

# MIRACLES

ON 40<sup>TH</sup> STREET



*2012 Annual Report*

ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE & SPCA



## The Miracle on 40th Street - a True Story

It was close to Christmas in 2009 when I received a note from a donor expressing his interest in making a donation to the Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA. As you might imagine, I get excited every time I get one of these notes but had a very special feeling about this one. A few days later, I met John Breslow and I instantly knew this was a special man with a profound wish to surprise his lovely wife, Sonia, on her 60th birthday.

He knew his wife deeply loved animals and that there was nothing that would please her more than to build an adoption center in her name, a legacy that would give animals a voice and a second chance. John knew that Sonia embraced the philosophy of our no-kill shelter, but what he didn't know was that AAWL & SPCA had reached our capacity. We had no more space where we could rescue, medically treat and find homes for thousands of homeless animals facing possible death.

John had only two wishes. That the new Sonia Breslow Adoption Center would be completed by her birthday in March of 2012 and that no one could speak his name to preserve the surprise. I immediately pulled together a crackerjack team of professionals who could make John's - and our - wish come true!

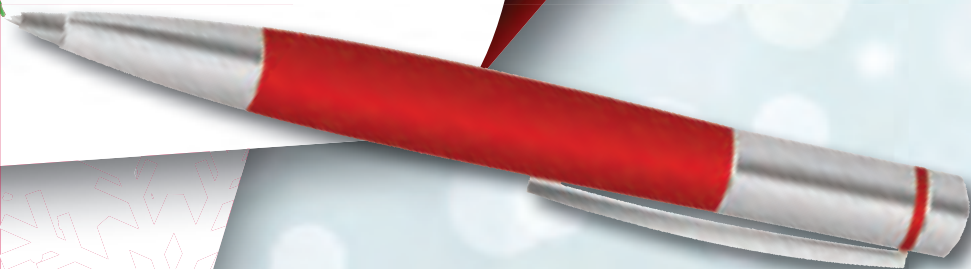
For two years we secretly met, going over architectural drawings, fundraising plans on how to raise one million dollars to add to John's two million dollar gift, builder proposals, budgets, city red tape until it all came together and we could see with our own eyes our Miracle on 40th Street, the 12,000 square foot Sonia Breslow Adoption Center. It was a wonder to perceive!

It's now March 3rd, 2012 and three shiny buses with 80 of the Breslow's best friends arrive in the parking lot of the majestic Sonia Breslow Adoption Center. The sun shone brightly on the crowd of people who helped make John's wish come true. Sonia, not knowing why she was there, was the last to step off the bus while the band started to play Happy Birthday. She quickly understood that something special was about to happen as she looked up as the large drape hiding her name dropped, revealing her special birthday surprise, the Sonia Breslow Adoption Center.

I believe in miracles, do you?

*Judith A. Gardner*

Judith A. Gardner  
President and CEO



# Everyday Miracles

## An incredible year of growth and wonder



At the end of 2011, we looked forward to a new year of growth with the final stages of building our beautiful new adoption center, the expansion and renovation of our PetMD Clinic and the opening of additional adoption outlets to help us save more animals.

I am pleased to report that we accomplished all of that, and a lot more in 2012! Our new Adoption Center opened in March with the exciting unveiling of Sonia Breslow's birthday gift. In the Spring, we began working with Macerich Management Company and PetSmart Charities to plan a

first-of-a-kind collaboration for an adoption center in Chandler Fashion Mall. In the Summer, we participated in the ASPCA's \$100K Challenge whereby we increased our adoptions during the summer by 49% over the same period last year. And, this Fall and Winter we completed the renovation and major expansion of our PetMD Clinic and opened the PetMatch Adoption Center in Chandler Mall. Whew! All of these miracles happened while having a record number of adoptions in 2012.

Without the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of people, like you, none of this would be possible. Our new Chandler Mall PetMatch Adoption Center is open 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. We count on our dedicated volunteers to help us with transporting animals to and from the store, helping customers and facilitating adoptions and helping us care for the cats, dogs, puppies and kittens that will be housed there until they find their forever homes.

We count on our Foster Families to help us nurture the additional thousands of puppies and kittens we care for until they are old enough for adoption – a huge increase over the past years when we only

had one outlet for their adoptions.

We rely on animal lovers who support AAWL with financial donations and items that we use every day so we don't have to buy them.

We truly are experiencing miracles and unprecedented growth that will allow us to save more and more homeless animals. We've never needed your help more than today. Please use the enclosed envelope, or go to our secure website, [www.aawl.org](http://www.aawl.org), to make your donation today.

With gratitude,

*Judith A. Gardner*

Judith A. Gardner  
President and CEO

*p.s. Remember, all donations are tax-deductible if made before December 31st!*

## Board of Directors

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## Awards



**BEST PLACE TO SAVE A LIFE**  
**2012 PHOENIX NEW TIMES MAGAZINE**  
Voted as the best place in the Valley to adopt your new pet, volunteer, attend dog training and education programs.



**BEST OF THE VALLEY**  
**2012 PHOENIX MAGAZINE**  
Named the best for our "Pets Gone Wild" dog training programs, best place for adoptions, best place to volunteer and accolades for our PetMD veterinary clinic!



**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
AAWL was pleased to receive another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. This rating signifies that AAWL & SPCA "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause".

## *Their perfect home, fate made the match*

Sisters MeeMee and JayJay chose their perfect home

We were heartbroken when we had to put down our 18 yr old cat, Jack, in early December last year. By the end of January we wanted to let a rescue cat choose us. We went to AAWL and in the 4th room, JayJay climbed on my shoulder and snuggled into me while, across the room, Dan was taking MeeMee out of her cage and saying how sweet she was. Turns out that they are sisters and had to be adopted together—fate, luck, call it what you will. They play together, groom each other, and are lots of fun. They are sweet, loving and we are glad they chose us!

*Diane Molnar*



## *The dog who loves his kitties*



I had been thinking about adopting a dog for a few weeks when my friend suggested we go to the Arizona Animal Welfare League. Seeing as I have 4 cats, I needed the dog I was to adopt to be friendly with kitties. As I walked down the line of kennels and read “maybe/maybe not” or “catastrophic” I was becoming discouraged. Then I came across Phestos’ report card and saw he was “friendly” with cats!

We asked to take him out of the kennel to see what his personality was like. While in one of the larger visiting areas we soon found out that Phestos was an absolute sweetheart! He couldn’t stop cuddling with us and had such a look of love in his eyes. I fell in love with him then but knew I should “sleep on it” just to be sure.

By the next day I knew I needed to bring Phestos home to be a part of my furry family. He settled in right away and by the next day I started introducing him to the cats. They have all become best buddies! Besides hanging out with his new kitty siblings, Phestos loves going for walks every morning and evening and hiking on the weekends. I couldn’t be happier with this wonderful, silly, loving boy. He’s brought so much joy to my life. I love him so much!

*Jessica Wentzel*

# *New Chandler adoption center*

Thanks to the generous support and collaboration with both PetSmart Charities and Macerich, AAWL & SPCA opened a mall adoption center at the Chandler Fashion Mall in late 2012. This first-of-a-kind collaboration will give thousands of homeless pets the opportunity to find forever homes, especially with families that would

# *Adoption*

## *Adoption staff*

**Patti DuBois** – Director of Shelter Operations  
**Tracey Varga** – Dog Adoptions Manager  
**Janna Skinner** – Cat Adoptions Manager

**Gabriele Warehime** – Foster Program Manager  
**Mike Jensen** – Animal Care Manager  
**Al Sharp** – Facilities Manager

SCOTTSDALE MALL  
Patrick McGinn

CHANDLER FASHION MALL  
Joe Padburg – Temporary Manager  
Jessica Alderman – Assistant Manager

## *A safe place to land*

### Nurturing Foster Families Offer a Chance to Sick Puppies

In the lingering heat of late September, animal control officers were called out to the reservation for a tear-jerking sight of six tiny puppies; malnourished, sick, and infested with hundreds of ticks, they were close to death.

AAWL's foster care manager, Gabriele Warehime, agreed to intake and coordinate the urgent transfer of the six puppies. She examined the pups, vaccinated, and medicated them immediately. She had never seen a tick infestation case this shocking.

Two separate foster homes were contacted and without hesitation, long-time foster parent, Karen Anderson and staff member, Rachel Gardner, quickly agreed to take in the feeble pups where they could be attentively nurtured. Within a few weeks these puppies were returned to us healthy, happy, plump and full of life, ready to be adopted into their forever homes.

This case is one of many special cases that illustrate the potential lifesaving opportunity that foster homes provide the community. If you feel you may have the time and resources to open your home to puppies or kittens in need of temporary placement, please check out our website to find out how you can help us save more lives.



## *Smart and sweet, ready for a family*



I had been a volunteer at AAWL for about 4 months on the morning of June 16 when I went in for some doggy therapy. Although I had a dog at home who I knew would love a companion, and my husband and I were tossing around the idea of getting her one, I hadn't seriously considered adopting just yet . . . until I saw Dozo.

I fell in love with him immediately and knew that we had no choice but to provide him his forever home. He came home with me that day to meet his new sister Lilu (the sweetest most social dog I have ever known). They loved each other immediately.

In the past month not only has Lilu been happier than I have ever seen her, but Dozo is thriving. He is one of the most intelligent dogs I have ever met! It took only 2 days to housebreak him, Lilu taught him the dog door, and he was crate trained within the week! As far as tricks go, he is the fastest learner I have worked with. He now knows "sit," "lay down," "shake" and "roll over", all within a couple minutes after learning each trick. He is in love with his sister and she is in love with him. We couldn't have asked for a better pup!

Denise Olson

not otherwise visit a shelter to adopt a pet. Mall customers will quickly learn that every breed, size and type of puppy, kitten, dog and cat can be found at the PetMatch Adoption Center to perfectly match their lifestyle.



# Miracles

## *Adoptions and Fostering*

TOTAL INTAKES – 3550  
Cat – 1725 ■ Dog – 1825

ADOPTIONS – 3783  
Shelter – 2017 ■ Events – 350 ■ Petco Stores – 627  
PetSmart Stores – 444 ■ Mall Adoptions – 345

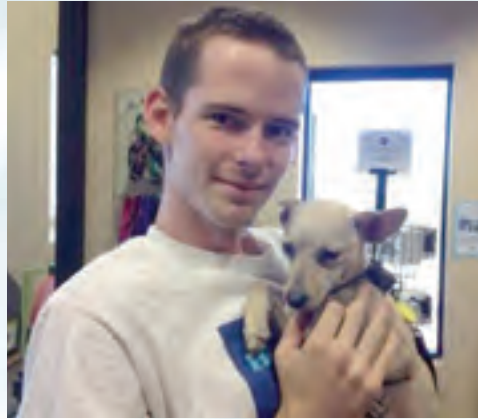
FOSTER PROGRAM  
Number of Animals in Foster – 1,350  
77 Cats ■ 1,038 Kittens ■ 209 Puppies ■ 26 Dogs

## *Fozzie Bear,* the survivor

## *Brady the cat* has eight lives left!

Brady was an 8 week old kitten that had escaped from his cozy new home, and had been hit by a car. Brady was brought to AAWL's low-cost PetMD Clinic, where radiographs revealed a fracture of his right rear leg, right at the growth plate, a fractured pelvis, and several lacerations on his hip. Due to his tiny size, and the cost of multiple orthopedic procedures, it was decided to treat his lacerations, confine him to cage rest, and see how the fractures healed.

Brady did very well, and was climbing, running and playing within 3 weeks! As time went on, however, the fractured leg did not heal properly, and the decision was made to amputate the leg. True to form, Brady was up and playing the very next day. Brady continues to do well, terrorizing the family dog and surveying his kingdom from atop his kitty tree!



It was clear from the start that this sweet male Chihuahua mix needed a miracle. He had no hair on the left side of his body, he was very thin, he didn't want to eat, and he had terrible diarrhea. Still, he gave the medical team small kisses as he huddled on the examination table. They named him Fozzie Bear.

After tests, Fozzie was diagnosed with an often fatal disease, Parvo, and a severe case of the skin disease, mange. After weeks of successful medical treatments he was finally ready to find his forever home. However, he soon started showing signs of upper respiratory infection which turned out to be pneumonia.

Just as Fozzie began recovering from pneumonia, he developed muscle tremors. Our veterinarian suspected Distemper, which was confirmed through more tests. Antibiotic treatment does not have any effect on this virus, which requires extraordinary care and is why most shelters euthanize any animal that acquires it.

It is truly a miracle that this little, skinny, fuzzy Chihuahua survived Parvovirus, Demodex (mange), Pneumonia and Distemper! He will always have intermittent muscle tremors, but he will be remembered as the little love bug who made it, thanks to our wonderful medical team.

*Clinic  
open to  
The public*

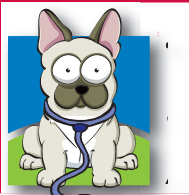
Our beautifully renovated and expanded veterinary clinic opened in late 2012, providing AAWL with the capacity to help thousands more homeless animals as well as the opportunity to provide low-cost veterinary care to the public. PetMD customers finally have a resource for those times when their beloved pet

*Medical*

*Medical staff*

Dr. Claudia Channing – Chief Veterinarian  
Dr. Stephanie Schlachter – PetMD Veterinarian

Emilee Spear – Clinic Manager  
Victoria Kamm – PetMD Clinic Manager



**PETMD**™  
ANIMAL CLINIC

needs a treatment, procedure or medical care that they cannot afford. Rather than relinquish their family pet to a shelter, or watch their pet suffer, they can turn to AAWL for help. The public clinic hours will be expanded in 2013 to meet the growing need for these vital services at a reasonable cost.

## Rowle saved by a surgical angel/miracle

Rowle, a recently neutered, middle-aged poodle mix was found to have two perineal hernias. This occurs most commonly in older, intact male dogs. Because these hernias can enlarge, and there is the danger of the bladder becoming entrapped, the defects must be surgically repaired by a highly skilled surgeon.



Rowle had so much going for him, we knew that we needed to find some way to help him

Through her contacts, our Vet, Dr. Channing contacted VCA Animal Referral and Emergency Center and asked about the possibility of one of VCA ARECA's surgeons consulting with her on Rowle's case. What followed was truly a miracle. Dr. Michael Jaffe, one of VCA's board certified surgeons, was not only willing to consult on the case, he offered to come to AAWL and perform the surgery with Dr. Channing at no charge!

Thanks to the extreme generosity of the folks at VCA ARECA, and Dr. Jaffe's generosity, patience and surgical expertise, Rowle's hernias were repaired and he is now in a loving new home.

## The sad story of Schmoopie... with a happy ending!

In July, our intake team found this 11-week old puppy at the County shelter in terrible shape. The mats in her fur were so bad she couldn't see and could barely open her mouth far enough to be able to eat.

After shaving the poor pup, the staff found that she was totally unsocialized. She didn't like to be held and barely knew how to walk without falling. The Clinic Manager took her home in hopes of teaching her how to be a dog.

After three weeks of socializing with 5 other dogs and 2 cats in a home environment she was finally ready to be spayed and put up for adoption. The very next day on August 16, 2012 her forever family came in to meet her and Schmoopie finally found a forever home where she receives the tender, loving care she deserves.



# Miracles

## Clinic stats

**PET MD LOW-COST PUBLIC CLINIC**  
1,012 New clients in 2012  
1,800 Active clients ■ 775 Dogs ■ 200 Cats

**VACCINE CLINIC**  
650 animals

**SHELTER CLINIC**  
Dog spay/neuter surgeries – 1225 ■ Cat spay/neuter surgeries – 1246  
Medical exams – 5,349 ■ Infirmary (hospital stays) – 571 cats/dogs

## *An animal's love* leveling the playing field

The Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA's new program with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections teaches incarcerated teens about the proper care and treatment of animals and provides animal-assisted therapy. These students have been through the court system up to nine times and are some of the toughest in Arizona, making connections difficult.

The 9-part "Humane Choices" program of weekly visits provides the opportunity to form bonds between students, animals and instructors. In addition to hands-on training, classes include lectures, games, movies, sessions on dog fighting and the relationship between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

On our first visit with the juveniles, we watched as a loving lab and silly ferrets helped these street-toughened kids light up. One of the unit leaders observed that one boy, who had been in for several sentences, was displaying body language and enthusiasm they had never seen before. That troubled teen was able to momentarily forget his problems and connect with an animal's unconditional love.

As this program grows and matures, our hope is two-fold: AAWL will make a difference for animals in our community while giving much-needed hope and love to troubled teens who then become the animal advocates of tomorrow.



# *Dream Big Dreams*

Kids' camps and programs are a major part of our work, at AAWL to educate people on the proper care of, and compassion for, all living things. We had over 600 children registered in programs in our current Education and



# *Education*

## *Education staff*

Michelle Ramos – Director of Education  
Rachael Gardner – Education Programs Manager  
Shannon Nalley – Husbandry Coordinator

Adi Shakti Kalsa – At-Risk Youth Specialist  
Jessica James – Instructor  
Samuel Ziv – Vet Science Instructor



Training Center facility which is desperately in need of repairs and renovation. Help our dream come true by donating to the Education and Training Center building fund to help us educate more children and adults on the miracle of animals. Please note that your donation is to be used for this purpose. Thank you!



## *A fantastic career* began right here at AAWL & SPCA!

I started out in Teen Tracks in the fall of 2003 as a shy, reserved fourteen-year-old high school freshman. I always knew that I wanted to work with animals in one way or another and the Teen Tracks program seemed like the perfect way to do that. I had hoped to learn more about cats and dogs as well as exotic animals; however, I received so much more than that.



Through this program, I realized the importance of teamwork, cultivated leadership skills, and became comfortable giving presentations. I developed confidence in myself. I got a job as an emergency veterinary assistant during my second year of college. Now I am in my second year of veterinary school at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. My interviewers were impressed with my early commitment to the animal field through the Teen Tracks program.

Last summer I did an internship at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium working in Sea Turtle Rehabilitation. I learned to feed sea turtles, assisted in veterinary procedures, swam with resident turtles and participated in a manatee rescue. I think I can honestly say that I wouldn't have had these awesome opportunities without this program.

I loved my experience in the Teen Tracks Program and I am sure you will too!

Kayla Alessandrino  
Teen Tracks 2003-2007  
University of Glasgow Vet Med Class of 2016

# Miracles

## *Education stats*

Children/teens: 9,042 – this includes offsite events we attend  
Adults: 245  
Volunteers: 32

# Volunteers give from their hearts

## The story of one extraordinary volunteer



Gordon Woodruff has been a dedicated volunteer at AAWL for a little over a year. He started as a weekend-morning dog walker, and then quickly began to do so much more. He helps transport the animals for big events, helps our intake team bring in dogs from county, and he is critical in promoting our Last Litter program to the public, among many other activities.

Gordon and his wife Lisa, also an AAWL volunteer, have lived in Chandler for the past nine years, and are originally from St Louis, MO. They have four adopted dogs, Brewster, Bogey, and AAWL alums Qbert and Clary. Gordon used to play a lot of golf; however, he finds that he enjoys volunteering at the shelter much, much more!

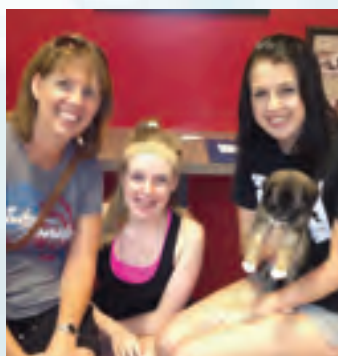
Helping to get more homeless animals adopted is the passion that drives all of our volunteers, and many, like Gordon, go to extraordinary lengths to help. We are so grateful for each and every volunteer, whether they give an hour a week or they give up their favorite hobby to spend time helping the animals. Thank you Gordon, Lisa and all of our wonderful volunteers.



Grand Opening of Sonia Breslow Adoption Center



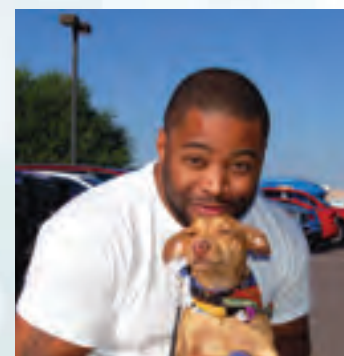
Volunteer hike with shelter animals



A special match at one of our Mall Adoption Centers



Our "Champion" program helps long-timers get adopted



A happy match at our "Empty the Shelter" event

# You are our miracles

## Our volunteer Team

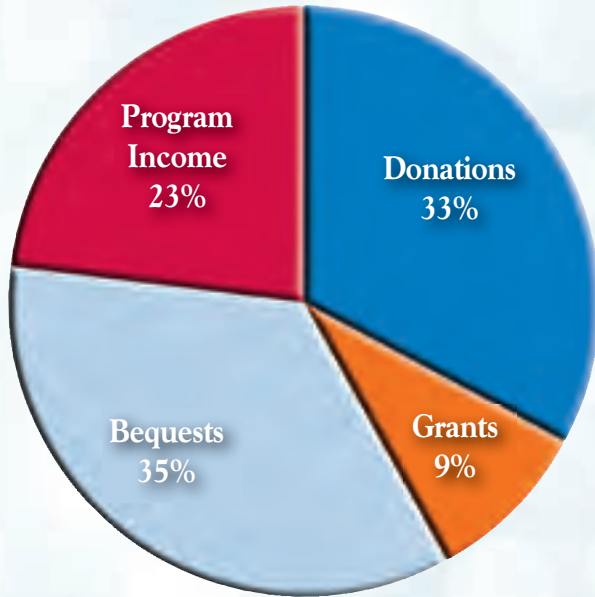
Kay Wilder – Director of Volunteer Program and Special Events  
Laura Johnsen – Volunteer Program Coordinator

Number of active volunteers – 750 ■ Number of docents – 111  
Number of hours donated – 44,242 ■ Number of new volunteers in 2012 – 547

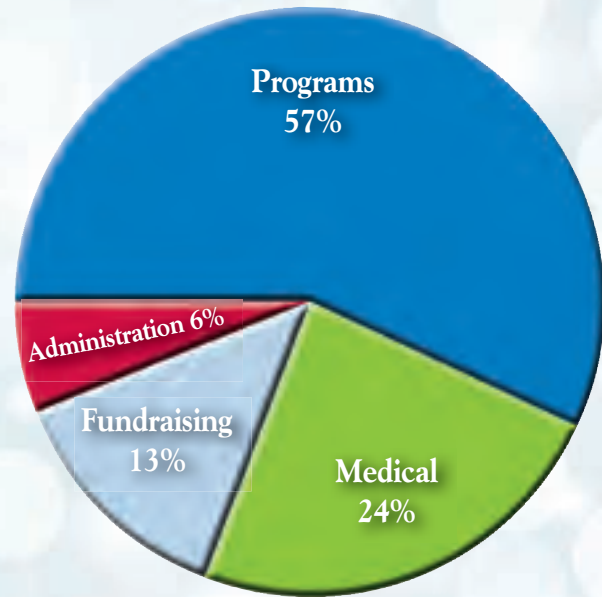
# Budget

A Full 81% of Every Dollar Raised Goes Directly to Helping Animals

## Income



## Expenses



## Management Team

Judith Gardner – President and CEO,  
Claudia Channing, DVM – Chief Veterinarian  
Stephanie Schlachter, DVM – Veterinarian  
Patti DuBois – Director of Shelter Operations  
Terri Hawkins – Director of Finance  
Michelle Ramos – Director of Education  
Kay Wilder – Director of Volunteers/Events

# The bottom line

*Your donation makes miracles happen*



ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE & SPCA  
ARIZONA'S FIRST NO-KILL SHELTER

602.273.6852

25 North 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

[www.aawl.org](http://www.aawl.org)