



1921 Legacy Society

What if there was no safe place for animals in Washington County?

What if we were forced to pick and choose which animals we could help, or even worse....what if we were forced to turn them away before they even made it in the door?

You have the power to make sure that never happens.

Our Journey

The Humane Society of Washington County (HSWC) began in November 1921 with Ms. Daisy Derby Whipple and 12 animals in a one-room building on South Boulevard (now Wilson Boulevard). In April 1938, the HSWC moved to its current location on Mougansville Road and operated from a trailer. The organization grew and eventually built the existing 13,200 square foot animal shelter in December 2001.

By 2015, we had transformed HSWC into a life-saving animal shelter. In June of that year, we unveiled a newly constructed 6,800 square foot state-of-the-art veterinary center and adoption lobby with a pet supply store and cage-free housing for cats.

Today, HSWC employs more than 40 staff and 250 volunteers who provide compassionate, skilled care to over 6,000 animals annually. What started in a one-room building in 1921 has grown into a progressive animal welfare organization that offers a wide range of services to the community.

Your Legacy Society

The 1921 Legacy Society (Society) recognizes those individuals and families who have remembered HSWC in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. More so, the Society enables people like you to truly embrace the value of HSWC in the community and join a partnership to save animal lives.

The inspiration to create the Society came in 2018 from supporter Dottie Etzler, who established The Etzler Family Friends of Felines Endowment.

Dottie believes that all cats—whether beloved pets or free-roaming and feral cats existing outside without an owner—deserve to live and to be treated humanely. The intention of her family’s Endowment is to enhance the lives of all felines in the Washington County area through the charitable programs of HSWC.

We share Dottie’s belief for cats and for all animals. And that is why we think her wish to establish a Legacy Society is the perfect way to make a long-lasting, lifesaving difference.

Like Dottie, you may direct your charitable contribution toward a particular species—such as cats, dogs, or horses—or you may designate it for HSWC’s general programs to benefit all animals.

The 1921 Legacy Society’s eight founding and forever members invite you to join them in pledging your planned gift as an act of hope to secure the future of HSWC.

Your Membership Matters

Because of your generosity, HSWC will be well equipped to serve animals and our community for years to come.



You may become a member of the Legacy Society simply by officially notifying us that you have named HSWC a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. You will find everything you need, including a Planned Giving Agreement Form, at <http://hswcmd.org/donate/planned-giving>.

Every year, names of new members of the Legacy Society will be added to a plaque displayed in the shelter’s lobby. The Society and its members will be promoted and recognized in our Annual Report and on our website and social media platforms. All Society members will receive a commemorative pin and be honored at the

annual member’s dinner. The Society will serve as the theme and focus of our 100th Anniversary Gala celebration to be held in 2021.

Thank you for being our partner in saving lives.