

# **Beaver County Humane Society**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Community Partner**

Donna Bucek  
Karen Dioguardi  
Shannon O’Neill  
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### **Student Development Team**

Daniel Graf  
Pooja Penninti  
Hanson Zeng

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## **Background**

In 1950 Lois Glenn Wolfe and a group of friends decided to open the Beaver County Humane Society after witnessing how the dumping and drowning of animals became the norm once owners no longer wanted them. As an animal rights advocate, Beaver County Humane Society provides opportunities for locals to volunteer as dog walkers, drivers, foster caretakers, retail store clerk, cleaners, fundraisers among other exciting activities. Additionally, Beaver County Humane Society assists families with pets through educational programs and through other philanthropic initiatives. The organization recently adopted a Foster Application to use in conjunction with the Chameleon system, to manage their foster program. CMU students from last year’s team developed the foster application, which BCHS successfully uses to manage their fosters. Currently, the foster application requires bug fixes and functionality updates which is what our team will be working on.

## **Project Description**

### **Project Opportunity**

Currently, the foster application requires bug fixes and functionality updates and so BCHS’s main problems are more directed towards refinement of the current solution rather than tackling a whole new problem. Most of their issues are dealing with small user issues that they have found over the past year while using their foster portal. These problems range from wanting portal notifications to the design of the current front end to issues with being able to reset a user’s password. With these issues, potential users will most likely turn away from the system and possibly fostering all together (which defeats the whole purpose of the system). With the improvements that we plan on implementing and overall, making the system more user friendly, we hope to prevent this loss of fosters and therefore help BCHS grow this part of their vision.

### **Project Vision**

Our vision for our project will be to enhance the overall product left by last years team, in order to identify lingering problems with their foster system setup.

## **Project Outcomes**

Over the course of our project, we developed new features and services for the client, while also improving the overall user experience for both the client and the potential users. These changes will allow them to be able to operate more efficiently and effectively. Because we changed the way that the sign-up form is presented, users are now able to sign up to be a foster in a much shorter time frame. As we also implemented an email notification system, fosters will also now be able to receive notifications regarding their application status. This same notification system will inform BCHS employees of whether they received a new application, thus allowing the client to have a smoother workflow when managing fosters. Lastly, we gave the old website a complete design overhaul, improving the user experience while also creating more fluidity between the BCHS website and the foster portal. Overall, our project improved the client organization's capability in managing fosters and in reaching more potential fosters.

## **Project Deliverables**

At the project's conclusion, we will be providing technical documentation, design documents, and testing documentation in digital form in order to make future management and editing of the Foster Portal simpler. On top of these deliverables, we will also be deploying the current version of the Foster Application to the BCHS server.

## **Recommendations**

We recommend that the client organization do a few things to maintain and sustain the solution that we have implemented. The first is having an IT professional review our documentation and understand how our application works with Chameleon in case problems arise. The second is using social media to raise awareness of the foster program and foster application to increase users.

## **Thank You**

Finally, we would like to thank the BCHS Staff for a wonderful semester and for giving us the opportunity to work with them (and all of the animals).

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## **Student Development Team**

**Daniel Graf** served mainly as front-end developer. He is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in German. He will be working abroad this summer through the Technical Consulting in the Global Community program while companies decide whether or not that they want to hire him.

**Pooja Penninti** was the project manager. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. She will be interning at Ford Motor Company this summer as an Information Technology intern.

**Hanson Zeng** served as a quality assurance. He is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a double major in Statistics. He will be working at Deloitte after graduation as a Business Technology Analyst.