



The Arizona

**Pet Project**<sup>™</sup>



**Annual Report**  
2022-2023



*you're changing lives!*

# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As we near the end of another remarkable year at The Arizona Pet Project, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. It is with immense pleasure that I share with you our annual report, reflecting on the journey we have taken together and the milestones we have achieved as an organization, thanks to your support.

**This year, I celebrated my ten-year anniversary with The Arizona Pet Project. While it feels like just yesterday, the years can be marked in the growth and evolution of the organization. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the incredible transformation we have undergone to serve our community better.**

What began as an avenue for funding to support Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (our friends who've been with us long enough may remember when we were called "Friends of Animal Care & Control"), has blossomed into its own movement driven by our vision of a healthier, happier, and safer community for *all* people and pets.

And now, on the precipice of immense growth, our organization is beginning to expand our services beyond Maricopa County and aims to touch every corner of our great state of Arizona!

Compassion has always been at the core of our organization's ethos. We believe in the power of the human-animal bond and recognize the invaluable impact pets have on our lives.

Pets bring us joy, companionship, and unconditional love, teaching us valuable lessons about empathy and compassion. With this understanding, we have made it our mission to support families and ensure that no bonded pet and their human are left behind.

As many Arizonans continue to face unprecedented challenges, we stand strong, adapting our programs to meet the evolving needs of pet owners.

**However, our intervention reach has historically been limited to the Phoenix Metropolitan area, and we know that countless families and pets are in need across the state.**

We receive dozens of requests for support every single day.

**That is why, this year, we have embarked on an endeavor like no other!**

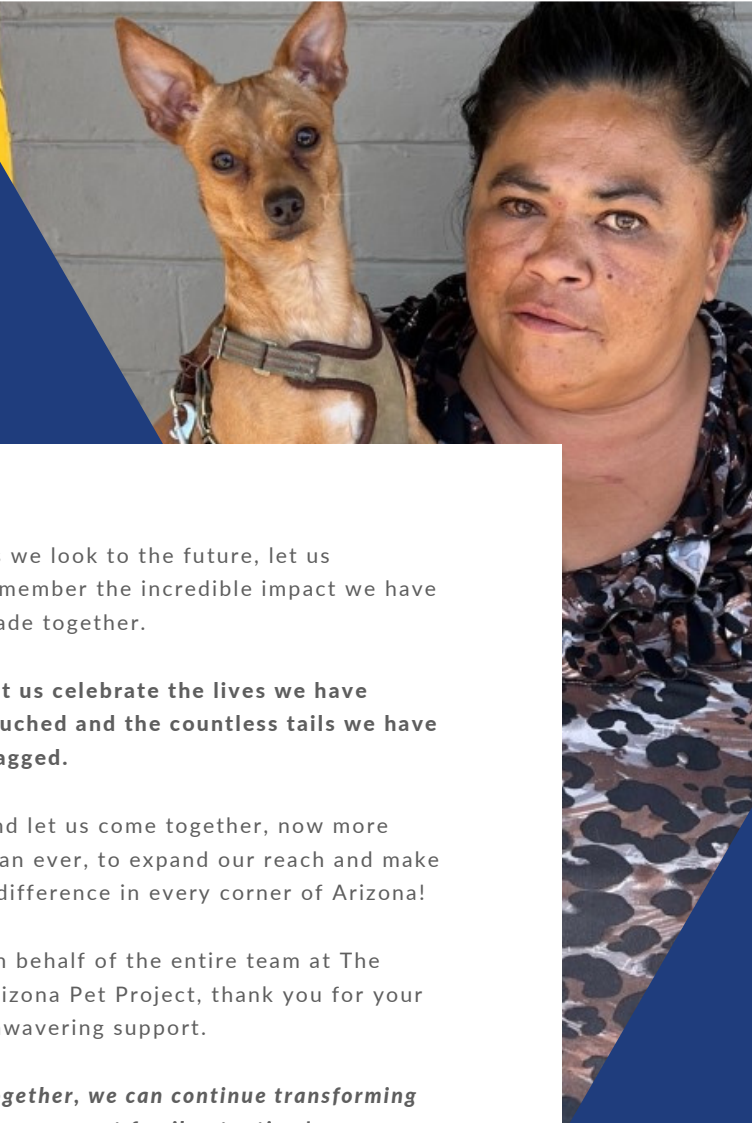
In this last fiscal year, we began expanding our lifesaving services statewide, with a goal to reach every corner of Arizona in the years to come!

**(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**



*you're changing lives!*

# LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Our team is working tirelessly to build relationships with organizations, shelters, and individuals across our state who share our vision to create a statewide safety net for families with pets in need.

**But we cannot do this alone.**

We need the support of our pet-loving community, like you, to make this ambitious dream a reality.

Your continued generosity and dedication have been the driving force behind our success, and we invite you to come along with us on this new chapter of our journey!

By supporting The Arizona Pet Project, you are not just saving pets...you are supporting loving families.

**You ensure that no owner faces the heartbreaking decision of surrendering their beloved pet due to financial constraints.**

You are promoting a society that recognizes the importance of the human-animal bond and the important role of pets in our overall well-being.

As we look to the future, let us remember the incredible impact we have made together.

**Let us celebrate the lives we have touched and the countless tails we have wagged.**

And let us come together, now more than ever, to expand our reach and make a difference in every corner of Arizona!

On behalf of the entire team at The Arizona Pet Project, thank you for your unwavering support.

***Together, we can continue transforming lives, one pet family at a time!***



Leanna Taylor  
CEO, The Arizona Pet Project

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chief Programs  
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Intervention Counselor



PATRICK  
WOOD

Crisis and Shelter  
Intervention Counselor



KARMINA  
NORZAGARAY

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM



**589**  
SPAY/NEUTER  
SURGERIES



**911**  
VACCINES



**504**  
E-COLLARS



**592**  
PAIN  
MEDICATIONS







# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## SHELTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

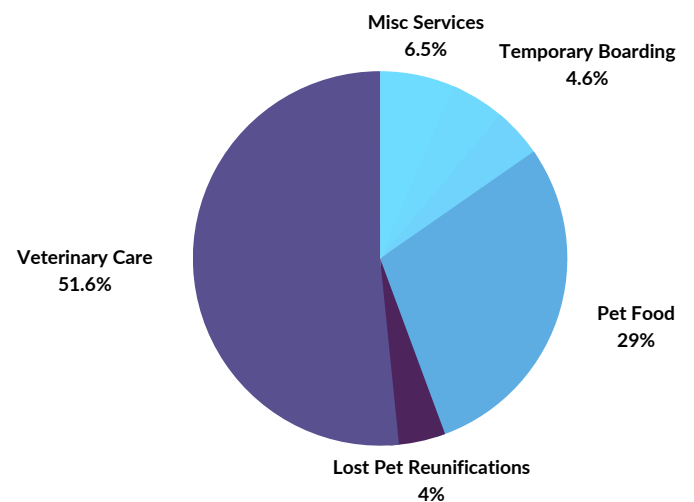
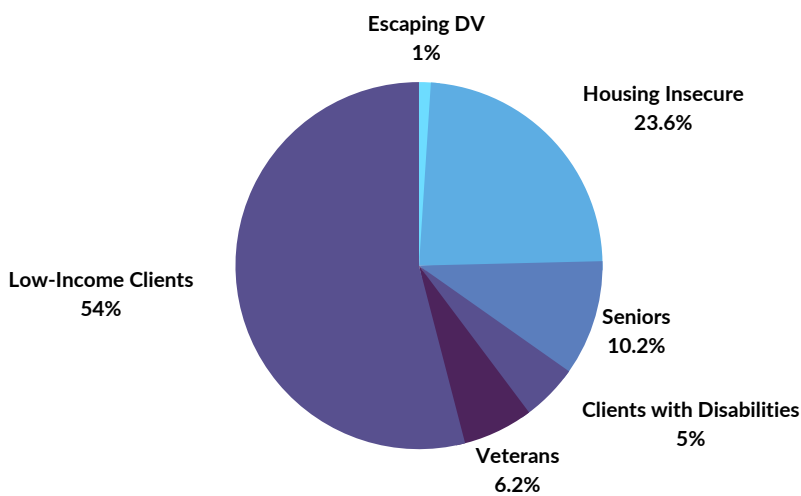
has provided 1,736 people and pets with resources this year, to preserve the family bond and keep dogs and cats out of shelters!

# 337

DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

# 1,399

INDIRECT INTERVENTIONS AND REFERRALS



# ARIZONA GOVERNOR'S GRANT

## THE ARIZONA PET PROJECT RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT

Arizona's former Governor, Doug Ducey, announced a historic investment in January 2023 that would help unhoused and housing-insecure people with pets. In April, Governor Hobbs re-committed the investment for which we're thankful.

A coalition of two organizations, The Arizona Pet Project and Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, received \$1.5M in grant funding to bring their life-saving services statewide!

We thank the Governors' offices and their teams for supporting this initiative to create first-of-their-kind programs, helping thousands of Arizona families in crisis, and addressing housing disparities for people with pets.

Our team has made great progress in extending life-saving resources to pet owners across Arizona!

To further our goals, we recently hired a Manager of Strategic Partnerships and a Sustainability Manager to ensure that services across Arizona can be sustained when this one-time investment expires on September 30, 2024.

These roles have been instrumental in bridging the gap between human service agencies, animal welfare providers, and other community organizations. Since the spring, they have successfully developed dozens of innovative cross-sector partnerships across Southern Arizona by fostering meaningful relationships and collaborations.

These partnerships extend beyond traditional boundaries and encompass diverse sectors such as behavioral health, housing, and government entities. By bringing together different organizations, we can address the interconnected challenges faced by both pets and their owners comprehensively and holistically.



# STATEWIDE EXPANSION

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SAVING PETS ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE

In addition to hiring a Manager of Strategic Partnerships and a Sustainability Manager, we also hired two additional social workers, including one solely focused on amplifying our efforts in Southern Arizona.

This expansion has contributed to a significant increase in the resources available to residents of Pima County.

Since the spring, an estimated **400 additional households** across the State have been served, ensuring that more pets and their owners receive the support they need during challenging times.

As we continue to expand our reach and impact, we remain committed to building even stronger partnerships and collaborations. By working with human service agencies, animal welfare providers, and other community organizations, we can create a more connected and compassionate society for pets and their owners.



### MEET BABY GURL AND HER HUMAN PARENTS!

*This Bullhead City family was among the first recipients of our statewide services.*

*Living in a self-described, "run-down" RV in the Bullhead City desert, this family reached out for assistance in caring for their beloved dog, Baby Gurl.*

*Our team provided free veterinary care to the family, helping them to free up resources to meet their own needs and provide the best life possible!*

# OUTREACH EFFORTS

## REMOVING BARRIERS: HELPING FAMILIES ACROSS SOUTH PHOENIX AND THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

This year, our team has taken steps to reach families who previously did not receive support for their pets due to institutional barriers. This includes both people and pets in our community who are facing homelessness, as well as our Spanish-speaking and undocumented neighbors and their pets living in South Phoenix.

We are actively working to bridge the gap between families in need and the resources available to them, no matter their location or legal status. Our partnerships with organizations such as the Human Services Campus, Andre House and our programs like Pets for Life have given our team a chance to provide preventative and lifesaving resources to people and their beloved pets!

This year, we assisted **460 families and pets experiencing homelessness**, and connected with **335 families living in South Phoenix** to ensure they had access to crucial resources and services to keep their pets happy and healthy!





# A NEW PARTNERSHIP: AAWL

## THE ARIZONA PET PROJECT STAFF WORKING ON-SITE AT AAWL

But wait, there's more! We know what you're thinking, "How can that be?"

Shelters across the community are seeing an uptick in surrender due to inflation and housing affordability crises. Collaboration is key in addressing the tremendous need in our community. So we're excited to announce that The Arizona Pet Project and the Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL) have come together to extend a helping hand to families and their beloved pets who are faced with the heartbreaking decision of surrendering their pets because they think it's their only option.

One of the main components of this partnership is the presence of an Arizona Pet Project social worker on-site at AAWL. This dedicated professional will be available to assist families in need, offering vital support and resources to prevent their pets from entering shelters. We have already witnessed incredible success with this approach at locations like Lost Our Home Pet Rescue.

The role of The Arizona Pet Project social worker goes beyond merely offering financial assistance; they provide a holistic approach that addresses the underlying issues faced by families and their pets. By providing crisis services, these professionals are equipped to help families navigate challenging circumstances, offering solutions that keep families and their pets together and connect them with other services, like rent assistance and food pantries.

Many families find themselves in difficult situations, such as unexpected job loss, financial strain, or housing instability, that necessitate giving up their beloved pets. However, with The Arizona Pet Project social worker now present at AAWL, families can find solace in knowing that help is available. Whether connecting families with affordable veterinary care, temporary housing options, or assistance with pet supplies, the social worker is there to ensure no stone is left unturned in finding a solution.

The impact of this partnership and the presence of a social worker on-site cannot be overstated. By intervening early on and providing the necessary support, families can retain their pets' companionship and love while also ensuring their well-being. This reduces the number of pets entering shelters and alleviates the strain on shelter facilities.



# UNITING FOR A GREATER GOOD

## STRENGTHENING ARIZONA'S COMMUNITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration between The Arizona Pet Project and AAWL exemplifies the power of community partnerships!

By combining resources, expertise, and a shared passion for helping people *and* pets, our organizations create an unparalleled support system for families in crisis.

This is exactly why The Arizona Pet Project is dialed in and looking for ways to support the systems that already exist.

Between building on partnerships with likeminded animal welfare organizations and local shelters, and getting face time with human services agencies and lawmakers, our team is constantly collecting data and identifying the needs in the community and helping build sustainable solutions that foster a healthy place for people and pets to live across our great state of Arizona!



### OUR TEAM HAS GROWN!

*This time last year, The Arizona Pet Project counselor staff consisted of 3 dedicated social workers.*

*Today, that team has grown to 5 social workers, including 1 in Tucson!*

*The Arizona Pet Project team works hard to ensure that both people and pets in the community have access to safe, secure, and healthy environments.*

*Our innovative approach allows us to help families who are at risk of losing their pets and meet them where they are in life, free from judgment. We are passionate about helping people and their pets, and this growth allows us to reach even MORE families!*



# ADVOCACY IMPACT

## ONGOING COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE PET-INCLUSIVITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our organization is devoted to connecting with agencies to advocate for pet ownership to be included in human support services.

This year, our team has been focused on four areas of advocacy:

1. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities act (ADA) and Fair Housing Act (FHA) laws
2. Pet-friendly housing-related policies
3. Exploring legislative opportunities and laws to safeguard pet owners
4. Improving community data systems in human service agencies to advocate for pets to be included in data collection

Regarding ADA and FHA laws, our team, The Arizona Pet Project (AZPP), and an attorney are working together to create a guide for shelter and housing providers in Arizona that will clarify the contradictions and confusion surrounding the ADA and FHA laws regarding service and emotional support animals. This guide will be useful for both providers and case managers who are helping their clients with housing placement.

Our team has taken action in pet-friendly housing-related policies by submitting feedback to the AZ Department of Housing in response to the 2023 Qualified Action Plan (QAP). This QAP is integral in scoring state and federal Low Income Housing Tax credit applications, acting as a guide for which housing projects will be funded. We proposed adding points for projects that incorporate pet-friendly housing policies.

Additionally, our team is working with our federal and local partners to identify possible legislative changes at the state and federal levels, such as added protections for pets in the eviction process.

Finally, we have been working with local partners to advocate for improvements in human services data collection, including the addition of questions related to pet-related barriers to accessing human services. Including this data will better help us to coordinate resources for people with pets experiencing a human crisis, and to better demonstrate the need for long-term funding and cross-sector collaboration.

# ALIGNING AS A TEAM

## THE ARIZONA PET PROJECT TEAM 'WHY' STATEMENTS

Kicking off the start of the new fiscal year, The Arizona Pet Project staff gathered in person for a team meeting this summer.

The Arizona Pet Project staff members, who come from all walks of life and all corners of the state, came together in person at the start of the fiscal year to align with our organization's values and goals and present our 'why' statements. 'Why' our work matters, and 'why' we show up.

This was an inspiring and emotionally-charged moment for everyone involved during our fiscal year meeting. Each and every 'why' statement from every one of our team members demonstrated the resilience, competence, compassion, and determination fueling the heart and drive within our organization. And, we felt an overwhelming sense of unity as we all shared our passions and drove home the importance of our work to keep people and pets together!





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## MAIN SOURCES OF REVENUE

**\$450,567**

Grants and Foundations

**\$43,996**

Indirect Contributions

**\$40,270**

Corporate Sponsorships

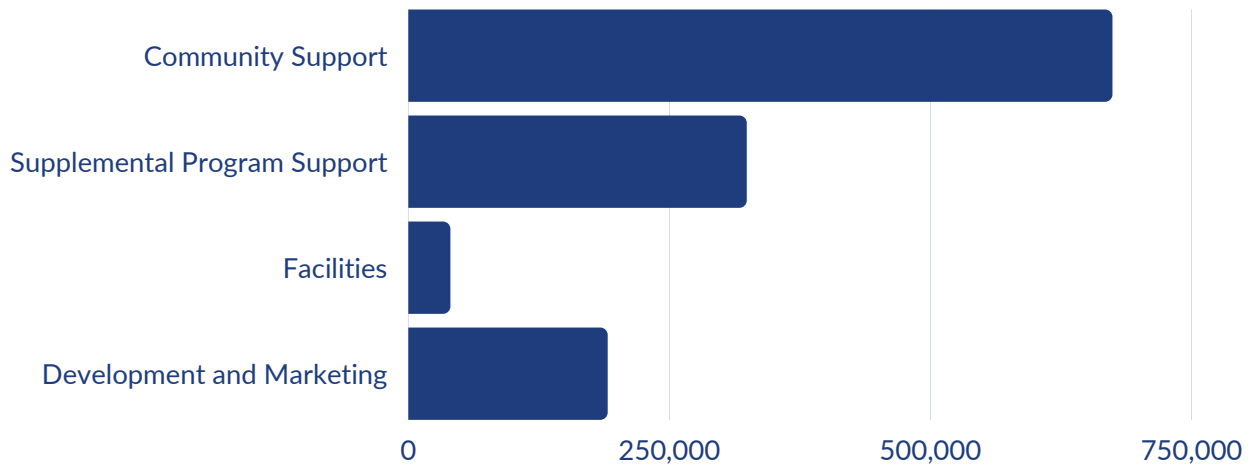
**\$312,322**

Donors

**\$78,086**

Donated Goods and Services

## EXPENSES AT A GLANCE



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**  
\$673,849

**SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT**  
\$323,701

**FACILITIES**  
\$39,942

**DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**  
\$190,547





# FROM OUR ANNUAL GALA RECORD-BREAKING YEAR



**The Arizona Pet Project is thrilled to celebrate a record-breaking \$395,000 raised at The 20th Annual HERO Awards!**

This incredible success was only possible thanks to the generous donations of our compassionate, pet-loving supporters, Hero Chairs, Chris & Lori Harder, and our committed sponsors. It was a truly magical night of celebrating the important work we do together and uniting in our mission to help families keep their pets out of the shelter!

The money raised at the gala supports our temporary boarding and shelter intervention services, emergency veterinary care, and a range of other initiatives to ensure pets have access to the care they need so their humans can focus on caring for themselves!

**This funding has sustained operations for many months and has provided life-saving, transformative intervention services that support families and save pets!**

We are immensely grateful to our supporters for their generous donations and belief in our mission!

In addition, we would like to thank our devoted staff, including our Board of Directors, along with our Honorary HERO Chairs and all of our volunteers who selflessly gave so much of their time to ensure the event went off without a hitch! Our success would not be possible without all of their support!

We look forward to continuing our work and thank everyone who joined us in making The 20th Annual HERO Awards a record-breaking success!

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR: LULU'S FUND**

# FROM OUR ANNUAL GALA MEET THIS YEAR'S HERO(ES)



## MR. FLOWERSON THE CAT

Without Representative Amish Shah's quick instincts and determination to bring a helpless kitten on death's door to the vet, surely this kitten would not have survived much longer outside in the summer heat. That cat? He is now lovingly known as Mr. Flowerson!



## TARA'S FOSTERS

Tara, her husband, Aaron, their dogs, and guest fosters host fundraising events at their unique home--an old church now known as "The Church of Dog." Tara McKinney and her jolly crew of foster dogs have raised over \$400,000 to better the lives of dogs facing homelessness.



## MIA THE THERAPY DOG

Thanks to her compassionate and dedicated owner, Diane, Mia has provided therapy to over 25,000 people since 2018 and brings comfort to patients in the hospital and in hospice care. She even brings joy to incredible healthcare staff each and every week! On top of that, Mia provides comfort away from home to anxious travelers at Sky Harbor International Airport.



## JUDY AND MOMMIE THE CAT

Judy has a very special bond with her cat, Mommy. Mommy has been in Judy's care since Judy first found her as an abandoned kitten on a busy street. Over the years, Judy has grown to rely on Mommy for emotional support, even more so after their house tragically burned down.



## THE HORMELS

The Hormels are a remarkable family that has provided a lasting legacy of service and compassion in the Valley and were an obvious choice for this year's Human HERO Award winners!

Through their nonprofit, Almost There: A Mom + Pups Rescue, they have dedicated themselves to caring for and rescuing vulnerable pregnant dogs and their fragile newborn pups. Their shelter and dedicated staff are focused on making moms and their puppies comfortable and ultimately more adoptable so they're well-adapted for their future forever homes!

The Hormels are a true example of selflessness and compassion, and their philanthropic work in our community is inspiring and impactful!

*you've saved lives!*

# THANK YOU!



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