



From the Chair of the Board

Dear Members and Friends,

The mission of Best Friends Animal Society, “To bring about a time when there are No More Homeless Pets,” is more than a goal. It is a promise that guides every decision that we make.

When we broke ground for the Sanctuary on a cold February day in 1984, we couldn’t have imagined where it would all lead, how many animals’ lives would be changed for the better, or how many individuals and organizations would be impacted by the pursuit of that mission and our promise to make it a reality.

That has never been more the case than today, as a new generation of leadership has taken the helm of Best Friends and re-committed to the founders’ promise, expanding the reach of Best Friends to every corner of our nation.

Last year marked our organization’s 35th anniversary. And while there are many landmark achievements and milestones to look back upon with considerable satisfaction, none is more important or more satisfying than the succession planning that started in 2005 and culminated in 2018 with the appointment of Julie Castle as CEO of Best Friends.

Julie and her team are leading the country with groundbreaking innovations on virtually every front to accelerate mission achievement and to lead the country to no-kill by 2025. The community lifesaving dashboard, the Maddie’s® Shelter Embed Project and the Best Friends Executive Leadership Certification program newly supported through Southern Utah University are just a few of the ways that they are pushing the envelope to save more lives, reach more people, and forever change the way that our country relates to the dogs and cats entering our shelters.

From our unlikely beginnings shoveling sand to build a sanctuary in one of the most inaccessible places in the Lower 48 to becoming one of the largest animal welfare organizations in the country (with centers in Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta and Salt Lake City, and two more on the way in Houston, Texas, and Bentonville, Arkansas) and from the founders to our new generation of leadership, Best Friends is committed to our mission and our promise.

This report will give you an overview of achievements and highlights in fiscal year 2019, thanks to your involvement and support.

Francis Battista
Co-founder and board chair
Best Friends Animal Society