



Our shelter animal photos courtesy of Sheryl Mann Photography.

2016 - What A Year!

We exceeded every goal we set!

a message from our Executive Director, Lutrelle O'Cain

As I write, I wish you could see the smile on my face and feel the gratitude in my heart! Here's a recap of last year so you can celebrate with me how your contributions made it all happen.

1,194 animals found forever-homes through our adoption efforts. That is 285 more than last year or 31% more! Just think about all those sweet animals being safe, happy, loved, and no longer homeless because someone like you adopted. THANK YOU to all of our adopters. You are amazing heroes to your pet and me!

We are expanding! With generous and thoughtful gifts, we were able to purchase an incredible piece of property. After a very long search and careful consideration, **BRHS purchased almost 3 acres on South Grove Street** (formerly the Heritage Hall School property). Since I began working with BRHS, many times I was told by potential volunteers and adopters our Shelter location is too far away for easy access. Although our Shelter in Edneyville is 8 beautiful and peaceful acres, it's just not convenient for working persons or a family to visit during the work or school day. Over the past 3 years, we have transported our Shelter animals to adoption events all over town which increased our adoption numbers. What other proof did we need that our community wanted us to be closer? Now we are! Our new site will have puppy and kitten adoption rooms, retail space, a medical clinic, a conference and education room, year-round obedience training, the community pet food bank, year-round adoptions, and many other features. More details to come about this major step forward for our organization.

Our audit by Carland & Andersen, Inc. once again has shown how efficient we are with your cash donations: **86.6 cents of every dollar in 2016 went toward the animals.** I'm proud to say we continue to be mindful financial stewards of your contributions, and as such request your confidence in us by showing your generous support in 2017.

In 2016, our dedicated 274 volunteers donated almost 17,000 hours. That number is equivalent to approximately \$150,000 in labor value. We could not survive without the tireless work of our volunteers.

Our **Thrift Store** absolutely ROCKS, thanks to our awesome community that donates excellent quality items for resale to raise funds to support our animals. Donate your couch and we can feed an animal for a month; donate a nice chair and we take an animal for a vet visit; donate a coat, a dress, a skirt – it all helps us help our animals. And of course, you get a tax donation deduction.

We were finally able to add **two new important staff members.** Angela Prodrick is our Volunteer & Community Outreach Director. She wrangles the volunteers from both the Shelter and the Thrift Store to help keep us all organized! She also has established some great connections with Hands On! - A Child's Gallery and many of our elementary schools for some wonderful educational programs for our youth, like "Reading to the Rescue!" Paula Roberts is our Resource & Events Director. Paula knows everyone in town and has years of experience with event coordination. You can expect an invitation from Paula soon to do something for us or with us!

So whether you donated, volunteered, attended one of our events, or adopted from us in 2016 – thank you! You are a big part of our success. Just think of it: From hopeless to home 1,194 times last year! Way to go! So let's get busy right away making 2017 another huge year for our animals!

321 families
received services

853 pets
free spay/neuter

\$157,803 spent
on animal care





Administration

1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828.692.2639

Shelter

88 Centipede Lane
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828.685.7107

Thrift Store

1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828.692.3503

www.blueridgehumane.org



Providing second chances since 1950

Blue Ridge Humane Society is dedicated to reducing the overpopulation of companion animals in Henderson County and to improving their quality of life through adoption, collaboration, and community education.

Donate to BRHS,
1214 Greenville Highway,
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Not ready for a full-time commitment? Why not try fostering an animal in your home? Even though their stay is temporary, fostering changes lives forever.

Follow Us!



Profile of a Loving Foster Family

To foster a pet is to make room in your heart and your home, to provide a safe and loving environment to prepare Shelter animals for their future forever home. In doing this, you also free space at the Shelter for other animals in need. Fostering requires some preparation. BRHS supplies all foster homes with food, crates, and medical care. Fostering yields tangible and intangible rewards that our spotlighted Cullen family has experienced.

John and Cathleen Cullen and their 5-year-old daughter Delaney had volunteered at the BRHS Shelter since they moved to our area, but they felt they could do more. Their home environment is conducive to exposing a foster pet to different situations preparing them for successful adoption, so Cathleen and John reasoned, "We love animals and just thought it would be a great experience for our family".



The Cullens



So the Cullens began fostering dogs and cats. In just the past 18 months, they have fostered 13 animals—in addition to caring for their own two cats, one kitten, a rooster, and five hens! Candy was a 1-month-old kitten they fostered for three weeks, feeding her formula 3-5 times a day while helping her adjust to being cuddled by Delaney and nuzzled by their other cats.

Then there was Ezra, a 5-month-old hound dog fostered by them for only two weeks when he was adopted by a nice family. The Cullens had fallen in love with Ezra, so it was bittersweet to part with him, but they knew it was best. A week later, the adoptive family decided Ezra was a little too big for their girls to handle, so the Cullens happily fostered him again. Ezra's next try was with a family who had several dogs and a pig--which was not the best fit for Ezra. The Cullens welcomed Ezra back and were thinking that Ezra was meant to be theirs. Not yet. While hiking at Chimney Rock Park, the Cullens met a young couple from Raleigh who fell in love with Ezra. This couple went right to the Shelter, completed the adoption paperwork, and the very next day went to the Cullens' to take Ezra to his new home! The story gets even better: they decided to rename him "Cullen" in honor of his loving foster family. To this day the two families remain friends, and Cullen often enjoys overnights and playdays with the Cullens!

When asked what advice he would give to folks considering fostering, John Cullen's response emphasized patience. "And it's important to have a real understanding of animal behavior and teach it to your children, because fosters can be understandably timid and scared. Having a flexible schedule is important, too, so enough time can be spent with the animal."

Of course foster pets are hard to give up. Little Delaney had tears when the kitten Candy and another dog Arrow went to their adoptive homes, but the Cullens say, "We have gotten so much out of it. We've learned a lot about animal training from the BRHS classes, we recognize now what traits we want in our own dog when we adopt some day, and we've built relationships with the families that have adopted our fosters." Everybody wins when love prevails.

Thank you, Cullen family, for your selfless generosity. Thank you not only from Candy and Ezra and Arrow but from all the other pets you have given a better chance at loving futures, as well as giving the Shelter space to help other pets in need. You can read more on our website and at the Shelter if you are interested in providing the foster love that is modeled by the Cullen family. (www.blueridgehumane.org and Shelter (828) 685-7107)



(Note: As we went to press, the Cullens were receiving new foster puppies!)



From March 6 - 10, the floors at the Shelter are being refinished.

We will desperately need foster homes during this process.

Call Karla at the Shelter (828) 685-7107 or email her at kpan@blueridgehumane.org



Community Pet Food Pantry Collection Sites

Beverly-Hanks & Associates 🐾 Shelley's Jewelry 🐾 Sage Gourmet
Upstate Veterinary Specialists 🐾 United Community Bank

TWO? Well, Sure!



When Beth Nave saw a newspaper article with a photo of a yellow tabby cat sitting on the lap of a child reading a book as part of our “Reading to the Rescue!” program, she didn’t

hesitate. Although grieving for the recent loss of a beloved cat, she believed that heartache can be turned into joy if one can only imagine how much another homeless pet is longing to be loved. So her immediate call to the Shelter was followed with a visit where she was encouraged to adopt TWO cats! Yes, the yellow tabby had a brother, they had come together and were bonded. Well, when Honey immediately crawled onto Beth’s lap and Elliot curled up at her feet, it wasn’t long before all three were headed home! Within only days, the newcomers to the household had settled in with the two already resident kitties, and naptime soon became one big ball of fur.

Beth’s response when asked why she had rescued cats all her life - she thinks maybe 17 or so all told - her response was simply, “You can’t save them all, but the ones you know about you should - it’s the right thing to do. And rescues sense that you saved them. They know, and they love you for it.” She also would encourage all pet owners to provide for their pets in writing as part of their estate planning. “Adoption is for the entire life of all involved, so remember to protect them forever.”

Thank you, Beth, for adopting, and for supporting one of our main functions: finding loving homes for our Shelter animals. For those considering adoption, please go to our website (www.blueridgehumane.org) or visit the Shelter.

Meet Diana Our Princess Could Be Yours!



We have been on a roll finding homes for our senior dogs and Diana wants in on the fun! A calm and low-key girl, 8-year-old Diana has the most lovely, tranquil personality. Her favorite activities include chilling and cuddling, but she does adore a nice walk in the fresh air, too! She may do well with a smaller and/or submissive dog, but she says ‘No cats, please and thank you.’ Diana is house-trained and great with kids! She was a staff favorite over at Henderson County Animal Services before we took her in. She has waited for a forever home since July. For more information on this soulful girl, give us a call at **828-685-7107**. Please share Diana’s story and help us get Diana into her new home!



Thrift Store Breaks Records in 2016!

The Thrift Store had another record-breaking sales year! We couldn’t have done it without all of the hardworking volunteers, fabulous donors, and our wonderful customers. We received some incredible donations last year—even a car! Our outdoor area has been selling more than ever, too, so that’s a department to keep an eye on!

All indications point to this new year being just as exciting as 2016, if not more so. In 2017 we are hoping to schedule more special events and games at the Thrift Store. The shoppers and volunteers seem to really get into our silliness and fun ideas. As always, there will be daily sales and specials with something for everyone.

Let’s kick off 2017 with our customary enthusiasm and excitement at the Thrift Store and have another banner year! Like us on Facebook and sign up for our daily email blast while in our store.

Kids Paying It Forward



For the past few months, Angela Prodrick, Outreach Director, has brought smiles to the faces of students when she brings adoptable puppies to Hendersonville Elementary to serve as “reading buddies.” Recently, though, it was the

students who made Prodrick light up.

Fifth graders at Hendersonville Elementary surprised Prodrick with \$575 for the Blue Ridge Humane Society, money they’d collected from profits students earned on Biz World Market Day. The Biz World economics unit divided fifth graders in each class into four small businesses charged with creating a prototype for a product, then manufacturing and marketing the product. Each small group was given a start-up budget of \$20 for supplies, funded by a Hendersonville Rotary Club grant. The economics unit culminated in Biz World Market Day when the fifth graders sold their products to Hendersonville Elementary students.

Each year, profits from Biz World Market Day are donated to a local charity voted on by the students. This year students elected to donate the profits from Biz World Market Day to the Blue Ridge Humane Society, to serve the animals that have become near and dear to the school through the “Reading to the Rescue!” program.

Shelter Wish List

soft dog treats
cat litter
hand soap/sanitizer
HE laundry detergent
paper towels



A Celebration!

Over 300 guests attended the 6th Annual “Wags to Riches” dinner last October. Donors and sponsors were treated to an evening of puppies clad in their black-tie best, a vegetarian dinner, complimentary beer and wine, and more. The silent auction items included trips to the Peace Center, a “staycation” at the Biltmore Hilton, a limousine winery tour for two, beautiful jewelry, and exquisite artwork. It was a wonderful night of celebrating our animals, our volunteers, and our donors. BRHS netted over \$45,000 for the evening. This year’s event is scheduled for September 30th at the Hendersonville Country Club, so save the date!



1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Join us at an adoption event at:

Petsmart, Hendersonville--11 am-3 pm

First Saturday of each month

Petco, Hendersonville--11 am-3 pm

Second & Fourth Saturdays of each month

Petsmart, Arden--12 pm-3 pm

Third Saturday of the each month

Join us for an educational event at:

Hands On! - A Child's Gallery--11 am-12 pm

Second Thursday of each month

TOP DOG SPONSOR

HORIZON
Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC

Horizon Heating & Air Conditioning has been a supporter of Blue Ridge Humane Society since they opened their doors in 2010. They specialize in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, and power generator service.

“Our pets are family members, so Horizon loves supporting Blue Ridge Humane Society,” added Dan. Horizon has sponsored BRHS’s annual fundraiser, “Wags to Riches,” in addition to past BRHS golf tournaments. And just recently they funded the purchase of warm and cozy sweatshirts as gifts for our volunteers at the BRHS Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

We encourage you to patronize our sponsors. Dan and Horizon Heating & Air Conditioning are located at 1581 N. Allen Road, Hendersonville. They can be contacted at **828-697-5255** and on the web at **www.horizonheatac.com**.

Thank you to the following businesses

that continually support us by displaying a “dog bank” for donations:

A Day in the Country ❖ A Dogs Day Out ❖ Alykat
Southern Appalachian Brewing Co. ❖ Charleston Inn
Diamond Rush ❖ Dog In Suds ❖ Pet Source
Richards Dental Care ❖ Hubba Hubba Smokehouse
Flowers by Larry ❖ Haywood Animal Hospital
Sanctuary Brewing Co.
Wild Birds Unlimited
J&D Produce
WAG! A Unique Pet Boutique
Flower Market
Michaelian Home
Mike’s on Main
Moose Cafe
Nelon Feed

