to be dramatically improved.

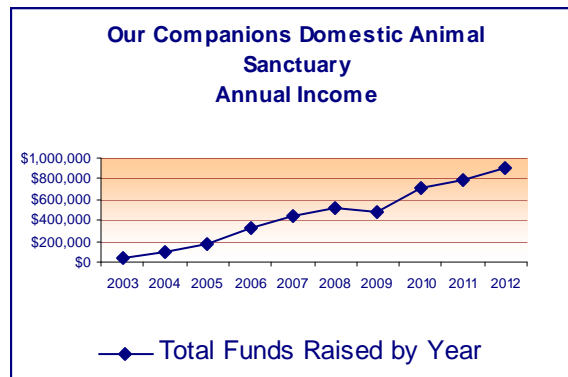
Humane Education programs

Educating our citizens, families, and children is a critical tool in creating a more humane future for animals and people in our society. Our Companions humane education programs strengthen the human/animal bond and are a critical component in meeting our mission of ending unnecessary suffering and euthanasia.

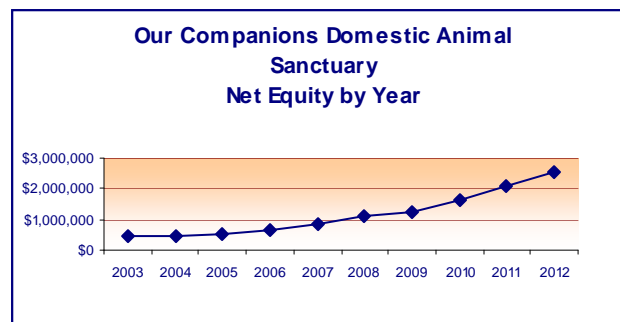


Our Companions Animal Rescue 2012 Financial Results Analysis

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary celebrated its 10th full year of operation in 2012, and it was milestone year in which several major goals were achieved. The first rescue cottage in Ashford became fully operational in October as Our Companions announced the official grand opening of the animal sanctuary. In addition, Our Companions headquarters were relocated to a new office center in Manchester, giving much needed room to allow for the growth of the administrative staff, and the development and expansion of the dog training classes and other program offerings. The 2012 financial results were once again very solid. Total income from all sources was \$896,996, which surpassed last years total of \$790,405. The revenue included \$623,900 in annual fund donations, \$220,385 in capital campaign donations, and \$52,711 from other sources (program fees, grants & merchandise sales). In Our Companions 10 year history the consistent growth of total revenue has been remarkable, as illustrated in the chart below.



Total operating expenses were \$498,239 in 2012 which was very close to the budgeted total of \$487,246. Of this amount \$76,988 was for new expenses related to the operation of the sanctuary in Ashford. Our Companions staff increased to 5 full time employees and 2 part time employees in 2012, with the additional staff being needed to assist with the operation of the sanctuary. \$78,200 was spent on veterinary and other pet care services which is consistent with Our Companions core mission of assisting animals in need. The total net income from operations for the 2012 year was \$180,419 as compared with \$191,417 in 2011. The income statement for 2012 showing full income and expense detail is displayed on the following page.



On the balance sheet side, Our Companions finished the year with \$863,909 in cash on hand, \$624,455 in the general fund and \$239,454 in the restricted cash capital campaign account. It noteworthy to point out that this was after payment off all cost related to the construction of the sanctuary in Ashford. The total cost of building the first phase of sanctuary construction was \$1,171,919, which included significant amounts for the demolition of the existing buildings and general site preparations. Our Companions accomplished this without incurring any debt and currently has no short or long term debt on the balance sheet. The above chart shows the organizations enviable growth in net equity over the past 10 years.

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

2012 Financial Statements

	12 months Ended 12/31/12
Income	
Animal Program Fees	5,310
Donation Income - General	623,900
Petco Grant	47,000
Net Fund Raising Event Revenue	-
Net Merchandise Sales	216
Total Income	676,426
 Administrative Expenses	
Salary Expense	186,733
Payroll Taxes - Fica & Suta	15,654
Veterinary	58,598
Pet Care Expenses	19,602
Printing	4,726
Postage	11,698
Insurance	18,241
Promotional	10,130
Professional Fees/Consultants	29,404
Information Technology Services	31,502
Utilities	13,778
Office Supplies	8,900
Ashford Facility Supplies	14,084
Rental & Lease Expense	8,369
Repairs & Maintenance	1,700
Conference/Seminar Registration	3,542
Event / Trade Show Fees	986
Advocacy	463
Educational Materials	13,930
Stewardship/Cultivation	2,474
Training Program Expense	2,634
Volunteer Expenses	2,858
Miscellaneous Expense	647
Bank Fees	4,794
Travel & Meal Expense	5,223
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposals	3,589
Depreciation Expense	23,980
Total Administrative Expense	498,239
Net Ordinary Income	178,187
 Other Income/Expense	
Interest & Dividend Income	2,330
Gain / Loss on investments	(98)
Total Other Income & Expense	2,232
Net Income	180,419

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary Balance Sheet for the Period Ended 12/31/12

ASSETS	<u>12/31/12</u>
Current Assets	
General Fund Cash on Hand	624,455
Capital Campaign Funds	<u>239,454</u>
Total Cash & Short Term Investments	863,909
Prepaid Expense	9,506
Fixed Assets	
Land	456,400
Land Improvements	56,256
Buildings & Improvements	1,131,980
Vehicles	22,895
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	2,500
Accum Depr - Furn, Fixt, Equip	<u>(25,998)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	1,644,033
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u><u>2,517,448</u></u>
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	
Federal Withholding Liability	1,499
FICA/Medicare Liability	2,232
State Income Tax Liability	617
Ct State Income Tax Liability	<u>228</u>
Total Payroll Tax Liabilities	4,576
Total Current Liabilities	<u>4,576</u>
Total Liabilities	4,576
Equity	
Retained Earnings	2,112,068
Net Income	<u>400,804</u>
Total Equity	<u>2,512,872</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	 <u><u>2,517,448</u></u>



Our Companions Animal Rescue

2013 Officers & Board Members

Officers:

Valerie Friedman	Board Chair
Andrea Dobras	Secretary
Leigh Ann Kissner	Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Risa Davidson
Diana Garfield
Marie Joyner
Mitchell Linker
Susan Linker
Chris Shivery
Kathy Sullivan
Tom Weidman
Kim Zimmermann

Advisory Board:

Janet Bailey
Glynis Cassis
Maria das Neves
Lisa Fekete
Pat Foley
Linda Hatten
Gretchen LaBau
Anne Llewellyn
Lauren Mascola
Alex Oldershaw
Susan Rathgeber
Becky Reno
Damon Scott
Maneesh Shanbhag
Ed Young
Adam Zweifler





Our Companions Animal Rescue

Contact Information and Resource Guide

Resource Guide

Subject	Resource	Phone	Email
Help with Pet Adoption and Placement, Sterilization, Education Programs	Stephanie Radowitz, Animal Helpline	(860) 242-9999, ext. 303	Helpline@OurCompanions.org
Ashford Sanctuary Operations	Laura Jordan, Sanctuary Operations Manager	(860) 242-9999, ext. 318	Laura@OurCompanions.org
Dog Training Opportunities	Marie Joyner, Canine Behavioral Programs	(860) 242-9999, ext. 317	Marie@OurCompanions.org
Get Involved! (Volunteer Opportunities)	Paul Johnson, Office Manager	(860) 242-9999, ext. 304	Paul@OurCompanions.org
Development and Communications	Susan Linker, Chief Executive Officer	(860) 242-9999, ext. 301	SusanL@OurCompanions.org
General Questions and Information	Susan Linker, Chief Executive Officer	(860) 242-9999, ext. 301	SusanL@OurCompanions.org

Main Office

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