



***Celebrating 50 Years of Love and Service
at Open Door Animal Sanctuary***

As we step into 2025, Open Door Animal Sanctuary (ODAS) is excited to celebrate a monumental milestone:

Our 50th Birthday!

Each month there will be a special occasion to honor the incredible journey we've shared with our community, supporters, and, most importantly, the animals we've rescued.

**Kicking Off the Celebration:
Honoring Our Seniors**

In January, we will launch our year-long celebration by honoring the oldest dog and cat in our shelter. These beloved residents embody the spirit of resilience and the joy of companionship that has been the heart of ODAS for the past five decades. Their stories remind us of the countless lives transformed through love and care, and we invite you to join us in celebrating them. Stay tuned for more details.



Your Support Makes a Difference

The success of our mission relies heavily on the generosity of our donors. Your contributions not only provide essential care for our animals but also help us continue our commitment to finding loving homes for every pet in need.



With your support, we've been able to rescue and care for over 350 animals daily, ensuring they receive food, shelter, medical attention and love.

The mission of Open Door Animal Sanctuary is to provide homeless cats and dogs with the highest quality of life and a second chance to find a forever family.

Open Door
Animal Sanctuary

2024 Board of Directors

President - Brian Stevens
Vice President - Sherry Wood
Vice President - Jane Geiler
Treasurer - Ryan Kanatzar
Secretary - Vicky Crist
Director - Gary Ault
Director - Teresa Bippen
Director - Wendy Borowsky
Director - Victoria Conell
Director - David Isinghood
Director - Cathy McCredie
Director - David Wood
Advisory Board - Maura Flaherty
Executive Director - Tracie Quackenbush

Friends of Open Door

Co-President - John & Kathy Meder
Co-President - Jean Gutchewsky
Secretary/Treasurer - Shona Lamond

Big Thanks to Treats Unleashed for Supporting Our Animals



In August, Treats Unleashed hosted a "round-up" at their registers, with Open Door Animal Sanctuary as the benefiting nonprofit. Thanks to the generosity of their customers and the dedication of their amazing team, they raised over **\$2,353** for our cats and dogs. We truly appreciate their continued commitment to our animals.



Memorials - September 18, 2024 - November 13, 2024

*Barb Meyer
Barry Wettroth
Becky Ames
Becky Grzywacz Alexander
Betty Vogelsang
Clyde Greenwalt
Colleen Messmer
Coni Melchior Gosik
Daniel Schmitz
Daryl Morhaus*

*Gary Finney
George Thomas "Bud"
Cutter
Geraldine "Gerry" Gaines
Grace Compton
Gwen Jankowski
Harold J. Frederick, Jr.
Jerry Klipsch
Keith Morton
Larry Hendricks*

*Laurel Bennett
Linda Kemper
Liz Meyer
Mary Creamer
Mary Elder
Michael Sevier
Neuman Richard
Ollie Robinson
Robert (Bob) Mueller
Shirley Huddleston*

--Birthday Continued from pg. 1

Introducing Our \$50 for 50 Years Donation Program

To mark our 50 years of service to the community, we are thrilled to introduce our new donation program, **\$50 for 50**. We invite you to donate \$50 a month in honor of our 50 years of making a difference in the lives of animals and the community. By setting up a recurring donation, you'll help us sustain our mission and expand our services. It costs \$50 to spay/neuter one cat or dog, just imagine the impact your recurring donation will have on the unwanted pet population.

As a thank you, you will receive a special commemorative t-shirt as part of our celebration. Go to www.odas.org/50 to set up today.

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events!

Exciting events are on the horizon! Keep an eye out for details on our upcoming special celebrations throughout the year. You can find information about these events on our website, our Facebook page, and in our Tuesday Newsday email blast (if you have not signed up for our weekly email blast, go to www.odas.org).

*Together, let's make 2025 a year to remember.
Thank you for being an essential part of our journey
and for your unwavering support in helping us create a better future
for the animals at Open Door Animal Sanctuary!*

A Busy Fall for Adoptions

This fall was filled with exciting adoption events! From Treats Unleashed's "Fall in Love" Adoption Event to National Night Out with the Byrnes Mill Police Department, Elksfest at the High Ridge Elks Lodge, Mattress Dogzzz, the JCL Northwest Howl-o-Ween Pet Parade, and The Great Go! Dog Walk + Fun Run, we showcased our animals around town. Our adoptable cats and dogs had countless opportunities to meet their future families.

We also celebrated Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Month with The Dean Team Subaru in Ballwin, MO., featuring our cats and dogs throughout October. Our adoptable dogs made a special appearance at their Trunk or Treat event, adding to the fun and festivities. We were overjoyed to find forever homes for 101 cats and dogs in October.

We are deeply grateful for the support and partnerships of these incredible organizations that made these events possible!



Zima's Journey: From Trauma to Trust

Many of the cats at Open Door Animal Sanctuary arrive under difficult circumstances. Some are surrendered by their owners, others are found as strays, some are transferred from animal control, others are left anonymously by our dumpster, hoping for a better fate. No matter how they come to us, we do everything we can to give them the opportunity to find a loving home. While most cats adjust to shelter life easily, some need more time and special care. That's where our dedicated fosters come in, providing a temporary, nurturing environment for those who are shy, extremely nervous, or deeply traumatized.

This was the case with Zima, whose journey to happiness has been a long and difficult one.

Eleven months ago, Zima was found at an animal control facility, huddled in the corner of her cage, terrified. The staff couldn't even determine her gender because she refused to let anyone near her. Her legs were wounded, but since she was presumed feral, no one attended to her. The decision was made to euthanize her.



One of our team members saw Zima's picture online and felt compelled to save her. The night before her scheduled euthanasia, she was rescued and brought into a foster home. Initially, Zima feared everything and hid constantly. It was soon discovered that she was blind in one eye due to ulcers and deaf. Her physical condition was heartbreaking: her wounds were severe and her skin was raw, as if she had been dragged or thrown. The veterinarian who examined her suspected she had been thrown from a car. Her recovery would



be long and challenging. To make matters worse, Zima tested positive for FIV, which meant her immune system was compromised. She suffered from recurring infections, often requiring her to wear a cone, which made her increasingly depressed.

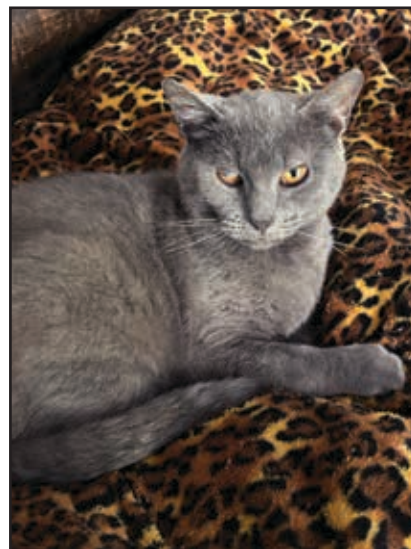
Her back leg, which refused to heal, eventually had to be



amputated. Even then, Zima's incision kept getting infected. It reached a point when we questioned whether continuing her

treatment was in her best interest. She was exhausted and her spirit seemed broken. In a last-ditch effort, the vet suggested keeping her in the hospital for ten days of round-the-clock care. Miraculously, this worked! Zima's condition improved and her will to live returned.

The next challenge was helping her build trust and confidence on three legs. After months of daily handling by the hospital staff, Zima no longer feared human touch. Throughout her foster care, she never hissed, scratched, or bit, and once her pain subsided, she slowly began to interact on her own terms. Today, Zima is a completely transformed cat. From a terrified, traumatized animal, she has blossomed into a loving companion who adores being pet and craves constant affection. While she doesn't enjoy being held, Zima has come to love gentle caresses and the comfort of human touch.



After eleven long months in foster care, Zima is finally ready for adoption at our Sanctuary, and whoever welcomes her will gain a loyal, lifelong companion.



Join The Founder's Circle



We are excited to invite individuals who have donated \$1,000 or more in 2024 to our exclusive Founder's Circle Appreciation Dinner, happening in the first quarter of 2025. The Founder's Circle, established in 2014, honors the legacy of our founders, Joan Costello-Oetting and Carol Perkins, who created Open Door Animal Sanctuary in 1975 with the vision of giving every abandoned cat and dog a second chance at life. Their dedication continues to inspire us today.

Founder's Circle members are distinguished donors who provide vital support for Open Door's mission. As part of this special group, you'll be part of our inner circle of philanthropy and we would be honored to celebrate your extraordinary contributions at our Appreciation Dinner.

If you would like to know how much you've donated this year or see how close you are to the \$1,000 threshold, please contact Lynese at Development@odas.org or call 636-671-3643.



End-of-Year Giving

If 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 70.5+ yrs old, 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.

Donate Your Vehicle and Help Animals in Need



Donate your vehicle--whether it's a car, truck, boat, RV, motorcycle, jet ski, snowmobile, or more--through CARS, and we will receive a generous portion of the donation's value. It's an easy way to support our mission and help care for the animals in our shelter.

To begin the donation process, simply call the toll-free number at (855) 500-RIDE or (855) 500-7433, or go to <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/opendooranimalsanctuary> for more information.

Thank you for your generosity!

Pinto Bean's Thanksgiving Blessing: A Forever Home

When Pinto Bean and her siblings were rescued, they were in rough shape—tiny, sick, and covered in mange. After weeks of tender loving care, medicated baths, and lots of patience, all the puppies made a full recovery. However, by the time they were healthy, they had grown past their "cute baby" phase. One by one, Pinto Bean's siblings found loving homes, while Pinto Bean continued to wait for hers.

Pinto Bean is a gentle, sensitive soul who needs time to learn to trust new people. She often felt shy meeting potential adopters, but for those who gave her time, her personality shone brightly. She loved playing with stuffed toys, solving puzzles, and practicing target training to build her confidence. Unfortunately, the busy, often noisy environment of the shelter is not the best setting for a dog like Pinto Bean to feel safe and secure. She needs a calm, loving home where she can continue to blossom at her own pace.

Finally, just before Thanksgiving, Pinto Bean's miracle happened. She found the calm, loving home she needed to truly thrive. After all she has been through, she now has the chance to grow up surrounded by love and care.

We are so thankful to everyone who played a part in Pinto Bean's journey. Her story reminds us that even the gentlest hearts can find their perfect match with patience and love.



2025 Events

- ❄️ **Purina's New Year For The Strays Trivia Night, Ritz Carlton** – 7 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.)
Friday, January 10
- ❄️ **Birthday Party & Movie, Hi-Pointe Theatre** – 2 p.m., Sunday, (doors open 1:15 p.m.) February 2
- ❄️ **Purina Pet Parade, Soulard MO** – 10 a.m., Sunday, February 23
- ❄️ **Spring Trivia, The Heights, Richmond Heights** – 6 p.m., Friday, March 28
- ❄️ **Shelter Slumber Pawty, ODAS** – 4 p.m., Saturday, April 5
- ❄️ **Top Golf Fundraiser, Chesterfield MO** – 4 p.m., Sunday, April 27
- ❄️ **Paws To Party, Hilton St. Louis Frontenac** – 5 p.m., Sunday, August 17
- ❄️ **Rock & Roll Bingo, The Heights, Richmond Heights** – 6 p.m., Friday, November 7

Stay Tuned for more exciting 50th Birthday Celebrations!

Stay connected! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X (formally known as Twitter) for the latest updates.

We'd be delighted to have you join us at our next event.

Celebrating Years of Dedication: Honoring Our Valued Team Members

We would like to take a moment to recognize a few of our valued team members who have dedicated years of service to our Sanctuary. Their commitment and passion have left a lasting impact, not only on our organization but also on the animals in our care. We are deeply grateful for their hard work and tireless efforts in helping us fulfill our mission.



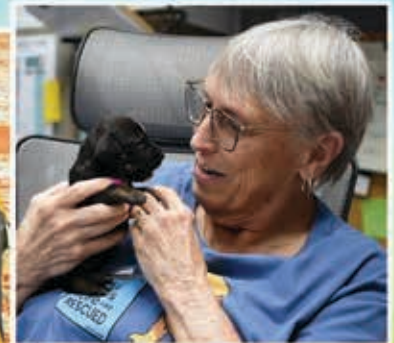
Tracie Quackenbush
Executive Director
25 years of service



Ray Snyder
Senior Animal Caretaker
24 years of service



Amanda Duncan
Cattery Manager
20 years of service



Diane Kennedy
Kennel Manager
24 years of service

Happy 50th Birthday to Kennelwood Pet Resorts!



A heartfelt thank you to Kennelwood Pet Resorts for choosing to celebrate their 50th birthday with us. We are thankful for their generous donation to our shelter in honor of their significant milestone.

In addition to their kind support, Kennelwood has also featured five of our adoptable dogs on their social media pages, helping to raise awareness and find loving homes for our furry friends.

Together, we're making a positive impact on the lives of pets and the community. Here's to many more years of partnership together!

A Heartfelt Thank You to Express Scripts by Evernorth Health Services



We had the pleasure of attending an incredible event hosted by Express Scripts by Evernorth Health Services, where 900 of their amazing employees gathered and generously donated much-needed supplies for our shelter. As a special treat, we brought two of our adoptable dogs, and we are thrilled to share that both found their forever homes with employees from the event. We couldn't be more grateful for their support.



FUR-EVER FUN: CELEBRATING 50 PAWSOME YEARS!

Lights, Camera, Purr-fection: Laugh, Love, and Save Lives!

Featuring "Cat Video Fest"

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

2:00PM - 4:00PM

(DOORS OPEN 1:15)

HI-POINTE THEATER

\$35 for Adults

\$15 for Kids and Seniors (14 and under/over 65)

\$100 for VIP/Preferred Seating

<https://hipointetheatre.org/home>

*Popcorn, soft drinks and cupcakes, plus
some surprises while you enjoy the hilarious*

Cat Video Fest with silly cat antics!

Please bring any canned cat or dog food with you!

OPEN DOOR
Animal Sanctuary

