

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2015-2016



Tony La Russa's  
Animal  
Rescue  
Foundation

*Celebrating 25 years*

Dear Friend,

We are excited to share 2,522 dogs and cats found their families last year, and more than 34,000 have found homes since ARF's inception in 1991. At ARF, we measure our success not only by numbers, but with questions about our impact: Have we elevated the status of dogs and cats in today's society? Has a pet unlocked anxiety and depression for a person? How do we keep more pets in homes and out of public shelters? The answers to these questions drive us to grow our programs for "People Rescuing Animals...Animals Rescuing People®."



*Executive Director Elena Bicker*

The launch of the Stephen Ball Spay Neuter Mobile Clinic this year to underserved communities and the Veterans Administration has been a wonderful addition to help in pet retention and veterinary care. To ensure we can help even more pets, we recently launched ARF Pet Safety Net, a new program to keep more pets in their homes and out of public shelters.

Many veterans return from deployment with physical and emotional injuries, which often make it difficult to transition back into day-to-day life. The companionship of an animal can help build confidence and restore independence. ARF's Pets for Vets program pairs shelter pets as emotional support animals with our brave servicemembers. Along with our MVP adoption program, we found homes with military families for nearly 150 pets last year.

An outstanding 87 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to ARF's life-saving programs. ARF has earned the highest possible 4 out of 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for 9 years running. This rating is your assurance, and our promise, that your gift will be used as effectively as possible to benefit the animals in our care and bring their magic to those in need.

Your commitment has made a life-saving difference for the animals and people who love and need them. On behalf of ARF's Board of Directors, our community of compassionate individuals, skilled staff, and committed volunteers, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Together, we can continue to save animals' lives and make our world a gentler and more humane place.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elena".

Elena Bicker, Executive Director



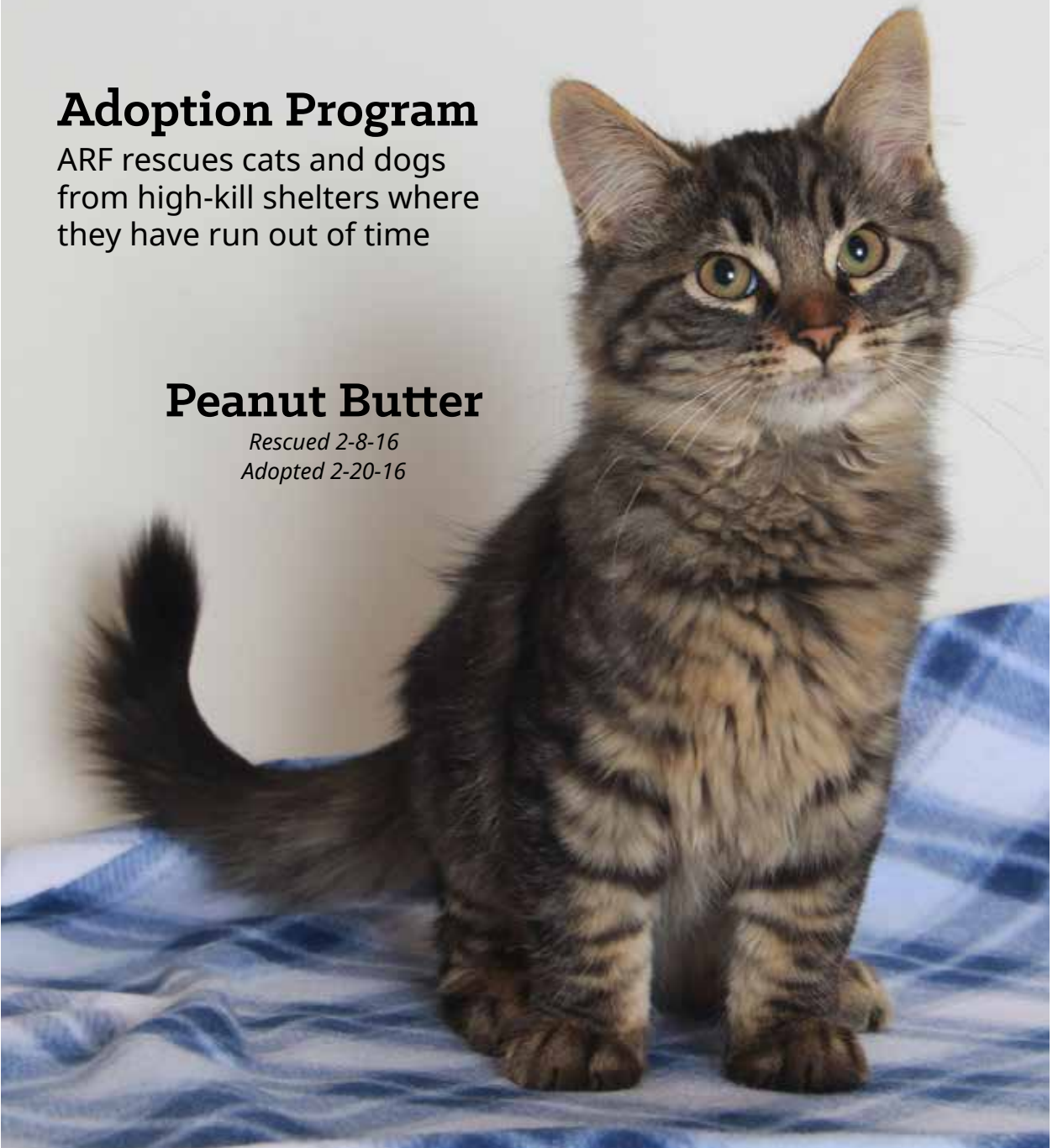
**2,522** cats and dogs adopted

## **Adoption Program**

ARF rescues cats and dogs from high-kill shelters where they have run out of time

### **Peanut Butter**

*Rescued 2-8-16  
Adopted 2-20-16*



# ARF in the Community

People Rescuing Animals... Animals Rescuing People®

**6,815** children and teens  
reached by our humane education programs



**164,459** pounds  
of pet food donated by Purina distributed yearly to

**4,930**  
domestic and community cats and dogs

**104,502** adult volunteer hours

The hours contributed by volunteers are valued at \$2,883,210 in savings, extending ARF's reach and resources





**3,594** spay and neuter surgeries performed

**Pippin**

*Rescued 7-26-16*

*Adopted 8-12-16*

**Spay/Neuter  
Program**

Provides community  
low-cost services and  
\$50 spay/neuter for  
Pit Bulls and  
Chihuahuas



# Connecting Hearts

## Pet Hug Pack®

ARF's renowned therapy animal teams visit the VA, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, senior facilities, and schools throughout our local community, providing the unconditional love and health benefits of companion animal interaction to people who need it most.



*"Thank you again to all the wonderful four and two legged Pet Hug Pack members who brightened the day of many, many students, staff and faculty. As you could tell by the squeals of delight and the amazing turnout of our community, pet therapy is one of our most rewarding and enriching outreach activities on campus."* Heidi - Staff, Saint Mary's College

## All Ears Reading®

ARF pairs young readers with a Pet Hug Pack® therapy dog to help children improve skills, instill confidence, and develop a love of reading. Studies confirm the numerous benefits of dogs as calming, non-judgmental reading partners.

**All Ears Reading® program reached 6,035 children.**

*"We had a wonderful first day. Seven children read multiple books and we all loved every minute of it. The dogs and their caregivers are magnificent. I know that we will have more children next month!"*

**Deborah - Librarian, Richmond Public Library**







**Lucy**  
*Pet Hug Pack*  
*Member*

Visits nursing facilities and  
participates in outreach events

**5,114** Pet Hug Pack visits reaching  
**438,612** people in need

# Pets for Vets



Veterans returning from combat often struggle with PTSD, TBI (traumatic brain injuries), or service-related mental health conditions as they transition back to civilian life. As service animals, Pets for Vets dogs can accompany their veterans in public, helping to rebuild confidence and restore independence.

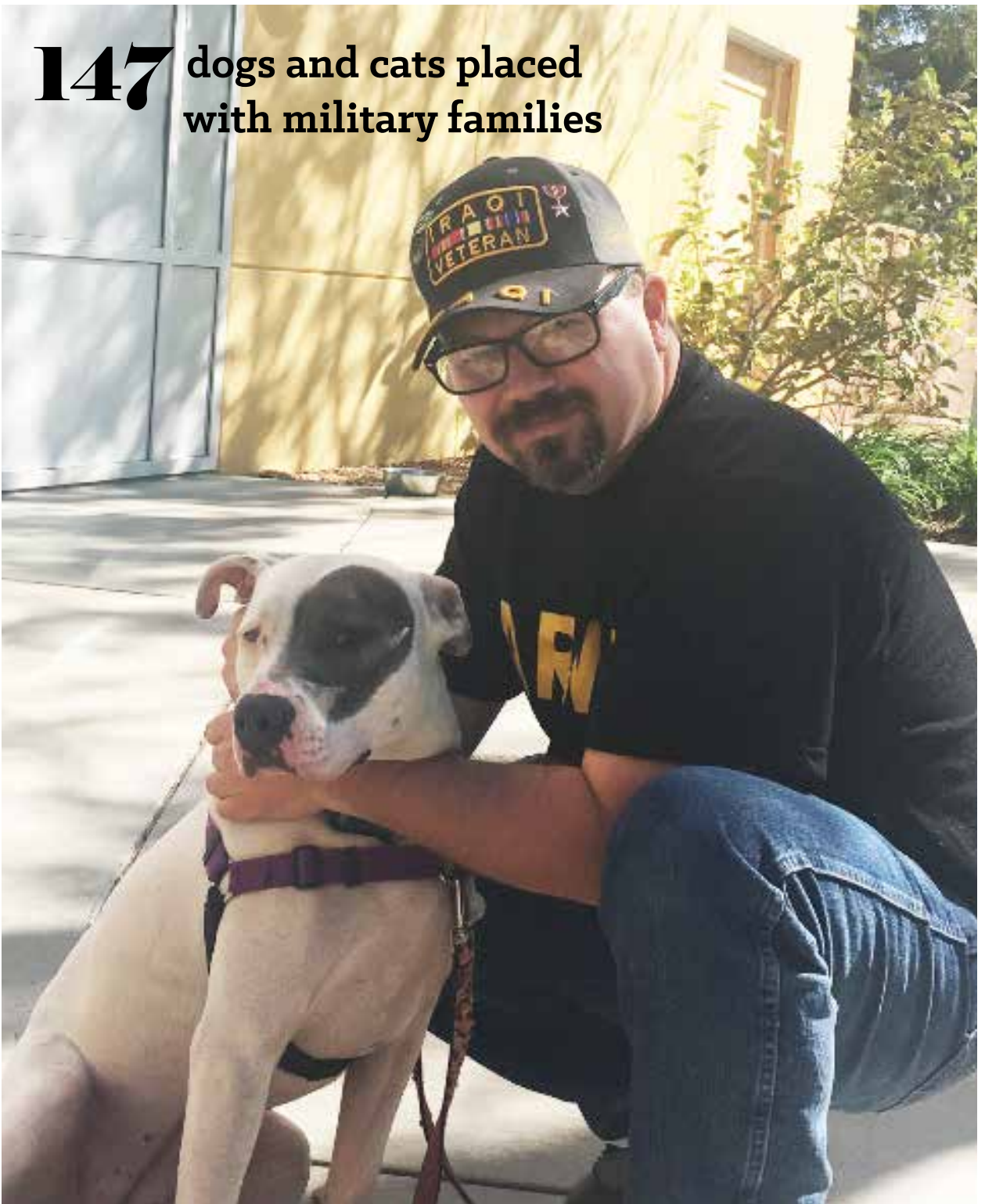
Each Pets for Vets participant is interviewed and carefully matched with a dog to meet their needs. Specialized group and individual training at ARF helps veterans teach their dogs supportive tasks to become full-fledged service dogs. Group classes provide support and instruction in the company and comradery of other veteran-dog teams, while private sessions help veterans meet individual goals.



All adoption services and training are provided at no cost to the veteran. The Pets for Vets program provides powerful therapeutic and practical benefits for veterans through the quiet, unconditional love of a pet.



# 147 dogs and cats placed with military families



# Pet Retention

## Disaster Relief

In response to natural disasters and cruelty cases, ARF deploys medical and rescue teams nationally to set up temporary shelters and care for displaced animals. This year, ARF provided veterinary assistance and animal care at a temporary shelter to nearly 700 pets rescued from a large-scale cruelty situation in North Carolina.



## ARF Emergency Medical Fund<sup>®</sup> (EMF)

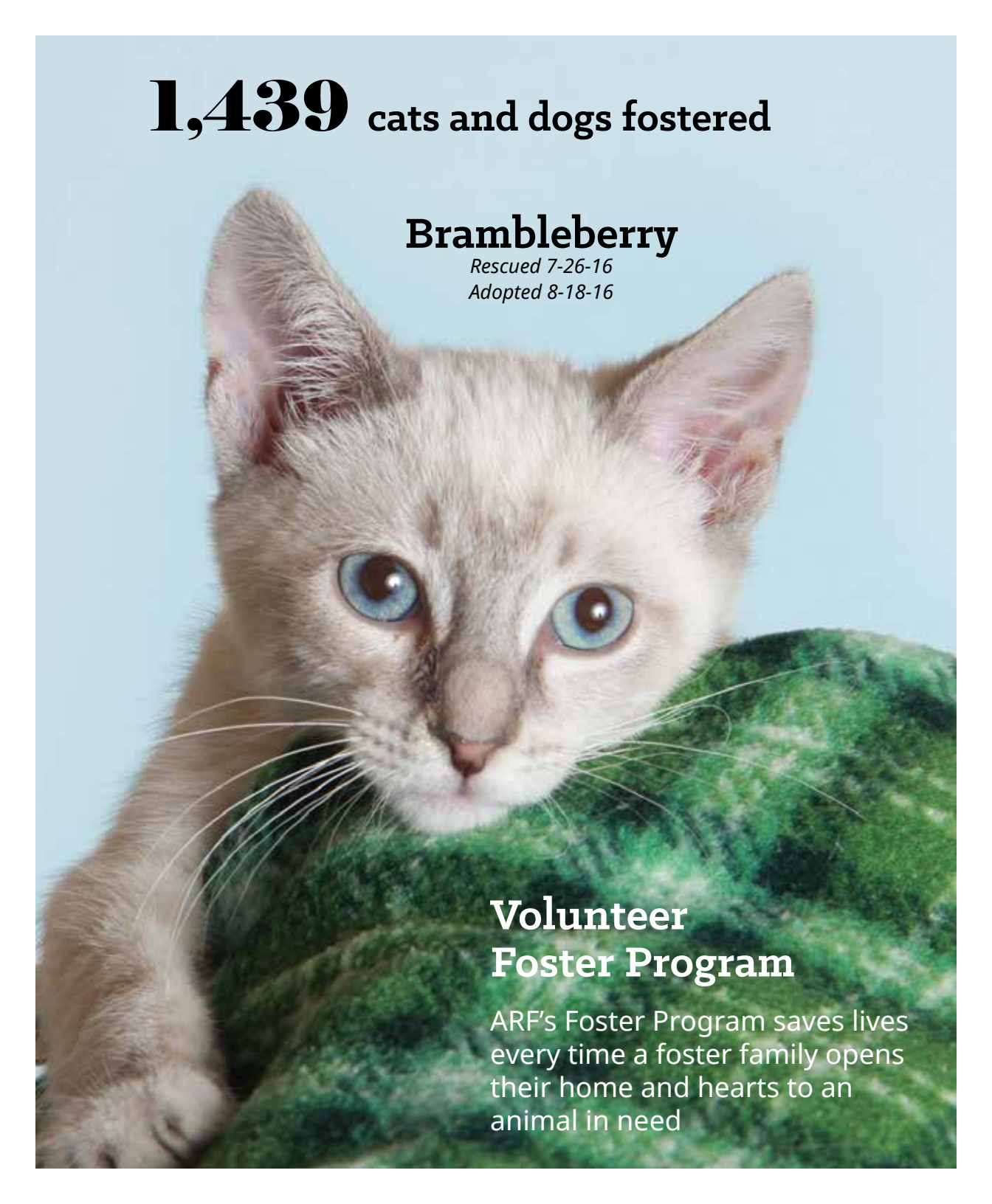
EMF provides residents of Contra Costa County with affordable, non-emergency veterinary care for their pets during times of serious financial crisis. EMF treated 161 dogs and 71 cats this year.

## ARF Dog Training

ARF Dog Training works to keep animals out of shelters by strengthening the bond between dogs and their people.

ARF Dog Training provided 261 dog training classes to 1,210 students this year.





**1,439** cats and dogs fostered

**Brambleberry**

*Rescued 7-26-16*

*Adopted 8-18-16*

**Volunteer  
Foster Program**

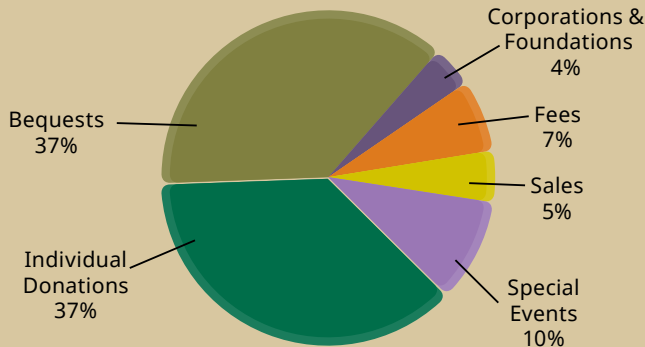
ARF's Foster Program saves lives every time a foster family opens their home and hearts to an animal in need



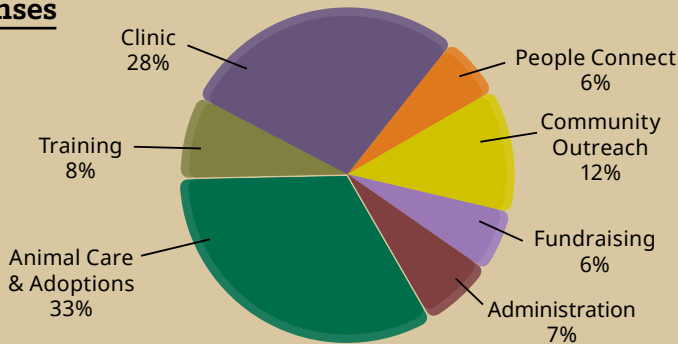
# The Numbers Behind the Lives Saved

Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

## Income



## Expenses



Individual Donations	3,972,816	Program Development Fund	4,285,954
Bequests	4,043,864	Total Program Expense	5,740,248
Corporations & Foundations	434,000	<i>Animal Care &amp; Adoptions</i>	2,131,978
Fees	802,275	<i>Training</i>	531,278
Sales	524,604	<i>Clinic</i>	1,874,695
Special Events (net)	1,126,324	<i>People Connect</i>	409,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,903,883</b>	<i>Community Outreach</i>	792,809
		Fundraising Expense	422,239
		Administration Expense	455,442
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,903,883</b>

# Board of Directors

**Tony La Russa, Co-Founder and Chairman**  
*Arizona Diamondbacks*

**Gregory L. McCoy, Esq., President**  
*Gagen McCoy*

**Jennifer Hall, Vice President**  
*Intuit*

**Bradley N. Blake**  
*Blake | Griggs Properties, Inc.*

**Kara Carter**  
*California Health Care Foundation*

**Timothy Krisch**  
*Maze & Associates*

**Bianca LaRussa**  
*Chevron Corporation*

**Neal Mitchell**  
*Community Leader*

**Steven C. Parrish**  
*Steve Parrish Consulting Group, LLC*

**John Steiner**  
*Merrill Lynch*

**Amy Trask**  
*CBS Sports*



## ARF Executive Staff

**Elena Bicker**, *Executive Director*

**Bobbe Bartlett**, *Development Director*

**Elaine Durkin**, *Finance Director*

**Stephanie Erickson**, *Operations Director*

### About this report:

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, GNS Photography, and Share the Joy Photography for capturing the spirit of ARF's dogs and cats.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, which receives no local, state, or federal funding. Life-saving services and programs are made possible through the generosity of caring people.

Federal Tax ID# 68-0240341

## ARF Core Values

**Open • Driven • Educator's Spirit**

## Strategic Anchors

**Save lives • Inspire learning • Connect hearts**

# Five Ways You Can Help ARF Save More Lives

## Donate

*Your gift provides a lifeline to abandoned animals in need.  
Become a monthly Sustainer and make a difference all year long for as little as 60 cents per day!*

## Adopt

*Every dog and cat deserves a loving family.  
Open your heart and your home to one of our precious animals.*

## Foster

*Foster families increase our capacity and provide a place for our animals to grow and heal.  
Fostering is a wonderful opportunity to care for a pet without a long-term adoption commitment.*

## Volunteer

*The gift of your time helps ARF's resources go further and  
provides the support necessary to save lives.*

## Spread the word

*Follow us on social media and share our posts to bring ARF's mission and stories to your friends!*

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



*"Having my dog makes me feel whole. I know he's there  
for me. He gets me." ARF Pets for Vets participant*



Involving more than 650 active volunteers in every aspect of our work has earned ARF a 4 out of 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for 9 consecutive years. This exceptional designation is achieved by only 1% of all charities nationally.



# Stephen Ball Spay Neuter Mobile Clinic Brings Services to the Community



ARF's brand-new, state-of-the-art Mobile Clinic expands affordable spay/neuter services to the public across Contra Costa County, and brings wellness services to the VA to serve veterans' pets. Since launching the program in late spring, the Mobile Clinic has brought crucial veterinary care for free or at low-cost to more than 1,000 public animals – and counting!

*"Thank you for doing this. My dog is my world. I am so used to hearing 'no' when I ask for help. It means a lot to finally have someone say 'yes!'"* **ARF Mobile Clinic client**



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[youtube.com/tlraf](https://youtube.com/tlraf)



[instagram.com/tlraf](https://instagram.com/tlraf)



## **Beryl & Bunty**

*Rescued 7-18-16  
Adopted 7-29-16 & 8-14-16*



**ADOPT 🐾 VOLUNTEER 🐾 DONATE**

2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**[www.arflife.org](http://www.arflife.org)** 🐾 (925) 256-1ARF

**Santana (cover)** - *Rescued 7-13-15 🐾 Adopted 10-14-15*