



# Progress Report

**FY07 - FY17**

*This report combines ten years' worth of annual reports into one, easy to read report.*

**Small Angels Rescue, Inc.**

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### President's Letter

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Dear Friends,

As we look back over the years we are delighted to see that the Rescue has continued to work hard in the community to fulfill our mission on behalf of all the small animals needing our help. Clearly the demand is great; we hear often from local animal shelters needing our assistance and other rescues in the community wishing to collaborate with us and members of the public who contact us for advice and rehoming recommendations.

In spite of difficult economic times, we are still going strong after 14 years and are on a sound financial footing. We also feel very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers and supporters. Through our annual strategic planning process involving our entire group, we have refined our operational efforts on our core values of working with the animals while performing other essential functions of a non-profit via our strong and well-motivated board of directors. We regularly examine how we operate so that we might spread the workload and make the most of the talents and time of those generously sharing their time with us.

When possible, we find new wonderful homes for our foster animals and for those who are unsuitable for rehoming due to chronic illness, advanced age, or behavioral issues; we keep them safely in our care for the rest of their lives through our network of Twilight Homes.

We have continued to produce our bi-monthly Angel Alert and have also developed an exciting new following via social media which allows us to reach a new audience.

The future holds many opportunities for us to grow and change and for you to work with us and support our mission.

Have you considered volunteering for us?

What about spreading the word to your friends and co-workers?

You can also support us financially by making a donation directly or an easy way to contribute is to select us for donations via Amazon Smile (especially with the holidays approaching!).

Professor Cassie Mogilner from the Wharton Business School wrote in the Harvard Business Review that volunteering keeps you healthy, makes you feel more love and happiness, is good for your social life and sets a good example for your children.

So what's not to like?! And the animals will thank you too!

Sincerely,



Sue Wilmot  
President, Small Angels Rescue, Inc.

### Mission, Vision & Values

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#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Small Angels Rescue, Inc. is to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice and rats. These animals are worthy of respectful and compassionate treatment. We advocate and facilitate responsible animal care and companionship.

#### **Vision**

Our vision statements:

- We envision a world where all small animals have loving, responsible, and permanent homes.
- Our vision for Small Angels is to be a sustainable, reputable, strategic, and ethical community for small animals.

#### **Values**

- All animals are sentient beings, regardless of size, and deserving of a safe, permanent home. All lives are equal.
- Our animals are best served in a home environment.
- We believe adoption is a key component to solving small animal abandonment.
- We believe small animals deserve exemplary quality of life, through proper habitat, nutrition, enrichment, companionship, and veterinary care.
- Small Angels strives to collaborate with like-minded people and organizations.

## Cumulative Stats

<b>Gerbil Snapshot: as of June 30, 2017</b>
<b>Intakes: 571</b>
<b>Adoptions: 520</b>
<b>Currently Available: 0</b>

<b>Guinea Pig Snapshot: as of June 30, 2017</b>
<b>Intakes: 1,280</b>
<b>Adoptions: 1,611</b>
<b>Currently Available: 17</b>

<b>Hamster Snapshot: as of June 30, 2017</b>
<b>Intakes: 1,091</b>
<b>Adoptions: 931</b>
<b>Currently Available: 1</b>

<b>Mouse Snapshot: as of June 30, 2017</b>
<b>Intakes: 697</b>
<b>Adoptions: 481</b>
<b>Currently Available: 1</b>

<b>Rat Snapshot: as of June 30, 2017</b>
<b>Intakes: 1,870</b>
<b>Adoptions: 1,611</b>
<b>Currently Available: 6</b>

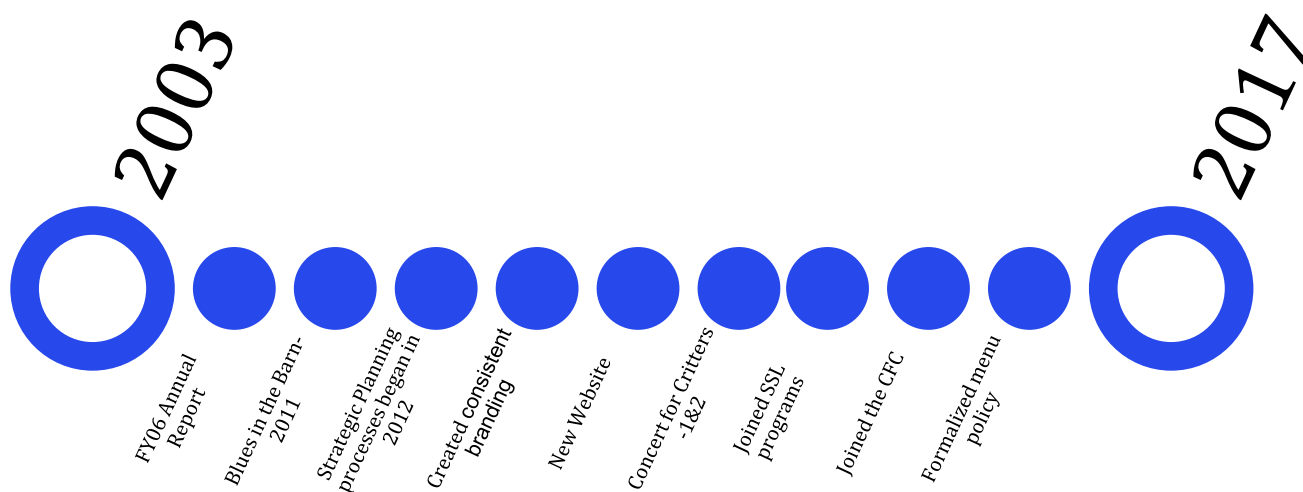
## Small Angels Rescue: Past and Present

Small Angels Rescue started in 2003 when a small group of women in the Frederick, Maryland area decided to find a better way to help the “pocket pets,” or small animals, at Frederick’s animal shelter. While working at the shelter, we fostered small animals, coordinated adoptions, cleaned cages, supplied fresh food and vegetables, and generally tried to brighten the animals’ lives. We started a nonprofit rescue corporation so we’d have direct control over the foster and adoption program and be able to use our own small animal care information and adoption application and contract. In this way, we also set ourselves up to take animals from other shelters and directly from the public.

From our humble beginnings with just a handful of foster homes in October 2003, we have grown to help shelters far beyond Frederick, and we’re well on our way to rescuing 5,500 animals. We’ve done all this work without having any paid staff or a facility.

Our rescue is made possible by the hard work and contributions of our foster care providers, who offer their homes to our animals, pay for supplies, socialize and provide medical care for the animals. We have three unpaid Animal Coordinators who oversee intakes and adoptions. When an animal shelter calls us for help, the Coordinator determines whether space is available in the rescue and, if so, arranges for the animal(s) to be picked up and placed into a foster care home. Having assessed the animals for temperament, age, and health, the Coordinator photographs the animals and creates postings for them on Petfinder and other animal adoptions website, after which we screen adoption inquiries and reviews applications.

Sometimes, it is necessary to take the animals to the vet for medical conditions or, in the case of guinea pigs spay/neuter surgeries. Coordinators spend time with each adopter, thoroughly covering the details of care and supplies and answering questions. And we send each adopter home with a signed contract and an adoption certificate.



# Small Angels Rescue: Past and Present

## ***Strategic Planning***

On June 11, 2017, Small Angels held its Annual Strategic Planning meeting at the Community Room at Common Market in Frederick. The meeting was chaired by Small Angels President Sue Wilmot, and Board member Sophie Wilmot. It was a chance for volunteers and board members to get reacquainted. The group recognized that we are all essential to the ongoing success of the Rescue. It was a very enthusiastic group with plenty to say about how far Small Angels has grown over 14 years.



The strategic planning team brainstormed current strengths and challenges. Then, the group discussed where we want to be in the short term (1 year) and medium term (5 years). Lastly, the group addressed what steps volunteers can take to reach the Rescue's goals. It was a great afternoon and wonderful to get together and share enthusiasm and passion for achieving the Small Angels mission.

## ***Twilight Program***

The Twilight program provides medical services and care for animals who are not able to be adopted and remain in the Rescue due to behavioral issues, age, or chronic/terminal illnesses.

Small Angels does not euthanize animals which require expensive medical care. We take care of them and treat them until it is time for them to pass on. We try to give them as many days where they are happy and content as possible, but we euthanize them when they begin to suffer. We cannot change the past of the little ones we take in, but we can and do change the present and the future of all the animals in the Rescue. Our hospice animals spend their remaining days, months or years loved and well-cared for, while receiving veterinary care and medications that helps them feel better. Veterinary care is expensive and we largely rely on donations.



***Thank you to everyone who donates to Small Angels and helps us carry out this important mission!***

## ***Vegetarian Food Policy***

Consistent with our mission statement, Small Angels Rescue, Inc. strives to inspire respect and compassion for all animals. We also respect the philosophy of many of our donors and volunteers. Therefore, we revised our program manual to show that Small Angels will only serve vegetarian/vegan food at our annual volunteer appreciation picnic. As a result of our adoption of the vegetarian policy we were awarded a \$250 grant from Food for Thought Campaign in 2016.

# Small Angels Rescue: Past and Present

## ***Annual Volunteer Picnic***

Our next annual volunteer picnic will be in 2018! Check out the pictures of our previous picnic.



## ***Communication***

We have updated our website and are now operating online using Google Apps for Nonprofits and WordPress. We also created online application access for those interested in adoptions, foster or any of the available Coordinator and Board Member positions. Check our website for events, volunteer opportunities and subscribe to our bimonthly newsletter.

## ***Biggest Achievements:***

- Rescued over 5,500 small animals.
- Have been featured in publications as far as Australia.
- Formalized our volunteer and operation procedures.
- Have a great working relationship with area shelters and veterinarians.
- Expanding our reach to VegFest and similar type events and organizations.

## ***Biggest Challenges:***

- Continue to struggle with keeping and recruiting volunteers
- Staffing for fundraising events
- Completely virtual organization without a physical location or storage space.
- Locating and qualifying for grants

## ***Donation history:***

- FY 16: recipient of Kylee's Cause donations
- Kingsbrook donation
- Land family Grant
- Now receiving regular PayPal donations

Our new mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 336  
Monrovia, MD 21770



### Guinea Pigs

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Over the past 10 years, Small Angels Rescue, Inc. has rescued over 1,200 guinea pigs from all sorts of situations. We wanted to highlight one of the most memorable situations in this report.

***Shafira the wonder piggie!***



Having been given only six months to live, Shafira defied the odds and lived to be just over 8 years old. When we were first contacted by her previous owner, who was clearly a breeder, he mentioned that he had a little runt as one of nine babies he wanted to give up, noting that she was very small and sickly. We received her and her eight siblings (or step-siblings) in a cardboard box a few days later. She was, as the man had said, tiny and scruffy, weighing little more than an egg even though the other members of her litter were almost twice that size. Her skin was purple from dehydration and she was clearly starving. We noticed upon further investigation that she appeared to have something wrong with her front legs which made them appear crooked and might have explained her horrendous condition. We separated her from all but the gentlest of her siblings and spoon-fed her until we were convinced she was getting enough to eat for herself. We took her to our vet, Dr. Campbell, to have her checked over. Expecting to be told that she would learn to manage with her deformed front legs and that otherwise she was fine, we were surprised when Dr. Campbell informed us that as well as having dislocated elbows, Shafira had a deformed chest which would eventually lead to her ribcage failing to grow quickly enough to accommodate the organs inside. She was given a projected lifespan of approximately six months.

With this grim fact in mind, we decided that there was no way we could adopt her out, so we ended up keeping Shafira in the Rescue, with Sue, our Guinea Pig Coordinator at the time. She settled in nicely at Sue's residence. She used to dribble water everywhere when she drank, fought like a tiger to defend her food, and screamed at anyone with the audacity to scoop her up out of the cage for a cuddle. Shafira ended up outliving all the other guinea pigs in her family spite of her disability!

## Mice

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Small Angels has rescued over 697 mice and adopted out 481 of them. We have met a lot of great adopters of all ages throughout the years and have too many stories to tell in this one report. Of the mice that were not adopted, 216 either died or had to be put to sleep, which is unfortunately a fact of life with these fragile, short-lived creatures.

There have been many happy and sad moments for the mice in the Rescue during that time. Numerous baby mice were lucky enough to be born within the rescue, under our caring watch. We have seen litters of mice as small as one and as large as twenty, so it is always a surprise to see how many will need our resources and attention at any given moment.



We love giving the mice a variety of names for fun and to increase the adoption rates. Our various adoption coordinators and fosters parents each impart a bit of their own personality into naming the mice. For example, in FY07 some of the more memorable mouse names were: Pinto, Margot, Tonya, and Phineas. In FY08 there we had Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Raphael. In FY09 and FY10, we had Darwin, Lincoln, Whitman and the Jackson Five. In FY11, Mr. Fuzzywuzzkins, Walter FunCake and Admiral Pumpkin Pants stole the show. FY12 saw Barnaby, Marvin Marvel and Elf. In FY13 and FY14 we had Manny, Moe and Jack alongside Faith, Hope and Charity. We had the privilege to meet Gentle Ben, Count Flufferton, Robin Hood, Mrs. Gumfrey and all their siblings in FY15. Finally, in FY16 and FY17, we met and fell in love with Honey Bear,

Saffron and Skippy.

Our dedicated coordinators and fosters parents work in concert with the veterinarians who specialize in exotic animals to make sure the mice get the health care they need. A vet visit for a mouse costs the same if not more than a dog or cat, so donations play a large part in helping the mice get the care they need. Since FY07, some of our mice have had tumors removed, lungs X-rayed, and medications for things like respiratory infections, mites, or obsessive scratching issues. We have even had some mice endure extensive blood work such as viral panels that which were sent to a research facility. There is no way to tell when a mouse comes into the Rescue if they will need to visit the vet multiple times or not at all.

The mouse program is currently on hold, as we wait for a new Animal Coordinator and team leader to help bring new ideas and fresh energy to lead the team. We already have several foster homes on standby, waiting to receive the next mouse and hopefully have new stories to tell.

## Rats

The past several years have been very busy ones for the Small Angels Rescue rat program! In 2009, Teresa Still took over as the new Rat Coordinator and started off with a bang in November 2009 by rescuing 32 rats from a local man who had been keeping them in a small filthy birdcage and was allowing the boys and girls to co-habitate. The following day, Teresa admitted an additional 13 rats from the shelter where the same man had dumped more rats. Not surprisingly, some of the female rats were pregnant and soon 3 litters totaling 24 pups were born in the Rescue – bringing the total from this one rescue operations to 69 rats! While the total number of rats was overwhelming, we were grateful that the pups were born in the rescue where they received excellent care and all of the 69 rats eventually found loving homes.



One of our more heart-breaking (and eventually heart-warming) rescues was an old man named Remie who we took into the Rescue in February 2011. We were contacted by a family looking to re-home their senior male rat because they were busy with a new baby and had little time to offer Remie who was now over 2 years old – quite elderly for a rat. We recognized that it would be difficult to find such an old man a new home in the twilight of his life, but Teresa immediately admitted him into the Rescue where he would at least be given the attention and care he needed. Despite having a couple of chronic health problems, Remie captured the heart of the Rescue's then-president Kim Hess and she welcomed him into her family. Remie was spoiled rotten and deeply loved by Kim. His

affectionate personality and eagerness for human contact made him a joy to care for, and a life certainly worth saving.

The spring of 2011 brought the huge group of rats from Hagerstown, MD. A good Samaritan came upon a number of rats that had been dumped outside, including several newborns, and scooped up as many as she could and took them to the local Washington County shelter. We were soon contacted by the shelter and asked to help. Teresa was shocked to see numerous rats huddled in piles and sick with respiratory infections. One of the females had already given birth to 9 pups in the shelter and another female was in labor at that moment! Numerous other girls were visibly pregnant. Teresa decided to take all 13 females and 14 pups into the rescue and would return for the boys when space permitted. The female in labor continued to give birth in Teresa's car as she headed home. She returned about one week later and took 12 boys and 1 more girl, who regrettably had been mis-sexed and was living among the boys. Within 2 weeks, 6 additional litters had been born, and finally the last girl who had been mis-sexed at the shelter gave birth. What started as a rescue of 28 rats at the shelter ended with a total of 84 rats! All of the sick rats were given antibiotics and almost all of them eventually went to loving homes. We shudder to think of what would've become of all of those innocent rats and the unborn litters if they had been left to fend for themselves outside.

We can't round out 2011 without mentioning the rescue of Gilligan who ended up as Teresa's most precious heart-rat. In August 2011, one of our rescue volunteers Karen Scott was contacted by her friend about a small animal living on her property near a man-made fish pond. Karen's friend thought that the little animal that kept swimming in the fish pond was a rat, so Karen staked out the pond and sure enough a little rat darted about the rocks and plants near the pond and then began swimming in the fish pond!



Much of rescue work involves partnering and networking with other rescues, and in the summer of 2013 we agreed to help another rat/mouse rescue in Virginia Beach with a local hoarding case. An infamous hoarder in that area had a houseful of rats that needed rescue, so our Virginia Beach contact successfully pulled numerous young rats from the hoarder's home and we admitted a total of 37 rats. It was no surprise that a couple of the females were pregnant and gave birth to a total of 25 pups, bringing the Virginia Beach rescue to a total of 62 rats!



In the summer of 2014, we welcomed Brenda Hernandez as an additional Rat Coordinator to help oversee the robust rat program with Teresa. Brenda had previously adopted rats from the Rescue and had years of experience as a rattie mom.

In August 2014, we learned of a terrible hoarding situation in Millersville, MD where a woman was keeping over 100 rats in a couple of cramped filthy guinea pig cages. She had a history of dumping rats at the local shelter and we knew something needed to be done. Small Angels

partnered with Dakota's Dream Animal Rescue in Winchester, VA and decided to take all of the rats the woman was willing to surrender. Small Angels agreed to take all of the females while Dakota's Dream would take all of the males. Teresa arrived at the hoarder's home and discovered that the rats were so overcrowded in the cages that they were standing on top of each other and she literally could not see the floor of the cages. The odor was horrendous and the rats were filthy and some were injured. Over the course of 4-5 trips to the hoarder's home, Teresa received 52 males, 52 females, and 11 nursing pups. Cases like this are exhausting and taxing to our Rescue's limited resources, but restoring the rats to health and watching them blossom and go to loving homes makes it all worth the effort.



### Hamsters and Gerbils

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We have been very fortunate to have several Hamster Coordinators over the years; in turn, they all worked diligently to help the hamsters in need in our community and develop a network of foster homes to assist with their care.

We currently are without a Hamster Coordinator but, as we have a couple of foster homes keen to continue to rescue and re-home hamsters, we are doing our best to keep the program active. Fortunately, we have the invaluable assistance of a small animal expert, Victoria, who is always willing to be involved in answering any questions that might arise about their care and behavior and assist with the screening of adoption applicants. One of our foster moms, Ariella, is patiently working to socialize a male hamster named Odin who has a biting tendency. We are pleased to report that she is making great progress in gaining his trust and he is settling nicely whilst being given expert care in a proper hamster environment. She reports that now he even comes out of his little house when she calls him!



We also have two other single males (Pippin and Cody) who are looking for homes and being cared for by another volunteer, Donna-Rae, who is an expert in various species we work with and is always willing to help us as needed. Pippin is a champion wheel-runner as well as being gentle and sweet; Cody is also very athletic and likes

to swing round on the bars of his cage like a little monkey!



One recent star graduate of the program was Lily-Lucy. She is a cute little lady hamster who was adopted to live in an excellent forever home. Lily-Lucy has been dealing with some health issues lately and her new mom has stayed in touch with regular updates on her progress. She is being given excellent care and thoroughly spoiled which is no more than she deserves.



We hope it won't be too long before this program is back up to strength with a new Coordinator as there are many hamsters in the community in need of our help.

Our gerbil program is currently on hold awaiting a new Gerbil Coordinator.

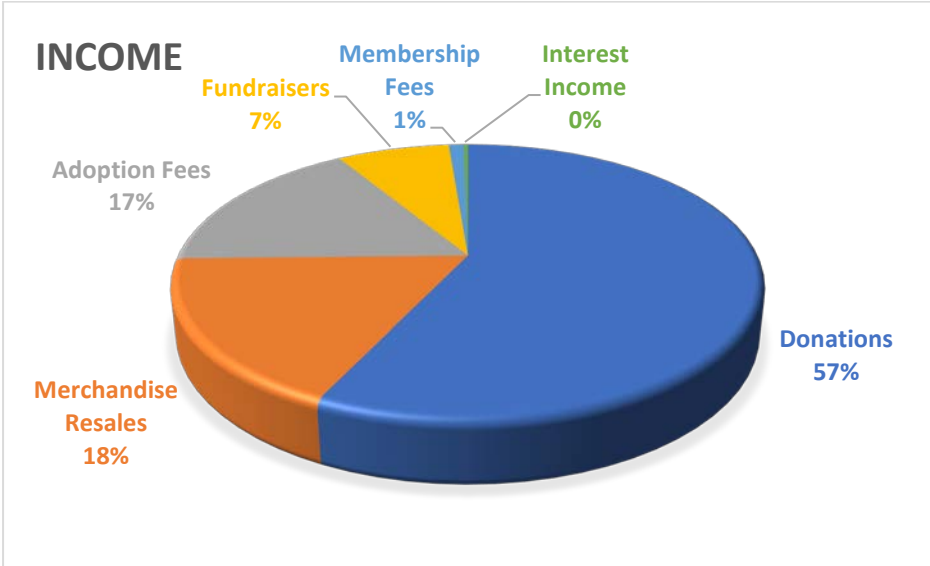
## Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Position *as of June 30, 2017*

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking	1,432
Savings	15,343
PayPal Bank	765
Accounts Receivable	324
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	10,250
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$28,114</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	294
<b>Equity</b>	27,820
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$28,114</b>

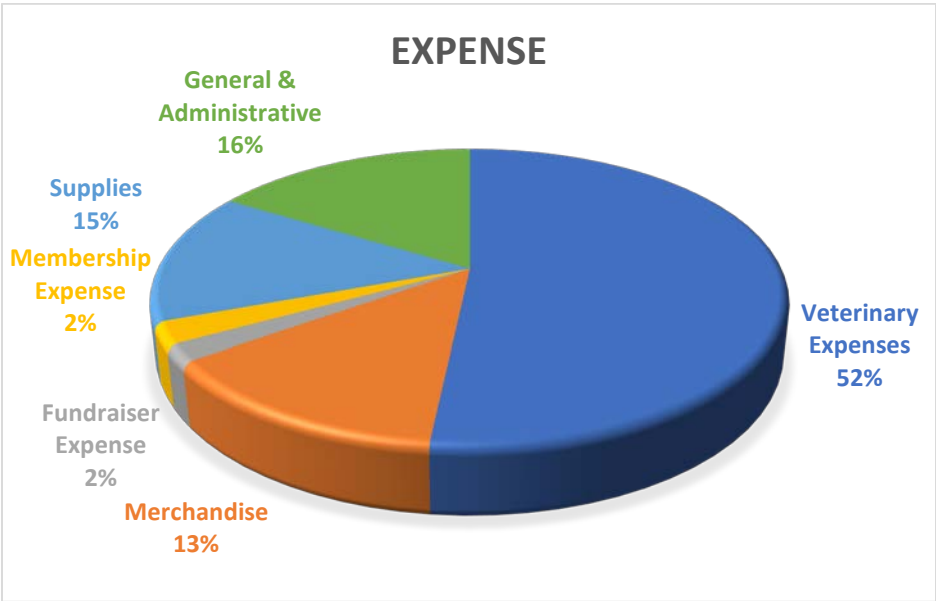
# Financial Statements

## Statement of Financial Activity *as of June 30, 2017*



Donations	\$14,983
Fundraisers	\$1,944
Adoption Fees	\$4,375
Merchandise Sales	\$4,614
Membership Fees	\$260
Interest Income	\$71
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,247</b>

Medical care is our biggest expense.



Veterinary Expenses	12,348
Merchandise	3,200
Fundraiser Expense	446
Supplies	3,448
Membership Expense	569
General & Administrative	3,878
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,889</b>

FY17 is the last year of our membership program.

We sell cages, begging and food to our generous adopters

### Key Volunteers

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#### Board of Directors

**Sue Wilmot**, President

**Sophie Wilmot**, Vice President

**Matthew MacGregor**, Secretary

**Shaleena Nwokeuku**, Treasurer

**Michael Kentoff**, At-Large

**Annie Walker**, At-Large

#### Animal Coordinators and Team Leaders

**Sue Wilmot**, Guinea Pig Team Lead

**Joan Bass**, Guinea Pig Coordinator

**Teresa Still**, Rat Coordinator

**Vacant**, Hamster Coordinator

**Vacant**, Mouse Coordinator

**Vacant**, Gerbil Coordinator



## Thank You

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*Small Angels Rescue would like to thank the following generous organizations and people who have contributed to our success throughout the last ten years of operation:*

### *Organizations:*

Pender, Petfinder, Frederick County Animal Control, Animal Welfare League of Frederick County, Bark Rock LLC, Reiki4Critters, The Travelin' Rat, Rescue Chocolate, Blue Heaven Antiques, Land Family Foundation, Small Pet Select, Goodshop and For Pete's Sake.

### *Individuals:*

Kirk and Melissa Adams, Elizabeth Alley, Dea Andersen , Gail Atwood, Virginia Balch, Dan Bankus, Jacqueline Barker, Joan Bass, Vicki Bidle, Leone Bollinger, Alice Bresnahan, Matt and Liz Brinegar ,Mary Helen Brosnahan, Heather Brown, George Callas, Dr. Valerie Campbell of Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates, Elizabeth Carroll, Donna Rae Castillo, Jessica Chaiken, Michelle Clowe, Kathy Clowe, Jaime Cohen, Sarah Company, Lillian Cooperman, Elizabeth Crawford , Joy Crossley, Vaughn Currier, Daniel Dawson, Alexandra Deckert, Christina Drenner, Becky and Frank Duve, Sangeeta Dworkin, Judith Eble, Brenda and Lester Engel, Adam Engelkemier, Scott Engler, Bradley Fisher, Robin Fogle, William Fonte, Dr. Carole Foster of Foster Veterinary Home Care, Cynthia Goehring, Michael Guth, Kay Guzman, Vanette Hanagan, Brenda Hernandez, Carrie Hill, Susan Hiller, Deva Holub, Christina Horuzy, Charles House, Jen Huber, Rhiannon Huscha, Michael Jakubowski, Elizabeth Jay, Kim Jeffreys, Gwynne Jenkins, Phyllis Jeschke, Keary Johnston, Vanessa Kahn, William Kaplin, Bryan and Daphne Keohane, Dahn Kilroy, Malita Kim-Schultz, Michele Krause, Sandy Lamparello, Amie and Brian LaPorte, Marybeth Lawson, Louis Levin, Anne M Lewis, Dana Lichtenberger, Gary Loewenthal, Matthew Macgregor, Barbara Magin, Barbara Maniha, John Maniha, Kristin Manos, Marilyn Martin, Jon Melenson, Barbara Mellott, Jennifer Meyer, Bethany Mortorff, Angela and Zack Moxley, Bonnie Mulligan, Diane Newburg, Terrie Nestor, Shaleena Nwokeuku, Martin O'Connell, Barbara Ossias, Brian Pape, Paula Pennell, Carla Pickett, Kimberly Plant, Alan Proia, Victor Ramirez , Darcy Ramisch, Lucinda Rideout, Shane Riley, Sarah Ringer, Victoria Rogers, Lynn Ronewicz, Aaron Rubin, Karen Scott, Joanne Scott, Kimberly Shafer, Caroline Shannon, Kim Shultz, Heather Skowron, ,Beth Smith, Marta Smith, Holly Sprague, Danielle Stanley, Katie Stansbery, Teresa Still, Stacey Stouffer, Barbara Stratton Lauren Taylor, Kristy Tevelow, Randy and Debbie Thompson, Matt Tucker, Alice Walker, Annie Walker, Vicki Wallshein, Natalie Weatherby-Nance, Sophie Wilmot, Sue Wilmot, Diane Wogaman, and Samantha Ziblis.

## Photo Gallery

The little ones wanted to give you a special thank you for your support. 😊

