

Kindred Kitties is a non-profit, no-kill rescue organization aimed at proactively addressing the plight of homeless cats.

### Kindred Kitties Board of Directors

Pam Diedrich - President  
Ryan Erjavac - Vice President  
Kristin Agner - Treasurer  
Mary Kessenich - Secretary  
Cathy McDowell - Adoption Center Manager  
Jen Erjavac - Foster Coordinator  
Jimee Dunn - Member at Large  
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## Cat Stats

### Rescues / Surrenders

Year-to-date through August, we have taken in 253 cats and kittens – 26% more than the same time last year. Of that number, seven were returned kindred kitties, 106 were surrendered pets, 31 were transferred from other shelters, 84 were unowned cats, and 24 were born to rescued pregnant cats.

### Adoptions

We are exceeding last year's pace by 22%, and through August, we have matched 200 kitties with new families: 47 adults, 35 teens and 118 kittens.

### Spay / Neuter

So far this year, we've facilitated spay/neuter of a total of 354 – a 56% increase over last year! Eighteen percent of that number were done under a TNR program and returned to their neighborhoods. Where we are unable to help in some areas, we have been successful in referring many individuals to alternative programs to ensure that we maximized spaying and neutering in general...a mission we take very seriously.

### Fostering

What a great team of foster families we have!!! They invest a huge amount of their time, energy and emotion in housing and loving (and then letting go of) our kindred kitties. While the number is always in flux due to adoptions and intake of new cats and kittens, at the end of August we were housing a total of 73 cats at the Adoption Center and in foster homes combined. Our ability to respond to calls requesting that we take cats is based solely on availability of foster space. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming a foster family, please have them inquire by calling 262.605.0533 or checking the information on our website at <https://www.kindredkitties.org/programs/foster-programs/>

# Upcoming Events



September 2023

## Adoption Event Update

Did you know Kindred Kitties is showing kittens at the brand new Pet Supplies Plus (PSP) Store at 3755 80th Street in Kenosha? They recently held their Grand Opening on September 16th and 17th and we were there!! The owner and staff have been very welcoming and accommodating to us. Please check this store out for all your pet supply needs!! Based on the availability of foster cats and kittens, we will be at PSP on select Saturdays and Sundays. Please check KK facebook page for upcoming dates and times.



If you stop by when we're there, visit the Kindred Kitties table and say 'hi' to our volunteer Kristin Brown. Kristin has been doing adoption events for Kindred Kitties for over 20 years! She's a very personable and knowledgeable resource and does a great job representing our rescue. We appreciate you, Kristin -- thanks for all your years of service for the kitties!



## Fundraiser Event

Skip cooking dinner and leave it to Noodles & Co.

**Monday, October 2, 2023**

**Noodles & Company**

**6320 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha  
(only at the Kenosha East Location)**

**4:00pm - 8:00pm**

You must mention **KINDRED KITTIES** when ordering for us to receive donation.

Enter offer code **GIVING25** if using the Noodles app or online ordering at <https://www.noodles.com/order>

**25%**

of sales will benefit  
Kindred Kitties





# More Events



September 2023



2023  
**Feline Festive  
Online Auction**



**November 16th-27th**

## Kindred Kitties Needs Your Help!

**Please donate items for this year's major fundraiser, the Feline Festive Online Auction**

Some examples of popular items include:

- 🐾 New Items that can be auctioned on their own such as toys, tools, jewelry, artwork, etc.
- 🐾 Themed Baskets - or items for baskets
- 🐾 Services (pet sitting, hair styling, etc.)
- 🐾 Experiences (spa visit, sporting event, theatre tickets, timeshare, etc.)
- 🐾 Wine & Liquor
- 🐾 Gift Cards/Certificates
- 🐾 Monetary Donations

**Donations can be dropped off at:  
1551 45th Avenue, Kenosha  
October 14 & 15, 10am-3pm**

If you are unable to drop off on these days/times, please email [events@kindredkitties.org](mailto:events@kindredkitties.org), or call 262.605.0533 and leave a message, so we can make other arrangements with you.

*Thank you for your support!*

## The Cat's Glass 2 Day Sale Event!

Come out and find something special for yourself, or the animal lovers in your life. It is never too early to get a start on your holiday shopping!

**Saturday & Sunday  
October 14th and 15th  
10:00am - 3:00pm (rain or shine)  
1551 45th Avenue, Kenosha**

If you haven't seen the beautiful hand-painted glassware made by our talented volunteer, Mary Kessenich, you have really missed out! Mary paints cats (and dogs) on various types of glassware—wine glasses, footed mugs, and coffee cups. She can even paint custom images from photos. Not only that, **she donates 100% of the proceeds to Kindred Kitties!**

In addition to her glassware, Mary also makes amazing textile items! She has pot holders, microwave bowl/plate holders, dish towels, and beautiful wallets in cat and dog-patterned fabrics. She also makes cat-shaped pillows, and catnip cat toys. New this year are cute cat head-shaped coin pouches and shoulder purses.



Can't make the big sale? The Cat's Glass will also be at the following area craft fairs:

**November 4**

Case High School Craft Fair, Racine

**November 18th**

Shoreland High School Craft Fair, Kenosha

**December 9th**

Holiday Gifting & Art Fair

Gateway Technical College, Kenosha



## Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH) in Cats

Over the years, Kindred Kitties has had a number of adults and kittens that have been diagnosed with varying degrees of CH who have been adopted into forever homes. We currently have two adult cats, Mandi and Missy in a Permanent Foster Home, who are severely uncoordinated and have a modified living space. We also have a kitten, Jaclyn, who is mildly affected by CH. She is a bit wobbly but navigates the world pretty much like a normal kitten. She is still looking for her forever home!!

### What is cerebellar hypoplasia?

CH is a developmental condition in which the cerebellum of the brain fails to develop properly. The cerebellum is the portion of the brain that controls fine motor skills, balance, and coordination. The condition is not painful or contagious.



### What causes it?

CH most commonly occurs when a pregnant cat becomes infected with feline panleukopenia virus and passes the infection to her unborn kittens. The panleukopenia virus preferentially attacks rapidly dividing cells. During the perinatal period (i.e., in the last weeks of pregnancy and the first weeks after birth) the cerebellum is undergoing rapid growth and development, making it vulnerable to attack by the virus. The condition may only affect one kitten in a litter or may involve all littermates.

### What are the symptoms?

Since the cerebellum is responsible for purposeful movement and coordination, the symptoms of this condition may not become apparent until the kitten starts to try and stand or walk on its own. The severity of the symptoms depends on how much of the cerebellum was affected and at what stage in its development the infection occurred.

The most typical symptoms are jerky or uncoordinated walking, swaying from side to side when trying to walk, a goose-stepping gait called hypermetria, mild head tremors, and/or intention tremors. Intention tremors are tremors that occur when the kitten intends to make some sort of movement. Intention tremors may be present to a minor degree when the kitten walks, but will usually become more pronounced when the kitten tries to do something more involved such as playing with a toy or bending over to drink or eat out of a bowl.

### Are there any other causes of this condition?

It is possible that a kitten could develop cerebellar hypoplasia if its mother is severely malnourished during her pregnancy or if the kitten suffers a physical trauma to its brain during the period of time when the cerebellum is developing. Other inflammatory diseases of the brain such as toxoplasmosis infection may cause similar symptoms. However, the most common cause of this condition by far is infection with panleukopenia virus.

### How is this condition diagnosed?

Cerebellar hypoplasia cannot be detected using routine laboratory tests. In some cases, an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) may show that the kitten has a smaller than normal cerebellum. [When we as a rescue notice symptoms that appear to be CH, we take our kitties to the vet and confirmation is made by physical examination.]

### What is the treatment?

Since the condition is caused by a lack of development of the brain, there is no treatment.

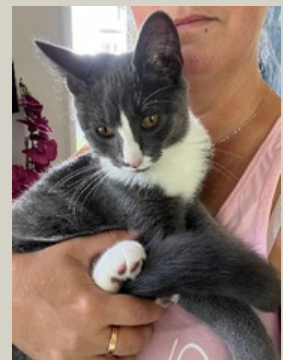
### How can this condition be prevented?

This disease can be prevented by vaccination of female cats against panleukopenia prior to pregnancy. [But obviously, in the world of cat rescue, many of our pregnant strays it is unlikely that vaccines have ever been done, and we are unable to know the history of many of our kittens found without a mama.]

### What is the prognosis?

Kittens with cerebellar hypoplasia are not infectious to other kittens or cats, are not in any pain, and will learn to adapt to their disability over time. They can safely be spayed or neutered but must be kept indoors as they are prone to losing their balance and could easily be injured or attacked if they go outdoors. If their symptoms are pronounced, they may require special modifications in their home environment, including dishes that are raised off the floor for easier access. Although some kittens may be more prone to minor injuries associated with falls, all of them are able to have a normal life expectancy provided they are given some extra tender loving care.

Source: VCA Animal Hospital  
Contributors: Tammy Hunter, DVM & Cheryl Yuill, DVM





# Volunteer



September 2023

## Fostering: Making a Difference



We believe there is a real difference in cats cared for in a foster versus a shelter environment.

Fostered cats spend little or no time in a cage and become familiar with a home environment. They have less exposure to contagious diseases, more socialization and more personalized attention. (This level of care is especially important for cats with special needs.) Foster parents are able to actively engage with the kitties to learn those special characteristics that make each cat unique. Very often interaction includes children and other household pets. All of these factors provide an environment where each cat's behaviors and personality traits can be well which leads to better matching of a cat with a prospective adopter.

At Kindred Kitties, all cats that we take in begin in a foster home, and if space is available, we prefer that they remain in foster care until adoption. However, many of our cats do transition to our Adoption Center. Adult cats who start out in foster homes, and are determined to get along with other cats may be moved to the Adoption Center after three weeks in foster care. Kittens that are housed in a foster home may be moved to the Adoption Center at five months of age.

The number of cats and kittens we are able to help depends entirely on the number of foster homes we have. Over the last month alone, we've had to turn away over 30 cats and kittens because we didn't have the space to house them. It should be noted that there are different kinds of fostering opportunities available. Some foster homes house just one cat, others a litter of kittens, others might be special needs kitties. Some commitments are short term, while others may be a bit longer.



Please consider volunteering for this urgently needed position!! Yes, it takes a real commitment to foster cats, but the reward far outweighs the time invested! For more information on what is entailed in fostering for Kindred Kitties please call us at 262.605.0533 or check out the information on our website at <https://www.kindredkitties.org/programs/foster-programs>

# From Our Fosters...



September 2023

**Kindred Kitties currently has 24 foster homes and we could use many more!! We have some veterans and some “newbies” but all have one thing in common – their love of cats!! Here is what a few of our current fosters have to say about their foster experience:**

I don't remember filling out the application to become a foster but 2 weeks before I was to retire, I received a call from Cathy. Kindred was desperate for fosters! I told her I would be available in 2 weeks and sure enough, the day after I retired, I became a foster to seven little ones. I quickly learned that even though I had been a cat owner for years, I had a lot to learn! Eight years later I'm still learning but love being a foster and helping find wonderful forever homes for cats and kittens! JH

My love for cats started at a very young age. Every opportunity I had to be with or around cats, count me in! I always had passion to one day foster. Once my children finished college and started their own lives, it was time to open our home. We have been a Foster Home for over two years with Kindred Kitties and fostering has been wonderful and brings so much joy. Providing a safe and loving environment until they find their forever home, is priceless. I enjoy every day that I can foster and provide every kitten (and cat) that comes into our home a chance for a good life. It is so rewarding to see your foster kitten, whom you have loved and cared for, start a new life with someone else who will do the same – for the rest of their life! MW

My volunteer fostering job is the hardest and most rewarding job I've ever had. When that small newborn kitten makes it through the first night and then the next night. When a sickly underweight kitten grows into a loving beautiful kitten. It makes you happy to see them go to a wonderful, loving forever home. The forever home that is so happy to get them. People ask “how do you give them up?” I tell them that if I keep this kitten, I would not be able to take the next one. It's also fun to see that kitten you get next. And there is an endless supply! In fact, the hardest thing is the one you can't take because you don't have the room for it. BS

I have been fostering for Kindred Kitties since June 19, 2005, and in that time, I have fostered 997 cats and kittens. I wish I could unsee some of the horrors of homelessness and neglect. I wish I could have saved the ones who couldn't be saved. But for the ones I could, I am grateful. Fostering is just part of who I am, and it gives a special purpose to my life. I love seeing the joy on people's faces on adoption day, and it is worth it all when my foster kitties find their purrfect forever homes. DP

At the time we started fostering in 2019, we did not have any pets of our own. We thought it be a good way to see if we wanted to commit to having our own pets. We now have 2 cats and a dog, but still love to foster. It is so rewarding to see shy little kitties blossom and find their forever families! The most common question we are asked is how we can let them go? But the answer is quite simple to us: the more kitties we let go, the more kitties we can help. Seeing the excitement on the faces of families committing to their new family members sure helps a whole lot too!! CJ



I often get asked how I can let go of my foster cats and kittens when they get adopted, but I think that is the best part. Knowing that I was part of their journey from a past, that in many cases, was a life of suffering and desperation, to a hopeful future full of fun, love and longevity with a Forever Family is extremely rewarding. CK

I began fostering to help homeless cats and kittens, however, I have found I keep fostering for the sheer joy of it. Not only is nurturing and socializing the kittens in itself a joyful experience but there is also so much joy in helping them find their forever homes! I love seeing the excitement and happiness of the adopters when they come to pick up their new companions. It is so rewarding to play a small part in bringing them together, helping not only the cat or kitten find joy but helping their humans find it too! HP



Fostering kittens is fun for me. I get a great deal of satisfaction when they are adopted into good homes. Fostering may not change the world, but for my kittens I've changed their world! MK



I love giving and receiving love from the kitties I foster. Letting them know that there are people that will love and be kind to them. It's hard to give them up but it brings me joy to see them happy in their forever home. SM

# Many Thanks!



September 2023

THANK YOU! Your support means everything to us --both your time and money! We make every effort to acknowledge all who contribute to Kindred Kitties in a variety of ways. If you were not mentioned below, please know that it is totally unintentional. Each of you makes a difference!

The following donations were received May through August 2023.

## *In Memory of...*

**Alice Orr**

by Bonnie Orr and Cathryn Wilkomm

**Bentley**

by B & J's Pampered Pup Bakery,  
Ann & Joe Kessing

**Chris Kirchen**

by Debbie Skelley and Elaine Ford

**Genna Lee Barrette**

by Georgia Kalmbrunn

**Gloria Jonas**

by Shari Due, Rick Jonas, Melvin  
Stack, Mary Harms and Gayle Ness

**Great Grandcat "Moe"**

by Marie DeBock

**KK Sassy**

by Danielle Schweitzer

**Kirsten McVey**

by Kathy Brand

**Roman**

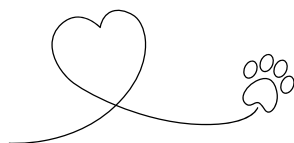
by Marnie Wojtanek

**Simon Kentzierski**

by Vincent Kendzierski

**Tornado "Torra"**

by Ramon Israel



## *In Honor of...*

**Zara's Birthday** by Reiko Amimura

**Zoe** by Janice Craig-Rayat

**Marvin** by Debbie Grube

**Jill Hancock's Birthday** by Donna  
Hancock, Jeff and Yvonne

**Meatball** by Allison Treloar

**Audi, Luna & Jack** by Marnie  
Wojtanek

## *Sponsorships*

Adoption Center Kitties  
by Stacy Krause

Mama Ethel by Marie DeBock



## *Donations*

Belles of St. Mary, Inc.  
Jennifer Bero

Dr. Ken & Sheryl Clark

Kathryn Garski

Rita Gronemeyer

John Guion

Shelly Heather

Catherine Hibbard

Judith & Patrick Hotavis

Nancy Huck

Rosa Hurtado

Wren Ide

Rachel J

Mary Kessenich

Jarlene Kriehn

Margaret Kuehl

Belinda Lawrence

Wally Lindberg

Susan Loggans

James Mayew

Sheryl McGrath

Beth McLain

Shelley Nudi

Bonnie Oneill

Lisa Quinn

Barbara Robertson

Danielle Schweitzer

Anna Seward

PK Shader

Erik Solita

Amber Stone

Joseph Tiso

Mary Vozel

Phyllis Weinberg

Merry Jo Wellman

Mary Whiting

Colleen Widmar

Carla Wilks

Michelle Woller



# With Gratitude!



September 2023

## Employee Giving / Company Match

### Abbott Labs

Anonymous, Elizabeth Anderson, Letitia Dabbs, Lorraine Mich, Bradley Santeler, Steven Wendling

### AbbVie

Anonymous, Erika Fietze, Heather Edwards, Heidi Hocker, Lisa Baker, Marion Refici

### Advocate Aurora

Mary Lobue, Michelle Penberthy

### Allstate Foundation

Krystal Smuda

### AT&T

Anonymous

### BMO Financial Group

Theresa Kratochvil

### Costco Wholesale

Anonymous, Stephanie Brown

### Discover Financial

Kathleen Anstrand

### Global Reward Solutions

Anonymous

### JCPenney

Jennifer Maguire

### Microsoft Rewards

Anonymous

### Pfizer

Kori Glave, Deborah Grube, Kathleen Anstrar

### Takeda

LouAnn Gifford

### United Way of Lake County

Susan Scherer



## Food, Supplies & Equipment

Anonymous Donors

Jay Bedor

Jenny M. Benscoter

Linda Borneman

Faith Bose

Stephanie Brown

Allan Cargille

Cathy's

Kim Checchi

Jody Davis

Sandra DeCesaro

Mindy Doherty

Emond Family

Festival Foods

Jym Grube

Wren Ide

Cynthia Ingram

Fran Jurgensmeyer

Ben Jerry

Jodi

Jeanne Kelly

Mary Kessenich

Julie Klobuchar-Giles

Kroger's - Kenosha

Pam Kula

Deborah Jo Ludowise

Melinda Manbeck

Kari Marquardt

Donna Marquis

Eff McDonald

Beth McLain

Jim & Judy Mitchell

Dawn Morrison

Michael G. Niccolai

Autumn Palmer

Patty

Jake Rasch

Danielle Schweitzer

Susan Stern

Debra Toff

Valari Villalobos

Julia Weber

Kathy Wojtak

John Yarbrough

## Employee Giving Programs

Many businesses allow employees to make donations to the non-profit organization of their choice through payroll, and some companies may even match those donations. The following area employers have Employee Giving Programs and some of our current donors use them to make a difference for us! If you are an employee of any of these companies, consider making a donation to Kindred Kitties through work. If your employer is not listed below, ask them about employee giving, and also if they match donations. Some companies are also known to match the donations of their retirees' charitable contributions; you may want to check into that as well.

## Online Programs

Amazon Smile

Paypal Giving Fund

Facebook Contributions \$910



Special Thanks to Richard Zielinski, Extinguish Fire Protection Inc. of Pleasant Prairie, for updating the Adoption Center fire extinguishers!!

Abbott Labs

AbbVie

Advocate Aurora

Aon

Allstate Foundation

AT&T

BMO Financial Group

CarMax

CNH Industrial

Costco Wholesale

Discover Financial

Hospira

IAC

JCPenney

Liberty Mutual

Microsoft Rewards

Morgan Stanley

New York Life

Pfizer

Takeda

Trustmark

UBS

United Health Care

United Way of Lake County

United Way of Metro Chicago