



Street Homeless Animal Project



Helping the companion animals of our homeless brothers and sisters since 1998

2025 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER



Sometimes Love Has No Address



2025 SHAP Street Family Photo Album overflowing again! This past year we faced a record number of folks experiencing homelessness and in dire need of our help. Struggling to find shelter in the hot summer sun or seeking a bit of warmth in the freezing cold is a constant battle on the Street. The need for help has been overwhelming. If it weren't for SHAP's work on the Street, the amount of suffering would be unthinkable. This is why SHAP exists, and why we need your generous support.

Those with beloved companion animals by their side need help to keep their companions healthy and well fed. SHAP stepped in so many times this year to provide veterinary care, food, water, as well as harnesses, leashes, coats . . . and more!

Providing vital veterinary care (preventative, illness, and injury) has put a big strain on SHAP's Veterinary Fund resources again this past year. We helped with an overwhelming number of life-or-death cases. Vet expenses, including spay/neuter, are SHAP's prime purpose and biggest expense. But with generous donors out there like you in this crazy world, we can keep these loyal companion animals healthy and together with their guardians. Together, they are truly devoted families.

So many reasons people become homeless -- loss of job, evictions, death of spouse, abuse at home, inability to work because of disabilities, struggles with addictions. There is never just one simple story to tell. We remain pledged to provide those homeless families with companion animals these crucial services.

Companion animals provide a sense of family, personal responsibility, unconditional love, and a reason to get up each day and keep the faith — while their struggle on the Street continues for now.

The brightest spot in their lives is always the companion animal sitting faithfully by their side. Together, they are family — strongly bonded — pledged to protect and love each other every day.

Visit and Like Us on
Facebook & Instagram

@StreetHomelessAnimalProject

*Keep up with SHAP's outreach
and activities on the Street.*

*We love sharing our Street
Stories with you!*

Northern New Mexico Street Homeless Animal Project

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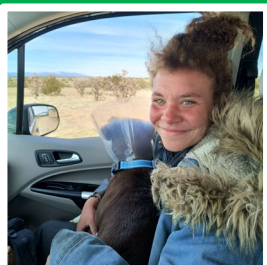
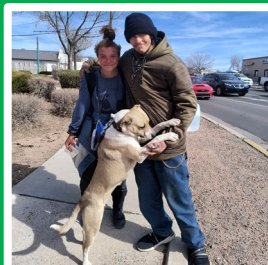
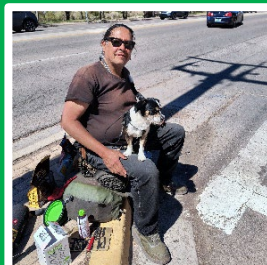
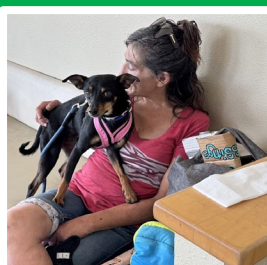
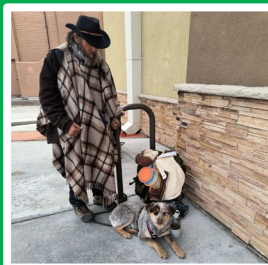
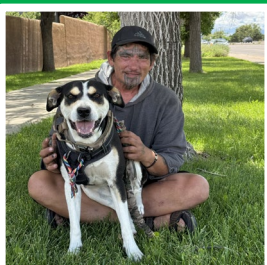
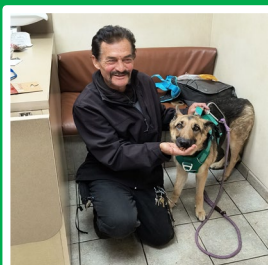
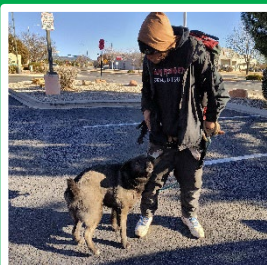
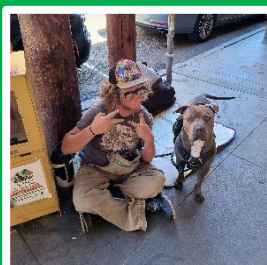
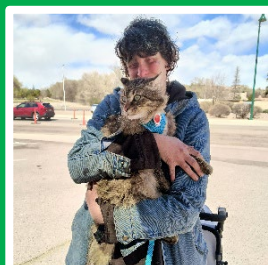
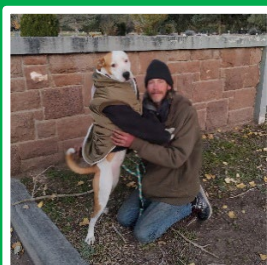
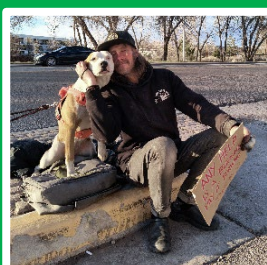
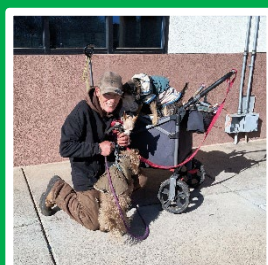
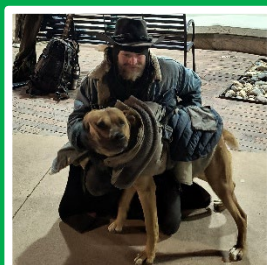
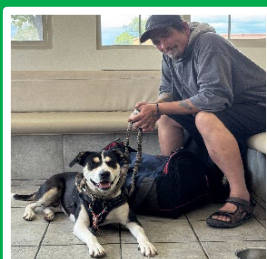
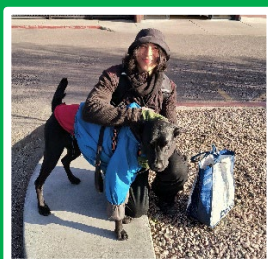
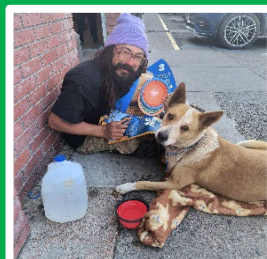
Visit us at NMSHAP.org

501(c)(3) nonprofit
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2025 SHAP Street Stories

Sometimes Love Has No Address



CELEBRATING OUR SHAP VOLUNTEERS

Paseo Pottery Fundraising Event, May 2
Collaborative fundraiser at Paseo Pottery's "Throw-Down." SHAP reps: Maggie Shapiro, Karen Cain.



Santa Fe Pride Parade, June 29

Karen Cain and super volunteers KJ and AJ (Smith Vet), Judith G & sister, Tom & Becky Huston, joined the mighty Pride Parade flying the SHAP banner!



A Chat With SHAP, July 24

Judith Gabriele
Lauren Ongworth
Mary Ann Ryan
Sandra Jaramillo
Emily Lauren Burg
Christine Gossin
Becca Whitaker



Thank you, Baked & Brew for refreshments

Best of Santa Fe Block Party, August 1



Held at the Santa Fe Railyard Farmers' Market Pavilion. Celebrating SHAP's Top 3 Win for Best Animal Nonprofit. Thanks Brandon, Becky & Judith!

Halloween Trifecta of Fundraisers

Bark & Boo Bone Chiling Brew-Ha-Ha Oct 25
Bewitchingly Delicious Drag Bingo Oct 28
Night of the Living Dead Oct 31

Super thanks for our Halloween Fundraiser Volunteers: Sally Kreimborg, Judith Gabriele, Xavier, Madison, Sandra Jaramillo, Brandon Tadlock, Lauren Longworth, Carolyn Brown, Maggie Shapiro, John Connell.

Thank you, Kate & Margie at Baked & Brew, for hosting "Bark & Boo"



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE ABOUT SHAP AND OUR STREET FAMILIES GOES NATIONAL ONLINE

Can homeless people care for their pets? A Santa Fe controversy points to solutions.



later that very same day Desi was abducted. It was obvious Chris and Desi were stalked by individuals because of the info they shared about them online. SHAP and supporters have been searching for Desi since May with the help of local police. Chris remains devastated . . . Desi had been his faithful companion for over 6 years.



Chris & Desi

Michael traveled with Karen around the city on several occasions, as she assisted those on the Street, to see and assess the situation for himself. This article focuses on many aspects of homelessness in Santa Fe and especially those living on the Street with companion animals. It explores the social media threads that deliberately target and malign our homeless. Nothing is ever black and white on the Street. Jumping to conclusions or even intentionally making false accusations seems to have gotten traction in our community. Everyone on the street is not a drug abuser or mentally ill, although certain members of the public lump all homeless into one of these categories to fit their narratives for stealing their dogs.

Several of our SHAP families have been specific targets of vigilante men and women this year here in Santa Fe. All accusations investigated by SHAP, veterinarians, Animal Control, and the Santa Fe Police were found to be baseless.

We can't stop the maliciousness in the hearts of folks. We can try to educate . . . prove their allegations are not true . . . but some folks only see life as black & white . . . and the very visibility of the homeless makes them targets of malicious, online "gangs" that carry their rants from the socials to actual illegal actions on the Street. Experts say abuse and neglect are more rampant in housed folks than people know, but rarely will they be reported.

Go to our website NMSHAP.org to read more about Chris and Desi and SHAP's work on the Street in northern New Mexico. There is also a link to the online *Christian Science Monitor* article where you can read it in full.

Give SHAP a Place in your Heart with RMDs, Planned Giving, or Legacy Gifts!

SHAP hopes our wonderful donors and supporters will think of SHAP in the coming year and add us to any of your **Planned Giving Programs** or **Legacy Gifts**.

Leaving a bequest in your will is a simple and meaningful way for you to **leave a legacy of compassion and health** for our most vulnerable on the Street.

And, if you are 70½ or older, you can give SHAP a **tax-smart gift** today by transferring all or part of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (**RMD**) to SHAP as a donation. You can transfer up to \$108,000 per year to SHAP tax-free and reduce your taxable income. Consult your financial advisor for more details.

We know that it is your passion (*and ours*) to alleviate suffering for companion animals. Discuss this giving opportunity today with your legal or financial advisor.

Give the Gift of Health and Happiness to Our Most Vulnerable

Scan the QR code below to donate!





On the Street

SHAP Street Team



Team Captain
Karen Cain

MAGGIE SHAPIRO

Lead Street Team Member

Almost exactly one year ago I began community outreach to the homeless pet owners of Santa Fe. It was something I'd wanted to do for a very long time because as a huge animal lover, it pained me to see homeless families without the resources they needed to take care of their pets. To say that my experiences this past year have been rewarding would be a massive understatement.

During this time, I've helped countless families with food, shelter, and medical care for their pets. I've become friends with many of our clients and been on the receiving end of countless happy kisses from their pets. While outreach is normally relatively uneventful, sometimes there are heartbreaking moments, such as when I had to escort a client and his incredibly ill puppy to the vet to ensure her survival. Without our intervention, she surely wouldn't have lived to see another sunrise, and I'm happy to say that she is now thriving.



Maggie & her
pup Roo



Want to help? Talk to the homeless like they're human and don't assume you know what they need. If you ask, they'll always tell you. Carry batteries, blankets, and bottled water in your car, and please let us know if you'd like to volunteer.



We're proud to be honored again this year (for the 3rd year in a row) as a Top 3 Winner in Santa Fe Reporter's Best of Santa Fe 2025 | Best Nonprofit For Animals! Many thanks and much gratitude to all our supporters and the votes from the community!



2025 SHAP Activities Timeline

JANUARY Randi G. news article about Karen Cain, SHAP's work & our annual coat drive assisting the unhoused to get coats--both human and animal.

FEBRUARY SHAP Valentine's Community Photo Shoot at PETCO on Feb 8. Our thanks goes out to all of our volunteers who unleashed love and joy!

MARCH Collabs continue with the Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) project and The Life Link at Christ Lutheran Church.

APRIL Success stories: several of our Street clients & their companion animals were accepted into Safe Outdoor Space (SOS), then graduated to permanent housing! Congrats!

MAY Collaborative fundraiser with Paseo Pottery, Paseo Pottery "Throw-Down." SHAP puts out alert & videos to help homeless client Chris M when his dog Desi was stolen from him. Reward offered for safe return.

JUNE *Dogs Die in Hot Cars* campaign starts for the hot summer! SHAP marches in the Santa Fe Pride on June 28 in downtown Santa Fe. SHAP participates in *the Bridging Differences: Ending Stigma Together Event* hosted by Santa Fe County Coalition.

JULY "A Chat with SHAP and our Street Families" on July 17 at the Santa Fe Woman's Club. SHAP wins Top 3 *Best Nonprofit for Animals* in Santa Fe Reporter's 2025 Best of Santa Fe awards.

AUGUST TransFURmations, in Farmington, invites our Executive Director, Karen Cain, to be honored at their 5-Year Anniversary, and fundraised for SHAP.

SEPTEMBER Murad & Bobbi from the radio show "PetChat" interview Karen Cain about SHAP's current work and challenges.

OCTOBER SHAP's Halloween Fundraisers Trifecta include "Bark & Boo" at Baked & Brew, "Bewitchingly Delicious Drag Bingo" at Counter Culture, and "Night of the Living Dead" at CCA.

NOVEMBER Feature article about SHAP, our homeless with companion animals in Santa Fe, and more published nationally in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

DECEMBER SHAP begins plans to partner with New Mexico Highlands University to form an internship with SHAP for students. NMHU School of Social Work Practicum.

SHAP awarded Santa Fe Community Foundation Animal Welfare Grant for our 2026 mission!



ROBERT and KAI

Robert and Kai

RIP Kai ~ Feb 14, 2010 to Feb 28, 2025

"Kaila Jane McGillapuppy" (*Kai for short*) and her guardian **Robert** had been together for 15 devoted years. **Sweet Kai**, known as a "Santa Fe icon", was often seen posing for photos in over-sized sunglasses. Kai passed away earlier this year. She was a beautiful, gentle soul, and loved Robert unconditionally, just as he loved her. Kai's caring SHAP Street Team deeply misses her too.

In her final months, **Kai** suffered from kidney failure and was finally taken from this world on February 28, 2025 . . . and, from the loving arms of her grief-stricken Dad. While she's over the Rainbow Bridge now, Robert still misses her desperately every day. Kai was family . . . this "gentle ole girl" was his everything. Homeless folks with companion animals don't have much while living on the Street . . . but they know what's important . . . what's valuable . . . the absolute love between them and their companion.

SHAP lovingly supported **Kai and Robert** since about 2012 – helping them with veterinary care, food, and supplies through the years. They were family to SHAP. We continue to stay in touch with Robert and see his sadness still lingering. Nothing can ease this kind of loss. Fifteen years together . . . but it still seemed so short a time to contain this much love.

Robert's Tribute to his beloved Kai *In his own words*

"I was the fourth companion by the time I got her at 4 months old. We knew right there, as soon as we met, it was going to be for life. She held up to her end of the deal and her man daddy held up his end.

I knew Kai was beyond a special animal -- she had so much depth. In fact, so much I never actually had to teach her very much. **Kaila Jane McGillapuppy**, as I would lovingly call her, made the cover of 4 magazines, was on Food Network twice, made Travel Channel's BEST OF episode, and multiple other publications all over the country. We couldn't go anywhere without Kai being the center of conversation with her trademark sunglasses and never being on a leash. She was a star that knew how to carry herself in public,

I would always tell her to ALWAYS "be a lady" and she never let her fans down. As well as always wanting everyone and everything to be her friend, she was in the movie *Odd Thomas* made here in Santa Fe and understood 6 languages, English, Spanish, Danish, Mojave, sign language, and the not so subtle, Hobo. She only barked probably seven times in 15 yrs, so that really was helpful in having an extreme bond with her. I almost had to read her mind -- she would not vocalize her intentions.

A huge part of me died when Kai passed. I will never be the same man I was. I became a hollow shell with no reason whatsoever to live. Everything I was got ripped right out my soul that night.

Kai is the only one that could possibly understand my hurt. You'll always be my Kaikai. My daughter. I pray we will be able to join spirits soon like we did in life.

I miss you baby."



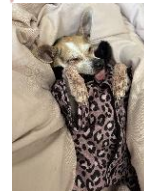


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SHAP HELPS GIRL SCOUT TROOP EARN THEIR “ANIMAL HELPER” BADGES, STREET STORIES SHARED BY LILA & KAREN, AND SCOUTS SHARE THEIR OWN STORIES

From Lila Amorette Casey

On Nov 16, I met up with Karen at Amelia White Park, and as I approached her, she immediately began to love on me like a sister, ask me how I'm doing, tell me how good it is to see me, and all at once I feel welcome in her presence, seen, heard, and valid. This visit in the park is about Santa Fe Girl Scout Troop 10777, arriving to meet with us, to learn about SHAP and why this work is so important.



Karen explained to the young girls, who listened intently and curiously, about people and their companion animals living outdoors with little to no resources, and what SHAP does to make sure the companion animals and their person are supplied with everything they need to be okay. . . such as food, harnesses, blankets, coats, food/water bowls, vet appointments, immunizations, and regular check-ins and more. Karen passed the opportunity to speak over to me asking if I would share a little about my companion animal and what SHAP has done.

Upon agreeing to do this, I thought it'd be easy, just tell them how Karen helped me so much, however when I began to speak and explain how I'd met Karen my heart welled up all at once, and my whole body flooded with emotions as the files in my memory jogged back 14 years to when I'd first called on Karen. Desperate, cold, clinging to last hopes, my beloved companion, an 80 lb. pitbull named Mama. I was broken, hungry, homeless. Aged out of foster care. . . an adult body with a desperate child's mind and a girl's broken heart. Karen shared love and kindness all those years ago. When I stayed in hotel rooms trying to survive, Mama and I, Karen didn't judge. She bought Mama big bags of kibble, a harness, and a chew toy, called her sweet baby, and showed me that we were worth loving. Years after Mama passed at 12 years old, Karen helped me again, this time with Olivia. She never judged or asked why are you homeless again? She just asked how can I help, and this is what I can do.

I shared my story with the young Girl Scouts and their leaders, and thanked Karen for all of the years of selfless unconditional love she'd shared with my beloved companions. I explained how much it meant and what a huge difference it made.

Karen asked the girls if any of them would like to share. What I heard next, forever expanded my heart and knowledge of love. The girls each began to express one by one the huge gratitude and love they had for their own pets and how important it was to them to help the people and pets less fortunate than themselves. Some expressed experiences of being homeless, living in hotels with family, or having parents, and close relatives who'd experienced being homeless.

They huddled around with what they called a spiderweb hug to support those who tearfully and courageously spoke the truth of experiencing homelessness, and at the end dedicated themselves to work as a team to create something nice for people and pets living outdoors. Karen reminded them that they are our future, and they truly seemed to understand. Their little hearts just overflowing with love, compassion, and great ideas for this world. I was so blessed and honored to be invited to see just what happens when Karen creates links with love. SHAP is more than a life link, it's a love link for companion animals and their owners alike, linking love everywhere with everyone!

I love you Karen, so very, very much. You are my hero forever!



Danielle Jimenez (left) and Lila (far right) with Girl Scouts



Karen, Lila, Danielle, and Girl Scout Troop 10777 Earning their Animal Helper Badge with SHAP