



LIFE Brings Hope into Focus for Needy Children

April 8, 2025



Dear Friends:

Recently, more than 150 children—many of whom had never been to an optometrist or ophthalmologist—had the opportunity to see a brighter future, all thanks to Lois' Vision4Kids. Seeing their smiles as they received free vision screenings was truly heartwarming and reaffirmed my commitment to making a difference in their lives.

Established in 2023 in collaboration with the world-renowned Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Lois' Vision4Kids ensures that children in Palm Beach County, ages 2-18, have access to essential eye care. If a child is found to need corrective lenses, they receive two free pairs of prescription eyeglasses and a pair of prescription sunglasses. With an estimated 30,000 children in Florida experiencing vision difficulties, this program has already screened 600 children at Bascom Palmer's Palm Beach Gardens campus, and we are just getting started.



Lois' Vision4Kids ensures that children in Palm Beach County, ages 2-18, have access to essential eye care.

But good vision is only one piece of the puzzle. That's why these children also received backpacks filled with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks through Lois' Food4Kids, an initiative I launched in partnership with the Palm Beach County Food Bank at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Child hunger is a heartbreaking reality, with nearly 60,000 children in Palm Beach County struggling to access food when they are not in school. Lois' Food4Kids helps bridge this gap by ensuring children have access to meals on weekends, during school holidays, vacations, and in the event of emergency closures.

If children can't see the blackboard in their classrooms or read their assignments, they can't learn properly. If they are hungry because their families can't afford to provide nutritious meals, they can't focus on their education. And if they can't learn properly, their chances of success in life diminish. That's why I feel a deep responsibility to help.

The smiles, the gratitude, and the hope in these children's eyes remind me that we are on the right path. Their joy fuels my passion to continue these efforts and expand our reach. I am incredibly grateful to our partners who helped bring these programs to life.

The partnership with Bascom Palmer Eye Institute continues to be exceptional. From the Lois Pope Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration Research to Lois' Vision4Kids community eye screenings and support for Bascom Palmer's whole eye transplant, we are making a meaningful impact in the field of vision care.



Lois' Food4Kids ensures children have access to meals on weekends, during school holidays, vacations, and in the event of emergency closures.

Likewise, our collaboration with the Palm Beach County Food Bank is helping to fill empty plates and bring hope to families throughout the region. By combining community spirit with action, we can make a real difference in the lives of these children.

Together, we are changing lives. Thank you for your continued support in improving the lives of children in our community.

Love Always,

Lois



Lois Pope with Joanna Galasso, O.D., Maja Kostic, M.D., MMSc, PhD, Zubair Ansari, M.D., Basil Williams, M.D., and beneficiaries of Lois' Vision4Kids.

Lois Pope Pet Clinic Saves French Bulldog Puppy

The French bulldog puppy started life "alone and abandoned."

According to Amanda Zimmer, Tri-County Animal Rescue's rescue manager, Animal Care and Control in Boca Raton, Fla., found the 9-month-old dog wandering around as a stray.

Tri-County Animal Rescue, a Florida-based nonprofit dedicated to pet rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption, picked up the puppy from Animal Care and Control because the tiny pup needed emergency treatment.

"We picked her up as an urgent medical case because of her heartworms. We had no idea her heartworms would be the easiest item to treat for her," said Zimmer.

"When I first saw the puppy, my heart broke. Her eye was hanging from her body," the rescue manager recalls, adding the French bulldog "was so filthy that she needed two baths immediately."

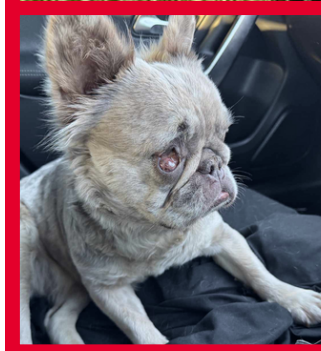
After taking over the puppy's care, Tri-County Animal Rescue brought the pup to the Lois Pope Pet Clinic, the nonprofit's low-cost community hospital. At the hospital, she received immediate and intensive medical attention. The stay also revealed the extent of the puppy's health issues. She arrived with heartworm, congenital anomalies of the kidneys, and a serious eye injury, which led to the eye's removal. She is blind in her remaining eye.

Zimmer says the puppy's past remains "tragically unknown" because the dog had "no microchip and no loving family searching for her." So, it is unclear how the puppy ended up in the "terrible condition" she was found in. Because of her health issues, Tri-County Animal suspects the puppy could be the result of inbreeding at a puppy mill or backyard breeder.

Now that she is safe at Tri-County Animal Rescue, the dog can focus on her recovery, but it will be a long road.

"The puppy's recovery will be long and challenging, filled with necessary heartworm treatment, specialized care for her kidneys, and careful management of her blindness. She is too weak to undergo surgery at this time. She'll need unwavering love, patience, and medical support to heal," Zimmer shares.

"The puppy is ready for love. While the pup is "terribly ill," she remains "pure, innocent, and bursting with happiness."



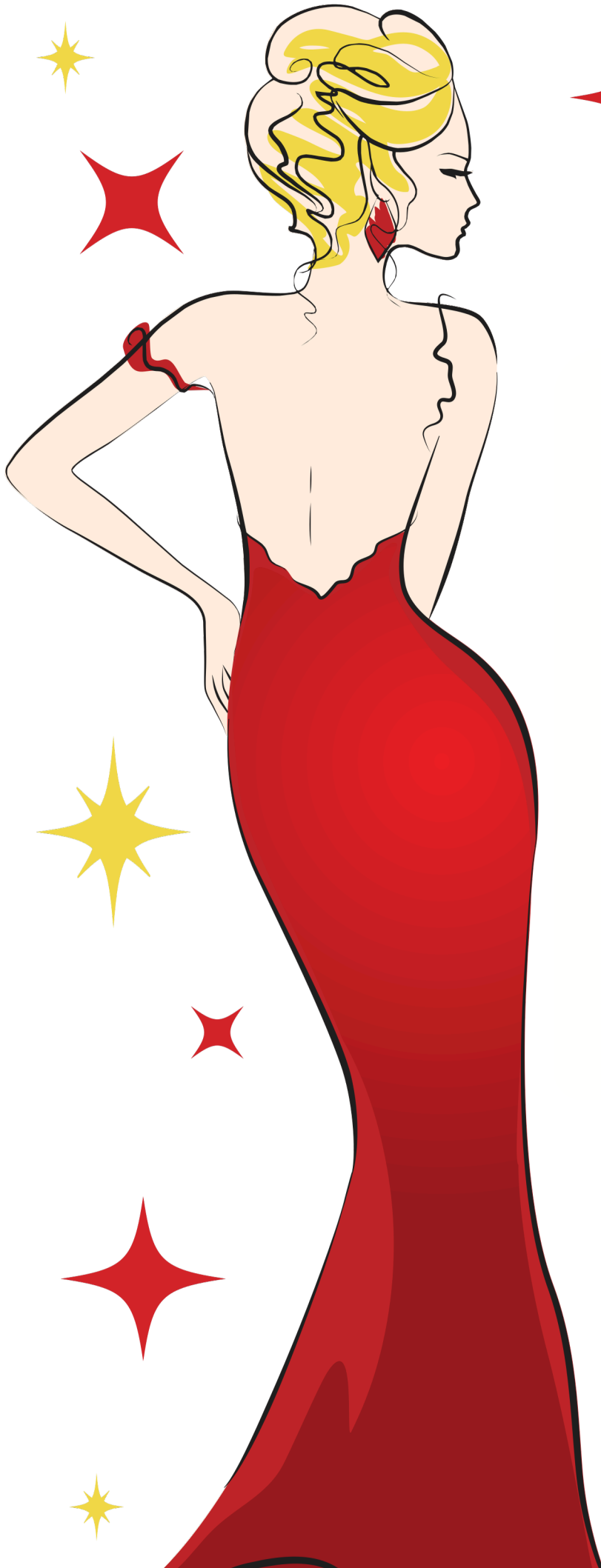
The French bulldog shortly after her rescue (inset) and then a few weeks later enjoying a romp outside.

"She doesn't know how broken she is. She runs, she plays, she wags her little body with so much energy, so much joy. She's a puppy and acts like a puppy. And that's what makes this so much harder to bear," Zimmer says.

"She symbolizes hope, proving that with care and kindness, even the most broken hearts can begin to heal."

The French bulldog pup will not be available for adoption for at least two months. She needs time to complete her heartworm treatment and get strong enough to have her spay surgery.

Those who want to help Winnie now are encouraged to donate to Tri-County Animal Rescue.



SAVE *the* DATE

LOIS POPE AND LIFE CELEBRATE

LIFE'S 32ND ANNUAL

LADY IN RED GALA

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 ✨ 6 PM

THE BREAKERS | PALM BEACH

Reserve your tables and sponsorships early for
what promises to be a truly historic event.

life@life-edu.org • 561.582.8083 • life-edu.org