

Number of cats and dogs spayed/neutered year to date.	127
Spay/neuter expenses year to date.	7,492.30
Other medical expenses year to date.	775.10
Administrative expenses year to date.	509.76
Donations received year to date.	2,192.69

The above totals are through 1/31/17.

We need your donations! Donations have been slow for several months now and our busiest time of the year is upon us so we really need your support. Please send a tax-deductible donation today to help us be there when the animals need us.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- March 11 St. Patrick’s Day Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge (across from Meijer) 9am-3pm. We need lots of bakers for this sale! If you have baked goods to donate please have them to us by 10am so we have all day to sell the items that you donate. Please wrap your items either in a clear baggie or clear plastic wrap and identify what the items are and whether or not they have nuts in them due to food allergies. Items that are wrapped in colored plastic wrap or foil generally do not sell. We have a goal of raising \$1500 at each of these sales so we are hoping you will come see us and make some purchases to help us raise much needed funds!
- March 26 Did you miss the online LuLaRoe fundraiser? Don’t worry, there is an Open House to benefit ABF. Join consultant Marion K, her adorable puppy Hugo, and ABF hostess Sarah for snacks and shopping from 3-5pm at 10123 Roger St. Portage, MI 49002. E-mail LLRMarionK@gmail.com with any questions or for directions.
- April 15 Easter Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge. Same time and details as the March 11 sale.
- April 29 Vender Bender Sale to benefit ABF. Details are still being finalized for this so please watch our facebook page, www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund, and website, www.animalsbestfriendfund.org , as the date gets closer.
- May 13 Mother’s Day Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge. Same time and details as the March 11 sale.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following people donated to our feral cat program: Jerre & Ray Ihrcke; Christine McGrew; Helen Page Dolan; Deborah Norton; Kim Dimock; Ben & Claudia Johnson; Michele Mullen; Nancy Dolan.

Thanks to Jerre & Ray Ihrcke and Ben & Claudia Johnson for donating postage stamps. To Al & Karen Dixon for donating crafts. To U.S. Salon Supply for donating booth space to us at the Vendor Bender fundraiser for Eleanor's Pantry; we made \$96.00 at that event. To Gail Ross for donating catnip and catnip toys. To Vickie Brinks for donating baking supplies. To Laurie White and the Jones Family for donating cookie tins. To Agrestal Hygienics, LLC for holding a Facebook party selling Opulent Blends products as a fundraiser; we made \$211.00 at this on-line fundraiser. Thanks to Cassie Kroupa for donating part of her proceeds from our online LuLaRoe party; we made \$322.00 at this event. Thanks to our sewing team Chris Carlsen, Eilene Harrison, Mike Spiech, Angie & Pauline Thacker, and Peggy Marcelletti for working on our on-going catnip toy projects. Thank you to Taylor's Florist for having a donation canister out. To Dale Martinson of Altaira Accounting for doing our taxes.

Thanks to Michele Mullen, Mike Williams, Mary Johnson & Sarah Gerstner for working at our Valentine's Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge. To Tina & Ray Spencer; Carolyn Woodward; Sherry Quinn; Marian Steffens; Jan LeFevre; Teresa Rakowsky; Lorraine Haring; Phyllis Martens; Kathy Slocum; Ronda Davis; Gail Mills; Peggy Marcelletti; Claudia Johnson for baking for this event. We made \$1052.80. To Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge for supplying the location for our bake sales. To Eilene Harrison for donating crafts. Thanks to Meg Forrest for donating part of her proceeds from selling Perfectly Posh products. Meg will again be donating a part of her profits from sales in March. Check out the awesome products at <https://barkposh.po.sh>.

Thank you to Dr. Withers and the staff at Eighth Street vet for fitting in extra spay/neuter appointments and taking special care of Wreck It Ralph.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>
Peggy Spencer	Steve Carberry
Tracie Sams	Cookie
Marlin Nyman & Gary Smalt	Vivian Dilsaver
Nancy and Ron Centers	Jazzy
Marilyn Longjohn	Charlie Goff

IN HONOR OF

We received a donation in honor of Margaret (Peggy) Spencer's birthday from Debra Picard.

We received a donation in honor of Karen King and ABF volunteers from John & Phyllis Martens.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

Please continue to save Purina weight circles and receipts from your purchases at SpartanNash stores (D&W, Family Fare).

We need volunteers to find locations where we can have our donation canisters and volunteers to monitor the cans on a regular basis. If you can help call Karen at (269) 808-0064.

If you believe in what we do please remember to include Animals Best Friend in your will and for memorial donations.

WHAT DOES A MILD WINTER MEAN?

SPAY AND NEUTER! We are coming into “official” spring shortly but have had mild weather most of the winter. Not only do April showers bring May flowers, but a warm winter brings early kitten season! Cats spontaneously ovulate and it is believed to be coordinated with the warmer weather. If you see a free roaming cat in your neighborhood, please get it fixed before the one turns into an entire litter. We are already getting calls about pregnant females and litters of kittens. “Prevention, not destruction.”

We are already seeing mosquitoes and ticks in February due to the record warm temperatures! We encourage you to use monthly flea/tick and heartworm prevention early this year. Lyme disease vaccines are also available through most vet clinics. The American Animal Hospital Association places the average monthly cost of prevention at \$5-15 per dog, whereas treatment is \$400-\$1000. Heartworm in cats is not treatable and fatal.

FERAL AND FREE ROAMING FRIENDS

If you or someone you know is looking for “green” rodent control, please consider an ABF funded barn cat! ABF trappers often find cats that cannot be safely returned to their colony. These cats can range from friendly and able to be handled to truly feral. Cats are all spayed and neutered, ear tipped and rabies vaccinated. Depending on the trapper, they are often flea treated, dewormed and further vaccinated too. These cats aren’t just for barns, they make great shop cats, are wonderful for businesses, warehouses, greenhouses and more!

Kalamazoo County Barn Contact- Sarah (269) 998-1787 pawsfurlearning@gmail.com

Van Buren County Barn Contact-Marcie (269) 655-1813

IT TAKES A VILLIAGE

Animal’s Best Friend is one of the longest standing animal welfare organizations in the area. We pride ourselves on working together with veterinary clinics, rescue groups, shelters, volunteers and donors to save lives through spay/neuter. Without the cooperation and collaboration of all of the pieces of this puzzle, we could not make the impact that we do. You may not see us on the news but we hope you feel the difference in the community whether it is in your neighborhood through a TNR project with no new kittens running around this spring, lower intake numbers at your shelter, easier adoptions in your rescue because the animals are already spayed and neutered, or something as simple as a stomach full of yummy baked goods after one of the bake sales. ABF is just as much about the relationships as it is about the animals. We need your continued support to make this happen!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KALAMAZOO?

With the warm winter weather, trappers have had the rare opportunity to trap when the snow usually flies! There are several ongoing projects happening in Kalamazoo. One is at George's Appliance. We received a facebook message about at least 6 cats living in the greenhouse. A veteran trapper headed out with someone who had previously been trapping in her yard to show her the ropes. Kim is our new star trapper at George's! Occasionally we have a funny story: we were told about a GIANT cat and even shown pictures. One morning, while dropping other cats off at the vet, Kim sat with board member Sarah and received a call the GIANT cat was in the trap. Kim got almost to the store when she received another call that the GIANT cat in the trap was in fact misidentified and this one was a raccoon. We all got a good laugh and continue to wait for the giant cat to enter. In the meantime we continue to trap. Please consider sponsoring the George's Appliance cats, \$40 sponsors one cat spay or neuter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN VAN BUREN?

Van Buren trappers have been busy with lots of projects too but here is one very special case. Meet Wreck It Ralph, affectionately named because of his severe injuries. Van Buren County trappers, Jim Parker and Marcie Bremmer received a call about an injured kitten and rushed right out to trap it. He was brought to Eighth Street Vet the next morning by ABF founder, Karen King. Ralph immediately underwent surgery to flush and close a very large wound that was presumed to be from an animal attack. It was not safe to return him to his original location and he needed to recover for at least 4 weeks so he went to the Paws Fur Learning Classroom. The students, board member Sarah, and a licensed veterinarian will oversee his recovery and care. After he is healthy and 100% socialized, he will be adopted out. If you are interested in following Ralph's story, look on



www.facebook.com/pawsfurlearning or www.pawsfurlearning.org .

PAWS FUR LEARNING



Animal's Best Friend and the Paws Fur Learning students have been working hard together! In just over two weeks, together they helped with three different situations on the same street in Vicksburg. The first case was Mimi, a pregnant calico from a barn and the tom that impregnated her. She came into the classroom where it is safe to deliver her kittens. The students helped trap the tom; he was neutered, ear tipped and returned to his barn. A couple houses down, a neighbor passed away. The students helped intake 5 cats, transfer 2 dogs to rescue and evaluate 3 cows plus 6 horses. We have named this project the Munn Memorial Project. You can sponsor a spay/neuter for any of the cats or dogs using this designation. \$40 sponsors one cat, \$80 sponsors one dog. Sadly, another neighbor passed away, the Brock TNR project. A very well intentioned woman was feeding outdoor cats but never got them fixed. The students trapped all 6 in one night. You can sponsor a spay/neuter for any of the Brock cats using this designation. Three of these will also be seeking barn homes. Contact Sarah at pawsfurlearning@gmail.com

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 or website 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. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped spay/neuter over 50,439 cats and dogs.