ANNUAL REPORT
2018 - 2019

Phinney’s Friends

Email: phinneysfriends@gmail.com
Website: phinneys.org
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This was a wonderful 12 months for Phinney’s. Our supporters have been as generous as ever, and our volunteers are ever so enthusiastic about our mission of helping people and their pets stay together.

Phinney’s was selected as the first-ever recipient of the Biko’s Gift that PAALS, Inc. (Passionate Animal Allies Lending Support) bestows twice a year. The $2,500 covered the costs of ten vet visits for beloved pets of deserving low-income pet owners, including life-saving tests such as blood work and preventative medication.

Our creative benefactors have also gone above and beyond to find ways to raise funds and honor our mission. Real estate broker Maureen Harmonay of Coldwell Banker promoted a special screening of the movie Life in the Doghouse at the beautiful Strand Theater in Clinton MA to collect donations and offer a treat to her clients, as well as our volunteers and donors.

The result of our fundraising efforts translated in many lives saved and pets kept comfortable at their loving homes.

We paid $44,718 on vet bills to save animals who were gravely ill and additional $28,418 on annual vet checks, tests and medication to keep beloved pets healthy. We also spent $15,259 on pet supplies – almost all of it pet food – for dozens of families in need, equaling seven tons of food.

The care our volunteers provided for so many pets don’t have a price tag attached to them, but they are certainly lifesaving and priceless. The work we do requires many different skills and many different minds to make the engine keep running.

But all of the volunteers who do a little or a lot, by working together, can then rejoice on the letter, pictures, texts and hugs they get from grateful pet owners. A big thank you to everyone who makes this organization successful.

Daniela Caride
Phinney’s Friends President
“Being able to see the people coping better with their hardships because their pets are there for them is priceless.”

Our legacy

Love and dedication to pets should always be multiplied

In 1995, MSPCA law-enforcement officer for 26 years, Bill Phinney, sadly died after courageously battled AIDS.

In 1996, the Phinney’s Friends program was started at the MSPCA to help people in the Boston area living with HIV and AIDS keep their pets.

Phinney’s Friends became an independent nonprofit in 2009, expanding the scope of its services to include all low-income people in need, no matter what hardship they are enduring -- be it health-related or financial. In the following years, we have also gradually increased our coverage to reach the entire state of Massachusetts.

We think Bill Phinney would be so proud!

Our Mission

Keeping people and pets together

Phinney’s believes that the human-animal bond is a source of love, joy, comfort and fulfillment for both people and their pets. To this end, Phinney’s Friend is dedicated to helping low-income individuals with disabling illnesses or other hardships maintain this bond with their companion animals by providing assistance with everyday pet care.
At Phinney’s, we understand our pets are family

We love them, protect them, treasure their companionship, and take comfort in their warmth and affection. We do our best to keep pets and their loving owners together, so they can all stay happy and healthy.

Each day, we respond to phone, email and social media inquiries for ongoing help or emergency situations with all types of pets. Each day our Board of Directors, volunteers, partnering agencies, professional and community stakeholders work to advance our mission by providing hours, energy, advice, wisdom and action to save lives and keep pets and people together.

Below are some of the people and their friends whom we were happy to helped during these past 12 months.

**Brendan & Roxie**

After months of looking, Brendan finally got the call. The Lowell Humane Society had just received a spirited Boston terrier puppy, described by the staff as a “handful.” Roxie’s big personality has stolen Brendan’s heart. Brendan suffers from chronic health conditions and reports that whenever he is sad or scared, Roxie is always there for him. Though Roxie is healthy, Brendan needs financial help with getting her food and regular check-ups and vaccinations, and for Phinney’s help with such matters, Brendan is so grateful: “Phinney’s has been so good and wonderful and patient with me,” he says.
Paul & Buddy

Upon meeting Buddy 8 years ago, Paul knew he would never part with his cat. Buddy has a certain energy that Paul was drawn to from the outset. Since Buddy came into his life, Paul has suffered an injury that has kept him from being able to work. Phinney’s Friends has provided Buddy with nutritious feline cuisine options on a monthly basis for over five years! Buddy is a happy ball of fur and offers Paul a support system and kinship. In Paul’s words, Buddy makes him who he is.

Elizabeth & Daisy

Daisy is a permanent Phinney’s foster, who came to her foster mom as a rather nervous kitty with chronic, open wound infections. She was on strong antibiotics every day, and it was predicted that she would be on those pills for the rest of her life. Phinney’s Friends paid for a surgery that fixed the problem of anal gland infections for good. Daisy is now sweet, relaxed, happy and constantly purring, and she loves watching the birds and basking in the sun.

Kathleen & Miss Chevious

Kathleen has a 13 yr. old cat named Miss Chevious. Miss Chevious had an annual check-up where the vet recommended a skin biopsy on an abnormal looking lesion between her shoulder blades. The biopsy came back as a cancerous mass that is extremely rare in cats. Phinney’s Friends paid for the surgery as Kathleen was unable to contribute anything. Miss Chevious has been well health wise since.
OUR WORK

We do everything in our power to make sure animals and their beloved owners can stay together

Each day, approximately 200 volunteers work to fulfill our mission. They screen calls and emails from people in need, negotiate deals with vet clinics to make treatments more affordable, visit pet owners in distress, clean litter boxes, walk dogs, foster pets, organize food donations, plan fundraisers, do administrative and strategic work. The list goes on and on. It takes a village to make an organization work well so it can help hundreds of people and pets in need.

The donations and grants we are awarded allow us to fulfill another very important part of our mission – to purchase pet food and supplies and pay for vet bills and boarding for low-income pet owners in dire straights. Without the generosity of pet lovers, businesses, community groups and other organizations, we wouldn’t be able to fulfill this part of the work, which is the most sought after.

Wendall & Man II

Shaun & Jazz
Phinney’s Friends helps with whatever it takes, from one-time assistance to regular support

Every day we are approached by dozens of pet owners in need as well as organizations, such as hospitals, rehab clinics, and human and pet shelters, looking for services for their clients. They are all looking into a solution to keep a beloved pet with the owner, who is going through a tough life situation.

Sometimes all it takes is an encouraging talk and someone to help devise a plan. Sometimes the solution is to pay a costly vet bill or foster the pet for months to make sure this beloved pet will survive and not end up at a shelter.

This fiscal year, our volunteers responded to approximately 1,100 requests for help over the phone, via email or through social media.

The most common services we provide are...

- Advice on pet care and financial aid
- Financial help with vet care, diagnostics and boarding
- Purchase and delivery of pet food and supplies
- Pet transportation, fostering, and boarding
- Pet care, such as litter box and cage cleaning, nail clipping, brushing, and walks
OUR PROGRAMS

We have created Programs to better serve low-income pet owners going through hardships

EverCare Program

$30,055

This program assists pet parents living with chronic illnesses or disabilities, or owners who have pets with chronic issues that require ongoing help. We offer them financial help with regular vet checks, pet medications, tests, emergency vet bills, and boarding. We aim at visiting them monthly to make sure they are safe and well, help with litter box cleaning, dog walking, nail trims, and administering medications to the pets. If the person needs hospitalization, we foster or board their pets until they return home.

Gareth & Icis

Pet Boost Program

$8,904

We purchase and distribute donated pet food and supplies to pets whose owners are going through a temporary financial hardship. These families are not necessarily struggling with a disabling illness but may have lost their job or fled from an abusive household. This program also offers financial help with vet checks, pet medications, tests, prescription food, emergency vet bills and pet boarding.

Melvin & Star
Emergency Program

$32,272

This program helps low-income pet owners with one-time needs. Its purpose is to solve an emergency situation that is putting the pet at risk of euthanasia or surrender. This could be a vet bill, a pet surgery, boarding until the owner returns from hospitalization, or even help pay for a dog license. This program also offers fostering for up to 3 months.

AIDS Action Program

$6,162

We help low-income people living with HIV and AIDS in the Boston Area through a partnership with AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The agency screens their members for pet needs and sends Phinney’s a bulk request of pet supplies every other month. Phinney’s fulfills it by purchasing and delivering food and other items to the agency branch in Boston.
The heart calls, and Phinney’s answers

Some of our generous donors want to help specific groups of people and pets that appeal to their hearts. Phinney’s has worked with them to create separate funds to accommodate those requests and manage those funds separately.

Phinney’s Ride Fund

$8,157

This fund is dedicated to helping the pets of people living with HIV and AIDS, and replenished every other year when a group of bikers get together to ride their bikes from Stow, Mass., to Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, and back, in two days. It is a 150-mile ride! Even though it is very hard, it is a fun, cooperative ride, and the bikers and volunteers cheer each other so everyone gets to the end line.

Matthew and Lily

Liam’s Fund

$5,000

Through this fund, Phinney’s helps low-income people whose dogs are living with diabetes and afflicted by its various diabetes-related health conditions. We help these pet owners get regular and emergency care for their dogs, as well as control glucose, and purchase prescription foods, medications and supplies such as syringes.

Rocky the Dog
Pet Godparents Fund

$1,942

This fund collects donations from people who want to sponsor a specific pet by becoming their Godparent. Phinney’s makes sure each sponsored pet has a separate account where their money is stored for the purchase of supplies or payment of bills.

Mitzy the Cat

“Our Phinney’s makes sure each sponsored pet has a separate account where their money is stored for supplies or bills.”
Phinney’s stays in touch with the media and promotes events to raise awareness and funds. Below are some of the most important events for the fiscal year.

**Woofstock Dog Festival**

Sept. 22, 2018
in Hudson MA

Nov. 11, 2018
at The Pierce House
in Lincoln MA
Photos with Santa
at Pet Source
in Littleton MA
Dec. 8, 2018

Life in the Doghouse
at The Strand Theatre
in Clinton MA
March 24, 2019

Paws in Bloom
at Loyal Companion
in Concord MA
June 8, 2019
Financial summary

Total Income
- Events - $52,771
- Donations - $33,425
- Special bequests - $5,000

Total Expenses
- Veterinary Services - 72% ($73,136)
- Pet Supplies - 15% ($15,259)
- Operating Expenses - 9% ($8,805)
- Fundraising Expenses - 4% ($4,509)
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Board of Directors

Officers
Daniela Caride, President of the Board
Judith Bell, First Vice President & Clerk
Shannon Kircher, D.V.M., Second Vice President
Jan Johnson, C.P.A., Treasurer

Directors
Laura Howes, C.P.A.
Mara Voukydis, Esquire
Starr Maxwell
Lauren K. Terry
Alyssa Cohen
Volunteers

Phinney’s wouldn’t be able to fulfill its mission without its hard-working volunteers. Our group of approximately 200 workers donate their expertise and their free time to our cause. A huge thank you to all of them!
Phinney’s does not receive any government funding. We operate thanks to the generosity of private donors, businesses, and volunteers who make donations to our cause. Our supporting organizations and individuals provide funding, give discounts, organize fundraisers, donate supplies and volunteer their time. We are very grateful for all that they do. Thank you!

A special thank you to our major supporters...

A big thank you to our partners...

BOOCH PALACE

Morgan Lewis

Petco Foundation

Kindness Animal Hospital

BraunWeiss

Bissell

Oakbog

Buddy Dog Humane Society

Deloitte

MSPCA

Loyal Companion

Photos by Nitin

Supporting All Things Apple

Kindness and Care for Animals

Buddy Dog Humane Society, Inc.
HELP US HELP OTHERS

If you got this far into our Annual Report, you really love pets and our cause. If you would like to get involved or increase your involvement, contact us today! Here is what we need the most...

❖ Monetary donations: 100% goes toward services for clients and their pets.

❖ People committed to volunteering with us long term. We especially need leaders, able to manage several volunteers or to take on a project from beginning to end. We are also looking for volunteers who are able to foster our client’s animals when clients become homeless or are hospitalized.

❖ Businesses are some of our greatest allies and supporters. You can promote an event to raise funds for us, distribute flyers to your clients, help us reach out to your community to recruit more volunteers, engage your employees in volunteering for us, and much more.

❖ If you are a vet clinic, you can give us discounts on vet visits, procedures, and surgeries. If you are a pet daycare, we are always in great need of boarding.

❖ The possibilities are endless!

❖ Email us at phinneysfriends@gmail.com or call us at 617-979-8705, and visit our website at Phinneys.org. Thank you for your support!