



2011 Annual Report

Helping Human and Animal Victims of Domestic Violence in Georgia Reach Safety Together

Our Mission:

Perpetrators of domestic violence often hurt family pets to control and intimidate their victims. Ahimsa House, Inc. – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose name means “nonviolence” – is dedicated to helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence across Georgia reach safety together.



Our Story:

Ahimsa House, meaning "nonviolence" in Sanskrit, was founded in 2004 by Emily Christie after she lost a pet to domestic violence. Ahimsa House became Georgia's first and only organization dedicated to helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together.

Originally, Ahimsa House maintained a central shelter for animals at a secret location in metro Atlanta. In Fall 2006, we recognized the need to change our program model in an effort to operate more cost-effectively and to better serve victims statewide. In March 2007, Ahimsa House launched the Emergency Animal Safehouse Services program, which houses animals via a network of foster homes and boarding facilities across the state.

To date, Ahimsa House has provided over 22,000 nights of safe, confidential shelter for pets in need and we have been able to reunite 85% of our clients with their pets once everyone was safe.

Ahimsa House holds an animal shelter license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

We are a member agency of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence; the Gwinnett, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton County Family Violence Task Forces; and Georgia Legal Professionals for Animals.

Ahimsa House FY11 Board of Directors

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Anti-Cruelty Initiatives, ASPCA

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Stephen Walker
Owner, S. R. Walker Designs

Annamarie Keck
Community Member

A Note From the Executive Director

Dear readers,

It seems strange that the close of 2011 already marked seven full years of Ahimsa House's existence. Only a few years ago, when describing our organization to others, I used terms such as "young" and "grassroots" to describe our unique new service. In most cases, the person with whom I was speaking had never heard of Ahimsa House before.

Today, that is no longer the case. When I give presentations for professional groups and civic organizations, and I ask how many have heard of us, hands go up. When we set up our outreach booth at community festivals, even those far from metro Atlanta, people stop by to say hello. We are moving into the next stage of a nonprofit's life cycle: an established organization, experiencing rapidly growing demand in tandem with growing awareness, and sizing up the challenges of growing in infrastructure to meet that demand. However, particularly in this economy, it bears remembering that becoming a larger organization is not in itself the goal for a nonprofit. Rather, smart growth that allows the organization to address its objectives efficiently, toward the ultimate goal of "working itself out of the need for its own existence"—that is, being so successful at its work that it eliminates the social problems it set out to address in the first place—is the way forward.

In my own journey with this organization, first as an animal transport volunteer beginning in the year of our founding, then as a Board member and eventually Board President, and finally as Ahimsa House's first Executive Director, I have had a unique opportunity to watch our organization learn, grow, and learn some more. The feeling here at Ahimsa House today is one of excitement, of being on the cusp of even greater things ahead. I invite you to read about our progress during this past year, and to join us in this next stage of our journey toward a world where both humans and animals live free from domestic violence.

With sincerest thanks for your support,



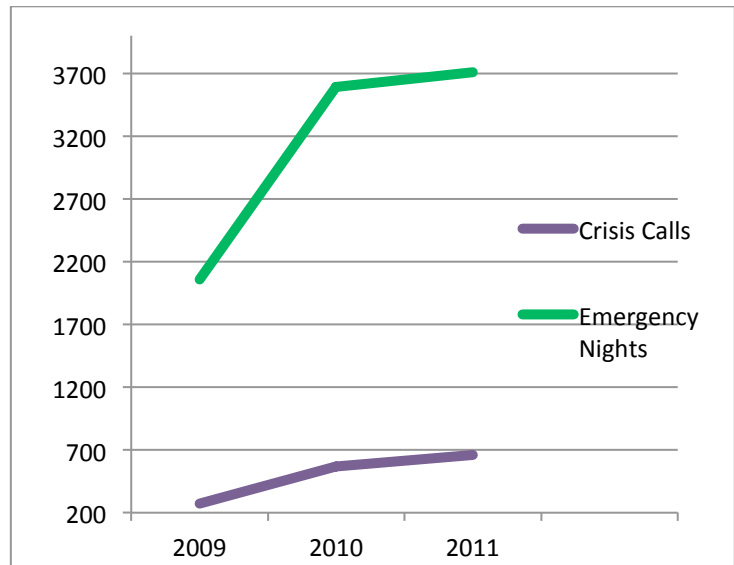
Maya Gupta, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Ahimsa House
Service to the Community
2011

Service Statistics

Crisis Calls:	662
Emergency Shelter Nights Provided:	3,709
Animal Transports:	143
Veterinary Care:	61
Referrals to other support services:	384
Outreach Events:	87



Support for Survivors:

Emergency Animal Safehouse: Ahimsa House provides valuable support to survivors seeking safety:

- Emergency housing of pets for survivors entering shelters
- Transportation assistance to ensure pets are delivered safely to foster homes
- Assistance with veterinarian care for survivors' pets

24-Hour Crisis Line (404-452-6248):

- Crisis line available to all survivors regardless of whether they place their pets in emergency shelter
- Assistance to survivors and advocates for including pets in safety planning
- Assistance to legal advocates for including pets in Temporary Protective Orders
- Referrals to pet safety programs outside of Georgia

Professional Outreach and Community Education: Ahimsa House works with community members, advocates, law enforcement officials and the court system to ensure that survivors have safe options for their pets when they are seeking shelter.

- Free training programs available for domestic violence agencies, veterinarians, and other professionals serving human and animal victims of domestic violence
- Consultation to jurisdictions on prosecuting co-occurring animal cruelty and domestic violence
- Consultation to other agencies on establishing similar programs in your area
- Public awareness campaigns about the connections between animal abuse, child abuse, partner violence, and elder abuse

FY 2011 Accomplishments

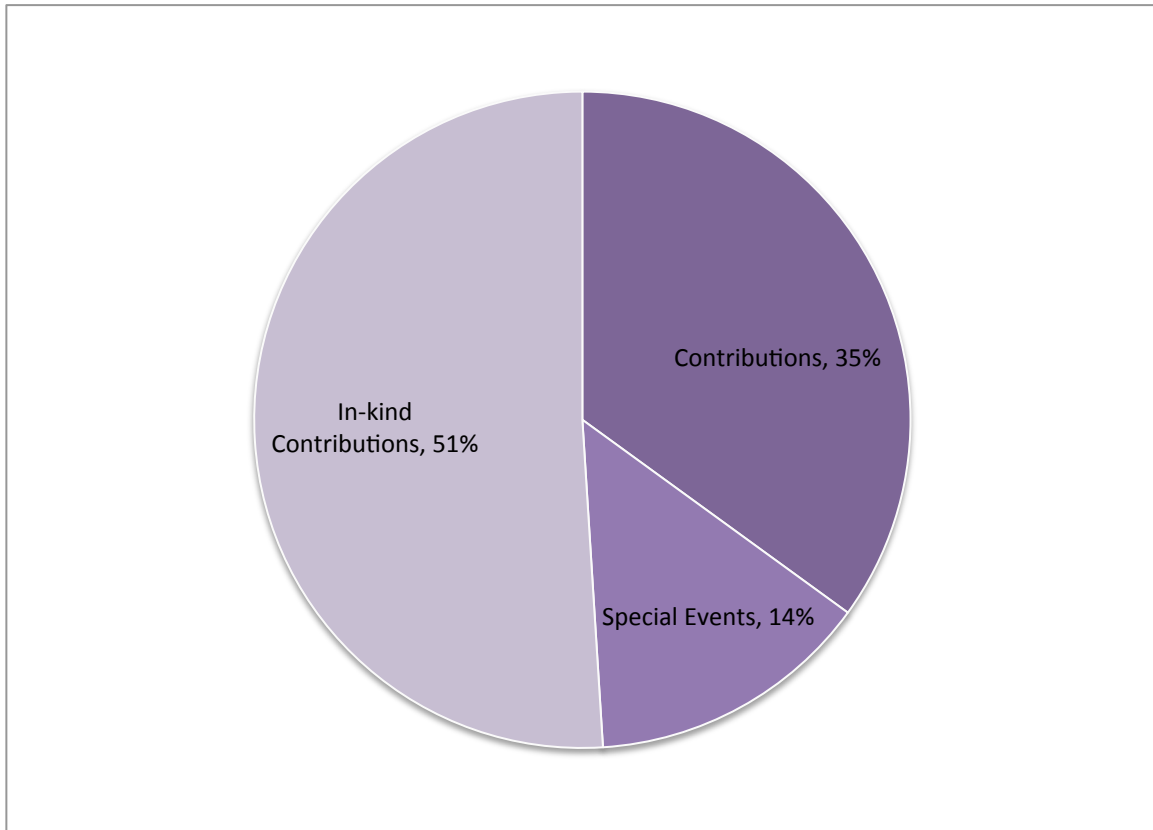


- In December of 2011 we were given the opportunity to expand our physical office space in order to keep up with our program's rapid expansion. We now have a 1,600 sq. ft., 8 room office located in Decatur.
- Ahimsa House continued to grow its internship program in 2011. This year we had interns from Kennesaw State University and Georgia State University with majors including Political Science, Criminal Justice, Sociology and Human Services.

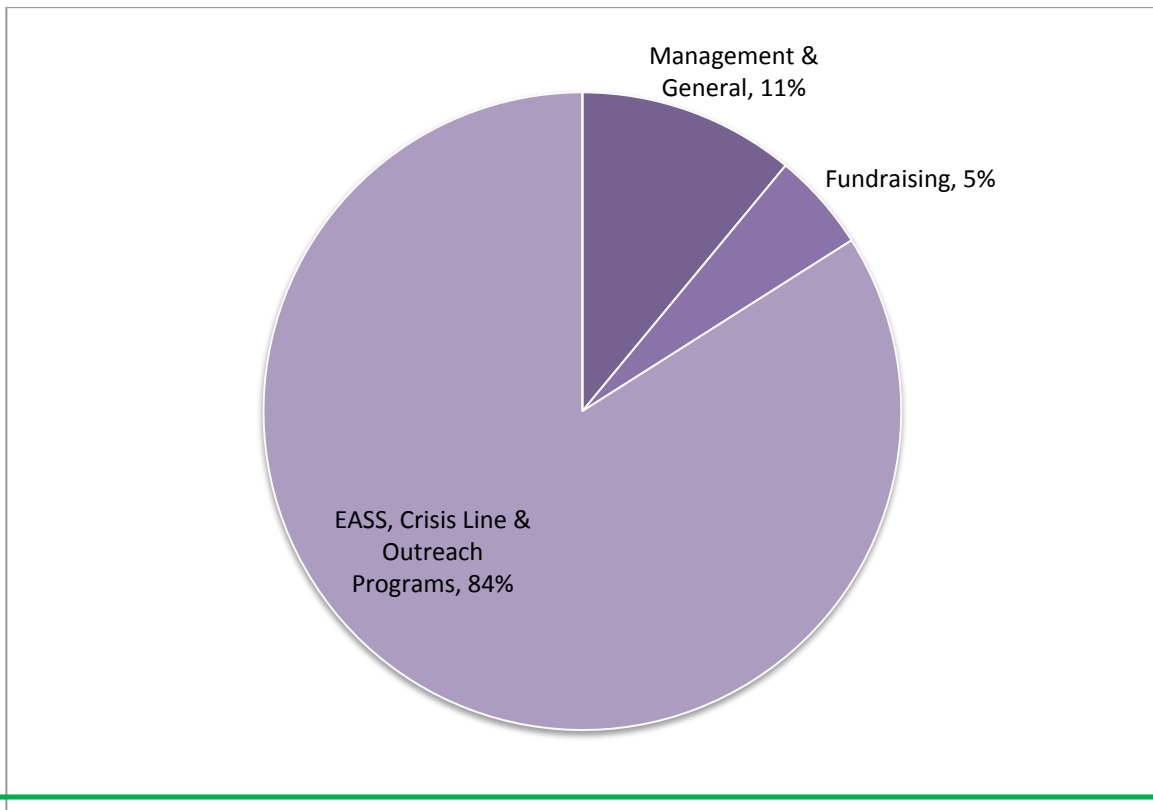
- 2011 again saw an unprecedented increase in victims reaching out to Ahimsa House for assistance. We believe this is due to hard work of our volunteers, staff, board of directors and supporters for getting the word out to communities throughout Georgia that Ahimsa House can help victims of domestic violence with their pets:
 - In 2011 Ahimsa House received 662 crisis calls
 - We received 105 requests for emergency animal safehousing
 - 2011 saw a total of 3,709 nights compared to 3,591 of safe shelter for pets.
- Ahimsa House staff and volunteers also completed 143 pet transports
- This year, we were selected for a federal grant but due to a decrease in government funding, we were not able to be granted the funds
- In 2011, we completed a total of 87 outreach events (21% increase from 2010); this includes 21 training presentations, 13 community presentations, 11 professional/interdisciplinary meetings and tabling at 55 events.
- In July 2011 Ahimsa House won a new Toyota Highlander Hybrid through Toyota's 100 Cars for Good Program! This has assisted us in keeping up with the growth of the organization by allowing more room for transports and carrying equipment to accommodate our increase in outreach events!



Funding Distribution FY 2011



Expenditures FY 2011





“Escaping from domestic violence is hard on the entire family. Sometimes, the members you expect to be least impacted, are the most! She was hit by a car after we escaped the violence and we did not know what to do. Thanks to... Ahimsa House, our dog is alive! Ahimsa House was able to fund the surgery required to amputate her leg and save her life. On my son’s 18th birthday, we were able to be reunited as a family once again! “

~ Terri Fransen
An Ahimsa House Client



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