Creating a community of healthy pets and empowered pet owners by investing in the East Side Pet District.
As we look back at 2023, I have been reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared over the past 12 months. It has been a year of challenges, triumphs, and heartwarming moments and we have so much to look forward to now in 2024, which is our 20th year in operation!

While 2023 brought heartbreak - from pet owners losing their housing, a large increase in stray and roaming pets, and the shelter consistently being filled to the brim with adult dogs - we also had many victories. We saw almost 60% more lost pets returned to their families and we began hosting walk-in, sponsored adoptions for the first time ever, which increased our adoptions to our service area by 70%.

We received many awards and accolades including being named in the top three St. Louis area charities in the STL Post Dispatch Headliner Awards as well as receiving the national honor of being named the Best Medium-Sized Charity in the Charity Navigator Community Choice Awards!

This year is an incredibly exciting time for GPG as we celebrate our 20th anniversary! We have so many exciting plans for this special year including expanding our low-cost veterinary clinic through the PetSmart Charities Accelerator Program, hosting many wonderful events and fundraising campaigns, and unveiling a beautiful new pet memorial wall to celebrate those who have left paw prints on our hearts.

I hope you will join us this year in celebrating 20 years of helping pets and the people who love them. We would not have been able to help thousands of pets every year for 20 years without our incredible staff, volunteers, fosters and donors. We are so excited to look towards the future with you!

Alisha Vianello, Executive Director
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jenny Dolce, President
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Angie Schaefer, Vice President of Governance
Kate Lyford, Board Member
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Mackenzie Groothuis, Outcome Specialist
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Tanoshia Johnson, Groomer

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Amanda Loellke, Adoption & Foster Manager
Rhianna Louis, Lead Vet Technician
*Dr. Ed Migneco, Veterinarian
Kristi Parker, Customer Service Manager
Lauren Pietrangelo, Retail Inventory Associate
Diana Pupillo, Development Director
Rin Robinson, Clinic Manager
Alisha Vianello, Executive Director
Keyshawn White, Facilities Specialist
Danielle Williams, Animal Care Specialist
Mandi Williams, Customer Service Specialist

*now retired

Look at these wonderful hoomans!

2023 Financials

Total Revenue $2.1M
- Grants 21%
- Public Services 29%
- Online Giving 8.5%
- Major Gifts 10%
- Annual Giving 9%
- Adoption Fees 8.5%
- Events 14%

Expense Breakdown
- Shelter Pet Intake 41%
- Grooming/Retail 13.5%
- Fundraising 15%
- Community Outreach 8%
- Administration 7%
- Volunteer Program 4%
- Clinic 7%

Gateway Pets 2023 Impact Report | Financials + Team
2023
by the numbers
95% save rate

937 community outreach visits
- average of 78 household visits per month

182 families visited the pet food pantry
- 72% more families compared to 2022

1,076 adoptions
- 583 dogs
- 493 cats
- 59% more compared to 2022
- more adoptions in 2023 than in 2022!

92 pets returned to owner
- 100% more compared to 2022

1,198 intakes
- Length of stay at time of adoption | 44 days

Clinic - Community pets

453 Medically treated
620 Microchips
383 Spay/Neuter
368 Trap Neuter Return
1,445 Vaccinations

1,504 Pets groomed
- 174% increase compared to 2022

119 tons
- Low-cost, bulk self-service pet food sold at GPG pet food retail store

73 tons
- Food and litter distributed through in-house pet food pantry/other pet food partnerships

609 tons
- Pet food, litter and supplies distributed to other rescues

14,400 Volunteer Hours providing $370,000 of in-kind services

58,000 Foster Hours
Active volunteers | 348
Active fosters | 535
164 average number of fosters every month

2023 spay/neuter
2023 vaccine clinic

Gateway Pets 2023 Impact Report | By the Numbers
A Record Year for Strays

Gateway staff responded to more roaming pets in the East Side District than ever before. Gateway took in 87% of all strays and handled 98% of owner surrenders in the District. The expiration of the federal eviction moratorium, rising rental prices, and a lack of pet-inclusive housing caused families in the East Side Pet District to make the excruciating choice between keeping their home or keeping their pets. In late summer, property managers at a nearby apartment complex suddenly demanded tenants give up their pets - dogs and cats they had for years - or face eviction. We stepped up to provide emergency intakes until new lease agreements could be resolved.

Gateway Outreach staff also visited more households and provided more diversions (dog houses, tie-outs, food, free spay/neuter) than ever before! The outreach team is a first responder in the region, partnering with local law enforcement and animal control to help pets and people in crises. Our ability to find pets a new home and help pet-loving families facing all the effects of poverty - housing insecurity, job loss, and costly health care emergencies - is possible because of individuals like you.

"Without an open admission shelter in the county, we saw many dogs and cats 'dumped’ at our shelter or in public places. Dogs like Beetlejuice (pictured) did eventually find a new home but it takes time, staff, and resources to give pets a second chance, which is why we are grateful to our supporters." - Alisha Vianello
Total Raised in 2023 ♦ $1.3 MILLION

Online Campaigns
TOTAL RAISED $385,000
• Beyond Rescue
• Facebook Fundraisers
• Give STL Day
• GivingTuesday
• Slumber Pawty

$173,000 raised from Beyond Rescue & Slumber Pawty!

Over 2.6K donors gave!

Our gift presentation with Girls on the Run at McGrath Elementary

One-off Facebook posts with a donate button & link!

Giving by Donor Type
• 16% - Corporations
• 36% - Foundations
• 48% - Individuals

Events (Internal & Third Party): $293,251
Grants: $447,895
Major Gifts: $214,894

$43,000 from Giving Guardians, our monthly donor giving program

Thank you to our pawsome event sponsors & partners!

- MATCH PARTNER -
Metro East Industries, LLC
- SPONSOR -
Tito's Handmade Vodka

- BEYOND RESCUE 2023 -

- GIVINGTUESDAY -
Year End Giving Campaign

- Match Partner -
Ameren Illinois

Gateway Pets 2023 Impact Report | Development Report
Right before the cold snap before Christmas 2022, we received a call from a concerned community member about a beagle who either had a prolapse or a puppy stuck in her vagina. Fast forward two weeks, and we get a call from another kind family about an injured beagle who had taken up residence with their dog inside of his doghouse.

Upon arrival, Bessie’s medical situation was unbelievably complex. Bessie was estimated to be 11 years old, heartworm positive, had a tick-borne disease, a giant cancerous mammary tumor, and she was PREGNANT! Initially, we assumed the babies weren’t viable, but her ultrasound indicated otherwise. To increase her chances of survival, veterinarians wanted to spay her right away and remove the tumor while she was under anesthesia, but her hematocrit levels were too low. At that time, she wouldn’t survive surgery. Another option was to humanely euthanize her.

The plan was to allow Bessie to give birth. Two puppies were deceased but one miraculously survived and we named her Birdie. Once Bessie gained strength, she continued to have life-saving surgeries like the mammary tumor removal. Today, Bessie and Birdie are happy, healthy, and thriving Beagles with their best years ahead of them.

Bessie before and after giving birth and her tumor removal surgery.
In 2023, Gateway staff held weekly walk-in adoption events at our Pet Resource Center, including a special homecoming adoption week in October! Adopted cats and dogs were crowned homecoming kings and queens and Gateway staff had their own Spirit Week. To celebrate they wore clothes for pajama day, decades day, and more!

Award & Recognition

Gateway Pet Guardians received these awards:

- Charity Navigator ‘Best Medium-Sized Nonprofit’ Award
- STL Headliner ‘Favorite’ Non-Profit in Community category
- GrantStation and The Grant Professionals Association ‘Sector Award’

Candy Cane says, "The President’s Award was presented to 40 volunteers for 100+ hours in 2023! Nice job!"

The President’s Volunteer Service Award is an opportunity to honor our most outstanding volunteers and recognize the impact they make. Thank you, volunteers!
Liger’s Story

Liger came from an overwhelmed caregiver and was semi-feral. Understandably, he wasn’t the most comfortable with people and absolutely hated the shelter. While trying to take his adoption photo, Liger refused and an all out cat search in the photo room ensued, which involved no less than two volunteers and four staff members who valiantly attempted to corral the wayward feline. We didn’t know what Liger’s chances were of being adopted given his lack of socialization. But we saw that Liger really loved other cats. Fortunately, one of our most dedicated volunteers, Norm, adopted Liger. Norm had other cats but none of them wanted to befriend Liger. Norm decided that Liger needed another friend, someone with whom Liger could relate and ‘cat.’

Enter another timid Gateway cat named Justin, now known as Buddy. Sensing they would be compatible, Norm adopted Buddy for Liger and now the two are inseparable. They play, nap together on the cat tree, and share food. Thanks to their bond, both cats are living comfortably in their adoptive home.
Return to Owners: Another Record Breaking Year!

Families helping each other!

Thanks to our community partners, we saw 92 pets returned to their families in 2023!
Hairbrush’s Story

While trying to catch another stray dog, volunteers for Gateway Pet Guardians heard a high-pitched woof from inside an abandoned building. Following the sound, they discovered a little dog with overgrown fur so filthy, they could hardly see her among the trash-littered floor. Upon examination, Dr. Sarah Frei found a hairbrush stuck in her fur and a name was born. Hairbrush’s fur was severely matted. Matted fur cut into her back leg, causing deep lacerations that were infected with maggots. The vet staff predicted they would need to amputate the leg but decided to treat the wounds first.

To heal, Hairbrush moved in with a foster mom who works at a hair salon. Hairbrush’s foster mom quickly fell in love and adopted her, renaming her Harriet Brush! Harriet goes to the salon with her mom every day now and everyone at the salon adores her. Her traumatic experience on the streets never dimmed Harriet’s sweet and outgoing spirit. The best part is that Harriet’s back leg healed completely - no amputation needed! Harriet Brush - the beautiful and sweet hair salon dog who had a hair brush stuck in her fur - will never know a day of suffering again!
Thank you to our family of contributors, funders and volunteers, both big and small, who help us move on up year after year!