



WINTER 2014-15 NEWSLETTER

PO Box 183164, Shelby Township, MI 48318

MEOWY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOWLUKAH, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

I hope you all had a lovely Thanksgiving. Cat Tail Acres Sanctuary has a great deal to be thankful for this year...not the least of which are our amazingly supportive members and donors. Thanks to YOU, we seem to be having a steady, if not large, stream of donations as more folks are sending whatever they are able to on a regular basis. (By the way, there is no such thing as a donation being too small...we appreciate all donations!) Such SUSTAINING SUPPORT is our life-blood since it costs us between \$20-\$30 per cat per month to cover all expenses. Thanks to you we had another successful Open House this year. Volunteers came out and helped us clean all the junk left over by the previous owner out of our storage barn. A truly dedicated cadre of Volunteers have been regularly staffing our Charity Gaming



Fundraisers throughout the year...despite all the frustrations that the State Gaming Control Board put us through this year with all their constant regulation changes. Then when our aging van was starting to cost us too much to keep repaired, a large number of our members stepped up to make donations so we could buy a good, used van. Volunteers helped us have our first-ever Pet Photos w/Santa fundraiser. And one of our members found us a roofer so we could finally replace the dilapidated roof on our storage barn. So....THANKS VERY MUCH to them and each and every one of you for always being there for us and the kitties throughout the year, and year after year! So, onward and upward into 2015....

Now I would like to share a very special, heartwarming story with you this holiday season. It is also a great humane educational opportunity. I was driving on I-696 in Macomb County right after Thanksgiving when I suddenly saw a kitty huddled against a highway retaining wall with cars whizzing by all around. But, there was no way I could stop because of the large amount and speed of traffic. I got off the highway and phoned a Sterling Heights Animal Control Officer I know whom I'd helped with some feral cats a while ago. I also called two of CTAS's volunteers who are skilled at rescue work. Our volunteers came and met me, and the ACO contacted the police dept. which also came to the scene. The two police officers actually stopped the traffic so that I and our volunteers could safely get across the highway and pick up the kitty. We named the cat JJ after the first two initials of the policemen (John and Jim). This kitty was

obviously thrown out of a vehicle as it had a serious eye wound that came from an impact. It was a miracle the cat was not dead. We have since taken the cat to the vet and one of our volunteers decided to keep the cat herself. The eye injury will heal and the cat now has a loving forever home. So PLEASE, drive carefully, and make sure you are observant, because this will allow you to notice animals who may be on or near roadways and in jeopardy and who thus need your help. And don't be afraid to dial 911 to get police assistance if you are not sure about how to proceed to get help. In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for all the donations and other support you have given to the Sanctuary in 2014, and to wish each of you a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

Gratefully yours,

LISA

Lisa Koester, Founder and President

CAT TAIL ACRES SANCTUARY HAS A NEW, USED VAN!!!

OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE US SPECIAL DONATIONS TO HELP US RAISE THE \$20,000 NEEDED TO REPLACE OUR AGING (COSTLY-TO-KEEP-REPAIRED) VAN w/THIS 2013 FORD CARGO VAN THAT ONLY HAD 12,000 MI ON IT & IS STILL WARRANTIED:

Robert Anderlik & daughter Kerry Masters
Jeff & Donna Atkins
Alex & Joan Bishop
Ruth & Jeff Coil
Margaret & Larry Conti
Karen Fales
Sandi Giardini
Sheri Giardini
Nancy Grosfeld
Marian Harvey
Susanne & Joachim Krispien Kobinger
Glenda Langdon
Bettye & Fred Maki
Dr. Irene Metro
Nicole Marone
Barb Moten
Donna Ortyl
Gail Reichstein
Elaine & Mike Savage
Candace & Stuart Shafrick
Addy Shattuck
Harlan & Bonni Simmons
Marie Skladd
Bev Steffens-Claudio
John Stoettle
Sue & Michael St. John
Kelly & Betty Tower
Ann Marie & Mike Venticinque

AND ALSO A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

* **CONELY AUTO** in Brighton, and Salesman **JIM MYERS** for helping us get a good used van w/low mileage at the price we wanted! We certainly recommend them to our members who are looking for good used vehicles.

* CTAS Secretary and Fundraising Chairperson, Eileen Liska-Stronczer, for raising the funds in only two weeks, and Eileen and her husband and Advisory Board Member, Ron Stronczer, for doing the legwork to find a van and haggle with salespeople to get a van at our target price.



NEW ROOF FINALLY REPLACED THE DILAPIDATED ONE ON OUR STORAGE BARN!

We started working on finding materials and roofers to replace the old roof on the Sanctuary's storage barn in July. Home Depot was unwilling to donate any roofing supplies to us (even though we spent over \$20,000 at their Shelby Twp. store when we first bought and renovated the house that became the Sanctuary). It was not the store manager's fault: corporate headquarters are unwilling to help any charities other than those that help veterans. A worthy cause to be sure but somewhat unfair when they only help the same group(s) year after year and give no one else a chance? CTAS Founder/President, Lisa Koester, suggested to our Fundraising Chairperson, Eileen Liska-Stronczer, that she contact Square Deal Building Supply, and low and behold, they were more than happy to help the Sanctuary! SO....

SPECIAL THANKS TO HAROLD BRENIZER, the General Manager of Square Deal Building Supply (w/stores located in Sterling Heights, Almont, Grand Rapids, and Ludington) who donated 19 squares of shingles and tar paper, delivered it, and had it all placed onto the roof for free!! We urge our supporters to do business with these Square Deal Building Supply stores so you can show your thanks and support to them and Company Manager Brenizer.

ALSO SPECIAL THANKS TO CTAS MEMBER GLENDA LANGDON who found us a roofer; and to **RUSS KNEBLER** who did the roofing (a tear-off, i.e. full replacement) job for us at a greatly reduced cost! Mr. Knebler is a general Jack-of-All-Trades who does excellent work in a variety of tasks, so if you have need of someone like him, please show your thanks to him for helping the Sanctuary by having him do work for you. He can be reached at: 586-805-3401.



PLEASE SPONSOR A CAT TAIL ACRES SANCTUARY KITTY

As one would expect, many of our members/donors already have plenty of pets at home and are not looking to adopt another one. We do have some cats who are adoptable and would love to find them forever homes! But most of our cats are not adoptable because of old age, shyness around anyone but the caregivers they are used to here at the Sanctuary, will not regularly use litter boxes, or are still feral and adjusting to life indoors with us. For that reason, SPONSORSHIP of one or more of our cats is an ideal way to help us care for our cats for the rest of their lives. By making a donation regularly (once a month, every six months, or once a year) for the cat(s) you select to sponsor, you can truly make a difference for them and for us. Feeding over 180 mouths, providing all of them with veterinary care as needed, and maintaining the physical structure and our vehicle all adds up (fluctuates between \$20-30 a month per cat). So we hope you will consider becoming a Sponsor.

A Special THANK YOU to NEW Sponsors: Donna & Al Bunnell for sponsoring Bozo and Callie, and Gayle LeClerc for sponsoring Lucy!



Precious



Mona



Tiny



Ice



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Mark your calendar and come visit us, see our kitties, and perhaps even find a cat to adopt or sponsor at our:

3rd Annual Open House.

Sunday, June 7, 2015, anytime between 2 - 7 PM

RSVP to: CatTailAcresSanctuary@gmail.com no later than 2 weeks prior

Attn. to Those Who Gave Us Cats

Did you give us one or more socialized cats that were not using their litter box, cat(s) you could not care for any longer for whatever reason, cats who were feral and had to be removed from an unsafe area, or who were feral and you were feeding but couldn't take care of them long term? If so, then PLEASE do not forget that we were there when you needed us, and now we need you to step up and do your part by sending us donations to help us care for those cats. It is very hard for us to understand why some people who gave us cats simply do not send us donations, or do anything else to help, like donate food? If we had support from such people, we would be better able to help others...so please think about this if you are one of those people. If you have fallen on hard times and cannot afford to make donations, we understand. Otherwise, we are **grateful** for any donations no matter how modest. Thank you. *Lisa*

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please remember to shop at the pet stores who help the Sanctuary, and to thank them for having our food donation barrels in their stores:

- * **Pet Supplies Plus stores in: Bloomfield Hills, Highland, Milford, and Washington Township, and Premier Pet in Southfield**

If you would like to help us locate food donation barrels in the pet stores where you shop, please contact us at CatTailAcresSanctuary@gmail.com so we can assist you with the logistics and to get you a barrel.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANKS to....

Gail Reichstein, who made generous donations to acknowledge and celebrate the birthdays of her beloved family and friends, as follows: Aaron Leider; Becca Leider; Joanie Leider; Leslie Leider; Bonni Simmons; and Dr. Milton Simmons.

And again, Gail Reichstein, who made a generous donation to extend Get Well Wishes for a Speedy Recovery of Joan Nolan & Family's Grandson Kody.

Elaine & Mike Savage for conceiving of and paying for our 2015 Desk Calendars, all 100 of which were sold! (BTW, we need more supporters to come up with good fundraising ideas!)

Addy Shattuck, who owns the Pet Supplies Plus stores in Highland and Bloomfield Hills where we have pet food donation barrels, for ALL the MANY things she does to help the Sanctuary on an ongoing basis. She is our Angel for Kitties.

Craig Fulton and Mike Even, who respectively, donated their time and talent to us as the photographer and Santa at our first Pet Photos with Santa Fundraiser.

Kelly and Betty Tower who are pet food gatherers EXTRAORDINAIRE. The amount of food they have gotten donated to us, or which they have paid for themselves to give us, is beyond belief. We can never thank them enough.

Mike Palmer of Premier Pet in Beverly Hills who generously helps the Towers' and the Sanctuary all the time.

Manager Samantha and her whole team at the PetSmart at Orchard Lake & 14 Mile Roads who recently helped the Towers' acquire tons of food for us, including coordinating with other PetSmart stores to increase the amount they gathered.

Sandie, at Pet Supplies Plus (64920 Van Dyke, Washington Twp) who generously invited us to put a cat food donation barrel in her store. (Please note: we no longer have a food donation barrel at the Pet Supplies Plus store on Walton in Rochester Hills.)

Sue St. John who took over monitoring our food donation barrels in Highland and Milford, and Jessica Roberts who took over monitoring the barrel in Bloomfield Hills.

SANCTUARY WISH LIST

Large, 11-13 oz. cans of canned cat food

Wal Mart or Home Depot gift cards so we can regularly buy cleaning supplies

Volunteers who will do TNR (or who will learn how to do TNR)

Volunteers who will foster kittens and socialized or semi-socialized cats until they can be adopted.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Judy & Curt Brock in honor of the Sanctuary's beloved cat Devon
Karen Czedik in memory of Patrick Derry, 53, "Our co-worker and friend. "Work will not be the same without you."

Susanne Krispien Kobinger and Joachim Kobinger in honor and memory of Susanne's dearly beloved father, Gerhard Krispien; in memory of their beloved cat Chip who left this world much too soon; and in honor of Laterne who lived a good, long life but will be missed..

Juliette LaMonica in honor of Fonzie Lacro

Irene Metro, M.D. in honor of her beloved Ginger

Gail Reichstein in honor and memory of Joan Nolan & Family's beloved sister, Ruth.

Dorothy Rohe in honor of her adored cat Missy

And, Sandra and Patrick Reynolds in honor of their beloved Powder Puff, pictured directly below...

Powderpuff



YOUR DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED!

YOU MAY USE THIS FORM TO MAIL US YOUR DONATION(S) OR IF YOU PREFER, YOU CAN GO TO OUR WEBSITE'S (www.CatTailAcres.com) LINK TO ACCESS PAYPAL (be aware that they take out a small fee for processing).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

(If you have one please send it to us or email us at:

CatTailAcresSanctuary@gmail.com as using email saves us time and money. Thank you.)

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

MAIL your donations to Cat Tail Acres Sanctuary, P.O. Box 183164, Shelby Township, MI 48318. Or write, or email us at CatTailAcresSanctuary@gmail.com, if you wish to buy a CTAS t-shirt or inquire about ways you can volunteer to help.