

# PROJECT STREET VET 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

This is Project Street Vet's first annual report. We officially formed in 2020, but for me this mission started more than ten years ago when I met a man and his dog who changed my life. As the head of an overcrowded shelter, everyday I made decisions that broke my heart and I was ready to leave a profession I once dreamed of having. On my daily walk to work, I passed a man and his dog on the street. I could see the dog had a severe flea infestation and told the man that if he was there again tomorrow I'd have what I needed to treat his dog. Sure enough, he was there and with only ten minutes of my time both our lives were different from that day on. His dog was cured and my calling was found.

It's estimated that more than 582,400 people are experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and roughly 10-25% are pet owners. Pet companionship can reduce stress, anxiety, depression, ease loneliness, lower blood pressure, and foster social connectedness. As a veterinarian for more than 20 years, I know this to be true and in the decade that I've delivered care on the streets of Southern California I have seen incredible strength, compassion, and life-saving bonds between pets and their people. This is why my brother Ian and I founded Project Street Vet and why we believe so strongly in our motto of: "No Judgement. Just Help."

Project Street Vet brings together the passion of volunteers, the generosity of donors, and the trust of community partners and clients to deliver our mission. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who have joined our team since 2020 and to the hundreds of others who have raised their hands to serve as we expand. Thank you to our donors for making expansion possible. When Ian and I first launched a GoFundMe page, we never imagined we'd receive this level of support. It's clear that there are many (at least 250K of you by our last social accounts) who believe in this work and we are grateful for your encouragement daily. We would also not be where we are today without our Title Sponsor, Fetch Pet Insurance. As a founding partner, they've invested in our early development and enabled us to expand to four teams in 2022 with more to come in 2023.

And thank you to the dozens of community partners we've met since starting this organization. We've lifted up many of you in this report and we hope to meet even more of you in the years to come. There is no one size fits all to helping others and we are beyond grateful to have a network of colleagues standing by us as we seek to provide unique care to those we serve. I am so proud of our accomplishments in 2022 and I look forward to serving more pets and communities in the year ahead.

Dr. Kwane Stewart, DVM Co-Founder, President & SoCal Team Lead Project Street Vet



# **PROJECT STREET VET**

### OUR MISSION

Project Street Vet is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit public charity that provides free veterinary care, treatment, and **non-judgmental support to the pets and people experiencing homelessness and/or housing vulnerability**. Project Street Vet was founded by Dr. Kwane Stewart, who for the past decade has provided free veterinary care to pets of people experiencing homelessness – walking areas of high homelessness to seek pets and pet parents in need. What was once a one-man operation founded by Dr. Kwane has become a **multi-team, multi-city effort to provide services to hundreds of pets annually**.

### NO JUDGEMENT. JUST HELP.

Project Street Vet is committed to protecting the human-animal bond that is so vital to the livelihood of pets and the people who love them. Leading with compassion, kindness, and no judgements, **we seek out and assist the pets and people who need it most**. The team at Project Street Vet hopes to inspire veterinary teams everywhere to provide needed resources to pets and people in their communities. Although we primarily assist pet parents in Southern California, we are hoping to expand our program services both inside and outside of California and made strides in 2022 to achieve this.



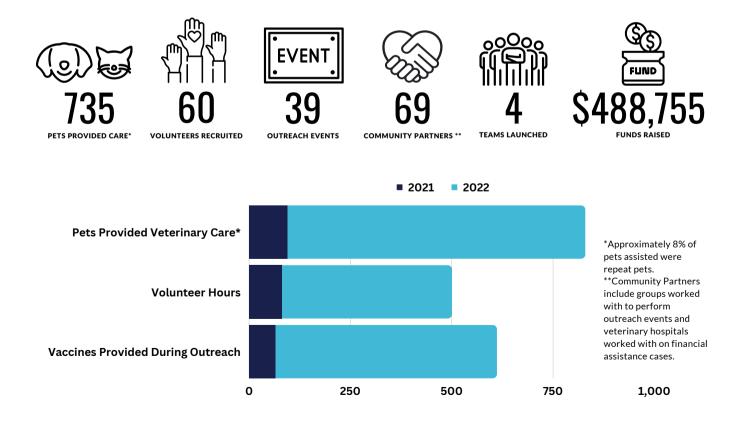






#### 2022 STATS

2022 was a phenomenal year for Project Street Vet thanks to our supporters, volunteers, partners, and team members. We are grateful for the increased impact on pets and their people that our teams were able to make last year compared to 2021 and are excited for the continued opportunity to grow our work for those we serve.



#### **PROGRAM SERVICES**

Project Street Vet delivers support in three main ways: through **monthly veterinary care clinics** in high need areas alongside community partners, through **financial assistance for veterinary care**, and most recognizably through **"Street Vet Work,"** where Project Street Vet teams perform street outreach to meet people and pets where they are.

# STREET VET WORK

Project Street Vet is founded on the inspiring "Street Vet Work" of Dr. Kwane Stewart, who for years provided **direct vet-to-pet services** by walking city streets to identify individuals experiencing homelessness with pets. During this outreach, our small volunteer veterinary teams provide free exams, vaccines, flea meds, supplies, medical records, spay/neuter vouchers and more. All services are provided at no cost to pet parents. Previously, Street Vet Work was done by Dr. Kwane alone, but he is now joined by many other passionate volunteer veterinarians, technicians, and assistants to provide this program service. In 2022, 26 Street Vet Work outings were conducted by our Southern California and Atlanta Teams to provide essential veterinary care to 257 beloved pets and their parents experiencing homelessness.















#### FREE PET CLINICS

In addition to Street Vet Work, Project Street Vet partners with organizations serving people experiencing homelessness and/or housing vulnerability to host free pet clinic events at their sites. During clinics, our small volunteer veterinary teams provide free exams, vaccines, flea meds, supplies, medical records, spay/neuter vouchers and more. Information is gathered for any needed follow-ups and all services are provided at no cost to pet parents.

Our Southern California teams hosted **13 veterinary care clinics last year to service 203 pets** in collaboration with amazing groups such as <u>The City of San Diego's Homelessness Strategies and</u> <u>Solutions Department</u>, <u>San Diego Alpha Project</u>, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles - St. Margaret's Center, <u>Brown Bag Lady</u>, <u>VA Long Beach</u>, <u>The Animal Pad</u>, <u>Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission Tiny</u> <u>Homes</u>, and <u>PATH Metro Villas</u>. Project Street Vet currently hosts these free pet clinics at least twice a month with both rotating and standing partners and we are always open to collaborating with new groups to help more pets and their people receive care.















# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to Street Vet Work and Pet Clinics, Project Street Vet assists qualified pet parents with their pet's essential veterinary care through financial assistance grants. Whether they are a pet parent we have seen in the past or a new referral, Project Street Vet staff work directly with pet parents to understand pet needs and potentially fund for care directly to partner veterinary hospitals. Although our veterinary teams can treat approximately 80% of the pets we encounter during our Street Vet Work and Pet Clinics, we use this system of referrals for those we come across who need care we cannot provide during outreach and for the many pet parents who contact us in between our outreach events.

Financial assistance is typically provided for routine care and diagnostics, but could be provided for more in-depth treatments like surgeries. We currently assist pet parents in Southern California through this program and in a limited capacity where we have other established teams. In 2022, Project Street Vet staff worked directly with 60 veterinary hospitals to provide 275 financial assistance grants for needed veterinary care totaling \$123,244. We hope some of the stories shared below of pets and pet parents assisted through this program demonstrate the importance of this service and we appreciate the help of our supporters for making them possible.



#### PETER CHOCOLATE & HIS MOM

Our team met Peter Chocolate, a cautious, but loving Min-Pin and his mom near Skid Row, Los Angeles. Our LA Vet Lead Dr. Nichole noticed that Peter Chocolate had severe dental disease - a grade 5 out of 5. Through our supporters, Project Street Vet was able to help fund for the crucial dental care Peter Chocolate needed to continue a happy, healthy life. After surgery, this is what his mom wrote us:

"I want to express my deepest, most heartfelt, gratitude to your whole team for helping my best friend! My little Min Pin aka "Petey" or "Chocolate boy" got through his surgery just fine and he's all healed up and is one happy little guy! He has actually started to be calmer and more friendly with the other dogs in the neighborhood which wasn't the case before the surgery. He would always avoid them, especially if they came up near his mouth. He has also started to allow me to pet his face and his muzzle and massage his little nose. That's something I've almost never been able to do.

This makes me so happy for him to live somewhat of a normal life without pain. He's such a good little dog and so extremely loyal and patient with me through all we've been through. He's always been my very loyal, protective companion and service dog and he's always helps me through everything I go through. It broke my heart almost daily that he quietly suffered. I knew he was in some level of pain continuously, and I will always do my best to care for him as if he was my human companion. And I just never had the funds to help him out. What you all did has taken such a huge weight off of my shoulders because for years it's always been in my mind and the resources just weren't there for me to help him. I can't even express how grateful I am. You have not only blessed him but you have blessed me beyond measure. Thank you to each and everyone of you for doing what you do. And if Petey could talk he would be thanking you as well!"

#### **PRINCESS LEIA & RICHARD**

Dr. Kwane met Richard, Leia, and his second dog Pudding (since passed of old age) while doing Street Vet Work in Ocean Beach, California. Richard is a veteran who fell on hard times, resulting in him living in a car with his dogs and without work. He was offered a place to stay, but his dogs were not allowed. He told our team, "I can't give them up. They've always come before me. I've gone without eating, but they haven't. If you take the responsibility of being a pet owner, they gotta come first." We were able to provide Leia and Pudding care that day, but our conversation with Richard stuck with us - he was such a remarkable pet parent trying his best to get by. We wanted to ensure they had access to veterinary care they needed and were able to set up an appointment for Leia to get spayed through our Financial Assistance Program. Dr. Kwane made a few more check-ups and Leia is doing great! Additionally, we were able to connect Richard to local veteran services that we hope will assist them with other needs, and we are happy to report that Richard is now employed as a local security guard with Leia as his co-pilot (photo above)!

### **PENNY & FORREST**

Penny & Forrest are two beloved pups of their "mom," who reached out to us for help with treating their severe dental issues. After she was assisted by Project Street Vet, she wrote: "I can't begin to even thank you but I will try my hardest. Thank you for helping me in my time of need. I was ashamed and embarrassed to ever ask anyone none the less someone I don't know for help. I am truly brought to tears as I write this letter to you. Thanking you from the bottom of my heart that you guys gave me this opportunity to be able to give Penny and Forrest the medical attention they needed that I could never afford. I am happy my babies are no longer suffering and I can focus on the constant hurdles life has to bring. I am trying to pay my credit cards and fix my credit score so that I can soon find a stable home for me and my little fur family. I just wanted to let you know that every time I see their faces I always think of you and the organization."

# **VOLUNTEERS & TEAMS**

### LEAD VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS

Project Street Vet was once lead by Dr. Kwane alone, but last year he was joined by more veterinary professionals volunteering for the cause. In 2022, Project Street Vet recruited five other Vet Team Leads to independently lead services in their areas. Team Leads work with other volunteer vets, techs, and general volunteers who join as needed to provide services. Our Southern California teams span outreach from San Diego to Los Angeles and last year we launched our first East Coast team in Atlanta (GA) to pilot expansion of our services. We were fortunate to have had 10 volunteer vets join us in 2022 and below is a glimpse of our Team Leads. We are announcing more teams in 2023, so please stay tuned!

### TEAM SAN DIEGO, CA



Dr. Frank Merrill helps lead our San Diego efforts and comes to us with decades of experience. Now retired, Dr. Frank is eager to continue serving pets and people through Project Street Vet. "The rewards in these cases are the gratitude that the owners have that someone cares enough to help them with their deserving animals. I'm impressed by the level of care the owners can find for their animals. It is truly amazing." Dr. Frank is good at making people laugh and always a fun veterinarian to work with!



Late in 2022 we were excited to recruit Dr. Karina Banuelos to help lead our San Diego outreach. Dr. Karina has a passion for volunteering and has worked with great rescue groups like The Animal Pad. "I'm very passionate about community outreach in underserved areas because I believe in the mutual benefit of the human-animal bond." We are so excited to have her aboard and grateful for her volunteerism!

# **VOLUNTEERS & TEAMS**

#### TEAM LOS ANGELES, CA



Dr. Nichole Weinstein has a passion for service. She was the first veterinarian to work at the <u>Skid Row Carnival of Love</u> and also helped establish veterinary services for <u>Underdog</u> <u>Community Project</u>. She has been practicing small animal medicine since 2005 in Southern California and currently serves as Medical Director at <u>Arrow Dog & Cat</u> <u>Hospital</u>. Dr. Nichole leads our Los Angeles based program activities and as of late 2022 has also joined Project Street Vet's Board of Directors. We are grateful for her service!



Dr. Ari Aycock-Williams also helps lead our LA based activities. Dr. Ari found out about Project Street Vet through a news special on Dr. Kwane and she was inspired to volunteer. Volunteering has taught Dr. Ari to see people as a whole, not just letting their circumstances define them. Our saying at Project Street Vet is, "No Judgement. Just Help." That is what guides her practice in this organization. Our impact in LA has been able to truly expand with both of these vets at the helm!

#### TEAM ATLANTA, GA



Last July, Project Street Vet was able to launch our first team outside of California in Atlanta, Georgia, led by Dr. Kristen Schmidt. Dr. Kristen has a history of serving those experiencing homelessness. From passing out supplies to tutoring children residing in shelters, she comes to us with a huge passion for this work. She leads a small, powerful team that services areas near Atlanta up to three times a month. We are grateful for her huge inroads to providing better access to veterinary care in her community.





#### **VET TECHS & ASSISTANTS**



Our volunteer veterinary technicians and assistants play an integral role in providing veterinary care to the pets and pet parents we serve. At each Project Street Vet outing, our vets are joined by volunteers in this role to help facilitate medical care to pets in the best way possible. Last year, our services were provided by over **30 volunteer techs and assistants** who all provided direct, hands-on care for pets at each event. Special thanks to these wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time and love to this cause!

#### **PET GROOMERS**



We are also fortunate to have occasional pet grooming services donated to the pets and pet parents we assist. Amazing companies like <u>Fur Town & West Coast Grooming</u> <u>Academy</u>, Chief Black Swan's Mobile Pet Salon, and R&R Furbabies Grooming provided services like baths, fur-cuts, teeth cleanings, nail trims and more **at no cost** to pet parents. We are thankful to companies like these for giving back!

# **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**



Whether its administrative work, packing supply bags, taking photos, assisting at pet clinics, or helping to spread the word about our work, we are grateful to the many other volunteers who assist Project Street Vet every day. **Thank you, Project Street Vet Volunteers, for making a difference!** 





Volunteer Tech Elli-Ana San Diego, CA







#### **TITLE SPONSOR**

# fetch PET INSURANCE

<u>Fetch</u>'s mission is to help pet parents give their pets a happier, healthier and longer life. The pet parents that have a fierce and unbreakable bond with their pet. The ones that think of their cats or dogs before themselves. Fetch champions this bond with no exception and is proud to support Project Street Vet.

Through an integrated marketing strategy, financial support, and fundraising efforts including the launch of 101 Donations, a matching gift campaign, **Fetch helped raise over \$378,000 for our organization.** 

With their support Project Street Vet was able to:

- expand our Southern California operations
- launch our first team outside the state in Atlanta, GA
- pilot in additional communities
- grow our donor network and
- secure resources to serve hundreds of clients in 2023

Thank you Fetch for your support, we are so grateful to be reaching more clients in more communities through your sponsorship.

"At Fetch we see pets as family. They provide unconditional love, emotional support, companionship and security, which can be vital during challenging times. Our goal is to ensure as many pets as possible get the care they need and we're committed to supporting Project Street Vet's expansion."

-Hilary Palotay Director of Corporate Social Responsibility



### **101 DONATIONS CAMPAIGN**

In October 2022, Fetch committed to match every donation dollar for dollar up to \$101,000 to the end of the year. Working alongside Project Street Vet, Fetch secured corporate gifts, a partnership with Giving Tuesday and more than 1,500 donations from individuals and partners across the U.S. and Canada. With these funds, Project Street Vet is able to support growth of the San Diego, Los Angeles and Atlanta chapters and expand to new communities in 2023.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN



#### **ADDITIONAL FUNDERS**

## TOP GRANTORS



<u>Maddie's Fund</u> invests resources in a commitment to keeping pets and people together, creating a safety net of care for animals in need and operating within a culture of inclusiveness and humility. They work towards the day when the animal welfare field more accurately represents the diversity of our country. Maddie's Fund introduced a grant opportunity to support operations of U.S.-based Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-led government agencies, nonprofit animal welfare, or veterinary medicine organizations, with focus on organizations who primarily deal with dogs and/or cats and/or their people. Project Street Vet is grateful to have received a <u>BIPOC-Led Operating Support Grant</u> from Maddie's Fund last year to help better staff our programs. Thank you, Maddie's Fund!



Project Street Vet is grateful to have received donated DAPPv Canine and HCP Feline vaccines from <u>Petco Love</u> to administer during our work through their national vaccination initiative, which is providing one million free pet vaccines for family pets in need to animal welfare partners. Parvovirus and distemper in dogs and panleukopenia in cats, the most prevalent deadly diseases affecting pets, are preventable with simple vaccines. We are grateful for this massive support provided by Petco Love!

#### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE!

#### FINANCIALS

#### **INCOME & EXPENSES**

As a new charity founded in late 2020, our team is working hard to get established while making the biggest impact possible. 2022 was a pivotal growth year where primary infrastructure was built around programs, board, staff, volunteers, and piloting new teams to test expansion. Thanks to the increased support received last year, we have been able to deepen our impact in 2023 with 70% of our budgeted expenses allocated to programs and we expect to more than double the number of pets and people assisted by year-end. Project Street Vet's 990s can be found on the <u>About Us</u> page of our website.

INCOME	2022
Contributions & Grants	\$488,752
Investment Income	\$3
Total Revenue	\$488,755
EXPENSES	
Program	\$200,941
General Operational	\$100,333
Fundraising & Marketing	\$45,467
Total Expenses	\$346,741
NET ASSETS	
	\$264,213



#### **NEW TEAMS**



Thanks to our Title Sponsor Fetch Pet Insurance, we have recently launched **new Project Street Vet teams** in Watsonville (CA), Orlando, (FL), and Webster (FL). Announcements of new teams will be posted on our website, social media, and e-newsletters throughout the year and we invite you to stay in touch through these mediums.

# **CNN HERO NOMINATION**



The Team at Project Street Vet is honored to have **Dr. Kwane Stewart nominated as a** <u>2023 CNN Hero</u>! CNN Heroes was created to honor everyday people doing extraordinary things to change the world. Special thanks to the whole team of vets, techs, volunteers and contributors who been so supportive of the work. Honorees will be introduced throughout the year and the public is encouraged to vote for the CNN Hero of the Year Award later in 2023. We will keep our supporters updated on the CNN Heros process.

#### **PSV IN THE NEWS**



We are grateful for the continued interest in the work of Project Street Vet by various news outlets and publications, which help spread the word about our mission. Recent stories from NPR News, LA Times, AAHA, Spectrum 1 News, and more can be found on the <u>Project Street Vet News</u> page of our website.

# WAYS TO HELP

Kwane Stewart, D

# DONATE

Our donors are the lifeline of Project Street Vet – without their support, this work wouldn't be possible. Whether it is a <u>one-time or a recurring gift</u>, we are so grateful for charitable contributions that provide needed veterinary care to these pets and families. All monetary donations are tax-deductible. Stay tuned for updated about our 2023 101 Donations Matching Gift Campaign sponsored by Fetch Pet Insurance where all donations will be matched up to \$101,000!

### VOLUNTEER

Project Street Vet exists thanks to the generosity of <u>volunteers</u> who donate their time to provide care to pets and people in need. We are always in need of more veterinary professionals to help bring our services to communities in need. If you have other skills and expertise and would like to volunteer with Project Street Vet, we would love your support as well!

# SPONSOR

Project Street Vet has varying sponsorship opportunities for businesses looking to give back. If you or your company are interested in sponsoring Project Street Vet, please email **danae@projectstreetvet.org**.

# OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Whether its donating pet supplies, shopping our online store, or supporting Project Street Vet through your Legacy Planning, there are plenty of ways to help the cause. Learn more on the <u>Ways to Give</u> page of our website. If you are interested in donating supplies to a particular team location, please locate the team's page on the <u>Our Teams & Locations</u> page of our website for more instructions.



#### **BOARD & STAFF**

Dr. Kwane Stewart, DVM - Board President, Co-Founder, and SoCal Team Lead Ian Stewart - Board Treasurer, Co-Founder, and Managing Director Sandra Salazar, PMHNP, Psychiatric RN-BC, BSN - Board Secretary Dorit Dowler-Guerrero, MPA - Board Director Carson Saporta, JD - Board Director Dr. Nichole Weinstein, DVM - Board Director Danae Davis - Executive Director Val Nassir - Programs Coordinator

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: contact@projectstreetvet.org Phone: 619-616-8568 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 232579, Encinitas, CA 92023 Website: www.projectstreetvet.org EIN: 85-1158446 Instagram: @thestreetvet Facebook: Project Street Vet Twitter: @TheStreetVet



**NO JUDGEMENT. JUST HELP.** TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!