

Shanti, PAWS complete merger



Shanti Executive Director Kaushik Roy. Photo: Rick Gerharter

The Shanti Project has completed its merger with Pets Are Wonderful Support, the nonprofit announced this week.

For years, Shanti has provided support groups and health care advocacy for people living with HIV and AIDS, and it also helps women who are living with cancer.

The nonprofit [announced in August](#) that it was combining efforts with PAWS, which helps low-income people who have disabling HIV/AIDS and other illnesses care for their pets.

The arrangement means that the new Shanti will offer access to a pet food bank, free veterinary care, and other services. Through the merger and other expansions, Shanti is also now working with seniors, people who have hepatitis C, and others.

As part of the finalized deal, the groups have combined their volunteer operations, so people can help with a wider variety of activities. Donors can choose which of the programs to support.

“The new Shanti provides a wealth of complementary services that are backed by a strong financial base – an important milestone which benefits everyone involved,” Shanti board Chair Frank Petkovich said in a December 1 news release. “We’re thrilled to be working with everyone from PAWS in order to fulfill our collective mission of providing emotional and practical support to vulnerable individuals living in San Francisco.”

The organization now has more than 50 full-time staff and a budget of over \$4.3 million.

Shanti Executive Director Kaushik Roy said, “Shanti staff and volunteers have been compassionately helping neighbors in need since 1974. In fact, we’ve nearly doubled the size of the organization over the last four years. We’re excited to put our combined history of nearly 70 years of service to work for our 2,000-plus clients through new and expanded programs.”

Roy’s post-merger salary is \$140,000.

<http://ebar.com/blogs/shanti-paws-complete-merger/>