

# Smart 4 Paws Inc DBA Find Toby in PA REUNITING LOST PETS! 2018 Annual Report

**Find Toby in PA 2018 statistics:** 10,218 total posts created helped to reunite 5,196 total pets (4,053 dogs, 1,044 cats, 20 goats, 19 bunnies, 11 horses, 1 five-foot long lizard, 1 wallaby). As of the end of 2018, page likes were just over 57,000. Note that the reunited numbers are highly dependent upon the original contact providing follow-up information on the status of the animal.

## Introduction

Smart 4 Paws, Inc, DBA Find Toby in PA, is dedicated to a world without lost pets. We started several years ago as a group of caring individuals brought together to help one dog, Toby, to be reunited with his owner. The original Toby was found but the group who came together realized that there was an unmet need in our community for assistance with lost/found pets. These individuals formalized in 2015 and founded Smart 4 Paws, Inc, receiving 501c3 nonprofit status from the IRS in 2016.

Smart 4 Paws, Inc, operates the Find Toby in PA Facebook page to provide information and support to people who have lost or found a pet. Smart 4 Paws, Inc owns microchip scanners which volunteers can bring to a found pet to check for a microchip; and owns trail cameras & traps ranging in size from cat to large dog size, which can be loaned to pet owners or used by our volunteers to recover a pet at large. All of our equipment has been funded through generous donations or fundraiser participation.

The Find Toby in PA Page is staffed from 8am to 10pm, every day of the year, providing 5,096 hours of staffed time among a group averaging 25 volunteers. We even have volunteers who will assist during “off hours” between 10pm and 8am. When the page is contacted, a post is created for the lost or found pet and tips, additional information & support are provided to the person who contacted the page. This volunteer team is critical to our mission and provide a vital service to our Pennsylvania community and surrounding states. This dedicated group gives of their free time, they take time out of their weekends & holidays, all to assist people who have lost or found a pet.

The Field Volunteers spend countless hours assisting with hanging flyers, scanning pets for microchips, managing feeding stations, setting up trail cameras & traps and trapping loose pets in order to bring them home. These are the volunteers giving their time, often providing their own supplies, who work to ensure a lost pet is safe, and ultimately secured. Trapping a lost pet sometimes can take weeks of time invested by multiple volunteers. We are truly fortunate to have loyal followers who have assisted us with donations of meat which we cook & pet food that is used to bait the traps for catching a loose pet.

Administrative accomplishment for 2018 was the application for fictitious names (Doing Business As/ DBA) for the name “Find Toby in PA” to create a formal & legal connection between Smart 4 Paws, Inc and the Facebook page we operate.

Formal training & certification is an initiative championed by our current Board President. Three of our volunteers attended a weekend-long regional Missing Animal Response (MAR) training class in June. At the end of 2018, four volunteers committed to an 8-week long MAR training class to start at the beginning of 2019. We have worked with MAR-trained

## **Volunteer Spotlight** **Glenda R**

Glenda R is one of the original members of the Find Toby in PA team who helped to found Smart 4 Paws, Inc.

She is the Lead Facebook Administrator for Find Toby in PA and manages an all-volunteer team who are responsible for staffing the page for 14 hours per day, every day of the year.

Glenda has experience in every area of our organization and will often be found coaching the Administrator team, preparing food for trapping lost pets, delivering traps & trail cameras to locations needed, working the traps & trail cameras as well as tactical captures that the team has participated in.

In her free time, you will find Glenda camping with her husband, visiting her children & grandchildren or enjoying her home with pups Rocky & Dixie and cats, Lucy & Kit.

Thank you, Glenda, for your service & dedication to making our organization THE go-to when someone has lost or found a pet!!

individuals in the past, but this is the first group taking the training specifically as representatives of our organization. We are grateful for this group who covered their own course expenses & we hope to have more MAR-trained volunteers in the future.

We cannot highlight all of the 5k+ pets that were helped this year, their photos & information are stored in photo albums on our Facebook page. Below are just a few whose lives and the lives of their families, that we were able to touch in 2018:

**QUINCY.** Quincy the Bassett Hound from Maryland was lost in Shippensburg, PA on June 21<sup>st</sup> while a family member was watching him. Quincy was not going to easily give up his life on the run, warm summer days & nights with nature all around him - we frequently caught coyote, racoons & other critters on our trail cameras -, he was cruising through cornfields near fresh water and having the team of Smart 4 Paws/ Find Toby in PA leaving yummy food for him daily. Quincy survived the summer of 2018 until finally persistence paid off and he was successfully trapped the night of September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**EMMA.** Emma the Sheltie was a major case in 2018. Below was written by her mom, Catherine Donges and sent to our Board:

*I would like to take this time to express my undying gratitude to the Find Toby in PA organization for their assistance and support during our trying time without our precious Emma. Without the assistance of the Find Toby crew, I know that we would never have had such a joyous outcome.*

*Our trials began on Sunday, November 4, 2018. I had just returned from a shopping trip with several bags of groceries and was late for a shift working as an online tutor. In my rush, I had neglected to ensure that the door had closed completely behind me. By the time my husband and I had realized what was happening, two of our shelties, Emma and her brother Bruno, had gotten out and disappeared. We combed our Shermans Dale neighborhood in a panic late into the night without results. As heart wrenching and traumatic as that day was, we had no idea what we were in for over the next 8 weeks, and to say that we would not rest until we had them both safely home would have been an understatement.*

*Every free moment that we had from that point on my husband and I spent looking. When it was too dark to be out driving around or combing the woods and fields on foot, we searched online for any information we could find that would help. While some of the information that we got was helpful, some was not, and some was downright contradictory. We later learned that some of what we were doing had actually hindered our efforts. Nevertheless, we visited every veterinarian in Juniata, Perry, and Cumberland Counties. We visited the State Police barracks in Newport, the Perry County Animal Rescue, and the Humane Society in Dauphin County. We registered with every on-line site we could find, including Find Toby in PA. On the*



Emma, who was missing in rural Shermans Dale, PA for 8 weeks & successfully trapped

*advice of one of the websites, we put up posters and stuffed mailboxes with flyers. Unfortunately, we now know that these posters had far too much information and were difficult to read. After two days, we got lucky and got a call about a sighting within a mile from our house. We were able to respond quickly, and with the help of extended family and a couple of volunteers, who had gotten a lost-dog alert from another website we registered with, we were able to capture Bruno and bring him safely home. Emma, on the other hand, proved to be far more elusive.*

*It took till the 15<sup>th</sup> of November before we were to even get our first sighting of Emma. In the meantime, Find Toby in PA was working behind the scenes on our behalf and had made personal contact on a couple of occasions. They made suggestions on things we could do to make the*



Top: Quincy Bottom: Smart 4 Paws/Find Toby in PA Volunteer, Kim, as seen on the trail camera near the trap for Quincy

search easier, and we also began seeing posters popping up in our community in places we had not posted them ourselves. Finally, on November 15, the day of the winter's first snowfall, a man spotted her on the side of the road about a mile away from our house. In his enthusiasm, before we could respond to his call, he had gone home and gotten his snowmobile and had driven all over the area. By the time Carla [Smart 4 Paws/ Find Toby in PA Volunteer] had seen our online post about the sighting and had contacted us with an offer of a trap and camera, Emma was probably long gone. Nevertheless, Carla left work early that evening to meet us at her house to give us the trap and explain how to set it and the camera up. We were excited to finally be going somewhere and felt we would have Emma home very soon.

Over the course of the next several weeks, I lost count on the times we moved the trap. With every new sighting, it became obvious that the issues of noise, people, and disruptions that kept coming up were driving Emma further and further away from our home. My husband and I were mentally, physically, and emotionally drained, but [Smart 4 Paws/ Find Toby in PA Volunteers] Carla, Diane, Glenda, and Alycia, who had by this time become more like family, continued to work tirelessly on our behalf and offered us the support that kept us moving forward.

For most of the month of November, we followed Emma on her move with sighting after sighting. Then on December 3, we had the last of the sightings we would have for several more weeks. At the time of the sighting, I was extremely hopeful. The weather had warmed a bit, hunting season was over, and the place where she was last seen was quiet and peaceful. We were all hopeful that she would stay in this area and would finally slow down long enough to smell the food that had been lovingly prepared for her, again by these marvelous women who made sure the traps and stations were always filled with goodies that were bound to attract a hungry dog. But yet again that was not meant to be, and the sightings stopped.

For more than three weeks there was nothing. Those three weeks were probably the longest weeks of my life. At least with the sightings, we knew that she was okay. During it, Christmas came and went, and the Christmas miracle we prayed for went unanswered. I did not know how much longer my broken heart would be able to stand it, but Diane and Carla would have none of it. Despite their own personal struggles at home, they kept me sane and absolutely refused to allow me to give up hope. "It's just a matter of time and more posters," they would tell me. "We will find her, you'll see." They became role models of perseverance and faith.

It was also during that time that Glenda proposed the use of Pure Gold Pet Trackers. We had looked into finding a tracker earlier, but we had been told that it was not likely they could pick Emma's scent off an article in a multi-dog home. Without much excitement, I called Samantha and learned that what we were told previously was not true. Nevertheless, the cost of hiring them was prohibitive. We had not worked steadily for more than a month and had spent money we didn't have in our efforts to find her to that point. Again, Find Toby in PA came to the rescue. While they helped us raise some money, Find Toby in PA ended up paying for the services for us. Unfortunately, bad luck seemed to remain. Despite picking up her scent immediately, the tracker lost it at the road that had recently been washed with rain. With the knowledge that was gained from the experience, Find Toby in PA volunteers, my husband, and I continued our efforts.

Finally, on December 27, we got another sighting. It was several miles outside our initial search area and immediately Diane sprang into action filling the area with posters and flyers. Two more sightings followed. Braving bitter cold, Diane and Carla moved the trap for what was to be the last time on December 28. When they suggested that the next morning I do as they had and cut more meat off a deer carcass found nearby that Emma had previously ravaged, I have to admit I was a bit grossed out. Nevertheless, I told myself if they could do it for me, then I should be able to do it too. Thankfully, I never had to. That same evening, we caught Emma on camera for the first time, and she was inside the entrance of trap. Though she didn't trip it then, very early the next morning, she was in the trap.

The call came in from Glenda before 4 am. We quickly dressed and headed out into the night to retrieve her. As we travelled, I prayed it wasn't a mistake. It was foggy that morning, and I feared that it wasn't Emma in the crate but another hungry raccoon or skunk. As soon as we drove up, my fears were over. Emma barked at the sound of the truck. My husband, Bill called out to her, and she began barking frantically. It was obvious she recognized his voice. We loaded the trap into the truck with her in it as we had been instructed so many times. Emma wasn't happy. She wanted to be free to greet us, but we had worked too hard to take the chance that she might run off. We had learned over the two months to follow every instruction to the tee. When we got her home, she went crazy. She greeted the rest of the family, then jumped up beside me to cover my face with kisses. She spent the next several hours clinging close to either my husband or I, and it was obvious she was as happy to be home as we were to have her back.

*Over the course of the next couple of days, the support did not stop. Our new friends offered to pay for the vet bills and medication to insure Emma was none the worse for wear. After two vet visits, two rounds of de-wormers, and a couple of rounds of blood testing, the vet assured us that Emma is and would be just fine. As absolutely horrible the experience had been, it left me with a deep sense of gratitude that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. When I look into her sweet little eyes, I know how lucky I am to have been given another chance and how blessed I am for meeting individuals who truly care about lost pets and the people who are owned by them. We thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for running an organization devoted to this endeavor. Your kindness, generosity, and support will never be forgotten.*  
Sincerely, Catherine Donges

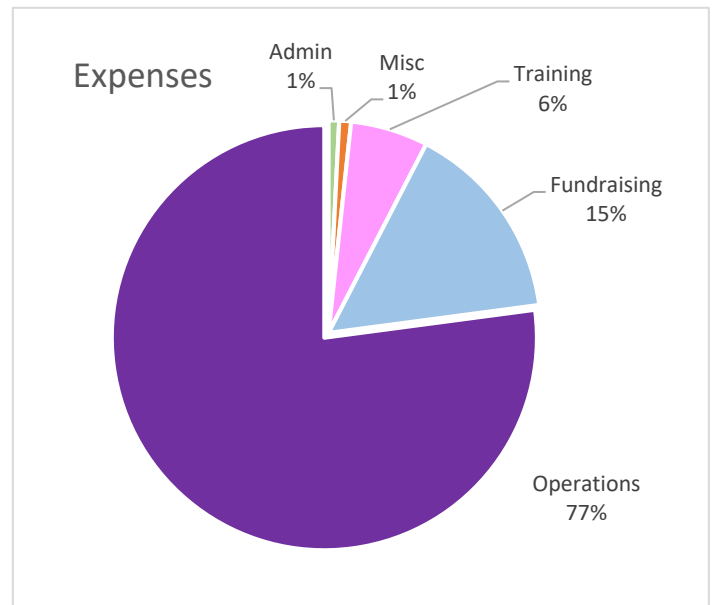
## **Financials**

Smart 4 Paws, Inc operates on a small budget, utilizes cash basis for accounting and files a form 990-N for tax-exempt organizations that are not required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Our Board of Directors & volunteers are not compensated for their service. While some administrative costs are necessary for any organization, we strive to direct as much of our funding as possible into education to preventing lost pets and to helping reunite lost/found pets.

Expenses for the year were \$10k.

Operations includes equipment (trail cameras, traps, microchip scanners, website costs and the maintenance of equipment), insurance, supplies. Website costs are included in operations rather than administration because the website supports tips, advice & resources which are provided to those who have lost or found a pet. Training received earmarked donations to offset the costs to the organization. Fundraising includes fees charged by Paypal for donations received, the purchase of branded Merchandise which is sold at events where the income is included as a fundraised amount.



All income, which was just over \$9k in 2018, was from donations or fundraising activities.

Our top fundraisers for the year were Facebook's annual Day of Giving and Mt Gretna Brewery Fundraiser which included a raffle of donated items & a percentage of sales from a designated sandwich & beer on the night of the event.

Earmarked fundraisers are funds which were donated for a specific expense, in 2018 this was for training, marketing and Bella's Gift Fund.

Bella's Gift is a fund which has been created in memory of one of our follower's beloved dogs, Bella, and is permitted for special distribution as designated by the Board of Directors.

## **Closing**

Smart 4 Paws, Inc, DBA Find Toby in PA is operated by a team of animal-loving volunteers who selflessly give their time to help the lost & found pets in our community. Through the help of our dedicated followers & generous donors we are able to continue to educate the pet-owning community about lost pet prevention and assist when a pet does go missing.

Our 2019 goals include fundraising in order to purchase additional equipment (traps & trail cameras) to replace some equipment and allow us to expand our areas of coverage and the number of pets we can assist at one time. We are also seeking grant opportunities to assist with the costs of training more of our volunteers.

We truly appreciate all who have donated to date and are grateful for your future contributions which help us continue our mission to reunite lost pets and ultimately achieve our vision - A Future Where No Pets Are Lost.