



1973 | YEARS | 2023

SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

1011 Garfield St | Oak Park, IL 60304 | (708) 848-8155 | animalcareleague.org



HELPING PETS AND PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

Save the Date

Save the date for
Animal Care League's

*A Tail
to
Remember*

Celebrating 50 Years



50th Anniversary Gala
09.23.2023
Oak Park Country Club

*More details and tickets
available soon!*

A Tail to Remember





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Vice President Lynne Williams	Secretary Melinda Malecki
Board Advisor Chatka Ruggiero	

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Robin Akers Brian Cheske Gerald Lynch	Lisa Polk Megan Rooney William Chu
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Reflections from Current Leadership

Kira Robson
Executive Director



One of my favorite quotes is from Senator Cory Booker: “Don’t allow your inability to do everything undermine your determination to do something.” This quote comes to mind when I think about the group of people who founded our organization 50 years ago. They had very few resources and no robust strategic plan, but they took action because they knew it was needed. Their actions created an organization that set the standard for ensuring that stray animals in our local communities had a safe haven and a chance at life. Since 1973 that passion has led us through steady growth, and today we are an organization which is essential to the communities we serve.

I joined the organization as Executive Director 10 years ago, and I couldn’t be more proud of what we have accomplished since. We have saved thousands of animals’ lives, expanded our services, and become a local leader in animal welfare. Our physical growth will now set the stage for our next chapter of history.

We are proud of the work we have done, but we are even more proud of the people who have made it all possible. Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of pets and the people who love them, and they are the reason why we have been able to achieve so much over the past 50 years.

We are also indebted to the community for their ongoing support. Without the support of our donors, we wouldn’t be able to do the work that we do.

I am so incredibly grateful to have been part of the last decade of history, and I look forward to seeing all of the ideas on our vision board come to fruition over the next 50 years.

Chatka Ruggiero
Board Advisor



When I think back to the changes since I became involved around 1998, ACL has grown immensely. We rented a storefront on North Ave as our shelter. Now we own four connecting buildings! As we developed, our ability to help animals grew with us. I was president of the board for 13 years and while our members and volunteers worked very hard, it was exciting to see every progressive change. We thank each and every one of you for your participation! AND all the wonderful animals that were helped and found forever homes, thank you even more!

Diane Menza
Board President



Animal Care League is special in many ways; what makes it invaluable is its commitment to the animals in its community. The years 2022 and 2023 are transformational years for Animal Care League as we take our 50 years of experience to design and renovate our shelter and clinic. While we will continue to serve in a traditional shelter/clinic capacity, we look forward to more community-centered programs because we think that is where we can see a positive, incremental impact on our community. As it looks forward, the organization is planning events to celebrate its 50th anniversary and raise funding for its mission. We can’t wait to share our new community-centric shelter with you, and continue our impact of keeping pets happy and healthy. Please join us in our 50th anniversary year of celebration.

Lynne S. Williams
Board Vice President



As an ACL Board Member, I am continually amazed by the mission of ACL and its notable programming that makes a difference in the lives of animals and their people. Caring for animal beings, who are sick, abandoned, abused or have lost their way through no fault of their own, is noble work, but to accomplish it with such compassion, patience and love is a calling. I am so very proud to be associated with this wonderful organization that cares for animals in need and advocates for their wellbeing. These wonderful creatures with whom we share the earth are not “just animals;” they are precious, little souls, who have feelings and so much unconditional love to share, while completely at our mercy to advocate for them. They deserve a second chance and the best life we can offer them in a safe, comfortable and loving home. When everyone begins to think of them in this way, the better our society will be. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

Congratulations to Animal Care League for its commendable work in this community over the past 50 years. Oak Park River Forest and its surrounding areas should be very proud of our animal resource center and what it has meant to our communities, for we deserve such excellence and the satisfaction of knowing that our animals are cared for in the most humane way. I am excited for the next 50 years, as we continue to grow and offer even more services to animals and their people.

The History of Animal Care League

THE ANIMAL CARE LEAGUE "TAIL" BEGINS

The year is 1973. A quarter of the country's dog population still roams the streets, and by the new year, approximately 13.5 million stray dogs and cats will have been euthanized in shelters and animal control facilities. It has only been four years since the establishment of the country's first ever dedicated spay/neuter clinic in Los Angeles. A change is coming. In Oak Park, with the help of a handful of passionate animal lovers, the story of the next 50 years of local animal welfare is about to begin.

In the 1960s and before, due in large part to low spay/neuter rates, the limited animal services that existed were constantly overrun, and only a small percentage of stray animals ever made it to new homes. But as the accessibility of spay/neuter gained momentum, so did the movement to save the lives of lost and abandoned animals.

New human unit needs support

By HARRIET VREA
 Judy Zerfoss and Gary VanOoteghem, chairman of the newly formed Oak Park Chapter of the West Suburban Humane Society, say the ultimate goals of the chapter are to alter stray dogs and cats and place them in permanent homes.

"The immediate goals are to save and place animals, the long-term goal is to restrict animal population," says Mrs. Zerfoss.

This means the chapter will work toward the establishment of a spaying and neutering clinic, probably with the help of a veterinarian.

"BUT A LOCAL humane society cannot work without public support," says VanOoteghem, president of Preservation of Animal Life.

The plan is to be autonomous and solicit funds locally. A donation of \$2 or more will make the donor a member of the Oak Park Chapter.

Both chairmen are confident that residents of Oak Park and River Forest will support their efforts which include euthanizing old and sick animals in the village instead of sending them to the Anti-Cruelty Society.

VanOoteghem, who has permission to spot check death methods at anti-cruelty objects to the way the society uses the decompression chamber to kill dogs and cats.

Though the society claims it paid only one or two animals in the decompression drum at a time, last week it watched as three animals were dropped into a 55 gallon drum, one on top of the other.

MRS. ZERFOSS and VanOoteghem believe that taking care of strays picked up on local streets is a village obligation.

They expect to get a waiver from the village of Oak Park to take stray animals from the pound and show them for adoption.

Virginia Cassin, village clerk, says the village is in the process of drafting such a waiver.

The efforts of Mrs. Zerfoss and VanOoteghem are greatly to be commended. We all want more humane treatment for animals," says Mrs. Cassin.

The chapter chairmen want to see local veterinarians related to euthanize sick animals and those which are not adopted.

"WE HAVE no facilities to hold animals at present, so they have to be kept in private homes until placed," explains Mrs. Zerfoss who keeps a file of persons who are looking for pets, and another file of persons holding stray animals for adoption.

Right now I can place several cats, a 9-month-old male dog, shepherd and collie mix which has its shots and is house broken, and three female, part labrador pups, 6 weeks old.

Mrs. Zerfoss's file also lists a 4-year-old yellow labrador female which will be spayed. "Good with kids," reads the note.

And there's a 3-year-old male German shepherd, good watchdog, recommended for a family with children, and a 3-year-old female collie. 70 lbs. tan and white, good watch dog, good for older children.

The seeds for the Oak Park Chapter of the West Suburban Humane Society were planted at a recent meeting of the West Suburban group at the Oak Park Library.

Those interested in the growth of the fledgling chapter should attend a meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday in the library's Veterans' Room, Lake and Grove Av.



JUDY ZERFOSS and Gary VanOoteghem, co-chairmen of the newly organized Oak Park Chapter of the West Suburban Humane Society, turn their attention to Charlie, a stray found by VanOoteghem several weeks ago. VanOoteghem had the animal neutered and inoculated against rabies. The dog is being adopted by a Cicero man who saw Charlie's picture in Oak Leaves Aug. 29.

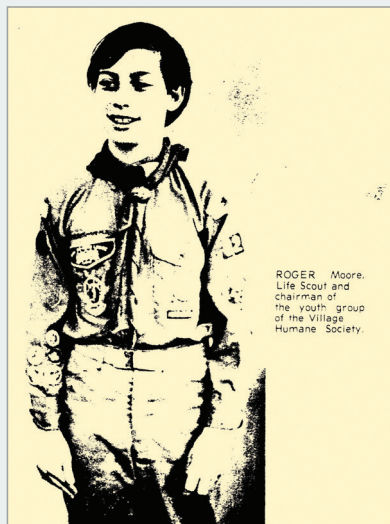
Oak Leaves, September 1973



VILLAGE HUMANE SOCIETY

The Village Humane Society is founded on November 1st.

1973



ROGER Moore, Life Scout and chairman of the youth group of the Village Humane Society.

Oak Leaves, November 1973

including a Youth Council of bright young people, helped 59 stray cats and dogs find homes in the organization's first months.

The Village Humane Society started small, but thanks to a growing membership of passionate and ambitious people, it would never stop building on its core foundation in the years to come. From a small grassroots organization to a full-fledged shelter in the midst of a sweeping expansion project, Animal Care League's story has been 50 years in the making.

What is needed before the adoption program can get off the ground is a local animal shelter and a program for spaying or neutering the dogs.

None of the villages have the facilities to house any number of dogs. Oak Park, which has the largest pound of the four local villages, has only 13 stalls. And it costs money to construct a large animal shelter

News Journal, August 1973

Pet World

The Village Humane Society has several dogs and cats available for adoption by local residents.

Among the available felines are a five-month-old, male grey short hair, a one and one-half-year-old female grey brown short hair tabby, a one-year-old mostly white male and an all-black two-year-old male.

Available dogs include a mixed-breed Afghan, a golden Labrador Retriever, a Shepherd Malamute and a poodle.

For information on the dogs and cats up for adoption, call the humane society at 848-8155.



1974

Office space is donated, and the Village Humane Society lost/found hotline is set up. Its number, 848-8155, remains the shelter's number to this day!

The Village Humane Society moves into rented office space on Randolph Street.

1984

The Village Humane Society holds its First Annual Holiday Bazaar.

1985

The Village Humane Society changes its name to Animal Care League to ensure clarity that the organization is independent of the village, and to communicate a stronger purpose.

1986

Animal Care League opens a resale shop to raise money for the organization. Originally named Rainbow's End, the shop is known today as Animal Care League's 2nd Chance Shop.

1993

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Animal Care League rents its first dedicated building at North Avenue. The move allows the organization to triple its space to help animals.



Oak Park World, February 1974



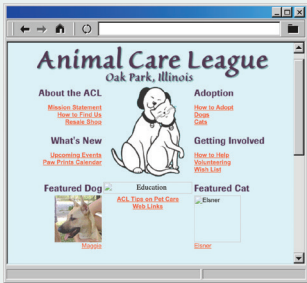
ANIMAL CARE LEAGUE'S LOGO: A Badge of Pride

Since 1973, our logo has served as a visual representation of the animals whose lives we work hard to save. A simple drawing of a dog and cat at the end of a rainbow evolved into our familiar, simple stacked lettering, including the addition of a bunny silhouette showing our commitment to our rabbit program. Today, Animal Care League's logo includes a pictograph that subtly nods to each of our three main animal populations. When seen on the chest or sleeve of a shirt, our logo is a badge indicating the person wearing it is part of a community, or a league, passionate about caring for homeless animals.



1997

The first Animal Care League website is created.



1998

Animal Care League moves to its first owned facility at 1013 Garfield Street, where it remains to this day.

2000

A defective dryer causes a fire at Animal Care League's new facility. All animals are rescued and unharmed thanks to brave efforts by volunteers.



2001

Overwhelming community support helps to rebuild the shelter, and a grand re-opening of the facility is held.



2006

Animal Care League signs a 10-year contract with the Village of Oak Park to act as the animal control holding facility for the Village. This partnership, a huge step forward for local animal services, solidifies Animal Care League's commitment to making a difference in the lives of homeless animals. Through the partnership, all stray and abandoned animals from the village will be housed at Animal Care League. This development brings widespread changes to Animal Care League's business model and operations, codifying its commitment to helping strays.

2008

The 2nd Chance Shop moves to its current location at 808 Harrison Street.

Animal Care League joins The Economy Shop.

Animal Care League's resale shop celebrates its 20th anniversary.



Celebrating 40 years of History

ANIMAL CARE LEAGUE



For the first time ever, adoption numbers hit quadruple digits with 1,155 for the year.



Animal Care League breaks ground on a full expansion and renovation, and launches a Capital Campaign to fund the transformation.

2009

Animal Care League purchases the adjacent building at 1011 Garfield Street, giving the organization increased capacity for housing cats, dogs, and rabbits, as well as allowing for expansion of the spay/neuter clinic.

Animal Care League celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

2015

Animal Care League purchases 1003 Garfield Street. The space hosts dog training classes, additional office space, and Animal Care League's annual Holiday Bazaar.

Animal Care League's animal control contract with the Village of Oak Park is renewed.

2020

Animal Care League purchases a fourth property at 1009 Garfield Street, completes strategic vision work for the future of the organization, and prepares for a full expansion and renovation.

2022

The Pets & People Support Program—which provides food and supplies for pet parents in need—launches in response to a growing need for access to free and low cost resources intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2013

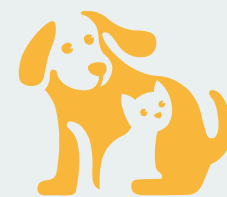
2016





Animal Care League Today

Today, Animal Care League’s commitment to local animals is stronger than ever. As of 2023, we are the contracted stray holding facility for nine villages, meaning our shelter serves as the safe haven for lost and abandoned animals in these communities. When an animal comes through our doors, we do our best to reunite them with their family before finding them a new, loving home through our adoption program.

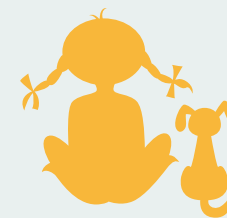
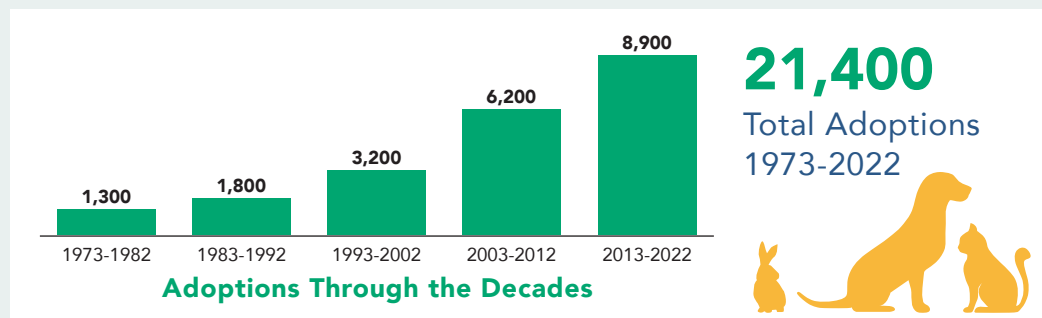


20,400

Animals Given a Safe Haven*

OUR NINE VILLAGES

- Elmwood Park
- Forest Park
- Melrose Park
- Northlake
- North Riverside
- Oak Park
- River Forest
- River Grove
- Riverside



2,850

Animals Reunited with Their Families*

*Statistics for 2003-2022

2023

Animal Care League celebrates its 50th Anniversary as construction proceeds on schedule. New adoption center at 1009 Garfield Street opens.



You can help **Animal Care League** have an even greater impact over the next 50 years. To learn more about our facility expansion and renovation, to get involved, and make a donation visit animalcareleague.org.



Reflections from Founders & Key Figures

THANK YOU to the individuals featured in this section for their thoughts and reflections. Please note that many hundreds of people have made Animal Care League's work possible over the years and that none were excluded here intentionally.

Lawrence M Fox, DVM DABVP

Dr. Lawrence M. Fox, who practiced veterinary medicine at River Forest Animal Hospital in 1973, was part of the original group that founded the Village Humane Society. He also played the crucial role of providing medical care to the animals who came through the organization. Today, he considers being a founding director of ACL one of his proudest accomplishments.



"Congratulations and thanks go to all the volunteers and visionaries who helped grow our little idea from the homeless orphan it was into the important community resource which it has become. Thank you for the countless animals' lives you've saved and for the many, many families you've enriched by placing those animals into their loving homes. Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary, and best wishes for many, many more years of helping pets and people."

Betty Moore

Betty Moore is a founding member, former board president, and former long-time board member of Animal Care League. In 1973, her son Roger, a boy scout and a volunteer at the Oak Park Pound, suggested that they start a humane society in their home. Before long, they and other original members had started the Village Humane Society, inspiring locals of all ages to bring positive change to the area's animal welfare landscape.



"I am so glad about what is happening now that we're in this Capital Campaign to do so much more; to extend all of our services and then find further ways to help. [Visiting the new Adoption Center] was lovely and I was never so proud to see all that [the organization has] done. Now I'm looking forward to when that [clinic and intake] lobby gets done!"

Judith Zerfoss

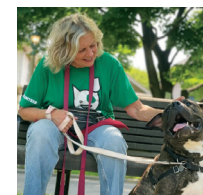
Judith Zerfoss is a founding member and former board president of Animal Care League. After becoming increasingly concerned about the way local animals were cared for, she was a driving force behind the creation of the Village Humane Society in 1973. Judith remained involved through the early years of the organization, serving on the board as well as opening her home to foster animals, and today, she looks back fondly on what ACL has been able to accomplish.



"I think what [Animal Care League] is doing is a miracle. I can't even imagine the number of animals you've helped, the ones that you've placed. I think you're doing a wonderful job and I'm happy to have been a part, 50 years ago, of something so wonderful."

Robin Akers

Robin Akers is a long-time board member and avid volunteer, as well as a former board president of Animal Care League. After first volunteering with the organization at a handful of events in 1985, Robin joined the board of directors, and has been heavily involved ever since!



"Looking back at what 50 years has meant to the ACL, I find myself bursting with pride, not because I have been around for many of those years, but because of the love and devotion that I have seen from countless people, both in the past and currently—people who have devoted their time and energy to making a difference in the lives of the many animals we serve and care for.

I get rewarded for hanging in there all these years with every wagging tail, slobbery kiss, soulful pair of eyes, or purring kitty that passes through our doors. Thanks to ACL for that gift to them and me!"

Lisa Polk

Lisa Polk is a long-time board member and former board president of Animal Care League. Over her 35 years of involvement, she has helped in nearly every aspect of the organization, from volunteer program coordination, to the 2nd Chance Shop, to events planning and more. Today, still serving on the board, Lisa is excited to witness the organization's next chapter.



"All I can say is WOW!!! It's something we always envisioned and to now have it happen is WILD."

Brian Cheske

Brian Cheske is a long-time Animal Care League board member and volunteer. Joining his sister Margi Cheske and their friend Robin Akers, he began volunteering primarily as a photographer in the 1980s, before joining the board in 1995. Ever since, he has stayed consistently involved. Today, he continues to give his time to ACL as it undergoes expansion.



"It's so great to see where ACL is now, the progress we've made is huge! Over the years we've been able to increase our adoptions by a large amount and also to take in other types of animals such as bunnies. Our new space is fantastic! ACL has come so far! In those 50 years, think of all the animals we have been able to save!"

Margi Cheske

Margi Cheske is a long-time supporter of Animal Care League, first getting involved through an internship in 1977 when she was a high-school freshman. During this time, with support from the then Village Humane Society, Margi convinced her family to take in a pregnant dog named Sheba who cemented her lifelong connection to the organization. She became more heavily involved in the 1980s thanks to friend Robin Akers and played a significant role in establishing ACL's rabbit program.



"I could never have imagined how the organization has grown and evolved. From starting in a tiny room with a desk and index cards in the early 1970's, to renting space in a church with 5 cages at the local vets office, to opening

our small shelter on North Ave and now a full campus of buildings on Garfield that cares for dogs, cats, bunnies, piggies and every other animal that needs care—Wow! In the early years, we couldn't pay the medical bills or boarding, there was no paid staff, we were barely existing on small donations... to see it now as such a big resource and large part of the community, caring for thousands of in need animals, is just amazing."

Marian Sperberg-McQueen

Marian Sperberg-McQueen is a former long-time board member and former board president of Animal Care League. Notably, after becoming a volunteer in 1990 and going on to join the board, she was ACL's board president in 1998, when the organization acquired and moved into its first owned building at 1013 Garfield Street. Today, still a dedicated supporter of ACL, Marian remembers that building's auspicious opening as one of the most exciting days of her life.

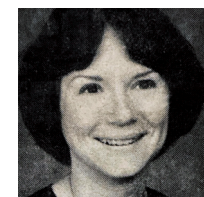


Photo: Nezumiro, one of Marian's ACL alumni, adopted out of the North Ave facility

"I'm incredibly impressed at the expansion you have done. I salute the board members, volunteers, and everybody who has worked [towards this]. Obviously people are not resting on their laurels—they're continuing to expand and do as much as they can to help the animals in need in Oak Park and the surrounding areas, which is fabulous!"

Mellonie Smicklas

Mellonie Smicklas is a former long-time board member and former board president of Animal Care League. After getting involved during the early years of the organization and joining the board, she became president in the 1980s. Mellonie notably helped pioneer new fundraising initiatives during those years that would stand the test of time, including ACL's resale shop, the Holiday Bazaar, and the very first holiday appeal! Looking back today, she is impressed with the strides the organization has made since.



"It's beyond anything I ever could have imagined or dreamed. Thanks to people who hung in there, and who have given everything, look what happened—it's like a miracle. Through it all, we're here. But we're not only just here, we're far more than anything anyone could've imagined 50 years ago."



HOW WE DID IT BACK THEN Shelter Pet of the Week

If you subscribe to our emails, you probably know about our Shelter Pet of the Week series, where we introduce you to a different adorable ACL animal every Monday. But did you know that Shelter Pet of the Week dates back to the very beginning of the organization? As soon as the Village Humane Society got its start in 1973, it began spreading the word about its animals with features in the local paper. These features looked a little different back then, but the idea was the same: give each animal's unique personality a chance to shine, and help them find forever homes. To this day, the series is a great way to learn about our animals!

Oak Leaves, February 1975



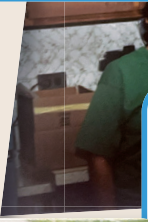
Pet of the week

Flossie, our Pet of the Week, is five months old, neat and makes friends easily with people and other animals. To adopt Flossie and other pets which include a purebred female Afghan hound, a male terrier-shepherd mix, a female schnauzer-cocker mix, a friendly female spaniel mix, three young striped cats and a black and white female cat, call the Village Humane Society, 848-8155. Other animals, placed in the Oak Park bound, North Blvd. between East and Euclid, through the animal control program, are shown from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



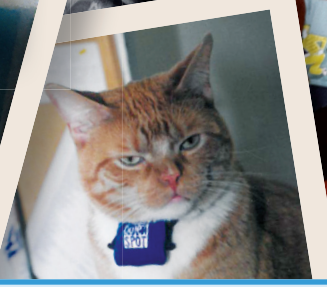
HOW WE DID IT BACK THEN Volunteering

Back in the early days of the organization, like-minded, passionate volunteers banded together for the betterment of the animals in their community—hard, but highly rewarding work. Today, they still do! Just like back in 1973, our amazing volunteers make ACL's lifesaving mission possible. Bell bottoms and feathered hair may go in and out, but it's plain to see that compassion, solidarity, and a drive to help homeless animals never went out of style. If you'd like to join the group of wonderful people who have allowed ACL to pursue its mission for the past 50 years, email volunteer@animalcareleague.org.





“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
 – MARGARET MEAD



HOW WE DID IT BACK THEN Adoption

Finding great new homes for homeless animals was at the heart of the original Village Humane Society’s mission, and that’s something that hasn’t changed in 50 years. But with advances in technology and ACL’s continued growth, the adoption process itself has evolved quite a bit! In 1988, when this adoption was completed, our adoption records consisted of index cards like this one. Now, we have the capability to keep much more detailed records in our online database, and prospective adopters can fill out the questionnaire and see all adoptable animals by simply visiting animalcareleague.org/adoptions.



ACL# 409 PAWS Adopt

Name: _____ date recd: _____
 description: DSH-tortie blue cream date adopted: 4-30-88
 Adopter's Name: _____
 sex: Fe(S) age: 1mo-1yr Address: _____
 Medical: exam: Phone #: _____
 vac:
 stool: _____
 Spay/neuter: done A-American
 Other: _____



The 2nd Chance Shop: 37 Years of Fresh Starts

Animal Care League’s 2nd Chance Shop, the thrift store that supports the shelter, sits just around the corner at 808 Harrison Street. Since 1986—37 years of ACL’s half-century in Oak Park—the shop has been raising valuable funds for shelter animals while simultaneously carving out its place as a beloved local institution. Thanks to the amazing volunteers and staff who have worked at the shop over the years, and of course to the caring community members who continue to support it by shopping and donating, the 2nd Chance Shop shows no signs of slowing down. As we celebrate 50 years of ACL, it is only fitting to also reflect on the 2nd Chance Shop’s shorter, if only slightly, history.



Like the organization it supports, the 2nd Chance Shop got its start under a different name. Just one year after the Village Humane Society officially became Animal Care League in 1985, the sign in front of its brand new thrift store on Oak Park Avenue read “Rainbow’s End.” There was no physical shelter at this point, and it would be a few years yet before the opening of ACL’s first adoption center in a rented space on Madison. But even so, the founding of Rainbow’s End was an indicator of the organization’s bright future: the newly-named Animal Care League was poised to grow, and it had the community support it needed to do so.

Throughout the remainder of the ‘80s and ‘90s, the shop supported ACL as that potential became realized. Moving toward the new millennium, progress only picked up speed, and in 1998, the organization moved into 1013 Garfield, which is still a part of the shelter today. The funds raised by the resale shop helped make this long-held dream of a physical shelter space come true, and in the year 2000 and beyond, its support was instrumental in further expansion.

“They really grew in those years,” remembers volunteer Nancy Phelps, who began helping at the resale shop and the Holiday Bazaar in 2002. She recalls the shop as being always busy, with a steady stream of customers and a small team of dedicated volunteers running things. When asked if those who visited the shop seemed passionate about the mission of the shelter, her answer is an emphatic “Absolutely.” Through both the Holiday Bazaar and the shop’s daily operations, Nancy saw compassionate community members come together and raise significant funds that would have a real impact on local animals in need. “That was so great to feel that,” she says. “I’ve always been drawn to hometown shelters and what they do with what they have. I think they’ve grown into a wonderful facility.”


Jean Turek, another volunteer who helped at the shop alongside Nancy, also recalls these years as a busy and promising time for the organization and the shop alike. “We worked pretty hard,” says Jean, whose sister Elaine organized the displays. “She put so much love into it.” In their years volunteering, Jean and Elaine saw a lot, including the fire that swept through 1013 Garfield in 2000. “We thought they were all gone,” she says, remembering rushing over to the shelter after receiving a worrying phone call. But in fact, no animals were harmed, and this catastrophic event did nothing to slow ACL—and its thrift store—down. The shop continued to raise funds, helping the shelter get back on its feet, and back to helping more and more animals each year.



In 2008, shortly after ACL became Oak Park’s official stray holding facility, the time finally came to say goodbye to the small space that had been the organization’s thrift store for 20 years. But taking its place was the shop we know and love today: Animal Care League’s 2nd Chance Shop! In this new space, larger and closer to the shelter, the shop picked up right where it left off, and it has been going strong ever since.


Today, 2nd Chance Shopkeeper Kevin and a team of volunteers run the shop, and their hard work continues to pay off—in 2022 alone, the shop grossed nearly \$95,000 to support the shelter and its operations. As one of ACL’s longest-running and most impactful fundraisers, and a part of our community in its own right, the 2nd Chance Shop remains an invaluable part of our organization. Thanks to the passion and dedication of so many wonderful people over the last 37 years, the shop has become something truly special, and given countless homeless animals a chance at life. If you haven’t been to the shop lately, we invite you to come by, say hello, find something new, and help us kick off the next 50 years!



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