

# SPCA of Luzerne County 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



524 East Main Street  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

**Hopping  
Right Along  
- page 11**

**CHECK OUT**

**Our Bonded Adoptions INSIDE**

## A message from the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the SPCA of Luzerne County,

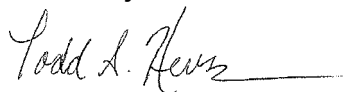
The SPCA of Luzerne County's staff and army of volunteers worked tirelessly throughout 2023 to embody the values represented by our mission; uplifting our community by providing compassion, comfort, and care to domestic companion animals through education, advocacy, protection, and a shelter/adoption program. In 2023 we enjoyed many successes. We continue to weave education into nearly every service our organization provides, from educating our adopters on the best care of their new family member, to providing programs for hundreds of school children, to teaching those accused of cruelty what they need to change in order to improve conditions for their animals and align with state law. Our resolute team of Humane Society Police Officers continue to respond to the hundreds of cruelty and neglect calls that flood our phone lines each year. All of this requires your support. Only together we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our furry friends.

As we begin to navigate 2024, we are constantly reminded by wet noses and wagging tails to not lose sight of our goals for the animals in our community who so desperately need our help. As you flip through this annual report you will read about a horrific cruelty case that unfortunately is emblematic of the challenges we face far too often. You will also read about some generous adopters who opened their home and hearts to not one, but two animals seeking a new lease on life. Finding adopters for bonded pairs is difficult, but success is so very sweet. We trust that both stories will be living proof of why our work is so vital.

Our look toward the future is bright and filled with hope. We remain committed to striving for excellence in the services we offer and in the shelter our animals temporarily call home. With your help, we will continue to accept nothing less than the best possible service we can provide to those who find hope in our care. Exciting plans are being explored for some major improvements to our shelter over the next few years- setting our sights on a more functional space, improving the sheltering of our animals available for adoption, upgraded dedicated space for animals receiving veterinary care, and more useful space for community outreach. Of course, none of this is possible without all of you. It has always been, and will continue to be, your kindness and generosity that pave the way for a future filled with love, caring, and hope for our less fortunate furry friends.

To our volunteers, contributors, supporters, adopters, friends, and community... Thank you for being the foundation of this organization. It is your kindness, generosity, dedication to our cause, and passionate help that allow us to serve our fellow man through service to animals. We must not waiver in our dedication to the protection of those who cannot protect themselves. We truly hope that we can count on you to remain steadfast with us as we strive for a more humane and caring society.

Sincerely,



Todd S. Hevner



## SPCA 2023-2024 Board of Directors

*President*  
Lisa Natt

*Vice President*  
Nina Nichols

*Treasurer*  
Donna Patton

*Secretary*  
Crystal Meinert

Robert Bresnahan

Kristen Digwood

Lisa Fuller

Jamie Johns

Paul Lantz

Doris Magee

Garry Taroli, Esq.

### **Life Members:**

Marion Pearsall

Robert Weaver

*Our Board of Directors is a volunteer group of community leaders and individuals who share a deep concern for the welfare of animals. They lend time, professional skills, expertise and talents in a variety of fields, as well as financial support to the organization. The Board meets bi-monthly and is responsible for the governance, policies, programs, and financial condition of the SPCA of Luzerne County as the organization seeks to fulfill its mission.*

## What contributions does your SPCA make to the community?

The SPCA of Luzerne County's primary services are represented by the three foundational pillars of our mission: Protecting the abandoned, neglected, and abused animals of our county through Humane Society Police work; providing companion animal educational opportunities in our community from pre-school to seniors; and providing respite care and adoption programs for unwanted and abandoned animals, offering a second chance at a new life for the thousands of animals that find themselves in our care each year. We have a flourishing volunteer program, providing many varied ways to help our organization with the important work we do on behalf of the animals. In addition to helping us care for the animals, our volunteer program offers a multitude of opportunities for people of various physical and mental abilities, allowing them a chance to experience life at an animal shelter with heartwarming results.

## How is the SPCA of Luzerne County funded?

Your SPCA is a private, non-profit, 501(c)3, local animal welfare organization founded in 1957 by a group of concerned citizens who recognized the need to protect those who could not protect themselves. Like most animal welfare organizations, we are not affiliated with any other shelter and do not have a parent organization. We are not, in any way, a government agency. We are supported by the generosity of individuals, organizations, and corporations through monetary and in-kind donations, participation in our yearly events, and through bequest and trust giving. In 2018, we started contracting with local municipalities as their service provider for stray cats and dogs. These contracts provide additional funding each year.



### MISSION STATEMENT:

The SPCA of Luzerne County uplifts our community by providing compassion, comfort, and care to domestic companion animals through education, advocacy, protection, and a shelter/adoption program.

### Our Intakes Have Decreased

Our animal intake numbers have gone down by 74% over the last 40 years.

This is a direct result of our spay/neuter programs and educational efforts which raise awareness about overpopulation.

1980 Intakes

**11,685**  
Animals

1990 Intakes

**8,552**  
Animals

2000 Intakes

**6,675**  
Animals

2010 Intakes

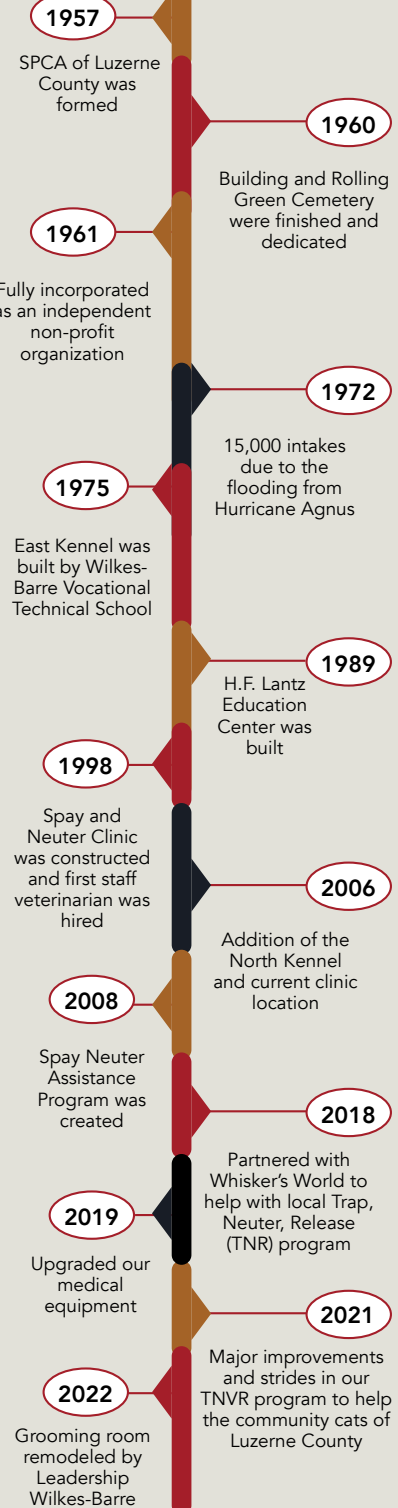
**6,478**  
Animals

2015 Intakes

**4,187**  
Animals

2019 Intakes

**3,209**  
Animals



# Services Offered



## SPAY AND NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Spaying/Neutering your pet is the only effective way to reduce the pet overpopulation problem. We realize that this vital surgery can be cost prohibitive for some families in our community. The SPCA of Luzerne County has offered a spay/neuter assistance program (S/NAP) for more than 15 years offering financial assistance for low income households in our county. S/NAP spays/neuters over 600 house cats per year, made possible through the generosity of private donations and the cooperation of several area veterinarians.

**Over 12,500 cats have been spayed or neutered since the beginning.**

## SENIOR PARTNERS

We offer a senior-to-senior adoption program; providing low cost adoptions to senior citizens who choose to provide a loving home to a senior pet.



## END-OF-LIFE SERVICES

Although no one wants to say goodbye to their beloved pet, we are here to help when that time comes. We offer humane euthanasia services and cremation with return or burial of cremains. Our Rolling Green Pet Cemetery is the final resting place for hundreds of cherished pets. We can assist you in making these difficult final decisions showing deep respect for your companion.



**and of course our favorite service...**



## ADOPTION

Our adoption counselors are here to help make the transition from shelter to home easier for both your new furry friend and your family.

Before adoption, make sure to:

Decide who will do what: grooming, feeding, exercising, cleaning, and playing.

Establish your new pet's area in the house.

Stock up on all needed supplies like food, treats, pee pads, litter, and toys.

Pet proof your home as needed.

Learn how to slowly introduce your new friend to other pets in the house.



# 2023

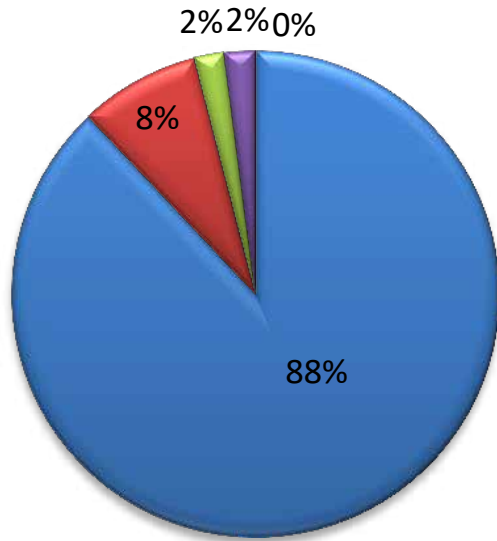
## By The Numbers

- **787** Adoptions
- **268** Transfers to other shelters
- **570** Owners Assisted with Loving Goodbyes
- **776** Trapped, Neutered, Vaccinated/Returned
- **283** Returned to owners
- **3** Wild animals to rescue
- **194** Emergency Vet Care
- **204** Clinic
- **247** Remained in our care

## Total = 3332

# Finances

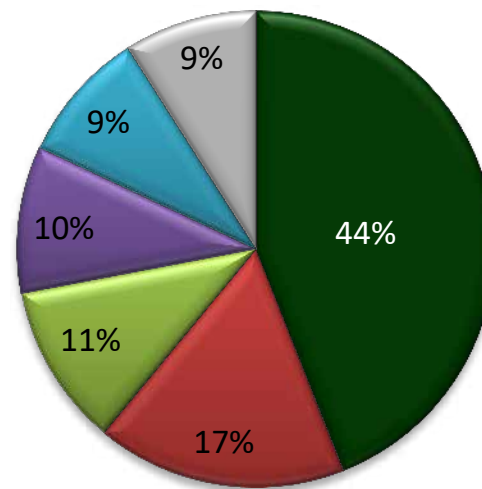
## Income for 2023



- Contributions and Donations 88%
- Fees Received for Goods and Services 8%
- Municipal Contracts 2%
- Other 2%
- Government Support 0%



## Expenses for 2023



- Animal Care - Non Medical 44%
- Animal Care - Medical 17%
- Cruelty 11%
- Administrative 10%
- Fundraising 9%
- Education 9%



# Cruelty

## Luzerne County 2023 Investigations

### Bandit

"There is a bulletin board in our shelter that everyone sees, but tries to block out. It's a disturbing 6 square feet of graphic words and photos of humane cases. Unfortunately, the work our Humane Society Police Officers do is, in many respects, our most important work. There are hundreds of calls that come in and dozens of cases that go to court every year, but there is always one that haunts us the most. Last year it was Bandit.



On July 11, 2022, we received a phone call about a dog named Bandit. The caller had seen his neighbor choke Bandit with his leash, stand on top of him, throw him in a grave he had dug, and when Bandit moved, stabbed him multiple times with a shovel. Another person had also seen it happen. Armed with this information, our Humane Officers confirmed that the witnesses were willing to testify to what they saw, and Bandit was exhumed from his grave and taken to our shelter.

The owner admitted to burying his dog, but not to having killed him. Our veterinarian performed a necropsy finding the stab wounds and evidence that Bandit's mouth was open during his burial, indicating that he was most likely buried alive.

The suspect was charged with Felony 3 torture, Felony 3 reckless ill-treatment, and Misdemeanor 3 reckless ill-treatment. At the arraignment, the suspect was released on \$25,000 bail and ordered not to live with animals. A short time later our Humane Officers found him living in the same residence with multiple animals. He failed to adequately explain why he had violated the terms of his bail. A warrant was issued, he was arrested in a different county, and extradited back to Luzerne County where he was kept in custody until the hearing.

On June 1, 2023, the suspect was finally before a magistrate, pleading guilty to one felony and one misdemeanor. With credit for time served, he was imprisoned for 2 additional months. After a total of 9 months, he was released on parole and forbidden to own any pets, but was allowed to live with animals that were not his own.

It's hard to decide if this was a victory or not. We will continue to fight for tougher laws and stricter prosecution of current laws. Our Humane Society Police Officers will keep responding to over 700 initial calls of abuse and neglect every year and all of us will work to speak out for those with no voices of their own.... like Bandit."



# OUR BONDED ADOPTIONS

There is no doubt that adopting a pet gives you all the best feelings. You just cannot beat the warmth in your heart when that pet knows it is finally home and curls up on your couch next to you. What feeling can be better than adopting a pet? Maybe, adopting two! Sometimes you will see a "bonded pair" up for adoption and wonder "Why are they bonded?" There is a variety of reasons pets are bonded when they come into the shelter, but the main reason is that they lived together prior to being at the shelter. It's best to keep them together. You might think "Why should an adopter take home a bonded pair?" There are a variety of reasons that start with separation anxiety. There are plenty of times when a pair of pets come into the shelter and even separated for a brief moment, one or both will become extremely nervous. Keeping pets together in a new environment, like the shelter or their new home, will help them adjust. On top of that, two pets will keep each other entertained when the humans are not there. They will continue to play and exercise even when you are not home, stimulating both mind and muscle which helps fight boredom and potentially keeps them out of major mischief. One last reason, especially for cats and bunnies, they help groom each other.



**Mika and Latke adopted by Poshi W.**

*Both of them are full of love and we are so happy to have adopted them!*



**Zahra and Leo adopted by Lisa C.**

*These two came into my and my husband's lives at a time when we were not looking for one dog much less two..... So, what was meant to be, happened much quicker than either one of us could imagine.*



**Piper and Pippy adopted by Camille C.**

*When I decided to adopt, it was important for me to keep them together as well. Now in my home, they will be together forever and are my little angels.*



**Pair of Piggies adopted by Stephanie**

*The guineas squeal with excitement when they know it's breakfast & dinner time!*



**Maizie and Nittany adopted by Jessica E.**

*It felt so good and still does that we were able to adopt these precious girls from you.*



# ALWAYS ADOPT... DON'T SHOP



**Oscar Michael Meowington adopted by Gerald**

*His name is Oscar Michael Meowington, he's a super kitty extraordinaire, and he's help me deal with my anxiety and nightmares.*



**Bella adopted by Kiersten C.**

*We cannot put into words the amount of love we have for our Bella, she is definitely one of a kind and shows us so much love during every moment! Adopting a pet when you don't know their past can be a bit of a challenge, but the patience and time was well worth it to see her personality shine through and I would do it all again in a heartbeat! Getting to watch her grow the love she has for us has been the best feeling in this world.*



**Pebbles adopted by Bernice C.**

*Pebbles made my life wonderful!*



**Trixie (Kora) adopted by Matt O.**

*Kora's the perfect mix of lovebug and crazy kitten. Not a day has gone by that she doesn't make us laugh with her goofy antics and we're so lucky to have found her!*



**Ella adopted by Kelly M.**

*Jillian, renamed "Ella" by my kids, is doing great! She was a little timid at first, but we can tell she feels more comfortable in her new home. She loves hopping around and exploring in our carpeted basement. She makes our hearts happy!!!*



**Bindi adopted by Danielle J.**

*Bindi has blended right in to our routines, matches our goofiness and we couldn't imagine our life without her.*



**Ziggy adopted by Meghan**

*A year after of our beloved cat Goose's passing our daughter suggested we go to the SPCA to just "look at cats" (I think we all knew how that would turn out). There were so many adorable cats to visit with but our daughter informed us that black cats are some of the least adopted and we left that day with Ziggy!*





# ALWAYS ADOPT... DON'T SHOP



## **Buddy adopted by Morgan A.**

*Buddy is the perfect addition to our family. He is the sweetest boy and brings so much joy and love into our home. We can't thank you enough for connecting us with this mushball. We love him so much!*



## **Penuchi adopted by Kevin C.**

*I didn't originally go to the SPCA to look at Penuchi. There was another dog that I was interested in but I knew from the moment I saw Nooch that he was just too good to pass up. I love his puppy energy (although it gets him in trouble sometimes) and he is so unique in his markings that he truly is one of a kind. I cannot imagine how he ended up in the animal shelter but I am thankful everyday that we ended up together.*



## **Muffin Top adopted by Cesar D.**

*She is so loving and calm. Our kids love her so much and she has bought us great joy.*

## **Cinnabun adopted by Cassandra G.**

*Cinnabun, formerly Jessie, has brought so much joy into our lives since adopting him this past spring. Filled with curiosity and energy, Cinnabun has cherished every moment being in his forever home.*



## **Baby adopted by Amanda L.**

*Baby is a delight and he clearly revels in all the attention he gets from me, my family, friends, and everyone he meets! Couldn't ask for a better dog.*



## **Bruno adopted by Sam L.**

*He is doing wonderful! We actually have been working with him for socializing and getting him out in public. And he actually, to our surprise (completely unintended as the reason for adoption). Has started to catch on to my type 1 diabetic kiddo's sugar lows!*

# We ♥ Our Volunteers!

## Tasks that our volunteers can take on!

- Cleaning, feeding, socializing the animals – cats, dogs, and small animals and/or offsite pet partners
- Dog walking and grooming
- Laundry, laundry and more laundry!!!
- Administrative work • Donation drives • Adoption events
- Can crushing and prepping recycled aluminum
- Photographing adoptable animals for kennel card photos
- Fundraising committees/working fundraising events



**A huge THANK YOU to Nikki and her family for hosting the 10th annual fundraiser in memory of her brother John.**

**Their support for the animal community is amazing, and we are honored to be a part of it year in and year out.**

In 2023, over 300 volunteers work tirelessly to make our events successful, walk our dogs, socialize the cats and small animals, and so much more.

**Thank you all for the help!!!!**



Thank you Yo-Ma for helping sponsor our Supercharge Your Summer Raffle.

**HOPPING RIGHT ALONG!** For years it has been our goal to increase the capacity of our small animal room and make it easier to clean. So, when a local veterinarian's office was emptying out a workspace and offered us over \$20,000 worth of Shor-line cages, we hopped on the opportunity. Even though the room was small, the job was big...really big. Along come the student members of the Surveying Society at Penn State, Wilkes Barre, ready to devote their Spring 2023 Workday to helping us. Their many hands made quick work of the remodel and it was just in time, because 2023 brought a huge increase in small animal intakes. Thank you to these hard-working students.... from the bunnies, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, ferrets, and more.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The SPCA of Luzerne County has dedicated Pet Partners where our adoptable cats, and sometimes small animals, can be seen.

This adds to the limited space we have at the shelter, giving exposure to more animals. Animals at these locations are mostly cared for by dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure these animals have the best lives possible while waiting for their forever homes.



**PET SUPPLIES PLUS.**  
GREAT PRICES. NO BEGGING.

Pet Supplies Plus in Wilkes-Barre

# Searching and Finding Loving Homes for Loving Pets!!



## What the **Future** holds

The SPCA of Luzerne County has many new initiatives coming up and you can help! These are some of the projects we are currently working on either advancing or starting.



### Educational Program Advancements

- Props
- Promotional Items
- Educational Flyers
- Books and Videos
- Story time videos

*Thank You*

to all supporters, large and small, from each individual to large corporations.



### Clinic Equipment Upgrades



### Human Society Police Work

- Purchase a horse trailer
- Build a paddock/barn



### Adoption Assistance

- Seniors for Seniors
- Pets for Vets



**Get  
Involved!**

**Of Course You Can Adopt**

**BUT**

**Be A Part...**

**How Else Can You Help?**

Donate Your  
**TIME**

- Volunteer as an individual
- Organize a volunteer day-of-caring with your co-workers
- Help at our events
- Host an event
- Many other opportunities!!!!

Show Us Your  
**TALENT**

- Veterinarians help with Rabies Clinics
- Lawyers help with humane cases
- Surveyors and engineers help with expansions
- Groomers get our pets adoption-ready
- And much more!!!!

Give The Glint of  
**TREASURE**



**OTHER WAYS  
YOU  
CAN HELP**

- Like and share our events on social media
- Share our adoptable animal posts
- Hold a "Pet of the Month" post at your office
- Collect and donate aluminum cans
- Host a dress down day
- And many other ways to help our loving animals

- Become an event sponsor
- Become a donor - maybe even a MONTHLY DONOR
- Get added to our mailing list for our annual fundraisers
- Think of us during your estate planning

# 2023 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

It was another great year, here are some of our supporters in 2023 and the efforts they made to support us. Without these great sponsors, we would not be able to help the community and the animals that need our care.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

- A. Pickett Construction
- A. Rifkin Co.
- Jacobi Capital Management
- M&T Bank
- NSS Life
- PNC Bank
- Subaru of Wyoming Valley – Ed Napelton Automotive Group



29th Annual Wyoming Valley Motorcycle Club



13th Annual Golf Tournament



8th Annual Purse Bingo



9th Annual Bone Appetit



32nd Annual Walk for the Animals

## 2023 SPCA Supporters

### Donations over \$10,000

Bob Jones Dog Trust  
George Cannarozzo Estate  
Nicholas P. Chiumento  
Robert Friedman  
Dianne Kwiatek Estate  
Kathy Manganaro  
Passan Foundation  
(John J and Marjourie M Passan Foundation)  
Paul D. Wasserott Foundation  
Beverly Stackhouse Estate  
Subaru of America  
Marjorie Trethaway Estate

### Donations \$5,000 - \$9,999

Gail Christopher  
Estate of Elizabeth Ann Clark  
Mary and Ann Gowarty  
Mary Lou Grant  
Jacobi Capital Management  
Darryl Lew  
William Maxwell  
Geraldine Nesbitt  
Robert & Carol Nygren  
Marion Pearsall

### Donations \$2,500 - \$4,999

A. Rifkin Co.  
America's Charities  
Jospeh Coyne  
Donna Jones  
Michael Mooney Charitable Trust  
Michael Nolan  
Thomas Robertson  
Megan Romine  
Mary Jo & John Shalanski  
Shawn Slivinski  
Walmart  
Weis Markets

### Donations \$1,000 - \$2,499

A. Pickett Construction, Inc.  
Gail Azain  
James & Patricia Blazejewski  
Boden USA  
Bernis & John Emmett  
Estate of Mary Patricia Brunner  
Martha Kellow  
Sharon & Paul Kowalek  
Irene Kubicki  
Paul & Kathy Lantz  
M&T Bank  
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PNC Bank  
Susan Warcholik  
Wyman Gordon Pennsylvania, LLC  
Timothy Bach Revocable Trust  
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Edward Brenton  
Mary Chevitski  
Darryl Dickson  
Noelle Drago  
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Robert & Stephanie Finlay  
Johnson College Vet Tech CLub  
Daniel Lantz  
Tammy & Ed Lemelin  
Ruth Lesavage  
Marquis George Mcdonald Foundation  
Christine McCaffrey  
Ed Pall  
Kathleen Spolowich  
Elaine & William Turcan  
Mary Ellen Vodzack  
Mark Warshal  
Nina Yuhas-Williams

### Donations \$500 - \$999

American Legion Post 655  
Marcia Amos  
George & Joette Anthony  
Heather Balester  
Daniel Balutis

Joe Baran  
Candice Bednar  
Benco Family Foundation  
Borough of Dallas  
Rodney Brown  
Christine & Donald Burton  
David Bynon  
Tom Carter  
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James Dean  
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Donald & Ashley Fiorucci  
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Kathleen Haentjens  
Matthew Hampton  
Elaine Hoppe  
HW Price & Sons  
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Amanda Leicht  
Randy & Dr. Christine Lucas  
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Sylvia Morales  
Lois & Frank Morgis  
Thomas & Maureen Murphy  
The N.S.S. Leaf 75  
Deana Nat  
Dino Ninotti  
Bruno Ninotti  
Gary Nobel  
Sarah Novoa  
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Ann Paciga  
Daniel Pieretti  
Kathy Price  
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Derek & Barbara Unrue  
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
*Thank You  
for your Donation*

Shelters are filled with animals searching for a loving forever home.

Before you look to buy...

## LOOK TO ADOPT!!

 Someone to Feed

 Someone to Walk

 A Treat for All



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

570.825.4111

For more information call:

Todd Hevner, Executive Director, 570-825-4111 x 106

Randy Lucas, Development Director, 570-825-4111 x 113

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Wilkes Barre PA, 18702

