

PAWSITIVE PANTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2024



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS:

As a grassroots organization run by volunteers, our mission is to make an impact on the daily lives and stability of families experiencing financial hardship - by ensuring they can feed and stay together with their beloved pets.

You will read in the following pages that we serve as a safety net program in both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the state of Vermont. We work collaboratively to build trusting and strategic partnerships with human food pantries, retailers, and philanthropic donors to ensure pets stay in loving homes and out of our often overcrowded animal shelter systems.

The impact of keeping pets nourished, on both people and their pets, cannot be understated. Pets provide families, particularly those experiencing hardship, with emotional support, routine, connection, and stress relief.

Within our annual report we've shared some highlights from the year, as well as impact numbers for the families we've served. Looking ahead, as the need for our services continue to grow, we will pursue our work, supporting those experiencing food insecurity, and the pets that are members of their family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy LeBaron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stacy LeBaron

President

PAWSitive Pantry

stacy@pawsitivepantry.org

978.239.2090

ABOUT US



OUR MISSION

PAWSitive Pantry's mission is to provide families with essential pet food, when it's needed the most. Our goal is to ensure no pets go hungry and that they stay in their families' homes and out of shelters.

WHY WE'RE NEEDED

It is estimated that a quarter of the population is pet food insecure. Greater Boston Food Bank's 2024 [report on Food Equity and Access in Massachusetts](#) found that households experiencing food insecurity continue to make significant financial trade-offs and utilize a variety of coping strategies to alleviate hunger. According to [Hunger Free Vermont](#), right now, 2 in 5 people in Vermont are experiencing hunger, with thousands of people struggling to afford enough food for themselves and their families.



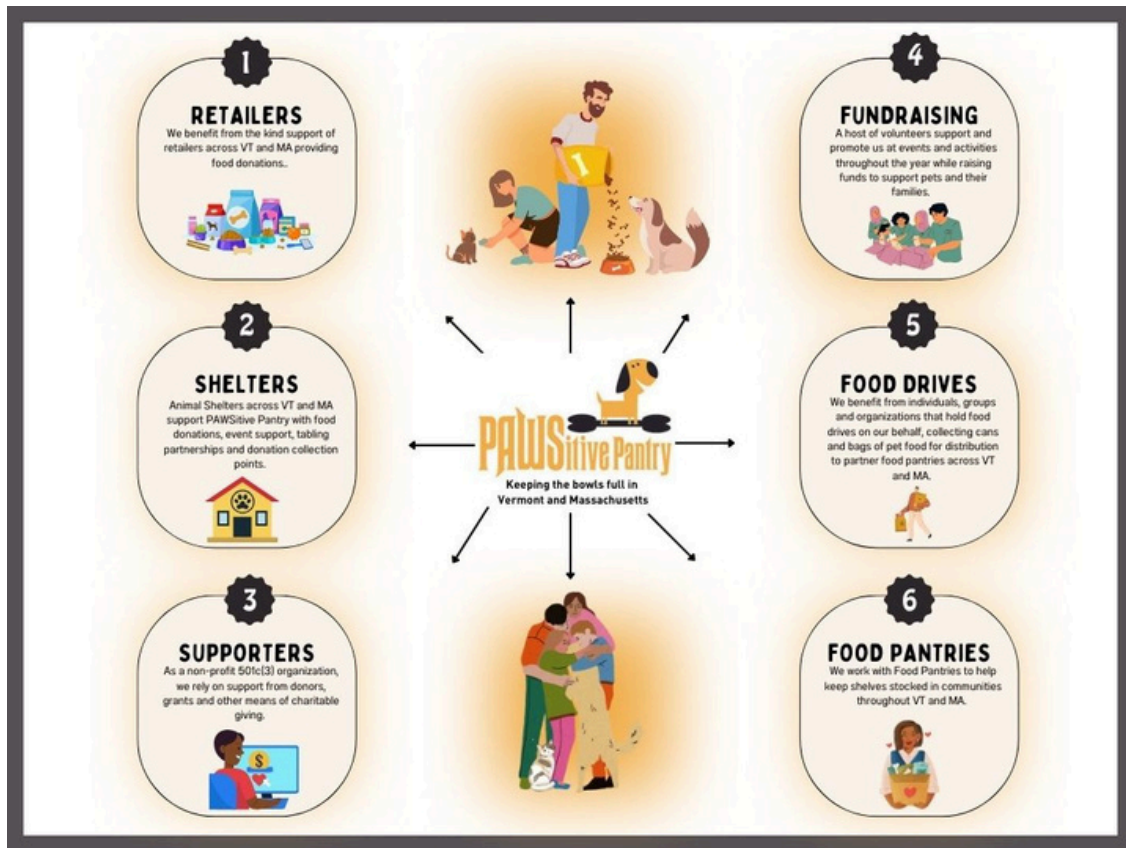
OUR HISTORY

PAWSitive Pantry was founded in 2008 to serve the needs of pet owning families in the Mad River Valley, Vermont. In 2014, a collaboration was initiated with the Vermont Foodbank to expand PAWSitive Pantry's reach to cover the entire state. In 2020, due to the needs of pet-owning families in Massachusetts and the stress of COVID-19, the organization began its work in Massachusetts. To date, PAWSitive Pantry has delivered over 450,000 lbs of pet food.

POPULATIONS WE SERVE

PAWSitive Pantry aims to serve the needs of families and their pets across Vermont and Massachusetts through collaborations with different organizations in both states. These organizations range from social service groups, food shelves, animal shelters, retailers and other businesses.

HOW WE OPERATE



01.

Retailers: We benefit from the support of retailers that provide food donations across Vermont and Massachusetts

04.

Fundraisers: A host of volunteers support and promote us at events and activities throughout the year while raising funds to support pets and their families.

02.

Animal Shelters: Organizations across Vermont and Massachusetts support PAWSitive Pantry with food donations, event support, tabling partnerships, and donation collection points.

05.

Food Drive Organizers: We benefit from individuals, groups and organizations that hold food drives on our behalf, collecting cans and bags of pet food for distribution to partner food pantries across Vermont and Massachusetts.

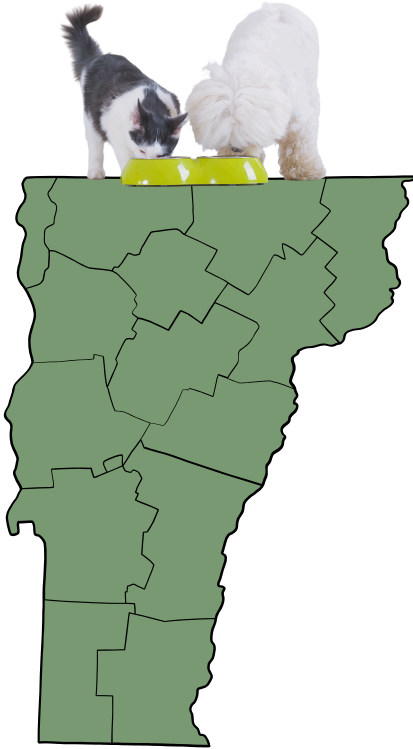
03.

Donors: As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely on support from donors, grants, and other means of charitable giving.

06.

Food Pantries: We work with food pantries to help keep shelves stocked in communities throughout Vermont and Massachusetts.

IMPACT VERMONT



According to the
[USDA's Economic
Research
Service](#),
Vermont
experiences 9.2%
Food Insecurity
(2021-2023)

77,110

***TOTAL LBS OF CAT FOOD
DISTRIBUTED BY THE
VERMONT FOOD BANK**

102,110

***TOTAL LBS OF DOG FOOD
DISTRIBUTED BY THE VERMONT
FOOD BANK**

**This is what some of our partner food centers across Vermont
had to say about the continuous need for pet food:**

"There is a HUGE need for it!"

- Morrisville, VT

**"The pet food is gone within the next day after it gets put out on the food
shelf, showing us there is a real need for it."**

- Richmond, VT

**"Having the ability to provide more pet food would be incredibly helpful to
our clients."**

- Lyndonville, VT

**"Pet food is so important to all our members and we can never have
enough."**

- Fairhaven, VT

*Total Lbs includes contributions from PAWSitive Pantry and others

IMPACT

MASSACHUSETTS



According to the Greater Boston Food Bank, 34 percent of households in Massachusetts are food insecure - translating to approximately 1.9 million or 1 in 3 people in the state.

3,955

FAMILIES SERVED

11,600

BAGS OF DRY CAT FOOD
DONATED

1,286

BAGS OF DRY DOG FOOD
DONATED

ASHBURNHAM	MARLBOROUGH
ATHOL	MONTACHUSETT
BARRE	ORANGE
BELLINGHAM	ROSLINDALE
DEDHAM	SALISBURY
EAST BOSTON	TEMPLETON
GARDNER	WAKEFIELD
HYDE PARK	WENDELL
JAMAICA PLAIN	WEST ROXBURY
LEOMINSTER	

3,480

CANS OF WET CAT FOOD
DONATED

8,950

CANS OF WET DOG FOOD
DONATED

2,400

POUNDS OF DRY CAT FOOD
DONATED

6,000

POUNDS OF DRY DOG FOOD
DONATED

600

PACKAGES OF CAT TREATS
DONATED

600

PACKAGES OF DOG TREATS
DONATED

500

POUNDS OF CAT LITTER
DONATED

OUR REACH

***FOOD PANTRIES AND SHELVES THAT HAVE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN MASSACHUSETTS:**

ABCD Head Start of East Boston
21 Meridian Street
East Boston, MA

Blake Estates Senior Housing
1344 Hyde Park Ave
Hyde Park, MA

Boston Housing Authority,
Hassan Development Food Pantry
705 River St.
Hyde Park, MA

Boston Housing Authority,
Mildred Hailey Apartments Food Pantry
30 Bickford St.
Jamaica Plain, MA

Boston Housing Authority,
Washington Beech Food Pantry
Washington St.
Roslindale, MA

Dedham Food Pantry
600 Washington St.
Dedham, MA

Gardner Animal Shelter
899 W Broadway
Gardner, MA

Hyde Park Food Pop-up (various sites)

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
1158 S Main St.
Bellingham, MA

Marlborough Food Cupboard
255 Main St.
Marlborough, MA

Mount of Olives and Helping Plates Food Pantry
1283 Hyde Park Ave.
Hyde Park, MA

Our Lady Immaculate
192 School St.
Athol, MA

PAWS Wakefield
411 Lowell St.
Wakefield, MA

Rose's Bounty - West Roxbury Food Pantry
West Roxbury, MA



*Not an exhaustive list

PAWSITIVE PANTRY IN THE M'EWS

Stacy LeBaron, President of PAWSitive Pantry was a guest on the December 5th episode of the podcast [All My Children Wear Fur Coats](#), examining the growing pet affordability crisis and explaining how PAWSitive Pantry is helping keep families and their beloved pets together.

The podcast was also featured in the [Animal Care Trust USA](#) blog.



All My Children Wear Fur Coats with Peggy Hoyt

All My Children Wear Fur Coats with attorney, animal advocate and pet mom Peggy Hoyt is a weekly

 Buzzsprout



Stacy LeBaron - PAWSitive Pantry

This week, on All My Children Wear Fur Coats, Stacy LeBaron examined the growing pet affordability crisis and explained how PAWSitive pantry is helpi...

 Animal Care Trust USA / Jan 14

Stacy joined [Free Range](#) with Host [Sal Spinosa](#) on Mad River Valley Television to discuss her work at PAWSitive Pantry and our mission to help pet owners in Vermont and Massachusetts find free cat and dog food when they are in need. Stacy chats about the organization's partnership with the Vermont Food Bank, how PAWSitive Pantry's pet food distribution works, and how people can access their services.



THE NEED FOR OUR WORK

The Struggle of Seeking Shelter With Pets

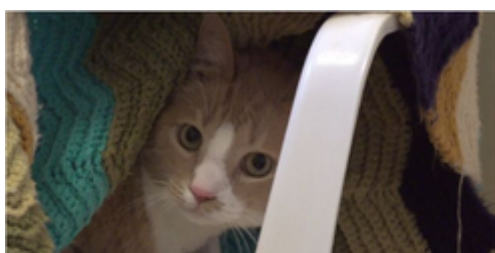


'All I have left': The struggle of seeking shelter with pets

A woman named Jean has been living out of her black car in Vermont for several months, and the heat is becoming harder and harder to bear. Still, Jean would refuse the prospect of giving up her beloved dogs —...

VTdigger / Jul 29, 2022

Shelters See More People Giving Up Their Pets



Shelters see more people giving up their pets as they struggle with inflation

Inflation is hitting people in many different ways, including causing an uptick in the number of pets being surrendered at animal shelters. Our Melissa Cooney reports on how shelters are responding.

WCAX / Jul 25, 2022

A Third of Mass. Households Faced Food Insecurity Last Year, Study Finds



A third of all Mass. households faced food insecurity last year, study finds

Grocery prices have risen more in Massachusetts than many places around the country, forcing some residents to choose between buying food and paying their bills.

Nearly 2 Million Adults in Massachusetts are Food Insecure



Nearly 2 Million Adults in Massachusetts are Food Insecure Including 45% of...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Nearly 2 Million Adults in Massachusetts are Food Insecure Including 45% of...

The Greater Boston Food Bank

Right Now, 2 in 5 People in Vermont are Experiencing Hunger

Hunger in Vermont

The simple answer is that people don't have enough money to cover their most basic needs.

Hunger Free Vermont

Coping with Pet Food Insecurity



(PDF) Coping with Pet Food Insecurity in Low-Income...

PDF | To what extent, if at all, do low-income owners of dogs and/or cats worry about running out of pet food before...

researchgate.net

The Price of Pets: Pet Owners Struggle with Rising Costs, Vet Shortages



The price of pets: Pet owners struggle with rising costs, vet shortages

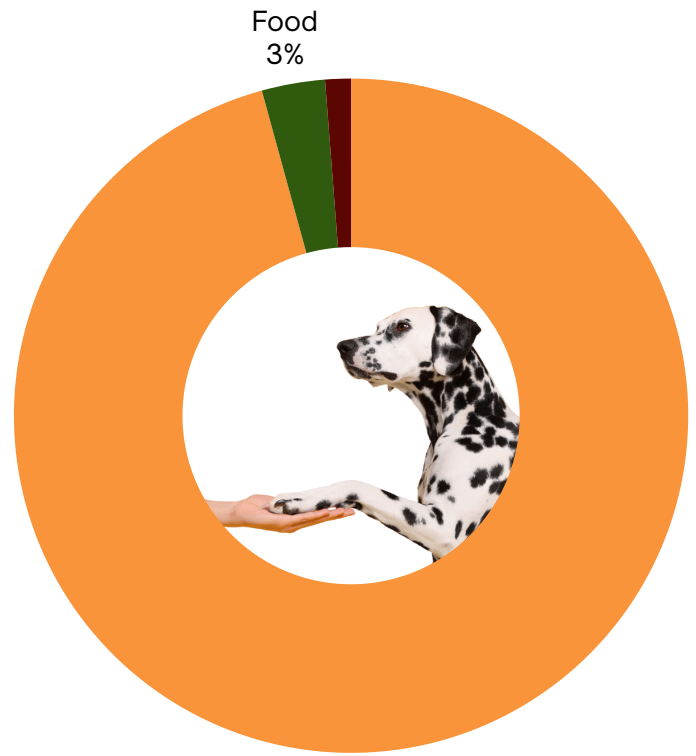
Health care costs are not the only financial barrier. The pet food market has added to the problem.

Saint Albans Messenger

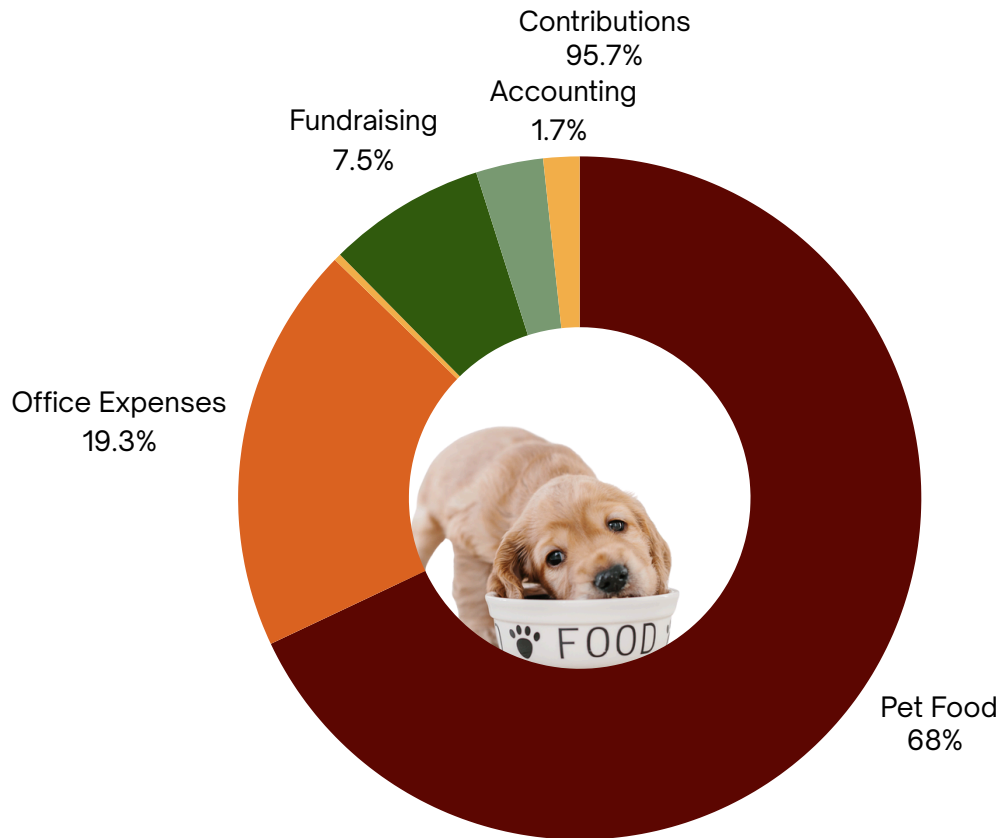
FINANCIALS

2024

TOTAL
INCOME:
\$33,578



TOTAL
EXPENSES:
\$27,733



END OF YEAR NET
ASSETS: \$58,585

OUR LEADERSHIP

WE ARE A 100% VOLUNTEER LED AND RUN ORGANIZATION

Our work is done by more than 50 compassionate volunteers who transport food in their personal cars, coordinate food donations with local and national retailers, and work behind the scenes to support PAWSitive Pantry.

Our leadership includes a five-member **Board of Directors:**

Stacy LeBaron, President

Jen Bennett, Vice President

Deborah Kuklis, Treasurer

Anne Greshin, Secretary

Lesley Fryncko, Board Member



PAWSITIVE PANTRY, INC

PO Box 603

Waitsfield, VT 05673

To donate or volunteer, please visit our website:

www.pawsitivepantry.org

TAX ID 27-0297464

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