

# Purrs & Meows



September 2024 Mewsletter

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

## Kindred Kitties Board of Directors

Ryan Erjavac - President  
Jimee Dunn - Vice President  
Kristin Agner - Treasurer  
Mary Kessenich - Secretary  
Cathy McDowell - Adoption Center Manager  
Jen Erjavac - Foster Coordinator  
Heather Parisi - Member at Large



Ron & Chris, Available for adoption

## Cat Stats

### Rescues / Surrenders

In the third quarter (July/August/September) we rescued 116 cats and kittens. Of that number, 34 were surrendered pets, 77 were unowned cats, and 7 were transferred from other rescues.

### Spay / Neuter

From July through September, we facilitated 185 spay/neuters and are pleased to say that about 30% were owned or feral cats that we were able to assist with low-cost options.

Simon  
Available for  
adoption



### Adoptions

We re-homed 86 kitties (9 adults, 5 teens and 72 kittens)!

### Fosters

We have had more cats in foster than in most other years – particularly adult cats, and ended the quarter with a total of 125 cats in our care! PLEASE spread the word that Kindred Kitties continues to be in need of committed foster homes. If anyone you know is interested, please have them inquire by calling 262/605-0533 or checking out the fostering information on our website at <https://www.kindredkitties.org/programs/foster-programs/>

## Volunteers Needed

Can you lend a paw? It is the dedication of our volunteers at every level of our organization that truly makes Kindred Kitties what it is! Your time and effort is greatly appreciated and needed. We have many volunteer opportunities available including roles that directly involve cat care and those that don't. There's something for everyone. We are looking for those to help with administrative functions, assist with intake, fundraising, grant writing, event planning, marketing/web design, transport, maintenance/repair, and of course, we are always in need of loving homes that can foster a cat or kittens. Please check out our volunteer opportunities at <https://www.kindredkitties.org/get-involved/volunteer-information/> and complete an application today. You can make a difference in a cat's life while you make a difference in your own!

# What's Happening?



September 2024

## Building Update



On October 19th, 2024, we officially moved to 3200 Sheridan Road! It took a couple of truckloads and lots of hard work but by the end of the day, the cats were settled in and adjusting to their new environment. We would like to thank all those who helped with the move from those who organized the transition to those who lifted the heavy boxes, cleaned the cages and setup the center, to those who made sure the cats were safe and secure until they were ready for their new digs. After letting the cats and volunteers adjust to the new space for a few weeks, the Adoption Center officially resumed regular drop-in visiting hours on November, 9th, 2024. The cats seem to love life at 3200! Please stop by and check it out.

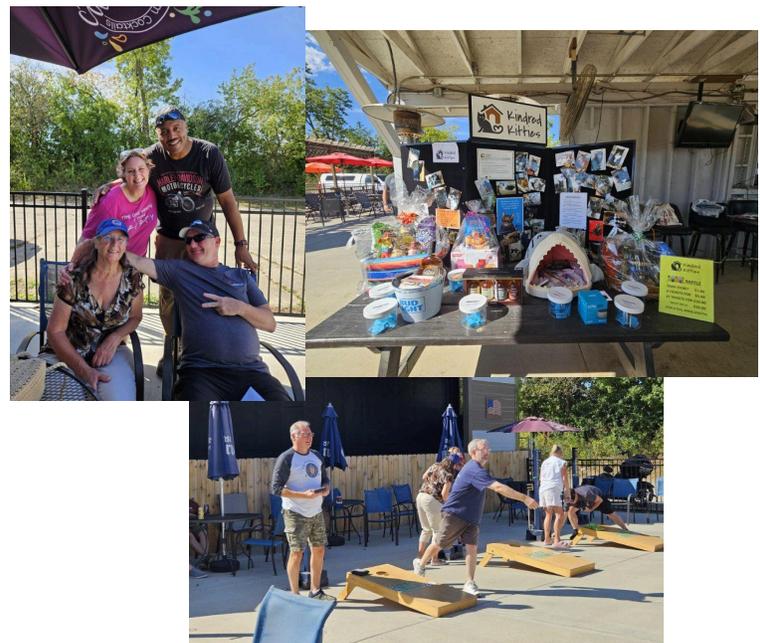
Currently, we are in Phase One of our occupancy of 3200. When the building was purchased, it consisted of five suites of offices with three current tenants and our plan was to occupy two of the suites. As of November 1st, 2024 another suite has become available and we are excited to enlarge our pawprint. As time and funds allow, we will begin to expand into this space. We are planning an open house in January to celebrate the new year at the new center and to share plans for future expansion within the building. Please stay tuned for more information!

Please consider donating to help us expand our services at:  
<https://www.kindredkitties.org/giving/donate-today/>

## Hairball Hurl 2024



We at Kindred Kitties would like to express our thanks to all that came out to our first ever Hairball Hurl bags tournament! 18 teams participated. We had lots of fun, met some new friends and the weather was great! We would also like to thank The Lanes on 20 for hosting the event for us and the Cat's Glass for providing a merchandise table. There was also some wonderful raffle baskets put together by Mary and the events team. A good time was had by all. Please join us next year!



# Upcoming Events



September 2024



Share Night for....  
**KINDRED KITTIES**



Enjoy great food, raffles and fun while supporting Kindred Kitties

**Monday January 20, 2025**

**5:00pm to 8:00pm**

8124 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha  
(only at the Sheridan Rd. Location)

## The Cat's Glass

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! The Cat's Glass will be at :

**Shoreland High School Craft Fair, Kenosha**  
**Saturday, November 23rd, 2024**

**9am-3pm**

**9026 12th St., Kenosha**

**&**

**Gateway Holiday Gifting & Art Fair**

**Saturday, December 12th, 2024**

**9am-3pm**

**3520 30th Ave, 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 trifold wallets in cat and dog fabric.



**See's CANDIES.**

### Time for some Yum-Raising!

Order See's delicious chocolates and candies from the link below thru December 6th, and **Kindred Kitties** will receive a portion of the proceeds.

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/kindredk\\_kindred\\_kitties61/DawMor2840/candy](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/kindredk_kindred_kitties61/DawMor2840/candy)

These premier chocolates make awesome gifts... or just as a treat for yourself while sitting on the couch with your cat!

## THE WONDER OF



Do you ever wonder why cat's whiskers are so important? A cat's whiskers, technically called vibrissae, are far more than just cute facial features. These sensitive hairs are vital tools for navigation, communication, and even hunting. They're like a cat's natural radar, playing crucial roles in how they interact with their environment.

Whiskers are densely packed with nerve endings, making them incredibly sensitive to touch and movement in the air. This allows cats to detect even the smallest changes in their surroundings, helping them navigate tight spaces, judge distances, and avoid obstacles. In the wild, whiskers allow cats to move silently and efficiently, even in the dark. Along with helping them navigate spaces, whiskers are also key to a cat's hunting strategy.

They can sense the vibrations created by small prey, such as rodents or insects, in their vicinity. The whiskers help them determine the direction of movement, enabling cats to strike with precision. In fact, cats often use their whiskers to determine if their prey is within striking distance, ensuring they don't miss their mark.



Bridget, Available for adoption

Cats also use their whiskers to express emotions. When a cat is curious or excited, their whiskers will usually move forward. When they feel threatened or are in defensive mode, the whiskers will flatten against the face. This subtle body language helps cats communicate with other animals and humans.



Mama Helen, Available for adoption

Their whiskers aren't just for the front of the face—cats have them on their legs and even their cheeks, which help them feel their way through the world. These whiskers are crucial for maintaining balance and providing additional sensory input, which is essential for their agility and grace.

Cat's whiskers that are on their legs help them with many daily tasks! One of the key functions of a cat's leg whiskers is to help them maneuver in narrow or confined spaces. Cats are natural climbers and often squeeze through small openings, crevices, or under furniture. The whiskers on their legs act like sensors, helping them feel ahead and avoid potential obstacles or hazards. These whiskers give the cat a sense of the space around them, allowing them to determine if they can fit through an opening or if it's too tight to pass through.

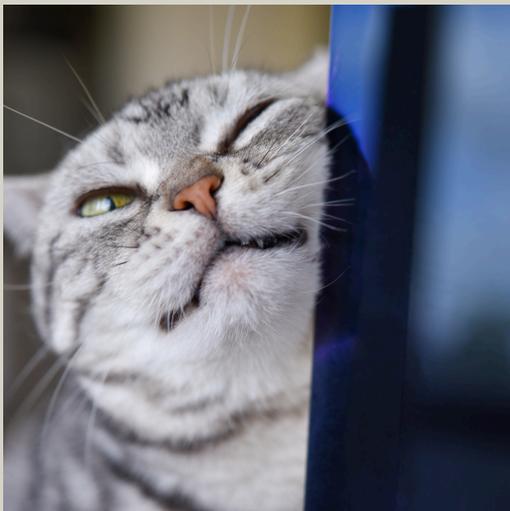
# Did you also know?

September 2024

## Here I am!

Cats have a curious habit of rubbing, scratching, and even drooling on objects around them. This behavior is known as "scent marking," and while it may seem strange, it's a natural way for cats to communicate with their environment and other animals. Scent marking plays a crucial role in a cat's social and territorial interactions, and understanding why cats do it can shed light on their behaviors.

One of the primary reasons cats scent mark is to establish and defend their territory. Cats have scent glands located on their face, paws, and tail, which secrete pheromones—chemical signals that convey information to other cats. By rubbing their face or body against furniture, doorways, or even people, cats leave their scent behind, signaling that the area belongs to them. This is particularly important for outdoor cats, who use scent marking to claim specific areas, but indoor cats will also engage in this behavior to create a sense of ownership over their space.



Scent marking is also a form of social communication between cats. Cats have highly developed olfactory senses, and they use their scent to share important information with each other, such as their identity, age, health, and even emotional state. When a cat marks an object, it's essentially leaving a "scent signature" that other cats can read. This allows them to establish hierarchies, avoid conflict, and signal their presence to other cats in the area.

Cats are creatures of habit and often find comfort in familiar smells. Scent marking also helps cats feel more secure in their environment. By leaving their scent on items or people, they create a familiar smell that reassures them and reinforces their connection to the space. This is particularly important in multi-cat households or when a cat is adjusting to a new home.

In addition to marking, the physical act of rubbing against objects helps stimulate the cat's scent glands, which is a pleasurable and soothing activity for them. The gentle pressure of rubbing also releases endorphins, giving the cat a feeling of well-being and contentment.

# Many Thanks!



September 2024

**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 July thru September 2024.**



Ackerman, Amanda  
Adrain, Amy  
Agner, Kristin  
Akstulewicz, Patricia  
Alva, James  
Artis, Geraldine  
Bainter, Lois  
Baird, Pat  
Bero, Jennifer  
Brand, Kathy  
Broughton-Schaefer, Jane  
Buska, Dona  
Carral, Claudia  
Chappell-Cargill, Crystal  
Cole, Theresa  
Cousin Subs  
Danko, Robin  
DeArk, Brad  
Elizabeth, Savanna  
Gallagher, Kristin  
Gallo-Sollman, Mary Sue  
Gardynecki, Nancy  
Geyer, Jolene  
Glzauskis, Bob  
Gragen, Teri  
Grisson, Kitty  
Grum, Katie

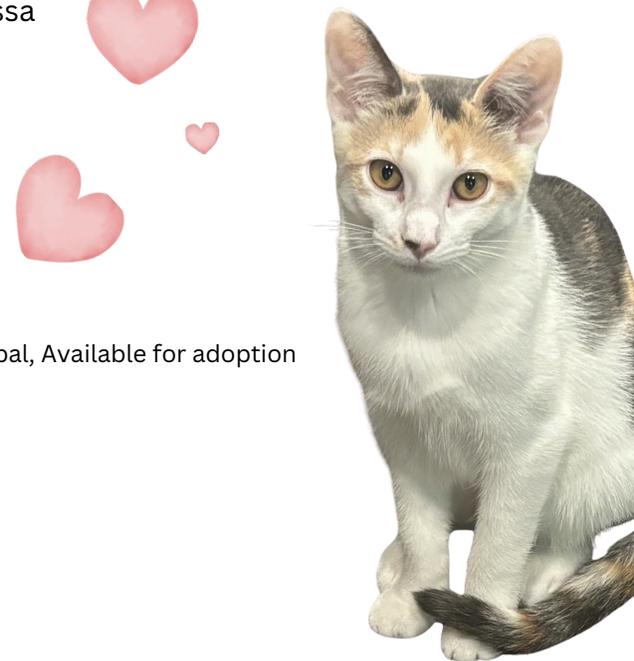
Heather, Shelly  
Heggeland, Tina  
Hervoy-Denikas, Cynthia  
Hibbard, Catherine  
Holzhauer, Rosemarie  
Ide, Wren  
J, Rachel  
Kenosha Pet Sitter (Jennifer)  
Kessenich, Mary  
Knights of Columbus - Twin Lakes  
Kuras, Ashlin  
Kuras, Jerry  
Leaf, Laura  
Lee, Angie  
Lemke, Becky  
Levall, Mary  
Lonnecker, Michelle  
Loy, Louise  
Majewski, Robin  
McDowell, Cathryn  
McLain, Beth & Brian  
Michmershuizen, Tessa  
Morales, Vikki  
Neiffer, Jennifer  
Nudi, Shelley



Olsen, Thomas  
Parisi, Heather  
Phillips, Leo  
Phillips, Brenton  
Rasch, Jacob  
Rorek, Karen  
Rouse, Kathryn  
Scheffler, Linda  
Schweitzer, Danielle  
Shatkins, RC  
Shirley, Patrice  
Smith, Malcolm  
Sorensen, Karlene  
Stalker, Brittany  
Steagall, Larry  
Tasha, Marie  
Taylor, Terry  
Verbick, Walter  
Vozel, Mary  
Weiss, Bob  
Woller, Michelle



Mama Raja, Available for adoption



Opal, Available for adoption

# With Gratitude



September 2024

## *Employee Giving / Company Match*

### **Abbott Labs**

Anonymous, Elizabeth Anderson,  
Debra Benson, Lorraine Mich,  
Bradley Santeler, Steven Wendling

### **AbbVie**

Anonymous, Lisa Baker,  
Heather Edwards, Sara Holcomb,  
Marion Refici

### **AT&T**

Anonymous

### **BMO Financial Group**

Theresa Kratochvil

### **Discover Financial**

Kathleen Anstrand

### **Frontstream-Costco**

Stephanie Brown

### **JCPenney**

Jennifer Maguire

### **Microsoft Rewards**

Anonymous

### **Target**

Anonymous

## *Sponsorships*

### **Adoption Center Kittens**

by Stacy Krause

### **Mama Ethel**

by Marie DeBock

Dax

Available for adoption



Angelica  
Available for adoption



### *Collection Jars*

Adoption Center  
Pet Supplies Plus

## *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.

**Abbott Labs**

**AbbVie**

**Advocate Aurora**

**Allstate Insurance**

**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**

**Voya Financial**

# With Appreciation



September 2024

## *Honorariums*

Mama Beth  
Available for adoption



**Charlotta Jonsson**  
by Amanda Cash

**Zoe**  
by Janice Craig-Rayat

**Velvet & Malty**  
by Al Garcia

**Randi & Doug**  
by Robin Gesinski

**Bernie & Frances**  
by Kathy Irish

**Meatball**  
by Allison Treloar

## *Memoriams*

**Santo Ron Humphrey**  
by Pat Baird

**Cranberry**  
by Amanda Cash

**Toe Beans**  
by Kevin Gleason

**Stan Lee**  
by Jenna Gospodarek

**Michael**  
by Karen Hickson

**Katie Yates**  
by Amanda Messerlie

**Torni**  
by Israel Ramon

## *Food, Supplies & Equipment*

Alderks, Kate  
Beljaeff, Mary  
Benton, John  
Brisko, Tracie  
Champion, Anne  
Chrabaszcz, Anna  
Christensen, Kathy  
Church, Patricia  
Czaplicki, Danielle  
DeCesaro, Sandra  
DeNio, Kristen  
Ehrmann, Elizabeth  
Fallabeck, Bonnie  
Fitch, Jackie  
Frey, Steve  
Gage, Judith

Gardynecki, Nancy  
Goze, Lisa  
Grasty, Kathleen  
Guenter, Don  
Guse, Beth  
Hanna, Elizabeth  
Heiman, Andrea  
Jurgens, Eric & Lisa  
Kelly, Jeanne  
Kinch, Elaine  
Kirchen, Michael  
Kirchen, Linda & Marie  
Klinzing, Elizabeth  
Kula, Pam  
Kurklis, Brenda & David  
Loy, Louise

Lundin, Martha  
McCartney-Spencer, Kristina  
Mitchell, James & Judy  
Mosher, Lisa  
Neff, Taryn  
Pfaff, Cherie  
Prochazka, Sydney  
Redell, Becky  
Rucinski, Cheryl  
Running, Danielle  
Schackmuth, Kim  
Schwefel, Linda  
Sharp, Sue  
Sheldon, Grace  
Stepp, Rob & Stephanie  
Vorass, Elizabeth

Walczak, Colleen  
Williams, Melisa  
Woodward, Joyce  
Zigler, Erin



Yen  
Available for adoption

If you would like to donate food and supplies, please view our wishlists at Amazon and Chewy  
<https://www.kindredkitties.org/giving/wish-list/>  
We are grateful for your support!



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**P.S. WE INSTALL YEAR ROUND!**