

THE BOARD ROOM

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Adoption Event Coordinator - Jen Gallion

Fundraising Coordinator - Chris Hammelev

Newsletter - Cathy McDowell
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Adoption Center, 614 59th Street, Kenosha
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 www.facebook.com/kindredkitties

From the President

Another year has come and gone, and as we embark on our 16th year as a rescue, we are filled with gratefulness for all that we have been able to accomplish as an organization. We look forward with excitement to all the things we can continue to do to make a difference for the cats in our community!

We feel greatly blessed by the variety of ways in which we are supported: by our many volunteers who tirelessly continue to strive to do the many, many tasks that are necessary to function as an organization; by our foster moms and dads who continue to open their homes wide to care for all the special cats and kittens we rescue; by those who are dedicated to providing us with funding to give us the means to be able to do what we do. All of you can be proud of what you offer to Kindred Kitties, and you can be assured that every bit of what you offer makes a very BIG difference to our kitties!

We are looking forward to a productive and busy 2016 ... a year filled with a renewed determination to support our mission of saving as many homeless kitties as possible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we look forward to continuing to work with all of you throughout the coming year

Sincerely,

Cathy McDowell, President

*Individually, we are but one drop,
but together we are an ocean.
-- Ryunosuka Satoro*

STATS

Rescues/Surrenders – In 2015, we rescued 303 cats and kittens (20% more than in 2014). Of that number 21 were returned kindred kitties, 108 were surrendered pets, 129 were unowned cats, 34 were transferred from other shelters, and 11 were born to rescued pregnant cats.

Adoptions – We re-homed 261 kitties (70 adults, 68 teens and 123 kittens)—an increase over 2014!

Spay/Neuter – We continued to make significant strides in helping get many cats spayed/neutered. We spayed a total of 510 cats – 25% were kindred kitties and another 25% were neighborhood kitties (Trap-Neuter-Release) the remainder were owned cats ... a great accomplishment! And, as in the past, where we were unable to help in some areas, we successfully referred individuals to other alternative programs to ensure that we maximized spaying and neutering in general.

Foster Care – Even though we had more adoptions year over year, because of the increased intake, we ended the year with more kitties in foster than we've had in many years. PLEASE spread the word that Kindred Kitties is in need of foster homes for rescued cats and kittens. If anyone you know is interested, please have them inquire by calling 262/605-0533 or checking out the fostering information on our website.

Volunteers – And it is worth repeating again and again that we are so appreciative of the efforts of our volunteers. There are more hours than we can possibly count being invested by those volunteers who keep our Adoption Center clean and monitor the well-being of the cats that reside there, by our ever-dedicated fosters, by those who invest many, many hours in planning and executing our events, by those who regularly devote their time and energy at adoption events, by those who coordinate getting cats into foster homes, or to the vet, or making sure they are up to date on vaccines and properly medicated, and by those behind the scenes who keep the administrative wheels of Kindred Kitties turning. It is the dedication of volunteers at every level of our organization that truly makes Kindred Kitties what it is! Thank you volunteers for all that you have done and continue to do for all the kindred kitties!!

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

As a rescue group, our #1 goal continues to be finding just the right home for each and every cat we rescue. But we also feel that we have made great strides in many other areas that keep our organization alive and "ticking."

New Website – We spent a number of months in the end of 2015 working on rejuvenation of our website and are pleased to say that it has now been launched. We are pleased with our new brand identification and with the fresh new look of our site. It is more user-friendly and more easily navigable. We continue to work on increasing and enhancing the content. If you have not already done so, please take some time to explore the new site, and feel free to Email any comments or suggestions you may have for continued improvement of this great public interface tool.

Vaccination/Microchip Clinic – We were so pleased to be able to hold our first public low-cost vaccination and microchip clinic this past fall, and it was a great success! We have plans to repeat such an event several times throughout the year. And, we need to add that, for the first time, we are now microchipping OUR kindred kitties before they are adopted, thanks to the efforts of Jen Gallion who developed and is now administering that program.

Special Events – Through the dedicated efforts of Chris Hammelev, our vice president and official fundraising coordinator, we have been able not only to enhance and improve our current annual events but are greatly increasing the number of opportunities we have to both inform and engage our community in the important work being done by Kindred Kitties. Keep a close eye on our website for upcoming events, and make sure you note the list of events at the end of this newsletter as well. But more than that, as you look at the events, consider whether you can do more than participate in them. There are many opportunities for volunteering to help at any one of the events listed. Please contact Chris at events@kindredkitties.org with any offers to help, and also any ideas you might have for adding to our event “repertoire.”

Special Needs Kitties

Muffin - One of our rescued mama cats had a beautiful, healthy litter of kittens—all but one that is. It was determined that one of them, a sweet little calico, had a birth defect called “Flat Chest” thought to be caused by a collapsed lung suffered shortly after birth. Specialists surgically attached a splint around her rib cage to help her lungs expand and her rib cage to return to normal shape. After three weeks in the brace, both her breathing and her shape were nearly normal and she is now an active kitty. In addition to the lung issue, she has an abnormal rear left leg. She seems to have adapted to it, but it is still possible that in the future, if it becomes a problem for her, amputation may be necessary. She has now been adopted into a “happily ever after” loving home.

Dublin – On January 9th one of our fosters rescued her first kitten of the season. This precious guy was literally found frozen and stuck between two fence posts. He was a mess and in a lot of pain. He was immediately taken to the ER vet. It was first thought that he had fractured ribs, hip and knee but thankfully, X-rays revealed no broken bones. But he was in serious pain and had a nasty infection brewing on his foot. Treatment included strong antibiotics and hydro-therapy twice a day...there was much concern that the toes had been so damaged they would need to be amputated. By the end of January, due to continued infection and much pain, the toes were removed. His relief was evident. Dublin is now beginning to interact more normally with his foster mom, even while he still has some pretty serious trust issues. We are so pleased with his progress but know that it will take much longer for him to be ready to share himself with a world larger than his foster home. We are so grateful for the devotion and love that Dublin is receiving from his foster mom. Check out our Facebook page for continued updates on this special kitty!

Being a cat rescue can certainly be challenging and we have to give a little bit more sometimes, but we need to remember that it is always our desire to help as many cats as possible by assisting them or rescuing them or saving them from abandonment, or providing them with vet care, or providing spay/neuter opportunities. ALL of them matter, and that is the difference we remain committed to make!!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Your support means everything to us – both your time and the variety of donations you share with us! We make every effort to acknowledge all who contribute to Kindred Kitties, but please know that if you are not acknowledged in the listing below, it is totally unintentional. You can be sure that we are very grateful!

Note: Gifts are not listed in order of importance, but are most often listed by date received, or in order by last name.

Thanks for Sponsoring a Kindred Kitty

EMELIO – Marie DeBock

MARCIE – Chris Hammelev

MINNIE – Stacy Krause

RUTHERFORD – Meagan Fournier & Allison Treloar



Special Thanks

- To Josh for choosing to build our wonderful basement shelves as his Eagle Scout Project
- To CARE Animal Hospital, Kenosha for 2015 Annual Holiday Fundraising
- To Rianne Cavage for 80 New Towels and 1 Blanket
- To Ken & Sheryl Clark for donation of Alliant Energy Stock
- To those choosing Auto PayPal for monthly giving: Susan Brown, Renee Diedrichs, Stacy Krause & Scott Sanborn
- To Lynn Day of *Comfort for Critters* for her handmade carrier liners and catnip mice
- To Carrie Gedeon & Adolfo Dorta for *Day of the Dead* Convention Fundraising
- To Slobodan Lazarevic for donating his "Fat Cat Raffle" winnings
- To Carrie Peters and Trisha Trathen for donation of fleece blankets
- To Dan Becker of Forever Floors for replacement linoleum for Adoption Center front window
- To Nancy Huck for donation of Adoption Center fire extinguisher annual update costs
- To Mary Kessenich for her donation of both the materials and proceeds from the sales of her handmade crafts, and for the many other items donated for resale and raffle at KK events
- To Rockheads Comics & Games for their stupendous fall food drive
- To Vigeomedia LLC. Goodsearch, Goodshop, Amazonsmile, Humblestore, Paypal Giving Fund, eBayGive whose programs include sharing of proceeds with non-profit organizations
- To four very special young ladies for sharing their piggybank proceeds with us: Madelyn/Kailee Richardson, Madelyn Johnson and Avery Hoffman
- To Christina Graham, Realtor (and the Paulkner Family) for choosing to share a % of the realtor commission with us
- To Max Johnson for sharing his 8th birthday presents (all kinds of good stuff) with us
- To all of you who contributed toward the substantial cost of vet bills: for Dublin – Linda Borneman, Christian Castro, Katie Grum, Brian & Beth McLain, Myra Takerian; for Esmerelda & BulaBula – Paul Cook; for Goldie (Amy Bergeson, Jaci Dudley, Carrie Gedeon, Katie McLain, Steven Penn, Scott Sanborn; for Muffin – Lyn Flynn, Brian & Beth McLain and Jeff & Gina Pickhardt

Honorariums

- Janet Behling – In honor of grandson Harper's love for kitties
- Rick Braunshausen – In honor of Valerie Braunshausen
- Muriel Cunningham – In honor of Kindred Kitties 15th Anniversary Milestone
- Susan Debettignies – In honor of Nancy Byers
- Carol Hegmann – In honor of kindred kitty Edward
- Ed & Bev Heys – In honor of Mini & Tucker, their special kindred kitties
- B.J. & Mike Kukulka – In honor of kindred kitties Athena & Bosco
- Robin Lester & Katie Traxel – In honor of kitties Professor MacBean & Norton Atrendo
- Christopher & Barbara Treloar – In honor of Allison & Aaron

Memorials

- Marilyn & Fred Barre and Kathy Houle - In memory of Beverly Willis
- Paula Gallo – In memory of Boones, Tweeker & Merlot
- Rod & Lori Benstead, David Krajnak, Charles Loth, Linda & Harold Marcussen, Thomas Orendorff, Kathy Sheanhan, Agnes Strassheim, Eugene & Sherron Vanderzee and Judy & Peter West – In memory of Dan Strassheim
- Co-Workers Linda Badzioch, Sheri Baker, Cheryl Bauman, Patti DuPree, Christine Gordon, Patty Mooney, Sue Mountford, Lynn Nelson, Louis Okrzesik, Marlys Rolff, Chris Russell, Teresa Smet and Judy Starr – In memory of Fay Ford
- Jory – In memory of her cat Alex
- Marilyn Heffernen – In memory of her beloved husband Michael K. Heffernan
- Bernard Greninger – In memory of his daughter and KK volunteer, Jeanne Greninger
- Penny Seymoure – In memory of kindred kitties Shelby & Feli
- Jenny Workman – In memory of Pat Ewing who adored cats
- Jill Hancock – In memory of Rags
- Ruth Hagert – In memory of Red
- Kathleen Hagert – In memory of Spotty
- Rita Gronemeyer – In loving memory of Tux
- Vincent Kendzierski – In memory of Simon Kendzierski



A Very Special Memorial- In 2015, we lost one of our long-time, favorite kindred kitties—Jake...known and loved by all the volunteers. Born in an outside colony, he was rescued in 2008. Jake always had cats around him, snuggling with one cat or another. In 2013, Mary Kessenich took Jake home to be a part of her "brood" where he truly thrived (and continued to snuggle with everyone of course)! Without warning, last June, he suffered acute kidney failure, and we had to say our sad goodbyes. He was one of a kind and can never, ever be replaced. He will never be forgotten, and we know he waits for us all at the Rainbow Bridge!

Thanks to Companies & Employees Participating In Workplace Giving Programs

- Abbott Labs: Anonymous, Letitia Dabbs, Erika Fietze, Carrie Shane, Jane Sheehan, Joseph Tyrriver, Ana Wismer
- Abbyie: Elizabeth Anderson, Anonymous, James Baum, Ronald Gott, Heidi Hocker, Julie Nudi, Lisa Paz, Marion Refici-Buhr
- Allstate: Laura Wagoner
- Aurora Health Care: Marygrace Lobue
- Morgan Stanley Employee Giving Match: Paula Penn
- UBS Employee Giving Match: Diane Veenendaal
- United Way of Lake County: Anonymous, Susan Scherer

Thanks for Supplies/Food/Equipment/Gift Cards

Riley Achterhof	Bruce Bitzan	Tina Bonofiglio	Cindy Bruno
Jane Cassity	Mary Collins	Kevin Cunningham	Joe Dvorak
Rami Fleifel	Chris Green	Harborside Academy	Aaron Hoel
Nate Hunter	Mary Keen	Cathy Keffer	Mary Klassy
Roberta Kohlstedt	Dave & Brenda Kurklis	Michael Laudonio	Mary & Alexander Lindquist
Cathy McDowell	Jon Mulligan	Mary Neubaum	Carol Oberst
Linda Perreault	Samantha Platz	Nancy Pokrzewinski	Robert Dvorak Estate
Edgard A. Schott II	Alyssa Skalitzky	Kathy Strache	Mike Stroming
Peter Wilson			

And to those of you who send your very generous donations to help support our needs, thank you!

Patricia Akstulewicz	Eric Albrecht	John & Shirley Aldred	Marilyn & Larry Anderson
Denise Areneson	Aunt Nancy	Lois Bainter	Big River Darts
Peggy Boerman	Bookkeeping Connection	Peggy Bounds	Rick Braunshausen
Angela Bretschneider	Susan Brown	Nancy Byers	Sara J. Christianson
Mary Collins	Paul & Kris Cook	Robert Cook	Letitia Dabbs
Emma DeRosa	Pamela Diedrich	Jennifer Dooley	Laurence Ellis
Linnea Elrod	Jill Falduto	Lyn Flynn	Brooke Garris
Jean Griffith	Patti Hall	Eva Harmon	Stan & Beverly Harrod
Rudolph & Helen Havranek	Mary Herbert	Scott Hoffman	Marygrace Horner
Wren Ide	Marge Illich	Paula Illich	Roberta Jorgensen
Rebecca Juliani	Simon & Vincent Kendzierski	Colleen Kernan	Mary Kessenich
Laura Kresch	Emily Krueger	Kazimierz & Crystyna Kubicki	Patricia & Gary Lepp
Mary Levall	Don & Joan Logan	Nancy Lurie	Josie & Sophie Malinowski
Jonathan Marshll	Cathy McDowell	Brian & Beth McLain	Sandra Mecozzi
Leslie Mehalko	Lauren Mercado	TJ Nejmanowski & C. Saimond	Carol Oberst
Dolores Pacettie	Steven & Paula Penn	Jeff & Gina Pickhardt	Maryjean Pierce
Isabel Porter	Israel Ramon	Corinne Reuter	Judy Reynolds
M.M. & D.P. Richmond	Sandra Rommel	Jeffrey & Linda Scheffler	Linda Schmidt
Danielle Schweitzer	Joretta Smith	Mary Stanke	Stacey Stanley
Bel & Irene Swann	Alex & Kathy Tarsitano	Deb Toff	Carl & Diane Veenendaal
Jeanice Walker	Karen Wallert	Sheri Wistrom	Lily Young

EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

We capped last year off with a number of successful fundraisers. Our 6th Annual *In The Bag* event was a success and netted us much needed funding to continue to carry on all our worthwhile programs. We added a couple of new, fun events: A Painting Party (held at Rockheads—thank you!) under the guidance of Beth Neptune Langdon, and an Ornament Painting Party at Alpaca Art. And once again this year, we participated in Lightin' Up Downtown Kenosha Window Decorating Contest and came away with Grand Prize, thanks to the efforts of our many talented KK artists!!

This year already, we have had a Culver's Night at the Sheridan Road Culver's and *Luck of the Draw II Scotch Doubles Tournament* was recently held at Claws' Billiards. Thanks to Chris Hammelev and all the dedicated volunteers who made both of these events a great success!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEAT THE HEAT 2016

Kindred Kitties Spay/Neuter Awareness Walk

Saturday, April 9, 2016

9:00 a.m. Registration 10:00 a.m. Walk (2.3 Miles)

Lake Andrea (Beach Pavilion), Pleasant Prairie
(The lake is off Hwy. 165, 1 mile east of I-94 behind the
Pleasant Prairie RecPlex)

Children 10 & under are Free

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Registration: \$20 in advance. \$25 March 26th through event
(Must be registered and paid in full by March 25 to receive T-shirt.)

ONLINE REGISTRATION www.eventbrite.com
(Search for Beat the Heat)

For downloadable registration forms go to: www.kindredkitties.org

Email questions to: events@kindredkitties.org

SAVE THE DATES!!!

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EVENTS -- OR TO VOLUNTEER AT ANY OF OUR EVENTS -- VISIT
kindredkitties.org or Email events@kindredkitties.org**

"Rockin' for the Animals IV" Benefit for No-Kill Animal Rescues

Saturday, April 9th

Hattrix, 2425 60th Street, Kenosha Doors Open at 4:00 PM

More details to follow on our website and Facebook – also watch your mailbox and Emails!!!

Kindred Kitties Night at Culvers

Monday, April 11th – 5:00-8:00pm -- Sheridan Road Culvers ONLY! (8124 Sheridan Road)

Kindred Kitties Night at Simmons Field with the Kingfish

Saturday, July 9th

More info to come!

Concert for the Kitties Sponsored by Dr. Destruction

Saturday, May 14th

More info to come!

HELP NEEDED!

Your ongoing support is imperative to help us continue to do the best we can for our kindred kitties as well as for the many other cats in our community that we are unable to physically take in. You can help in a variety of ways: (1) donate directly to our organization to help us cover the myriad of bills we have to take maintain the health and well-being of our cats as well as address emergency needs; (2) participate in one of the fun events scheduled over the upcoming months; (3) offer to volunteer in one of many ways (fostering, socializing cats, participating at adoption events, assisting at fundraising events, cleaning and maintaining our Adoption Center, transporting cats for spay/neuter or vet visits, or assisting in administrative tasks as they arise; (4) keep an eye on our Facebook page and our website for our more immediate and often one-time needs.

WISH LIST

We are in need of just a few supplies right now. If you are able, please drop items off at our Adoption Center during open hours: Tue-Wed-Fri-Sat Afternoons

*No-Perfume/Dye Laundry Soap / Bleach / Med. Cat Carriers / HD 30-Gal. Trash Bags / "Soft Soap" Hand Soap
Dawn Dish Soap / Med. Litter Boxes / Terrycloth Hand Towels & Wash Cloths / Bottled Water for Volunteers
Small Bags Purina Kitten Chow / Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR) / Fancy Feast Ocean White Fish Kitten Pate'*



MEET CAROLINA & JUNIE!



Carolina and Junie are an awesome older duo who are looking for their second chance at a loving home. Their former caregivers moved and chose not to take them along. They were recently surrendered to the humane society, and as they were both Kindred Kitties alums, we were contacted and took them back into our care.

Carolina is about 12 years old and was adopted as a kitten back in 2004. She was born with Cerebellar Hypoplasia and is also known as a "wobbler." This does not affect her quality of life and our vets have given her a clean bill of health. She is a little different than your average cat in that she wobbles when she walks and sometimes loses her balance altogether. She has no problems with eating or using the litter box, but she is definitely a "one-story" kitty...stairs would be dangerous for her. Carolina is a sweetheart, loves to be petted and seeks attention. She also loves to run and play (albeit a bit precariously) both chasing and batting at toys.

Junie, Carolina's sister from another mother, was adopted as an adult in 2008 and became Carolina's roommate and special companion. She is now about 10 years old and has also been given a clean bill of health from our vet. She is very petite and quite a bit more reserved than our "social butterfly" Carolina, but once she becomes familiar with you, she is sweet and affectionate, and loves to be petted.

These two kitties are looking for a special home where they can spend their "golden years" together.

A Bit About Cerebellar Hypoplasia

Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH) is a disorder where the cerebellum of the brain has not fully formed. There are various causes such as bacterial or viral infections, feline pan leukopenia (caused by feline parvovirus), but it can also be caused by poisoning, injury or malnutrition. Some common symptoms are jerky movement, wobbly, uncoordinated walking and head bobbing. There is no cure for CH; it doesn't get better, but it also doesn't get worse. A kitten will learn to compensate for her condition and have a normal lifespan. There are many cats and kittens with this condition that are put down because it's thought that their quality of life is less than perfect. But it is well known how amazing these cats can be. To learn more, there is actually a Facebook Group called "Cerebella Hypoplasia Cats and Kittens" (which is where this information was made available to us).