

November 2017

Dear Friends:

Thanks to all of you who have helped make this such a successful year for the cats and dogs of Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties! We have spayed or neutered 1,342 cats and dogs so far this year (through 9/30/17). Our efforts are making a difference in the number of stray and unwanted animals in our community. Your donations, whether they be monetary, product donations or volunteer hours are helping to make this happen. I am hearing from local businesses in the Paw Paw area that they are not seeing feral cats and kittens roaming the town like they used to. What we are doing is working in our targeted areas!

We need to raise \$40,000 to carry us through the end of the year and we are hoping that as you start to plan your holiday shopping and giving that you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to Animals Best Friend. A \$60.00 donation helps us spay or neuter one cat; an \$80.00 donation helps us spay or neuter one dog. A \$500.00 donation can sponsor one month at one of our participating area veterinary clinics worth of spay/neuter surgeries for both cats and dogs, you can specify if you want your donation used in Kalamazoo or Van Buren county. Because we are an all volunteer group we are able to keep our administrative expenses to 10% or less of donations we receive. In fact, our administrative expenses for 2017 have consistently been running less than 3% of donations we receive. This means that 97% of your donation goes to fund spay/neuter expenses for the needy animals of our community!

Our volunteers who work so hard on our trap/neuter/return projects do their best to improve the quality of the cats lives by trapping the cats, transporting them to their spay/neuter appointments, providing surgical aftercare, providing shelters and helping train the colony caretakers. They are sometimes able to find homes for a few lucky ones or transfer them to a partner rescue group. This is not an easy job and the cat trappers see many things they wish they didn't have to see. They are the front lines in the fight against overpopulation in the free roaming cat population. Thanks to an anonymous grant we were able to provide medical care for several injured cats and kittens that we encountered while working on our trap/neuter/return projects. During our work on these projects we also encounter dogs that need our help. You can read about examples of this work on page 3. Please consider making a donation to help us continue this important work.

Thank you for all you do to support our efforts. I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and let's all work together to make 2018 an even more successful year for the cats and dogs of Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.

Sincerely,

Karen King

Number of cats & dogs neutered year to date. . . . .	1,342
Spay/neuter expenses year to date. . . . .	81,769.81
Medical expenses year to date. . . . .	12,064.75
Administrative expenses year to date. . . . .	2,677.07
Donations received year to date. . . . .	95,566.89

The above totals are through 9/30/17.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

December 16- Holiday Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge in Portage, MI. The hours for this sale are 9:00 am-3:00 pm. We need lots of bakers and buyers for this event. If you are donating baked goods please indicate what the item is and whether or not it has nuts in it due to food allergies. Baked goods sell best when they are on a paper plate covered in clear plastic wrap or a clear baggie. If you can do holiday or seasonal themed items, those also sell well. Please come out and support our bake sale to help us reach our goal of raising \$1500 at this event.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We received donations in memory of James Shillito from Jennifer & Wilma Schweit; Kalman & Becky Csia; Eugene & Marie Toornman; Alpha Boarding Center; Debra Baird; Paul & Alice Asmus; Nicole Baird & Mario Smith; Jack & Mary Wyatt.

We received donations in memory of Kimberly Plucienik Schaus from Jean & George Haley; Sharrie Shante; Patricia & James Rutherford; Roberta Woodruff; Joan Belew.

IN HONOR OF

From

In Honor Of

Jane Ruiter

Mary Elizabeth (Becky) Akerson

Charlene Fleischman

Marcie Bremmer

Phyllis & John Martens

Virl Martin DVM at Sprinkle Road Veterinary Clinic

The following people donated toward the neutering expenses for our Vicksburg project: Phil & Constance Micklin; John & Phyllis Martens; Donald Ulsh; Kris Rawlinson. We have run into difficulties with this project and will keep you updated as to whether or not it happens.

The following people donated to our feral cat program: Kim Dimock; Jerre & Ray Ihrcke; Michele Mullen & Charles Williams; Ben & Claudia Johnson.

Thanks to John & Sally Morris; Jerre & Ray Ihrcke; Gwen Hamilton; Ben & Claudia Johnson for donating postage stamps. To Denise Blakely for promoting Animals Best Friend at her open house for Model Farm Stables; To Rodney Reid; Ben & Claudia Johnson and Marcy Kime for donating pet food; To Kris Rawlinson for donating cookie tins. To Taylor's Florist & Gifts for selling candy bars for us.

Thanks to Judy Hilliard; Carolyn Woodward; Phyllis Martens; Lorraine Haring; Diane Karlis; Teresa Rakowsky; Peggy Marcelletti; Claudia Johnson; Mary Johnson & Betsy & Melinda Ryba for donating baked goods for our September 23 bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge. To Mike Williams; Michele Mullen; Mary Johnson & Sarah Gerstner for working at the bake sale. To Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge for supplying the location for our bake sales. We made \$1,268.00 at the bake sale.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

We need donations! Donations have been down all year and our funds are quickly dwindling. We have concerns about us being able to provide our spay/neuter services through the winter months if donations don't pick up during the holiday season. Help us be there when the animals need us by sending a tax-deductible donation today. Donations can be sent to us at PO Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077, made via our website [www.animalsbestfriendfund.org](http://www.animalsbestfriendfund.org), or using the DONATE button on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund](http://www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund).

Please remember Animals Best Friend for memorial donations and in your will.

Please continue saving D&W and Family Fare receipts for us! We have the opportunity to get \$1,000 simply from you saving your receipts.

We have 4,000 Christmas themed catnip toys that need to be sold!! They come in jars of 80 and are sold for \$1 each, we have the potential to make \$4,000 for our spay/neuter programs. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Karen at 269-808-0064.

BARN HOMES NEEDED! Placement needed for 3 adult cats, one must be an only cat. Please contact Marcie at 269-808-1813.

A donation of \$60.00 helps us spay or neuter one cat; an \$80.00 donation helps us spay or neuter one dog. Your donation dollars help adorable faces like these!



## VAN BUREN COUNTY NEWS

While working on a trap/neuter/return cat situation in Van Buren County our cat trapper Marcie came across a puppy and heartworm positive dog that needed to be removed from the situation and find new homes. Marcie was able to find a home for the puppy and the dog was transferred to a boxer rescue in Ohio where she will receive the heartworm treatment that she needs then be put up for adoption. We love happy endings/new beginnings!

We recently helped with the spaying and neutering of 12 dogs and 8 cats from Van Buren County Animal Control that found homes during the October 14 Bissell Empty The Shelter event. We are proud to be a part of making sure that the animals that find new homes from VBCAC leave the shelter already spayed or neutered!



## KALAMAZOO COUNTY NEWS

We recently received a call about a semi feral cat/kitten situation (21 cats) that was out of control at a house in the Alamo area. Our awesome cat trappers Donna Ramesh and Paulette Fenton swooped in and trapped/neutered/returned these cats within a few day period and this project is now completed.

Paws Fur Learning Students will be led by ABF board member, Sarah, to tackle a situation just south of Kalamazoo with 15-20 feral cats. The students helped bring a litter of 7,4 week old kittens into the classroom (the probation kittens because they have been naughty reproducing).

*Animals Best Friend is an all volunteer animal welfare group dedicated to reducing cat and dog overpopulation in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Donations to Animals Best Friend are tax deductible and can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077 or made on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund](http://www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund) or on our website [www.animalsbestfriendfund.org](http://www.animalsbestfriendfund.org). Our policy is to spend 10% or less of donations we receive on administrative expenses, which means that at least 90% of your donation funds spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs. Current administrative expenses for 2017 are 2.8% of donations received. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped spay/neuter over 51,654 cats and dogs.*