

THE LIFE OF KAI: COMPASSION
CONNECTIONS INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2024





foster kindness together.

The Life of Kai

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Executive Summary



The year 2024 has marked significant growth for Life of Kai. As we enter our third year, our small grassroots nonprofit is making meaningful progress toward our mission of enhancing awareness around animal and pet welfare. Our primary objective remains to boost our visibility—serving our community effectively hinges on being known. To achieve this, we utilize social media and engage in community outreach events. This year, our efforts have concentrated on broadening our programs, introducing new initiatives, and organizing additional community events. Through innovative programming, enhanced outreach, and strengthened partnerships, we have consistently made a notable impact on animal welfare and the communities we support. Key highlights of the year include new collaborations, expanded humane education initiatives, and the successful implementation of various community-based programs.



PROGRAMS

Community Connections through Kai Kind Lending Library (Education-based programs)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The community's enthusiasm for the library has been overwhelming and has even extended to neighboring cities.

- Achieved unexpected growth since its launch in late 2023, with 3,000 visits in its first year.
- Distributed 175 books promoting evidence-based materials on dog behavior, with 20 books returned for redistribution.
- Successfully hosted four community events, including Día de los Muertos for Pets and Kindness Day.
- Created a pet memorial garden as part of the library's community outreach initiatives.
- Began construction of a second library, built by local Waldorf fourth graders, to focus on children's books about empathy and compassion.



PROGRAMS

Humanity Connections: "Kind is Cool" (Education-Based Programs)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- In light of limited growth in 2024, we reassessed our approach to networking and providing humane education.
- We maintained our partnership with Red Rover to curate books while also investigating the Mutt-i-grees curriculum for preschoolers.
- We revamped our delivery methods to include in-person, virtual sessions, and pre-recorded e-stories available via Canva.
- Networking by integrating with the introduction of a new lending library for children.
- We involved student volunteers to support program delivery and assist in creating e-stories.





PROGRAMS

Rescues Connections - Bridges (Community Outreach Programs.)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Created in 2022 to provide behavior help for pets in low or no-income households.
- Continued to partner with HART to offer pro bono services to foster families of dog rescues.
- Inspired the Welcome Home Initiative, assisting adopters with rescue dog transitions.
- Incorporated the Street Pets Initiative to support pets of the unhoused.
- Continued to collaborate with the Street Dog Coalition in 2023 and started to volunteer with DPAW (Davis Pet Advocacy and Wellness) in 2024.
- Launched "Health for Paws," serving 100 individuals with jackets, socks, hand warmers, pet food, and pre-Thanksgiving meals.
- Total support services, including pet supplies, reached 137 unhoused individuals in Davis and Sacramento.
- Donate a humane trap to a local TNR group.



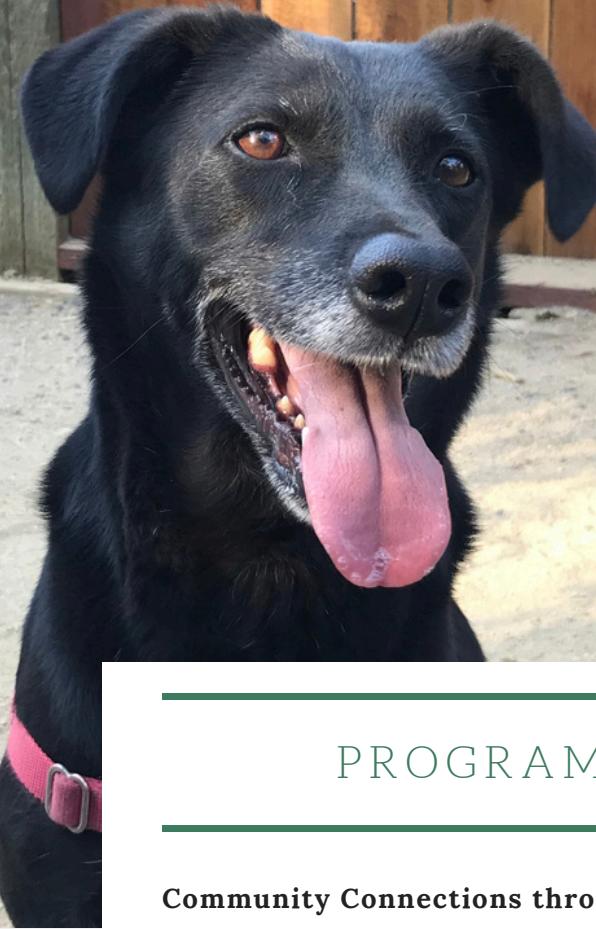


PROGRAMS

Community Connections: The Compassionate Dog Coach (education and community-based support)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Shifted focus from revenue generation to providing pro bono services for those in crisis.
- Supported 10 individuals in keeping their pets with behavior help and sponsored temporary pet boarding for four families.
- Provided 127 pro bono behavior consultation services to the unhoused and 20 paid services for private clients.
- Of the 225 total behavior services, 36 involved behavior modification and training, 6 were training-only cases, and 147 were consultations.
- Joined Shelter Animals Count to monitor pet services provided to the community.
- Worked with a group of college computer-science students to develop a mobile app to find lost pets.



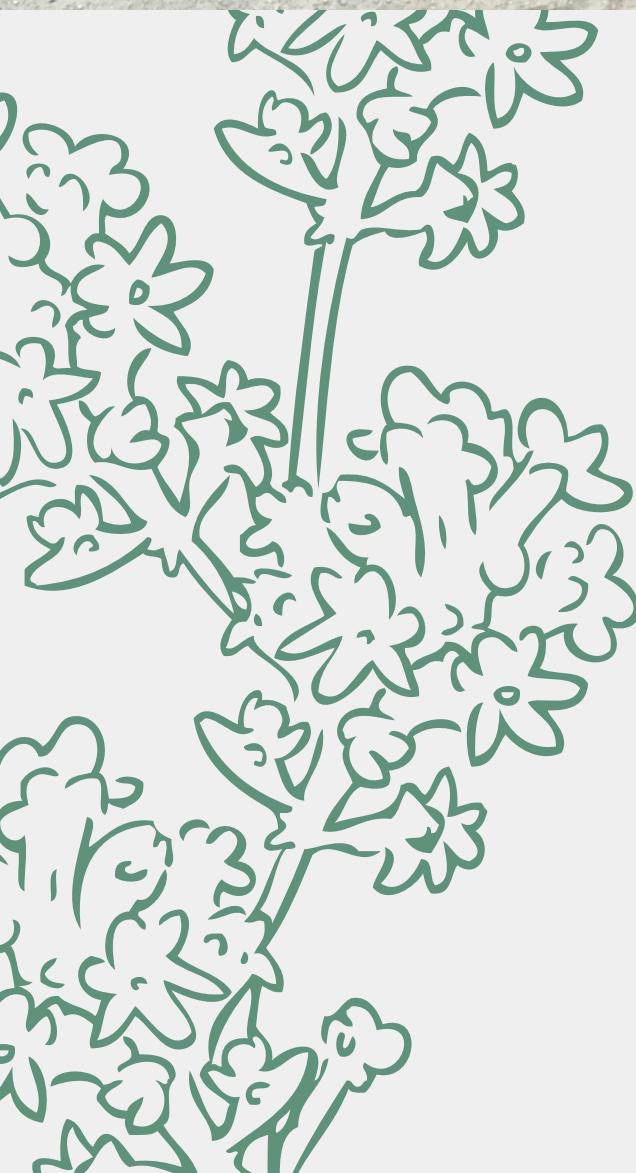
Relinquished by his family,
Quinn found his forever home
after being fostered by Unidos
for 3 months.

PROGRAMS

**Community Connections through Nuzzle:
An Online Foster Registry (Community-
based initiative)**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Launched a pilot study focused on team fostering, involving eight shelter volunteers dedicated to rehabilitating a vulnerable young dog.
- Gathered valuable insights to create "Nuzzle," an online foster registry and shelter intervention tool, set to launch in 2025.
- Conducted two informal surveys via Nextdoor, revealing a strong interest in assisting dogs to leave shelters, along with a list of eager individuals ready to help.





WEBSITE & VISIBILITY

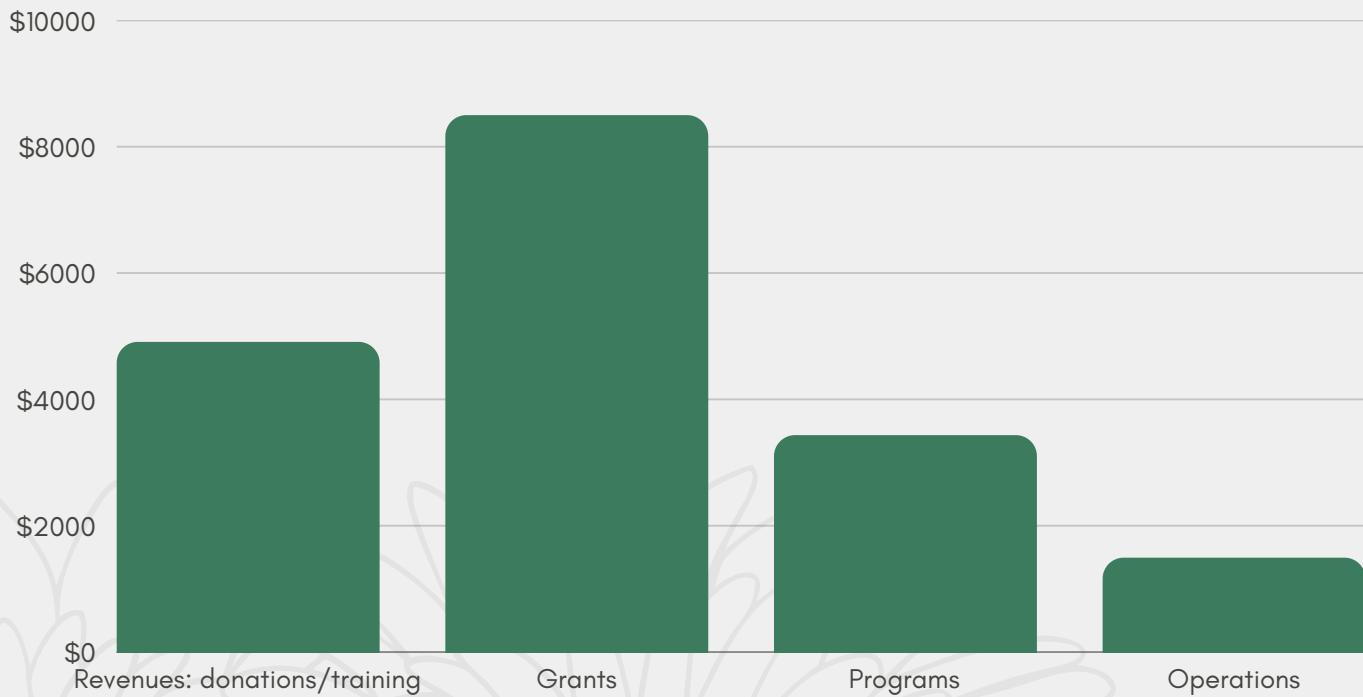
- Enhanced website functionality, acting as a dynamic platform that highlights growing programs and partnerships.
 - Attracted 1,300 unique visitors in 2024, up from 961 in 2023 and 414 in 2022.
 - Promoted increased transparency by providing access to newsletters and annual reports online.
 - Introduced a volunteer page in the website menu to facilitate the recruitment of volunteers.
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GRANTS & FUNDING

- Applied to the AARP Purpose Prize but did not receive it.
 - Maintained Platinum status for transparency, supporting grant-seeking efforts.
 - Secured the First Steps grant by the Binky Foundation.
 - Invited by the Binky Foundation to apply for the "Next Steps" grant.
 - Earned a grant through the Open Arms Challenge to support "Health for Paws."
 - Participated in the Shelter Animal Counts Grant.
 - Secured funding from Costco for the "Health for Paws" event.
 - Received donations from Walmart.
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VOLUNTEERS

We are incredibly grateful for the support of numerous volunteers who assist us in updating and reformatting our website, as well as in posting our blogs. Additionally, we have a dedicated team of seven computer science college students working on a mobile app, along with four more students eager to contribute to our programs. So far, we have successfully recruited 11 volunteers in 2024.

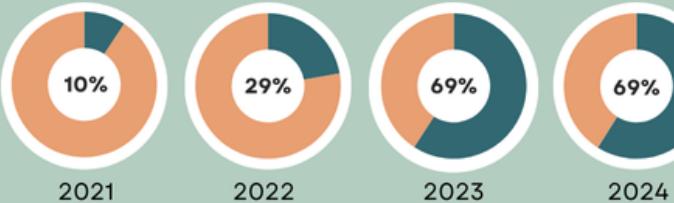


FINANCES

The table reflects our revenues and expenses for 2024. Our capacity to earn grants and donations increased while our revenue from training with private clients decreased. Our fundraising thus far was based on words of mouth and visibility within our community but we have not launched a dedicated fundraising event. Our goal to do a t-shirts fundraiser did not materialize as planned. Our operations cost is constant, our programs expenses are similar to 2023 but we expect it to increase as we add a second library and more community events.

PROGRAMS SPENDING & DONATIONS

Among charity watchdog organizations, the Better Business Bureau says at least 65% of expenses should be for programs. The Life of Kai's expenses is on target increasing in the right direction.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

- Combine humane education with the Lending Library into one cohesive program to deliver humane education efficiently and effectively.
- Launch community classes for children and their pet dogs to complement our humane education program.
- Prepare a workshop titled “Falling in Love with your Pets” for our education-based program: Lending Library.
- Launch small coaching workshops for selected individuals who enjoy working with their pets.
- Developed plans to introduce group lessons and workshops in 2025, including resilience-building puppy curriculums.
- Accept Binky Foundation to apply for Next Steps grant
- Apply to Pollination Project grant to fund Lending Library for kids
- Explore building a website for Nuzzle using AI
- Plan a foster workshop for March 2025 for the Nextdoor enthusiasts who want to help shelter and rescue dogs. Prepare a workshop plan featuring ways to empower these potential volunteers through education and training.
- Introduce "Kare for Kitty Kat," a sixth and new program focused on feline welfare, with corresponding updates to library content.
- Continue to work with computer science students on an innovative mobile app project for lost pets - one way to keep pets and people together.
- Would love to launch wildlife and community initiatives in 2025, including TNR programs and coyote health projects.