



2006
Summary of Operations

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary 2006 Operations Report

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Mission Statement

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, a nonprofit organization founded in May 2002, is a leader in the movement to end the euthanasia of healthy pets. The mission will be accomplished in three ways:

- 1. Create a sanctuary that will care for domestic animals facing euthanasia.**
- 2. Provide low-cost pet behavioral services.**
- 3. Initiate statewide partnerships with other animal welfare organizations to create programs that address the root causes of pet homelessness.**

No Pet Should Ever Be Homeless



*Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary
future animal adoption and rescue center*



A Letter from Our Companions Founders

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to share all of our accomplishments in 2006!

When Our Companions was founded in 2002 it was little more than a dream among a small group of people passionate about the welfare of animals. Guided by a mission of ending the unnecessary euthanasia of animals, and propelled by the promise of building a sanctuary on 43 acres of donated land, Our Companions was born.

The response to our mission has been nothing short of overwhelming. Our community's commitment to improving the lives of pets is demonstrated each day through Our Companions' dedicated family of over 1,250 donors as well as our ever growing team of over 80 passionate volunteers.

The success of Our Companions is largely due to our simple philosophy that no pet should ever be homeless. This includes animals that are easily adopted and those who require special care like Crickett, a beautiful 9 year old retriever mix who was tied to a tree for most of her life, and Eva, a 6 year old tuxedo cat who lived in isolation outside in a cage until her rescue. The sad tales of Crickett and Eva provide two salient examples that demonstrate the great need among animals in our community.

Both Crickett and Eva are now in loving homes thanks to Our Companions' staff and volunteers who took on these challenging cases and were driven by their commitment to respect and value the lives of all animals.

In 2006 we adopted 268 pets without the luxury of a shelter. This is a testament to the resourcefulness, creativity and passion of our volunteers. I invite you to read about our other accomplishments in 2006; we thank our family of volunteers and donors for making these accomplishments possible.

2007 will be a landmark year for Our Companions. We will demolish the largest buildings in Ashford - an egg farm where hundreds of thousands of animals suffered - and begin building our much-needed sanctuary which will allow us to provide far more resources and expand our current rescue programs.

Thank you for caring deeply for the welfare of animals. We look forward to sharing many more successes with you.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Linker
Co-Founder
Chief Executive Officer

Marie S. Joyner
Co-Founder
Chief Operating Officer



Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

Abbreviated History

- Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary established as a nonprofit 501(3)C organization in May 2002, founded on the principle of ending the euthanasia of healthy pets in Connecticut.
- Received a major gift of 43 acres of land in Ashford, valued at \$456,400 in December of 2002.
- Held a press conference in Bushnell Park in August of 2003 to announce plans to develop Ashford land into a domestic animal sanctuary and pet rescue center.
- Established a series of programs which include: Stay-at-Home Training, Lead Program, Adopt-a-Shelter Program, Home for Good Training Classes, Rescue Outreach Program, Pet Assisted Therapy, and Educational Programs.
- Devised a 10 year plan to develop the land in Ashford into a domestic animal sanctuary with permanent housing facilities, adoption center and pet rescue center.
- Co-founded the Animal Welfare Federation of Connecticut: a coalition of existing animal welfare organizations in Connecticut for the purpose of developing cooperative solutions and promoting humane animal welfare programs in the state.
- Implemented marketing and fundraising programs that have resulted in the creation of a core base of more than 1,250 regular donors.
- Created 3 Committees: Development, Program and Facilities Planning, which meet regularly to execute the organization's strategic plan.
- Established a direct marketing program that reaches over 20,000 households quarterly.
- Increased the number of recipients for Our Companions Rescue Outreach Newsletter, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter to over 2,000 households.
- Launched a website Ourcompanions.org. The site contains information on all programs currently offered by Our Companions, architectural renderings of the future animal sanctuary and much more.
- Created an animal assistance "help line" staffed by trained volunteers to assist pet owners with a variety of animal welfare related issues.
- Developed a network of approximately 100 volunteers who are actively assisting the organization in fulfilling its mission statement.
- Increased the paid staff to 3 individuals, 2 full time and 1 part time for 2007.
- Held a groundbreaking event, attended by several state and national representatives, on August 23, 2006, to commence construction of animal sanctuary in Ashford, Ct.

Our Companions 2006 Accomplishments

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary has grown significantly since its founding in May 2002 and continues to make steady progress towards fulfilling its core mission. Listed below are specific achievements by each of the three steering committees in 2006.

Development Committee:

- Increased total donation income to \$305,491 in 2006, which represents the fourth consecutive year of significant revenue growth. See the 3 year comparative income in this report for complete details.
- Increased total cash and short term investments to \$180,766, which should be sufficient to begin phase one of the sanctuary construction project in 2007.
- Met groundbreaking campaign goal of raising \$130,000 in pledges and donations towards the demolition of the existing structures on Ashford site.
- Developed the “Home for Good” capital campaign case statement.
- Upgraded computer network system and installed Raiser’s Edge software to facilitate development of the donor base.
- Participated in numerous expos and fund raising events, such as the Dogman Classic Golf Tournament, to increase overall public awareness and visibility.
- Hosted four donor receptions, one of which launched the “Home for Good” capital campaign.
- Refurbished and expanded Our Companions headquarter office in Bloomfield.
- Created layout for redesign and upgrade of Our Companions quarterly news magazine which is mailed to over 2,000 households.
- Updated Our Companions website and improved the design, leading to an increase in online donations.
- Elected three new Board members: Laura Jordan, Gail Perkins and Debora Hyde.

Program Committee:

- Expanded Animal Assistance Helpline staff from 2 to 10 volunteers. This program provides assistance to anyone who calls with animal related problems and is fielding a monthly average of 130 calls.
- Expanded adoption program and placed over 268 homeless cats and dogs into permanent homes through our Rescue Outreach Program.
- Sterilized 85 cats through Our Companions friendly feline program,
- Increased veterinary related program expenditures by 120% compared to prior year, spending over \$27,000 for regular and emergency veterinary care.

- Developed the Sterile Feral program which resulted in 137 cats being neutered.
- Created Crickets Fund for assisting animals with emergency veterinary care issues.
- Conducted 121 private canine training classes providing our unique services for dogs with complex behavioral problems. Served 95 dogs in Our Companions canine behavioral classes.
- Added new canine training location in South Windsor.
- Continued to conduct and expand Our Companions Ambassador program, which has been very successful in recruiting and training new volunteer staff members.

Facilities Planning Committee:

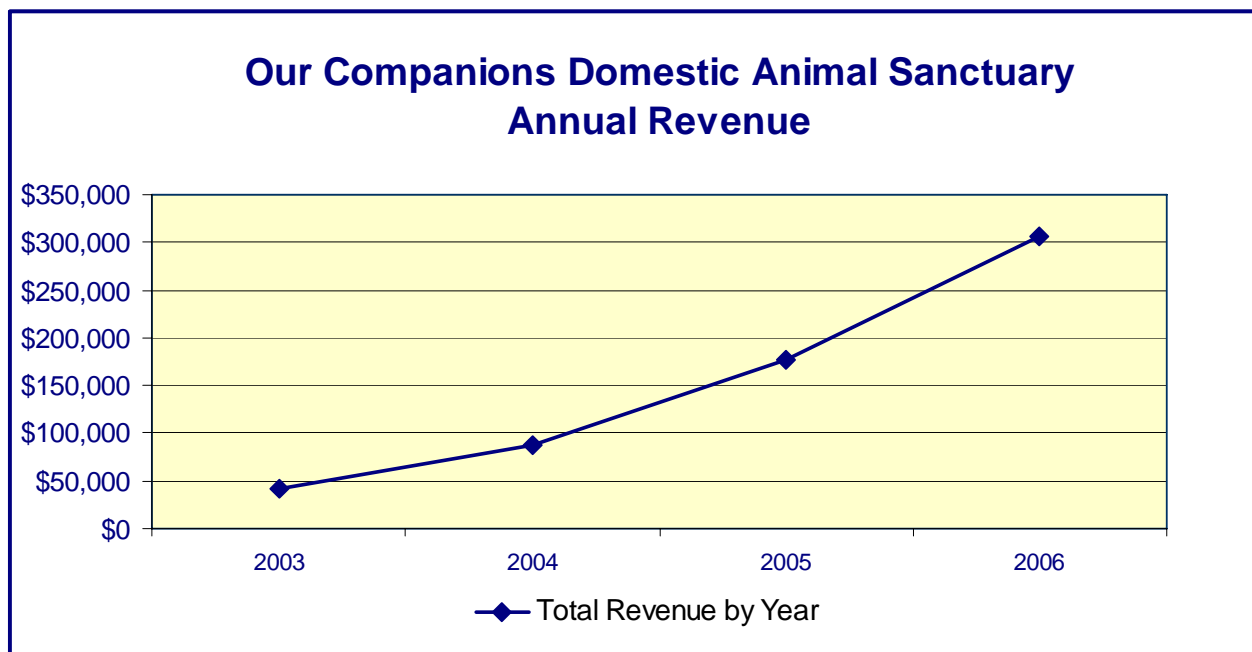
- Worked in partnership with the architectural firm of Kaestle-Boos Associates to create new conceptual design renderings of the future animal sanctuary facilities.
- Held ground breaking publicity event in Ashford attended by several state representatives to officially announce construction of the animal sanctuary.
- Recruited volunteer landscape architects to plan the Reflection Garden and site beautification that will be implemented after demolition is completed
- Finalized plans for phase 1 of the development.
- Worked in partnership with the Environmental Engineering firm CME to complete site survey.
- Conducted regular meeting of the Facilities Planning Committee to oversee the project plan development and keep project moving forward.
- Met with local and state agencies including the Town of Ashford zoning committee and the Inlands/Wetlands and Dam Safety division of the State of CT Department of Environmental Protection.
- Completed the large scale clean up of the Ashford property. This included the removal of and proper disposal of farming chemicals, florescent lights and the dismantling of chicken coop battery cages.



Members of Our Companions Animal Assistance Helpline
volunteer staff.

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary Financial Statements – Analysis of Operations

Financially, 2006 was a very successful year for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, with another significant step being taken towards establishing the financial organizational structure needed to accomplish the objective of constructing and operating a domestic animal sanctuary in Ashford, CT. Total donation and program service revenue was \$305,491 which represents a 72% increase over the 2005 revenue total of \$177,847. Of the 2006 total amount, \$214,754 was from regular donations, \$81,462 was for restricted capital campaign donations and \$9,275 was from adoption and services fees. Since Our Companions was formed in 2002, total income has grown significantly every year, from \$41,653 in our first full year of operation to its current level. We believe that this impressive revenue growth is indicative of the strong popular support that exists for improving the quality of animal welfare in Connecticut, and we believe that it will continue to provide a stable source of income, making construction of the animal sanctuary viable. The following page shows the full detail comparative income statement for 2006 along with the two prior periods.



On the expense side, total expenses increased to \$202,005 in 2006 compared with \$121,665 in 2005. Salary expense increased to \$50,928 with the addition of a new staff position. The new staff position enables Our Companions to expand the program services that are offered, and will have an immediate beneficial impact on the welfare of animals in need. Veterinary and program expenses combined increased to \$39,447 in 2006 compared with \$14,880 in 2005. This is consistent with Our Companions core mission statement of providing animal behavioral and adoption services. Interest income of \$2,089 was received on short term investments held in an ING Investment account.

The balance sheet position was also strengthened in 2006 with total net assets at 12/31/06 increasing to \$650,848 and liabilities totaling only \$419. The year ended with cash and other short term investments of \$180,766 compared with \$77,596 at 12/31/05. A brokerage account was established with ING to invest short term funds at current money market rates. Net fixed assets increased slightly to \$475,781 with the additions of a new phone system, office renovation and Ashford site related purchases. Overall the balance sheet for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary is well positioned to provide the stable foundation needed to support the organization's future expansion plans.

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary
3 Year Comparative Income Statements
For the Periods Ended 12/31/06, 12/31/05 and 12/31/04

	12 months Ended 12/31/06	12 months Ended 12/31/05	12 months Ended 12/31/04
Income			
Adoption Fee/Service Income	9,275	1,445	4,276
Donation Income - Capital Campaign	81,462		
Donation Income – Other	214,754	176,402	83,306
Total Income	305,491	177,847	87,582
Administrative Expenses			
Salary & Payroll Taxes	50,928	23,443	15,146
Veterinary	26,543	11,199	3,906
Pet Care Expenses	12,904	3,681	563
Fundraising	22,095	17,919	3,709
Printing	9,020	11,127	11,063
Postage	14,263	11,423	5,239
Insurance	6,967	5,898	4,945
Promotional	3,374	684	6,627
Professional Fees/Consultants	4,357	5,277	2,542
Information Technology	6,152	6,800	
Utilities	1,961	1,671	1,211
Office Supplies	3,850	1,835	1,846
Repairs & Maintenance	5,214	2,427	
Rental & Lease Expense	5,741		
Event Fees/Trade Shows	2,848	6,062	945
Educational Materials	7,510	1,385	210
Stewardship/Cultivation	1,409	628	820
Training Programs Restricted	1,951	1,060	85
Volunteer Expenses	4,708	3,090	656
Miscellaneous Expense	1,930	2,130	3,086
Travel/Meal Expense	3,551	1,076	283
Depreciation Expense	4,629	2,751	437
Amortization Expense	100	100	100
Total Administrative Expense	202,005	121,665	63,419
Other Income/Expense			
Interest & Dividend Income	2,089	29	96
Gain / Loss on Investments	773	(1,175)	0
Total Other Income & Expense	2,862	(1,146)	96
Net Income	106,348	55,036	24,163

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary
Comparative Balance Sheets
For the 3 Periods Ended 12/31/06, 12/31/05 and 12/31/04

	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Petty Cash		74	
Bank North Checking	73,909	60,680	31,249
Bank North Savings	31,283		
Total Cash	105,192	60,754	31,249
Other Current Assets			
Short Term Investments	74,666		
Accounts Receivable	908	16,842	250
Total Other Current Assets	75,574	16,842	250
Total Current Assets	180,766	77,596	31,499
Fixed Assets			
Land	456,400	456,400	456,400
Building Improvements	5,827		
Vehicles	5,675	5,675	
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	2,500	2,500	2,500
Computer Equipment	6,517	6,517	
Communication Equipment	1,800		
Acum Depr - Furn, Fixt, Equip	(8,679)	(4,050)	(1,299)
Total Fixed Assets	470,040	467,042	457,601
Other Assets			
Organizational Costs	500	500	500
Acum Amort - Organizational	(458)	(358)	(258)
Total Other Assets	42	142	242
TOTAL ASSETS	650,848	544,780	489,342
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Current Liabilities			
Federal Withholding Liability	117	214	77
FICA/Medicare Liability	281	468	212
State Income Tax Liability	21	17	8
Total Payroll Tax Liabilities	419	699	297
Total Current Liabilities	419	699	297
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	419	699	297
Equity			
Retained Earnings	544,081	489,045	464,882
Net Income	106,348	55,036	24,163
Total Equity	650,429	544,780	489,045
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	650,848	544,780	486,342

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

Statement of Functional Expenses

The Internal Revenue Service requires that qualified nonprofit organizations report their expenses based on three classifications on their Federal 990 tax return. These three categories are Program Services, Fundraising and General Management expense. The purpose is to allow interested parties to easily determine what percentage of total expense is spent directly on program services, which represents the core reason for the nonprofits organization's existence. The Statement of Functional Expenses is one of the standard criteria by which all nonprofit organizations are judged. In general, it's important that nonprofit organizations show a high percentage of expense being used for program services, with lower percentages being allocated for general management and fundraising expense.

Presented below is the Statement of Functional Expenses for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary for 2006, which shows that 50% of total expense went directly to program service related expenditures. In the future this percentage will increase as the organization continues to expand its programs and begin construction of the animal sanctuary.

2006 Statement of Functional Expenses

	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>Management & General</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Total</u>
Administrative Expenses				
Compensation of Officers	7,335	7,335	7,335	22,006
Other Salaries and Wages	8,280	8,280	8,280	24,839
Payroll Taxes - Fica & Suta	1,361	1,361	1,361	4,082
Supplies	-	2,963	887	3,850
Utilities & Telephone	-	1,460	501	1,961
Postage	5,231	1,311	7,722	14,264
Equipment Rental	-	5,741	-	5,741
Printing	4,917	1,174	2,929	9,020
Travel/Meal Expense	-	699	2,852	3,551
Depreciation & Amortization	1,576	1,576	1,576	4,729
Veterinary	-	(500)	27,043	26,543
Pet Care Expenses	-	-	12,904	12,904
Fundraising	22,095	-	-	22,095
Insurance	-	6,223	743	6,967
Promotional	1,100	996	1,277	3,373
Professional Fees	1,008	916	2,434	4,357
Information Technology	114	4,716	1,321	6,152
Repairs & Maintenance	-	2,321	2,894	5,214
Event Fees/Trade Shows	-	400	2,448	2,848
Educational Materials	-	-	7,510	7,510
Stewardship/Cultivation	109	161	1,139	1,409
Training Programs	-	-	1,951	1,951
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	4,708	4,708
Miscellaneous Expense	-	1,662	269	1,930
Total Administrative Expense	<u>53,127</u>	<u>48,795</u>	<u>100,083</u>	<u>202,005</u>
	26%	24%	50%	

Our Companions Programs

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary currently operates many programs that are targeted at addressing the root causes of pet homelessness.

Animal Assistance Helpline – Our Companions Animal Assistance Helpline is staffed by a program manager and trained volunteers to offer information and advice to individuals experiencing pet related problems. In addition, the helpline assists facilitating adoptions by locating and matching animals in need with individuals seeking to adopt a pet.

Animal Welfare Federation of Connecticut - Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary currently leads the newly formed statewide coalition - the Animal Welfare Federation of Connecticut. This Federation is a partnership of animal welfare advocates who are dedicated to improving the status and well-being of companion animals in Connecticut. The federation will develop a statewide coalition that will collectively and systematically target the root causes facing the problems of domestic animals in our state with a primary focus on spay/neuter efforts.

Stay-at-Home Training - Behavioral problems are a leading reason why pets end up in shelters. The Stay-At-Home program is aimed at preventing pet homelessness by designing a proactive program that helps people solve behavioral problems so pets can stay in their homes. This program utilizes positive reinforcement trainers who provide one-on-one consultation with people who are seeking help. The trainers assess the situation and then create customized training regimes to solve the problem. In many cases, this service saves the original home and provides people with an enhanced understanding and respect for their pet.

Adopt-a-Shelter Program - Each day healthy adoptable pets are euthanized in municipal animal shelters. Our Companions is committed to working with Animal Control Officers who have an interest in minimizing euthanasia. The volunteers in this program promote their adoptable pets, build websites, create fliers, plan events, etc. They also provide training resources (while in the shelter and follow up training for adopters) and serve as an advocate for the shelter in the community.

Home for Good Training Classes - The Home for Good program offers low-cost behavioral group training for people who have adopted a pet from any shelter or have rescued a homeless pet. The course teaches common behaviors associated with adopted dogs, phases of canine emotional development and offers positive techniques that start and keep the relationship with their new pet companion positive and rewarding. The program also offers follow-up support for all families to ensure successful life-long adoptions.

LEAD Program - The Our Companions LEAD program provides a structured learning curriculum for individuals interested in becoming professional dog trainers. The curriculum teaches the basics of positive reinforcement training and more advanced behavior modification skills. This program includes class work and application training in the classroom and in private settings. The volunteers in the LEAD program offer their newly-learned skills to provide behavioral assistance for pets who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Rescue Outreach Program - The Rescue Outreach Program is an email-based program that delivers updates about Our Companions, including notification of pets who are in need of a good home or those who are at risk of becoming homeless. This initiative provides a vast outreach among people who care about the welfare of pets. Weekly emails are sent to over 500 people who spread the word about pets who are in need of rescue.

Sterile Feral Program - In addition to our low cost sterilization program for owned animals, Our Companions has recently launched this program to provide low-cost (\$40 per cat) sterilization and vaccination of feral cats. It's estimated that 700,000 cats are currently free-roaming in Connecticut. This program will allow caregivers to afford to spay or neuter the feral cats they are feeding.

Educational Services - Humane education is a priority for Our Companions. We offer programs for children of all ages and adult groups, as well. Our Companions also offers a myriad of educational materials for schools, families and individual pet owners.

Our Companions –The Animal Sanctuary

A primary objective of Our Companions is to build a domestic animal sanctuary on 43 acres in Ashford, CT. The sanctuary will be the first of its kind in the state and is based on the existing successful model of the Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah. The long term plans for the facility include an adoption center, comprehensive rescue center, permanent dog and cat housing facilities, an onsite veterinarian clinic, behavioral training facilities, reflection gardens and hiking trails. The facility will be open to the public to enjoy the grounds, and interaction with the community will be encouraged. In addition, the center will serve as the future headquarters of Our Companions and will allow for the continued development and expansion of the currently existing programs. A more detailed description of this project can be obtained through the organization’s Capital Campaign Case Statement.

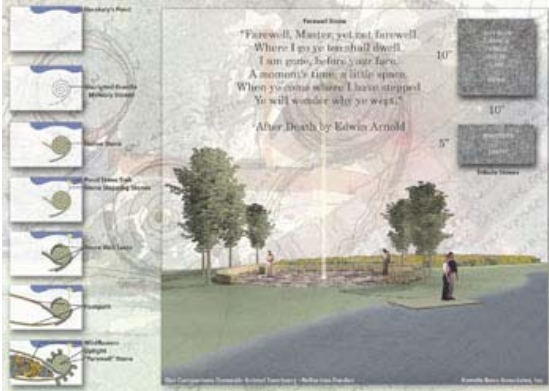
Architectural Rendering of Domestic Animal Sanctuary to be constructed in Ashford, Ct



Cat Condos



Canine Housing



Reflection Gardens



Adoption Center



Cat House Interior



Master Layout

Animal Sanctuary Developments and Progress

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary's official groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 23, 2006, in Ashford. The event was attended by a large group of supporters and was co-hosted by WTIC radio personality Damon Scott and WFSB –TV3's Scot Haney. Our Companions Chief Executive Officer, Susan Linker, addressed the crowd, thanked them for their support and presented pictures and charts illustrating what the future sanctuary will encompass. In addition, Congressman Rob Simmons and State Representatives Diana Urban and Pam Sawyer were on hand to address the audience and show their enthusiasm and support for the project. The event was highlighted by the actual groundbreaking which was conducted by a group of canine friends actually breaking ground in a sectioned off area.

This ceremony represented one more step in the process of making the dream of an animal sanctuary in Ashford a reality.



Susan Linker, Marie Joyner, Scot Haney, Rep Diana Urban, Congressman Rob Simmons, Damon Scott and other Our Companions board members at the ground breaking event.



Our Companions CEO, Susan Linker addressing the group.

Our Companions obtained 43 acres of land in Ashford, CT, in 2002 and shortly after established a facilities planning committee to oversee the development which has been divided into three phases.

Phase 1 – Clear the land of the existing and unusable structures (the biggest buildings in Ashford) and begin construction of the first animal housing unit which will provide a Rescue Cottage that will become a refuge for 180 pets every year. Landscape the property and utilize the natural surroundings to create a nature sanctuary complete with interpretive hiking trails, reflections gardens and an off-leash dog walking park.

Phase 2 – Construct the sanctuary village which will consist of the animal housing facilities, including specially designed cat condos and dog cottages. These home-like environments are essential for the pet's emotional and behavioral health and for long-term rehabilitation. This phase will also include incoming kennels for cat and dog isolation.

Phase 3 – The final phase will complete animal housing units and add a Pet Rescue Center which will be a multi-use building that will offer high-volume, free sterilization services for feral cats, advanced canine behavioral resources and an education center. Additionally an Adoption Center, and administration building will be constructed in this phase.

A copy of the Capital Campaign Case Statement containing further details and architectural renderings of the planned sanctuary can be obtained by contacting Susan Linker. Or visit the website at Ourcompanions.org to view the complete conceptual design for the proposed facility. The website also contains additional information about Our Companions and the programs and services offered.

Our Companions Goals for 2007

Business/Development:

- Increase revenue by 70% from previous year.
- Launch Campaign to construct the Rescue Cottage (part of phase one of construction).
- Expand Our Companions office to allow more involvement from volunteers.
- Update all marketing collateral and educational publications.
- Revise website to become more interactive.
- Increase donor retention and cultivation programs.
- Formalize planned giving program and giving societies.
- Expand membership of Board of Directors.
- Increase financial development involvement of Board and incorporate solicitor program.
- Produce certified financial statements on annual basis.
- Expand active donor base by 500 members.
- Expand leadership gift prospects by 100 new members.

Facilities Planning:

- Complete demolition of structures on the site in Ashford and begin preparing land for future development.
- Finalize the Trinity College research and begin to take action to improve the pond health on the Ashford property.
- Implement University of Connecticut student research and nature inventory of Ashford flora and fauna.
- Implement the use of the recreational park and begin landscaping.
- Build foot bridge and dog park.

Program Committee:

- Fully train and put two new trainers to work by holding their own classes, thereby doubling the organization's ability to service clients.
- Add 5 new LEAD trainers to training program.
- Increase Animal Helpline volunteers from 10 to 15 members.
- Add 15 new Ambassadors to assist with events and public relations initiatives.
- Expand PETCO Adoption events from 1 to 4 locations.
- Host quarterly Adoption Events at PETCO.
- Increase Rescue Outreach readership by 20%.
- Adopt 500 pets.
- Increase our behavioral program's client outreach by 30%.
- Expand Crickett's fund by 25%.
- Formalize Foster Care program.
- Sterilize 130 cats through our Friend Feline and Sterile Feral programs.
- Create and execute youth initiative to current volunteer program.

Our Companions 2007 Board Members

Directors and Officers

Mrs. Debby Hyde	West Hartford	CT
Mrs. Laura Jordan	Ashford	CT
Mrs. Marie Joyner	Union	CT
Mrs. Susan Linker	Bloomfield	CT
Mrs. Gail Perkins	Avon	CT
Mr. Henry Petrofsky	Berlin	CT

Advisory Board

Mrs. Amber Bordley	Wallingford	CT
Mr. Wayne Bugden	Ashford	CT
Mr. David Conrad	Pomfret Center	CT
Ms. Paula Fischer	West Hartford	CT
Mrs. Valerie Friedman	Washington Depot	CT
Mrs. Gail P. Gemme	Avon	CT
Mrs. Carol (CJ) Hauss	Avon	CT
Ms. Laura Jordan	Ashford	CT
Mr. Mitchell Linker	Bloomfield	CT
Mrs. Barbara Millar	Colebrook	CT
Mr. Paul S. Pribula	Willington	CT
Mr. Damon Scott	Bloomfield	CT
Mr. Vince Stryeski	Avon	CT
Mrs. Kim Zimmerman	Farmington	CT
Mr. Greg Zlotnick	Mansfield Center	CT

Contact Information for Key Officials

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Henry Petrofsky, Treasurer
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