

# 02

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All cats in this report are TCR alumni.



#### **Toronto Cat Rescue** is a registered, no-kill charity.

#### **MISSION**

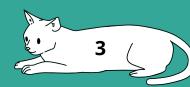


Our mission is to rescue and find homes for abandoned, sick or injured cats from situations of abuse, neglect or imminent euthanasia.



#### VISION

Our vision is for Toronto to be a city in which no adoptable cat is killed and rescue organizations such as Toronto Cat Rescue are no longer needed.



#### Our Team in 2022

#### **Board**

| <b>Sarah May</b>       | <b>Kyra Augustyn</b>          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chair                  | Director                      |
| <b>Paul Butler</b>     | <b>Suzanne Patterson</b>      |
| Vice-Chair             | Director                      |
| <b>Arlene Thomas</b>   | <b>Bev Stone</b>              |
| Secretary              | Director                      |
| <b>Tony Schoeppich</b> | <b>Kevin Wilson</b>           |
| Treasurer              | Director                      |
|                        | <b>Suzie Wang</b><br>Director |

#### Staff

**Bonnie Levine** Executive Director

Nalini Ramroop Operations Manager **Irene Bianchi** Financial Assistant

**Suzanne Vokey** Administrative Assistant

**Erin Duffy** Cat Health Program Administrator

# **Key Objectives**

Provide high quality care and treatment of cats in our care

Build and maintain a sustainable foundation to meet current and future needs

Be accountable, transparent and act with integrity in all aspects of our work



## Message from the Board Chair

To our incredible community,

As I write this at the beginning of 2023, I reflect on the fact that next year Toronto Cat Rescue turns 30. I myself have been a volunteer for 15 of those years, and I know many of you have been running the very engine of our rescue work for even longer. Beyond the length of service, so many volunteers – new to us and long established — display such incredible dedication in the many many hours they pour into TCR. We are truly an organization with so much heart and soul because of all of you, and all in service of the cats that have touched all of our lives and who we find loving homes for. People are at the centre of our rescue work.

It's the fact that people make our work possible that I personally so value the equity, diversity and inclusion journey we are embarking on together. This journey is a proactive way for us to ensure that we are a welcoming and inclusive place for anyone who shares our love of cats and who may want to adopt, volunteer, donate, or otherwise

get involved. And ultimately this will allow us to save more cats.

Over our long history, TCR has grown immensely and we have undergone much change to support this growth. Change is a constant. But our fundamental strength – a volunteer network that rescues thousands of cats each year – remains unchanged. In 2022, despite a challenging economy and the lingering impacts of the pandemic, our rescue work remained stable and we stayed true to our mission to save as many feline lives as possible. We're proud of our expanding partnerships with shelters, pet stores, foundations, and other funders that have made us able to weather the uncertainty of the past few years.

In the next year, you can expect the release of our new strategic plan, which will help carry us into our third decade with even more focus and direction. I look forward to embarking on that decade with you all.



Sarah May Board Chair



#### Message from the Operations Manager

For TCR operations, this was a year of sustainability, more than growth. As the world started to turn the corner since the pandemic, we faced a few challenges in 2022. The positive impact of COVID-19 on volunteer retention and cat adoptions took a downward trend. Understandably, people were taking welldeserved breaks to travel. The volunteer gap coupled with the rise of inflation caused a 12% decline in adoptions.

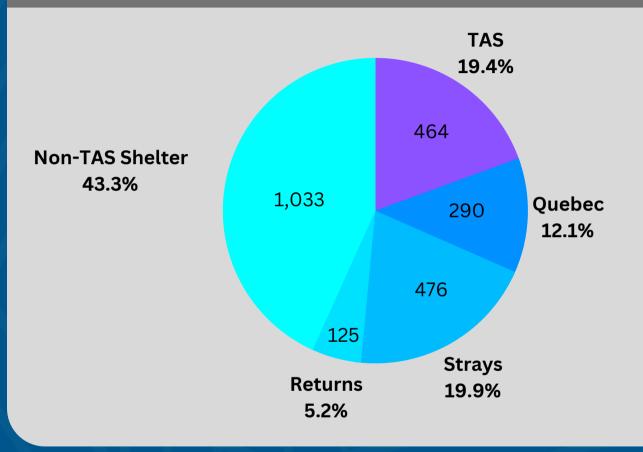
Bonnie Levine stepped down as Executive Director. I'm so appreciative that in her short time with us, Bonnie helped to move us in the right strategic direction. While this year brought its fair share of struggles, there were also a lot of wins! We are so proud that nearly 2,300 cats found their loving families in 2022. We had the good fortune of recruiting an amazing group of volunteers to assist TCR leaders with developing the strategic plan for our next chapter.

We welcomed Erin Duffy, a Registered Vet Technician, to the staff team. Her academic credentials and 5 years of shelter experience continue to strengthen our cat programs so we are always current with industry best practices. Erin also supports pet retention by helping adopters when issues arise with their cats.

In a volunteer-fueled charity, change and growth can feel slow in the making; however, there has been a lot of behind the scenes hard work from the board, EDI and strategic planning committees. I'm excitedly awaiting 2023 where we can execute these plans and help even more atrisk cats.

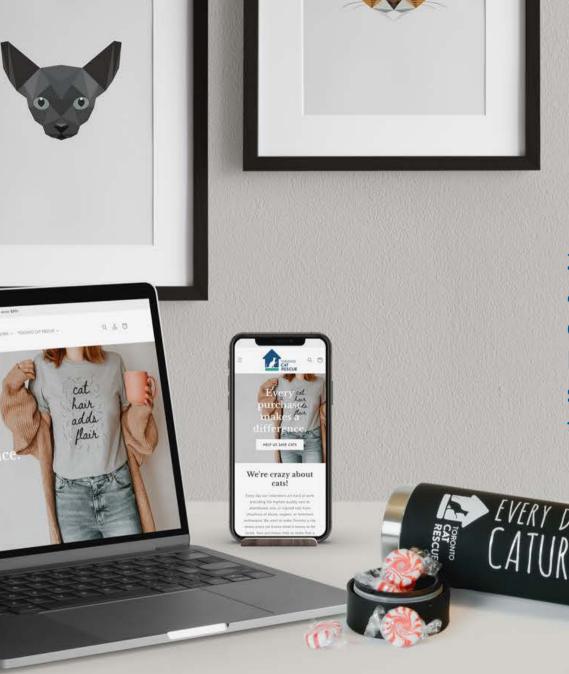
Every day, I'm indebted to the inspiring TCR volunteers, staff, board members, donors and supporters who selflessly give their time and talents to this life-saving cause. I'm delighted to be a part of such a kind, compassionate family.

#### **Intake Sources**





Nalini Ramroop Operations Manager



AD&PT, DON'T SHOP

HELP US SAVE CATS



2022 allowed us to slowly start going to events again to sell merchandise. We went to a few community events as well as our 17th annual Bowl-a-thon. We introduced new items to our store, such as our two styles of socks and a third pen to add to our TCR pen collection.

> We have updated the look of our online store. Our store now also offers a better mobile experience and faster performance.

# Highlights



Toronto Cat Rescue could not have saved so many cats in need without so many great volunteers, donors and intake partners. Celebrate with us in all we achieved together in 2022!



Cats from Toronto Animal Services



**26%** Adopted out of Kitchener-Waterloo

**2,243** Cats adopted









**1,284** Volunteers



### **TAS Partnership**

We cannot believe that it has been nine years since the brilliant Dr. Attard of Toronto Animal Services (TAS) initiated a strategic partnership with Toronto Cat Rescue. Our many hands have saved thousands of lives over the years.

To share just one of thousands of stories, in June TAS sent us a 300g stray orphan kitten named Dani. Little Dani struggled for 3 months with a URI and congestion. His TCR foster mom, Heather Davies, stood by his side every step of the way. Then, in September, Dr. Peter of TAS found and removed a nasty nasopharyngeal polyp that was blocking his airway.

Now Dani has been a happy and healthy boy! By working together we were able to save this young kitten and give him the life he deserved!

TAS has gone above and beyond to help TCR. We are all proud of what we have accomplished together and hope to continue for many more years.

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In 2021, TCR built the foundations of its EDI journey, which is unique, complex and long-term.

TCR intends to create a kinder world for cats and the people who care for and love them by fostering diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the organization.

In 2022, TCR planted the seeds of change in several parts of the organization and has engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at deepening our commitment to EDI. **Suggestion Ox:** The committee prepared and launched Suggestion Ox to hear about the experiences of everyone who has interacted with TCR over the years. This anonymous survey gives the audience a chance not only to explain their encounters with TCR staff but also to provide their feedback and recommendations to make our organization more equitable, diverse and inclusive. The survey has been sent out to all TCR volunteers and it was placed on the website to hear from everyone's perspectives.

Anti-discrimination and Oppression Policy

**Launch:** With this launch, EDI Committee states that TCR will not tolerate discrimination of any form. This policy has created a standard path to raise official complaints of discrimination and investigation within the organization.

**Volunteer Demographic Survey:** EDI committee launched TCR Volunteer Demographic Survey. This initiative aims to understand the demographics of our current volunteers. In 2023, we will build on the momentum generated in 2022 and in light of the data we gathered through 2022 initiatives, EDI committee will continue to identify which groups and voices may be under-represented so that we can conduct targeted recruitment of volunteers, encourage diversity at all levels of the organization and identify and remove the barriers to participation at TCR.

#### **The EDI Team**



Amazing...that's the word that keeps coming to mind to describe the results of our Giving Tuesday campaign. Thanks to our fantastic supporters and Matching-Gift lead donors, we raised over \$90,000! Such an incredible result and because of that we are able to rescue and rehabilitate even more cats because of our supporters overwhelming generosity.

At a time when we know finances are tight, we are extra grateful for every dollar raised and take great care to steward our donations with responsibility. Veterinary bills are by far our biggest expense, and this amazing amount went towards these costs. Thanks to the success of this campaign we were able to quickly bring cats and kittens from overburdened shelters across Ontario and find them homes for the holidays.

#### **Giving Tuesday**

"Thank you so much for giving all these deserving kitties a second chance at their very best life. It means a lot to all of our team to have your support and know all of these cats are in such caring hands!"

-- OSPCA Renfrew County

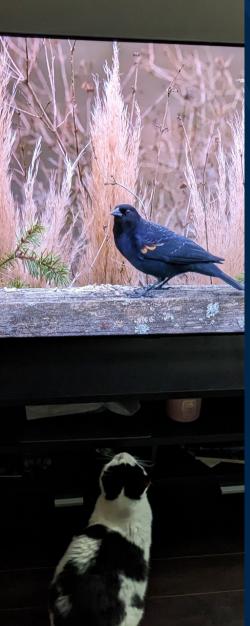
# Bluebell Teresa Fernandez Legacy Gift

Bluebell Teresa Fernandez was strikingly beautiful, both inside and out. She was someone who cared deeply. An animal lover, from her family's earliest recollections, she had a special place in her heart for cats, and they, for her. Blue, as she is fondly known, by her family, was the youngest of twelve, who lost her father when she was barely 6 months old. Perhaps it was this profound personal loss that created in her an affinity and compassion for cats who were lost, injured, orphaned, or in need. She never met a cat she didn't love. Her bond with each of her own fur babies, throughout her life, was instant and unbreakable. There was nothing she wouldn't do for them. At 81, she was still caring for a diabetic cat, giving him daily insulin injections and ensuring he had everything he needed for a sweet and comfortable life.

Bluebell passed away in the summer of 2019, mere months after losing her beautiful boy. She had a very special connection with Toronto Cat Rescue (TCR), fostering and adopting through us. It is that relationship and what her cats meant to Bluebell, right to the very end, that made her family's decision to provide a very generous legacy gift of \$100,000 to TCR, on her behalf, an easy one. We are grateful for the great work this donation allows TCR to do, in honour of Bluebell's memory and legacy.



# Cat Success Stories



#### Bo

Bo is a senior cat who was adopted from TCR, then returned a few months later due to not getting along with the other cats in the home. It didn't take us long to realize he was actually in pain with severe arthritis in both hips, and this was the real reason he was cranky with the other cats.

It took a number of vet visits to get the right treatment protocol for Bo's condition, but TCR and his foster parents stuck with him. The ongoing treatments are expensive, so it took several months to find his forever family. Eventually, a kind-hearted TCR volunteer opened her home to this special needs senior boy and he finally found his forever home.

Most of our special needs cats take a while before they find their forever family, but we never give up on them. We believe there's a home out there for every single cat, and Bo proves this!

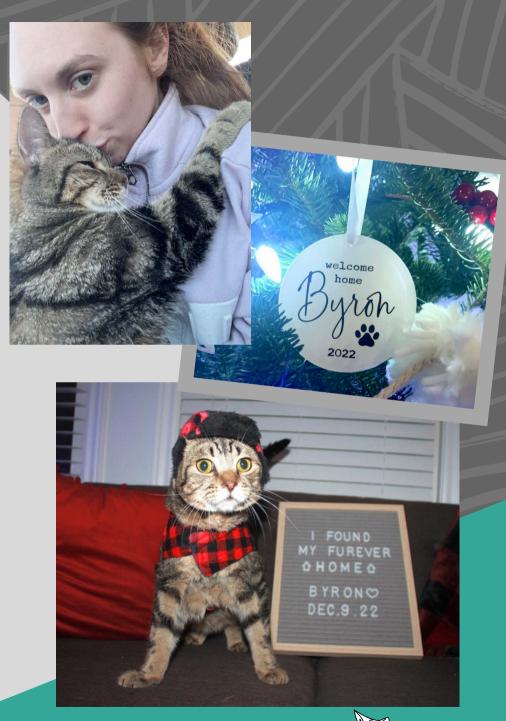


### Byron

Byron came into his foster home as the tiniest 4-week-old kitten. He arrived with an upper raspatory infection and would not eat. The foster had to keep an eye on him constantly for 6 months to make sure he didn't get any worse. After nothing was helping the foster noticed Byron has a hole in his palette, which he received multiple surgeries to fix.

After two cleft palette surgeries the hole was still there but significantly smaller. His URI was resistant to many medications, but they eventually found one that helped manager his flare-ups. He also has inflamed gums, which is now being managed by daily teeth brushing, mouth rinse and a dental diet.

Byron's foster parents decided to be his forever home! He is a work in progress but his quality of life has increased significantly because of the dedication of his foster parents and TCR.



#### Sensei

In the spring of 2022, Sensei came into our program as an emaciated mom struggling to feed 5 hungry babies. After several weeks of nurturing in their TCR foster home, mom and babies were healthy and robust. The next steps were spay/neuter then adoption!

> Everyone quickly found their new families, but unfortunately, Sensei's adoption was not meant to be. Shortly after adoption she developed food allergies that were causing alopecia and itchy lesions on her skin.

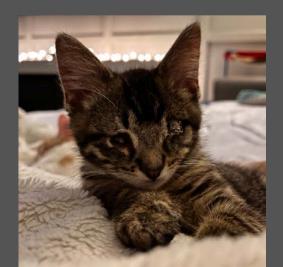


The adopter decided to return Sensei to us. No matter how much time has passed since adoption, TCR is committed to taking all our cats back if circumstances have changed in the adoptive home. Her immune-mediated reaction to specific foods is not uncommon. It's not curable but we knew what to do to get her condition under control.

Eventually she found another family whose resident senior dog also suffered from food allergies. It was the purrfect match!







# lggy

Iggy was brought in as a stray to one of our shelter partners. He was scheduled to be euthanized – he was under 500g, covered in fleas and filled with worms. He had a severe upper respiratory infection which caused one eye to rupture. The other eye was misshapen and malformed. He was thought to be completely blind. As a last resort, the shelter manager reached out to TCR for help. Our answer was a resounding yes because we knew we had to try everything possible to save him.

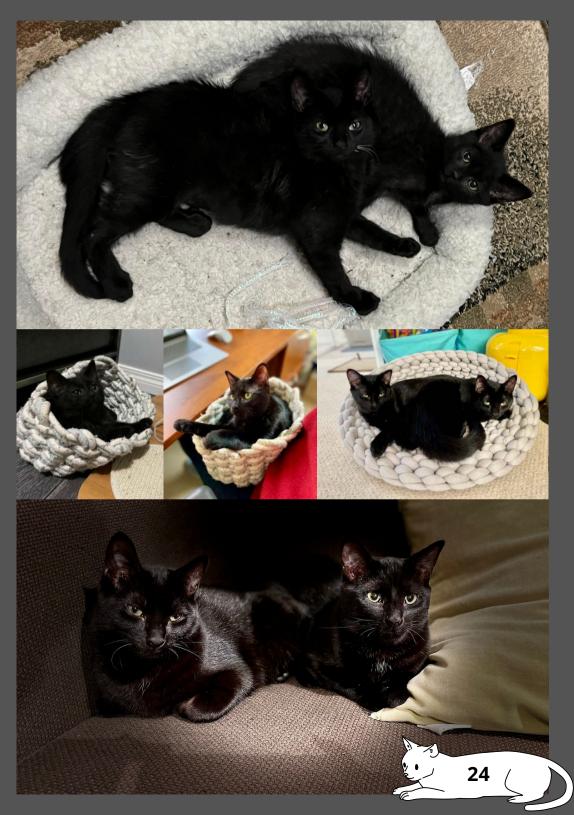
He was quickly moved to a TCR foster home to start his recovery. While waiting to gain enough weight for surgery, there were many vet appointments, several rounds of antibiotics, and a few nighttime emergency hospital visits. During all of this, Iggy remained a ray of sunshine. He has the sweetest attitude and loves to hop around and wrestle with his other foster feline friends. He's completely oblivious to his extra specialness! Just before Christmas Iggy weighted enough to go into surgery. He has his bad eye removed and we were thrilled to learn he could keep his other eye.

# Flip and Flop

Flip and Flop were found in a ditch by a rural animal control. They contacted TCR Region of Waterloo Chapter to see if we could help. They were diagnosed with Cerebellar Hypoplasia, or CH, sometimes called wobbly cat syndrome. They were not able to stand on all four paws, but rather flipped and flopped where they wanted to go.

After finding the perfect adopter, who renamed them Bonnie and Clyde, they are thriving and discovering a whole new world as they became stronger and more confident. They both learned how to jump up onto the couch and love snuggling together. Clyde has recently discovered how to carry his toy while walking and is very proud to show off his new skill!

This heartwarming story shows there is a perfect adopter for each cat!

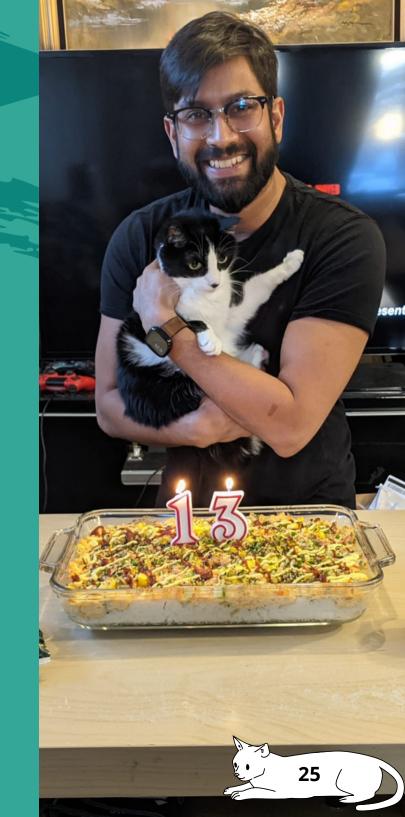


#### Oscar

Meet Oscar! He's the world's most loveable 13 year old cat but boy, he makes life challenging. It takes a saint of a person to manage Oscar's medical and behavioural problems.

Thankfully, there's someone for every cat, and Oscar's loving and kind guardian angel is his foster dad, Daniel. He takes care of Oscar's food and medication for his arthritis in both hips and spine, and manages his urinary health and drives him to every vet appointment. Daniel celebrates Oscar's birthdays with a special tuna based cat cake, complete with candles.

Oscar has been with Daniel for 2 years. This handsome tuxedo is one of those cats that will not graduate out of the TCR foster program – he's a lifer due to high medical and behavioural needs. But TCR is committed to his care for the rest of his life. Daniel will continue to work diligently to make sure he is as comfortable as possible for all the days of his life.



# Volunteer Spotlight



# Kristi

I grew up with animals, and I have never known a home without at least a cat or two. In 2021 we lost both of our cats, Taco and Optimist Prime. We were heartbroken and tried our best to live in a home with no cats. It became quickly apparent we were not meant to be cat-less people.

After discussing the idea of foster and doing some research we decided to become a foster home. Our main reason for fostering was that if we adopted a cat or two, we would be only helping 2 cats at most for the next 15 to 20 years, but

if we fostered we could love and help hundreds of cats over that same time period. At present, we are on our 13th foster baby. We have had everything from kittens to elderly cats, feral cats in need of socialization, and we have patched up sick or injured cats. While it is a lot of work and is not always easy, fostering has given our household more purpose, and we have experienced so much love from these innocent creatures in the process!



#### Carmen

Carmen always thought she was undoubtedly a dog person. During their wedding five years ago, Carmen's spouse promised to get her a pet dog as part of their "marriage contract". Five months after their wedding day, they picked up three tiny foster kittens from Toronto Cat Rescue. Two months later, they adopted two of those kittens and could not foster more cats. Two years later, the pandemic caused Carmen to become unemployed.

While job and soul searching, Carmen decided she should volunteer to help more cats, as she could keep her professional skills sharp, and give back for her adopted kitties who brought their family so much delight.



She successfully became a newbie Foster Coordinator! Two and a half years later Carmen is very proud of all she has accomplished at TCR and will always cherish the experiences and relationships she's fostered while volunteering. TCR helped provide an abundance of love and joy in the form of three little kittens, which became a lifelong passion of promoting successful feline guardianship to anyone that would listen. Carmen still does not have a dog.



#### Rida

Volunteering with TCR has been a joy. As a busy graduate student, I wanted to help cats in need, but wasn't quite ready to adopt one of my own. That's when I became a foster parent in January 2022. Over the course of the year, I fostered several adult cats, each with their own unique personality and quirks. It was amazing to see each cat come out of their shell and thrive in foster care, whether it was a shy cat who learned to trust humans again or one that was a puddle of love right out of its carrier. Finding each of them their forever homes was a bittersweet experience but knowing that they would be loved and cared for made it all worthwhile.

Being a part of the TCR team has allowed me to make a tangible difference in the lives of cats in need, and it has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. The hard work and dedication of TCR's volunteers and staff never ceases to amaze me, and I'm proud to be a part of an organization that is making a real difference.

## Kerry

It was my aunt Lynda who invited me to participate in my first TCR large rescue. That's how my role began. You see I am used to organizing and creating magic onstage. I am a professional Director and Choreographer for musical theatre and I have had the privilege of working on many beautiful productions across our country.



My favourite to date, by far, is Toronto Cat Rescue's production of rescuing cats. Allow me to set the stage.

A group of dedicated, selfless, passionate backstage crew wait in anticipation. The props are prepared, food dishes, litter-boxes, quilts, water bowls and the set of cages are dressed and ready. Finally the garage door at the Recovery Centre opens and the show begins. One by one we are introduced to the new cast. They are here! They play their parts perfectly; the shy guy, the loud soprano, the attention seeking leading male, the damsel in distress, the glamorous grand dame, the ingenue, the strong and silent type, the comedian and the ever entertaining youth ensemble.

# Financial Summe

### Financial Statement

For the year ended September 30, 2022

| Revenue                       | 2022        | 2021        |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adoption Fees                 | 425,323     | 422,625     |
| Donations - Receipted         | 340,911     | 164,090     |
| Donations In Kind             | 95,475      | 118,559     |
| Donations - Non-Receipted     | 512,764     | 452,593     |
| Corporate Contributions       | 118,825     | 65,114      |
| Sales                         | 5,969       | 12,796      |
| Fundraising                   | 41,506      | 4,848       |
| Corporate & Charitable Grants | 34,027      | 46,048      |
| Other Income                  | -           | 10,000      |
| Interest Income               | 5,568       | 943         |
|                               | \$1,580,368 | \$1,297,616 |

| Expenses                          | 2022        | 2021        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Veterinary Care                   | 685,082     | 694,738     |
| Cat Expenses                      | 108,215     | 122,362     |
| Volunteer Centre Expenses         | 30,895      | 37,485      |
| Volunteer Program Expenses        | 15,706      | 17,484      |
| Fundraising Expenses              | 13,949      | 24,791      |
| Salaries & Benefits               | 247,565     | 270,776     |
| Licenses, Memberships & Dues      | 350         | -           |
| Office & General                  | 18,119      | 7,216       |
| Professional Fees                 | 15,148      | 11,030      |
| Telephone                         | 4,019       | 3,491       |
| Amortization                      | -           | 1,337       |
| Interest & Bank Charges           | 336         | 23          |
| Donations In Kind                 | 95,475      | 118,559     |
|                                   | \$1,234,859 | \$1,309,292 |
| Excess of Revenue over Expenses   | 345,509     | (11,676)    |
| Net Assets, Beginning of the Year | 476,663     | 488,339     |
| Net Assets, End of the Year       | \$822,172   | \$476,663   |

#### Thank you to our Sponsors and Grantors



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www.**torontocatrescue**.ca info@**torontocatrescue**.ca



4229C Dundas St W Etobicoke, ON M8X 1Y3 416.538.8592

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