A Call For Help Inc


This report represents A Call For Help Inc's responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

A Call For Help Inc
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Mission:
To improve dogs & cars lives to the best of our ability. We do not look down on others for needing help nor do we impose our values and beliefs on them. We are here to provide education, resources and support for the animal and the family.
The content of this Charting Impact Report is the sole product and responsibility of A Call For Help Inc. This report does not in any way represent an endorsement from Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information on Charting Impact, visit www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?

Our organization is aiming to reduce the number of pet owners who are forced to consider surrendering their companion animals in the tri-county area surrounding Youngstown, Ohio. This area has been suffering economically for multiple decades, and was further devastated by the economic downturn in 2008. In crisis economic conditions, many families are simply unable to afford the expense of owning a pet, regardless of their own wishes. Giving up a beloved animal causes additional stress and hardship to the family at a time when companionship and emotional support is most greatly needed. Furthermore, surrendered pets add to already strained pound, shelter and rescue populations, increasing not only homeless animal rates but euthanasia rates. By reducing and alleviating the costs associated with owning a pet, namely food and veterinary expenses, A Call Fur Help can spare families the pain and indignity of giving up their companion animals.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?

In order to help keep pets in their current homes, A Call Fur Help is acting as a pet food pantry, and will soon be adding veterinary fee assistance services. We currently distribute pet food, as well as other supplies such as cat litter, through two means: direct distribution and food giveaway events. Direct distributions are given in response to individual applications from pet owners. The owners fill out information demonstrating their need, and food is given based on the type and number of pets in the home. Food giveaways are held in partnership with a local church food pantry, where pet owners can meet the needs of their pets along with their own food needs. Veterinary assistance will also be distributed via an application process. Owners will be required to contribute a co-pay that is determined on a sliding scale, based on income. Assistance will be provided both for preventative care, such as vaccinations, as well as for cases of illness or injury. Care will be given, when possible, through partnering veterinarians who are willing to provide services discounted or at cost.

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?

Our operational pet food pantry has a proven track record. A Call Fur Help solicits donations of pet food and funds from area businesses, organizations, and individuals. Some businesses are willing to donate damaged containers of pet food, and others have allowed us to place donation bins for various pet food drives within their facilities. Other local nonprofit pet rescue organizations have donated surplus food and partnered with our organization on various fundraising events. Thusfar, we have not had to turn away a single applicant for pet food. For veterinary services, we recently received a grant from Banfield Charitable Trust which will be used in combination with raised and donated funds to provide veterinary services. We are in the process of approaching veterinarians in economically underserved areas so that they can refer needy patients to us for assistance. Since donations of pet food have been increasing, we can focus more of funds garnered from our fundraising events towards the veterinary assistance program.

4. How will we know if we're making progress?

A Call Fur Help is in the fortunate position of being able to directly measure success through the number of pets and people to whom we deliver food or pay for veterinary services. Each one of our clients who receives assistance from us, especially those who receive repeat food deliveries, is someone whose pet is secure in their home. Our services help to prevent pets from becoming a burden on our clients’ already strained budgets, and remove them from consideration of surrender. While it is difficult to determine accurate statistics on how each surrendered animal ends up in an area shelter, we can be certain that those pets who receive our services are not among them. Based on our performance so far, we believe that we will continue to see an increase in clients in the future.
5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?

We have accomplished quite a bit in our relatively short existence. Over the past year, we obtained federal 501(c)3 status, gave out over X pounds of pet food, and obtained a grant from Banfield Charitable Trust to begin providing veterinary assistance. We have also established an online and social media presence, gained both clients and supporters, networked with other area animal charities, and held successful fundraisers. While we have not yet been able to provide veterinary assistance to any clients, we look forward to begin offering these services in the upcoming year.