

Annual Report

2015



Great River Rescue

Mission. Great River Rescue is committed to serving the best interest of the animals we strive to protect.

Vision. Great River Rescue is dedicated to operating an animal shelter for the purpose of finding a quality forever home for each animal we serve, encouraging a community of responsible companion animal guardians, eliminating the community's need to euthanize dogs and cats as a means of population control, and promoting a society where companion animals become more valued.

*"Like" us on Facebook
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*1612 Carr Lake Rd SE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-7910*

www.greatriverrescue.com

Letter From the Director

I am so proud to be a part of this organization and the work we are doing. Each year, more people step up and volunteer their money, time, expertise, and more to help us succeed as an organization. 2015 included some awesome accomplishments including 364 pet adoptions, and the creation of a new name and new image for our organization.

In 2015 we had nearly 2200 logged volunteer hours. That's about 180 hours per month of people socializing shelter pets, planning events, conducting outreach, creating policy, fundraising, and more for Great River Rescue. Each year, I am so humbled by the support we receive from people who believe in our work. I am grateful to help lead an organization that is making a difference in our community.

Looking forward, we must continue to make improvements as an organization, and constantly analyze how we can be a responsible refuge for companion animals. We must make connections with other groups, businesses, and government entities to increase our productivity and efficiency. We must take a serious look at the problems our community faces and try to be a leader on solutions.

Great River Rescue is not only committed to the animals, but to this community. We are here to save pets, both present and future, and facilitate lasting companionship. We are a nonprofit animal shelter, and also a thriving business that will continue to succeed with the support of our community. Thank you for being a part of this amazing work!

Sincerely,

Brandon Mustful

Brandon Mustful
Executive Director



Happy Tail – ChumLee aka Stealth

We are happy to say Stealth, who is now called "ChumLee" is doing great and loves his new family! (Even his canine brothers get along) we named him ChumLee because sometimes he's cuddly (chummy) and the next minute he is in his Ninja attack mode and he's "ChumLee ninja" (insert Japanese accent)

We all love him and he gets plenty of attention. He's adapted very well! He follows people around and is always getting into stuff. But that's what makes him, HIM!

Letter From the Chair

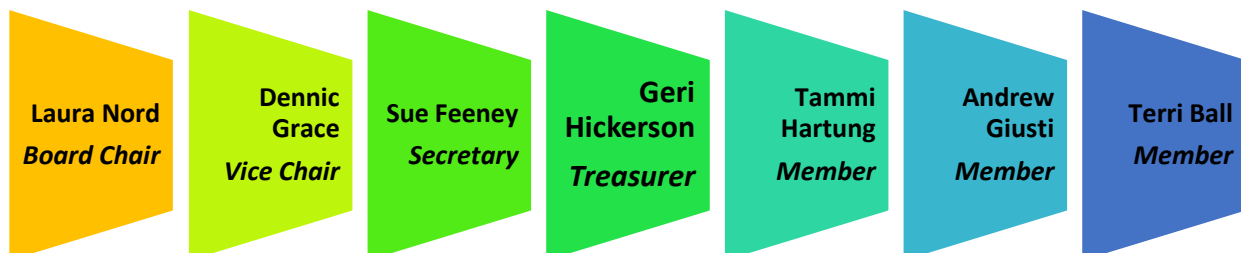


2015 was a monumental year for Great River Rescue! I am so proud of all the wonderful accomplishments that were made! One of the most important accomplishments was changing our name from Beltrami Humane Society to Great River Rescue. We are so pleased to have this great, positive name that truly reflects our dynamic organization.

I'd like to thank our many volunteers, committee members, board members and staff for believing in our vision and working together for the greater good. It feels great to be a part of an organization that truly does the very best that it can. Everyone who is involved is there because they are 100% invested and 100% committed to serving the best interest of the animals we strive to protect.

I'd also like to thank all the generous businesses and individuals who donated to our cause, attended our fundraisers, and simply spread the good word about GRR. Without you, our organization wouldn't exist. I'm very excited to see what 2016 holds for GRR. I'm certain, that with everyone's help we will rescue more animals than ever before and make an even greater positive impact on this wonderful community.

Sincerely,
Laura Nord
Board Chair



Happy Tail – Monroe

Our Monroe, who you called Nemo. He is the best family member we could ever ask for. He started out very shy and sluggish. To be honest he was fat. After a strict diet and lots of attention and love he is now happy and loving. He is my best friend. He watches TV with me in my lap. He also has a paw to show and a voice while I'm cooking. I know it smells good when he stands up and puts his paws up on the counter, (He's tall) and talks till I let him try it. The best is him cuddling with me every night purring letting me know he likes being here with us.



Accomplishments

2015 was a year full of milestones and accomplishments at Great River Rescue. The greatest and most impactful accomplishment was the change of our name from Beltrami Humane Society to Great River Rescue. The change was made in October after months of research, brainstorming, and planning. The new name was revealed at our annual Fall Harvest Dinner, and has been received warmly by the community.

Partnerships

Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter
Take-in animals from families dealing with domestic violence

Turtle Lake Township
Take-in strays from their community directly



7486 lbs of donated food



2178 Volunteer hours



\$4000 revenue from new shelter store

Inheritance Donation

Substantial donation from Richard Kohler, used to create an operating reserve fund to protect our ability to continue to provide care for companion animals

ASPCA Grant

Allowed us to purchase a new, more advanced, shelter management software

New

3-year

Strategic Plan

Adoptions

TOTAL OF 364 ADOPTIONS, A 6.5% INCREASE OVER 2014

Cat Cam goes live!

You can now watch one of our cat colonies on Livestream Cat Cam.

Dog Room Renovation

A group of volunteers replaced portions of the walls in our dog rooms which had suffered from significant water damage. The renovations will help prevent further deterioration and the build-up of mold.

Statistics

In 2015, Great River Rescue had a total of 364 adoptions, an average of over 30 per month. This rate of adoption represents an incredible increase of 40% since 2012. The increased adoption rate corresponded with a continued decline in the average length of stay of the shelter pets which is now less than 30 days for dogs and 50 days for cats. All the shelter statistics for the year can be seen in the charts to the right.

GRR by the Numbers		
Statistics from 2015		
	Dogs	Cats
Request for Surrender	157	320
Intakes	149	213
Adoptions	145	219
Reclaims	9	2
Transferred Out	2	1
Died in Care	0	2
Euthanasia	1	0
Spay/Neuter Surgeries	89	150
Vaccinations Given	338	467
Medications Given	844	1146
Tests Given	2	152
Average Length of Stay	28.72	48.79



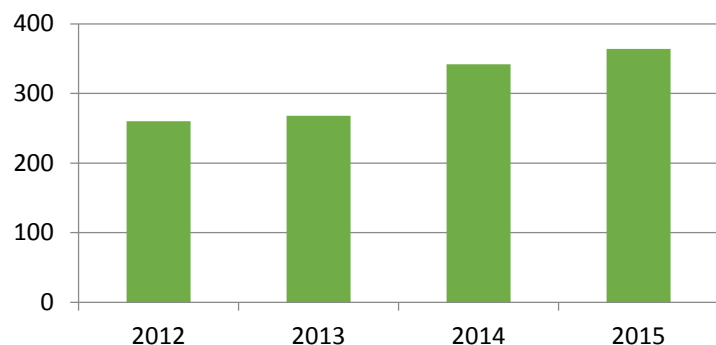
Happy Tail – Q-tee

Q-Tee has brought us so much joy and happiness!!! We can't stand to leave her when we go to work. She is so friendly and loving! She loves to jump up on our laps and cuddle. She loves all of her toys. Seems like every time I shop, I find another toy for her.

I thought I got the best cat EVER last time in 2001 and had for 11.5 years. However, Q-Tee has been such a delight. She has won over our hearts so fast, that I know we love her just as much, maybe more than our last cat I got from the shelter. I am so happy she is young so she can be with us many years. It is actually fun to clean house because she follows me everywhere. When it is bedtime, she belongs to my husband. She jumps up in bed as soon as she knows he is going to bed. I think I may need to get a king size bed next time because she likes to crawl between us.

Thank you for letting us adopt such a WONDERFUL cat!

Adoptions 2012 - 2015



Happy Tail – Jenga

We adopted "May" (renamed to Jenga) in around September of 2015. She immediately won us over and stole our hearts. She is so mild mannered and an awesome cuddle/lap dog! We absolutely love her. Besides being a great dog, she also alerted us that our home was on fire before our smoke alarms went off. Our attached garage was on fire at 4:00 am on December 21st, and we were able to get out without injury and call 911. I have attached the newspaper article. Needless to say, she is our hero. My daughter said that Jenga was restless around 3:30, and when she didn't get up, Jenga got up and started barking. That woke me up, to find our house filled with smoke. We are so blessed that the fire got put out before it reached our house, no one got hurt and that we adopted Jenga. What a cool story



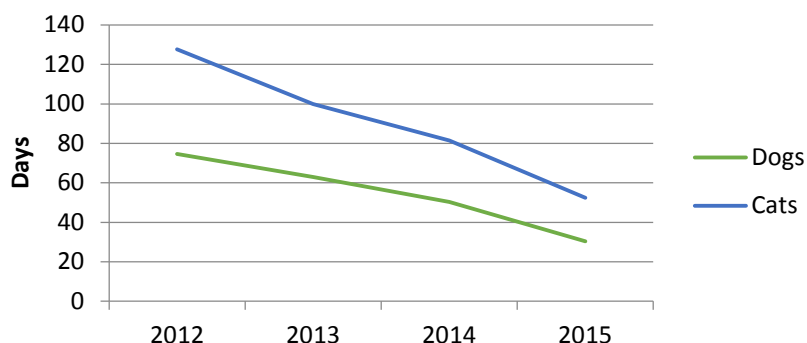
Happy Tail - Moonshine

Moonshine has been with me for a few weeks now and she's still very shy. We love to take walks and she sleeps beside me at night now. I don't expect miracles but we have come a long way in a short period of time. I believe I'm starting to gain her trust. She's started taking treats and eats well. She comes when you call her and even has a little jump in her step. My life is better with her in it. I'm very lucky to have met this special girl.

Thank you to everyone from the Beltrami Humane Society for caring so much. I hope that Moonshine is forever happy and I know that the pets at the Humane Society are loved and cared for greatly.



Average Length of Stay 2012 - 2015



Services

Great River Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal shelter operating in Bemidji, Minnesota. We take-in, care for, and find homes for hundreds of lost, stray, abandoned, and surrendered dogs and cats each year. We are considered a “no-kill” facility since we only euthanize when it is in the best interest of the animal. Our goal is to prevent pet overpopulation and animal abuse and neglect. We strive to create a society in which companion animals are more valued and needless euthanasia does not exist.

Some services we provide include:

- Taking-in animals from local pounds, pet owners, and those who find strays in their communities
- Providing quality care for each pet including vaccinations, deworming, flea/tick treatment, blood tests, spay/neuter, daily enrichment, behavior modification, and more.
- Adoption of animals to responsible pet owners
- Microchipping of pets upon request
- Volunteer opportunities
- Educational outreach
- Being a resource for the community regarding animal care and welfare issues

Initiatives

In 2016 we are committed to moving forward and progressing as an organization even further than ever before. Some of our goals include the following:

- More community outreach
 - We want the community to know who we are, what we do, and what we need
 - We want to do more to educate the community about responsible pet care.
- Increase number of donors
 - We need more donors to be able to sustain the work we are doing.
- Develop strategic partnerships
 - We need stronger partnerships with the city, county, local vets, and others to be more effective for the animals.
- Advocate for animals
 - We want to do more to protect the welfare of companion animals in our community.
- Consider more options for facilities and grounds improvements
 - Our facility is in need of repair, modifications, and improvements.

Financials*

2015 Income & Expense Review

Income

Contributed Support	\$255,241	
Grants	15,615	
Special Events	20,721	
Adoption Fees	39,085	
Other Earned Revenues	5,289	
In-kind Contributions	26,518	
Other Income	4,436	
Total Income		366,905
Gross Profit		\$366,905

Expenses

Program Services	\$163,511	
General & Administrative	23,478	
Fundraising	9,200	
Total Expense		\$196,189

Net Income	\$170,716
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Summary Balance Sheet – As of December 31, 2015

Assets

Checking/Savings	\$47,580	
Accounts Receivable	1,652	
Other Current Assets	142,009	
Total Current Assets		\$51,115
Fixed Assets	214,040	
Total Assets		\$405,281

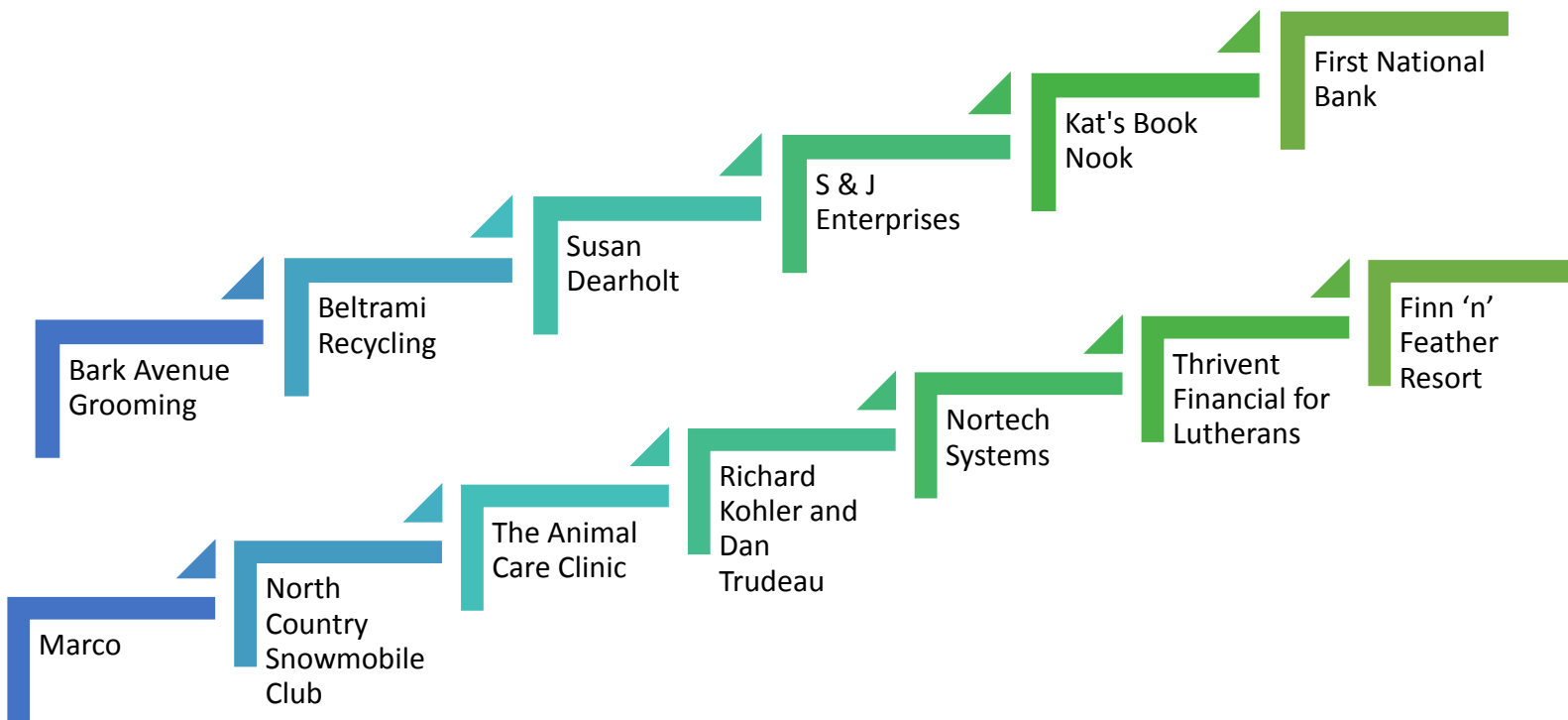
Liabilities & Equity

Accounts Payable	\$4,584	
Other Current Liabilities	3,123	
Long Term Liabilities	0.00	
Total Liabilities		\$4,584
Equity	\$400,697	
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$405,281

*Unaudited

Special Thanks

Here are some of the people and organizations that made a big difference for the shelter in 2015



Great River Rescue is committed to transparency and excellence is everything we do. See our Guide Star Report at:

<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/41-1551248/beltrami-humane-society.aspx>