

# **Hearts and Paws Comfort Dogs 2024 Year-in-Review**

## **Introduction**

2024 is the first time we've done an official 'Year in Review' for Hearts and Paws Comfort Dogs. Before we jump into 2024's accomplishments, we thought it important to briefly tell our backstory. We incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in December 2021, having previously been members of the Paws of Comfort division of the Lions Club. We decided to separate from the Lions and create our own organization with the vision of keeping it local, with those on Cape Cod seeing the full benefit of our visitations and fundraising efforts. On January 1, 2022 we had 15 members and 6 certified dogs, and our mission was "enriching lives with unconditional love" for those in our community who need it the most. At the end of 2024 we had 53 active members and 30 dogs. In this Year-in-Review, we will elaborate on membership, finances, visitation sites serviced as a whole, and in particular in 2024.

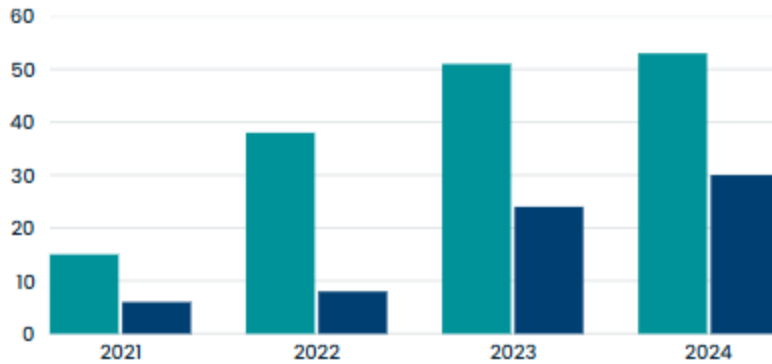
## **Membership**

Membership started in late 2021 with 15 member and 6 dogs, all from the Lion's Club Group. We quickly expanded to 38 members and 8 dogs in 2022, mainly due to friends of members joining and to participation in many public outreach events. In 2023, membership jumped to 51 members and 24 dogs, and in 2024 to 53 members and 30 dogs. 2024 was the year that we saw several additions from Therapy Dog International and CAP and we're happy to have them join our organization.

It's also worth noting that over the few years we've been in operation, although we've grown overall, we've actually seen a fair amount of attrition, with 27 members and 10 dogs leaving during that time. Much of this had to do with people not understanding how big a commitment being a volunteer is, or folks who have experienced life changes that no longer allow them to be able to participate.

As we grow, we need to focus on member development, to ensure the continuation of our organization's ability to provide the services we do to our community.

# MEMBERSHIP



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Light blue = Members

Dark blue = CGC and/or Therapy Certified Dogs

## Origin of Membership Gains 2024

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Word of Mouth                | 3         |
| Friends of Member            | 2         |
| Therapy Dog International    | 4         |
| Hyannis Home and Garden Show | 2         |
| Bow Wow Bash                 | 1         |
| Newspaper                    | 1         |
| Cape Cod Dog Fest Mashpee    | 1         |
| Dennis Christmas Stroll      | 1         |
| Lily House                   | 1         |
| Online Search                | 2         |
| Bark in the Park Harwich     | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>19</b> |

## Visitations

2024 was a landmark year for us – we can finally say we serve all the way from Falmouth to Provincetown! When we started visitations in early 2022, the only sites we had were the Falmouth Elementary Schools. By the end of 2024, we were serving approximately 20 locations across the Cape! This is something we should all be so

proud of. You all make hundreds of people across the Cape happier and feel more love! As we grow, we're careful to be mindful of our ability to add a new visitation site to our schedule. We strive not to cancel any visits if we can and we have a very consistent track record. In addition to visits and events, members also engage in a number of administrative duties. It's worth noting for 2025, we have added a requirement for active members to visit at least 1X per month and participate in at least 2 public events a year.

### **Active Visitation Sites By Region between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024:**

#### **Upper Cape**

1. 4 Elementary Schools in Falmouth
2. ARC of Upper Cape Cod
3. Moving into 2025 the Upper Cape will be adding visits to Recovering Champions, Lauretide Assisted Living

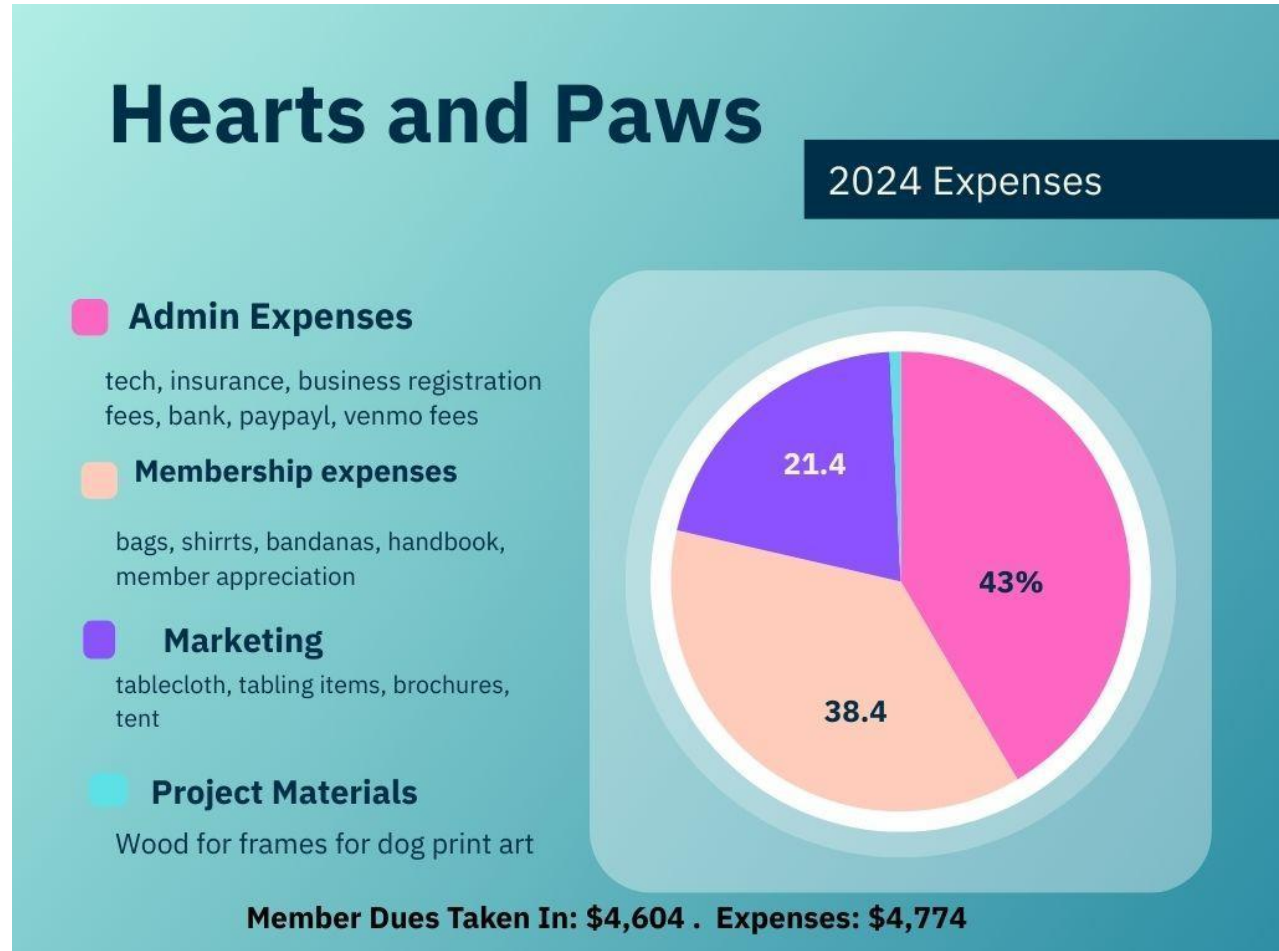
#### **Mid/Lower Cape**

1. Alzheimer's Family Resource Center at CC Mall – Day program
2. Dennis Senior Center
3. Ezra Baker Innovation School
4. Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School
5. Chatham Elementary School
6. Chatham Housing Authority
7. Dream Day on Cape Cod Camp (summer)
8. West Dennis Library (summer reading program)
9. Dennis Memorial Library (occasional reading programs)
10. Moving into 2025, we will be adding visits to the Hyannis and Dennis Veterans Homes and Sturgis East Charter School and DY Summer School Program

#### **Outer Cape**

1. Eastham Public Library
2. Provincetown Public Library
3. The Terraces Nursing Home in Orleans
4. Rock Harbor Respite in Orleans
5. AIM Wellness – Outer Cape Health
6. Snow Library Orleans (summer)

## 2024 Financials



**Assets as of 12/31/2024:** \$14,299

**Assets as of 12/31/2023:** \$12,199

These assets are our savings, and come from direct donations to our organization, not dues or event donations.

## Events 2024

When we go to events, our goals are to spread the word around the community about our wonderful organization, recruit new members, fundraise for other local non-profits

(many that we do visits at), and spend quality time with our colleagues. New visitation venues often come out of events.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event Name</b>                      | <b>Location</b> | <b>Fundraised For:</b>    | <b>Amount Collected</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/31/24     | Hyannis Home Garden and Lifestyle Show | Hyannis         | Lily House                | \$125                   |
| April 2024  | Health and Environment Fair            | Harwich         | Alzheimer's Family Center | \$41                    |
|             |                                        |                 |                           |                         |
| 5/26/24     | Cape Cod Cares for the Troops          | Hyannis         | Rocky's Warriors          | \$125                   |
|             |                                        |                 |                           |                         |
| 6/25/24     | Bark and Sip @ Cape Cod Coffee         | Mashpee         | Tommy's Place             | \$1,537                 |
| 7/13/24     | Cape Cod Dog Center Dog Fest           | Mashpee         |                           |                         |
| 7/21/24     | Bark in the Park                       | Cotuit          | K9 Relief Fund            | \$110                   |
| 7/29/24     | Bark in the Park                       | Harwich         | K9 Relief Fund            | \$123                   |
| 9/7/24      | Seaside LeMans                         | Mashpee         | Cape Kid Meals            | \$207                   |
|             |                                        |                 |                           |                         |
| 10/24       | Alzheimer's Walk                       | Provincetown    | Alzheimer's Family Center | \$103                   |
| 12/6/24     | Christmas Stroll                       | Harwich         | Harwich Children's Fund   | \$120                   |
| 12/10/24    | Dennis Christmas Stroll                | Dennis          | Cape Cod Family Pantry    | \$171                   |
|             |                                        |                 |                           |                         |
|             |                                        |                 | <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$2,662</b>          |

To compare, we raised \$3,207 in 2022 and \$2,717 in 2023.

The Board would like to thank all Volunteers and Donors who support and contribute to the mission of Hearts and Paws Comfort Dogs. We are already engaged in a busy 2025 season and look forward to providing the *unconditional love* of our dogs to those living, working and studying on Cape Cod.

