

# 2017 Annual Report Lycoming County SPCA

## *Celebrating 125 Years*



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## Message from the President

On June 13, 2017, our Lycoming County SPCA celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary –what a milestone! It has been my pleasure to be a part of that history. I came to the board of directors in 1985 at the request of Margaret Megahan, a legend in humane societies.



It was Margaret who moved the shelter from a few rooms at the rear of Dr. Robert Little’s house on Sherman Street to a purchased residence on Reach Road. Later, homes on the both sides of the residence were purchased and housed two shelter employees. I have seen so many changes in my time at the SPCA. For instance, realizing that the former building was not appropriate for a humane shelter, the Board of Directors spoke to a local architectural firm about building a new shelter. That required a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds. Our community was very generous to us, and we were able to raise over half a million dollars. With the assistance of a loan, we began our building which was completed in 1998. Over a year ago, we made the last payment on the loan and are now debt-free.

With changing times, we made numerous staff changes, added more kennel workers, investigation officers, and most importantly selected an executive director to coordinate operations. For the past many years, we have been blessed to have Victoria Stryker in this position. Vickie, with the help of our devoted staff, has implemented many new programs for the community including extensive spay neuter options, summer camp, and innovations in adoption and humane care – too many to enumerate!

Our gala celebration to recognize 125 years of service included an anniversary dinner held at the Williamsport Country Club. Our speaker, Garth Stein, is nationally known as the author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. This novel tells the story of Enzo, a most unusual dog and his relationship with his owners. We were thrilled to hear his inspirational talk.

It has been my pleasure to be part of such a vital organization in our community. For over thirty years I have been blessed to see the commitment of staff and volunteers and experience the wonderful support of our community for the work we do. Thank you for helping us to “Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves!”

*Joyce S. Hershberger*



## Loving Life!



■ Adopted ■ Returned to Owner ■ Transferred ■ Spayed or Neutered ■ Rescued from abuse

**Q:** What do you do with 2,492 animals? **A:** You find their owners or find new ones!

The Lycoming County SPCA had a busy 2017. We handled:

- 🐾 864 dogs
- 🐾 1,263 cats
- 🐾 243 deceased animals for cremation
- 🐾 122 small animals that included birds, fish, ferrets, guinea pigs, rodents, rabbits and turtles
- 🐾 417 vouchers for financial assistance for spaying or neutering
- 🐾 937 animals adopted
- 🐾 341 animals returned to their owners
- 🐾 22 animals transferred to rescue groups
- 🐾 536 shelter animals spayed or neutered
- 🐾 93 animals rescued from cruelty, abuse, or neglect
- 🐾 365 animals were in foster care prior to adoption



*Precious faces of a few of our orphans.*



# New for 2017!

## Foster Care Network and Kitten Bags



We would not have been able to care for all the underage kittens that arrived at the shelter without our foster parents. To encourage fostering, staff collected needed items in our "Kitten Bags."



Depending on the age of the kittens, foster caregivers had access to a heating pad, bottles and kitten formula, a scale, food, litter, bowls, instructions, a blanket, and a toy. Not only did our foster parents care for the kittens, they brought them back to the shelter for vaccines and spaying or neutering. Many helped to find loving adopters as well.

Not all our fosters were cats and kittens. There were also dogs recovering from surgery or behavior issues and two turtles that needed medical care. In total, 365 animals were fostered prior to their adoption.

## Kennel Enrichment

Studies have shown that music is soothing for animals. Whether in a kennel or alone at home, music calms and distracts the animals. Due to a generous donation from Jim and Donna Sortman, we were able to install speakers throughout the kennels and provide the lulling strains of music for our canines, felines, and small animals. We also added a flat screen TV in our conference room that doubles as a projector for meetings, trainings, and humane education.

## Joyce Hershberger Medical Fund

The first full year of the Joyce Hershberger Medical Fund provided loans for 31 pets to receive urgent medical or surgical care who might otherwise have been euthanized. This fund was established in the last few months of 2016. Its name came about to recognize our Board President's thirty years of service to the welfare of animals in Lycoming County. Donors have generously given to the fund to help animals in need. Pet owners are expected to repay the loan as their finances allow. The fund is not available for routine care and is limited to residents of Lycoming County.

## Expanded Spay Neuter Assistance

Pet over-population cannot end without spaying and neutering. Even though we provided financial assistance to low-to-moderate income pet owners, we were receiving frequent



requests for assistance from good Samaritans who were willing to help get strays spayed or neutered. This year we provided twenty-one, \$20 vouchers to take to Beckoning Cat Project (BCP) which helped expand the number of animals that were spayed or neutered. BCP’s low-cost spay/neuter clinic has helped save thousands of cats and kittens that, in the past, would have been euthanized.

**SPCA Safari Camp**

SPCA Safari Camp is an extension of our humane education efforts. This week-long camp was attended by 45 children! Six weeks of camp were broken down into age appropriate groups for learning and fun. Camp was held at the shelter where children learned the humane care of animals. Children had hands on use of a microscope, practiced giving a shot (to an orange), watched a surgery (if they wanted to), met dozens of animals, and much, much more. The camp was so successful that we will host it every summer.



Making “Pupsicles”



Visit with Gemma the Cockatoo



Future Veterinarians

**Small Animal Kennels**

Guinea pigs, rabbits and rodents were upgraded from the small cages on the left to stand alone kennels where the animals could roam from top to bottom or be housed separately. Our small animals have more space, the cages are more attractive, and easier to clean.



**Employee Benefits**

Our hard-working employees have the added benefit of disability insurance and an Employee Assistance Plan. For a small additional cost, employees may purchase dental, vision, and life insurance.



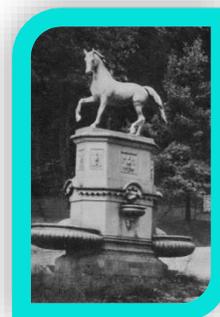
## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On June 13, 1892, the charter for the Lycoming County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals was recorded. Among the twelve directors signing the charter was Elizabeth Lyman Nice who was the first president from 1892 until 1915. The corporation was formed to provide, in part, for *“the prevention of cruelty to animals ... enforcement of all laws... to secure the arrest and punishment of all persons violating such laws, ... to erect and maintain fountains... for gratuitous distribution to the dumb creation;... humane education, ... care, ...alleviation of suffering, of dumb animals,...”*



Elizabeth Lyman Nice

The first shelter operated out of the offices of Dr. Stuart Ross but later moved to the office of Dr. Robert G. Little. The Reach Road property, formerly a home, was purchased on June 9, 1955. Alterations were made to the home to add kennels for animals. After forty years of hard use, that shelter needed major renovations, leading to the effort to build the current facility in 1997.



Trough for horses

A free-roaming cat room was added in 2010, and three additional rooms were added in 2013. The rooms included additional cat housing, a multipurpose room for training and programs, and a surgical room for spaying and neutering.

Our efforts to care for the animals of Lycoming County reach beyond our physical locations. With 125 years of service in Lycoming County, we have proven our commitment to those who cannot speak for themselves. There have been many individuals who have donated their time, talents, and efforts to make Lycoming County a haven for all animals.



First Shelter

Margaret Megahan and Helen Watson were staunch advocates for animals and gave generously to assure that animals in Lycoming County would have shelter, emergency treatment, investigation and prosecution of cruelty or abuse, humane care, and adoption to new homes.



Margaret Megahan

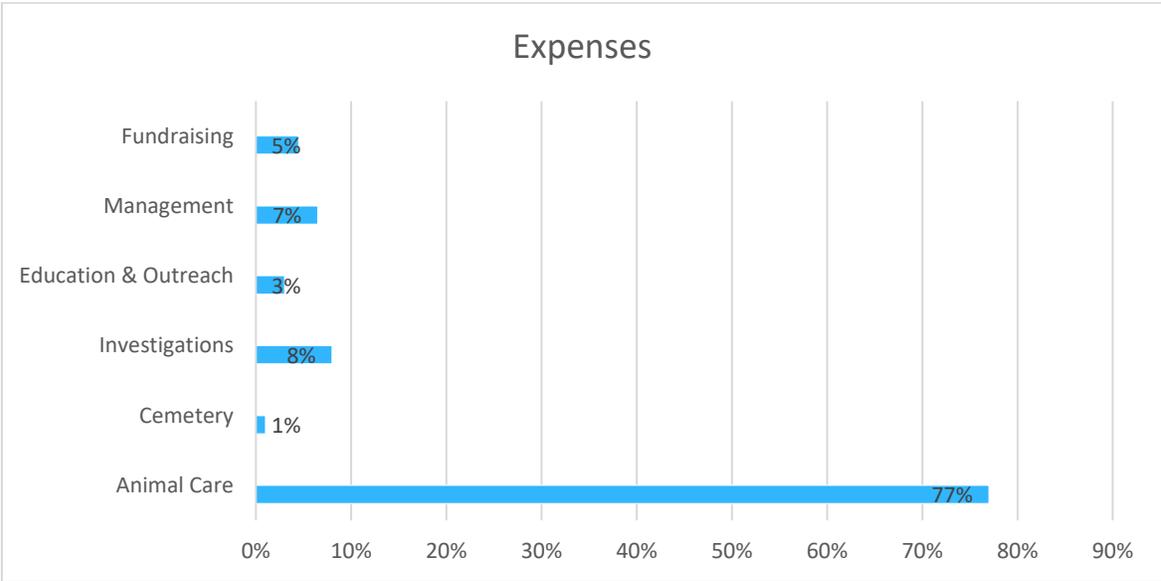
In addition to our usual efforts, we worked to find creative ways to celebrate 125 years of service in Lycoming County. We kicked off the year with a PM Exchange to share our successes and celebrate our future. On June 13, 2017, we celebrated further by inviting *New York Times* best-seller-list author Garth Stine to speak about his book, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

Not content to rest on our laurels, we march onward as we strive to fulfill our mission.

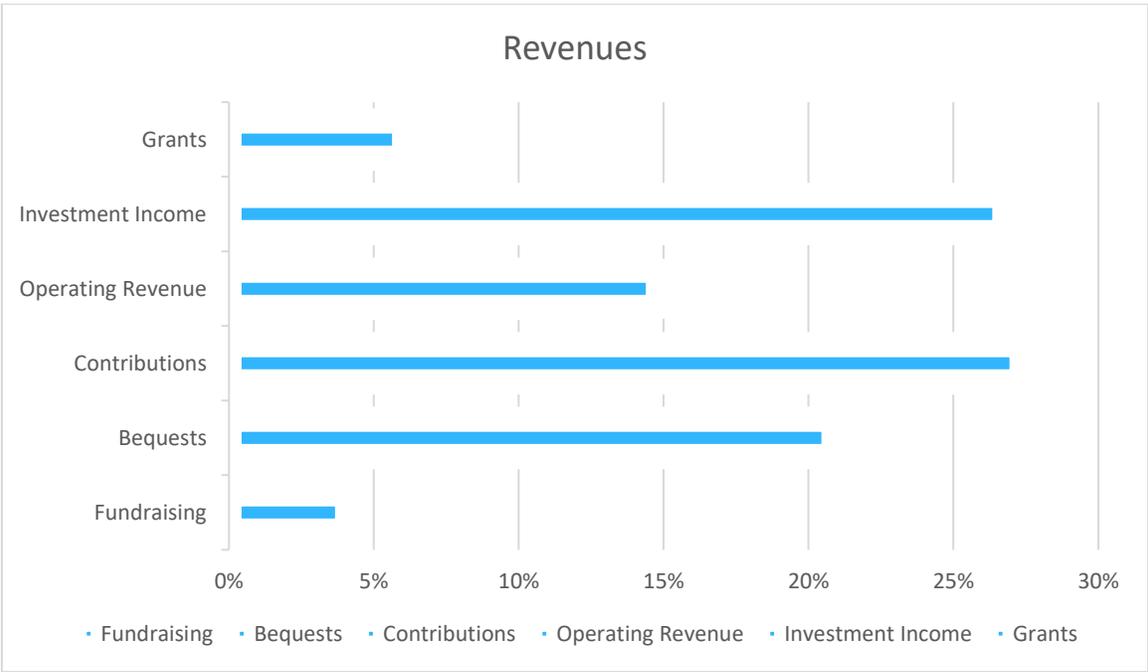


# Financial Audit Information

## 2017 Expense Categories



## 2017 Revenues



## 2017 Financial Statement

### Income

Support	\$ 824,905
Operating Revenues	<u>143,466</u>
Total Income	968,371

### Expense

Programs	759,144
Management/Fundraising	<u>94,878</u>
Total Expenses	854,022

### Assets

Cash	191,993
Inventory	9,975
Pre-paid expenses	5,076
Receivables	12,017
Investments	1,301,395
Trust	1,554,972
Property/Equipment	<u>1,408,041</u>
Total Assets	4,483,469

### Liabilities

Current Liabilities	41,084
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>7,853</u>
Total Liabilities	48,937

Net Assets	4,434,532
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **\$ 4,483,469**

The Lycoming County SPCA investments are structured to generate sufficient interest and dividends to fund the organization's operating deficits. Excess total returns are devoted to capital projects such as the acquisition and renovation of new plant and equipment.

The Lycoming County SPCA financial statements are audited by Gearhart, Wienecke & Verrastro, PC, 800 West Fourth Street, Suite 101, Williamsport, PA 17701. Completed 990 reports are available for review on the SPCA website at [www.lycomingspca.org](http://www.lycomingspca.org).



## Major Programs and Services offered:

*Adoption and Counseling*-Thousands of individuals have found their best friends at the Lycoming County SPCA.

*Intake of unwanted and abandoned animals*-Our mission serves the residents and animals of Lycoming County. Cats are accepted by appointment to prevent the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals. However, we will accept unwanted animals from surrounding counties as space allows. There are fees for accepting out-of-county animals.

*Education* – The SPCA provides education programs at the shelter or to schools and head start programs throughout the county teaching humane education and dog bite prevention. New this year, the SPCA Safari camp provides a week-long experience learning humane care of animals.

*Volunteer Program* – Volunteers are an integral part of the SPCA. Through their efforts, we can improve the quality of life for the animals during their stay in our shelter.

*Spay/Neuter Program* – Through the generous cooperation of many area veterinarians, we continue to be able to sponsor a low-cost spay/neuter program for low-income pet owners.

*Dogs for Service and Rescue* – Some of our shelter dogs are identified with having special attributes or breeding that make them ideal candidates for a variety of special services and rescue organizations. The SPCA is proud to team up with organizations that train shelter dogs for service to their owners or for law enforcement.

*Investigations* – Each year, the SPCA is asked by the community to investigate hundreds of suspected animal abuse and neglect cases. A court-appointed humane society police officer is on duty to resolve these complaints that require owner counseling, follow-up, and sometimes an arrest and prosecution under Pennsylvania Crimes Codes § 5531-5561.

*Joyce Hershberger Medical Fund* – This program provides loans to pet owners who cannot afford urgent care for their pets. Loans are expected to be repaid as the pet owner's finances allow.

*Quarantine*- The SPCA helps to protect the public by quarantining manageable animals that have bitten. Very aggressive animals may face euthanasia.

*Speakers* – The SPCA staff is available to speak on any of the above topics for meetings or programs. Our staff is also available for consultation on a variety of problem situations pet owners face.

*Pet Cemetery/Crematorium*- The SPCA memorial brick walk provides a beautiful walkway into our scenic pet cemetery. The SPCA has served the owners of over three thousand pets in the last 50 years along with providing cremation services to the public, as well as humane euthanasia services.



