

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

AHIMSA HOUSE



OVER 90% of victims who utilized the Ahimsa House program agree that our services make it easier to get their pets and themselves to safety.

MISSION

In families affected by domestic violence, pets are also at risk. Abusers threaten, injure, and kill family pets to terrorize others in the home--yet most domestic violence shelters are unable to allow pets to accompany their owners to safety. Nearly 50% of individuals delay escaping the abuse because of concern about their pets. Ahimsa House, meaning "nonviolence," is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the links between domestic violence and animal abuse. Anywhere in Georgia and at no charge, Ahimsa House provides emergency pet safehousing, veterinary care, pet-related safety planning, legal advocacy, a 24-hour crisis line, outreach programs, and other services to help the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together.

VISION

A world where humans and animals live free from domestic violence.

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OUR SERVICES

EMERGENCY, confidential housing of the pets (any type!) of domestic violence victims who are seeking safety.

SAFE transportation of pets to foster homes and veterinarians.

PREVENTIVE veterinary care, as well as treatment for illnesses or injuries due to abuse.

24-HOUR crisis line for victims and advocates, providing crisis intervention, community referrals, and safety planning.

LEGAL ADVOCACY to assist victims in including their pets on temporary protective orders

PET SUPPLIES, pet food, payment of pet deposits, and other assistance victims may need in order to move forward with their lives together with their pets after reaching safety.

TRAINING for human services and animal protection agencies on the links between animal abuse and domestic violence.

DIRECT OUTREACH to the public to raise awareness.

UP TO 71% OF VICTIMS ENTERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS REPORT THAT THEIR ABUSERS THREATENED, INJURED, OR KILLED THE FAMILY PET.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Why Ahimsa House?

The Georgia Commission on Family Violence notes that in 2015 there were 140 domestic violence-related deaths in Georgia, and unfortunately that is the highest number since the commission began recording them ten years ago. We know that, according to a study of domestic violence shelters, that half of all victims of domestic violence delay seeking safety from an abusive situation because of concerns about their beloved pet-- and this number increases dramatically if their abuser has threatened, harmed, or even killed their pet in the past. In Georgia, Ahimsa House's wraparound services are working towards lowering these numbers in order for more people and pets to seek safety together.

First, Ahimsa House offers a state-

wide 24-7 hotline that is open to domestic violence victims and their advocates. Our hotline connects callers to trained volunteers and staff who can offer crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to domestic violence shelters. Often these crisis calls involve a victim looking for help to placing their pet. While there are currently only 4 shelters that even accept animals in the entire state-- which are limited to using exterior kennels when Georgia weather is safe and habitable for companion animals-- Ahimsa House offers a solution via their network of safe, anonymous foster homes and veterinary and boarding partners that will house pets of victims while the victims themselves seek shelter. By offering this service, Ahimsa House has taken away one big reason why victims state they stay in an abusive relationship – they don't want to leave their animals behind or lose

them all together. Ahimsa House's services prevent the pets of victims from being abandoned, abused, or even surrendered to animal shelters to be re-homed.

Secondly, the pets of victims stay with Ahimsa House for approximately 60 days, during which time we evaluate their health and provide the necessary preventive and emergency veterinary care. All animals are up to date on annual vaccines, spayed or neutered, provided much-needed flea and heartworm preventive, and treated for injuries related to abuse. Ahimsa House strives for each pet to be healthy so that when they are reunited with their families they can lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Lastly, Ahimsa House offers services to ensure that our clients are reclaiming their pets in a sustainable manner and are all set for their new and safe futures. We provide pet deposit assistance and help with pet supplies such as food, beds, collars and leashes. We also partner with domestic violence agencies across the state so that clients who need outreach and follow-up services have access to local advocates.

This triple aim approach ensures that humans AND their pets get safe and stay safe. Without Ahimsa House, over 200 pets and their loving families may not have left their abusers last year. Thanks to us, they are all living happier, safer lives... together.

There are over 38,000 registered 501(c)(3) non-profits in Georgia. And I have no doubt that every single one of them works hard to improve the education, health and wellness of our state. But I hope that when you look to offering financial or volunteer support this next year, that you'll think of Ahimsa House and the difference we are making to end domestic violence in Georgia and making a safer community for us all. Thank you.

--Carrie Montagna-Ward,
Board President



2015 PROGRAM STATISTICS



2011 CRISIS CALLS



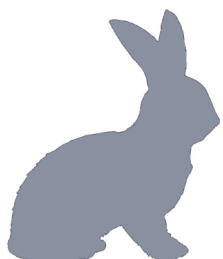
127 NEW DIRECT SERVICE CLIENTS



123 DOGS RECEIVED



64 CATS RECEIVED



14 “OTHER” ANIMALS RECEIVED



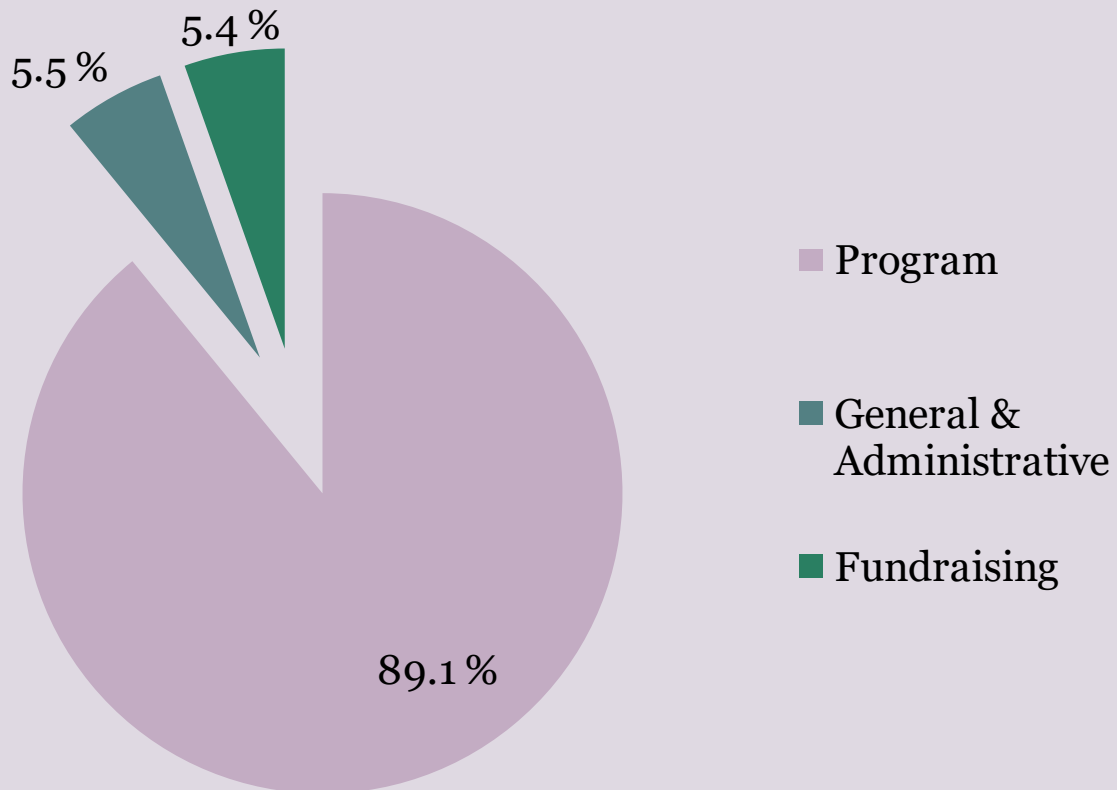
9364 SAFE NIGHTS PROVIDED

Today, Brittany is well on the road to recovery. Ahimsa House staff members had the privilege of escorting Yin and Yang to visit her for a heartfelt reunion; the first time Brittany had seen her precious dogs since that night in October. Ahimsa House will care for her pets until Brittany is physically able to reclaim them permanently. Until then, we will continue to be inspired by Brittany's story – a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the magnitude of what can be done when we join together to serve survivors of domestic violence.



2015 FINANCES

2015 EXPENDITURES



Average Cost Per Case

\$100	Preventive Veterinary Care for One Pet
\$250	Pet Deposit
\$500	Cost Per Case
\$1000	Average Cost Per Emergency Surgery
\$5000	One Month of Boarding and Veterinary Care for All Program Animals

WE DID IT!

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE 2015 ANNUAL GALA was a huge success, raising over \$53,000 and taking place for the first year ever at The Venetian Room in Downtown Atlanta.

APPEARED AS A GUEST on the Bruce & Hobbes podcast to raise awareness of our services and the link between domestic violence & animal cruelty.

PRESENTED AT THE Animal Law Source's Animal Law & Enforcement / Animal Shelter Symposium.

HIRED a fourth staff member to serve as Outreach Advocate, and gained funding to hire a fifth in 2016!

REACHED A RECORD NUMBER of new pets in one month: 38 total dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and parrots!

BRAND-NEW, PET-FRIENDLY floors for our administrative office were installed at no cost to Ahimsa House (both the floors and labor were donated).

UTILIZED GOFUNDME to raise money for a much-needed storage shed for pet supplies, food, and outreach materials, which was erected in December.

IN ADDITION TO ALL OF OUR OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AT THE GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE 2015 ANNUAL FAMILY VIOLENCE CONFERENCE AHIMSA HOUSE WAS REWARDED TASK FORCE MEMBER OF THE YEAR. THAT IS JUST ONE WAY AHIMSA HOUSE HAS EXCELLED IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN THE PAST YEAR.

133

Total outreach efforts completed

56

Professional trainings, meetings, and consults

77

Community events (presentations, booths at outreach events, and an interview with People TV)

12

Outreach efforts to non-Metro counties

31

Counties to go!

AHIMSA HOUSE SERVES THE ENTIRE STATE OF GEORGIA, AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO INCREASING COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS OF OUR SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED RURAL AREAS.

**AHIMSA HOUSE
STAFF HAS OVER 25
YEARS OF COMBINED
EXPERIENCE IN
VICTIM ADVOCACY**

2 0 1 5 S T A F F

Myra Rasnick
Executive Director

Shannon Oxford
Program Services Coordinator

Sally Terrell
Victim Services Advocate

Sarah Overton
Outreach Advocate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carrie Montagna-Ward, President
Marketing Manager, McKesson

Cheri Fulginiti, Vice President
Engineering, UPS

Heather Siler, Treasurer
Director, Business Analysis,
Guidant Group

Kendra Westphal, Secretary
Executive Recruiter, AquantUs, LLC

Ana Minter
Director, Financial Solutions,
Guidant Group

Christi Burton
Sales Consultant, Vera Bradley

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

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

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

Annamarie Keck
Community Member

Stephen Walker
Owner, S. R. Walker Designs

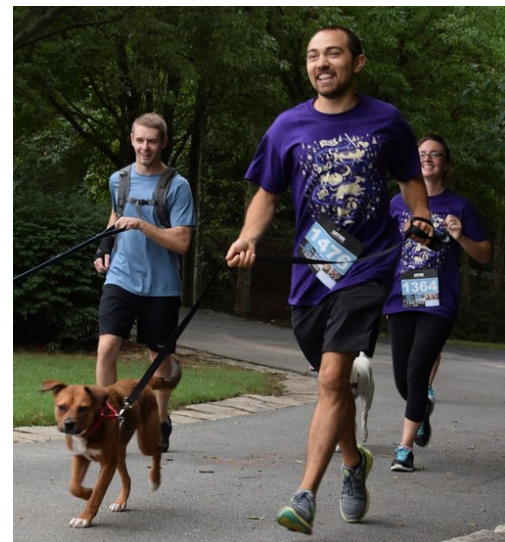
Kelly Trogdon, DVM
Owner, Faithful Friend Mobile
Veterinary Clinic

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

Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Esq.
Inspector General, Office of Secre-
tary of State Karen Handel

WALK. WAG. RUN.

OUR 4TH ANNUAL Walk, Wag, N' Run 5k and fun run raised over \$16,000 for victims of domestic violence and their pets. Thank you to our participants, volunteers, sponsors, and vendors!



For the first year ever, Ahimsa House hosted a t-shirt design contest. Utilizing social media, the contest attracted several designs and hundreds of votes. Congratulations to Kirk Wells of Modo Modo, the designer of the winning shirt!

CAROL NEAL ROSSI, WHO IS PICTURED BELOW WITH HER FAMILY AT THE 2014 RACE, HAS BEEN A VOLUNTEER WITH AHIMSA HOUSE FOR YEARS. SHE SAYS,



"It is an absolute joy to support and volunteer with Ahimsa House. On the Walk, Wag 'n Run committee, I get to combine all of my favorite things: my love of animals, running, working with dedicated community members, and supporting violence prevention. It's a fun way to give back and stay healthy and connect with new volunteers.

"I first learned about Ahimsa House at a Walk, Wag, 'n Run 4 years ago and now I chair the event and serve on its Board. This organization, and the people who work there and the volunteers who serve its mission, fulfills an incredible need in our community: Helping people and pets escape domestic violence and reach safety together. Come and figure out where your talents can fit. We'll find a way that you can help and you won't be sorry!!"

2015 COMMITTEE

Carol Neal Rossi

Sara Wiles

Cheri Fulginiti

Myra Rasnick

Meghan Farley

Shannon Oxford

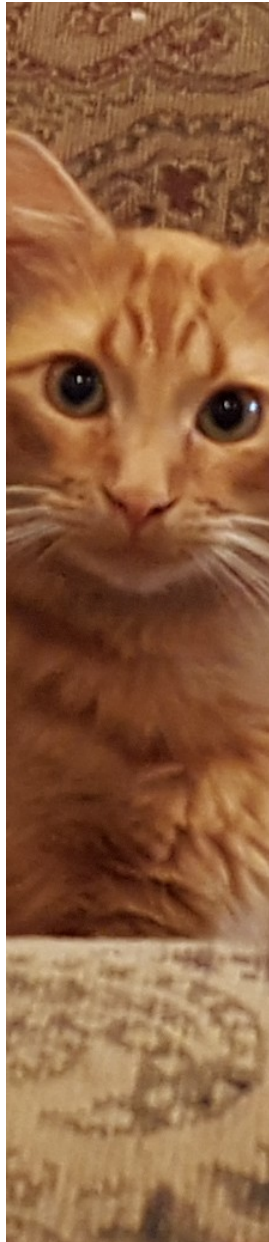
Cathy McMahon-Fowlkes

Sally Terrell

Lauren Vickers

Sarah Overton

IN 2015, 92% of
pets in our program were
successfully reunited
with their owners!





LEND A HAND

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE

Assist staff by answering calls from victims in need of Ahimsa House services and callers across the state.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Represent Ahimsa House at local festivals and rescue events to spread the word about our services and find supporters.

TRANSPORT ANIMALS

Safely transport pets to veterinary appointments, foster homes, and reunifications on your availability.

FOSTER PETS

One of the greatest gifts you can give an animal in need is love and a safe place to be. All supplies and costs are covered.

WISHLIST

Paper Office Supplies
Printer Cartridges
Cat Scratching Posts
Folding Wire Crates (All Sizes)
Allergy-Free Food
Heartworm and Flea Preventive

Litter and Litter Boxes
Break-away Cat Collars
Plastic Storage Bins
Pet Grooming Wipes
Gift Cards for General or
Pet Retailers

DONATE
TODAY

DONATIONS FROM COMPASSIONATE people help us continue our lifesaving work. Ahimsa House relies heavily on our donors to provide care for the pets in our program. Your donation ensures that pets like Yin and Yang can be with their owners for a fresh start, that their owners don't have to make the dangerous decision to delay leaving or even stay in an abusive situation for their pets' sakes, and that victims of domestic violence across the state of Georgia have a resource that they can count on to keep their family safe and together.

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