

# Among Friends

Summer/Fall 2012

Volume 8, Issue 1

News, views and updates on animal issues in Antrim County



WITH  
A LITTLE  
HELP FROM  
MY FRIENDS

## WITH a LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS, INC.

With a Little Help From My Friends is a public charity. Organization identification number 38-3605652 section 501C (3). As a nonprofit WaLHFMF works on donations without county, state or federal funding.

3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615  
(231) 533-4070  
walhfmf\_4@hotmail.com  
walhfmf.org

### Mission Statement

Protecting and teaching compassion for the animals in Antrim County.

## Meetings

### Meetings are held four times a year:

Third Wednesday in March, June, September and November at the Pet Crisis Center 7-8pm. For Information call (231)533-4070

## Annual Events

**1<sup>st</sup> Golf Scramble at the Chief**  
Monday, June 18th, 2012

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5K Pet Walk**  
Saturday, August 18th, 2012

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off & Silent Auction**  
Sunday, Oct. 28th, 2012

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Pet Photos**  
Saturday, November 17th, 2012

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale**  
Saturday, May 25th, 2013

### Look for other WaLHFMF events throughout the year.

WaLHFMF loves to hear from adults and kids! Send us your stories, jokes, drawings, and pictures.

WaLHFMF reserves the right, without further consideration, to use all entries in any publication, media and related promotions.

Keep a copy for yourself, entries can not be returned.

Visit our GREAT adoptable PETS at [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) and [WalHFMF.org](http://WalHFMF.org)

You can also Donate Online!



With a Little Help From My Friends has opened a Pet Crisis Center in Bellaire. This wonderful facility offers a safe place for pets in true emergency situations that have no where else to go. Many people have already experienced situations where they had no where to turn during an emergency. This can be due to a temporary hospital stay, entering a nursing home, a family member's

death or a home fire. Pet owners may be forced to make a very emotional decision in the midst of an already stressful time. Animals are given love and care while they wait for their owners to overcome their crisis and come back for them. In some cases when they can't be reunited, a new loving home will be found.

The center has rooms for dogs that are 8'x8' with glass doors, each with a dog door that leads out to separate kennels. Cat condo units house cats in a large room for roaming during the day. The units have plexi-glass fronts with separate litter areas. The cat room will soon include a cat door that leads to an outside area for cats with a garden around it for their viewing pleasure. Pets that come in to the Crisis Center together will be housed together. There is also room in the building for smaller pets, such as hamsters and birds.

Unlike traditional type "shelters," this center is not a place where people can drop off their pets. Instead, the Pet Crisis Center will be used to assist Antrim county agencies such as animal control, fire, police, mental health and family services. There are hours for the public to come visit and adopt animals that cannot be reunited with their owner and there are also opportunities for volunteers to help at the center. The center is a resource in helping the public with pet issues and will soon offer classes and workshops for community groups. Future plans include a dog building to house more dogs and more cat housing. The sanctuary property has five acres with more

– Continued on page 2

## ADOPT-A-PET!



*Moka is a loving 12 year old Lab mix. She is a wonderful dog who would love someone to take her on walks and spend time watching tv on the couch. Moka is up to date on her shots and has been spayed. Now all she needs is a forever home and a loving companion.*

*If that might be you or you're looking for a different friend, please contact WaLHFMF at 231-533-4070 or visit online at [walhfmf.org](http://walhfmf.org).*

## President's Corner



We had such a joyous week at the center as one of our elderly dogs found a fabulous forever home. A home with someone who

absolutely adores him. Ruger is a great energetic dog that lived at the center for 9 months after coming from an owner who had him for ten years.

Ruger was overlooked for adoption many times because of his age. "I can't take a pet that old because this is when they really start costing you money. Although he is a great dog!" or "My pet would be too much for Ruger but if I could I would adopt Ruger."

The woman who did adopt Ruger got a gem in such a great dog! Even though he is eleven years old she enjoys every day with him giving Ruger all the love and attention he deserves. None of us can predict the future.

It got me wondering - if when we come to look at dogs (being an older person myself) are they thinking "Oh please not her, she's old and may not be around that much longer." Or "She looks old and she may not be able to keep up with me" I don't think that's what they feel at all. I think what they see is - "She has a kind heart and a gentle touch." "I would love to be in a warm house in winter with a full belly and be petted by her."

And I guess that is the difference between dogs and people. Sometimes I think more like a dog. Every animal has a relationship to give and to receive from someone. That may be long or short but usually wonderful. Don't try to predict the future and what that may bring. Go for today. Enjoy and bring joy every day. Don't overlook that older pet. You are robbing yourself of wonderful times of contentment and joy. Don't take an animal out of pity, take it out of the joy of finding a great animal who already loves you even if you are an old dog.

Thanks for listening,  
Heather Knust  
President



*Continued from page 1*

land available for expansion. It's a beautiful place for visitors and school groups to explore. Gardens around the Pet Crisis Center are being planned and planted by gardeners with a gazebo in the main garden. Many generous volunteers have donated their time to this project. This center appears to be a one-of-a kind idea and WaLHFMMF is hopeful that once the center has been open a while, other counties might get some ideas for a center of their own. You can follow the progress of the center or contact WaLHFMMF at [walfhmf.org](http://walfhmf.org), facebook, email or call them at 231-533-4070.



### — Wish List —

*Below is our summer wish list for items the sanctuary will need to keep stocked. Any donation is appreciated and needed!*

- Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies Gaylord gift cards [www.wagstowiskersgaylord.com](http://www.wagstowiskersgaylord.com) or (989) 731-4200
- Disposable gloves
- Extra large heavy trash bags
- Thick paper towels
- Laundry soap for front load washing machine
- Postage stamps
- 40" or larger flat screen for presentations
- Canister vacuum
- Artwork of pets
- Cat & Dog treats (nutritional ones)
- Doggie swimming pool
- Recycled newspaper cat litter
- Money for pet supplies
- Digital Camera
- Motivated volunteers ☺

## Veterinary Elder Care

*Dr. Chris Randall DVM  
North Country Veterinarian Services  
(231) 588-2190*

How often should your pet see a veterinarian for a "check-up"? That's a question that everyone wonders. Let's think about some numbers. First, most people go to see their physician once a year or so for a wellness exam (assuming they are healthy and in good shape). But that is people.... how can we compare that to veterinary medicine? Well, pets age much faster than people. If you wait a year between wellness exams, your pet ages 7-10 years during that same time period. A lot can happen in that time!

Animals are susceptible to many of the same age-related conditions as we do. Problems like diabetes, arthritis, dementia, hearing and vision loss, kidney and liver failure plague our older pets just like humans. The cancer rate in some breeds of dogs is 6 times that of humans! Just like with their two-legged friends, our pets get great benefits from early diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. One of the biggest issues faced by pets is obesity. We are seeing obese animals in epidemic numbers. This is a major problem that is the cause of many serious medical conditions which cause untold suffering and early death.

If you were to ask me about the best way to keep an older pet healthy, we would probably talk about these suggestions: 1) Feed your pet a good-quality food, avoiding things they should not eat (no hamburgers, candy bars or ice cream...), 2) Keep your pets moving – exercise is the best way to control obesity (and avoid joint problems, diabetes and even some cancers), 3) Get regular medical wellness exams by your pet's doctor – every six months is a good schedule. Many of you will recognize these suggestions from your own physicians. Why not make a commitment to improving your pet's health? Get them to eat better, spend some time playing with them or taking them for a walk every day, and get them in to the doctor regularly. You might just find yourself leading a healthier lifestyle and enjoying life more too.



## In Memory Of

**Vernard Williams**

*From: Steve Kalchik  
Ginger & Kelly  
Judy & Doug Ettema  
Karlane Belaire*

**Skeeter, Deeter, Lucky & Kutya**

*Vicki Olsafsky*

**Ruth Ann Cooper**

*Jim & Prudy Barber*

**Ruth Ann Cooper, 42 years**

*Tom Cooper*

**Debbie Shannon**

*Violet Shannon*

**Kayla, Abbey, Scooter, Pebbles,  
Murphy & Samantha**

*Carol & Tom Artusi*

**Fudgie**

*Ardie & Bill Murphy*

**Ginger, Holly and Kelly,  
my English Setters**

*Ann Devergilio*

**Doris Edwards**

*Sharon and Charles McGillveay*

**Dutch**

*Lynda Wolf & Gene Masta*

**Donnie Minish**

*Merry Christmas Donnie  
Carol Smith*

**Nancy Schoensee**

*Lynn Beebe*

**Nancy Schoensee**

*Bill & Mona Minish*

**Darlene Youmans**

*Lynn Beebe*

**Thomas, a dear little kitty**

*Arlene Westhoven*

**Killians & Barkley**

*Becky Whiteherse*

**Deb Shannon**

*Larry & Sue Seden*

**Michelle Palgut**

*Gary and Vicki Gilbert*

**Ray Drvio**

*Gary and Vicki Gilbert*

**Annie and Bailey**

*Chris and Merrie's sweethearts  
Mona and Jenna*

**Marlene Uhlmann**

*Duane & Maryanne Jorgensen*

**Annie 9/23/11 & Bailey 11/3/11**

*We miss you so much!  
Merrie & Chris*

**Debbie Shannon**

*Marlene Atridge*

**Buddy, Don Juan and Juno's Kitten**

*You are at peace now  
Love, everyone who met you*

**Mewsette**

*Mom Shannon & Mona*

**Donnie Minish**

*Carol and Bill Minish*

**Woesmons**

*Lynn Beebe*

**Doris**

*Joseph and Laura Flangiou*

**Mark Harmer**

*WaLHFMF*

**Mark Harmer**

*Partner and Printer  
Creative Characters*

**Don Zajac**

*My friend and a great dog lover.  
Sally Adamson*

**In Loving Memory of My Dear and  
Missed Friend Mr. Kitty**

You were my special kitty, all funny, and witty! You were sent to us from God above, this we know on account of all the love, the love that you showed from the time you entered our lives. You taught me how to make it through, no matter the trouble or strife. You taught me so much the time that you were here. I don't care where people may say you are, to me you will always be near because I will carry you in my heart always Mr. Kitty. You left paw prints on my heart!

*Written By Billie Jo Marrs*

**Send your donation and  
In Memory Of or In Honor Of to:  
With a Little Help From My Friends  
3820 Ritt Road  
Bellaire, Michigan 49615**

## In Honor Of

**Those grieving the loss of  
a cherished pet.**

*Great Lakes Pet Memorial  
and Crematory*

**Dottie & Charlie  
the best puppies ever!**

*Steve & Sue LaJoyce*

**Carrie Dewey**

*Merry Christmas!  
Jonathan Kendall*

**Bret Dewey**

*Merry Christmas!  
Uncle David & Aunt Marianne Seidl*

**Andie Dewey**

*Merry Christmas!  
Uncle David & Aunt Marianne Seidl*

**Bret & Andie Dewey**

*Merry Christmas Aunt Christine Dewey*

**Betty & Joe Renner**

*Merry Christmas!  
Michael Renner*

**Betty & Joe Renner**

*Merry Christmas!  
Michele Renner*

**Carolyn Newcomb**

*Gary and Sue Mortensen*

**Sassy**

*Tom & Connie Kiessel*

**Sassy Kiessel a fine 3-legged cat.**

*Bill & Sue Johnson*

**All pet owners/caretakers**

*Michael & Sandra Lininger*

**Aunt Sophie DeWitt**

*Merry Christmas!  
Butch & Liz Bartz*

**Winnie a wonderful little cat**

*adopted from WaLHFMF  
May, 2008  
by Betsy Davidson & Sheryl Coston*

**Jo Paulshock**

*Merry Christmas!  
Trudy & Wil Brown*

**Mottsie, speedy recovery!**

*Rick and Vick Olsafsky*

# A small sampling of our vo



*Mary Hendersen enjoys growing grass for the cats at the center, they really love it and her, too!*



*Denny Thompson spent many days this winter giving dogs like Marva and Moka, pictured here, some exercise.*



*Laurel Burke entertaining the cats on one of her visits to the center.*



*Carol Artusi walking Moka. The center is a great place to walk dogs.*



*Josie Castle, giving Juno a much needed play break from her five kittens.*



*Brent and Andie Dewey have not only put many volunteer hours in with their mom Carrie, they also had family members donate money at Christmas time instead of giving them gifts. They often help with photos of the pets up for adoption.*



*Julie Castle giving Carson some attention after cleaning the cat room on Saturday morning.*

*Cathy Peterson loving on Sugar who likes to sit on her lap!*



# Volunteers & happy endings!



**Gertie was adopted by North Country Veterinary Service to help run their office.**



**Princess and Precious snuggled in at their new home with the Prate family.**

**Pictured here at Lake Michigan with Paula's daughter, Ruger found his forever home with Paula Parks.**



**Martini waits at Traverse City Airport for take off to California. See the Front Lines article on page 6 for the full story.**



**Martini and Rachel back together again after being separated for one and a half years. She also gained a new furry friend, Stewart.**

**Tipper, the cat and her new friends are loved by the Rye/Dolinka family.**



**Nina, with her new friend Lucy the cat, snuggle on the couch. Nina is the closest Lucy has even gotten to a dog! Nina and Lucy are loved by Bryan McCaner.**

**Asher came from the big Antrim County rabbit rescue. After spending a couple of months at the center he was adopted by Torri and is now living the high life!!**



# From the Front Lines

by Jenna Minish, Center Coordinator

What an exciting few months I have had working with such a wonderful organization. Since coming on as Center Coordinator in January, I have seen some great progress. Our volunteer numbers have grown and adoptions have gone up. The community support is wonderful and I am very impressed at how the group is growing into a household name in Northern Michigan. Each animal story is as unique as they are, making each day new and exciting. When some animals join the center their story breaks our hearts, but the end result is always worth it! The happy endings are often emotional, as these animals find such amazing forever homes. I'd like to share with you one of those great happy endings.

Animal Control called a couple of months ago to pick up a little Chihuahua mix they had. The little dog was scared and intimidated at the facility by the barking dogs surrounding her. Once she came out of that environment a darling little personality started to show. That day I took photos of her and posted them on Facebook. We always try to find animals a "Forever Home," as soon as we can. By the time I arrived at work the next day I was greeted with some interesting news. A woman had called about the little Chihuahua. This wasn't just a random woman, though.

This woman had been a previous owner of Martini (Tini). She said that she had given her to a retired couple when she moved to California. The understanding was that they would keep her forever. For one reason or another the couple had to get rid of the little dog and she ended up right back at animal control. The original owner had regretted her decision of parting with Martini and wanted to adopt her now. The board agreed that we would like to see Martini returned to her family. After some work on our end and out in California, little Martini took off on an adventure all by herself. In the middle of May she departed Traverse City and flew to L.A.. The trip was smooth and she arrived more than ready to see her family. After lots of kisses, Martini did not leave her family, there was no doubt that she had remembered them from before.

Martini is one of many happy endings I've witnessed since being part of this great organization. She reminds us why the dedicated volunteers at WaLHFMMF wanted a Pet Crisis Center in the first place. Not only have we given these pets a safe haven but the number of happy endings have proven its worth. I am impressed at what such a small community can accomplish if they set their minds to it. I see great things continuing for WaLHFMMF in the future.

## Pet Blessing

I pray for all the animals and see each one being divinely blessed. Animals are essential to creation and wonderful teachers and companions. As I think of horses who have pulled plows and carriages, making life easier for humanity, I learn to find joy in serving others. The antics of puppies and kittens who are discovering the world around them teaches me to find joy in each new adventure. Homeless animals who wait in shelters for a loving touch teach me lessons of faith and hope.



I thank God for all animals and for the beauty, joy, and wisdom they share. Each one is a unique and purposeful creation. I pray that every animal is blessed with love, food, shelter, and safety.

~ Anonymous

"Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth.'"

~ Genesis 9:8-10

*"I shall pass through this world but once, if therefore there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing, I can do, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

Stephen Grellet (1773-1855)

## Domestic Violence: Insuring a smooth transition for your pets as well as yourself

*Phil Arkow, head of the American Humane Association's Human-Animal Bond Center, offers advice for those who wish to leave a violent home but are staying out of concern for pets.*

- Include animal welfare-removing or protecting pets-in your escape planning
- Arrange animal foster care in advance through a kennel, sympathetic veterinarian or one of the more than 100 woman's shelters nationwide that help find pets housing. For a shelter, see the Humane Society of the United States Web site, [www.hsus.org/ace/20663](http://www.hsus.org/ace/20663)
- In preparation of potential court battles, establish ownership by gathering such papers as vaccination certificates, vet bills, licenses, and proof of adoption or purchase
- Have photos taken of you and your animals
- Understand that new state laws shield animals belonging to you, your children, even the abuser. As a result you may be able to remove the abuser's pets from the home as well

## Many Thanks to our Hardworking Volunteers for all the time, love, and tears they give for the cause.

And to the following businesses and individuals.

- **Alden State Bank** for their many years of support.
- **Antrim County Animal Shelter** for their continued support.
- **Antrim County Businesses** for their support of the Silent Auction and other events.
- **Antrim County Residents** for their outpour of support!
- All the **Antrim County Restaurants** that kindly donate chili for our cook-off every October.
- **Antrim County Review** for their help with PR.
- **Antrim County Veterinarians** and their caring staff for taking care of the animals.
- **Laurel Burke** for designing and planting Debbie's Memorial Garden.
- **Jack Bodis** of **Creative Characters** in Central Lake for his help in the formatting and printing of this newsletter.
- **Carrie Dewey** for all the photos she takes of our adoptables.
- **Christian Randall DVM** and **Brandon Hajdo-Fernandez DVM** and staff from **North Country Veterinary Services of Ellsworth** for all their dedicated work.
- **Tammy Stead** of Bellaire for grooming the Center's pets.
- **Angela Voelker** for her editing skills.
- **Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies** in Gaylord for their donations and support!
- **Mark Winn** for updating WaLHFMMF website.



*Twelve year old birthday girl Paige Ratliff (left), pictured here with sisters Laine and Farah, requested pet gifts from her friends and money from her family to donate to the center.*

*Doug & Dottie Lualdi of Bellaire are loved by 9 year old Jade and 6 year old Tug. Dahila was a 2 year old foster dog, one of many they have placed in caring homes over the years.*



### Winter 2011 Donors of Fifty dollars +

Sally Adamson  
Anonymous  
Carol & Tom Artusi  
Butch & Liz Bartz  
Bellaire Martini Club  
Rose Bohm  
Connie Brigham  
Trudy & Wil Brown  
Rudrick & Mary Ellen  
Boucher  
Chris & Merrie Corbett  
Ann Devergilio  
Nancy DeWeese  
Sophie Dewitt

Nancy Rye & Rob Donlinka  
Barbara Faas  
Marilyn Foren  
Trisha Fox  
Deborah & Steven Francis  
Susan Gates  
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John & Carol Stoutjesdyk  
Stuff & Such/Pat Koch  
Deborah Taylor  
Norma Wagner  
Arlene Westhoven  
Rick & Becky Whiteherse  
Lynda Wolf & Gene Masta

*I get by with  
a little help from  
my friends...*

*-John Lennon*

**Thank You For Your Continued Support! Please accept our sincere apology if your name was inadvertently omitted.**

