



Humane Indiana

Speak!

Newsletter February 2024

Tales of Resilience: Heroes and Hope in 2023



Red, Adopted Because of Supporters Like You

HUMANE INDIANA 2023 IMPACT



Sheltered **2,300+** pets



38,000 lb. of pet food to pet caregivers facing challenges



Record number of crisis care clients reunified with their pet



Treated **2,808 wildlife patients** from 150 species



15,581 individuals engaged in education programs



Paws Resale Plus! showcased **28 local artisans** and small business entrepreneurs

As we bid farewell to 2023, we reflect on a year of resilience, compassion, and achievements.

This year, the Humane Indiana Shelter & Adoption Center endured a **10% increase in surrendered and abandoned pets.**

Due to hardships and a lack of affordable, pet-friendly housing, shelters nationwide like Humane Indiana are seeing a dramatic rise in surrendered pets, magnified by a significant decrease in adoptions.



Joshua Before

Joshua, a stray, senior cat, arrived at Humane Indiana severely emaciated and wounded. Joshua's ears were necrotic and decaying, and he was suffering from FIV and diabetes. Our team attentively treated Joshua and started him on insulin. After five long months in the shelter, this sweet, gentle fellow was adopted into a loving home.

Your support through donations, adoptions, and fostering makes it possible for us to weather this storm and care for the homeless and sick who are just like Joshua.

wildlife admissions, taking in over 150 species this year, including a state and federally endangered tri-colored bat. Humane Indiana is the first rehabilitation center in Indiana to raise and release a sandhill crane colt and a clutch of trumpeter swans—the largest clutch of its kind in state history.

As we face the challenges of unprecedented animal intake, **we recognize and thank you, our dedicated volunteers, foster caregivers, and supporters: you are the heroes who give these animals hope.**



Joshua After

In 2023, the Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center experienced a staggering **11% rise in**

We're also extremely thankful for the amazing team at Humane Indiana. It brings us immense joy that Nicole Harmon, Wildlife Director; Jessica Petalas, Senior Director of Shelter & Clinic Services; and Jane Powers Schiesser, Marketing Manager, were recognized at the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association (NWIWA) Awards Banquet. Nicole was also honored with the Earl Brooks Award by the Indiana Audubon for advancing the conservation of natural resources in Indiana. We're proud to have outstanding, dedicated leaders who make a profound impact.

As we embark on our **83rd year** in operation, let's carry the spirit of compassion forward. Together, we've made a significant impact and look forward to creating more positive outcomes in the year ahead.

Thank you for being the heart behind our mission.



L-R: Nicole Harmon, Wildlife Director; Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster & Wonderful HI Partner; Jessica Petalas, Senior Director of Shelter & Clinic Services; Jane Powers Schiesser, Marketing Manager



Hello Friends,

Each new day creates unique opportunities for impactful change. You may not know this just yet, but there are so many ways to impact shelter pets and wildlife at Humane Indiana!

- **Most Needed Items** | Easy to order and ship donations on our Amazon Wish Lists provide life-saving necessities.
- **Foster Caregivers** | We really need caregivers for shelter pets. Will you temporarily open your home?
- **Donations Made Easy** | With a donation of \$19.41/mo. or through a legacy gift, you become a member of our 1941 Society.
- **Workplace Giving** | Does your employer impact the community by offering workplace giving or matching charitable donations? We're happy to help you start a program!

- **Customize A Brick** | Support the Shelter by buying an engraved custom brick in the Rainbow Bridge Memorial Garden.

May *The Good We Do Together* inspire us all to create memorable changes for years to come. As always, please reach out to me at info@HumaneIndiana.org to explore further details.

Thank you,

Brian Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Officer, Humane Indiana

[Learn More](#)





Humane Indiana

8149 Kennedy Avenue
Highland, IN 46322

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What's Inside

- Tales of Resilience: Heroes and Hope in 2023
- Hello! from the CEO
- Sandy, the Sandhill Crane, Goes to the Smithsonian!

SHELTER

Intake, Adoptions & Assistance

MUNSTER, IN
219.922.3811

adoptions@humaneindiana.org
intake@humaneindiana.org

PAWS RESALE PLUS!

Resale, Consignment & Shop Local Artisans

HIGHLAND, IN
219.838.7297

resale@humaneindiana.org

WILDLIFE

Rehabilitation & Education

VALPARAISO, IN
219.299.8027

education@humaneindiana.org

CLINIC

Services for Qualifying Pet Owners

MUNSTER
219.922.3811

clinic@humaneindiana.org

upcoming events!

Langel's Pizza, Highland Round Up | Through February 29 | Dine in or carry out at Langel's Pizza in Highland, IN

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser | Through March 5 | Buy Krispy Kreme donuts at HumaneIndiana.org/events

Little Caesars Fundraiser | Through March 10 | Buy Little Caesars Pizza at HumaneIndiana.org/events

Kids Wildlife Club | 2nd Wed. of Each Month | Ages 6 - 11 | 4 - 5 p.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Leprechaun Sale | Saturday, March 16 | 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | [PAWS Resale Plus!](#)

Wildlife Resident Home Tours! | Saturday, March 16 | 10 - 11 a.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Homeschool with Humane Indiana Wildlife | 3rd Wed. of Each Month | 10 - 11 a.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Teen Wildlife Club | 3rd Wed. of Each Month | 4 - 5 p.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Let's Grow Wild! | 3rd Thurs. of Each Month | Ages 2 - 5 | 10 - 11 a.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Spring Break Camp | Mon., March 25 - Fri., March 29 | Ages 6 - 11 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | [Humane Indiana Wildlife](#)

Save the date for the best pet festival in the nation! [Paws in the Park](#) | Saturday, September 14 | [Community Park, Munster, IN](#)

Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!

Discover All Event Details at HumaneIndiana.org/events




Rock On for Pets and Wildlife!
Saturday, March 23
5 - 9 p.m.
Hard Rock Live Northern Indiana
TICKETS & SILENT AUCTION ON SALE NOW!

SANDY GOES TO THE SMITHSONIAN!



Sandy, the sandhill crane, who had been treated at the Humane Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center recently became a permanent resident of the Bird House at the National Smithsonian Zoo in Washington, D.C.

Sustaining an injury to her wing, Sandy had been in rehabilitation for five years at another wildlife center in Indiana. Sandhill cranes have specific needs, a special diet, and strive to be around other cranes. In captivity, they can live up to 50 years! Sandy was admitted to Humane Indiana in late 2023 and it was determined that the injury had caused a 10% loss in wing length, making her unable to ever fly again. Despite this, Sandy was still active and in high spirits. Since Sandy was unable to be released to nature, the best home had to be found: the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. came to the rescue!

"The Smithsonian gives Sandy a new lease on life," notes Nicole Harmon, Wildlife Director at Humane Indiana.

After well-wishers gave Sandy a send-off celebration, Harmon, along with the wildlife team, traveled ten hours, across the country, to personally escort Sandy to her new home. Upon arrival, Sandy quickly adapted—immediately foraging, tossing, and playing with straw. She will share a home with two other sandhill cranes, among turkeys and geese, in an enclosure with a pond and a stream.



Sandy will always be in the hearts of wildlife lovers in Indiana, and she is now a national treasure, greeting visitors from around the world in our nation's capital. We are truly grateful to everyone who supported Sandy along her journey.

Will you assist local wildlife who need help, just like Sandy?

- A gift of \$250 provides one week of physical therapy flight training
- A gift of \$100 provides one medical evaluation per week

See Sandy make national news!
HumaneIndiana.org/humane-happenings

