



2024

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

In 2024, FIDO Indy continued to face and address many of the growing gaps in our local animal welfare system. We experienced more citizens showing up at our door and calling our help line for urgent assistance for stray and unwanted dogs. FIDO Indy is an animal outreach organization, not a foster/shelter organization. However, policy changes with our local municipal animal agency, left stray, abandoned, and unwanted dogs without a safe haven. FIDO Indy staff encountered these dogs almost daily in 2024. Unwilling to ignore these dogs in need, FIDO Indy triaged 65 stray, abandoned, and unwanted dogs in 2024 until one of our rescue partners could take them.

2024 was a financially challenging year for FIDO Indy. As we stepped up to fill many needs of our community, our funding did always support our expenses. Although our revenue increased by 24% compared to 2023, our expenses rose by a similar amount. Our greatest program expense was for spay/neuter as the result of increased fees at our partner clinics. Knowing that targeted spay/neuter is key to solving many of our community's animal problems, we continued to provide free spay/neuter assistance, despite increased costs to our organization. Fortunately, we had sufficient financial reserves from previous years of surplus, that could be used as a financial cushion.

In response to all these financial challenges, FIDO Indy made the decision to maintain, rather than grow, the volume of our services compared to 2023. The one exception was our fence program. Our number of fence builds in 2024 was 48% higher than the previous year. Our new fence program coordinator focused on reducing the large backlog of pending fencing requests to a much smaller number in 2024 vs previous years.

It became increasingly certain in 2024, that FIDO Indy needed to focus on long-term sustainability while better matching our mission, vision, and values to our actual programs and services. Over the year, after many discussions and deliberations, we changed our name to FIDO Indy, updated our mission to reflect the fact that FIDO Indy helps improve the lives of as many inside dogs as we do outside dogs, better defined our acute/crisis support for dogs as opposed to long-term maintenance support, and finally made the decision to partner more closely with Indy Neighborhood Cats to take over the spay/neuter operations and funding for the cats served by our pet food pantry.

On a larger scale, FIDO took the lead on the development and completion of a 5-year city-wide animal welfare strategic plan in 2024. This plan is being implemented in 2025 to foster better collaboration among local animal groups, begin to fill the many local animal welfare needs of our community, and ultimately put Indianapolis on the path to becoming a humane city for the animals who live here.



Darcie Kurtz

Founder & Executive Director

RENEWED FOCUS

In 2024, we began discussion regarding the scope of FIDO Indy's work. While we continue to support dogs left outside, we also work with many families in crisis whose dogs live indoors. Previously we had assisted indoor cats and have transitioned those in need of support to our partners at Indy Neighborhood Cats. Our new mission reflects the broader scope for dogs.

MISSION

To improve the quality of life of dogs in need. Through advocacy and action, we create pathways for these dogs to live safer, healthier, and happier lives with their families.

CORE VALUES

- **Compassionate:** practicing empathy, kindness, and understanding.
- **Driven:** demonstrating initiative and commitment to create an impact.
- **Pragmatic:** taking a realistic, practical, and solution-focused approach.
- **Resilient:** adapting to challenges with perseverance, creativity, and flexibility.
- **Collaborative:** partnering with others to create solutions and drive positive change.

CLIENT CRITERIA

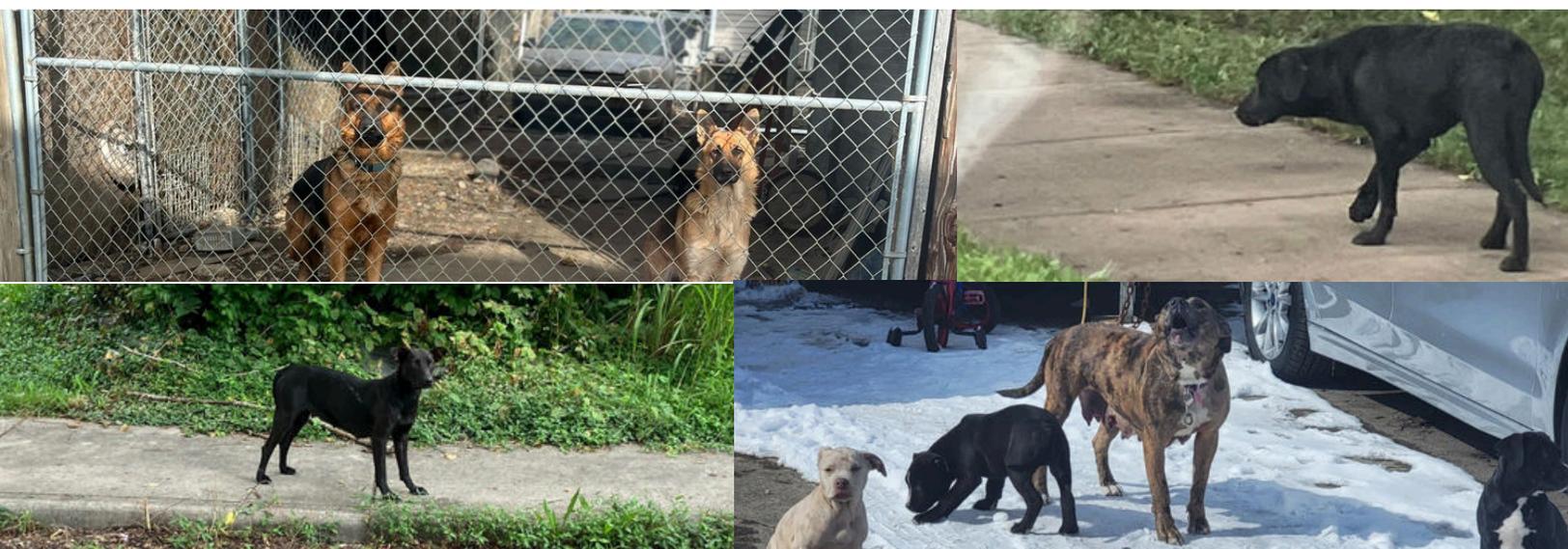
- Residents of Indianapolis/Marion County with either outside or inside dogs in the home
- Income-Qualified: income less than twice the federal poverty line
- Compliant with spay/neuter for all pets in the home



OUTREACH

In 2024, our outreach program was staffed with two teams of part-time case managers. With this staffing level, we were out in the neighborhoods with at least two teams every day during the week and often a day on the weekend.

With the growing backlog of calls to our local municipal animal enforcement agency, FIDO Indy made the decision in 2024 to begin taking concerned citizen calls directly for dog neglect, rather than referring them to our municipal animal enforcement agency. Further, FIDO Indy continued to assist our municipal animal enforcement agency. In 2024, FIDO Indy triaged 473 of their dog neglect cases help reduce their run backlog and reduce their response times for other priority cases.



In 2024, FIDO Indy was able to reinstitute the proactive outreach component of our outreach program due to our expanded case manager staffing. During proactive outreach, we drive down alleys in underserved neighborhoods to find dogs kept tethered or penned outside and then offer our help to their families.

Often during our outreach work in 2024, we found an increased number of stray, abandoned, and unwanted dogs in need of a safe haven due to intake policy changes at our municipal shelter. In 2024, FIDO Indy triaged 65 of these dogs, providing a temporary safe haven, whether in our warehouse, in staff homes, or boarded pro bono at Golden Post Kennels, one of our corporate sponsors. Indyhumane was our rescue partner that ultimately took the vast majority of these dogs when space opened up at their shelter.

In 2024, we expanded our veterinary outreach program, staffed by our volunteer veterinarian and a case manager, to provide more in-home basic veterinary care. The veterinary outreach was focused on alleviating discomfort and suffering in dogs in homes of clients who were elderly, disabled, or without transportation. This program also filled a large need in our community for end-of-life care, including in-home euthanasia for dogs suffering terminal illnesses.

SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE

FIDO Indy requires compliance with spay/neuter to receive assistance through our other programs. The pet overpopulation crisis in Indianapolis significantly worsened in 2024. In response, FIDO Indy doubled down our efforts to ensure that as many animals as we could reach were spayed/neutered. We know that when the number of unwanted dogs and cats in our city is reduced, the overall quality of life for the animals is improved.

To ensure that animals are fixed, FIDO removes all barriers to spay/neuter by scheduling, transporting and funding the surgeries with vaccinations at our two spay/neuter clinic partners, Indyhumane Downtown Clinic and the FACE Low-Cost Animal Clinic. Many of the animals FIDO Indy served in 2024 had not previously been to a veterinarian and had reproduced multiple previous litters.



Inflation, along with veterinary staffing shortages, necessitated increased fees at our partner clinics in 2024. Unfortunately, we were unable to attain grants for spay/neuter to offset these increased expenses. Our expenses for spay/neuter in 2024 were significantly higher than in 2023. Fortunately, we were able to draw on financial reserves and continue to provide this crucial service to our community.

In 2024, FIDO Indy ensured that a total of 1,378 dogs and cats were spayed/neutered and vaccinated through our scheduling, transport, and funding services.

PET FOOD PANTRY

In 2024, we merged this FIDO Indy operation with Indy Neighborhood Cats (INC) to form the FIDO/INC Pet Food Pantry. Working together with INC, FIDO Indy continued to operate a bi-weekly walk-up, and a monthly drive-through, pet supplies pantry for pet owners and community cat caretakers. In 2024, we experienced a drop in clients participating in our monthly drive-through pantry and reduced our hours in accord with the reduction in client participation.

FIDO Indy and INC, working together, continued to refine our processes for pantry clients to ensure all animals in the home were more promptly being spayed or neutered, that we collected updated client contact information, financial qualification information, and pet information. These improved processes helped us better target only those clients in greatest financial need willing to comply with our spay/neuter policy.

Due to a continued deficit in donated dog and cat food from our previous large-scale corporate donors, FIDO Indy resorted to purchasing a large portion of both the dog food and the cat food needed in 2024. Because of this unplanned and large expense, FIDO Indy's strategic planning in 2024 shifted our focus to providing short-term/acute support with food and supplies, rather than long-term, multi-year ongoing support. We began notifying clients toward the end of 2024 that the FIDO/INC support with pet food would be available to clients for up to 12 monthly visits beginning in 2025.

Over 2024, FIDO Indy provided 172,066 pounds of dry dog and cat food. Extra supplies included dog and cat flea treatment, dewormer, treats and toys, inside training crates, canned food, and cat litter. We served over 1,100 households and many thousands of dogs and cats through this program in 2024.



FENCING PROGRAM



The FIDO fencing program provides large, secure, fenced enclosures as a humane alternative to dog tethering. 2024 was a very good year for our fence program. We brought onboard a new fence program coordinator who was focused on improving the program.

In 2024, we made the decision to focus our fencing assistance primarily on dogs in greatest need:

- that would otherwise spend much of their lives outside tethered or in a small pen,
- with owners who were elderly or disabled, especially in the case of large, strong dogs,
- that could not safely go outside due to potential attacks by stray dogs in the neighborhood, or
- dogs with a history of escaping and running at large in their neighborhood.

FIDO fences are constructed around an exterior door of the client's house to facilitate bringing the dog inside the house to be part of the family. They are constructed using existing structures whenever possible, to create the largest possible area, while keeping materials expenses to a minimum. Our fence team often reinforces the fence around the bottom and top of the enclosure to prevent escapes from digging, chewing, and climbing. In 2024, we streamlined our reinforcement materials and processes, by adding relatively inexpensive heavy-duty utility panels that were used to both prevent digging, chewing, and climbing.

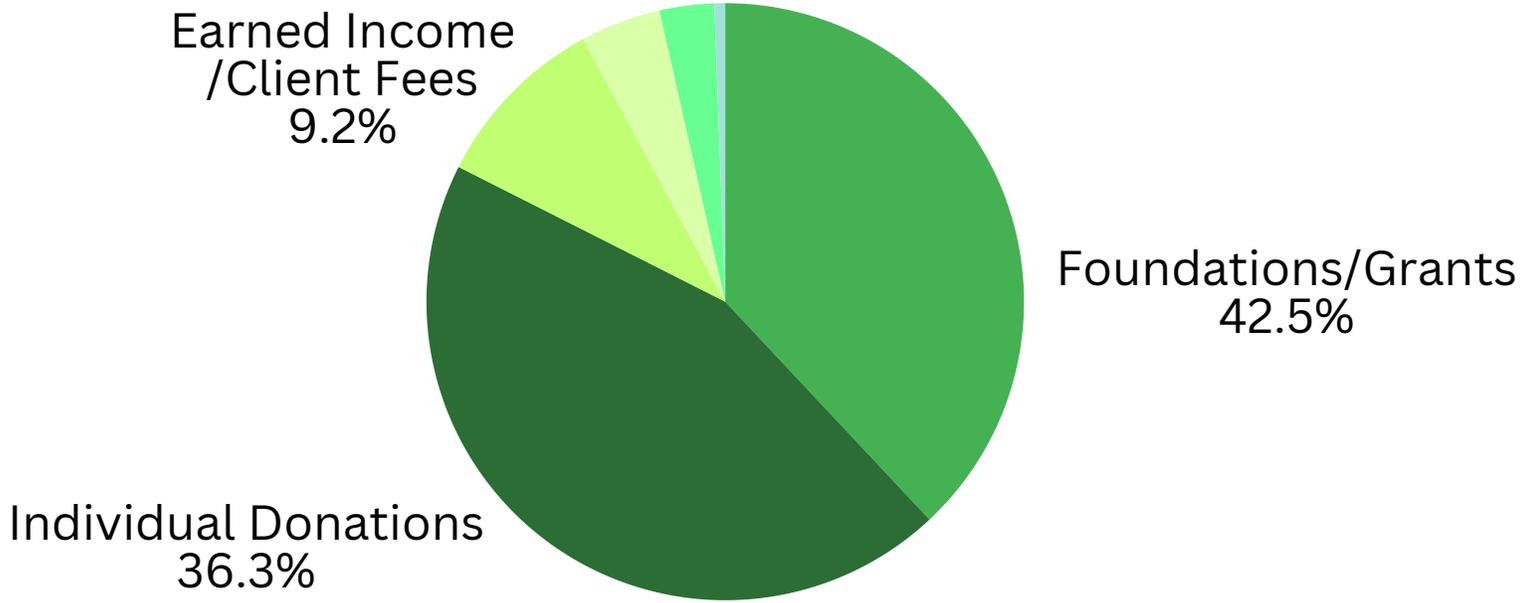
By streamlining our processes, we were able to complete 40% more builds in 2024 compared to the previous year. On average, we completed 2 builds a day, 2 days each week. Many weeks, we completed an additional 1-2 builds on a third day. By increasing the pace of our productivity, we were able to significantly reduce our client wait-times. At the beginning of 2024 we had over 100 clients on our fence project wait-list, By the end of 2024, we had reduced our wait-list to under 40 clients. This progress ensures that we can rapidly respond to urgent requests for secure containment for their dogs.

In 2024, FIDO completed 211 fence builds to free 528 dogs from the end of a chain and provide a secure and humane environment for them to run, play, and exercise.

FINANCIALS

UNAUDITED

REVENUE: \$651,056



\$276,650

Foundations/Grants

\$236,698

Individual Donations

\$60,087

Earned Income/Client Fees

\$32,086

Corporate Donations

\$27,157

Fundraising Events

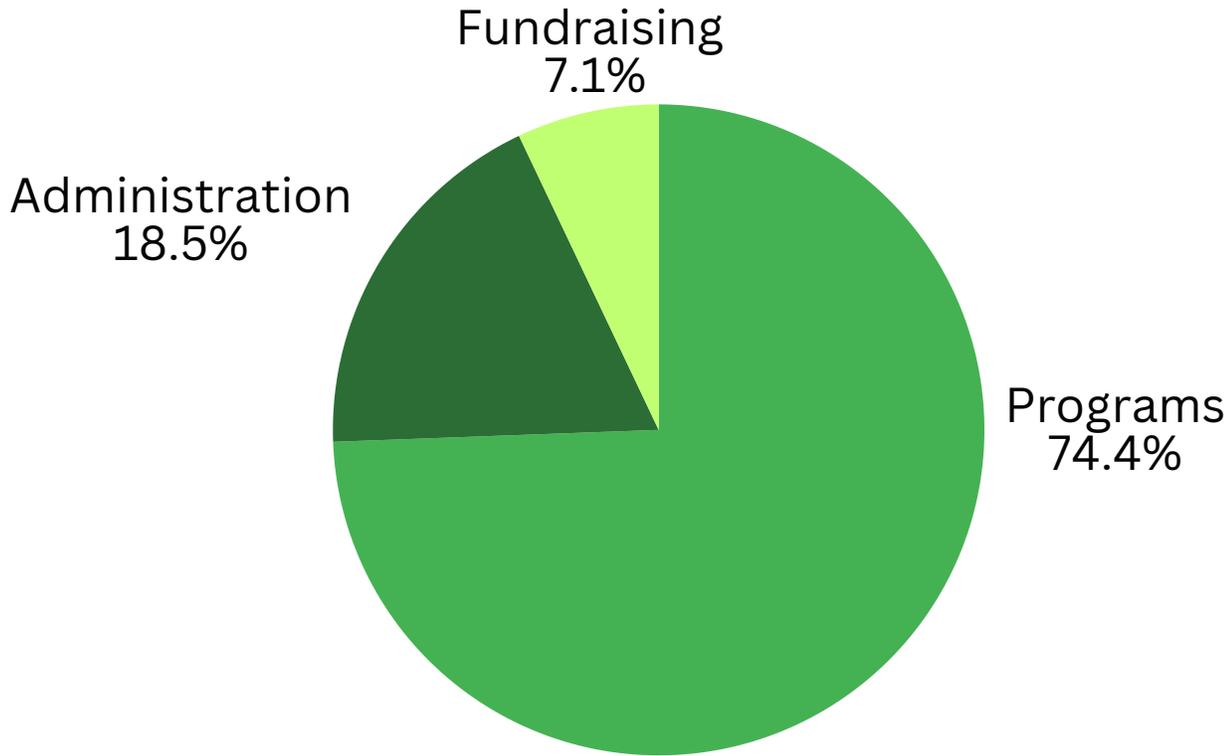
\$18,378

Investments

FINANCIALS

UNAUDITED

EXPENSES: \$715,819



\$532,675

Programs

\$132,647

Administration

\$50,497

Fundraising

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, our overarching goal is that FIDO Indy remains financially and operationally sustainable for many years to come. Our community needs the unique services that FIDO Indy provides.

Many of the changes we made through strategic planning in 2024, including focusing on acute/crisis support vs long-term maintenance support for dogs, will be fully implemented beginning in early 2025.

Also in 2025, FIDO Indy will partner more closely with Indy Neighborhood Cats and refer our clients with house cats to INC for spay/neuter scheduling, transport, and funding. INC will also fund the purchase of cat food for our shared pet food pantry.

FIDO Indy also plans to strengthen our partnership with the Indianapolis Animal Care Services field division to better address severe dog neglect cases in 2025, due to their new leadership and their renewed focus on the suffering and needs of dogs out in the community.

Because accessible spay/neuter is central to addressing many of our city's animal welfare programs, FIDO Indy will work to expand this much-needed service to our community.

FIDO Indy will continue its leadership role in the Operation Indy Animals coalition that will begin implementation of a 5-year citywide animal welfare strategic plan from 2025 to 2029.



FIDO, Inc

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