

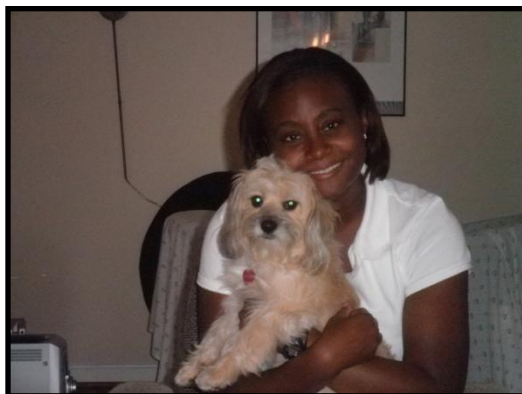


2010 Annual Report

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 18,000 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 FY10 Board of Directors

Regina Dougherty, President
CPA

Christy Cardina
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Rachel Knowles, Treasurer
CPA

Cheri Fulginiti
Vice President, Engineering, U.P.S

Lisa R. Bugni, Esq., Secretary
Attorney

Tiffany Hoffine
CPA

Carole Baker
Community Member

Erin Fortney
Executive Director, Find A Way Home

Robin Crawford
Owner, Dogma Dog Care

Ana Lenoir
Senior Associate, KPMG LLP Advisory Practice

JoAnna Pera
VP of Marketing, Shoreline Healthcare

Morieka Johnson
Communications, Atlanta Journal Constitution

Advisory Council

David Bressman, DVM
Owner, Lenox Pet Hospital

Aline Rafi
Coordinator of Sexual Assault Prevention Education and Response, Emory University

Joey Brooks
Animal Cruelty Investigator, Gwinnett County

Emily Christie
Founder, Ahimsa House
Ms. Christie is a graduate of Goddard College where she majored in social justice, religion, and psychology.

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

Dear Friends,

As we look back at 2010, we are continually amazed by the progress we have seen here at Ahimsa House over the fairly short time since our founding in 2004 (and moreover, since the substantial redesign of our programs in 2007). As a small organization, our mission to provide services to the entire state of Georgia is driven not by our capacity, but by the need for the work we do—we remain the only organization of our kind in the state. However, as we tackle this massive task, we are continually learning new ways to meet our mission in more cost-effective, efficient ways utilizing the resources we have. We hope you will enjoy reading about our accomplishments in the pages to follow.

While nonprofits across the country continued to feel the pinch of the economic slowdown in 2010, Ahimsa House's support from both individual donors and business/corporate partners remained strong. Since we receive no government funding, we are especially grateful to our loyal friends who continue to support our work through their cash contributions, matching gifts, in-kind donations, volunteer hours, and by attending our special events. As we work to grow to meet the unprecedented increase in demand for our services seen in 2010, we hope you will grow with us through your ongoing support—so that no victim of domestic violence in Georgia has to choose between personal safety and the safety of a beloved pet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maya Gupta', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Maya Gupta, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Ahimsa House
Service to the Community
2010

Service Statistics

Crisis Calls:

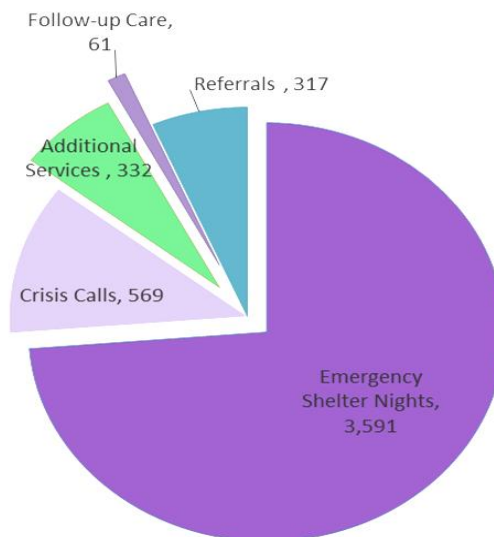
569

Emergency Shelter Nights Provided:

3,591

Additional Services Provided:

332



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

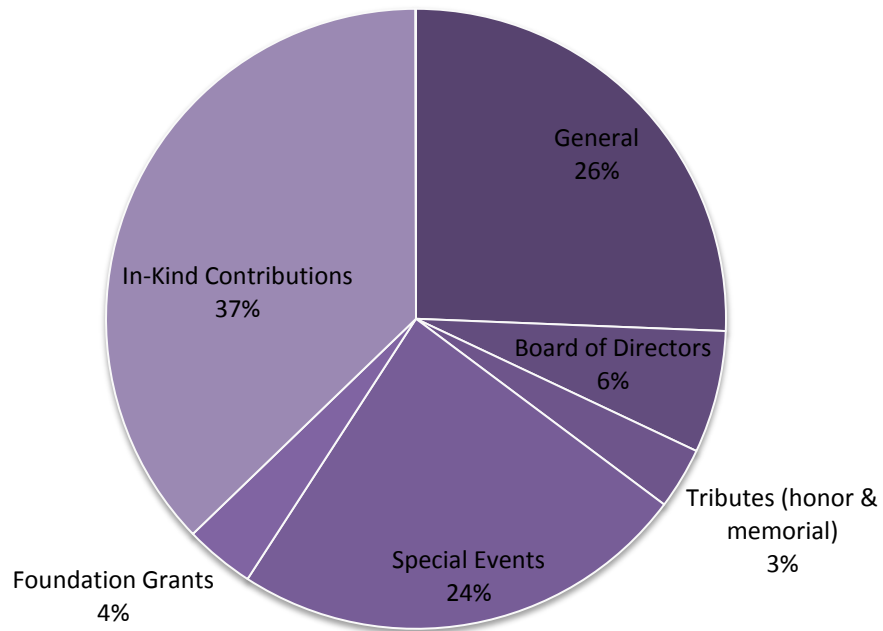
FY 2010 Accomplishments



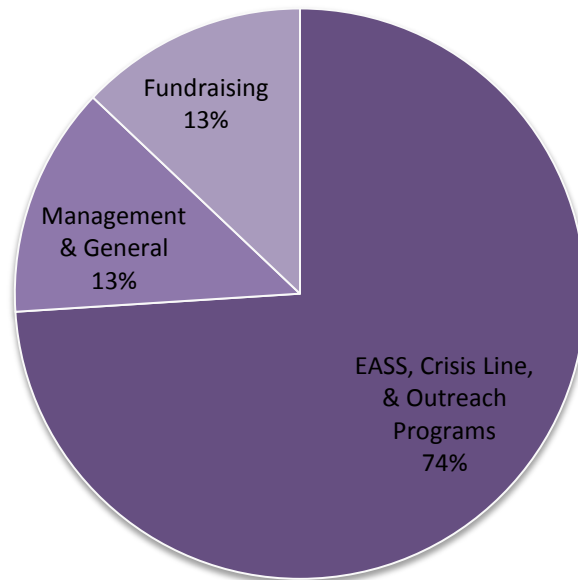
- In January of 2010 Ahimsa House rented an office in East Decatur Station, providing a home base for our staff, volunteers and board members.
 - In April 2010, we were able to hire our first two full time staff positions: Dr. Maya Gupta, Executive Director and Myra Rasnick, Program Services Coordinator.
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- In the Fall of 2010 Ahimsa House launched its internship program. Caitlin McCook, a Women's Studies major at the University of Georgia completed a semester long Program Services Internship with Ahimsa House, making her our first intern. Caitlin worked on a database of safehouse services programs in other states.
 - 2010 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 2010 Ahimsa House received 569 crisis calls, more than double the amount in 2009.
 - We received 112 requests for emergency animal safehousing, more than double the previous year.
 - 2010 saw a total of 3,591 nights compared to 2,058 of safe shelter for pets.
 - Ahimsa House staff and volunteers also completed 142 pet transports, again, double the transports of 2009.
 - Ahimsa House was also able to help victims with their pets in many new ways. We were able to pay pet deposits for clients. We provided one client with an airline approved carrier so that she and her beloved shih tzu could escape to another state together. We were able to treat another dog in our program for heartworms and she is now recovering.
 - Ahimsa House took in several new species of pets for victims of domestic violence in 2010. Our program had our first rat, tortoise, snake and a ferret (that we could not resist photographing with our brochure while hanging out in the office)!!



Funding Distribution FY 2010



Expenditures FY 2010



*This is based on an unaudited financial statement. An audited financial statement will become available Fall 2011.



“Dear Ahimsa House,

Words cannot convey how grateful I am for you and your organization’s assistance in funding the housing and care of my dog. ‘Buddy’ has been the difference between sanity and insanity for me during this difficult time in my life. My stay at the shelter was a lot less stressful knowing that my ‘Buddy’ was going to be all right too! I was able to visit my dog anytime I wanted to, which I did frequently because of your generosity. There is no dollar value or price that can be placed on what you did for me and my dog. He IS my family and he is all that I have right now. As a college graduate and professional, it has been very difficult to not be able to take care of myself. But, thanks to organizations like yours - you are making a difference for women like me. ‘Buddy’ and I are now united again and he is really happy in our new home and I am working hard to get back on my feet. Thank you!”

~An Ahimsa House Client



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