

friends

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN ANIMALS RESCUE

www.fmar1.org

CAT HAVEN 2009-2010
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

FMAR knows just how hard it is to raise funds to feed and house a shelter full of cats and dogs even when the economy is booming. 2009 was an exciting, extremely busy, and challenging year for FMAR. As I am writing this it is with deep and humbling appreciation for the support we have received from so many of you, and to give you an update on where we are with the future Cat Haven and conversion of current shelter to the Dog Haven. As we told you in past newsletters, once renovated, this donated building will allow FMAR to separate the dogs from the cats, relieving stress on both, and at the same time creating room to help a few more abandoned, adoptable cats and dogs.

Thanks to Mike Cromer and his crew at **Cromer Building**, the donated barn is now secured to the ground with new deep and sturdy poles. Just a week or so later 30 yards of free sand were brought in by **Blue Ribbon Contracting** to lay the cushion for rough plumbing and cement work. Then our friend Toby Leis' crew at **C.A.L Plumbing & Heating** along with Doug Mallion of **Mallion Carpentry** went to work installing the rough plumbing. It was time for our first important inspection. Our township contracts out this process so it took much longer than we had hoped to get an inspection and winter began to set in. Although we had passed our inspection, it was getting much to cold for the cement to be poured so we had no choice but to delay the cement process and put the Cat Haven project on hold until the spring thaw. As soon as the weather breaks **Blue Ribbon Construction** will pour the all important cement floor at a huge discount, complete with a patio slab that we will screen in so the cats can have an outside porch to relax in and soak up the natural sunlight during the day.



FMAR continues to be blessed by our community and supporters with discounted materials, labor, as well as monetary gifts that seem to come in just in time for each step of this crucial project. There aren't any adjectives that could come close to describing how we feel about all of the support and love that FMAR has been blessed with. Thank you everyone!

We still have a very long way to go but we can now see where each room is going to be and with each new step the excitement of the finished projects escalates for each of the board members and volunteers. We can't wait to start building walls and installing our energy efficient furnace which was also donated by Dan Oberdorf of **All Star Heating and Cooling**. You will be happy to know that Dan will also be installing a donated air conditioning unit, as well as a donated, compact, energy efficient, tankless hot water tank. It is wonderful to watch it all come together and moving forward just like we had envisioned. We invite you to follow our progress as we continue to recognize the hard work and determination of our community, supporters and volunteers.

Each year FMAR has managed to grow our mission and move it forward, discovering new and innovative ways to help more cats and dogs that need us. We still have a long way to go to be as big as the humane societies; however we are proud of our facility and the accomplishments we have achieved.

To ensure all monetary gifts sent specifically for the building projects are accounted for in the capital campaign fund, please remember to write **"Building Fund"** on the memo of your check. Together we can make these important Cat and Dog Havens a reality by the end of summer 2010! Thank you to all.

We also invite you to visit our website for the most current pictures on this very important dual project. Blessings and Happy New Year!



Our mission is to protect animals and residents by promoting a safe and healthy environment for all.



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From the Desk of the Vice President

Marcy
LaFramboise

The entire board of directors would like to thank everyone answering our Capital Campaign call with monetary gifts to support the shelter and our Cat Haven renovation project. There have been several compliments on our newsletter format, as well as a couple of questions that I believe all of you deserve an answer to regarding the process and cost of putting together such a great newsletter. The simple answer is not a dime more than any other newsletter. Please allow me to give you a little background.

I write most of our newsletter with a few articles added by board members and special guests, as well as pet tip articles that are taken from website publications. Once I have a draft of an article I send it to a volunteer editor, affectionately known as The Great Garloochiano, who's wordsmith magic makes each article a little more fun and "colorful." It is then sent back to me for final approval. Next, the articles are sent to "Mr. Kenn," another dedicated

and talented volunteer, who produces the creative and professional layout you enjoy. Kenn loves using his talents to keep the newsletter fresh and inviting, and even I don't know what the layout will look like until I see the final draft before it is sent to the printer.

Johnston's Lithograph in Romulus has printed our newsletter for the past 5 years. The first year we sent the newsletter to Johnston's in black and white, and I have to say that with the paper they use (recycled from paper that would have been thrown out from other printing jobs) even the black and white newsletters looked great. I believe it was the second year when we wanted to add special letters and pictures from our adopting families. We asked our contact person, Keith Johnston, (who is also a friend, pet lover, community leader and non-profit advocate), what Johnston's Lithograph would charge to add a couple colored pictures to the newsletter. His reply was that they would be happy to print the newsletter any way we wished for the same discounted price.

Once the newsletter was printed we would gather a team of volunteers to stuff, fold, seal, and label each of them. It was taking 8-10 volunteers approximately 6 hours to get the newsletters ready for our bulk rate mailing. Again we went to Johnston's Lithograph to ask how much they would charge us to stuff and seal each newsletter and again, they said they would be happy to do it without an additional fee.

In the past 5 years our newsletter mailing list has grown by over 1000 people and the cost to print, stuff, fold, seal and label our newsletter has not changed. We owe Johnston's Lithograph and our volunteers a huge debt of gratitude for their dedication, loyalty, and support in getting our newsletter ready for all of you to enjoy.

Thank you so much to all of our readers for recognizing our hard work and the passion we have for the animals we take in and for keeping our newsletter the single largest fundraiser we have to date. We have come a long way and together we will continue to grow and build on our passion and dedication to our community and the animals that come to stay with us while they are waiting for new and loving "forever" homes, even if it happens to be FMAR.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all of you to send your email address to us so we can send you our e-newsletter (an entirely different format with new up to date information) created and sent to you by another FMAR board member, Orsi Dezsi. I think you will agree it is informative, creative and very colorful as well. For all of our volunteers, if you are not receiving our volunteer e-news from our very own Volunteer Coordinator and board member Eileen (Weezy) Russell, please let her know the next time you are at the shelter. FMAR will continue to find new and creative ways to keep you up to date on what is going on in and around FMAR!

Last but certainly not least, I would like to extend a huge hug and prayers for special blessings to all of you. I love you and appreciate you more than words will ever be able to express. Marcy



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Editor

Marcy LaFramboise

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Spotlighting FMAR volunteers is one of my favorite things to do. We have so many great volunteers that it is difficult to choose who to profile each quarter. As any non-profit organization will tell you, keeping great volunteers is an ongoing challenge.

With more families needing two incomes to support their households it is especially hard to find daytime and early morning volunteers. FMAR is blessed to have several dedicated and talented morning volunteers that have been with us for years. I would like to take a few minutes to introduce you to a great morning FMAR volunteer named Betty Sobolewski who has been an exceptional volunteer since September 2007.

I think you would agree she has great qualifications. Betty is at the shelter every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 AM sharp anxious to get started in the adult community cat room. FMAR morning cat volunteers have the task of getting the morning feeding prepared, changing all of the bedding, and swapping out litter boxes so the used boxes can be sanitized and ready for the next morning. Next, shelves, scratchers and climbers are wiped down, floors are vacuumed and mopped, laundry is started, and dry food and water dishes are washed and refilled. When Betty finishes up in the community cat room she heads to the laundry room to start another load, fold the load in the dryer and scrub litter boxes. Once Betty is finished with her cleaning schedule it is time to play with the teenagers. The teenaged cat room is a large, temporary, gated area right smack in the middle of the shelter. With the absence of an air lock area it is quite a challenge to get in and out without a few of the teens dashing out and hiding under anything they can squeeze behind quickly. Chasing, catching and returning teens is an exhausting exercise, especially after hours of cleaning, so we have learned that taking treats with you helps to keep them occupied long enough to sneak in. Although for the most part our felines are very loving and social, Betty has found out the hard way that there are a couple of them that are adamant about not being put back when they escape and will fight you to get away when they are caught.

Betty also has a creative side and sews pet collar scarves in assorted

colors, patterns and sizes for us to use on the shelter dogs and to sell for a donation at some of our fundraiser events. When a group of teenage volunteers had a sleep over in the shelter they picked out one of Betty's scarves for each of the shelter dogs to wear and wrote the dog's name on them so they would have them to wear at future adoption events.

Like most of our volunteers, Betty and her husband Ed support FMAR in many ways and it is a blessing to know them and to have Betty as part of our volunteer team. In fact, Betty and Ed were among the first to write a check to support the cat haven when they heard we were ready to start the renovation project. FMAR would like to extend a huge thank you to Betty for her hard work and dedication to the cats of FMAR, and to both Betty and Ed for their support and compassion for the animals of FMAR. Hugs and blessings.

MICHIGAN AVENUE
Animal Hospital

Dr. Ajaib Dhaliwal

PHONE (734) 482-8171 FAX (734) 482-9356
706 West Michigan Avenue - Ypsilanti, MI 48197



BOARDING
AVAILABLE

Michigan Avenue Animal Hospital also has a Canton location!
Extended hours Monday - Friday until Midnight!

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Search the Internet...
Make a Difference!

www.theanimalrescuesite.com

Go to the Animal Rescue Site and click the link on the front page to help donate free food! Enter the FMAR website address. (www.fmar1.org) FMAR could receive free food for the shelter!



the
animal
rescue site
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PUCKS INTO BUCKS CLUB!

FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

The **Red Wings** and Alpha Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue would like to offer YOU a special discounted Red Wings package!

Pucks into Bucks club members receive:

- One (1) 03/11/10 vs. Minnesota Wild ticket
 - Any upper bowl section between rows 11-18 (normally a \$48 seat)
- (1) General Admission College hockey ticket
 - To a game of your choice at Joe Louis Arena
- One (1) food voucher good for a slice of pizza or hotdog & small soda
- 1 complimentary hockey puck

Pucks into Bucks costs just \$37 (a regular value price of \$51) per person including all amenities listed above. \$5 from every order goes back to Friends of Michigan Animas Rescue!



Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue
"Our mission is to protect animals and residents by promoting a healthy and safe environment for all!"

*** EXCELLENT GIFT IDEA!!!**

TO ORDER GO TO:

College Hockey Dates:

(all games played at Joe Louis Arena)

12.29.09 Great Lakes Invitational

12.30.09 Great Lakes Invitational
(MSU, U of M, Michigan Tech, RPI)

01.30.10 U of M vs. MSU Game

03.19.10 CCHA Championship
(Semi Finals)

03.20.10 CCHA Championship
(Third Place/Championship Game)

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Annie Moore

(313)394-7157

Annie.Moore@Hockeytown.com

<https://www.formspring.com/forms/?782084-S1whlNKunt>

Spunky came to FMAR when the shelter was just heading into its second year and he was just a puppy. He was a very active and loving puppy and we knew he was going to be a handful for any family who adopted him. After several visits to the shelter by the same family and with a few reservations, we adopted Spunky to a family who convinced us that they would give Spunky the training he needed to be a great family pet. After a year Spunky was returned to the shelter and has been with us ever since. Spunky can jump higher than any dog I have ever seen and we have been working with him on several issues that convinced us that he probably was not going to be adopted and would probably live his life out at the shelter happy, cared for and loved. His best attribute is that he is an awesome dog to walk, especially with a back pack on (and if a car doesn't drive down the road!) I have written affectionately about Spunky in the past, bragged about his accomplishments and breakthroughs but today I would like to share something about Spunky that I would have never believed if I hadn't witnessed it myself. He is NOT...I repeat NOT the big bad dog we all thought him to be. In fact he is the biggest coward I think I have ever encountered. Not only is he afraid of cats, he is afraid of a 16 year old beagle named Sadie who is overweight and sleeps most of the day!

So here is the story:

Pete and I decided when our very old Beagle Sadie left us for dog heaven that we would try to acclimate Spunky to our house. You see, Sadie had battled cancer and she spent most of her day sleeping. When the cancer came back we assumed her days were numbered. Well a few months passed and Sadie was still hanging in there and acting as if she wasn't ready to give up yet, but we decided we would still start the process of introducing Spunky to our family. On his very first visit, Spunky seemed excited to be with us for about an hour, but then for some reason he suddenly wanted to go back to the shelter. The next weekend we gave it another try only to find out that he wouldn't come in the house! He would poke his head in and look around and then turn around and run back into the yard. I finally realized that he was afraid of our cats! I picked up the cats one at a time and showed him that I was moving them to another room and finally he would gingerly put one paw in and then pull it back out. It took about 30 minutes but we finally coaxed him inside, while we were laughing hysterically...I don't think Spunky found any of it humorous, and in fact we would have to go through this ritual each and every time we invited him in.



A couple of months passed and we had had another drop off situation causing a shortage in kennel space. We decided it was time to try Spunky in the house again, only this time he would need to stay through the night. Again, we had to force him in, and immediately he looked for any signs of the cats. Then finally after a couple of hours he settled down a little. When dinner time came we called Spunky to join the other dogs. He had to pass Sadie to get to his bowl and she let him know he was too close to her food by bellowing out a huge howl. Spunky immediately cowered and we had to literally block Sadie and walk him past her to his dish! About that time our volunteer coordinator, Weezey had come into the house and Spunky stayed right by her side, even climbing behind the couch and sitting in the window sill to be closer to her! When Weezey left, Spunky sat by the back door whining, and when he decided she wasn't going to come back he fell asleep by the door. All this drama and it was only the first night!



Introduction to the cats.

We had decided that it wouldn't be fair for the cats to spend their life in the bedroom so we would try to introduce them one at a time. First cat out was our black cat we call baby. She was very curious and a little cautious but things were looking okay. Then Spunky decided to growl at her....it was obvious he was having some fear aggression. We held him back and talked to him until he decided to calm down. Baby hid under a cabinet looking out at him curiously but no one was trying to attack anyone. Finally baby and Spunky ignored each other and things were peaceful again. Of course when we retired for the night the cats and Spunky were in separate rooms with doors closed.

The second night we decided to let the cats out one at a time. We were the most worried about Dudley who *always* wants to be the boss, so we would introduce him first. Well we weren't disappointed. Baby came out and sniffed Spunky and walked away, next came Napoleon who ran past Spunky and headed for high ground. Last cat out was Dudley who proudly walked right up to Spunky, nuzzled Spunky's nose and then WHOPPED him on the nose with his claws! Pete was quick and grabbed Spunky as he went after Dudley....I can't blame Spunky I would have done the same thing, however we knew it wouldn't be a good thing to let any retaliation happen. We corrected Mr. Dud and calmed Spunky down. The rest of the night went much better, however Pete and I were very nervous. We made sure one of us was between both of them the rest of the night. Spunky stayed on the end of the couch while Dudley preferred to stay on one of our laps facing in Spunky's direction. Spunky never once charged after the cats, he just watched them constantly as if they were going to hurt him. We will never leave the cats out alone with Spunky but we are confident they will learn to live together as long as someone is there to referee Dudley. Life is good and it looks like Mr. Spunky has found a new family.

Pete and I are both convinced that Spunky is not the aggressive dog we always thought he was; he is just a HUGE scaredy dog that needs to face his fears. We have watched him closely and all of his aggression seems to relate to fear. I mean who could be afraid of Sadie, but all she has to do is bellow at Spunky and he still cowers.

I hope you enjoyed Spunky's story. He has waited 6 years for a new home, so he deserves every chance we can give him.

TEENAGERS! ALL THOSE TEENAGERS!

I am sure all of the parents of teenage children can relate to this story even though this one has to do with teens of a four-legged feline nature. When we are born our parents care for us and teach us the basics of what it takes to grow into adults. Then as we get older we get into the “discovery-I know it all-I just want to have fun stage” (otherwise known to parents as the dreaded teenage years)!

With cats from the age of 4-12 months it is just about the same, only they have 4 legs they use to climb, explore, flip and play until they collapse before taking a short nap so they can start all over again. Anyone who has ever had, or currently has, a teenage cat understands this universal truth.

2008 was a huge kitten season for FMAR with fewer adoptions than usual. We were receiving more calls from people wanting to relinquish their cats than calls from people who wanted to adopt one. The result was kittens getting too large with too much energy to be cooped up in a kennel. We tried to block off some of our larger stationary kennels to make room for a few of them to play in, but there were too many and so fast that whenever we opened the door they would all dash out and the chase would be on!

We finally gave up the chase and decided we would just have to let them live with the adults. What a mistake! Adult cats like to lounge around, relax and soak up the sunshine through the windows. The teens like to climb on the windows and chase the sunbeams on the floor. The result was tipped over baskets, scattered litter and a huge mess to clean up several times a day, not to mention some very stressed out adult cats. When we entered to clean, or brought visitors in for viewing, it looked as if the cats were having a drunken party! The altercations between the teens and adults were creating stress that brought on upper respiratory and eye infections – cohabitation simply was not going to work.

It was suggested that we take apart some of our stationary kennel walls and create a bigger space for the teens, but the kennels were only 3 feet deep which made them impossible to clean and keep the teens contained at the same time. What were we going to do?

One afternoon Pete decided he had to find a better way. Now that the addition was finished and we had a place to store some of the things that had previously taken up space in the middle of the floor, he thought we might be able to create a temporary teen room made out of dog kennel fencing. Pete measured the precious real estate in the middle of the room and decided it would be large enough to hold our current teen population. He then scoured around until he found enough fencing and kennel doors to make three sides. A group of us pitched in and butted the three sides up against our main storage cabinet. The final task was to put a cover on it so the teens couldn't crawl out the top. We found left over chicken wire from a previous fencing project and with zip ties we attached two lengths of chicken wire across the top and secured it tight in the middle and to the front and sides of the homemade kennel. The end result measured 7' X 8' and looked great. We were confident that the weight of the structure would keep it in place when the teens climbed up and down the fencing while playing.

The time had come for “accessorizing.” We hung dangling toys through the chicken wire and pitched a few more toys on the floor. We added a few benches to sit on, lots of baskets to sleep in and an ample supply of scratching posts for “claw sharpening.” Three litter boxes on one side and food and water on the other side completed the temporary “cat house.” Bring on the teens!

Fourteen teenage cats were gathered and placed in the new room. We watched with anticipation as they slowly walked around and looked things over. In about two minutes they were exploring, playing, climbing the fencing, batting the dangling toys and yes.... rolling around in the litter boxes too.

Each day of the first week the excitement could be heard as the volunteer's walked around the corner and discovered Pete's creation. Everyone loves the new teen room. We still have difficulty keeping the sneaky ones from dashing out while gathering our cleaning supplies but we are getting more creative every day. When you see how calm the adult cats are in the absence of hormone driven teens and how happy the teens are to be free from domineering adults, I am sure you will agree it was a great idea. Thanks Pete!

The new room is already full to the brim. We are working hard to complete the “cat haven” renovation. Once completed, the new cat facility will provide separate quarters for the adults & adolescence along with air locks, running water, and ready access to cleaning and feeding supplies.



XEROX BLESSES FMAR FOR 4TH YEAR!

Early each fall since 2006 the Xerox Corporation has gathered a volunteer group and joined Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) for a day of hard, work, fellowship and support. Each year brings new projects, familiar faces, new faces, and pets together as we tackle a project or two or three... These are important projects because they give our shelter animals the security and comfort they deserve and need as they wait for a new family to find them and take them home.



The 2009 project consisted of removing old drywall from a building that had been donated and moved to FMAR by neighboring businesses with the goal of creating separate shelters for our cats and dogs. It is a project that will take months of hard work and labor, and the more volunteers we can get to help with donations and labor the less money it will cost to get the project completed.

You could tell as soon as the Xerox group arrived that they were pumped and ready to get started. Ladders, gloves, and tools were gathered and the group literally dug in and pulled down drywall. The group was a little surprised when a family of raccoons poked their heads out to say hello and then scrambled to the rafters to hide while the work continued.

When the drywall was down a group headed to the dog play area to leash



up the dogs and head down the road for a nice leisurely stroll...or so we thought! The teenagers had other ideas and soon the dogs were having a blast running along side the teens each keeping pace with the other! The shelter chaperone watched from behind with amazement as their energy seemed to escalate with step they took. The teens actually made it to the end of the road and met the slower walkers half way back to the shelter. We knew the dogs would sleep the rest of the afternoon, and the teen's dad hoped the same of the ride home with the kids.

It is always a fun time when Xerox comes out and we appreciate their hard work and support more than we could ever express on paper. We hope Xerox feels the same and will continue to make this an annual event. Next fall we hope to be able to show them the results of their hard work and support with a completed cat facility that will make each of them as proud of FMAR as we are to have Xerox as a special part of our shelter.

Blessings and love to each of you at Xerox for your support of the animals that come to FMAR to be cared for until they find new loving families; even if that family is always FMAR.

SPECIAL THANKS!

When we stand back to admire the results of our efforts as we complete a project our thoughts usually turn to the accessories and final touches that need to be added. In the case of our restroom, laundry/kitchen, office and storage room we couldn't have been more blessed with the special donations we received to accessorize the shelter's new addition.

Sandy Seaton and Barb Story watched the progress and knew there would be things that we would need so they made a very generous monetary donation specifically for the purchase of the extra items needed for the addition. Thanks to their generosity we were able to acquire paper towel dispensers with refills, soap dispensers with refills, and a baby changing station. We really appreciate Sandy and Barb's patronage and for being a special part of our team.

At about the same time Sandy's sister Susan Story-Hang, who is also a volunteer, was having her kitchen remodeled and donated the kitchen cabinets she was replacing. These cabinets not only furnished our laundry/kitchen area, but we had enough left over to install in our bathroom and office area.

Our refurbished shelter computer had crashed for the second time and our IT consultant Bob Mariner told us it was beyond repair. Our treasurer, Page McLaughlin, found a great deal on a used laptop in excellent condition that was purchased for the office.

Cathy Boatin, our secretary, asked her dad Bill Boatin to build shelving for our storage area. The shelving he built is sturdy, heavy, and so well constructed that we believe it could withstand a hurricane. Everything housed in the new storage area is now neat and accessible.

With all of the help and donations from our volunteers and supporters FMAR was able to complete our addition for approximately one fourth of the original estimated cost for materials and "outside" contractors and the local building inspector agrees that the addition looks great and was done professionally. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Thank you so much to our awesome volunteer team.

BUSTER - AFTER SIX YEARS

Losing a home is hard on everyone in a family. For parents it is the question of how do I provide for my family, and for the kids it is will I see my friends again. It is especially hard on the family pet when they are not able to move with the family and need to be re-homed.

Sometimes a family gets lucky and finds a no-kill shelter with a room or foster family, and other times they are forced to take their pets to shelters that are already overpopulated and the animal pays the ultimate price. This is especially true when the animal is older, or has behavior or health problems.

It is also true that the cat/kitten population is the hardest hit because there are just so many cats and kittens that need to be re-homed and not enough shelters to take them. There are still thousands of un-spayed/neutered cats born in barns, under houses or in garages. However this year has also turned out to be a heartbreaking year for dogs that need re-homing because of foreclosures and job loss.



In the last newsletter we told you about a sweet Sheltie named Toby that was tied to the shelter fence. Toby was 4 years old and beautiful and even though he had health issues, they were all fixed and he found a new loving family right away. This newsletter we are going to tell you about a dog named Buster who is probably at the opposite end of the "best" dog spectrum when it comes to dogs most families would pick out of the pack at first site.

Buster came to us from a family that could no longer keep him. We are told he is a German Shorthair Pointer mix. By his energy you might agree, but by his size and looks it might be a little more difficult to see the family resemblance. In fact, Buster is much smaller than most German Shorthair Pointers.

Buster is smaller in size and build than a German Shorthair and he has a beautiful rich chocolate color. He has the sweetest eyes and a very thin build. He can climb like a person using his paws as hands, and his favorite past time is playing fetch. We are told he is about 6 years old and with a grey muzzle he is starting to show his age. When we called the vet his family had been using to get more information on Buster we discovered that he had been to the vet quite a bit in his 6 years. It appeared that he had been on medication to calm him down, and he had had a reaction to one of his vaccinations although it didn't say which one. We were a little confused about some of

the remarks in his records so we felt he should have a check up.

We took Buster to our vet, Dr. Dhaliwal where he kept Buster overnight to give him a complete physical, run blood work, urinalysis, and give him his yearly vaccinations (along with the anti-reaction injection just to be safe) and watch him over night. Everything went fine and the next day we brought Buster back to the shelter. In about a week the results of all of his testing came back normal so we decided to put Buster on a free feeding schedule to see if we could put a little weight on him. This meant that when the bowl was empty we would fill it back up. Even though Buster was very active, he wasn't a big eater. After a couple of weeks we noticed that Busters coat was shiny and beautiful and he had put on a little weight but he was still very thin.

It was when we let Buster out with the pack to play in the yard for the first time that we discovered his talents for climbing and his love of playing fetch. As long as you are playing fetch with Buster he gives you his undivided attention. He will go and get the ball, bring it back and drop it at your feet to do it again. However, when play time is over he runs to the fence and climbs faster than you can run to catch him. In fact he was still thin enough that he could actually climb the gate inside the shelter and wiggle through a small area exposed in the very top of the kennel and set himself free to play with the cats! It only took a couple days of meeting Buster at the shelter door in the morning for Pete to put up chicken wire over the kennel opening so Buster couldn't climb over the top!

We have been working hard with Buster and he is now walking great on a leash with the pack and getting a lot of fetch time in, however he is still tied out during times he is left without human supervision in the yard. Even though Buster is almost 7 years old he has the stamina of a puppy and

needs a family that can match his energy. Perhaps a family that loves to jog or run in the park. An active family that will take time to make sure Buster gets in a lot of fetch and play time and who has a privacy fence that he can't climb or is willing to walk him for potty breaks. We know there is a great family out there for Buster because he is a great dog who will probably continue to be as active as a puppy for most of his life.

Buster is very social so another active dog might be just what Buster needs to keep him occupied. If you think you have the energy, love, and home to give Buster the new start he needs please call the shelter to bring the family out to meet this great guy.

Your Wheels Can Work Wonders...

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue and Charity Motors have teamed up to put your wheels to work! Donating your used car to Charity Motors will assist low income individuals with transportation needs as well as help Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue continue their work.

Vehicles need not run
Boats and Real Estate accepted
Free vehicle pick up from Charity Motors
Tax deductible - IRS forms available

When you donate your car and designate Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue as the beneficiary, 70% of the selling price of your vehicle goes directly to FMSAR to help animals in and around our area.

To donate your vehicle call
Charity Motors
313.255.1000

For more information call
Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue
734.461.9458



TRACTOR SUPPLY - SALINE

FMAR would like to extend a very special thank you Tractor Supply in Saline for your hospitality and great set ups during our "Pet Pictures with Santa" event. It was great to see all of the pets who came out to sit on Santa's lap and give him their wish list. I think dog bones and soft fluffy beds topped their lists this year.

We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you again in the future.



PET EMPORIUM - ANN ARBOR

Thank you to Pet Emporium on Saline Road in Ann Arbor for providing such a great room to decorate and take holiday pictures. Below you will see a handsome picture of a former shelter dog named Scrappy. Scrappy was adopted from FMAR a few years ago by an awesome family.

I think you will agree from his smile that he is a very happy boy. Thank you to our great volunteer team, Cathy and Orsi, Jennifer, Sandy and Barb for decorating and taking such great pictures!

If you would like to see more FMAR Pet Emporium holiday pictures please visit us on Facebook.com under Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.



HAABS RESTAURANT - YPSILANTI

For the past 5 years the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, Haabs Restaurant in Ypsilanti has supported FMAR by giving 10% of an entire day's revenue. Haabs picked this special time of year knowing they would be busy cooking for families shopping and getting ready for the holidays.

We not only appreciate their support, we also look forward to the great food, homey atmosphere, and hospitality we enjoy year after year. If you haven't had the pleasure of eating at Haabs during or fundraising day or any other time of year, we encourage you to give Haabs a try. They are located in the heart of Ypsilanti at 18 W. Michigan Ave. Their tradition of cooking food with the same care and delicious ingredients you would at home has never swayed.

They are an icon in the city of Ypsilanti and are known for their generosity to charity and the people of their community. FMAR sends a huge thank you to the entire Haabs team for their support and generosity. We can't wait for next year.



www.dogsrule.com

Go to the dogs rule website and learn how you can help donate Pedigree dog food for FMAR! Each 22 lb donated bag of food will help feed 1 dog for a month!

K-9 CRUSADERS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The K-9 Crusaders Dog Walk held at the beautiful Mill Pond Park in Saline, MI was a huge success thanks to the efforts of the Saline Executive Committee, Kathy and John Bauman, Dena Gilmore, Wendy Niccoli, Geraldine and Jim Peters who worked non-stop to make this the best event possible. FMAR not only had a very successful event we gained special new friends in the process.

FMAR would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who organized, planned, solicited donations, vendors, media coverage, set up and cleaned up before, during and after this awesome event. The entire group spent the last week praying it wouldn't rain and despite our best efforts, the day was less than sunny and very wet. However, when the first dog arrived, tail wagging, in costume, pulling their human partner behind them, we stopped worrying realizing the dogs didn't care if it was raining and it was going to be a great event despite the weather. As promised vendors came from Saline, as well as, surrounding communities to support this great event and it was appreciated more than words can express.

FMAR would like to extend a special thank you to everyone from Saline who had a part in bringing all of this together for us. Jolene Manuel – MC, Dino Nanni – Facilities, Joe Dickerson – Hunting demo, Art Rundy - Agility Demo, Perry Plouff – Parking, Cheryl Plouff – Walk leader, Wendy Niccoli – Web site, Dave Pate – Facilities, John Abbott – Tracking demo, Kathy Bauman – Art director & Administration, Geraldine Peters – Event Organizer & Administration, Jim Peters – Advertising, John Bauman – Sponsorship drive, Dena Gilmore – Merchandise Donations, Judy Goethe and Curt Leanna – Ticket sales, Daniella Laura – Photographer, Sheila Pursglove – Journalism as well as the entire FMAR board of directors and a special group of FMAR volunteers for soliciting sponsors, donations, and helping out at the registration table. It was an awesome group effort.

Almost everyone stayed until the end and took at least one treasure home as a remembrance of a fun filled and busy day. Not only was FMAR blessed with monetary gifts, but we took home 2 car loads of donations as well! It was a day FMAR will always remember as one of the best fundraisers in FMAR history! Thank you ALL!



Sponsors:

Wags to Whiskers Pet Supplies, Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea; Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Belleville; Nutri Source Premium Dog Food; HDR-CB, Ann Arbor; Arbor Dog Daycare, Ann Arbor; K-9 Home Schooling; Burhop's Collision, Belleville; Center for Animal Training, Manchester; Caffe Dolce, Saline; Edward Jones Investments, Saline; Great Clips, Saline; HAS Remodeling, Saline; WenJo Solutions, LLC, Superior Twp; Drowsy Parrot, Saline; Whispering Pines Pet Cemetery, Ypsilanti; Bayloff Stamped Products, Belleville; Pack and Mail Plus, Saline; State Farm Insurance, Saline; Realty Experts—The Drake Team, Ypsilanti; Main Street Flowers, Belleville; WAAM Talk Radio, Ann Arbor; Great Harvest Bread, Ann Arbor; Comerica Bank, Saline.

Vendors:

Pets in the City, Pet Sitting Service, Wags and Whiskers Pet Supplies, Center for Animal Training, Animal Medical Center, Whispering Pines Pet Cemetery, Primed and Pampered Spa, Arbor Dog Daycare, Great Clips, Pet Resort, Ann Arbor Chiropractic Wellness Center, Hanover Insurance Group



ANN ARBOR COMEDY CLUB

Thank you to all who attended the FMAR Ann Arbor Comedy Club event on October 29th. It was our 3rd comedy club fundraiser, however the first in Ann Arbor. I know many of you had to travel quite a distance on a week night to attend and we appreciate your support. The reviews after the event were all positive,, and everyone seemed to enjoy Frank Roche's comedy style. We received comments like, "He wasn't overly abrasive and was very entertaining and funny." FMAR had approximately 70 people attend and after all of the costs were deducted we still managed to make approximately \$900 on the event. The best part is that everyone, including the FMAR staff was able to relax and enjoy the show. We hope to have another event at the Ann Arbor Comedy Club next year. So if you enjoyed the show please encourage all of your friends and family over 17 to come so we can pack the seats with FMAR supporters.

BELLEVILLE MILLING COMPANY

Belleville Milling Co. has been in our community as long as I can remember. It is a place to buy supplies for pets and wild life as well as a place to meet neighbors and friends for leisurely conversation. The inside of the mill has neatly stacked bags of pet food that is only of the best quality and natural ingredients, as well as salt licks, treats, and even a few human snacks; the Cajon peanuts caught my eye as soon as I walked in the door.

The hospitality was just as impressive with free coffee and donuts for the visitors. I was most impressed with the inviting family atmosphere as the employee's families stopped by to introduce themselves and pet the FMAR animals. There were even a few long time friends that dropped by to say hello and see how we were.

We were really impressed with the spacious and unique set up for our event and hope to be able to come back in the spring or next summer to do another adoption event with this group of great people. Please watch our calendar of events and come out to visit us the next time we set up at the Belleville Milling Co. I think you will be as impressed with their facility and hospitality as we were.

BELLEVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Let the Christmas Lights shine.

It was a very cold night but the parade line was ready. Our great volunteer group bundled up and braved the cold to decorate the shelter van and a long walk down Main Street in Belleville with a few of our adoptable dogs.



LETTERS FROM HOME



"I wanted to send you a picture of Leon. He is doing great!
Thank you so much!

-Heather



First, we want to thank both of you for all of the informations, callbacks and availability you offered us during the process of finding and adopting our new "kids". It helps during a process as important as that.

Now that we've had them for a few weeks, we wanted to send a few pictures and their new names. Because all I have is my camera phone right now the quality of the pics aren't top notch. Having these guys has stimulated me to buy a real camera now because they do such cool stuff!

Ellen, ID # A04738619 has become Cleo(patra). We call her Cleo because my son's cat of 20 years finally passed on the week we got Ellen and we named her Cleo in honor of his cat, who was small but hardy like our Cleo seems to be.

Noire, ID #A05413163 has become Jaco. Partly because we couldn't do justice to the pronunciation of his name, and secondly he has taken the name of Jaco Pastorius, one of the most acclaimed bass guitar players in the world. When we renamed Jaco, and told him that was his new name he seemed to completely relax and know he was "home" now.

Both cats are doing very well and have the run of the house. They are learning new lessons about interactions with humans on a daily basis and are both extremely intelligent and sensitive. (of course all parents think their kids are the brightest and best!) We love these two already and learn from them on a daily basis. They are loving, entertaining, and terrific companions.

Thank you and your staff for taking such good care of them while in your care. They both have their own little quirks, but there is no traumatic behaviors or fear levels such as the cats we've had in the past.

Gratefully,

Howard Gragg & Sherry Lee



LETTERS FROM HOME



My name is Melissa Robinson. I adopted Midnight a few months ago when you had him at Petsmart in Ann Arbor. He is an absolutely WONDERFUL cat. Extremely affectionate and social. He comes when called and loves to carry his toys in his mouth like a dog. We have renamed him Figero (Figgy for short) and often call him Piggy because he has a voracious appetite. I am very grateful to have adopted little Figgy. He is fun and loving and never misbehaves. Thanks for allowing me the pleasure of adopting him and thank you for saving countless lives. I've attached some pictures of him and his brother and sisters.

-Melissa



Hi there!!

Its Beth, Steve and I adopted Bubba last spring, and cannot be happier. He has grown to be a big boy. 50 pounds!! He is very happy and very entergetic!! He loves to chase after the neighborhood kitties, and run with his "uncle" Jackson! (Steve's mom's pointer).

Thank you for providing us with the most wonder pup!!!

Beth



Virginia has adjusted quite well to her new home and friends. Thank you for all the work you do!

Robert and JillAnne

I just wanted to let you know how well Niesse did last night! She fits in perfect with the boys! Actually, she cries when she can't be near them! I already can tell that she is going to be very protective of them!

We took her home from the shelter, gave her a bath, brushed her really well, took her for a walk, ate dinner, and then took her to the pet store to get her a couple of things, and then took her for another walk when we got back! She just loves to ride in our van!

Chuck and I are already working on recall with her. We would like to be able to let her outside to play with the boys (unleashed), but we have to be sure that she will stay in our yard, and more importantly, come when she is called. She caught on really quickly when she figured we were working her with cheese!

She slept on the floor in our bedroom last night and did great! I did get one big face sniff in the middle of the night!

This morning, after she went out to potty, she came back in. . .sniffed her food. . .took one bite. . .and went and laid down in the hall outside the boy's bedroom doors. They actually just got up and Niesse is just beside herself with excitement. She keeps bringing them her Kong to play. All 3 of the boys got a ton of kisses a few minutes ago. . .heck, I didn't even get kisses!

Amy, Chuck and Boys





Events and Activities

You can find complete details of all FMAR events and activities by logging on to our website FMAR1.org Remove this calendar and keep it handy!

February

11-14

Texas Hold-Em!

Roundtree Bar and Grill
Belleville, MI
5p - 2a



March

Watch our website for details on our bowling fundraiser!

Spring

Pets on the Patio

Watch the website for details

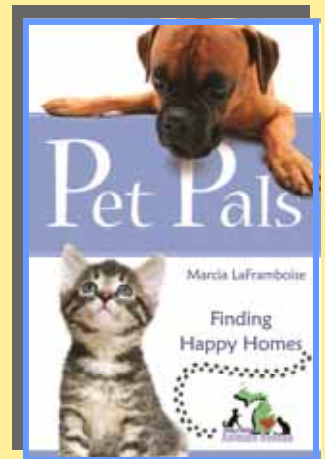
Cindo de Mayo!

May 1

Join us the second Saturday of every month at the Pet Emporium
4940 Copperleaf Crossing
Ann Arbor

You can still order your copy of "Pet Pals" the story of FMAR written by Co-founder, Marcy LaFramboise.

See the back cover of this newsletter issue for ordering information



Join us at Petco Westland 3rd Saturday of every month



<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge>.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME	1st Qtr 2009	2nd Qtr 2009	3rd Qtr 2009
Contributed Support	\$10,320.06	\$9,620.16	\$15,328.26
Earned Revenues	\$4,136.81	\$3,226.56	\$3,604.03
Special Events	\$6,358.50	\$15,103.13	\$6,080.00
Misc. Income			
Total Income	\$20,815.37	\$27,949.85	\$25,012.29
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses	\$15,408.40	\$25,515.64	\$18,295.13
Other Expense	\$2,600.00	\$307.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$18,008.40	\$25,822.64	\$18,295.13
Net Income(Loss)	\$2,806.97	\$2,127.21	\$6,717.16

My Kroger Community Rewards



Every time you use your **Kroger Plus** card, Kroger will make a donation to FMAR. How do you sign up? It's easy.

1. Go to the [Kroger website](#) to register your plus card.
2. Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with FMAR after you sign up.
3. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
4. Click on Sign In/Register
5. Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on [SIGN UP TODAY](#) in the 'New Customer?' box.
6. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
7. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
8. Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
9. Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
10. Update or confirm your information.
11. Enter NPO number, 90131, or Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, or select FMAR from list and click on confirm.
12. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see FMAR's name on the right side of your information page.
13. REMEMBER, your card must be registered online in order for purchase to count.
14. You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

FMAR Wish List

- Prayers and Encouragement
- Volunteers
- Corporate Sponsors/Building Materials
- Cat Litter (Clumping and non clumping)
- Kennel approved disinfectant and Clorox bleach.
- Canned dog and cat food
- Dry Dog / Cat food
- Cat Treats
- Laundry detergent (liquid)
- Dish soap
- Liquid hand soap
- Bleach, Clorox Clean Up
- Dog leashes
- Plastic Spoons
- Small paper plates
- Paper Towels
- Contractor strength plastic garbage bags
- Tall kitchen garbage bags
- Office supplies and equipment.
 - Stickers to seal newsletters
 - Address labels (5160)
 - Printer paper (high gloss, printer and photo)
 - HP 56 and 57 ink cartridges
- Markers
- File folders (all colors)
- Totes (for storing food, donations and office supplies)
- File cabinets (plastic and metal)
- Medical Supplies
 - Hospital supplies and equipment
 - Rubber/latex gloves
 - Pedialite (or unflavored store brand electrolytes)
 - Hand sanitizer



PO Box 854
 Belleville, MI 48112
 Phone: 734.461.9458
 Fax: 734.461.9459
 Email:
 Vb-petlover@comcast.net

Deliver to Addressee or Current Resident

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage **PAID**
 Belleville, MI
 Permit No. 76



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Yes! I'm interested in supporting Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue!

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by Federal law.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Please check all that apply

- I'm interested in learning more about FMAR. Please send me more information
- I would like to make a donation to help with your wish list. Please contact me to arrange for a delivery date.
- I'm interested in volunteering my time. Please contact me about opportunities.
- I'm interested in adopting a pet. _____Dog _____Cat
- I'm interested in receiving future newsletters and information via email.
- I'd like to order a copy of Pet Pals. My payment of \$15.95 is enclosed.

I would like to make a donation to support FMAR!

Annual Gifts: (circle your gift amount)

1.00 5.00 25.00 50.00 75.00

100.00 250.00 500.00 1,000

Other _____

Monthly Gifts: (circle your gift amount)

1.00 5.00 25.00 50.00 75.00

100.00 250.00 500.00 1,000

Other _____

I would like to make my donation using:

Visa MasterCard Check

For Credit Card donations ONLY:

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Gift Amount _____

Telephone No. _____

Complete and return this form to:

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

P.O. Box 854

Belleville, MI 48112

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue does not sell or re-distribute information about our supporters.



You can make your donation using your PayPal account!
www.FMAR1.org

Signature of Cardholder _____