

PAWS WITH A CAUSE
Assistance & Facility Dogs



CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

2025 Annual Impact Report



Our Values



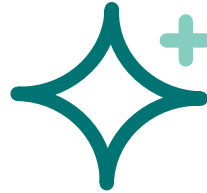
PAWS
WITH A
CAUSE



Adaptable



Dedicated



Innovative



Optimistic



Grateful

Our vision is to change lives, one PAWS dog at a time.

At Paws With A Cause, it's our mission to transform lives and strengthen communities through partnerships with custom-trained working dogs. In these pages, you'll see how that mission took shape in powerful, life-changing ways over the past year, all made possible by supporters like you.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

This past year at Paws With A Cause has been one of remarkable transformation, momentum, and deep gratitude. **Together, we celebrated the completion of the Embrace the Journey campaign—opening our fully renovated National Training Facility and advancing construction across our Veterinary Clinic and National Breeding Center.** These spaces will forever elevate the way we train, care for, and prepare PAWS dogs for their life-changing partnerships, reflecting years of vision, generosity, and shared belief in what PAWS can achieve for the communities we serve.

We also embarked on an inspiring organizational rebrand, unveiling a refreshed identity that honors our history while positioning PAWS for the future. This new brand reflects who we are today: **innovative, client-centered, and deeply committed to excellence.** It captures the spirit of every PAWS dog who has transformed a life—and the countless more who will.

As we look to the year ahead, our focus is clear. We are preparing to scale our impact, advancing toward our ambitious 2030 goal of producing 100 assistance dogs and 50 facility dogs each year. We are strengthening programs, deepening community partnerships, and investing in the people and systems that make sustainable growth possible. Most importantly, we remain unwavering in our commitment to every client on our growing waiting list, knowing that each PAWS dog represents independence, safety, confidence, and connection.

In the pages that follow, you'll see the stories, partnerships, and outcomes that your support makes possible. From dedicated volunteers and puppy raisers to generous donors and community partners—every person in the PAWS family plays a vital role in this mission.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are transforming lives—one PAWS dog, one partnership, and one year of progress at a time.

With gratitude,



Michele Suchovsky, CEO



Anne Barea, Board Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anne Barea
Board Chair

Kyle Pung
Vice Chair

Amanda Boyd
Treasurer

Kevin Hurn
Secretary

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Barea

Amanda Boyd

Babette Burleigh

Kelsey Gipe

Jamie Hebebrand

Diana Hoekstra

Kevin Hurn

Shelley Irwin

Scott Johnson

Val Lego

Judge Christina Mims

Kyle Pung

Faye Richardson-Green

Adam Russo

Jeff Salowitz

Gina Schremser

Kim Lisa Sobotta

Toyia Turner

Jessica Ann Tyson

YEAR AT A GLANCE

406

Active assistance and
facility dog teams



234

Foster Puppy Raisers

153

Individual Volunteers

67

Breeding
Dog Homes

32

Corporate/
Community
Groups

5

Docent
Volunteers

491

Volunteers engaged

55

Dogs placed in
alternative careers

56

Newly certified
teams

162

Puppies born

30

States worked in

2025 BIG THINGS



Michele Suchovsky, CEO

**CRAIN'S
GRAND RAPIDS
BUSINESS**

Notable Leader in Philanthropy



Ashley Diersch, CAO

**CRAIN'S
GRAND RAPIDS
BUSINESS**

Notable Leader in Philanthropy



Teri Crosby, CFO

**CRAIN'S
GRAND RAPIDS
BUSINESS**

Notable Leader in Finance

PAWS WITH A CAUSE **Assistance & Facility Dogs**



This year, PAWS introduced a refreshed brand designed to strengthen clarity, accessibility, and connection across everything we do. Our new color palette was intentionally chosen for disability-friendly contrast, ensuring our communications are easier to read and more inclusive for everyone we serve. You'll see this updated look throughout our materials—from our redesigned website and social media to our newly branded vehicles on the road. **Our rebranding reflects not just a new visual identity, but a renewed commitment to clients and communities we serve.**



Scan here to visit our
NEW WEBSITE
pawswithacause.org



**WEST
MICHIGAN'S
BEST AND
BRIGHTEST[®]
COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR**

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

**PILLAR
AWARDS**

YOUR IMPACT

“

RIDER is a fierce protector of Jack, always looking out for him. He's a constant companion and part of our family's daily routine.

- Michelle, Jack's mother & RIDER, Service Dog for Child with Autism

”

“

Having a PAWS dog has been completely life-changing. I've experienced independence I couldn't imagine, from getting my master's degree to maintaining my career as an editorial assistant.

- Erica & PHAROH, Hearing Dog

”

“

In a world where people are often judged, misunderstood, or overlooked, a PAWS dog offers something pure – unconditional acceptance.

- Jennifer, PAWS Puppy Raiser

”

“

REGGIE brings me comfort, joy, and a sense of security. He makes everyday tasks easier, and his excitement and energy help me stay connected to life and to people who visit.

- Maureen & REGGIE, Mobility Assistance Dog

”

“

Service dogs are life-changing. From the moment of Penny's diagnosis, we knew a service dog could make a profound difference, and BLAZER has proven that true.

- Jennifer, Penny's mother & BLAZER, Service Dog for Child with Autism

”

“

I've been a client of PAWS since 2008. Words can't express how THANKFUL I am for all of my PAWS dogs over the years.

- Bonnie & OSCAR, Mobility Assistance Dog

”

“

WICKER has truly helped heal our hearts, and I can't imagine life without him.

- Jenny & WICKER, Facility Dog

”

“

My partnership with TIMBER is the reason I get out of bed most days.

- Shea & TIMBER, Hearing Dog

”

“

She's a four-legged lifeline. She loves me as much as I love her, and she gives me love and security wherever I go.

- Kimberly & WAGS, Epileptic Seizure Response Dog

”

EMBRACE THE JOURNEY

Capital Campaign Complete

This year, we reached an extraordinary milestone—the successful completion of our Embrace the Journey capital campaign. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we not only met our ambitious fundraising goal but also opened the doors to two beautifully renovated buildings on our national campus.

“The completion of these first two buildings marks a bold step forward in our journey to double assistance and facility dog placements by 2030. This campus will serve as a beacon of innovation, training, and hope for decades to come.”

– Michele Suchovsky, CEO

**\$10.8
MILLION**

FUNDRAISING
ACHIEVED

**921
DONORS**

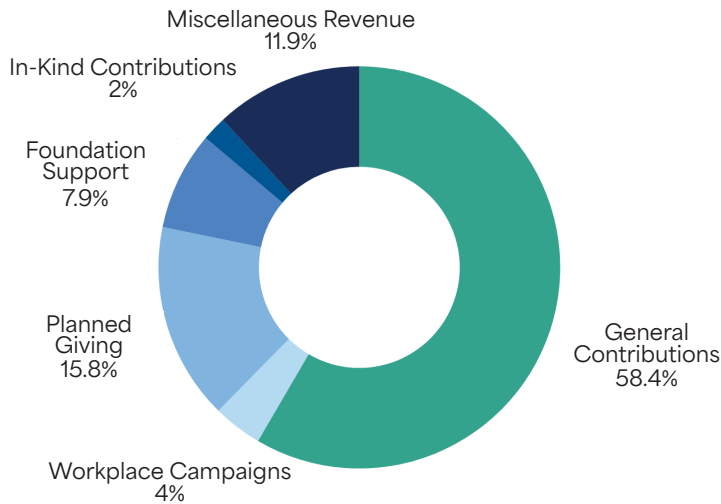
COMMUNITY
OF SUPPORT

The National Training Center reopened in May 2025, and is now housing assistance dog training, client services, and canine village.

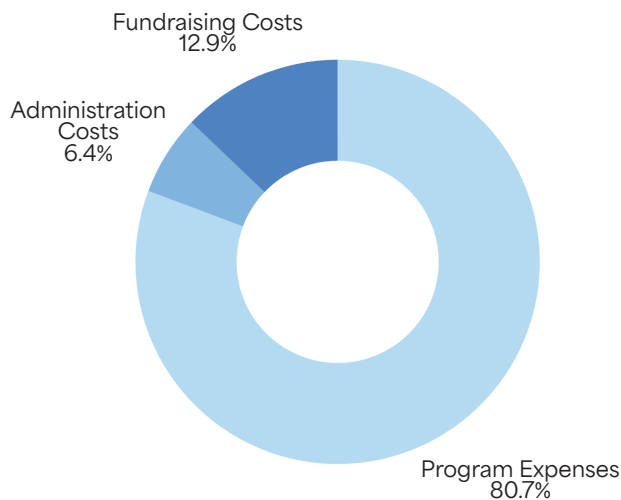
The Brookins Building reopened in November 2025, and is now housing our national breeding center, veterinary clinic, puppy park, the PAWS store, and our admin offices.



2025 Revenue Sources



2025 Total Expenses



80¢

of every

\$1

goes directly
to programs

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +

REVENUE	2024	2025
Contributions	\$ 1,768,889.00	1,955,040.00
Capital Campaign Contributions	1,871,184.00	2,115,730.00
Events	12,275.00	69,657.00
Direct Placements/Partnerships	29,699.00	212,623.00
Donor Restricted Funds	-	-
General Contributions	3,902,047.00	4,353,050.00
United Way Designations	286,263.00	273,371.00
Federal/State Combined Campaigns	47,449.00	39,184.00
Workplace Campaigns	333,712.00	312,555.00
Planned Giving	1,201,077.00	1,164,448.00
Foundation/Grants	797,654.00	560,141.00
In-Kind Contributions	71,437.00	122,452.00
Investment/Gain/(Loss) Sale of Stocks	1,095,256.00	768,575.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	128,075.00	94,309.00
Endowment Revenue	32,180.00	25,135.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,255,511.00	888,019.00
TOTAL REVENUE	7,561,438.00	7,400,665.00

EXPENSES	2024	2025
Program Expenses	\$ 4,319,095.00	5,004,309.00
Administration Costs	339,049.00	398,239.00
Fundraising Costs	770,906.00	797,981.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,429,050.00	6,200,529.00

CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE \$ 1,200,136.00

ENDING NET ASSETS \$ 16,657,243.00

If you would like to learn more about PAWS' annual finances, please call **616-877-7297** to request our detailed financial statement, 990 form, or audited financial statement.

LOOKING AHEAD



The 2026 client application request season marks the first year of our new placement type, medical alert dogs.

These custom-trained dogs will support individuals living with conditions such as Type 1 diabetes or POTS by alerting their handler to dangerous changes in blood sugar or heart rate—often before symptoms appear. They can also perform tasks that enhance safety and independence, offering peace of mind in moments that matter most.

Introducing this placement type allows us to serve a broader community and deepen the impact of our mission. We look forward to the life-changing partnerships medical alert dogs will create in the year ahead, made possible by supporters like you.

By 2030, PAWS is boldly scaling our impact to meet the growing national demand for working dogs—with a goal of placing 100 custom-trained assistance dogs and 50 facility dogs each year. As we grow, so do the resources required to sustain this life-changing work. Today, an assistance dog costs more than \$60,000 to raise and train, and a facility dog costs about \$48,000. These investments represent the extensive training, customization, and lifelong support that define every PAWS partnership—and they underscore just how essential our community's support will be as we grow to serve more clients and our greater community than ever before.





As you reflect on the impact shared throughout this report, we invite you to join us in creating the next chapter of PAWS partnerships. There are so many ways to get involved, and each one plays a vital role in helping future clients experience the independence, confidence, and connection that a PAWS dog brings.

You can raise a puppy, host a PAWS breeding dog, or volunteer your time, individually or as part of a group, to support the essential work happening every day at our headquarters. You can also make an impact by sharing your PAWS story on social media. Every post helps more people learn about our mission and the life-changing partnerships made possible through community support.

And for those considering a financial gift, we hope you'll hear the heart behind Asher's words:

"To anyone considering donating to PAWS: this organization provides life-changing support. FUJI meets dozens of needs all at once—physical assistance, emotional support, social empowerment—making an enormous impact on my independence and well-being."

– Asher & FUJI

Your generosity fuels every milestone in this report—and the many still to come. When you give to PAWS, you're not just making a donation. You're opening the door to life-changing partnership, independence, and hope.



SCAN HERE
to visit our website!
Donate, volunteer, or
learn more about PAWS.
pawswithacause.org



PAWS WITH A CAUSE
Assistance & Facility Dogs



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH EVERY UPDATE!

Join our mission to transform lives through the power of service dogs. By subscribing to our newsletter, you'll stay informed about our latest success stories, upcoming events, and how you can get involved. Each edition offers insights into our work, updates on our incredible teams, and opportunities to support our cause.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

PAWS WITH A CAUSE
Assistance & Facility Dogs



Because of you, moments of independence become a lifetime of possibility. Thank you for making the work of PAWS possible—today, tomorrow, and for years to come.



pawswithacause.org
4646 Division Ave, Wayland, MI 49348
(616) 877-7297 | paws@pawswithacause.org