



ANNUAL REPORT

2015



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO...

At the SPCA Albrecht Center we are dedicated to making life better for pets and the people who love them. We are dedicated to improving the human-animal bond. We are constantly challenging ourselves to answer the question...How can we better communicate that our world would be a better place if we all took the time to listen and learn from the unconditional love offered by pets?

One of the answers was to broaden the scope of our award-winning Phideaux University Enrichment and Training program to include more opportunities for the general public to learn about reward-based training techniques and especially to learn how to understand the behavior of a dog. So often we see owners who misjudge the actions and intent of their dog, which results in frustration and ultimately in surrender or euthanasia for behavioral reasons that could be solved. Happily we are now on our way to reversing that trend.

An even greater challenge found us in early Fall when we responded to requests from our local community to address the need for affordable veterinary care. Like human medicine, the costs of health care have out-stripped the ability of people to pay for it, causing an unfortunate chain reaction that results in neglecting preventive care, which then escalates into a critical care situation that is even more financially out of reach. The phenomenon is affecting all income levels and is the foundation of a nationwide discussion and also a nationwide increase in the number of pets surrendered to shelters or euthanized.

Never one to shrink from a challenge, the SPCA Albrecht Center sees part of its job as keeping animals out of shelters and retaining them in the homes they love. Subsequently, we expanded upon our popular spay/neuter and vaccination services to offer a full service Veterinary Care Center. Our new medical team became fully staffed by mid-October and I am happy to report that the change has been very well received by the community.

Our surveys indicate that the vast majority of our clients had no prior regular veterinarian and seldom visited a clinic. Much like the spay/neuter initiative that we began many years ago, this new, lower cost Veterinary Care concept will help reduce shelter admissions and euthanasia by educating owners and providing health care they can afford.

As an added benefit to the Veterinary profession, we continue to house and train senior year vet students from surrounding universities in our Externship Program, where they receive a great deal of surgery experience and are exposed to the challenges of shelter medicine as well as law enforcement abuse and neglect cases.

Our Thrift Shop Department continues to be our single largest source of revenue. We successfully opened a new store to service Aiken's north-side communities and continued to improve the floor space of the shops at Mitchell Center and Richland Avenue. The stores are important for community outreach as well as remote adoption event sites.

Here in the midlands of South Carolina we live in a relatively small community, but the need to shelter, protect, and care for our animal friends is large. Through good stewardship of your gifts, the wealth of experience gleaned from our Board of Directors, and from the advice of our greatest supporters, our small, but mighty SPCA accomplishes BIG Things!

We are grateful to YOU for helping us do that!!

Barbara Nelson



President and CEO



Who We Are

Established in 1935, the **SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare** is a private, limited admission Adoption Facility, Education and Training Center, Full-service Veterinary Care Center, and Dog Park.

It is **Our Mission** to provide for the welfare of animals by:

- Providing shelter for adoptable pets in our care,
- Providing quality, affordable veterinary care to the public,
- Educating the public about the proper care & treatment of animals,
- Supporting the efforts to combat animal abuse,
- Cultivating partnerships with rescue & animal control entities,
- And sharing **Our Vision** with the community:

to help animals that are homeless find homes, provide animals that are abused, sick, or in need with shelter and medical care, and promote the ideal that the unfailing love and devotion from an animal should be valued by all.

Pictured is Ann Kinney, Director of Training, with Bella.



A Message from the Chairman...

As we head into the second half of the year, I am pleased to report that your SPCA Albrecht Center continues to perform well with more exciting things in store. Of course, this could not happen without our exceptional staff, caring volunteers, the energy and vision of our President/CEO, Barbara Nelson, as well as all of our generous patrons.

The Board's full commitment continues, and we have added a new "Retail Sales" Committee to primarily help support our three Thrift Stores that are so vital to our financial health. If you have not been to one of the locations lately please stop by and let us know how we are doing.

Our Clinical Committee will also become a little more involved as we broaden and fine-tune our clinical services mostly directed at being of greater assistance to those less fortunate as they continue to care for their animals.

I am happy to report that recent trends seem to indicate that our long-term spay and neuter education efforts are working which we hope will continue.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Mr. Gary Albrecht and his family, our modest Endowment Fund continues to grow. The Albrechts have created a new Trust Fund that will greatly benefit the shelter for many years to come. You may wish to consider this approach in your future planning.

Please come by the shelter for Yappy Hour, Dog Washes or just to "fall in love again". Bring some friends to say hi to the "critters" and perhaps get more involved with this very special place.

Sincerely,

Al Sorensen
Board Chair



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

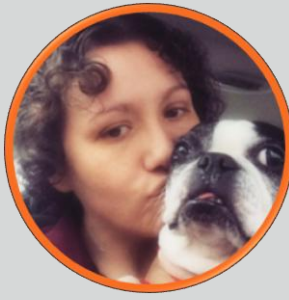
Barbara Nelson

President, CEO



Sybil Altman

Shelter Manager



Michelle Floyd

Operations Director



Ann Kinney

Training & Enrichment Director



Sarah Neikam

Marketing Director



Amy Banton

Community Outreach Director



Rick Williams, DVM

Medical Director



Jason Wright, DVM

Associate Veterinarian



The SPCA team is here because we all share an abiding love and passion for the animals we serve.

We are also focused on the people who love the animals we serve. Pets are companions, and because humans make decisions for them, reaching out to and providing services to their owners is an effective part of the solution to reducing overpopulation, animal shelter intake and animal suffering.

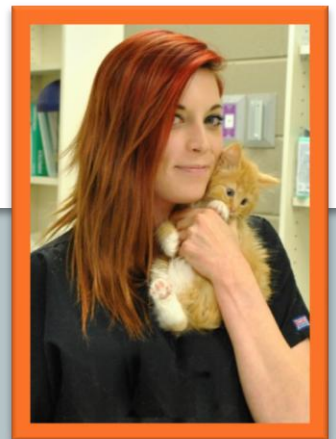
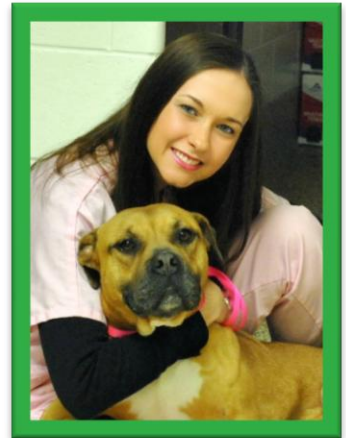


Veterinary Care Center

Complete Veterinary Care by Passionate Pet People



In the fall of 2015, our spay/neuter clinic expanded into a full-service Veterinary Care Center to treat our shelter animals and to offer the public quality, affordable veterinary care.



Pictured are Doctors Rick Williams and Jason Wright, along with their support staff: Heather Tager, Receptionist; Crystal Broughton, Licensed Veterinary Technician; and Veterinary Assistants Courtney Arbaugh, Jennifer Blizzard and Lauren Holtclaw.

Community Outreach & Engagement



Bridgestone employees brought a truck load of donations and stayed for a visit in December.



The Humane Society of the U.S. held an Animal Abuse Forum at our facility in October to help educate the public on steps to take when abuse or neglect is suspected or witnessed.



USC Aiken's Theater Players held a production with proceeds benefitting the SPCA in September. They brought \$700+ in donations plus supplies!

Elanco employees spent their annual "Day of Service" in October building new dog wash stations for us!



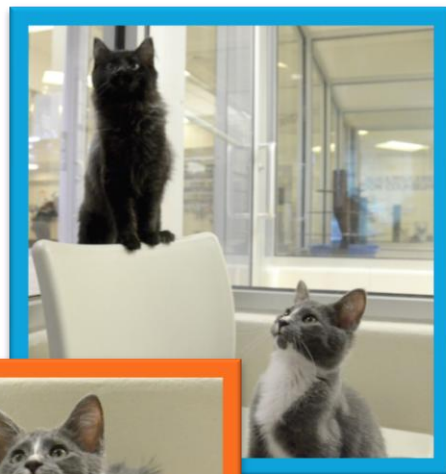
The Belvedere Fire Department teamed up with SPCA adoptable dogs for a calendar photo shoot in August. Captain Chasm even adopted a dog - Bronx!

Going Viral!



Our social media presence is growing every day and plays a very important role in our marketing and outreach efforts. In 2015, two stories in particular resonated with the public and helped us gain attention far outside of our typical supporter base.

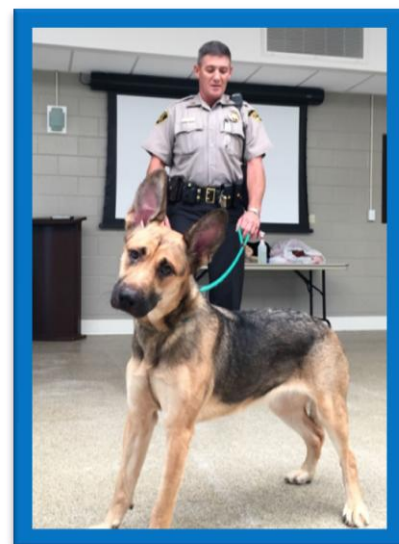
Blinkin, a blind kitten, and Hefty, his “seeing eye” best-friend, gained huge attention in August after we shared their story and photos on Facebook. Their posts and photos were **seen by over 6,000 people**, and gained over 300 “likes”, 100 comments and 50 shares.



The Aiken Standard ran a story and popular online news outlets, blogs and photo-sharing sites such as **The Huffington Post, The Dodo, Imgur, ModernCat, and Lovemeow** also published stories. As of today, Blinkin’ and Hefty’s YouTube video has reached **132,255 views!** Both kittens were adopted together into a local home.

In July, The Humane Society of the U.S. of SC contacted us about emergency placement for three dogs in McCormick County who were found with their muzzles duct taped shut. Thankfully, the dogs suffered no major or permanent injury. McCormick County Humane Society transferred the dogs to us where they were treated, vetted and placed for adoption. All three dogs were soon adopted, including the beautiful German Shepherd who was adopted by an Aiken County Sheriff’s Deputy.

The Aiken Standard ran a story about the dogs’ ordeal, and we posted photos on our Facebook page resulting in an overwhelming amount of calls seeking adoption, and a total Facebook reach of over **54,000 people!**



Party for the Pets!

Putting the *Fun* in *Fundraising*



There is always something fun going on at the SPCA. In 2015, we hosted field trips, birthday parties, plays, seminars, Yappy Hours, and Dog Washes. We held our first Kitten Shower, and our first Snuggle Service, our third annual Spayghetti Dinner, marched in parades, participated in City of Aiken events and, of course, once again held our popular Barkaritaville and the Walk for Animals.



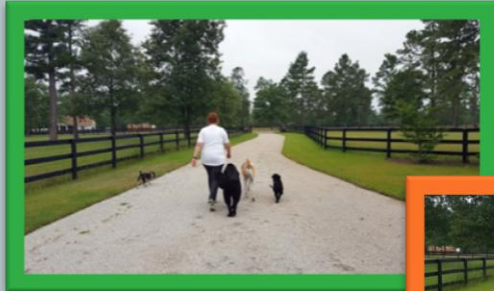
Each event we host or participate in raises funds for our organization and the animals in our care. These events allow us to reach more people in and around our community, making them aware of who we are and what we do. We meet new people every time!



LEGACY SOCIETY

Our Legacy Society continued in 2015 with the induction of 6 new members in addition to the 10 founding members.

Renee Alexander
Angela Bari
Sharon Brown
Blair & Ted Cummings
Randy Georgemiller
Nico Gozal
Mary Guynn
Andrea Hippley
Bob Johnson
Jeff & Betsy Minton
Lynn & David Smith
Art Stremm
Jack Wetzel



Blair and Ted Cummings at home with their dogs.



"We will never walk away from our responsibility for the care and welfare of our pets. The SPCA Legacy program for our animals gives us peace of mind."



The SPCA Legacy Society honors those who have made documented bequests in their wills, or other planned gifts in support of the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare.

Joining the Legacy Society insures the long-term viability of the SPCA by adding a stable stream of endowment income dedicated to meeting the needs of our community's companion animals.

Let Love Live On Program

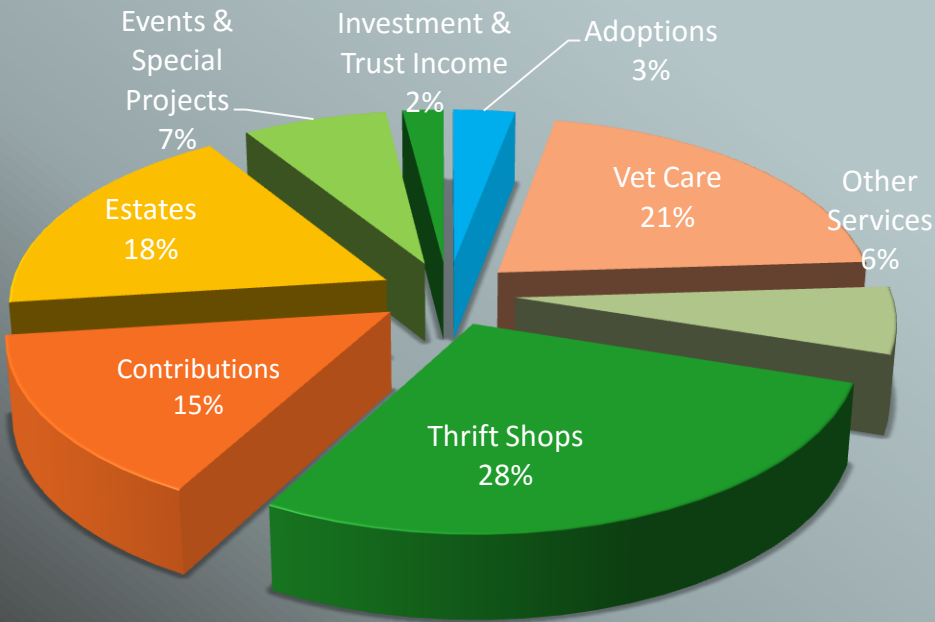
Find out how you can provide for the care and welfare of your surviving pets through the SPCA's "Let Love Live On" program.

Contact Barbara Nelson, President/CEO to learn more! ceo@letlovelive.org.



FINANCIALS

Sources of Support



Thrift Shops (28%)
\$495,144

Vet Care (21%)
\$372,758

Estates (18%)
\$325,000

Contributions (15%)
\$268,084

Events & Special Projects (7%)
\$125,102

Other Services (6%)
\$112,648

Adoptions (3%)
\$54,415

Investment & Trust Income (2%)
\$34,520

\$1,787,671

Expenses

Animal Health Care

41%

Support Services

34%

Animal Welfare, Behavior and Sheltering

16%

Development, Marketing & Fundraising

5%

Community Outreach

4%

Animal Health Care (41%)
\$602,597

Support Services (34%)
\$506,306

Animal Welfare, Behavior,
and Sheltering (16%)
\$229,988

Development & Fundraising (5%)
\$72,609

Community Outreach (4%)
\$63,000

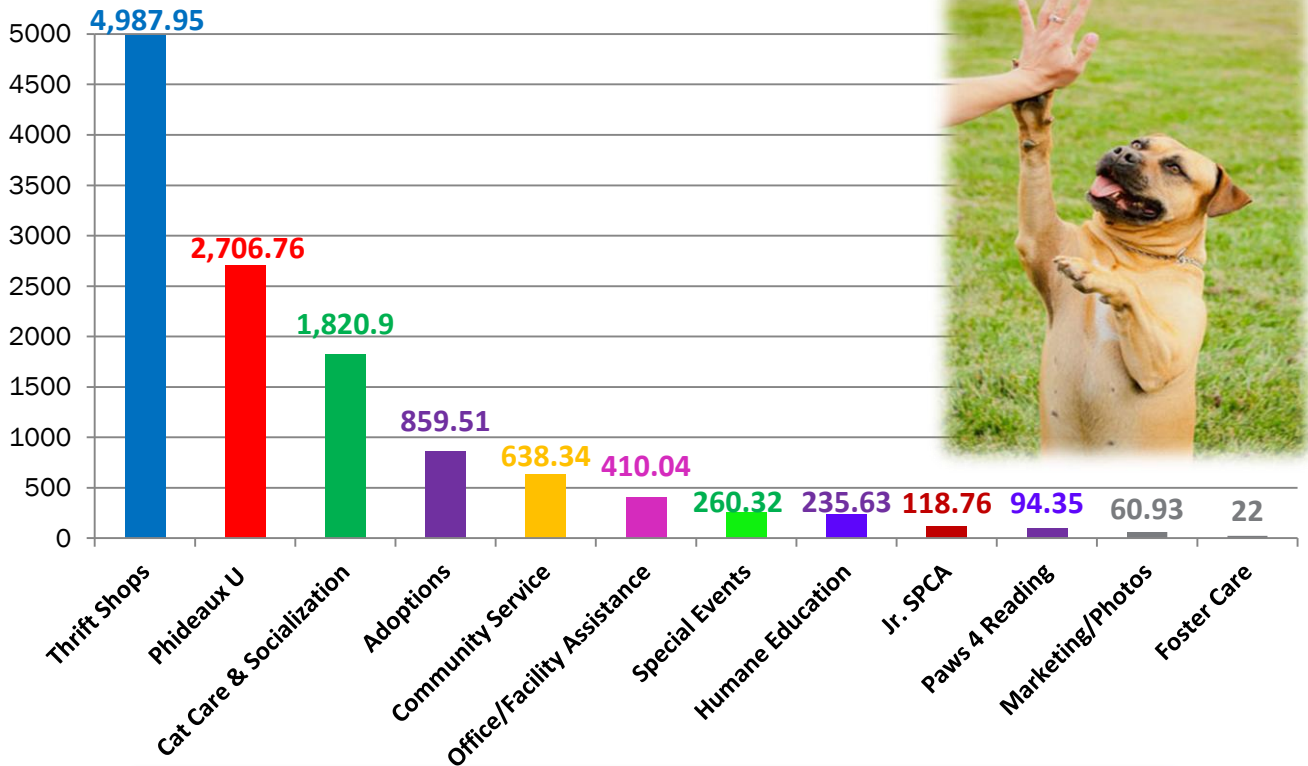
\$1,474,500

*These numbers were compiled prior to our annual audit.

VOLUNTEERISM

"Great things are brought about and burdens are lightened through the efforts of many hands anxiously engaged in a good cause." - M. Russell Ballard

In 2015, volunteers contributed **12,215** hours of time to the SPCA!



PETS AND PEOPLE SERVED IN 2015



Some of the ways your contributions helped...

6,402

PETS PROVIDED WITH VET CARE

3,497

PET OWNERS SERVED

31,200

PHONE CALLS
ASSISTED

812

ADOPTIONS

94

PETS REHABILITATED

167

PETS RETURNED
TO OWNERS

122

TRAINING
CONSULTATIONS

11

LOOKING AHEAD...

Growth & Expansion

Our Spay/Neuter Clinic, now full-service **Veterinary Care Center**, will undergo an expansion in 2016 into what is now the garage. Three separate exam rooms will be added to provide our clients with more privacy and to allow for better communication with the pet owner, and to add needed space for thorough exams and procedures. The garage, which now serves as storage space and City of Aiken Animal Control intake, will be relocated just outside of the current space.



Phideaux University

Our very successful and popular Phideaux University Training and Enrichment program continues to grow and evolve with every passing year. Although we are keeping up with, and often surpassing the Association of Shelter Veterinarians minimum humane requirements for shelter dogs, there is always room for improvement. Here are a few of the things to come:



New Agility Field

Thanks to a generous donation by Legacy Society member Bob Johnson, we now have a play area complete with agility equipment for our resident dogs. Although dog agility is not a goal for our shelter dogs, the use of each piece of equipment helps increase confidence and gives our dogs another way to find people rewarding, fun and trustworthy. We are also considering opening the field for public use at some point as an added source of revenue.

Public Training Classes

Trish Wamsat (pictured above, right), a highly regarded trainer from the San Francisco Bay Area, has joined our team, bringing her unique and highly practical, yet FUN training expertise to the SPCA. With Trish as Headmaster of our public training program, we now offer a large menu of age-appropriate classes for dogs, puppies and their owners.

TADSAW – Train A Dog, Save A Warrior

As a designated trainer for this Austin, Texas organization, Trish has opened up another avenue by which our dogs can leave the shelter: by becoming a Public Access Service Dog for a veteran in need. TADSAW is different from other groups in that they prefer fully mature mixed-breed dogs for their program instead of terribly expensive (and hard to get) purebred dogs that have been purpose-bred, raised, then trained by professionals. Additionally, the dogs are placed directly with the veteran, allowing them to bond while they work with their assigned trainer three times per week for the six months it usually takes to be certified as a team. **We have already placed two dogs** and are excited about the prospect of being able to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2015 Officers:

Barbara Nelson - President/CEO
Al Sorensen - Chairman
Sharer Dale - Vice President
Jack Roth - Vice President
Mary Guynn - Secretary
Michael Sullivan - Treasurer

2015 Directors:

Gary Albrecht
Amy Banton
Sharon Brown
Kit Bryant
Blair Cummings
Ted Cummings
Amy Hebert Doremus
Charles Doremus
Pam Gleason
Sandy King
John Paveglio
Bob White
Shirley Wisz
Steve Young

Thank you to our 2015 Board of Directors, whose leadership and support keep us focused on our mission and dedicated to the cause, despite the obstacles and challenges that come our way.



THANK
You!

