ORPHANS OF THE STORM®
animal shelter



Our Next Hundred Years

Since 1928, we have found loving homes for over 150,000 cats and dogs, including Cayah, pictured below, who needed thousands of dollars of medical treatment before she was placed in a loving home.

This is what we do.



Our antiquated facilities are failing. We urgently need your help to build an adoption center that focuses on the physical and emotional needs of our animals so we can continue saving more lives and serving our community for the next 100 years.

Dear Friends,

With your help, Orphans of the Storm has saved over 150,000 dogs and cats and created thousands of happy families in our first hundred years.

Our beloved building, while full of history, can no longer meet the needs of the animals and families we serve. Our dedicated team does its best every day, but we do so under challenging conditions. We lack proper isolation space, which forces us to reduce capacity - and sometimes close entirely - when illness strikes. Without indoor exercise areas for dogs or indoor places for potential adopters to meet them during inclement weather, we work creatively around seasonal limitations. The current facility is literally sinking into the ground, creating ongoing structural concerns that make repairs increasingly costly and ineffective.

This new building will allow us to be so much more for the communities we serve. We will better support dogs and cats and the people who love them throughout every stage of pet ownership - from humane education for children and thoughtful guidance in choosing a companion to serving as the community's safe haven for lost pets. We will be able to do more to rescue and care for vulnerable animals, provide training and support to keep families together, and offer compassionate grief resources when a beloved pet is lost. Throughout it all, we will provide exceptional medical care, comfortable housing, enrichment, and love to every animal in our shelter, serving our community and beyond.

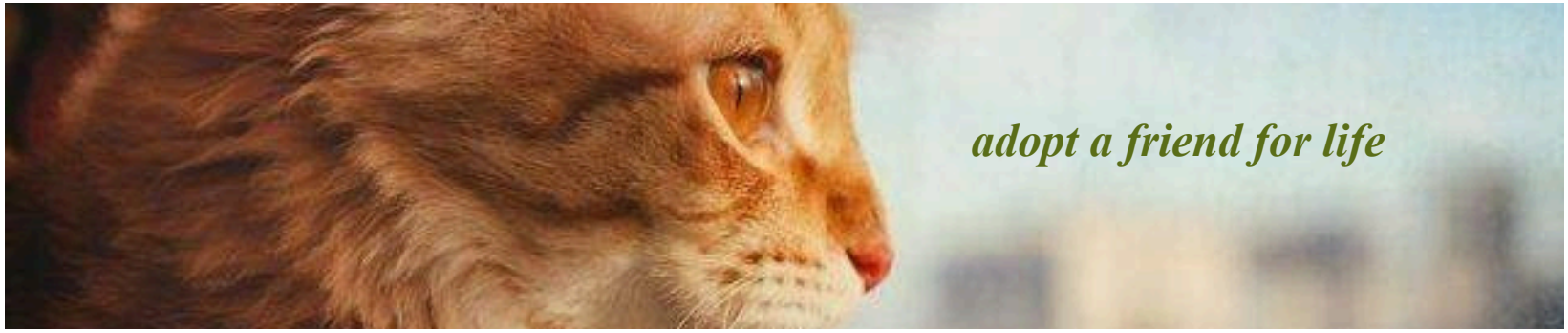
Together, we will build a brighter future for pets and people in "Our Next Hundred Years."

For the animals,
Michelle Shields, Board President



ORPHANS OF THE STORM®
animal shelter





The Need

Animal shelters across the country are struggling. Adoptions, especially of large dogs, have plummeted, and economic hardship and the lack of pet-friendly housing are forcing many to surrender their pets or worse. Although our staff works hard to keep them comfortable, our animals endure cracked and sinking foundations, leaking roofs, and poor HVAC systems, while staff, volunteers, and visitors face challenging conditions. Without an isolation area for sick animals, illnesses can spread more easily, leading to longer pet stays and shelter closures during outbreaks. At a time when the need is greatest, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to serve as the safety net that pets and people rely on.

A new facility will improve health, safety and allow us to serve more pets, people, and partner agencies.

LOCAL IMPACT

We work with 30 animal welfare agencies in Illinois. Our new shelter will shorten our pet stays, freeing up space so we can help more animals and better support our partner agencies, including Lake County Animal Care and Control, Waukegan Animal Care and Control, Chicago Animal Care and Control, and many others.

NATIONAL IMPACT

Over the last five years, we have transferred more than 2,500 dogs and cats from overcrowded agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Indiana. Each animal is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, vetted, and placed in a loving home—helping to break the cycle of pet overpopulation.

With your partnership and support, we can be a safety net for pets and their people - locally and nationally.

Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter is a 501 c (3) nonprofit, licensed and operated in compliance with all applicable state and local regulations. Illinois Animal Shelter License No. 235.000522.

OUR FUTURE

Our new shelter will improve the lives of the animals in our care, expand our services and help promote adoption to families who may never have considered it.

Improved Animal Care

Cat and dog health will improve with:

- Proper medical care and isolation areas for each species
- Individual air exchangers in each housing area

Cats will enjoy:

- Small group housing, allowing for safe social interactions between cats
- Protected outdoor spaces (catios), where they can feel the sun on their fur, smell the grass, and exhibit other natural behaviors
- Engaging meet-and-greet spaces where potential adopters can see their true personalities

Dogs will enjoy:

- Larger kennels with secure access to the outdoors, and a space where they can relieve themselves away from their living area
- Visual barriers in each kennel so they can relax and destress without having to be “on guard” all the time
- A dog village with small cottages furnished with sofas and rugs where dogs can go to destress and be in a home-like setting
- Access to new indoor exercise spaces, where they can stretch their legs even in excessive cold or heat or when it’s raining (Dogs are currently confined to their kennels in inclement weather.)

New Spaces & Programs for Community Members

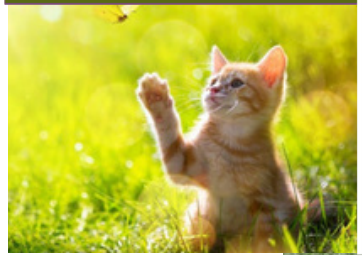
- Indoor dog meet-and-greet areas so adopters don’t have to brave the elements to meet their new best friend
- Kennels to temporarily house the pets of community members facing emergencies, including domestic violence and economic hardship
- A Community Room for pet-owner support, such as microchip clinics and dog training, as well as for hosting community groups and events

Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter is a 501 c (3) nonprofit, licensed and operated in compliance with all applicable state and local regulations. Illinois Animal Shelter License No. 235.000522.

ORPHANS OF THE STORM
animal shelter



INDOOR/OUTDOOR CATIO



OFF LEASH PLAY YARDS



WOODLAND TRAIL



BIRD HOUSE GARDEN



DOG VILLAGE



ORPHANS OF THE STORM
animal shelter



1. ADOPTIONS ENTRY
2. LOBBY
3. TRAINING EDUCATION CENTER
4. DOG BONDING ROOMS
5. DOG VILLAGE
6. DOG ADOPTION NEIGHBORHOOD #1
7. DOG ADOPTION NEIGHBORHOOD #2
8. DOG ADOPTER KIOSK
9. DOG ERICHMENT PLAY YARD
10. CAT ADOPTION CENTER
11. CAT BONDING ROOM
12. OUTDOOR CATIO
13. ADMINISTRATION
14. INTAKE GARAGE
15. INTAKE
16. INTAKE TREATMENT
17. INTAKE OUTDOOR YARD
18. ISOLATION OUTDOOR YARD
19. STAFF/VOLUNTEER ENTRANCE
20. VOLUNTEER ROOM
21. FACILITY SUPPORT SPACES
22. VOLUNTEER DOG WALK CENTER

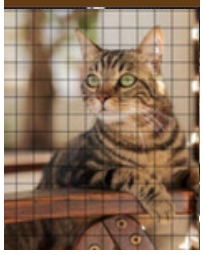
5. DOG VILLAGE



3. DOG ADOPTION NEIGHBORHOODS



4. CATIO



7. INDOOR TRAINING ROOM



8. SMALL OPEN CAT ROOMS



LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES

Our new shelter requires financial support from compassionate individuals, foundations, and companies committed to improving the lives of pets and people. The following gifts come with special naming opportunities, allowing donors to memorialize their critical role in creating the North Shore's premier animal shelter.



$4M

~~Building Name~~ **RESERVED**



$1M+

~~Community Room~~ RESERVED
~~Dog Village (Outdoor neighborhood)~~ **RESERVED**
~~Medical Clinic~~ **RESERVED**



$250,000+

Friend for Life Plaza



$200,000+

Solar Energy Installation



$150,000+

~~Dog "Fetch and Return" Depot~~ **RESERVED**
~~Cat Enrichment/Bird House Garden~~ **RESERVED**
~~Dog Neighborhood~~ (2 → **RESERVED**)



$100,000 - $149,000

Cat Neighborhood (4 → 2 **Available**)
~~**Dog Adoption Room**~~ **RESERVED**
~~Volunteer Dog Walking Center~~ **RESERVED**
~~Cat Adoption Room~~ (2 → **RESERVED**)
~~Volunteer Room~~ **RESERVED**



$50,000 - $99,000

~~**Catio/Outdoor cat patio**~~ (4 → **RESERVED**)



All Gifts $25,000+

Name on Donor Wall Installation

We've successfully sheltered animals for almost 100 years, placing more than 150,000 dogs and cats. You can trust your investment will make a lasting difference. Don't see an opportunity that matches your vision? Let's create one together!

To arrange a tour or to make a contribution, please contact Michelle Shieds, Board President, at donate@orphansofthestorm.org, **or 847-945-0235. Updated on** 8.15.26