



2014 Annual Report

Helping Human and Animal Victims of Domestic Violence 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 due 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 better serve victims statewide. In March 2007, Ahimsa House launched the Direct Services Program, which houses animals via a network of foster homes and boarding facilities across the state.

To date, Ahimsa House has provided over 53,000 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 and of the Cobb, Cherokee, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Paulding, Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Rockdale and Walton County Family Violence Task Forces. We are certified as a victim services provider agency by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Ahimsa House FY14 Board of Directors

Carrie Montagna-Ward, President
Marketing Manager, McKesson

Heather Siler, Treasurer
Director, Business Analysis, Guidant Group

Kendra Westphal, Secretary
Executive Recruiter, AquantUS, LLC

Cheri Fulginiti
Vice President, Engineering, UPS

Christi Burton
Sales Consultant, Vera Bradley

Ana Minter
Director, Financial Solutions, Guidant Group

Lisa R. Bugni, Esq., Secretary
Partner, Alston and Bird

Shannon Weathers
General Counsel, Council of Superior Court Judges

Mary Ann Downey
HR Metrics Coach, Shoot the Moon Services, LLC

Advisory Council

David Bressman, DVM
Owner, Lenox Pet Hospital

Joey Brooks
Animal Cruelty Investigator, Gwinnett County

Emily Christie
Founder, Ahimsa House

Christine Cox, Esq.
Attorney

Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Esq.
Inspector General, Office of Secretary of State Karen Handel

Melinda Merck, DVM
Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics
Anti-Cruelty Initiatives, ASPCA

Merrie Rennard, LMSW
Ph.D. Fellow, Veterinary Social Work Program, University of Tennessee

Kelly Trogdon, DVM
Owner, Faithful Friend Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Stephen Walker
Owner, S. R. Walker Designs

Annamarie Keck
Community Member

A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends & Supporters,

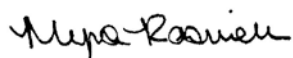
Ahimsa House celebrated our 10th Anniversary this year with great successes. Having been with the organization for eight years, but only serving as Executive Director for one, I am so proud of all we have accomplished in the last decade.

2013 was an exciting year for Ahimsa House. We were finally able to hire our much needed third staff member. Two of us running a statewide program (in a state with 159 counties), with ever increasing demand for services, was beginning to become impossible. Thanks to an increase in income from our special events and additional support from private foundations, Ahimsa House was able to hire a Victim Services Advocate to help answer the 24-hour crisis line, provide intake to our program, and coordinate the logistics of pets in our program. This has been essential in providing quality services to the human and animal victims of domestic violence.

Looking ahead, 2014 will be a year of great change for our organization. After six years of leadership at Ahimsa House, our fearless leader, Dr. Maya Gupta, accepted a position with Animals and Society Institute. Maya has done so much to grow this organization to the thriving agency we are today. In December, after working in a direct services capacity with Ahimsa House for nearly seven years, I was thrilled to accept the offer of Executive Director from our Board of Directors. Having worked side by side with Maya for so long, I will miss her dearly. She is a great inspiration and I have big shoes to fill.

I am so proud to be part of an organization with amazing supporters like ours. Our volunteers, followers and donors make the work we do possible. Though we have come such a long way, there is much more to accomplish and I look forward to accepting that challenge. Read on to learn more about the year behind us.

With sincerest thanks for your support,

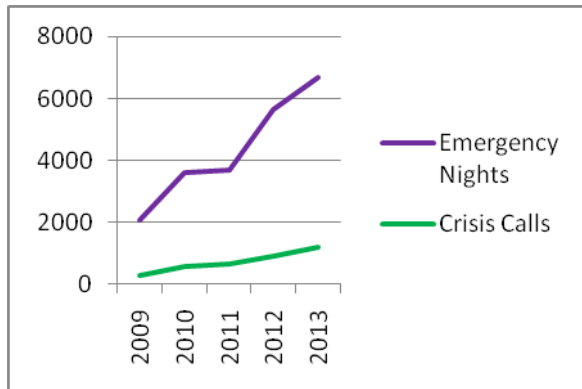


Myra Rasnick
Executive Director



Ahimsa House's Service to the Community in 2013

Thanks to increased awareness, Ahimsa House had a record-breaking year



Increase over 2012

Crisis calls:	Up 30%
Request for Services:	Up 26%
Pet Shelter Nights:	Up 19%
Clients Served:	Up 24%
Animal Transports:	Up 25%

415

human victims of domestic violence
have reached safety thanks to Ahimsa
House





725

number of animal victims of domestic violence that have reached safety

Frances' Story (Warning: Graphic Story)

It was just another normal night for “Frances;” she had finished reading her book and taken a shower before lying down in her bed to sleep. Her boyfriend was out with his friends drinking and she didn’t expect him to return home until early the next morning. Frances knew that he had always had a bad attitude and temper, and he had shoved her in the past. She is legally blind from glaucoma, but when she saw a light on near the front of the house, she knew something was wrong. When she got up to check, her boyfriend grabbed her by the neck and struck her in the chest. She was confused and did not register what was happening until she saw the blade of the knife come down again into her stomach this time. He pinned her down to the ground and beat her repeatedly over the head with a bat. No one seemed to hear her screams and pleas for help as he forced his hands down her throat and tried to crush her windpipe. Next, he bit her face, leaving teeth marks all along her left jaw, busted her mouth open with the back of his hand, and nearly ripped the tongue out of her mouth. At this point, Frances could feel her life leaving her body and only got enough energy to push her attacker away when she heard her mother’s voice telling her to get up. She managed to get a hold of the bat and hit him in the head before running out the front door. Frances crawled through the woods and across barbed wire to get to the street. When she saw a car coming, our client stood in the middle of the street until the car came to a stop inches from her broken body. She made it to the hospital and survived her attack despite sustaining permanent injuries and her heart stopping multiple times that night.

Ahimsa House foster volunteers lovingly cared for Frances’ pets while her body healed and she got established in a safe new location. She even needed to move many

counties away to be safe from her abuser, and we brought her pets to her (along with all the pet supplies needed to start her new life) once she was ready now she is doing well.

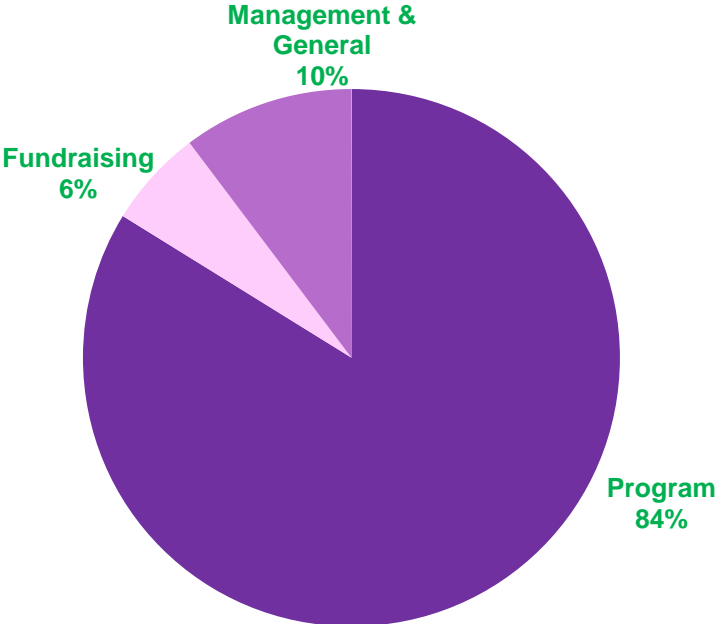
The Ahimsa House community works around the clock to make sure that victims like Frances are reunited with their pets after they escape their abusers. Frances has had her dog since she was a puppy and she is not only like a child to her, but also acts as a second set of eyes. She also has a rescued cat that she brought in one cold winter night. When we reunited Frances with her pets, she was extremely thankful and so happy to have her babies back.

2013 Accomplishments

- Ahimsa House accepts any and all pets. The most exciting pet of 2013 was a bearded dragon!
- Many families have multiple pets. We do not turn victims away based on the number of animals they have in a home. In September, we had a request to assist a client with her 53 birds.
- From 2007-2013, Ahimsa House served the entire state of Georgia with only 2 staff members. In January 2013, a third position, Victim Services Advocate, was opened.
- An increase in services provided means an increase in expenses. Thanks to our amazing partners, we received **\$63,633.83** in veterinary/boarding in-kind donations.
- Our 2nd Annual Walk, Wag, N' Run 5K and Fun Run was a huge success. We had over 400 participants and raised over \$10,000.
- In order for some victims to obtain safety, they have to flee the state. This can become a problem for victims that have pets as animal transportation is pricey and time consuming. Ahimsa House assisted in multiple cross-country pet transports.
 - One family escaped to Arizona. Our client had a special needs son who required a service dog. Unfortunately, the dog was not allowed to travel on the bus with the family so we purchased a plane ticket. He was able to fly and arrive by the time the family did.

Reports

Expenditures FY13





Ahimsa House
P.O. Box 8181
Atlanta, GA 31106

24 Hour Crisis Line: (404) 452-6248

Admin Line: (404) 496-4038

e-mail: info@ahimsahouse.org

www.ahimsahouse.org