

Humane Society for Boone County 2021–2022 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Dr. Amy Rader, D.V.M.

President

Dr. Amy Rader of Thorntown, a Veterinarian with NVA Zionsville Animal Hospital, is the President of the Board of Directors. She is serving a three-year term in that office.

“I have been an animal advocate for my entire life,” Rader said. “Animal welfare is an inherent part of me. I have enjoyed working with the Humane Society for Boone County since joining Zionsville Animal Hospital, and I look forward to working with my fellow Board members, Committee members and other volunteers of this wonderful organization.”

One of her goals is to increase HSforBC’s visibility in Boone County because “we would not be able to succeed in our mission without community support.”

Pam Verborg

Vice President

Lebanon resident Pam Verborg is the Executive Director of The Arc of Greater Boone County. Some of The Arc’s clients who love animals enjoy helping as Cat Program volunteers for HSforBC.

Volunteerism is important, Verborg said. “The need is there. We hear stories every day of animals who have lost their caregivers, well-intentioned families unable to meet the needs of the pet they tried to adopt, strays and other cases where animals are surrendered. The need is real and, in most cases, shelters and foster programs such as HSforBC can create long-term opportunities for these cats, dogs, puppies and kittens. There will always be ongoing needs for both volunteers of every type and financial support.”

Greg Sigman

Treasurer

Greg Sigman of Zionsville brings his financial expertise as a Tax Director and Certified Public Accountant at L.M. Henderson and Company in Indianapolis to his Board position as Treasurer.

“Without this organization, there is not enough assistance in Boone County to provide help for all the animals that only need a good home to thrive,” Sigman said. “I think that our biggest challenge in the short term [due to the coronavirus pandemic] is to find ways to keep funding at a level to provide help and shelter for all the animals that need our assistance.”

Laura Alter

Secretary

Laura Alter of rural Zionsville, Secretary of the Board and a Cat Program volunteer, is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Manager who currently serves as Director of Critical Care at IU Health’s Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

New volunteers are appreciated, Alter said. “As our community grows the needs grow, and we have many unwanted and uncared for animals in need of loving care. There is a huge opportunity to place these animals in loving homes and educate the public.”

Board Members

Nine other volunteer members of the Board of Directors also are dedicated to fulfilling HSforBC’s mission of service “For the Love of Animals.”

Tiffany Edwards

Zionsville resident Tiffany Edwards serves as Vice President of Sales for the J.R. Watkins Company. As a Board member, her goals include promoting volunteerism and “ensuring animals have a voice, and receive the resources and support they need to survive and thrive.”

HSforBC volunteers and supporters are “dedicated to helping animals,” Edwards said, and the organization needs more “volunteers for all aspects of the organization” as well as continued “funding to expand our team, services and programs.”

Kevin Estes

Whitestown resident Kevin Estes is a Divisional Financial Analyst for PulteGroup. Promoting “awareness, growth and expansion” of HSforBC and helping animals find forever homes are among his goals as a Board member.

I’m an advocate for ‘Adopt. Don’t shop.’” Estes said. “Animals make everyone’s lives better, and the community should support a great cause to help animals get the care they deserve.”

Chelee John

Attorney Che’lee John of Lebanon, a member of the Hoover Hull Turner L.L.P. law firm, enjoys her volunteer Board service because she wants to “be able to give back to animals, who give their entire selves to us.”

Promoting the need for and benefits of fostering homeless dogs and cats is among her goals.

“HSforBC does so much more than sheltering animals in need,” John said. “One example is Pet Pantry, where HSforBC provides pet owners the necessary supplies to care for their pets. I think this is an amazing solution to help keep pets in their homes when times get tough for their owners.”

Denis Oberg

Zionsville resident and longtime HSforBC volunteer Denis Oberg enjoys keeping busy during his retirement years by working on construction projects and maintenance duties at the shelter. His expertise benefits the non-profit community service organization in countless ways.

Oberg worked for the Archer Daniels Midland Company for 40 years. He and his wife, Anne, volunteer by fostering kittens as well as helping with fundraising and events. They have two cats, Raven and Casper.

“The Humane Society provides valuable services to the community,” Oberg said. “We reunite lost pets with their owners, through our TNR (Trap / Neuter or Spay / Return and Release) Program, we reduce and control the population of feral cats, and we have an excellent rate of finding homes for animals that come into our care.”

HSforBC is always in need of new volunteers and donations, Oberg said. “I have really enjoyed the challenges that several of the projects I worked on at the shelter presented to me. I also appreciated the fact that whenever I needed help there were volunteers who were willing to lend me a hand.”

Tracy Ridings

A Zionsville resident, Tracy Ridings is a Realtor with the F.C. Tucker Company and a Cat Program Foster in addition to her Board responsibilities.

“While loving and caring for an animal is life changing for the animal, caring for an animal is life changing for the humans involved as well,” Ridings said. “They teach us love, compassion and responsibility. Animals calm anxieties, heal broken hearts and provide companionship.”

Her goals include promoting “continued community education—understanding the need to spay and neuter—and reaching the hearts of young people” to encourage their volunteer support.

Laura Slick

Zionsville resident Laura Slick, a former teacher now working as a Learning Strategist for CuroGens, Inc. in Carmel, volunteers for the Cat Program in addition to her duties as a Board member.

Slick volunteers for HSforBC because she wants to make a difference in the lives of animals and interact with others who share her passion for animal welfare. Increasing community awareness and fundraising are among her goals.

“As an organization, we put the welfare of the animals first and foremost,” Slick said. “We care for each animal individually and exhaust all avenues to rehabilitate and rehome the animals in our care.”

Nicholas Topoll

Whitestown resident Nicholas Topoll cares about animal welfare and brings financial expertise to his board service. He began volunteering for HSforBC six months ago, and hopes more people will volunteer this year.

Topoll is the senior manager of Accounting Advisory Services for Crowe, L.L.P. He and his wife, Kate, who is a Canine Program volunteer, have two dogs, Koda and Meeko.

“HSforBC provides important support for the community,” Topoll said, “and raises awareness for animal welfare.”

Allison Upchurch

Zionsville resident Allison Upchurch has volunteered for the Cat Program since last April and brings legal experience to her board service. She is an attorney for Lewis Kappes, P.C., and the owner of three cats, Senshi, Tsuki and Kiwi, who was adopted from HSforBC.

"I have always loved animals," Upchurch said. "So many of our cats and dogs come to the shelter as uncertain and often terrified animals. I love watching them flourish under our care and support, and grow into confident, happy and healthy animals ready to take on their new lives."

Upchurch encourages community members to support HSforBC because "it is an incredible organization that works tirelessly to support and protect our community's cats and dogs."

HSforBC relies on a strong network of volunteers and community supporters to accomplish its lifesaving rescue work, she said, which includes educational resources, a community pet pantry and connections to low cost veterinary care for people who need help caring for their dogs and cats.

"The Humane Society needs ongoing community support ranging from volunteer opportunities to financial support," Upchurch said. "There are many ways for individuals to help us help the animals."

Dawn Walker

A retired Registered Nurse and Nursing School Educator, Dawn Walker of rural Lebanon serves as the Feline Program Director and a Cat Foster in addition to her Board responsibilities.

"My passion is caring for those who need it most," Walker said. "The animals have no voice. That's where we step in. Because there is a need in our county for animal welfare of the homeless, unwanted and mistreated [dogs and cats], HSforBC helps where we can. But we can't do it alone. It takes a village. We help organize and provide direction."

Her goals include encouraging more people to support HSforBC's lifesaving mission as volunteers and donors, and expanding the TNR (Trap / Neuter or Spay / Return and Release) Program for community cats.