



Summer 2020

# Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

*from our home to yours*

## SPECIAL EDITION: EXPANSION PROJECT BEFORE AND AFTER

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*John N. Feldtmose*

Dear Friends,

We are living in extraordinary times, which makes us more united than ever. As our community faces challenges fighting COVID-19 and engages in social protests, I have watched our people show extraordinary resilience, selflessness and heart as we work together caring for animals in need. The humane society remains fully committed to everyone in our communities who want to add a new pet to their family. Our pets, who are more important than ever, so often show us how to love without limits – a wonderful reminder of the power of acceptance.

Governor Cuomo deemed the Humane Society of Westchester an essential service. Throughout the uncertainty, our staff is still working to provide food, medicine, attention, and clean living space for our animals.

*As long as our animals are here, we will be here to care for them.*



### Modernization and Expansion Campaign Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have raised \$4 million in capital funds, and we're now only \$500,000 away from reaching our goal. On page 5, you can see the substantial impact you are having on the lives of our animals by giving to this campaign.

I'm happy to announce that we have hired a new Development Director, Catherine Cuning. Catherine comes to us with a long background in fundraising and will be continuing our capital campaign and our annual giving efforts. Please see the article about Catherine on page 5.

Construction began in January and continues today. We are listening to our elected officials, ensuring sufficient distancing, and taking every precaution during this difficult time as we continue to move forward. Great progress has been made on our new building, as you can see from the many photos of the construction on our Facebook page.

### Above All, Thank You

You are the reason that we are here and doing this work. Thank you for volunteering; thank you for giving; and thank you for being a passionate supporter of the Humane Society of Westchester. We couldn't do it without you.

## Mission Statement

The Humane Society of Westchester is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting the human/animal bond through the compassionate care and treatment of animals throughout the communities we serve in Westchester County and beyond. To that end, our goal is to create a living environment that is not just a shelter, but a transitional home for stray, lost, abandoned, injured, and abused animals, until they can ultimately be placed in loving permanent homes.

Through promotion of successful pet adoption, animal population control, and public education of animal welfare issues, we advance our belief that pet ownership is a lifetime commitment.

### Services

Adoptions  
Animal Rescue  
Lost and Found  
Animal Welfare Education  
Spay/Neuter Certificates  
Dog Training  
Pet Therapy

### Board of Directors

Judith Elkin  
John Feldtmose  
Dianne Heim  
Carol Marinaccio  
Shawn Smith  
Lee Anne Velej  
Diane Wade  
Dr. Louis Weiss

**Humane Society of Westchester**  
**70 Portman Road**

**New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**(914) 632-2925**

**FAX (914) 632-0445**

**[humanesocietyofwestchester.org](http://humanesocietyofwestchester.org)**

**[contact@humanesocietyofwestchster.org](mailto:contact@humanesocietyofwestchster.org)**

**Look for us on Facebook**

## **Ways to Help**

**In addition to contributing to our Capital Campaign you can help by:**

**Volunteering Your Time**  
**Contributing Using Our Wish List**  
**Donating From Amazon**  
**Sponsoring An Animal**  
**Fostering Animals**

## **FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER**

*Dana Rocco*

Like many organizations around the world, the Humane Society of Westchester has been greatly challenged because of the coronavirus, and we hope that when you receive this newsletter you and your family are well.

We have been deeply touched by all the people who have stepped up with offers to foster, adopt, and donate to our building fund during this difficult time.

Even during the challenges of working in a building under construction, our staff has continued to care for our shelter animals and do adoptions by appointment; the coronavirus, however, has forced us to prohibit our volunteers from entering the shelter. This has been extremely difficult for us, and we very much miss our volunteers.

One of the most important services we perform is animal rescue for 19 towns and villages across Westchester County. We also rescue about a hundred additional animals, outside of our service areas that need our help.



A few months ago, we received a phone call from a family in Purchase who discovered a cat, collapsed in their driveway. When we arrived, the cat was barely alive. We took her in, and named her Halliday. The day after she arrived at HSW, she was so weak she could hardly lift her head, but, with a little help, she ate voraciously. She also appeared to be starved for affection, and loved to be stroked and petted.

Although she could not stand or walk for the first few days, on day three we were elated to see her take a few wobbly steps. X-rays revealed that one of her front legs had broken and had not healed correctly, and the other was badly infected. Unfortunately the broken leg had to be amputated, but Halliday is getting along beautifully on only three.

She is available for adoption, and we know she will continue to thrive in the right, loving home. Maybe yours?





*"We became donors because we love our dogs. That's it. Any place that can give us the loving dogs that we've had, we love back. And the best way to love back is to fund them." – Michele Greenburg*

**The Greenburg Family, Three-time Adoptive Dog Parents and Supporters**

Michele and Ross Greenburgs' twins, Brad and Rachel, were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade when they started volunteering at the Humane Society of Westchester, cleaning cages and doing whatever the shelter needed.

A year later, the Greenburgs adopted Buster from the shelter. Buster, a 75-pound boxer

mastiff, looked a bit rough around the edges.

"He was a mush and a licker too," Ross said. "Whenever I sat in a chair, he would sit his 75-pound body on my lap, put his head on my shoulder, and then start licking my face. My family used to crack up. He'd lick your whole body if you'd let him."

Buster lived a full life for many years with the Greenburgs until they had to make a tough decision. "One of the tough parts of owning a dog is when you put them down," Ross said. "We always tell ourselves, 'We can't do this again,' because it's so crushing." But, sure enough, about a year later, Michele and Ross began receiving a flurry of text messages from their daughter, Rachel, sending pictures of dogs at the shelter. One of the dogs was Angie, a spaniel mix, white with little brown spots. Angie was a wonderful companion, but sadly, had severe respiratory issues. After six short years together, the Greenburgs had to put Angie down.

The Greenburgs said, "Never again," because Angie's passing was terrible. But a year later, they met Zulu, a funny dog with an interesting history. Zulu and his sister were found wandering the streets of the Cayman Islands. A local foundation called our shelter to ask if we could find a home for Zulu and his sister. We said 'yes' and a few days later, Shelter Manager Dana Rocco picked them up at JFK Airport.

"Zulu was very timid and skittish. We didn't look at him at first," Ross said. "But Dana knew what kind of dog we were looking for. She let Zulu roam around the office, and he lay underneath her desk for the entire day. And she said, 'This is a dog for the Greenburgs.' To this day, I bring him into my office all of the time and he just stays under my desk."

"The adoption experience there is magical. You can feel the love that the staff has for these animals," Ross said.

Michele added, "I think they really try to make a good match. They look at what's best for the dog and the family. Is the dog good around kids? Is it a high energy dog? When people are looking to adopt, we always direct them right here."

Michelle explained why they also give to the shelter: "We became donors because we love our dogs. That's it. Any place that can give us the loving dogs that we've had, we love back. And the best way to love back is to fund the shelter and give other people the same joy that we have had over 20 years of having these 3 dogs—making sure that it's up and running and that more families can benefit from adopting these animals."

**SHOW YOUR LOVE:** To show your love for our animals, contact our Development Director at: [catherine@humanesocietyofwestchester.org](mailto:catherine@humanesocietyofwestchester.org) or call or text 908-246-5014.





*“Animals are an extension of your family. They bring happiness, joy, and calmness. They make our lives better, so let’s try to make theirs better.” – Rick Jelinek*

### **The Jelinek Family, Animal Lovers and Supporters**

Gretchen and Rick Jelinek, and their teenage children Peyton and Zach, have been animal lovers all of their lives. “We all grew up around animals,” Rick says. “At one time, when I was a

toddler, we had 23 animals at once in my house. We had two dogs and two cats, and three of them had babies simultaneously.”

Ivy, an older cat who had the loudest purr in the shelter, is the newest addition to the Jelinek family.

After weeks of Zach’s begging to adopt a rescue cat, his parents agreed. The family arrived at the Humane Society of Westchester near closing time. They played with three cats, but there was an immediate connection with Ivy. Zach knew that older cats have a harder time getting adopted, which made him even more determined to give Ivy a loving home.

The Jelineks went home happy, with a new member of their family, having had a wonderful experience at the shelter. “The people are what make the Humane Society a great place,” Zach said. “They’re nice and clearly love animals, and dedicate a lot of time to taking care of them.” Peyton added, “I’m also impressed by how clean everything is. Dogs aren’t piled on top of each other, and the cats looked like they were healthy and always had water.”

The Jelineks recently contributed to HSW’s expansion and modernization campaign. “The reason I like being involved locally is I can actually see the difference day-to-day with these animals,” Gretchen said. “Their lives change when they get adopted and they change the lives of the people who adopt them.”

At the national level, Gretchen served on the Humane Society of the United States’ (HSUS’) New York City gala planning committee, which raised \$2 million this year, and she serves on HSUS’ Equine Leadership Council, which works on policy change such as stopping racehorse deaths and dog fighting rings.

“We love animals,” Zach says. “The Humane Society of Westchester is one of the best shelters in the country that has been helping animals for many years. Most people can agree that animals are sentient beings—they feel pain and emotions, feel love and compassion. There should be more programs that keep them off the street and get them into homes. No one wants to be born into the wilderness with no support.”

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## **HUMANE SOCIETY STATISTICS**

The Humane Society of Westchester serves 19 communities: Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Eastchester, Elmsford, Greenburgh, Harrison, Hartsdale, Hastings, Irvington, Larchmont, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Pelham, Pelham Manor, New Rochelle, City of Rye, Rye Brook, Scarsdale and Tarrytown,

In 2019 we adopted 416 dogs, returned 129 to their owners and transported 144 from high kill shelters. We adopted 671 cats, returned 64 to their owners and did Trap/Neuter/Return to 541 strays.



## ONCE WE REACH OUR GOAL:

Many more cats and dogs will be placed in “Forever Homes” every year due to more cat free range rooms and get acquainted rooms and new glass door kennels to cut dog noise and stress.



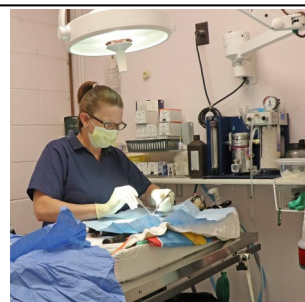
## ONCE WE REACH OUR GOAL:

Small animals, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and hamsters will have their own space to play and relax in our new small animal room instead of in the shelter lobby and hallways under constant stress.



## ONCE WE REACH OUR GOAL:

More young people can learn how to take care of animals in their home and community with the addition of our new “Humane Education Rooms.”



## ONCE WE REACH OUR GOAL:

More spay/neuters, in-house X-Rays, and emergency surgeries can all happen in our expanded surgical space which will be more cost-efficient and less stressful for the animals.



## WELCOME OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

We are pleased to welcome Catherine Cuning to the Humane Society of Westchester team as our new Development Director! Catherine brings her many skills and talents to the important work of fundraising for the shelter. Catherine is an animal lover: Her family rescued several Boxers when she was a child, and two cats from her grandmother’s apartment complex. Catherine and her family continue their love of animals – they just adopted their first puppy in many years, Rosalie. "Ro" was one of the 8 puppies born to Promise at the shelter two months ago. (Promise, and all 8 puppies, now have new homes!)

Here is the Cuning family pictured with Ro: Catherine, her husband Ed, and their children, Eddie, Gavin, and Clare. Catherine would love to hear from you! Feel free to connect with her at: [catherine@humanesocietyofwestchester.org](mailto:catherine@humanesocietyofwestchester.org), or call or text 908-246-5014.



Humane Society of Westchester  
70 Portman Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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**NEW SHELTER CONSTRUCTION**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**