



To Our Friends in the Business Community

“Thank you for considering United Pet Fund for channeling valuable resources to the community of people who have dedicated their lives to helping animals in need. We look forward to partnering with you!”

-- DR. Z

IN SHORT

Across the Midwest, countless shelters, rescues and individuals struggle to care for their animals under their care. At United Pet Fund (“UPF”), we are dedicated to changing that.

UPF is a unique nonprofit that provides vital resources to underserved and independent animal care groups and advocates. We have built a community of giving and connect those who have goods or services to donate with those who need them most – **an effort benefiting more than 50,000 animals to date.**

THE HIGHLIGHTS

We are really proud of our work so far. Here are the highlights:

- In 2022, we collected and distributed \$6.5 Million in resources to shelters, rescues, and individuals. In 2023, we are on target for \$7 million plus. Each year we hope to expand and extend our influence of partnership with local coalitions of animal rescues, shelters, and advocacy group to distribute resources from our business partnerships.
- We have grown from 20-member organizations (animal shelters and rescues) in 2012 to 100-member organizations to date.
- We have over 100 active volunteers to call on to sort and organize donated materials for distribution to our member organizations.
- Our all-volunteer board is made up of respected business professionals with a passion for empowering those who help animals in need.
- Thanks to the addition of our warehouse, the UPF Resource Center (est. 2015), we can take in, store, and distribute tractor trailer-quantities of resources to our member organizations, and to areas throughout the Midwest.
- Seminars and educational opportunities for our members and the community on how they can better serve the animals under their care and run their organization more efficiently.
- In 2022 we sponsored with the City of Blue Ash, OH, Paws in the Park Event at their fabulous Summit Park on September 24th, 2022. Over 3,000 people attended this fun event that showed the special relationship that people have with their dogs. Great entertainment, vendors, and good time for all...with several of our rescue members having made furever homes for some of the dogs under their watch. Next one September 23, 2023!

OUR PROCESS

UPF's primary function is to distribute resources such as pet food, puppy pads, cat litter, and a myriad of essential pet supplies to our shelter and rescue members. We do this through our Distribution Days at the UPF Resource Center. During these Distribution Days, the UPF Community comes together to share the resources that we have gathered by fostering key partnerships with business leaders and animal lovers in the Ohio Valley region and around the country. With our partnership with RescueBank.org (part of The Greater Good), some of these resources can reach animal rescues and shelters across the country.

Recently we have formed the Hartz Mt. / UPF Resource Train partnership to distribute resources at no charge to animal welfare coalitions throughout the Mid-West – all at no charge. Semi-trailer loads of puppy pads with anywhere from 10 - 20 pallets of valuable resources such as dog and cat pet food and supplies, are delivered to central distribution areas where a local leader in the animal welfare community arranges a distribution day directly from the trailer upon delivery.

By being able to facilitate large donations from corporate/business partners, UPF fills an important and unique role for animal shelters and rescues. Many of the smaller rescues, shelters and advocacy groups do not have the time to develop relationships with the businesses in their area. They do not have the infrastructure to accept larger donations from larger suppliers and distributors. Our corporate partners feel comfortable that UPF has the necessary infrastructure to accept truckloads of product and distribute the product to those that help animals in need.

For small or private rescues and care groups, joining UPF as a member provides dependable access to a structured, established support system. This structured system can be invaluable because many of our members are running a non-profit for the first time in their lives. UPF provides them not only with pet food and supplies, but also with essential training, support, and community.

UPF cannot function without its partners. UPF is always looking for new individuals, corporations and organizations that have an interest in supporting local shelters and rescues. Many businesses have valuable items stored in storerooms and warehouses that they cannot use. Please don't let these items go to waste. Whether its discontinued inventory, overstocked merchandise, or defective packaging, in-kind donations to UPF help local shelters and rescues reduce their expenses dramatically. UPF makes it easy for your company to donate items that will make an important difference for area rescues, and the rescue animals that they serve.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The UPF Board of Directors shares a commitment to empowering all those that help animals in need. Our board consists of professionals from the Greater Cincinnati area who are working to provide their professional talents to UPF to make it the best organization it can be.



Dr. Zeke Zekoff (“DR Z”), Founder and President

Dr. Zekoff founded UPF in 2010 to help fill the need that he saw while running his veterinary practice. Throughout his 40 years of practice, he has worked with a great number of both smaller and larger animal rescues and shelters. Many of those he worked with shared a tireless energy to help animals in need, but they lacked the structure and resources to make their organization flourish. Currently he is the primary veterinary surgeon at Pets in Need Cincinnati non-profit veterinary clinic serving the economic under-served community.

Having seen this need not being met by larger regional and national organizations, he decided to form UPF to meet these needs. Structured along the lines of other non-profits that use corporate product philanthropy to help those in need, UPF stepped into the gap to meet the needs in the ‘animals in need community’. Dr. Zekoff works tirelessly to promote UPF. He is the primary contact person for every donor organization, and for our shelter and rescue members.



Julie Budden, CFRE

Julie is Divisional Director of Development for the Southwest Ohio/Northeast Kentucky Division of The Salvation Army. She is also a Certified Fund Raising Executive since 2012 and has been connecting donors with their dreams since 1996. "When I first learned

United Pet Fund's mission, I felt called to become involved. So many animals are in the lesser-known rescues and shelters waiting desperately to find loving homes all over the Tri-State. United Pet Fund is unique because it is a true non-profit, volunteer-driven and community-focused movement dedicated to help those who don't have a loud enough voice receive help and recognition in their never ending work to care for animals in need. Dr. Z's vision of United Pet Fund spoke to my heart as a pet owner and as a lover of animals--its presence is necessary and important--especially to the animals who ultimately benefit from its purpose.”



R. Michael Phebus, J.D.

Michael has a wide range of experience in the legal and financial world. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Emory University, he went on to get a Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law. After various stints with law firms in Columbia, KY, Lexington, KY, and Cincinnati, OH, Michael then taught in the Department of Paralegal Studies, School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Entering the finance world in 2013, he became a Financial Planner for Prudential Financial. His current position is as a Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Investment. Michael saw United Pet Fund as an avenue to use his expertise to help animals.



Tracy Kim (Vice President)

I have worked with animal rescues for a very long time, but as a previous nurse, I have always wanted to also help people. When I came to United Pet Fund as a member 6 years ago, I was amazed at the work they were doing and started to volunteer. At UPF I get the opportunity to help both people and animals and have found the work there very rewarding. I call UPF my happy place and am thrilled to be a part of it.

Personal (Current position): **Clinical Operations Manager UC Health** Cincinnati, OH

Responsible for the daily operations of a very busy sleep practice in a university setting.
Education and training: 1997 Associate of Applied Science: Nursing, Illinois Valley
Community College Oglesby, IL



Don J. Corsmeier, DVM

Dr. Corsmeier is our newest Board Member having joined the UPF Board in 2023. He is a June 2012 Graduate of The Ohio State University Veterinary Medicine Program, and currently is employed as a Senior Clinical Genomics Variant Scientist at The Institute for Genomic Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, since 2016. In his free time, he spends weekends and evening at his passion for finding lost dogs via his non-profit organization, Lost Pet Recovery. His passion for returning lost dogs to their owners, consulting with humane agencies and training people on humane animal capture equipment brings many adventures to his life as he works with animal rescues, shelters , humane agencies, and private owners throughout the region.

OUR PARTNERS

The lifeblood of UPF are the businesses and organization that donate their goods and services. UPF specializes in-kind donations and is truly an organization of redistribution.

Our partners include:

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- Blue Buffalo
- Hartz Mountain
- Central Pet Distribution
- Rescue Bank / part of The Greater Good
- St. Gregory Marketing Group
- P&G
- Agape Distribution
- Church and Dwight
- Cintas
- Chewy.com
- Deloitte
- R+L Carriers
- Remodel Cincinnati

- Humane Society of Indianapolis
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Tractor Supply

As you can see, this group is as diverse as they come. UPF can take large donations. We have accepted up to six semi-load donation of dry dog food and treats from Blue Buffalo at a time. With our warehouse in Blue Ash, OH, we accept, store and distribute tractor trailer-quantities of resources. Our motto is to ‘Get it in and get it out!’

If you think your corporation/business or organization can help in any way, please contact UPF and we will work with you to determine if we, or one of our partners, can use your resources to help UPF, and the shelter and rescue animals that desperately need your help.

HOW TO HELP

Help shelter and rescue animals in need by donating to UPF. We accept product donations from corporations, organizations and individuals in the Ohio River Valley and throughout the Midwest....and beyond, including items that are mispacked, slightly damaged, nearing expiration dates, or over-stocked. These donations can be brought to our warehouse and then redistributed to local shelter and rescue members, as well as hundreds of other rescues and shelters throughout the Midwest through our Hartz Mt/UPF Resource Train. We are always in need of pet food, in particular cat food, cat litter, dog food, treats and more! If it is designed for animals, our rescues and shelters can use it!

For recommended items to donate, please see the enclosed list. Don't see what you want to donate? Contact us and we can determine if we can accept your donation.

Those who donate items should also be aware that UPF may also charge a nominal administrative fee to our members for handling and distribution. These fees allow us to defray the substantial costs associated with leasing, maintaining, and securing the UPF Resource Center warehouse. The UPF Resource Center has been a critical part of the UPF system because it allows UPF to quickly and efficiently accept and process large donations. The administrative fees are as low as possible and allow UPF members to secure needed resources for pennies on the dollar.

CORPORATE DONATIONS

We want what you can't handle! Donate returned, overstocked, slightly damaged, off-spec, soon-to-be-outdated, or other distressed products. Whether in bulk or packaged, we can distribute these goods to our members. Got food that is about to expire? We want it! Corporate and Business product donations are essential to helping UPF support our 100+ members, and at the same time get these resources out to support animal shelters, rescues and advocacy groups throughout the Midwest.

What does your business get out of donating?

- Reduce warehousing and handling costs
- Avoid expensive landfilling or incinerating of unwanted (expired) product and its environmental impact
- Avoid loss of market share
- Simplify the process of product disposal
- Display a positive corporate image
- Help 300+ regional/ Midwestern animal shelters, rescues and advocacy groups

Contact UPF today to discover how you and your company can help our shelters and rescues. We will work directly with your company to develop a customized program to fit your goals and desired level of participation, and we will arrange transportation for all donations to our warehouse.

SUGGESTED IN-KIND DONATIONS

Food, treats and animal supplies

- Dog and cat Food
- Dog and cat Treats
- Pill pockets
- Peanut butter
- Puppy and kitten formula
- Collars and leashes
- Food bowls
- Puppy pads

Odds and Ends

- Kennels and crates
- Scrubs
- Disposable feeding trays
- Grooming tools
- Mini-refrigerators
- Dollies
- Wheeled carts
- TOYS!

Cleaning Supplies

- All types of cleaning solutions
- Bleach
- Dryer sheets
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing detergent
- Towels
- Hand soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags
- Toilet paper
- Tissues
- Squeegees, brooms and mops
- Lint rollers
- Aprons

If you are not sure that the resource(s) you can provide can help, contact us and we will be glad to discuss how we can make use of it! Business supplies are always also needed to help our non-profit members run the business aspect of their organization. We would welcome the opportunity to set up a meeting in person on how your donation can benefit all our UPF Members. Contact us to set up a meeting and/or take a tour of the UPF Resource Center.

TAX INFORMATION

UPF is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization (# 27-2582105). Items donated to United Pet Fund are generally deductible at an amount equal to the fair market value of the item. It is the donor's responsibility to determine the fair market value of these donations. The IRS requires the donor to have varying levels of documentation depending on the type and value of the fit. Please refer to the current IRS regulations for additional information regarding the deductibility of financial and product donations to 501(c)(3) organizations. For more information, please visit the IRS website.

CONTACT US

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