



OMHS Impact Report 2023





Reflecting on six years of service to OMHS

Since joining the Oakville & Milton Humane Society Board of Directors in 2018, I have learned more than I could have imagined about the array of programs and services offered by volunteers and staff. I have had the privilege of seeing the team's passion firsthand and the profound collective impact we can achieve when we work together for the well-being of animals and our communities.

Over the past six years, the Board's leadership has contributed to many significant strides during complex times. We set out to position OMHS at the forefront of our community's charity efforts, striving for excellence in animal welfare across Ontario and securing essential community support.

Leadership transitions, including welcoming Jeff Vallentin in 2023, bring fresh perspectives, expertise and continued progress, especially necessary as we navigate the complex task of relocating the shelter and getting ready for a capital campaign.

OMHS has evolved and progressed, fueled by a community of donors and volunteers eager to contribute to animal welfare and humane treatment.

Our collective efforts speak volumes, ensuring that OMHS remains a critical resource for animals and our community.

As my term concludes, I'm confident in the shelter's direction and look forward to what lies ahead.



Thank you for your continued dedication and for being part of this impactful journey.

Clayton Shold
Chair, Board of Directors
Oakville & Milton Humane Society

We're grateful Your impact on people and pets in 2023

In the spirit of spring, a time of birth and renewal, I'm reflecting on the moments of new beginnings and hope that bloom at the Oakville & Milton Humane Society (OMHS) each and every day, thanks to you!

One such moment went viral on social media recently with more than one million views to date. It's my pleasure to share this heartwarming video shared by Tamar Sayed which captures the essence of compassion, connection, and the impact OMHS has in our community.



[Watch here](#) as the Sayed family brings her daughter to OMHS to 'visit' a cat. Tissues may be required!

This touching moment, and countless others happen every day at OMHS, and they are made possible by you – our generous and incredible community of donors, volunteers and staff.

The Sayed family's story and other OMHS highlights below serve as a reminder of the collective impact achieved together. Each contribution helps cultivate a future where every animal is cherished and protected, and human lives can be transformed.

Thank you for being a vital part of our OMHS family, where everyone's commitment comes together serving the community and animals today and in the future.

I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize our outgoing board chair, Clayton Shold, for his valuable leadership over the past six years. Clayton has been instrumental in evolving the organization during a challenging time in our history. As result dedication, we're strong today and well-positioned to have even more impact in the future.



With gratitude,



Jeff Vallentin
Executive Director
Oakville & Milton Humane Society

Fostering healthy futures

Thanks to your invaluable support, we can extend our reach beyond the walls of our shelter and provide temporary homes and much-needed love to vulnerable animals through our foster program. In 2023, your kindness has given **236** vulnerable animals temporary homes filled with love, helping them transition smoothly into their adoptive families and find happiness.



Your contributions allow us to provide foster families with essential resources, such as food, medical care, and supplies, ensuring these animals receive the care they need to thrive. Donors also play a pivotal role in helping us cover the costs such as veterinary bills and medications. Your generosity enables us to prepare these animals for successful adoptions, giving them the opportunity for a fresh start and a brighter future.

[Read about Sandra Do Rego and her family's commitment to OMHS](#)

183

foster
parents

236

animals
fostered

Pet food bank: Building teams and supporting community

Originally launched in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the OMHS Pet Food Bank has evolved into a vital resource for individuals experiencing food insecurity and seeking assistance in caring for their pets in Oakville and Milton. In 2023, we welcomed corporate teams who donated more than **150 hours** to help package more than **100,000** meals and supplies in support of **12** food banks and **20** community programs across Oakville & Milton.



12 food banks

20 community programs

150 volunteer hours from corporate teams

100,000+ meals provided to keep pets and people together

Providing access to spay and neuter surgeries

The importance of spaying/neutering cannot be emphasized enough, as just one unspayed cat can give birth to up to 25 kittens in a year. Yet, for many people in our community, spay/neuter surgeries are financially out of reach.

Thanks to the generosity of Virox Technologies Inc., OMHS held its first spay/neuter clinic to help people in our community access these essential surgeries.



35 cats
spayed/
neutered

potentially preventing hundreds of thousands of cats being born from unexpected pregnancies.

OMHS children's programs build empathy and compassion

**Staff and
volunteers
spent**

9,713

**hours
educating**

2,898
people

Education is the cornerstone of compassion, and together, we have embraced the noble cause of animal welfare by enlightening minds and nurturing hearts.

Support from donors enables OMHS to offer a variety of children's programs throughout the year. Through engaging in-school visits and activities such as camps, PD days, Leadership in Training and the Kindness Club, children can gain a profound understanding and appreciation for animal welfare and the importance of community involvement.

These initiatives allow children to interact with animals, learn about responsible pet care, and engage in hands-on experiences that encourage empathy, kindness, and respect.



Barkin' Bin: A beacon of generosity

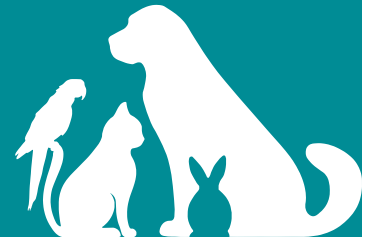
In 2023, the volunteer-led OMHS Barkin' Bin thrift shop raised more than **\$100,000**, all of which directly support OMHS programs. Every dollar spent at the Barkin' Bin translates to vital care, shelter, and services for animals in need while offering affordable, gently used items for people and pets. Shopping at the Barkin' Bin isn't just about finding great deals—it's about making a tangible difference in the lives of animals, keeping items from our landfill and bringing affordable items to our community.



\$100,000 raised for OMHS in 2023

Keeping items out of landfills

Bringing affordable items to our community



Adoption: Creating lifelong bonds

Adoption isn't just about finding homes for animals—it's about creating lifelong bonds. Your support of OMHS enables our dedicated team works tirelessly to match each animal with a loving and responsible guardian, ensuring a loving future for both. From training advice to medical assistance and socialization, we are committed to being there every step of the way.

In 2023, we found forever homes with loving families for **333** pets including long-term dogs, Bear, Beauty and Fendi.



Animal Protection Services: Serving the community 24/7

We provide rescue and emergency services 24/7 through our dedicated Animal Protective Services Department as part of our core mandate. Animal Protection Officers expertly assess animals, assist in reuniting lost pets with their families, and enforce by-law services.



In 2023, the team investigated **517** by-law cases, sold **6742** dog licences, and helped ensure that **309** wild animals received crucial rehabilitation services. Thanks to your support, OMHS achieved the highest return-to-owner rate in Canada, helping to reunite **95%** of lost dogs and **47%** of lost cats with their families.

517 by-law case investigations

6,742 dog licences sold

309 animals transported to rehabilitation services

Highest return-to-owner rate in Canada

95%
of dogs

47%
of cats

reunited with their families

Preserving the memories: Pet cemetery excavation



In 2023, OMHS began excavating our pet cemetery to prepare for the sale of the property, future relocation, and redevelopment of the shelter.

OMHS is dedicated to providing the utmost care for the beloved pets interred in the cemetery. To ensure long-term care of the remains, we have chosen to move the remains in the best, most dignified way possible. We've partnered with the forensic science and anthropology team at the University of Toronto to excavate more than **500 burial plots** on site.

Work will be completed in Fall 2024.

Thank you to our supporters



omhs.ca

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