



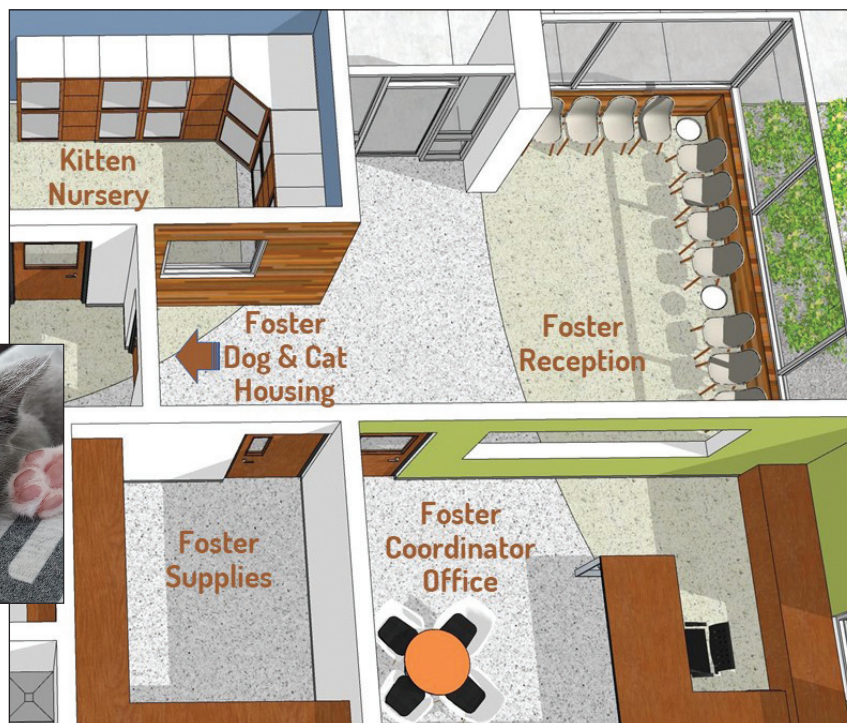
Intelligent design to meet the needs of animals and volunteers

WHEN LINDA B. GETS THE CALL TO FOSTER A KITTEN, she jumps at the chance. Most recently, Linda fostered Sawyer, taking him as a “neonate,” (ie. birth to 10 days) at two days old. Linda carried our Facebook fans along on her journey, posting videos of Sawyer as he grew. Sawyer spent 52 days with Linda, and she provided everything a kitten’s mom would, including feedings every two hours. It is a big commitment in time and energy to get one of these special creatures ready for adoption. There is a great deal of joy, but there is also a great deal of work. Foster parents are an integral part of our Adoptions program. Whether caring for animals not quite old enough, those healing from or awaiting surgery, or the shy learning how be social, foster parents help our most vulnerable residents gain everything they need to be ready for adoption.



It must be a little deflating, though, for the foster parent when they arrive at our current shelter, winding in, around and through workspaces and offices, just to reach the coordinator’s desk. And then there’s the waiting, as our coordinator tries to move quickly through the shelter and bring the foster pet back. As they move through all those spaces, full of noise and activity, it can increase the stress on the animal already adapting to many new experiences. Then, supplies are gathered, carried, and secured in the foster volunteer vehicle, along with the precious furry cargo. Finally, the pet is off to its temporary home.

Our new foster area is designed to streamline this process for the animals and the volunteers. Arriving foster parents will feel



welcomed and valued, parking in their own designated spots and greeted by staff as they come inside. There will be centralized housing just for animals awaiting foster, separate from the general population, because they are often more susceptible to noise and illness. The foster area is also where we will house our new neonate kitten nursery. The nursery will be accessible and staffed by volunteers round the clock, allowing for the frequent feedings, warmth, and attention tiny kittens need. The new foster area will be an organized and comfortable hub, designed to honor the commitment of our foster volunteers, who, for decades, have opened their hearts and homes to help pets in need get ready for adoption.



Our Partner – Past, Present, and Future

WITH A DECADES-OLD CPA FIRM IN ST. PETERSBURG that bears his name, former Board President John Ralph is happy to talk about his passion for animals and involvement with SPCA Tampa Bay. As a strong proponent who helped the organization open its Veterinary Center in St. Petersburg in 2016, John now volunteers his time as a member of the campaign cabinet focused on building a BETTER WAY HOME. He helps people in the community understand the mission of SPCA Tampa Bay and its need to build a new shelter facility in Largo to better serve both the animals in its care and the people who love them.

In addition to serving as SPCA Tampa Bay Ambassadors along with their three cats Lucky, PJ, and Princess, John and his wife Kathy have made a multi-year financial commitment to help the organization turn its vision into a reality.

Join John and Kathy in supporting SPCA Tampa Bay’s effort to build a BETTER WAY HOME by making a multi-year pledge or a one-time gift to the campaign. For more information, please contact Jennifer Gross, Director of Philanthropy, at (727) 581-3249.

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3250 5th Ave. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33713**How did Rick Bacon start designing animal shelters?**

It's early family ties to the cause and a bit of luck, being in the right place at the right time.

RICK BACON IS THE PRESIDENT and principal architect at Bacon Group, Inc., the Pinellas County-based architecture firm helping SPCA Tampa Bay to plan and design our new shelter. After Rick's mother died, he found an old scrap book with newspaper clippings from 1953. He learned his grandparents, Joe and Gertrude Leek, were on the Board of the Humane Society of Berrien County in Michigan. A yellowed flyer, from almost 70 years ago, revealed they were working on an \$18,000 campaign to build a new shelter. An affinity toward the mission of animal welfare work is part of Rick's heritage.

Fast forward to the early 1990s. This is where the lucky part comes in. Bacon Group was still new when the firm got the chance to design a new animal shelter for Pinellas County. At the time, there were not many architects who specialized in designing animal shelters; Rick saw an opportunity. Armed with an adequate budget from Penny for Pinellas' funds and guidance from the shelter's director, Rick created his own crash course in shelter design to great results. Rick enjoyed the animal lovers he met on the

project. Going forward, Rick and his wife Mindy, who both work at Bacon Group, made the decision to seek out more design work for private and government shelters. Today, the firm has nearly 200 design and consulting projects for animal care and veterinary facilities completed, including projects in Canada and Taiwan.

Working with SPCA Tampa Bay allows the architects at Bacon Group the opportunity to apply best design practices for animal care facilities right here in their own backyard. Their thoughtful and engaging design brought SPCA Tampa Bay's vision to life – a shelter where animals are best cared for in healthy, sustainable, and cost-effective structures.

Rick and Mindy pay the highest compliment to our shelter by adopting their own pets from SPCA Tampa Bay, and some of their staff have found new family members there, too. The team is invested personally and professionally in helping SPCA Tampa Bay build a BETTER WAY HOME in Tampa Bay for animals and residents. Learn more about Bacon Group's design process with SPCA Tampa Bay in our next issue!

Committed to the mission, Carrie O'Brion looks ahead

CARRIE O'BRIEN FIRST CONNECTED with SPCA Tampa Bay when her playful black lab, Molly, needed help with her manners. She enrolled Molly in the behavior classes and was struck by the team's kindness and expertise. "It was clear everyone at SPCA Tampa Bay really loved animals," said Carrie, a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and Director of Marketing and Communications at USF, St. Petersburg.

Carrie was invited to serve on SPCA Tampa Bay's board of directors, and she leaped at the chance. As a communications professional and former journalist, Carrie wanted to help raise awareness of the many benefits the shelter brings to our community. During Carrie's two-year term as board president, she worked closely with CEO Martha Boden and her leadership team to develop plans for the BETTER WAY HOME capital campaign.

"Anyone who has visited SPCA Tampa Bay recognizes the need for a new facility," she said. "Our staff does a heroic job, giving amazing care to animals despite challenging circumstances. Imagine what they could do in a shelter that is designed to help their work!" Now, as co-chair of the BETTER WAY HOME campaign cabinet, Carrie is thrilled to work closely with Chair Betsie Scott, whose devotion to SPCA Tampa Bay is an inspiration to all.

Carrie is reminded daily how important the campaign is by her dog Ren, whom she adopted in February of 2020. "Every day, I am grateful to SPCA Tampa Bay for bringing Ren into my life," Carrie said. "To me, she represents the joy that our organization brings to so many. I can't wait to have a shelter that reflects the passion for animal welfare that is so prevalent in our community."



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