



ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Spring '23



ARK's Educational Initiative 2023

Animal Rescue Kare believes education is a key component to improving conditions for Hart County residents and animals. During the month of February, ARK Education Coordinator, Steve Thompson, and ARK volunteers presented animal welfare programs to all Hart County students K-8. Programs were tailored to each age group and focused on proper pet care, spaying/neutering, and staying safe around animals. The programs were implemented in cooperation with the Hart County Library.



Steve Thompson with middle grade students

"It was an amazing experience," says Thompson. "We presented to over 1,800 Hart County students. The programs were interactive and engaging for the students."

In addition to the ARK Programs, students ages 12-18 were invited to participate in the Student Ambassador Program. Student Ambassadors will assist with all ARK functions, help at the animal shelter (supervised), and will support a virtual adoption site for the animal shelter and ARK foster pets. The ARK Student Ambassador application is available at ark4hart.org.

"The response to the program is exciting," says Thompson. "We currently have nearly 20 Ambassadors and continue to receive applications. This is a great

opportunity for our future leaders in Hart County to have a significant impact on challenges we're currently facing." The first ARK student Ambassador meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 8th from 10am until noon, at the Hart County Library Community Room. *Steve Thompson, Education Coordinator*

Save the Date

April 22 – ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K, 8 AM, Munfordville School

TBA soon – SNR Voucher sale

May 13 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library Funfest from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Dawgy Dash '23, "Catch Me If You Can!"

ARK's biggest fundraiser of the year is coming up fast! The Dawgy Dash 5K will be held on April 22, starting at Munfordville Elementary School, 8:00 AM. We've got a new timer this year who is bringing some tech innovations to our race. There will be prizes for different age groups, along with first overall and first running with a dog – males and females.

As always, you can run

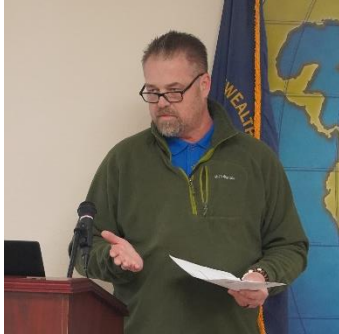
competitively, with or without your favorite pooch, or enjoy a more leisurely stroll with friends and family. Save an extra \$5 by forming a team of ten or more. There will be free T-shirts (while supplies last), snacks, and water for you and your pets. Help support our work in the community while enjoying some beautiful spring weather and getting some good exercise. The registration fee is only \$35. Sign up today!



We want to thank all of our race sponsors – you can see the complete list on our race site: runsignup.com/dawgydash. You can click on their logos to reach their websites. With their contributions, they are helping us improve animal welfare in our community. You can help ARK, our sponsors, and our community - shop local and extend our thanks.

ARK's 2023 Members' Meeting

The Annual ARK Members' Meeting was held March 21st, 2023 at the Hart County Public Library. After a brief introduction, ARK's committee chairs discussed their programs and provided updates. (SNR, Foster, TNR, Shelter Liaison) See treasurer's report on page 3.



Tony Roberts, director of the Hart County Animal Shelter

The guest speaker, executive director of the Hart County Animal Shelter, Tony Roberts, discussed developments at the shelter and at the new facility that is being leased to hold extra dogs the main facility could not take in. ARK supports the shelter, but it is managed by the county.

Steve Thompson took the floor to introduce his educational outreach program. The goals of this program include bringing awareness to the needs of animals, history of ARK, proper pet care, and staying safe around pets. The education program also includes student ambassadors that volunteer at ARK events.

Janet Kistler recognized ARK founder and long-time director June King with a presentation and a plaque honoring her for the passionate volunteer work she has devoted to ARK.

David Clement honored the vets in Hart County. He presented a plaque to Dr. Green of Riverside Animal Clinic recognizing his dedication to the animals in Hart County and the services he has provided ARK. He then presented a plaque in Dr. Vance's memory to Claire Vance, recognizing his time on the ARK board, his commitment, and his care of animals.



Eleanor and Claire Vance

We want to thank the Hart County Public Library staff for allowing us to use their meeting room and providing delicious refreshments. And, we want to thank everyone who attended the meeting and another information meeting the following week. Working together, we can move ARK forward and make a difference in our community. *Robin Miller, ARK Secretary*

Featured Foster - Violet



We received a call about a stray that had been hanging around an apartment complex for about a year. We planned to use our TNR program to get her spayed. During recovery we noticed her poor condition and weakness in the hind area. After further examination, the vet said that it was most likely an old pelvic fracture that hadn't healed correctly. We determined that she was not able to fend for herself; she needed a human to care for her. She was placed in the foster program and named Violet.

She's about 3 years old, spayed, and UTD on vaccines. She's very sweet and loves gentle pets but due to her disability, she does not like other animals to get near; she won't bother them if they don't bother her. She is very low maintenance. She would do well with a quiet garage or shop to call home. Can you offer Violet a forever home? Her adoption has been sponsored - free to an approved adopter. Go to ARK's adoption page, where you will find our adoption application - ark4hart.org/adopt. Click on a link to ARK's Petfinder page where you can see more adoptable pets and some courtesy posts for private rehoming. You can also find a link for the Hart County Animal Shelter's adoptable dogs. *Alethea Dudley, ARK Foster Coordinator*

ARK Treasurer's Report

In 2022, we spent a total of \$86,768.75 helping improve animal welfare in Hart County. All our programs were fully funded, thanks to the generosity of our donors, members, and sponsors.

ARK has no paid staff and no expenses for maintaining an office. All the work is done by volunteers. This means that most of our income goes directly to programs that benefit our county's pets. Of course, we have expenses for things like our website, PO Box, tax prep, insurance, printing, and postage, but we try to keep those expenses to a minimum. We purchased a storage building last year – a one-time expense.

Fundraising was very successful. We have around 270 donating members. We were honored to receive many donations in memory of Dr. Vance. The family of Katie Grisez hosted a memorial walk-a-thon which raised over \$2,600. We are very thankful to them. The Dawgy Dash did great with almost \$25,000 in donations and sponsorships. That represents a lot of hard work by our fundraising team.

Spay-Neuter-Rabies (SNR) is our most popular program. Members of the public pay a small fee for spay-neuter vouchers and ARK pays the balance of the bills, at a rate agreed upon with the vets.

We were thrilled to receive two grants to help with SNR expenses. One was secured and matched by Hart County Fiscal Court for \$5,000. We sold 100 \$25 vouchers in conjunction with the grand opening of the Hart County Animal Shelter. The grant helped offset the vet costs. The other grant was from the Bissell Pet Foundation which pays a share of the vet bills for 155 animals. We are still in the process of meeting the requirements for that grant. We are very grateful for both grants.

SNR is limited in the number of vouchers we can sell due to lack of available appointments, not lack of funds. We planned to spend more on our SNR program in 2022, but with the passing of Dr. Vance and the big backlog of appointments for Dr. Green, we had no available appointments. We had to cancel the December SNR voucher event. We have been working hard to find other options for our community.

Shelter income comes from targeted giving. ARK helped purchase some fencing, a scale, a refrigerator and two kennels. When the shelter's budget falls short, we can help address their needs.

Foster/Adoption income comes from adoption fees and targeted giving. Expenses include foster home supplies and vet fees for spay-neuter, shots, worming, and any additional care the cats need to be healthy and ready to adopt. For each cat, vet expenses are much greater than the adoption fees, but that's okay. It is an important community service; just ask the folks who call us with a dropped-off litter of kittens!

Animal Rescue Kare FY 2022 Financial Overview Report ARK's Income and Expenses in 2022			
Budget Heading	In	Out	Net
Administration	-	(\$2,358.74)	(\$2,358.74)
Fundraising	\$51,536.25	(\$5,644.99)	\$45,891.26
SNR	\$24,955.73	(\$32,537.47)	(\$7,581.74)
Shelter	\$1,122.09	(\$10,162.23)	(\$9,040.14)
Foster/Adoption	\$2,464.71	(\$12,677.75)	(\$10,213.04)
TNR	\$1,738.90	(\$9,312.79)	(\$7,573.89)
ARK General Grants	-	-	-
Hardship	-	(\$4,056.78)	(\$4,056.78)
Structural needs	-	(\$10,018.00)	(\$10,018.00)
Total	\$81,817.68	(\$86,768.75)	(\$4,951.07)
Submitted by Janet Kistler, ARK Treasurer, 12/13/22			

Trap-Neuter-Return is another valuable service, making sure feral cats don't reproduce and cause additional problems in their communities. Income comes from donors who are grateful for the program in their neighborhoods.

Most of our budget goes to our 3 big programs – SNR, TNR, and Foster - and most of those payments are for vet bills (\$54,775 in total.) We simply couldn't do any work in the county without our vets!

In 2022, we spent about \$5,000 more than we took in, but we can absorb the cost at this point. You can be assured that the money you donate to benefit the animals in Hart County is used responsibly and wisely. (More info is available on ARK's website.) *Janet Kistler, ARK Treasurer*

Presenting the Dawgy Dash '23 T-shirt!

Each year the art students at Hart County High School are invited to enter designs for the official Dawgy Dash t-shirt. High school art teacher, Jennifer Sims challenged her kids to get involved. The top 6 designs were chosen as finalists and ARK members voted for their favorite one in an online poll.

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We're on the Web -
Website: ark4hart.org
Facebook: ARK for Hart

ARK's Board of Directors

- David Clement –Board Chair, Foster Chair, TNR Chair
- Israel Bergenson – Board Vice Chair
- Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer, Communications
- Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant Writer, Shelter Committee Chair
- Robin Miller – Secretary, Assistant Treasurer
- Susan Rowe –Fundraising & Development Chair
- Alicia McClure – Spay-Neuter-Rabies Chair

The winning design was created by 10th grader Sara Morris, daughter of Eleanor Morris. She won the \$100 prize which was sponsored again this year by Loretta Cottrell. The design was then transformed by the good folks at Replica Screen Printing into this awesome tee!

Participants in the Dawgy Dash get a free tee with their registration, but we can't guarantee that late entries will be able to get one. So, sign up soon to make sure you get this snazzy Dawgy Dash tee!

Runsingup.com/dawgydash



Our next SNR voucher sale is coming soon. Watch for announcements when we finalize the details.

It's time to renew your membership for 2023 if you haven't already done so. Thanks to those who have already renewed. Remittance envelopes are enclosed for those who need them. Membership letters are included for current members.

Animal Rescue Kare (ARK) is an all-volunteer animal welfare organization working to improve the quality of life for animals in our area. We strive to provide necessary care, to promote adoptions, and to encourage responsible pet ownership. ARK is working with local officials to support the Hart County Animal Shelter. We are committed to helping animals through our spay/neuter, foster, trap-neuter-return, outreach, and educational programs.

Please consider putting your talents to work by becoming an ARK volunteer! See our website for more details about volunteering.

Join ARK - Donate Today

Donations over \$25 include ARK membership. Fill out this form and send it to the address on this page, along with a check.

Or join/donate online: www.ark4hart.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Volunteer? (circle) Yes No

Level of Giving Youth (under 18) \$10 ___

Adult \$25 ___ Family \$45 ___ \$100 ___

\$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___

Lifetime individual \$1,500 ___

ARK is a tax-exempt charitable organization. Your donations to ARK are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and greatly appreciated.