

Number of cats & dogs spayed/neutered during 2016.	1,864
Spay/neuter expenses for 2016.	\$111,043.48
Other medical expenses for 2016.	\$13,027.93
Administrative expenses for 2016.	\$3,342.85
Donations, fundraising and grants received in 2016.	\$ 124,607.64

Thanks to everyone who contributed in 2016, whether it be monetarily, by volunteering at our events, trapping cats and taking them to their spay/neuter appointments, or whatever you did to help we had 1,864 cats and dogs spayed or neutered during 2016! All your efforts combined made it a very successful year for the cats and dogs of Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties and we were able to continue our life saving work. What we're doing is making a difference for the cats and dogs in our community. Thank you all for your contributions during 2016. It takes an army to do this work!

Our goal for 2017 is to spay/neuter 2,150 cats and dogs. Help us reach our goal by supporting our fundraising efforts.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

January 21- We will be participating in a craft show that is being held at the Lions Club in Paw Paw, MI. This is a fundraising event for Eleanor's Pantry and vendors are being asked to bring donations of food items for Eleanor's Pantry. There will be door prizes that are being donated by the vendors. This event is from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. We will be selling our t-shirts, catnip toys & mice, and misc. items. Stop by and see us if you get a chance.



February 2- Online Opulent Blends party to raise money for Animals Best Friend. We will receive a cash donation of 25% of sales. Watch our facebook page for details on how to purchase www.facebook.com/animalsbestfriendfund and like them on facebook too!

February 11- Valentine's Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus, across from Meijer, on S. Westnedge in Portage, MI 9:00 am-3:00 pm. We need lots of bakers and buyers for this event to help us reach our goal of raising \$1500 at this sale. If you can bake for this event please have the items to us by 10:00 am so we can have all day to sell the items that you made. Please label the items as to what they are and also indicate whether or not they have nuts in them due to food allergies. Please package cookies on paper plates and cover with clear plastic. Items that are wrapped in colored plastic wrap or foil generally do not sell.



February 18- LuLaRoe Online Pop Up! Have you heard about the newest craze of the “buttery soft leggings?” Maybe you have seen Sarah at the bake sales in her fun paw prints and cat leggings? Now it is your turn to purchase for a good cause!

www.facebook.com/groups/lularoewithcassiekroupa

February 25- Garage Sale Art Fair at the Kalamazoo Expo Center from 9:00 am-4:00pm. This is our third year joining our friends from Carol’s Ferals for this event. Come find us in the far corner in the main room or just ask where the crazy cat lady booth is. Rumor is that we will have the giant live trap to bail the human kitty out when they raise their \$40 to get spayed or neutered!

March 11- St. Patrick’s Day Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus in Portage, MI.

April 15- Easter Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus in Portage, MI.

Details for the March and April bake sales are the same as for the February sale.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following people donated to our feral fund: Ben & Claudia Johnson; Michele Mullen; Ray & Jerre Ihrcke; Karen Imus; Kim Dimock; Mary Johnson; Donna Ramesh.

Thanks to Ben & Claudia Johnson; Ray & Jerre Ihrcke; Helen Page Dolan; Laurie White for donating postage stamps. To Karen Dixon for donating crafts.

To our sewing team for helping with our catnip toy project: Mike Spiech; Eilene Harrison; Angie & Pauline Thacker; Chris Carlsen; Kelly Fisher.

To My Rescue Dogs for donating part of the proceeds from their Lulabunny auctions. To Gail Ross for donating catnip mice. To Cindy & David from Gobles Grocery for donating 1,517 pop and beer cans that turned into a donation of \$151.70 for our spay/neuter programs! To U.S. Salon Supply for letting us set up a booth at their Wine & Canvas that was held on December 14 at the 120 Taphouse & Bistro in Paw Paw. We made \$87.00.

To Michele Mullen; Mike Williams; Sarah Gerstner and Heather Jones for helping at our Christmas bake sale. To Kathy Eckstein; Sherry Quinn; Teresa Rakowsky; Sue Florian; Gail Mills; Ashley Britt; Carolyn Woodward; Sarah Gerstner; Rebecca Stuurwold; Karen Macklom; Kathy Slocum; Ray & Tina Spencer; Betsy & Melinda Ryba; Heather Jones; Diane Karlis & Laurie Ulrich for baking for this sale. To Meg Forrest for donating Perfectly Posh products for us to sell. To Pet Supplies Plus for providing the location for our bake sales and for doing so much for the animals of our community. Thanks to a wonderful turnout of bakers, buyers and volunteers we made \$3,357.00 at this bake sale.

Thanks to Meg Forrest for donating part of her profits from Perfectly Posh sales and for donating Perfectly Posh items for us to sell at our sales. These products can be reordered at <https://barkposh.po.sh>. Meg donates 50% of her profits to us every other month (January, March, May) and the other months the profits go to Kalamazoo Animal Services.

Thanks to Pet Supplies Plus in Portage who collected donations during the month of December for the Paws Fur Learning Program.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

From

Mark & Carol Cloyd

Christine Wilkins

Laurie White

Mark & Joyce Beedie

Roxanne Sargent

Gene & Vivian Wood

David & Barb Loney

In Memory Of

Ollie

Jock & Gym

Pilot

Lori Rosenthal Shephard

Bailey

Pip

Bill & Bev Matthes

William & Joyce Truscott (Lexi) sent a donation in honor of Grandma & Grandpa Ihrcke. Patricia Doran sent a donation in honor of JoBeth Bridleman. Michelle Newell sent a donation in honor of Carl & Diane Oberlin. We received a donation from Kimberly Oakley in honor of Claudia Johnson.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

One of our volunteers monitors donation boxes in the Gobles area and brought in \$915.41 during 2016. We need more volunteers to monitor donation boxes for us. If you're willing to help with this project contact us at 269/808-0064.

Don't forget to save your Spartan Nash receipts!



Baby, it's cold outside!

Winter Feral Cat Care Tip



Elevated Styrofoam bin
+
straw
=
Instant shelter!

Other great, inexpensive options: Rubbermaid bins, large covered litterboxes, coolers used for fish/meat shipments. Weigh down lightweight shelters with wood or bricks.

ASPCApro.org/facebook

Don't forget about your strays and feral cats. Please report any chained or backyard dogs to your local animal control if they do not have proper food, water and shelter.

Kalamazoo Animal Service 269-383-8775, Van Buren County Animal Control 269-621-4624.

If it is too cold outside for you,
it is too cold outside for your
pets.



**PLEASE
BRING
YOUR PETS
INSIDE!**

PAWS FUR LEARNING

It was a very busy first semester in the classroom! 26 cats and kittens from Van Buren County Animal Control, local TNR projects, found by students and classroom drop offs all found their forever homes. These felines came to us in varying conditions from teeny tiny bottle baby kittens found at a local laundry mat, to semi-feral teenagers from animal control. The students did an amazing job getting to know each and every one. They all received basic vet care upon intake which included Capstar and Frontline for fleas, nail trims for the students future safety, deworming and a basic intake exam. After a few days of decompression, they got a more in depth exam. All of the felines were combo tested and spayed or neutered thanks to the support and funding from Animal's Best Friend. Vaccines and all of the other supplies were purchased through private funding.

In addition to the 26 finding wonderful indoor homes, 4 found spoiled rotten barn homes, and one cat was reunited with its owner. This cat had been lost for several weeks and ended up in one of our live traps by the school! We are so excited to see what will happen during the second semester. If you or someone you know is looking for a furry new addition, send them over to our facebook page, www.facebook.com/abfpawsfurlearning . The students will be putting a website up as part of their second semester projects too. There are also rumors of a kitten cam...

We would like to thank Karen and Bill King for their support of this program and yet another one of Sarah's crazy ideas. Without your love and support, we could not save lives, as we say in this program, both two and four legged!



Animal's 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 50,312 cats and dogs.