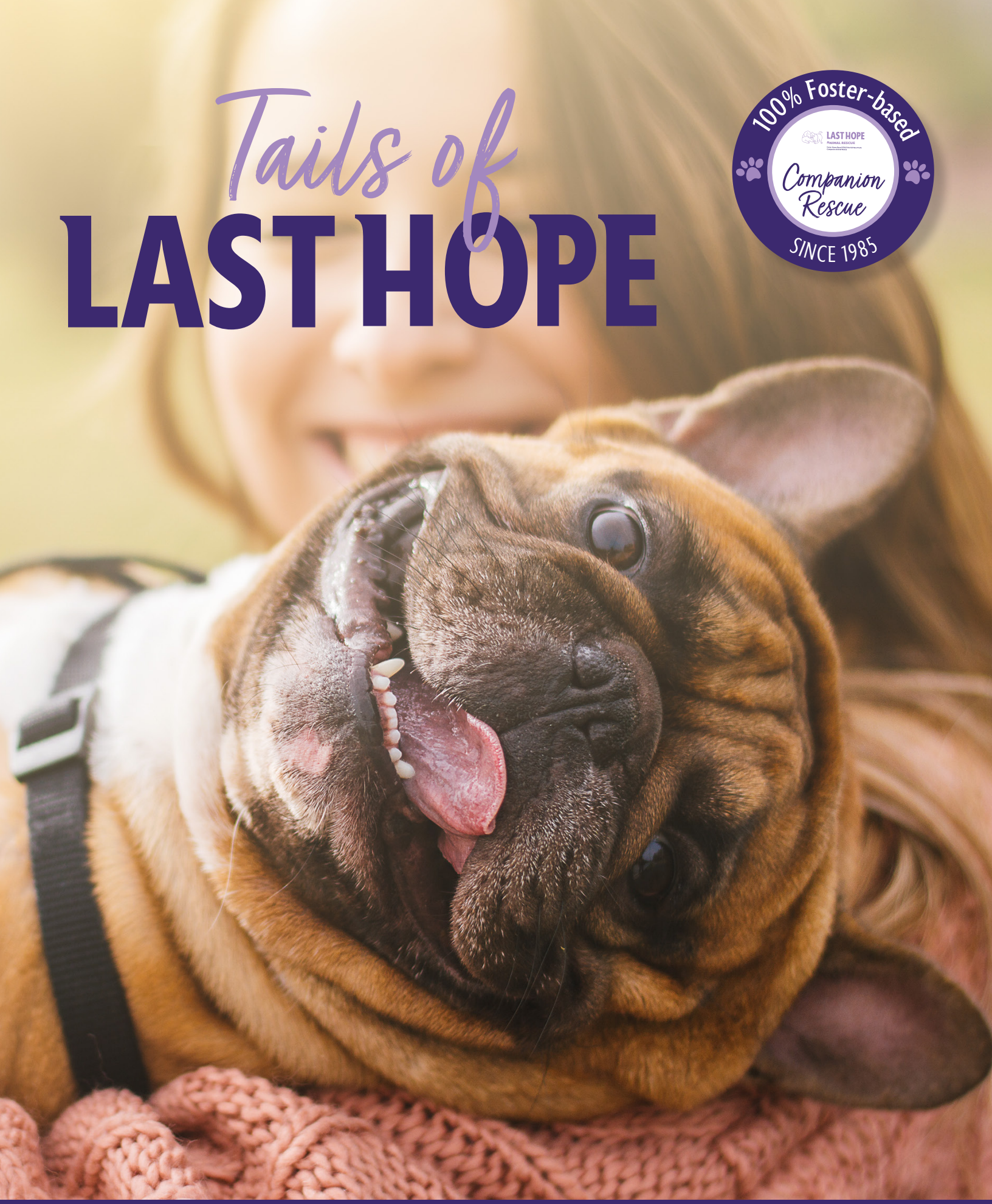
Tails of LAST HOPE

100% Foster-based
LAST HOPE ANIMAL RESCUE
Companion Rescue
SINCE 1985



*Making **furever pawsible** for over forty years!*

FALL 2026

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Every animal who arrives at Last Hope has a story. Some have been abandoned. Some have lost the only home they've ever known. Others have never experienced the comfort of a loving family at all.

What happens next in their story depends on people like you.

This year, your support has given frightened animals a safe place to land, provided life-saving medical care, and helped countless dogs and cats find the loving homes they deserve. Every adoption, every foster home, and every donation has played a part in creating happier endings.

As you read through this newsletter, you'll meet some of the remarkable animals whose lives have been changed through your generosity. Their journeys are a reminder that hope can come in many forms: a warm bed, a full food bowl, a second chance, and a family to call their own.

As we move into the colder months, our work continues. We know there are still animals waiting for their own happy ending, and with your help, we'll be ready for them.

Thank you for standing beside us and believing that every animal deserves love, safety, and a future.

With gratitude,

Jenny Williams

LAST HOPE
ANIMAL RESCUE

COVER STORY

AFTON'S JOURNEY: FROM FEARFUL AND FRAGILE TO FLOURISHING

When Afton arrived at Last Hope Rescue, it was clear she had endured far more than any dog should. This three-year-old Bichon Frise, a breed known for its soft, non-shedding white coat, was shedding nearly all of her fur. Her skin was dry and crusty, her body was malnourished, and painful ear infections and tartar-covered teeth added to her discomfort. Dirty, frightened, and neglected, Afton's bright spirit had been dimmed.



The physical signs of neglect were obvious, but her emotional wounds ran just as deep. She startled at unfamiliar sounds, avoided eye contact, and often ran from her foster mom. Every movement reflected uncertainty, fear, and a life spent simply trying to survive.

But at Last Hope Rescue, we believe every animal deserves a second chance.

With veterinary care, nutritious food, patience, and plenty of love, Afton slowly began to heal. Her skin improved, the infections cleared, and her appetite returned. Then came a milestone everyone had been hoping for: her beautiful white coat began growing back.



As her body healed, so did her heart. The timid dog who once hid in corners began exploring her surroundings with curiosity and confidence. She discovered that people could be trusted, routines could be comforting, and love could be unconditional. Soon, she was seeking out affection, curling up for naps, and greeting familiar faces with happy tail wags.

Afton's transformation is a powerful reminder of what rescue is truly about. It is not just about saving a life, but restoring health, dignity, trust, and hope. Her journey shows that healing takes time and that every act of compassion can make a difference.

Today, Afton, now known as Birdie, is living the life she always deserved. Her coat is growing back, her eyes are bright, and her joyful personality shines through every day. She has found her forever home with mom Gina, dad Larry, and her Bichon Frise sister, Flora.

The two girls enjoy sharing cheese snacks, taking walks, and exploring the world together. Flora lovingly watches over Birdie, while Birdie keeps everyone entertained with her playful game of "catch me if you can" before settling in for snuggles. She especially loves camping adventures and greeting her dad with enthusiastic kisses and a leap into his lap.

Every day brings new experiences, growing confidence, and endless love. Birdie's story is proof that even the most fragile hearts can heal when given the chance. From fear and neglect to safety and happiness, she is finally flourishing.

PAW-SOME STORIES!

YUKI

A LITTLE TILT AND A LOT OF LOVE



Some of the most heartwarming rescue stories aren't about overcoming a diagnosis. Sometimes they're about discovering that what makes an animal different is also part of what makes them so special. That is exactly the story of Yuki.

Yuki is a three-year-old Pomeranian mix with an adorable trademark feature: a gentle tilt of her head to the right. When she first arrived at Last Hope Rescue, her unique posture immediately caught everyone's attention. While undeniably cute, we also wanted to make sure it wasn't a sign of a medical issue that could be affecting her health or comfort.

Yuki was evaluated by a veterinary neurologist, who performed a comprehensive examination to better understand the possible cause of her head tilt. Diagnostic testing was also completed to investigate potential underlying causes, including infection. Fortunately, her testing came back normal.

But some of the most reassuring answers came simply from watching Yuki be Yuki.

Despite her head tilt, Yuki was thriving. She walked, ran, jumped, played, ate, and slept normally. She showed no signs of pain or discomfort, and her quality of life was excellent. Her tilt certainly wasn't slowing her down. If anything, it seemed to add a little extra personality to an already lovable little dog.

With Yuki healthy, happy, active, and comfortable, she was ready for the next chapter of her journey: finding a family who would love her just as she is.

That happened in July 2026, when Yuki was adopted by Carole Murphy and her husband.



As the only pet in the household, Yuki quickly became the center of attention, and something tells us she doesn't mind one bit! Her days are now filled with affection, leisurely walks, companionship, and all the love she could ever want.

Yuki has also brought something very special to her new family. After the loss of the Murphys' previous dog, she helped fill an empty place in their home and hearts, bringing back joy, laughter, and the wonderful companionship that only a beloved pet can provide.

And that signature head tilt? It's now simply one of the many things her family loves about her. It perfectly complements her curious nature and sweet personality and makes Yuki unmistakably Yuki.

Her story is a beautiful reminder that being a little different doesn't make an animal any less deserving of an amazing life. Sometimes the things that make us unique are the very things that make us unforgettable.

Today, Yuki is surrounded by love and enjoying every new adventure with her family.

Her head may tilt, but her future is bright.

JOURNEY & CRUSHER

FROM THE CRUSHER TO A SECOND CHANCE





Sometimes, a second chance comes from the most unexpected places.

Journey and Crusher were just tiny kittens when their lives were nearly cut tragically short. The two little kittens had found their way inside a car at a salvage yard. Unbeknownst to them, the car was about to be sent into the crusher.

Thankfully, a worker spotted the kittens just in time. He quickly rescued them from the car and reached out to Last Hope Animal Rescue to see if we could help. Of course, we said yes.

The kittens were brought safely into our care and named Journey and Crusher—a reminder of the frightening journey they survived and the very close call that could have ended their story.

Today, Journey and Crusher are safe and cozy in a loving foster home, where they are getting the care, attention, and time they need to grow. They still have a little way to go before they are ready for adoption, but their future is looking bright.

Soon, when they are old enough and healthy enough, these two little survivors will be ready to begin the next chapter of their journey—with forever families of their very own.

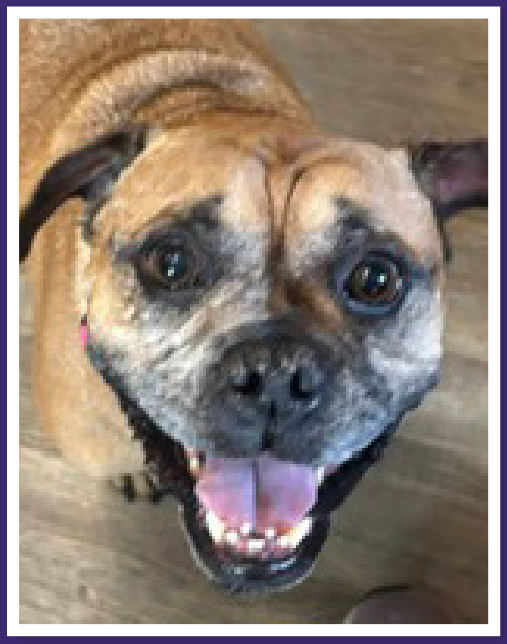
From inside a car headed for the crusher to the safety of a foster home... Journey and Crusher are living proof that sometimes all it takes is one person to notice, one person to stop, and one rescue to say, “We can help.”

Their story isn't over yet, it’s just beginning.

FRANKIE

Frankie is a seven-year-old bulldog mix who has weathered a lot of adversity in her life. She and her brother, Petey, lived happily with their owner until he suddenly died. Nobody could take them in, so the pups lived alone in the house for six months with people stopping by to check on them. Because this was an untenable situation, the pups were surrendered to Last Hope in April. Petey was adopted, but Frankie kept waiting for a home.

In addition to the loss of her owner, Frankie faces a health challenge: perianal fistula. Perianal fistula is a chronic and expensive medical condition. Frankie is being treated by an excellent veterinary dermatologist, but the care is complicated. She requires a dynamic treatment plan including topical ointment, a special diet, steroids, and antibiotics. Luckily for Frankie, a loving foster took her home this summer. Frankie’s foster would love to adopt Frankie, but unfortunately, her treatment regimen is unaffordable. Last Hope would love to create a special fund to support Frankie and allow her to remain with her foster family. Frankie’s Fund represents the values embodied by Last Hope: long-term-care and compassion for local animals in need.



A TAIL OF TWO SISTERS

MARGIE & CHARLOTTE'S JOURNEY HOME

Some stories are meant to come full circle. This is the story of two Havanese sisters, Margie and Charlotte, now known as Daisy and Carly, who found their way from neglect and uncertainty to love, security, and ultimately, the same forever family.

Margie and Charlotte came to Last Hope Rescue in July 2025 as one-and-a-half-year-old breeder-released littermates. Like many dogs emerging from difficult beginnings, they arrived in poor physical and emotional condition. Both girls were dirty, underweight, battling ear infections, and suffering from neglected dental health. Even more heartbreaking was the fear and uncertainty they carried. Trust did not come easily, and the world felt like a scary place.

MARGIE'S STORY

When Margie first arrived in foster care with Cindy Daniels, she had little experience with human companionship. Whenever Cindy approached, Margie would run and hide, skimming along walls, retreating to corners, or disappearing beneath furniture. She wasn't leash trained, house trained, or familiar with toys. Exploring outdoors was an entirely new experience.

Despite her fear, Margie was never aggressive. She simply didn't yet know that people could be trusted.

With patience, consistency, and love, Margie began to blossom. By the time she was adopted in August 2025, she had transformed into a confident and affectionate companion. She loved lounging in laps, enjoyed spending time with her people, and revealed a sweet personality full of charm and quirky habits.

One of her most memorable quirks was her hesitation to walk through doorways. With gentle reassurance, she would eventually gather the courage to cross the threshold. She also developed a funny habit of carrying food away from her bowl before settling down to enjoy it in private.

CHARLOTTE'S STORY

While Margie was thriving in Cindy's care, Charlotte was being fostered by Meghan and her family. Charlotte faced many of the same physical and emotional challenges as her sister, but her fears ran even deeper. She was particularly afraid of men, and as her anxiety grew, her behaviors became increasingly reactive.

Recognizing that she needed additional support, Last Hope Rescue enrolled Charlotte in the reactive dog rehabilitation program at Fissan Training Kennels. During the two-month program, she learned important coping skills and gained confidence in navigating the world around her.

When Meghan was no longer able to foster her, Charlotte moved into Cindy's home. There, she continued her healing journey. Cindy learned that Charlotte did best when allowed to move at her own pace. If people gave her space and let her approach on her own terms, trust followed naturally.

With continued patience, understanding, and encouragement, Charlotte's personality began to shine. Her confidence grew, her fears gradually diminished, and she started to embrace the comfort and security of life with people who cared for her.



FINDING THE PERFECT FAMILY

In July 2025, the Beyer family reached out to Cindy about Margie. They had recently adopted Sunny, another Havanese rescue working through fear and anxiety issues, and hoped a canine companion might help Sunny adjust to her new life.

Their meet-and-greet was an immediate success. Margie and Sunny connected beautifully, and in August 2025, Margie officially became Daisy and joined the Beyer family.

Months later, after Charlotte moved into Cindy's home, Cindy couldn't help but wonder whether the sisters would remember each other.

In January 2026, she arranged a puppy playdate with Daisy, Sunny, and Charlotte.

The answer came quickly.

The sisters recognized one another immediately and were delighted to reconnect. Daisy even encouraged Sunny to meet Charlotte. The dogs were curious, comfortable, and clearly happy together.

The playdate went so well that the Beyers made a life-changing decision. They opened their hearts and home once again and adopted Charlotte, who became Carly.

With room in their home and plenty of love to give, the Beyers completed the reunion of these two special sisters.

LIFE TODAY

Today, each member of the Beyer pack has found their favorite person.

Sunny is devoted to Makenna. Daisy's favorite person is mom, Chris. And surprisingly, Carly's favorite human is dad, Chris. His lap is her favorite place in the world.

Daisy has continued to grow in confidence and independence. While she was once a dedicated lap dog, she now happily marches to the beat of her own drum. At bedtime, though, she still enjoys nestling between her parents for a peaceful night's sleep.

Carly has settled into family life with equal enthusiasm. She's vocal, expressive, and always in a hurry, whether she's eating dinner or exploring the outdoors. One of her favorite



adventures is snowshoeing with dad, comfortably tucked into her dog sling while she takes in the scenery. Curious and brave, she's often the first to investigate anything new. And although she occasionally tests Sunny's authority, Sunny is quick to remind her who's boss.

Meanwhile, Daisy remains Sunny's loyal support buddy. The two share a crate when left alone and no longer struggle with separation anxiety or escape attempts.

A STORY OF SECOND CHANCES

Margie and Charlotte's journey is a beautiful reminder of what rescue is all about. Healing takes time. Trust grows slowly. But when love, patience, and understanding lead the way, amazing transformations are possible.

What began as the story of two frightened breeder-released sisters became a story of reunion, resilience, and family. Today, Daisy and Carly are exactly where they were always meant to be: together, cherished, and loved beyond measure.

Challenges became opportunities. Fear became trust. And two sisters found their way home.



ROCKY

This is what rescue is all about.

Back in June, we came across a Facebook post about a badly injured cat who had been showing up on someone's property for about a year. His name was Rocky, and what he had endured was heartbreaking.

We were told that someone had thrown acid on his head. His ears had been crimped and cut, a back tooth was broken, and he had matching wounds on both shoulders that looked as though something had rubbed them raw. The truth is, we'll probably never know exactly what happened to Rocky before he found his way to us.

What amazed us most wasn't his condition.
It was his spirit.

Despite everything he had been through, Rocky still chose to trust people. He still wanted affection. He still believed someone would be kind to him.

Rocky was placed with a wonderful foster who lived alone, and it quickly became clear that these two were meant to find each other. Their bond was immediate and undeniable.

Today, Rocky spends his days enjoying Jersey Mike's turkey, belly rubs, cozy naps, and all the love he could ever want from his favorite person. And the man who opened his home to help Rocky heal couldn't imagine letting him go. In his own words, Rocky needed him just as much as he needed Rocky.

What started as a foster placement became a forever home.

Stories like Rocky's remind us why we do this work. Rescue isn't just about saving animals. Sometimes, it's about two souls finding exactly who they need.

We're so happy for you, Rocky.









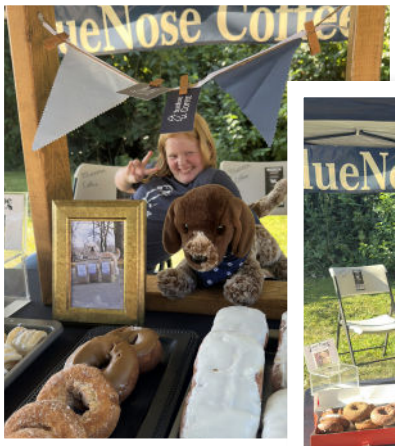
COMPASSION IN ACTION

Community-powered stories of generosity, love, and second chances.

MEET VOLUNTEER AYDEN

Hello, my name is Ayden, and I am 14 years old. I am doing this community service project not only to help the community, but also to earn my second-degree black belt in karate. The reason that I chose Last Hope is because I really like animals and think they deserve to be treated well. I also think they deserve to have everything they need to live their life and have a home where they feel safe and wanted. Another reason I chose Last Hope is because it offers a wide variety of things that can be donated to give animals food, toys, beds, etc. Even small donations help a lot. People can also foster the animals, which means that they can temporarily take care of the animals and give them what they need to survive until they eventually find their permanent owner. For the people that can't fully adopt a pet, they could still donate and help the animals out.







COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

On August 22, Last Hope partnered with The Pawpulation Clinic to hold a low-cost vaccine clinic in Farmington. Needless to say, we saw a lot of awesome pets and amazing owners!

Luckily we had BlueNose Coffee who graciously volunteered to help keep everyone's energy up by offering delicious coffee and pastries.

BlueNose Coffee is currently celebrating their 10th anniversary, so stop by their storefront at 20700 Chippendale Ave W in Farmington if you want to wish them a happy anniversary or try their specialty menu.

THANK YOU TO OUR TROOPS

Kindergarten Daisy Troop #38020 had a mission to make our animals' lives just a little easier, and boy, did they deliver!

This troop collected shelter supplies during a donation drive they held for Last Hope, and afterward, came to one of our dog adoption events to drop the items off and say hi to the pups. The dogs were so happy to see them and all the goodies they brought! A big thank you to Troop #38020 for all your help.



LAST HOPE
ANIMAL RESCUE

Foster Home Based 501(c)3 No-Kill Non-Profit
Companion Animal Rescue

IN LOVING MEMORY

Donations were made in honor and memory of loved ones and special pets as a reflection of their lasting impact.

- In memory of Sue Roark who loved her dear dogs, donation made by Beverly Leonard.
- In memory of Sue Roark, donation made by Jodi Dempsey.
- In memory of Bill Orr from Allen Valek.
- In memory of Oreo, whom we adopted from you in the early 2000s from Ellen McDonnell.
- In memory of Susan Adee who passed away on 2/3/26 from Pamela Anthony.
- In memory of the beloved Daisy who passed but was so loved, from Robin Siegel.
- In memory of Sandra Van Kempen Carlton who passed away on 4/9/26 from Sheilah Stoneback.
- In memory of John J. Mager, donation made by Cheryl Morgan.
- In memory of Munson, donation made by Ellen Hiesel.
- In memory of Michelle Ahrens, donation made by her memorial fund.
- In memory of Beau Cook, a 2-year-old Basset with colon cancer, donation made by Patricia Cook.
- In honor of my mom Janice Smith who donated to your organization for many years. Donation from Glen and Irina Smith.
- In memory of Kilo, our 3 ½ year old Pittie. Donation by Emily Wood and family.
- In honor of Will Madden by John and Karen Elsen.
- In memory of a friend's dog Pistol, who was the love of her life, by Lydija Tschumperlin.
- Thank you for all the thoughtful donations in memory of Tim Kauffman. What a wonderful outpouring of generosity:
  - David Jacobson
  - Elizabeth Kauffman
  - Ami Sharp & Dean Richard Jones
  - Kristin Cuddigan
  - Ann & Jamee Boulay
  - Vicky Sheets

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!
WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU
ADVANCING OUR MISSION.

LAST HOPE OFFICE

Mondays, **8 AM - 3 PM**
Wednesdays, **8 AM - 3 PM**
Thursdays, **1 PM - 7 PM**
1st Saturday of the month, **9 AM - 3 PM**

2413 210TH STREET EAST FARMINGTON, 55024

Office: 651-463-8747
Mail@Last-Hope.org
Last-Hope.org

ADOPTION EVENTS

Adoption Days are held on select Saturdays at Petco in Apple Valley.

7590 150th St W, Apple Valley, MN 55124

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!