



Tabby's Place®

Profile

Tabby's Place Board of Trustees As of January 31, 2021

Sandy Simpson	Chairperson
Jay Hanigan	Treasurer
Sheila Smith	Secretary
Karen Tovi-Jones	Member
Dennis White	Member
Wally Ropchan	Member



Tabby's Place®

1100 US Highway 202; Ringoes, NJ 08551
[908-237-5300](tel:908-237-5300) www.tabbysplace.org



Sandy Simpson
Chairperson

Pictured with Cheddar

Retired Pharmaceutical
Regulatory Affairs Professional

Volunteer since 2012
Board member since 2015

Sandy spent her 30+ year career with Merck & Co in NJ and PA. Her experience includes Clinical Quality Assurance and extensive experience in International Regulatory Affairs. She supported a broad range of therapeutic areas, in all stages of clinical development, and post-approval registration activities. In these roles she interacted with Merck colleagues and government regulators in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

Sandy has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Douglass College (Rutgers). Following her early retirement from Merck, Sandy has pursued her interest in environmental issues through the Rutgers Environmental Stewards training. She has also served as a volunteer with local nonprofits, including Raritan Headwaters, Sourlands Conservancy and Duke Farms.

Sandy and her husband Ken (also a volunteer) recently adopted their first special needs cat (Flip Flop) from Tabby's Place. Sandy enjoys a variety of outdoors activities (kayaking, hiking, biking) and tending her organic community garden plots. She especially enjoys working with the certified therapy cats in the "Aged to Purrfection" program and assisting potential adopters at Tabby's Place.



Jay Hanigan
Treasurer

Pictured with Gose

Business Owner

Volunteer since 2019
Board member since 2019

Jay is an entrepreneur and C-Level executive with experience in a variety of industries. He has owned 8 businesses, including printing companies, gyms, a consulting company and sign manufacturing companies. In addition, he has been a SR VP/COO of two major pharmaceutical advertising agencies, a salesperson for a custom packaging manufacturer and a consultant to more than 100 small, privately owned businesses. Jay is drawn to opportunities where he can help companies grow profitably by achieving excellence in client service.

Jay has a B.S. in Business from The College of New Jersey and an M.B.A from Rutgers University. He has also been a board member for a condo association, President of Flemington Raritan Baseball and the North 40 Homeowners association.

Jay is an avid reader of business books but admits he could never write one himself, as his philosophy in business is too simple to take up even a page. He strives to develop win-win relationships with his team members, vendors, community and clients. Rather than trying to maximize profits, he focuses on doing the right things in all his relationships and has found that profitable, sustainable growth follows.

Jay has lived in Raritan Township for 24 years with his wife, Rosemary and, temporarily, his two sons, Ryan and Sean. He has had cats in his family since childhood and wanted to get involved with Tabby's Place to help improve the lives of its adorable residents.



Sheila Smith
Secretary

Pictured with Pepita

President,
Omega Point Consulting

Volunteer since 2014
Board member since 2015

Sheila is a seasoned management consultant with over 35 years of experience. She is President of Omega Point Consulting, where she helps Fortune 500 companies and smaller companies and institutions manage business change and helps IT (information technology) organizations implement more effective management practices. Her work spans many industries, including healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, retail, government, pharmaceuticals, energy, and consumer products.

Sheila has deep expertise in facilitating the visioning, planning, organization design, process development and organizational change management for new products, technologies and services.

Before starting Omega Point Consulting in 1995, she spent ten years in Ernst & Young's management consulting practice and led research at E&Y's Center for Business Innovation. Prior to that, she spent time in various Information Technology roles.

Sheila received a B.S. in Computer Science from Bloomsburg University and completed some graduate work at DePaul University. Sheila is certified in organizational change management and in leadership development tools and served in leadership roles with several non-profit business groups.

Sheila lives with her husband, Glenn, and their black kitty Chloe, in Jamison, Pennsylvania. She enjoys reading, biking, cooking, and, of course, volunteering at Tabby's Place!



Karen Tovi-Jones
Member

Pictured with Sherbet

Retired Clinical Social Worker

Intensive In-Home Therapist,
Family First

Volunteer since 2014
Board member since 2015

Karen is a licensed clinical social worker with extensive experience in the mental health and education field. She retired after 27 years as a School Social Worker for Somerville NJ Public Schools and is now working as an Intensive In-Community Therapist for Family First. Her leadership roles include serving as an Anti-Bullying Specialist and the Coordinator of the School Climate Team, as well as serving several years on the school personnel committee. She has been involved in staff and parent training and has presented on topics such as crisis de-escalation, social emotional learning and mindfulness. Her background has focused on providing clinical support to facilitate change within the organization and with individuals.

Karen received her B.A. in Psychology from Syracuse University and a master's degree in social work from New York University. She has completed a two-year certification as a Healing Touch practitioner, which is energy work to support the body's effort to heal. She has also been certified as a health coach by the Integrative Nutrition Institute and will be launching a multi-dimensional Health Coaching practice called *Centered Soul Health Coaching*.

Karen lives with her husband, Jerry, and son, David, in Flemington, N.J. with their beloved three cats: Miso, Achilles and Eli. She enjoys being outdoors, reading, crafting, and cooking.



Dennis White
Board Member

Pictured with Rose

Managing Partner,
International Distribution &
Marketing Consulting Firm

Volunteer since 2014
Board member since 2015

Dennis is a knowledgeable and experienced strategic consultant with a proven record of evaluating business opportunities, quickly understanding companies and their markets and making sound, profitable, strategic decisions. He has demonstrated success in growing insurance distribution channels and has the ability to create and implement innovative strategies, re-engineer processes, create value propositions, and design business development and sales processes. He is a collaborative communicator continually focused on building relationships and promoting synergy across business lines and global units to drive positive change, comprehensive business approaches and enhanced profitability.

He was a leader of MetLife's International Mergers and Acquisition team and since his retirement from MetLife, he has been a Managing Partner in an International Distribution and Marketing Consulting firm.

Dennis completed undergraduate studies at CUNY, Herbert H. Lehman College in the Bronx, NY. His post-graduate studies include an M.S. in Management Science from the American College in Bryn Mawr, PA and an Executive MBA from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dennis originally came to Tabby's Place in 2014 to donate food and medicine following the passing of his cherished 19-year-old cat, Ethan. Following his visit, he and his wife Tricia decided to volunteer at Tabby's Place and shortly thereafter they adopted their 3 cats; Bruna, Clarice and Auntie 'Em from Tabby's Place.



Wally Ropchan
Board Member

Pictured with Carrot

Retired Chemical Engineer
& Project Manager

Volunteer since 2012
Board member since 2015

Wally designed, programmed, and implemented global real-time manufacturing automation systems for Air Products & Chemicals and GE Water & Process Technologies (formerly Betz Laboratories, BetzDearborn, and Hercules BetzDearborn). He managed major engineering application projects for industrial chemical companies, creatively merging his information technology and chemical engineering backgrounds and utilizing continuous quality improvement, ISO 9000, and Lean Six Sigma process methodologies.

Wally received Ph. D and M. Sc. degrees from Stanford University and a B. Engr. Degree from McGill University, all in Chemical Engineering.

He is also an avid Modern Western Square Dancer at the upper Challenge level and has organized many weekend-long square dance festivals as well as serving on several square dance club Boards. Wally sees similar parallels between running Tabby's Place and square dance club events: both are non-profit "businesses" with fixed overhead expenses to be covered that depend upon volunteer help to be successful.

Affectionally dubbed as General Wallington by Tabby's Place Development Director Angela for his timely execution of mass mailings, he also helps with cleaning activities for Tabby's Place. Wally originally volunteered at Tabby's Place in memory of his beloved cat, Binx.