



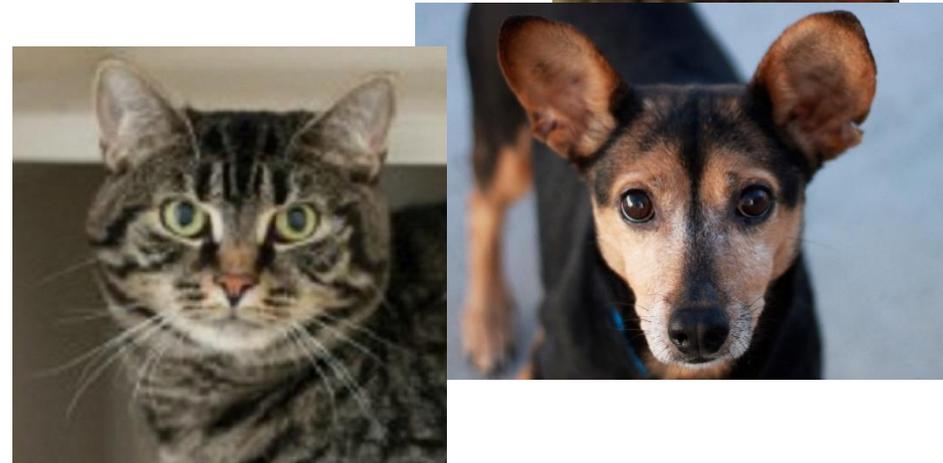
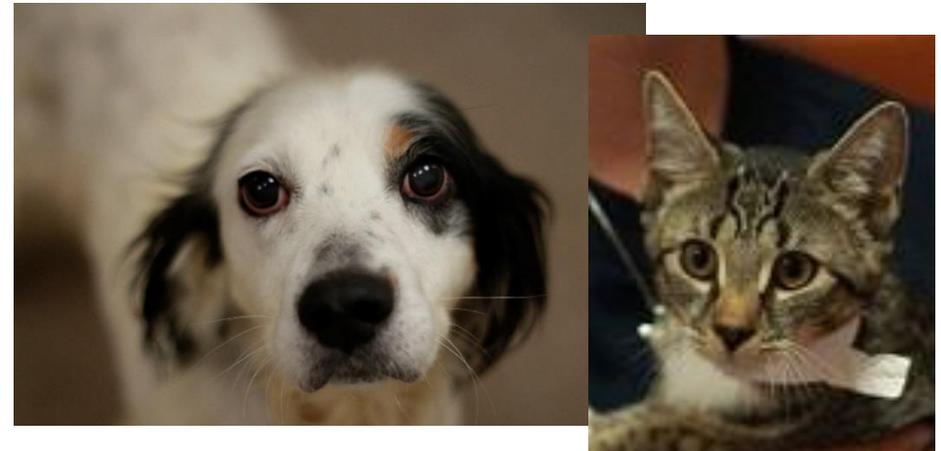
[www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015



[www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org)

*We couldn't do what we do without you, they wouldn't get a Second Chance without us. It takes all of us to save all of them. Thank you for being a part of our Second Chance family!*



# Second Chance Animal Shelter, Inc.



## **ADOPTION CENTER:**

**111 Young Rd., P.O. Box 136  
East Brookfield, MA 01515  
Tel. (508) 867-5525 Fax. (508) 637-1417**



## **WELLNESS AND EDUCATION CENTER:**

**372 North Main St.  
North Brookfield, MA 01535  
Tel. (508) 637-1333 Fax. (508) 637-1417**



## **Second Chance's**

### **COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINIC**

*In Springfield*  
**501 Belmont Ave.  
Springfield, MA 01108  
Tel. (413) 739-2343 Fax. (413) 372-4163**

**Email: [info@secondchanceanimals.org](mailto:info@secondchanceanimals.org)**

**Website: [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org)**

## **AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Chosen for the Pets for Life mentorship for MA by the Humane Society of the United States 2015

Chosen by Purina as the MA shelter for "Building Better Lives" in 2012, 2013, and 2014

HSUS Emergency Placement Partner as of 2010 and named 1 of the top 10 Partners in the Country in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Chosen as the one MA shelter for funding by the MuttNation Foundation 2014

ASPCA Emergency Placement Partner since 2013

Gold level on Guidestar.org since 2013

1 of the top 73 animal welfare non-profits in the world 2012 by greatnonprofits.org

Voted top MA shelter in the animal rescue site challenge, June 2011 and have placed in top 3 in nearly every subsequent challenge

"Featured on the Fox Mike and Juliet Morning Show in 2008"

"One of the top 20 shelters in the national 2007 Zootoo.com contest and "Top MA shelter in the 2009 national Zootoo.com contest"

Named "Outstanding Shelter" by SPCA International 2008

"Winner of the 2007 Pedigree Best Rescue Story Award"

# ABOUT SECOND CHANCE

## MISSION STATEMENT

TO provide temporary shelter to stray, abandoned, and surrendered animals for the purpose of finding permanent suitable new homes.

TO provide assistance and financial aid to prevent overpopulation through spaying and neutering programs.

TO support a healthy pet community and responsible animal husbandry by providing reasonably cost general veterinary services, as well as low/no cost general veterinary services to those unable to afford care for their pets.

TO provide low/no cost general veterinary services to animal control agencies, animal shelters and rescues.

TO establish cross-referral networks with local “for profit” veterinary doctors and clinics.

TO provide assistance and information to others whose purposes are consistent with the purpose of Second Chance Animal Shelter, Inc.

## OUR VISION

Second Chance will be the model shelter, addressing the issue of pet overpopulation by providing solutions through services and prevention through education. We will be the exemplary shelter for Central Massachusetts by executing exceptional business and service practices and providing a revolutionary model for the pet and shelter industry.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

<b>President</b>	<b>Sheryl Blancato</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Joe Blancato Sr.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rebecca Austin</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Curtis Schoen</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Robert White, Esq.</b>

# 2015 IN REVIEW



Second Chance Animal Shelter (hereafter “SCAS) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. A five (5) member Board of Directors governs SCAS. The shelter employs a staff of thirty two (32), twenty two (22) full time and ten (10) part-time. Five (5) of the staff are veterinarians working to help our shelter animals as well as provide veterinary care at our Wellness Center and our Springfield Community Vet Clinic. The volunteer base is 275. SCAS is a no-kill shelter and does not euthanize pets to create space. There is no time limit on how long a pet is cared for until adoption.

SCAS operates in four (4) locations. The Adoption Center, East Brookfield, MA, the Wellness and Education Center, North Brookfield, MA, the Framingham PetSmart adoption center for adult cats and as of April, 2015, our newest full service subsidized vet clinic in Springfield, MA.

There are also two satellite vaccine clinic sites, one in Webster MA and one in Douglas MA providing low cost vaccine clinics monthly to those communities. Our mobile vehicles provide additional clinics in several of the state’s major cities on a monthly basis.

SCAS helped over 20,000 pets this year through adoption, spay/neuter, vaccine clinics, veterinary care, including subsidized care to those in need, as well as veterinary services to over 60 other rescues and shelters throughout the state. We also provide training, educational outreach, and a pet food pantry.

The Adoption Center is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The center takes in surrendered, stray and abandoned animals from the public and Animal Control Officers as well as working with such organizations as HSUS (The Emergency Services Placement Partner Program) and MAC (The AniMatch Program), ASPCA, Best Friends, and others to re-home animals from Animal Control, disasters, large scale hoarding and animal cruelty cases. SCAS is a MA Emergency Shelter for pets and has been named one of the top ten Emergency Placement Partners of HSUS since 2011.

The Wellness & Education Center, located in North Brookfield, MA, provides low cost spay/neuter to approximately 5,000 pets each year. In August of 2013 our full service veterinary clinic began operations. It is open to the general public as well as providing subsidized rates for care for those that qualify. The subsidized pricing is also available to other rescues/animal control/shelters. It is our goal to provide medical care to every animal that needs help regardless of their financial position.

Second Chance is a proud member of the Humane Alliance, an organization located in Ashville, NC, that teaches veterinary teams the most advanced and cutting edge surgical techniques for spay/neuter. The Wellness Center offers this high quality, low cost spay/neuter service as well as weekly vaccine clinics, a full array of veterinary services, and pet training. Grants from various organizations and donors allow us to provide these services at affordable prices. The goals of the Center are to perform 4-6,000 spay/neuter surgeries, 250-500 specialty surgeries and a multitude of other veterinary related services such as dentals, vaccines and diagnostics to keep pets in homes and out of shelters each year. With a ratio of 5:1, birth to spay/neuter surgery, this represents a potential 30,000 animals per year that will not be put into rescue systems whose resources are already strained. The addition of veterinary services gets to the root cause of animal suffering and surrender by helping countless pets from being surrendered or abandoned simply because the owners cannot afford medical services, forcing them to give them up so they can get the care

they need. This also saves shelters the significant financial costs of housing and providing the needed medical services to these pets. Second Chance is working to change the focus of animal welfare from the passive “sitting in our shelters waiting for the homeless animal” to the proactive approach of going into the community and finding those pets who most need our help and keeping them with their loving families. We are committed to surrender prevention. **Second Chance is revolutionizing animal welfare with this approach.**

The Wellness & Education Center has allowed SCAS to expand our educational outreach programs. These efforts provide in-school as well as in-shelter programs for schools and youth groups.

Training and education programs increased in 2015 with the addition of in house training by local trainers conducting evening classes in our training and education room. The Wellness Center is also the hub of our Pet Food Pantry, providing assistance to more than 9 food pantries across Central MA helping residents in need feed their pets and preventing surrender to shelters simply because they cannot afford the cost of food.

The organization believes that the path to ending animal suffering, abuse and overpopulation requires solving the root causes and not just symptoms. We do not believe the mission can be achieved by adoption and spay/neuter alone, although these are certainly two (2) critical components of our strategy. We have pioneered the first “Subsidized Veterinary Clinic” run by an animal welfare group in our state of Massachusetts, focusing our effort on providing affordable medical care (including wellness exams, vaccine clinics, surgery, dental care and nutritional guidance) for the underserved populations of our communities. Our first clinic in North Brookfield has grown exponentially since opening in Aug, 2013. Our second clinic, located in Springfield, MA and opened in April, has already seen the same kind of response from the community and has caused us to begin looking for larger quarters in order to serve the ever expanding needs of the extremely large underserved population of the city.

Through the generosity and vision of PetSmart Charities, our first mobile surgical and adoption vehicle arrived in March of this year, and

has traversed the state providing services to communities where pet owners without a means of transportation are not able to see a veterinarian for a basic exams or vaccines. The mobile unit also brings our adoptable pets to various locations around the state, providing our “temporary residents” greater exposure to the public ensuring that they will be seen by as many potential loving adoption homes as possible.

We were advised by PetSmart Charities in December that we were awarded an additional grant to purchase a second 26 ft. mobile surgery/veterinary and adoption vehicle, to be outfitted to perform dental work as well as surgery, giving us even more needed resources to bring to the underserved communities where owners do not have the physical nor financial ability to travel to our brick and mortar Veterinary Clinics. By having the ability to provide consistent vaccine clinics directly in targeted neighborhoods we can begin to end the deadly outbreaks of Parvo and other life threatening diseases that plague many urban areas as well as bringing medical teams to the pets who cannot get to us. This gets us out of our shelters and takes us to the pets and families that need help the most.



## ADOPTION CENTER

*“Every Pet Deserves A Second Chance”*



### 2015 Adoption Statistics:

**ANIMALS ADOPTED IN  
2015 - 854**

2015 saw a 5% increase in adoptions over last year, and was again another record year for the shelter. The adoption statistics represents pets that entered our Adoption Center and were rehomed. They do not include those that were able to stay in their homes due to SCAS intervention, which is one of the most important measures of success. Of the 20,400 animals helped in 2015 4.2% were helped by adoption. The balance of 19,437 or 95.8% were helped by our outreach and medical programs. By addressing the root causes of surrender and abandonment we hope to keep more and more animals in loving homes instead of having to endure the emotional upheaval of being separated from their loving homes due to a family’s lack of financial ability to get help with medical, behavioral or other solvable issues. The need to provide temporary sheltering for a companion animal will never go away, but we strive to minimize the trauma an animal faces when forced into surrender.

Additionally, whenever space allows, Second Chance also takes in pets from other shelters, rescues, and animal control to prevent

unnecessary euthanasia. Every pet deserves a chance at a great life. Senior staff continues to be involved in expanding the reach of SCAS rescues by our involvement in national rescue missions and by extending a helping hand to other shelters, rescues and animal control where space is an issue. In 2015, we participated in several national missions. We were deployed to assist HSUS in a seizure in Florida where animals used in hog/dog (wild boar and dog) fighting suffered abuse and neglect. Many of these animals were in desperate need of medical care and all were in need of a loving homes. While on site, the release of these dogs was secured and SCAS was able to bring one of these precious animals, Erica, back to Massachusetts for adoption where she was rehomed and now lives the kind of life she so deserves. Our transport vehicles not only traveled to bring Erica home but also was deployed to NJ to bring adult cats back to the shelter saving them from euthanasia. Our outstanding veterinary staff is always ready to address the medical issues of our rescues and our adoption staff, as always, and works tirelessly to find their new homes.

Our continuing participation as a receiving shelter for the PetSmart Charities “Rescue Waggin” allows us to save animals from the southern regions of the country where euthanasia rates can be as high as 98-100% due to lack of space and adopters. As the Northeast continues to excel in spay/neuter, reducing the number of unwanted births from entering the system, we now have the ability to save lives from other shelters nationally that have run out of space to house the massive flow of incoming pets nor have the number of adopters needed to rehome these animals. We are proud to be a part of the national effort to reduce our country’s euthanasia rate from the current 2.4 million annually to zero. Every adoptable animal deserves a chance at a happy, healthy life free of pain and abuse. The PetSmart Rescue Waggin’ is a vital program saving thousands of lives every year and we are very proud to have been given the distinction of being the first MA organization chosen by PetSmart to be approved to participate.



## ADOPTION POLICIES

The goal of our Adoption Center is to prepare and place our animals in their forever homes. To do this we need to ensure that the animal and the potential adopting family are well matched. Our application process is a vital component to achieving this goal. There are many variables that go into making placement decisions. We review each application on a case-by-case basis. It usually takes only a day for us to process an application, but if we have multiple applications for a particular dog or cat, it may take longer. Walk-ins are welcome to visit our animals during our hours of operation. Same day adoptions are done to approved applicants. An adoption application is required to be approved before an adoption can be completed.

Please note, in addition to the pets housed at the East Brookfield Adoption Center, we also have a satellite center located in the Framingham MA PetSmart that houses many of our adult cats. We also employ an extensive foster care system to care for animals that need an environment where special care can be given such as bottle feeding or animals with medical conditions requiring special attention. Second Chance Animal Shelter’s adoption fees are some of the lowest in the state and be seen in detail at our website.

[www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org)

## SURRENDER POLICIES

Surrendering an animal can be a difficult and heartbreaking decision for owners. Accepting surrendered animals and working to place them in new, loving homes is an important part of our mission. We do not require a surrender fee to bring a pet to our shelter.

We accept all breeds, ages and pets with treatable medical conditions. Our trained staff performs a behavioral evaluation for each pet prior to admission to our shelter to ensure that the pet is adoptable.

We have a lifetime return policy on all of our adopted pets. Therefore, SCAS pets can be returned to the shelter at any time in their lifetime.



## WELLNESS CENTER

## *"Forever Together - Keeping Pets and Their Families Together"*



## 2015 LOW COST AND FREE SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE

A total of 4,656 pets were spayed/neutered at our Wellness Center in 2015. This included low-income owned pets, shelter and other animal control and rescue pets as well as the general public. This was our eleventh full year of offering this service. In April of this year we completed our 30,000<sup>th</sup> surgery. With a birth to surgery ratio of 5:1, we have kept 150,000 animals from entering an already overwhelmed shelter system that would see many of them euthanized for lack of space.

2015 was the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) full year of operations at the Pet Wellness & Education Center in North Brookfield, and the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) full year of the SPOT (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today!) spay/neuter program.

It also marks the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year of our full service veterinary clinic which provides subsidized rates for care for pets whose owners need financial assistance. SCAS continues to position itself as a model and a leader in moving toward the solution of pet overpopulation and suffering. Our approach of focusing on **surrender prevention** helped over 20,000 pets this year to remain in their homes instead of being surrendered to shelters.

## Helping Hands Outreach Program For Other Groups

The “Helping Hands” program continues to provide low cost spay/neuter and veterinary care rescues, shelters, and animal control assisting about 60 such groups so that they can keep their costs low and help more pets.

## Wellness Center Transportation Services

Second Chance began transportation services at the end of 2011 and continues to grow. These vehicles, made possible thanks to grants from the ASPCA and the Petco Foundation, provide pets from other shelters, rescues, animal control officers and pet owners with a means to get to our Wellness and Education for spay/neuter when they cannot provide it.



Our two transport vehicles are on the road 5 days a week or more, providing transport services to our spay/neuter program, or from other

shelters, rescues, animal control, disasters and other large scale cases where pets are in need of placement through our adoption center. Our vehicles have made trips to other parts of the country such as Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, New York and others to bring animals back to our shelter for adoption.

## Feral Cat Spay/Neuter – FAST (Feline Alliance Sterilization Team)

Second Chance provides trap/neuter/release (TNR) weekly through our clinics at the Wellness & Education Center. We offer the loan of humane traps to assist caregivers and groups in trapping feral cats in order to transport them to the clinic. This program is for feral (wild cats, not house pets) and barn cats. It’s important to understand when a cat is spayed/neutered, they are less likely to fight, spray urine, and will not breed - but they will still control rodents!

## Pet Wellness Clinics

2015 was the ninth year of pet wellness vaccine clinics now offered at our North Brookfield operation and our Springfield facility. The weekly clinics provide routine vaccines, testing, and microchipping at very low prices. These clinics are not meant to replace regular veterinary care but to assist owners that simply cannot afford even this basic routine care.

Opened in 2013, our full service veterinary clinic in North Brookfield, has been available to the general public for three (3) years now. In addition, the subsidized pricing is also available to other shelters, rescues, and animal control officers to help pets in need. This facility, as well as our second (2<sup>nd</sup>) vet clinic, located in Springfield, MA, and opened in April of this year continue to be the **only** subsidized full service vet clinics operated by an animal welfare organization in the state of MA.

## Outward Bound Express Program

The increasing success of our vet clinics and our spay/neuter program as well as the shelter’s other diverse offerings, have been a major factor in the precipitous decline of local pets being surrendered to shelters. We can now provide pet owners multiple options when they think surrender is their only choice. The availability of affordable veterinary services, assistance with behavioral and medical issues and ongoing support has helped to keep pets in their homes. Second Chance continues to widen this kind of assistance to additional areas of Massachusetts and even beyond. When there are kennels/cages available and no local pets are in need, SCAS contacts other groups within Massachusetts and outside of Massachusetts to provide assistance and prevent euthanasia caused by a of lack of space and/or resources in their respective facilities. Our focus continues to be on surrender prevention. **We cannot adopt our way out of the problem.**

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



## Educational Outreach Program

Second Chance provides tours of our facilities to local school and youth groups. We also provide guest speakers at local schools to promote responsible pet ownership. The schools use this program to assist them with their own community service programs. Schools also hold fundraisers or do other similar projects to benefit the shelter pets.

Second Chance utilizes therapy dogs to assist with this program allowing for hands-on education with dogs such as Harley and other former Second Chance dogs.

## Home Bound to the Rescue

Begun in 2010, this program was initiated as an adjunct to our "Food for Pets Pantry" which provides pet food to nine (9) local human food pantries. In addition to the need for pet food, the elderly need assistance with basic pet care. Many of them cannot afford to provide basic medical care for their pets and/or don't have transportation available to get them to a veterinarian. Home Bound to the Rescue assists pet owners by bringing the services right to their doorstep at no cost. By going to elderly and low income housing complexes, we can help to keep their pets healthy and up to date on vaccines. This

prevents our seniors from having to choose between their pets needs and putting food on their table. Thanks to a grant from the Banfield Charitable Trust the program continued to provide care in 2015.

## Party for Pets Children's Program



Begun in 2008, the "Party for Pets" program has become an integral part of our educational outreach. The program is an extension of the school programs that promote the involvement of children with the plight of homeless pets, but adds an individual theme.

Children can now be part of helping homeless pets by thinking of them on their own birthdays. The children host parties and request gifts for the animals instead of themselves. The program evolved from the large number of children who voluntarily donated their birthday gifts to the shelters animals. In return the shelter provides the children with a gift of a t-shirt and lapel pin and animal related party favors for their guests. Designed to increase youth awareness to the plight of shelter pets and instill a profound respect for all animals, it will lead to a generation that abhors animal abuse and neglect and has a profound love of animals.

## Pet Food Pantry

The Pet Food Pantry, established in 2009, continued in 2015 providing cat and dog food to area human food pantries. The program continues to grow and expand, now providing assistance to 9 food pantries throughout the state, allowing pet owners to keep their pets with them during difficult financial times when they cannot afford the cost of food on their own. It is an integral part of our "Surrender Prevention" focus.

## Second Chance Dog Park

In its 4th year of existence our Dog Park, located at the Wellness and Education Center, continues to give dog owners the use of a large fenced in area that provides a safe area for off-leash exercise for their companions. The park has become a well-used part of the community. It is so encouraging to see the animals and their owners taking advantage of the opportunity to bond with their animals in a safe and comfortable dog friendly area that allows dogs to romp freely.



## Foster Care Program



Foster homes are an important part of SCAS. The number of foster homes varies from day to day. Fosters are used to care for pets that would not do well in the shelter environment for any number of reasons like pregnant and

nursing moms, medically needy pets, and those that show signs of kennel stress. Fosters prepare our temporary residents for the day they are placed into their forever home.

## Volunteering Program

Our network of 275 volunteers perform various tasks at the each of our facilities. These include (but are not limited to):

Dog Kennel and Cat Cage maintenance/cleaning

Dog Walkers

Play and socialize with the animals

Bring their building skills to assist us with interior improvements.

Events planning and attendance

Transportation: To transport supplies and donations or to take animals to and from the vets or other facilities.

Various clerical and other office work.

**Junior Volunteers:** Youths under the age of 16 are welcomed into the volunteer program, however they must be accompanied by a parent at all times while at the shelter. Youths 16-18 years old can perform volunteer functions when another volunteer or adult is present.

## Website Based Programs

### **RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

Second Chance maintains a resource directory on our website that contains information on breed specific rescues, other shelters and other pet-related links.

### **LOST/FOUND**

Second Chance maintains a comprehensive list of Massachusetts animal control officers and local shelters. The website also provides a list of recommendations for people who have lost or have found a pet.

## Project Good Dog



We have partnered up with the Worcester County sheriff's office, the Northeast Correctional facility and the Gardner Correctional facility to create a program that helps pets in need of training and/or additional assistance prior to adoption! The program, launched in April of 2015, pairs behaviorally needy shelter dogs with inmates who provide 24/7 care and training. The low security inmates work with the dogs on socialization, basic obedience, housebreaking, and sometimes even a trick or

two. Not only does it provide benefits to the dogs but it also has enriched the lives of the inmates by bringing about positive results for the handlers who learn patience, compassion and responsibility. Many of the inmates have said that it also gives them a focus while they transition back into the community. The training the dogs receive while in the program helps them to be more adoptable increasing their chances for new loving homes.



We asked the handlers how they felt about the program and the responses were all positive. One said "*while I feel like I was able to help my assigned dog get better, it was him that helped me get better. All those hours spent with him have softened that part of me that had become calloused after so many years in prison, and reminded me that caring about and helping others is an important part of being a member of humanity.*"

If you would like to help sponsor "Project Good Dog" please email Lindsay at [Development@secondchanceanimals.org](mailto:Development@secondchanceanimals.org).



# EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

## 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION



One of our 4 major fundraisers, this event, held in March at The Leicester Country Club, is our largest annual event attracting 300 attendees who enjoy a night of fun together

with other animal lovers who support Second Chance.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



An 18 hole, scramble format tournament held at Leicester Country Club in July, provides golfers of all skill levels to compete for great prizes while enjoying a great day on the links. A luncheon is provided at the end of the tournament where scorecards can be compared and shot by shot stories can be shared.

## 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ANIMAL WEEKEND



This Sept event, held at The Wellness & Education Center, is a full weekend of fun for pet lovers and supporters of the shelter. Billed as “Paws and Pedals” and the “Run, Walk, Wag”, it offers a Bike

trek for enthusiasts, a 74 mile Poker Run for motorcycle lovers, a 5k and 10k professionally timed road race and a 2 mile family dog walk.

## ADOPTION/EDUCATION DAYS AT PETSMART, PETCO, AND OTHER VENUES

Monthly adoption days are held at PetSmart in Framingham, Northborough, Hudson, and Millbury and at Petco locations in Holyoke, Shrewsbury, Auburn and Leominster. The events promote awareness of our work as well as showcasing adoptable pets. Additionally, information is provided to educate owners on the myriad of programs offered to keep their pet healthy and happy.

## ON GOING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

Sustainability is key to being able to provide our programs to the community. We are always developing new ways to provide funding, such as our kennel gate sponsorship. This provides businesses an opportunity to help the animals and advertise their business with a sponsored kennel gate or cat cage. These can also be sponsored in memory of a loved one. The sponsored gates display a plaque designating the sponsor.

The “Paws for the Cause” program which provides permanent memorial plaques in either facility to honor a loved one, or as a thank you for a generous donation. These plaques are part of the eye catching wall displays at our shelter and clinics, which honors our supporters for their commitment to our work.

## OTHER EVENTS

We participate in a number of other events at a variety of different venues throughout the year such as Petrock, yard sales and a myriad of others.

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Second Chance organization is committed to full transparency of all financial data. A complete breakdown of our financial statements can be viewed at [Guidestar.org](http://Guidestar.org) or at the Attorney Generals website.

## **PROJECTIONS FOR 2016**

### **ADOPTION CENTER**

Adoptions will increase to their goal of 1,000. We will be increasing our mobile adoption vehicle presence that provides a showcase for our pets at numerous locations throughout the state.

### **WELLNESS CENTER**

Renovations will begin in January of 2016 to renovate our second North Brookfield building. It will serve as a 32 kennel holding facility. Thanks to a generous grant by PetSmart Charities the building will become the PetSmart “Almost Home” Center at Second Chance. The PetSmart Rescue Waggin’ will transport animals saved from overcrowded shelters throughout the south to the Center where they will be held for the required quarantine period and then move on to our veterinary clinic to receive any needed medical attention as well as spay/neuter. In addition to the kennel space the plan includes a conference room area, office space and added room for the operation of our Pet Food Pantry. We are proud to be able to provide this new facility to help us save more animals from being euthanized at overcrowded shelters.

A new expansion in the main building, which houses our veterinary clinic will be undertaken to provide an addition exam room to handle

the growing number of families who are depending on our subsidized care to keep their animals healthy and in their home.

### **PETS FOR LIFE**

In addition to the continuation of all our current outreach programs, we are very excited to introduce a new program into the community of Worcester. We are honored to be the only organization in Massachusetts to be accepted into the “Pets of Life” mentorship program of the Humane Society of the United States. We are now 1 of only 35 in the country to take on this exciting program to help pets in need. Thanks to a grant from PetSmart Charities, we will be providing this program to the targeted communities in the 01608 and 01610 zip codes of Worcester free of charge.

#### **WHAT IS PETS FOR LIFE?**

Pets for life is a groundbreaking community outreach initiative designed to extend animal welfare resources for pet owners who have never received services or have received services without long lasting impact. This approach is effective because it embraces the human component of the companion animal equation, we meet people where they live, establishing trust and creating a ripple effect in the community which translates into a long term impact.

#### **HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

The main thrust of this program takes us on the ground and into the neighborhoods to meet the pet owners at their homes and help them with the unmet needs of their pets. The program provides free spay/neuter, vaccinations, and related services giving the owners an opportunity to provide care for their loved animals which due to financial issues they were not able to obtain from private sources. By improving the relationship between a person/family and their pets, we feel we can improve the quality of life for both, thus increasing the chances of the pet staying in their homes permanently. This is an amazing and cutting edge approach to animal welfare and we are so honored to be able to present it to the city of Worcester. This is the only grant of its kind awarded in the state of Massachusetts. Families in this zip code can contact our dedicated PFL phone line, 774-633-1951. This telephone number is ONLY for Pets for Life information and contact.

## NEW FACILITIES

With the launch of Pets For Life in the City of Worcester, Second Chance will begin a search to establish a “brick and mortar” location in the city. Our intent is to provide permanent and continuous services to the residents of Worcester. The new facility will house our third Community Vet Clinic as well as a physical focal point for the resources offered through the Pets for Life program. We are committed to providing resources for the underserved families of Worcester for the long term.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we close our 16<sup>th</sup> year of existence, we are so pleased at the progress made in fulfilling our mission to end animal suffering, abuse and euthanasia. The inception of the only full-service subsidized veterinary clinics run by an animal welfare organization in the State of Massachusetts, coupled with our Pets For Life program and our mobile adoption/surgical units provide us the ability to step out of the walls of our shelter and go directly to the pets and their families who need our help the most. Sitting at a desk waiting for animals needing help to come to us is not working in animal welfare. Boots on the ground in our neediest communities offers a revolutionary way to provide medical care to the underserved pets and their families who so desperately need help. Our focus is on “Surrender Prevention”, keeping pets out of shelters, rather than building bigger shelters to house more pets.

Our approach has helped over 20,000 pets this year through adoption, spay/neuter, wellness clinics, subsidized veterinary care, training, community and educational outreach and our pet food pantry.

Our vision moves us forward and expands our reach by bringing programs to those who can’t get to us and expanding our circle of lifesaving work to ALL at affordable prices. We are relentless in keeping staffing levels at optimum effectiveness and efficiency, tight

control of overhead and fixed expenses and an unwavering philosophy of “stretching every donated dollar to its maximum”. Our strategy includes the operation of multiple, right sized, highly efficient, low fixed cost facilities serving targeted populations. Facilities that have the smallest possible overhead costs and serve specific communities are a far more desirable and effective alternative than one large, high overhead anchored facility that serves one geographical area and incurs huge expenses of operation and upkeep diverting funds away from the animals.

Without grants, donations from loyal supporters, a dedicated staff and a large group of hard working, extraordinarily passionate volunteers, none of this is possible. As one of the fastest growing shelters in Massachusetts, we ensure our ability to continue to reach further and achieve our mission of ending animal suffering and abuse. We are laser focused on providing affordable care to the underserved who love their companion animals dearly and want the best for them. At the end of 2015, plans for a third subsidized vet clinic are solidified and we will execute those plans in the summer of 2016.

On behalf of all of us here at Second Chance Animal Shelter, I would like to personally thank everyone that has helped to make the shelter what it is today. Without a community of supporters, we could not do what we do every day for the animals. **Every** life that comes to us is important, every pet we can keep out of a shelter and in a loving home is heartwarming, every pet we keep from needlessly suffering from curable medical issues is worth all of our efforts and every pet we can give a second chance to lead a happy, loving life through our adoption program is precious to us. Thank you to everyone that is, and continues to be a part of this passion that is Second Chance Animal Shelter. **“Second Chance – Revolutionizing Animal Welfare”**

Sincerely,

*Sheryl Blancato*

President