

**T**HIS YEAR, AS WE CELEBRATE THE HSUS'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, I am reminded that a handful of people, possessing few resources but an abundance of determination and shared values, launched this great organization. The passage of time has claimed these individuals, including our founder Fred Myers, but their vision has endured, gaining momentum with each new decade. They kick-started an organization that has ushered in a cascade of legal and corporate reforms, that has infused our culture with core sensibilities about how to treat animals (such as spaying and neutering our pets and establishing legal prohibitions against cruelty), and that now operates on a global stage to confront the biggest, toughest challenges animals face.

In this magazine, you'll read, of course, about animals. But our enterprise, at the start and in the present, has always been about people. People create so many problems for animals, but they are the problem-solvers for animals, too.

In the pages that follow, you'll learn how chief deputy Phyllis Olds with the Stone County, Miss., Sheriff's Department intervened to stop cruelty, and how our rescuers, like John Sidenstricker, pulled animals from a hellhole of a puppy mill in Arkansas. You'll read about my colleague Rick Naugle, who is saving hundreds of deer in urban communities by employing innovative birth control techniques in the field. In the profile of vegetarian restaurateur and chef Rich Landau, you'll be reminded that our food choices also have enormous implications for animals.

You'll also read about how Ellen DeGeneres used her bold sense of humor and her celebrity to donate, with a major assist from electronics maker Samsung, \$1.5 million to The HSUS—enabling us to extend our lifesaving programs.

There's also David Duffield, a self-made man who has devoted a large portion of his wealth, now more than \$300 million, to a foundation devoted to eliminating euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs and cats. He has now pledged \$4 million to The HSUS for an innovative online campaign to combat puppy mills—his latest but biggest gift to our organization.

Every individual who's come to associate with The HSUS—law enforcement personnel, rescuers, donors, chefs, speakers, corporate partners, board members, state council members, staff members, talk show hosts, and so many others—drives change for animals. The HSUS is neither a thing nor an abstraction; it is alive with people, committed to a common purpose and working collectively to win acceptance of the ideal that a civil society must not tolerate cruelty to any creature, anywhere.

For us, it's always been less about the rights of animals and more about the behavior of people—about how we use our immense power over animals, for good or for evil.

It's now been 60 years, and the history of The HSUS is captured in the aggregation of tens of millions of selfless yet merciful, intentional acts by you and by people who've come before you. The actions of good people are etching, carving, and shaping the contours of the world in which we live, bringing us closer with each step to a humane society.

Our work is not done, but it's not our wish to wait another 60 years to usher in monumental changes. We bring the "fierce urgency of now"—to borrow the words of Martin Luther King Jr.—to this fight because we know this work matters today and tomorrow. We also know that outcomes for animals will only be determined by the level of engagement of the people awakened to their needs. To make a difference, we must join together in our shared purpose. And we are proud to join with you—every one of you, contributing in every way you can, by all of the means you possess.



Wayne Pacelle makes a friend while assisting at a multi-state dogfighting raid in August.

*Wayne Pacelle*

Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO  
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