



As the year draws to a close and we reflect on 2023, we're profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of our volunteers, donors and sponsors. Our core mission remains steadfast—to rescue abandoned or abused cats and dogs and to provide them with the highest quality of life and a second chance to find their forever homes. Our message resonates through various channels—events, social media and heartfelt communications with you, our cherished constituents. Your support is the linchpin of our mission. Together, we can leave an enduring mark on the lives of countless animals. Thank you for supporting our Sanctuary. 🐾

## The Next 50 Years

We are eagerly anticipating the future and planning for the next 50 years of our Sanctuary. If you have visited us, then you have witnessed the love and care we provide for our animals. However, our current facility requires significant repairs, and our cat areas and dog kennels are consistently at full capacity. The demand for our services in the community, spanning from low-income spay/neutering to our food pantry and rescuing animals in need, has never been greater.

To better serve our region, we've purchased 11 acres in Cedar Hill, MO., just 10 minutes away from our current location. This new property will allow us to expand our services and rescue more animals in need of rehabilitation. Our Board of Directors are dedicated to excellence and have engaged the expertise of Scott Learned, the president of Design Learned, Inc. to create an innovative facility. Our goal is to ensure the best quality of life for our furry friends until they find their forever homes. Stay tuned for additional details as we make progress. 🐾



**Future site of Open Door in Cedar Hill**

# An Unforgettable Evening at Paws To Party Dinner Auction

Our annual dinner auction, Paws To Party, was a spectacular affair at the Hilton St. Louis in Frontenac. The evening was a testament to the unwavering commitment of our incredible community. In the midst of an enchanting ballroom, adorned with over 110 silent auction treasures and an impressive lineup of live auction items, the atmosphere crackled with anticipation. Guided by the charismatic Alex Ferrario, our Master of Ceremonies, the event unfolded seamlessly, captivating the 200+ attendees. It was with great pleasure that Tracie Quackenbush, our Executive Director, announced this year's Volunteer of the Year, Oksana Murray. Oksana is a college student who volunteers several times a week. From weekly dog walks to event assistance, she personifies



the dedication of all our volunteers. Remarkably, Oksana has already secured over \$1,200 in support for our upcoming Shelter Slumber Pawty in April 2024. You may have read about Oksana's dedication to our animals in The Leader's October 18th issue.

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## A heart for animals

Fox grad overcomes obstacles to earn honor at Open Door

By Steve Taylor  
For the Leader

When the leaders of the Open Door Animal Sanctuary in House Springs selected their Volunteer of the Year for 2023, they chose one of the organization's youngest volunteers — Oksana Murray, 24, of Arnold.

"Most of the people who get the award are, like many of our volunteers, retired or of retirement age. I don't know that we've had someone that young win the award before," said Lynese Cargill, director of development for Mission's largest no-kill animal shelter.

Even though Murray wasn't a typical choice for the award, she was the obvious choice, Cargill said. "She's so willing to help with everything we do here. When she's here, she wants to help. She volunteers several times a week, walking dogs and socializing with our cats," Cargill said. "She helps out where we need help — with everything. When she's here, she likes to stay busy; she doesn't want to sit around. It wasn't a difficult choice to give her the award."

See MURRAY, Page 31A

Equally deserving of acclaim is Rich Robinson, the proud recipient of the Don Nichols Compassion Award. This award is given to someone who has dedicated their life to the world of animal rescue. Rich is the cornerstone of our Friends of Open Door volunteer group and his impact extends far beyond our local community. His advocacy resonates throughout the St. Louis region as he has dedicated his life to championing the rights of pets in need.

Our esteemed donors and volunteers' collective efforts are the driving force behind events like Paws To Party. Oksana and Rich exemplify the spirit of Open Door, embodying the very essence of our mission.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Paws To Party sponsors. Their generous support played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of our event. Thank you for being instrumental in creating a memorable and impactful evening, shaping a future where every paw finds the warmth of a loving home. We look forward to seeing you next year! 🐾

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Presenting Sponsors \$5,000	CAROL HOUSE Furniture Because YOU Live Nice Things CALL US 636-7-9922 & LAUNDRY	The Pine Avenue Kitty Crew
Gold Sponsors \$2,500	Mr. Les & Mrs. Wendy Czornosky	Dr. John & Mrs. Sherry Wood
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Emerald Sponsors \$500	PRINTING EIN KAPUT KAPUT	KOHLER Signature Store By Carson's Place
	COMPANY BBQ	AMV COMFORT Inland
	treats UNLEASHED	Mr. Keith & Mrs. Kristen Wink
	CAPROLITEN BANK	Mr. Joe and Mrs. Jane Geller
	TempSmart	

## Adoption Events Supply Drives

From the heart of Kirkwood's Greentree Festival to the charm of Kimmswick's Apple Butter Festival, we enjoyed showcasing our adoptable cats and dogs, offering exclusive Open Door merchandise all while sharing our passion for animal rescue. These fall gatherings weren't just events; they were platforms for connection, advocacy and spreading love for our furry companions.

As winter graces our doorstep, The Grinch made a whimsical appearance, enchanting our adoptable kittens and puppies—all of which welcomed him! The warmth of community support knows no "Grinchy" bounds. A heartfelt thank you to Kohler for hosting an adoption event, Midwest Bank Center and Kennelwood Pet Resorts for their supply drives, as well as all the companies that participated in our ornament drive again this year. Their generosity warms our hearts this winter. 🐾



**OPEN DOOR**  
Animal Sanctuary



Founder's Circle was formed in 2014 in memory of two dedicated women who founded Open Door Animal Sanctuary in 1975 – Joan Costello-Oetting and Carol Perkins. Their vision of giving every animal that comes to Open Door a second chance at life is, to this day, our guiding principle. The Founder's Circle honors those who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more.

This group of distinguished donors support Open Door's mission with their extraordinary charitable gifts and are considered part of our inner circle of philanthropy. Those who have donated \$1,000 or more in the previous calendar year will be invited to attend the Appreciation Dinner. If you would like to be part of the Founder's Circle and/or have any question, please contact Lynese at [Development@odas.org](mailto:Development@odas.org) or call our office 636-671-3643.

Want to be  
my Sponsor?

# Pet Pals



**Darcy**

**Age:** 8 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 7 years  
**Special Considerations:** Darcy needs a home with no cats and can be protective of her human friends.  
**Who is She, Really?** Darcy is a total sweetheart! She loves walks and gets along with submissive male dogs. She's affectionate and loyal and lots of fun. Darcy has been at the shelter most of her life and deserves a chance at a real home!



**Jackson**

**Age:** 8 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 7 years in total  
**Special Considerations:** Jackson needs a home with no other pets or children and few visitors.  
**Who is He, Really?** Jackson is a country boy at heart. He's intelligent, friendly, loving, and well-mannered and loves to play outside. The hustle and bustle of city life make him nervous and he's not one for parties. Hikes, campfires, remote log cabins with just his family and not another soul for miles? Sign him up.



**Sully**

**Age:** 9 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 20 Months in total  
**Special Considerations:** Sully takes a little time to warm up to new people and sometimes behaves defensively when he's nervous, so he will need some patience! He is also blind in one eye and slowing losing vision in the other.  
**Who is He, Really?** Sully loves attention and treats. He's front declawed and an affectionate boy. Once he learns that he's safe, he'll make someone an excellent companion!

I'll send  
my Photo!

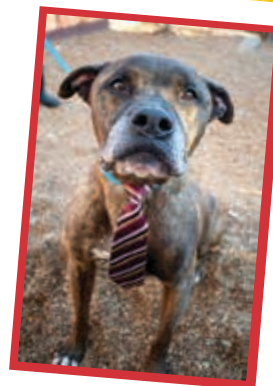
Are you looking for a great way to support some of our Sanctuary animals, the ones that will always call Open Door home? Our Pet Pals program does just that. When you make your minimum monthly donation of \$10 per month, you are providing daily care for one of our lifelong residents. The majority of our Pet Pals have been with us for over a year and some are considered special needs. Their special needs are either medical, age-related or behavioral. Every penny we receive through this program goes directly to the care of the cat or dog of your choice. While there is always something going on at the shelter, our Pals take time out of their busy play and/or sleep schedules to keep in touch with their sponsors. We will send you update letters and photos throughout the year. When you become a Pal to one of our Pets, you help to change their lives. Sponsor one cat or dog year-round to be your "Pal".

For more information, contact  
[Development@odas.org](mailto:Development@odas.org).



**Polka**

**Age:** 2.5 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 9 months  
**Special Considerations:** She would rather be the only cat in a home. She is not happy at the shelter which causes her not to put on her happy face when meeting people.  
**Who is She, Really?** Once she is comfortable, Polka is very sweet, engaging, affectionate, and loves to play. Someone needs to give her a chance to show her true personality.



**Bing**

**Age:** 11 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 2.5 years  
**Special Considerations:** He doesn't like to share his love with any animals so he needs to be a solo pet.  
**Who is He, Really?** Even though he is an older gentleman, he is still active enough to go for walks. He just wants someone to love him and give him a chance to show his affection and prove he still has a lot of love to give.



**Ella**

**Age:** 7 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 3.5 years in total  
**Special Considerations:** Ella does not like other dogs and can be fearful of loud noises and strangers. A fence is a must.  
**Who is She, Really?** She is such a sweetheart with people and is looking for a true pal that can go on walks and share special one-on-one time with her.



**Ioanie**

**Age:** 6 years  
**Time in Shelter:** 5.5 years  
**Special Considerations:** Ioanie is shy and needs a quiet home with someone who will give her some space and time.  
**Who is She, Really?** Ioanie is a sweetheart. She's very shy, but the shelter is an overwhelming place to live, so she doesn't really get a chance to show her best side. We think she'll really blossom if she can find a home of her own!

Come Visit Me!

Provide extra TLC!

## What it's Like to be Loved: Flapjack's Story

In early November, we encountered a heartwarming story of resilience and love. Four small dogs, overwhelmed by their owner's inability to care for them, found their way to Open Door. Among them, a surprise awaited – one had given birth that very morning. The condition of the dogs was distressing, with Flapjack standing out, bearing a broken jaw, nose and the remnants of a difficult past. Flapjack's injuries stemmed from an incident three months prior when he was kicked in the face by the owner's boyfriend. Shockingly, he had received no veterinary care since the incident. Swiftly, we sought professional help, but the prognosis was limited. Given the time that had passed, surgery was deemed more detrimental than beneficial. The healing process had taken its course, and as long as Flapjack could eat and drink, intervention could potentially do more harm than good.



True to Open Door's spirit, our team quickly developed a deep affection for Flapjack. Initial concerns about his quality of life were dispelled as he embraced his newfound happiness. In just a week of dedicated care, he has become a joyful little soul—eating and drinking with gusto, reveling in cuddles and growing more alert and confident each day. A compassionate staff member welcomed him into their home, providing Flapjack with baths, soft food, medication and even adorable coats for warmth. The transformation is heartwarming – a once-neglected pup now reveling in the adoration he deserves. His wagging tail is a testament to the fact that Flapjack finally knows the joy of being cherished!



## Join The Open Door Legacy Society

The Open Door Animal Sanctuary Legacy Society honors individuals who have made legacy gift commitments. No gift is too small and when you inform us of your planned gift intentions, you become a member of our Legacy Society, which allows us to recognize you appropriately for your generosity and dedication to our cats and dogs.

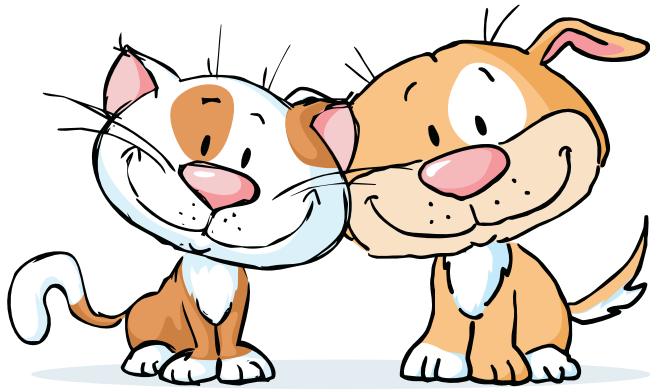
Additionally, your plan to make a legacy gift to Open Door enrolls you in our Surviving Pet Care program. This program gives you peace of mind knowing that if something happens to you, we will take in your pets, care for them, provide any medical care needed, and allow them to live out the rest of their lives in the loving care of our staff and volunteers while we work to find them new loving forever homes (if desired).

OPEN DOOR

Animal Sanctuary

a legacy  
of  
love





## Welcome Amie Moschetto

Meet Amie Moschetto, our vibrant Volunteer Coordinator and former kennel team member since 2021. With a Bachelor's in Sports Management and Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University, Amie brings diverse expertise. She is certified in Sports Marketing from the University of Kentucky and holds a Chancellor's Certificate in Neighborhood Leadership from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. Outside of work, Amie is a Master Gardener, Munny enthusiast and avid hiker with her beloved dogs, Dora and Ozzie.

If you are interested in volunteering at Open Door, please contact Amie at [volunteer@odas.org](mailto:volunteer@odas.org) or visit our website at [odas.org](http://odas.org). 🐾



- Purina Pet Parade, Soularo MO – 9 a.m., Sunday, February 4, 2024
- Shelter Slumber Party, ODAS – 12 p.m., Saturday, April 6, 2024
- TopGolf Fundraiser, Chesterfield MO – 4 p.m., Sunday, April 21, 2024
- Trivia Night, The Heights, Richmond Heights – 6 p.m., Saturday, May 4, 2024
- Paws To Party, Hilton St. Louis Frontenac – 5 p.m., Sunday, August 18, 2024



## End-of-Year Giving

If Giving Tuesday passed you by, and you wish to make an end-of-year donation, there are convenient ways to do so. You may contribute online or utilize the enclosed envelope to mail your check or credit card information to us. If you're exploring alternative ways to contribute, here are a few options to consider:

- **Gift of appreciated securities;**
- **Giving through a donor-advised fund;**
- **For those 70 1/2, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution.**

When considering a distribution or a stock gift, please contact our brokerage representative, Jeff Stotler. You can reach him at 303-220-0968 or via email at [Jeff.Stotler@edwardjones.com](mailto:Jeff.Stotler@edwardjones.com).

# Board of Directors

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# Memorials May - November 30, 2023



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