

# Keeping Families Together

Anna Wichansky, Nick Filipp, & Abby



**You recently created an endowment fund with Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV). What inspired you to give?**

As a volunteer with HSSV, Anna met pet owners who were forced to make the difficult decision to give up their pets because they had no housing or couldn't pay for a vet bill or prescription. It was heartbreaking to witness an elderly person on a fixed income or a family with kids crying who are now living in their car, bringing their pets in to be surrendered.

**What's your connection to animals?** Anna had a rescue dog growing up in New York who lived to be 17, and our family has had multiple dogs (Jette, Marcel, Charley, and Abby) here in California. Anna studied ethology (behavior of animals in the wild), psychobiology, and veterinary technology more recently. The latter brought us into contact with all kinds of pets, including those in shelters.

**Why have you supported HSSV over the years?**

Anna started volunteering at the medical clinic to get experience as a veterinary technician student 15 years ago. We began supporting HSSV because of its breadth of commitment to animals. It provides services for animals, as well as their human companions, from intake to shelter care to foster to adoption, and beyond. Over the years, our relationship has grown closer. Anna has volunteered in their adoptions, foster and medical departments. We have witnessed the innovation HSSV applies to saving animals and positively impacting the community up close. In 2021, we adopted Abby, an older dog who was very shy and emotionally shut down, and we had a great experience working with a number of teams at HSSV.

*Learn more about HSSV at [hssv.org](https://hssv.org)*