

Among Friends

Winter 2017/2018

Volume 13, Issue 2



News, views and updates from the Pet Crisis Center

Help From My Friends, Inc.

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

3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615
(231) 533-4070
helpfrommyfriendsinc@gmail.com
helpfrommyfriends.org
Facebook -
/helpfrommyfriendspetcrisiscenter

Mission Statement

Help From My Friends believes giving up your pets should be the last possible option. Providing owners with resources to keep their pets and provide shelter for owners that cannot.

Center Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10-Noon
Afternoons by appointment
Closed Sunday and Monday

Annual Events

3rd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction

Thursday, September 6, 2018

18th Annual Chili Cook Off

Sunday, October 28, 2018

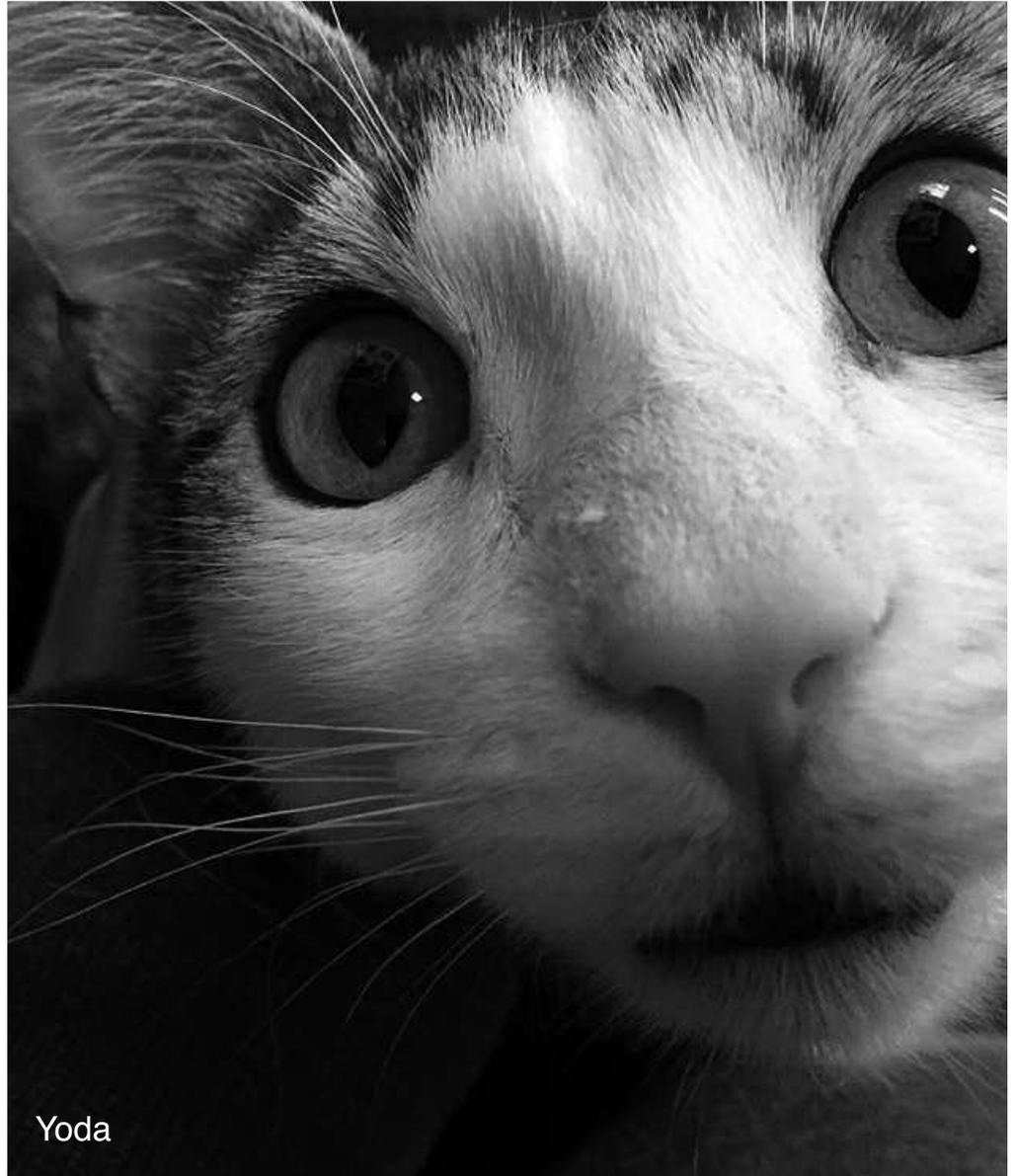
Check our website and Facebook page for more info and events throughout the year.

Help From My Friends loves to hear from adults and kids! Send us your stories, jokes, drawings, and pictures.

Help From My Friends reserves the right, without further consideration, to use all entries in any publication, media and related promotions.

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

Visit our **GREAT** adoptable **PETS** at Petfinder.com & helpfrommyfriends.org
You can also Donate Online!



Yoda



ADOPT-A-PET!

Missy is a 4 year old 100 lb. Great Pyrenees mix. She loves her people and wants a home where she can watch over them. Missy would be okay with another relaxed dog but does chase cats! She is like walking a feather on a leash and loves a car ride. If you were to ask Missy to describe her perfect home she would answer "One where I can snuggle on the couch with my people!"



Help From My Friends

New Name... Still the Same

With a Little Help From My Friends was established in 2001. Although we loved the name, it was rather long and at times, a mouthful.

Help From My Friends will be keeping the focus on surrender prevention and giving aid to the community for their pets — including spay and neuter aid.

The Pet Crisis Center is still running with lots of furry faces looking for homes and that will never change!

ADOPT-A-PET!



(Miss) Mittens here! I want you to know that I am the classic storybook cat! One look at my adorable round face, big eyes, and dainty white feet will instantly transport you back to childhood picture books that star cats just like me! Being such an adorable 2-year-old tuxie, everyone is surprised that I still do not have a family of my own...but I am picky! I want a home of my own with no other C A T S involved! After all—it is time for me to star in my own forever story. All I need is love, time and patience and I promise you will love living my storybook life with me.

Leaving a Legacy to the Pet Crisis Center

What is it that you want to be remembered for? Is your love of animals one of them? A bequest is an easy way to do that. This can be made through your will or trust in any of these ways:

- Specific dollar amount
- Specific assets
- Percentage of your estate
- Residue of your estate

**For more information contact
Help From My Friends at 231-533-4070**

To cut costs and save funds for care of the animals at the Pet Crisis Center, we have discontinued inclusion of a donation envelope in the newsletter.

This DOES NOT mean we no longer need your financial support. Please, if you can donate, clip this form or send a note with your donation and include your information so we can send you a receipt. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

*Please mail your donation to:
Help From My Friends • 3820 Ritt Road • Bellaire, MI 49615*



Wish List —

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

- Cat beds
- Cat & Dog toys
- Cat & Dog treats (nutritional ones)
- Dishwasher Pods
- Laundry Pods
- Postage stamps
- Recycled newspaper cat litter
- Thick paper towels
- Money for pet supplies and veterinary services
- Motivated volunteers ☺

*Check out our wish list on
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)*

(Look for this box on our website)

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make a donation to:

Help From My Friends Inc

Get started



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

-John Lennon

— Caring for Community Cats and Our Community —

Perhaps you've seen them. Shy little faces peeking from between loose boards in a neighbor's barn. Running silently through the undergrowth near homes or businesses seeking food, shelter, a respite from summer's heat and the winter's brutal cold. Perhaps you have seen, or even provided, small kindnesses: a bowl of dry kibble, a cardboard box lined with an old towel, a water dish. They live amongst us, for the most part unseen and unheard—living (as the poet said), lives of quiet desperation. They are our community cats.

Cats roam outside in most neighborhoods in the United States. Some are pets whose owners let (or put) them outside, but many are community cats, who may be feral or one-time pets who are now stray, lost or abandoned. The more we understand outdoor cats and the complicated issues related to them, the more effectively we can help them, reduce cat overpopulation and protect wildlife. It has, over the years, been a convention to refer to such cats as "feral". That term, now usually replaced in the lexicon of animal welfare, by the more accurate term "community cat(s)," generally refers to a cat who is the offspring of stray or other feral cats and is not accustomed to human contact. Feral cats are usually too fearful to be handled or adopted. Most true ferals find it difficult or impossible to adapt to living as pets in close contact with people. However, that doesn't mean there aren't many things we can all do to improve community cats' health and quality of life. Community cats typically live in a colony—a group of related cats. The colony occupies and defends a specific territory where food (a restaurant dumpster or a person who feeds them) and shelter (beneath a porch, in a barn or abandoned building, etc.) are available. Although community cats may be seen by people who feed them, strangers may not realize that the cats are living nearby because they rarely see them. True strays tend to be much more visible. As former pets, they may vocalize and may approach people in search of food or

shelter. Eventually strays may join a colony or defend a territory of their own, thus creating another community group. If the community is not neutered or spayed, a female cat can become pregnant as early as five months of age. The number of cats in a colony can thus grow exponentially, creating a neighborhood "nuisance", increased disease and even more kittens.

Recently, Help From My Friends has added a Community Cats program. The following is a brief rundown of the information and plans currently being implemented. The overreaching goals of Help From My Friends Community Cats program are: to provide assistance to members of Antrim County who have community cats on their property. To address the needs of the cat community—spay/neuter programs, identifying health issues, disease diagnosis and prevention. In an ideal situation, community cats would, with cooperation and assistance from the human residents be trapped, neutered and released back into the colony. TNR programs have existed for years in all parts of the nation and are remarkably effective in allowing a colony to age out without allowing for continued breeding and the attendant misery that overpopulation causes. When you consider that in just seven years, one female cat and her offspring can produce over 370,000 kittens (many of whom will go homeless) you begin to visualize the scope of uncontrolled breeding among both community cat colonies AND unsprayed/neutered house cats! Along with spay/neuter programs, the goal is to provide medical diagnosis and treatment. All cats in the TNR program will be tested for FeLV and FIV by one of our wonderful veterinarian partnerships in the local community. Cats who are found to be negative for these two virulent and deadly diseases will be vaccinated for rabies and given parasite control medication. Local vets agree that cats found to be infected with either or both FeLV and FIV must be humanely euthanized in order to prevent spreading

the disease to uninfected cat community members and to limit the suffering and painful death those diseases cause. An eventual and achievable goal is the eradication of those common and deadly diseases here in Antrim County. As the New Jersey Boardwalk Community Cats' program indicates, both goals are eminently within reach of a human community that unites to provide assistance to these very needy animals.

The following outlines the way in which members of our human community can partner with Help From My Friends to make the goal of community cat care a reality:

- Contact Help From My Friends. We are highly responsive to calls and messages and will make resources available to you.
- Agree to allow spayed/neutered cats to rejoin the colony on your property. Relocating cats simply does not work. Most cannot be adopted and will almost certainly be euthanized, nor will another colony accept them into the established group.
- Consultation and instruction concerning the physical process of trapping the cat(s).
- You may borrow a humane trap which can be reused as many times as needed before being returned.
- Transport to one of the local veterinary clinics assisting in the Community Cats program.
- Pick up the cat(s) and return the now healthy neutered pest free cat to its original colony.
- Cat Shelters are provided if needed.

Services are at no cost to you. However, donations from anyone wanting to support the Community Cats program are always appreciated!





Happy Endings & Happy T



Missy is not just sitting around in her retirement years. She is busy living life to the fullest and the Scheels were the perfect match for her.



Olaf, now Scout, and his brother Bear are the best of buds, happy to have each other for all the adventures in life.



Anna, now Kissy, is the "sweetest cat ever" according to her new family. She is happy with her feline (and human) brothers who keep her entertained and in need of a nap!



Carl is beyond loved by his family – both human and feline. Spending an afternoon napping with his brother is the best!



Bella waited and was rather particular about her home. Lucky for Bella her family was just as particular. A perfect match was made and she loves lazy days with her mom and furry brother.



Carley, now Josie, had a short stay at the center before her loving personality lander her a place in the Lambert home. She is beyond happy to have her own people.



Tori was adopted out long before the building was around. She celebrated her 13th birthday this summer.



Blair, now Minnie, has her new family wrapped around her finger. She is a spoiled only cat, just the way she has always wanted it.



Times Here at the Center!



May, now Maycie, cannot get enough of her loving home. The Buriend Family is happy to have the job.



Elvria was one of last summers' bottle babies. She was happy to snag herself a home complete with a fur sister to snuggle with.



Did you know we are a free range facility? That means during the day the dogs are free to roam the building and the cats are out of cages in their room. Missy is a big fan of this, she can lounge about all day, anywhere!



Bear was a rag to riches story. Arriving missing lots of fur to a bad flea reaction, Bear needed some extra care. Now he looks like a million bucks and is loving his spoiled dog life.



JR Woldfong held a lemonade stand to benefit the animals here at the Pet Crisis Center. Yoda and all your other furry friends thank you JR!



Gretel was happy to help announce the new microchipping policy at the center. Every animal coming through the center will now be microchipped! Need a pet microchipped? Let us know – Help From My Friends can help!



In July we attended the Best Friends National Conference in Atlantic City.

Came home with great ideas and even got a lesson on cat behavior from Jackson Galaxy. Help From My Friends took the 2025 pledge and became network partners with Best Friends.

2nd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction

The 2nd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction was a huge success, over \$11,000 was raised! A big thank you to Stone Waters Inn, Bee Well Meadery, Moka/Starlight and all who donated.

Mark you calendar for next year –
September 6, 2018



ADOPT-A-PET!



Yoda: My name speaks volumes about my personality. Although I am a mere kitten of 9 months, I have a wise and insightful mind which, combined with my wide-eyed view of the world, make me completely irresistible. I love to play and if I could only have a fur sibling in a home of my own, I would so love to share my wisdom with him or her. Around here it is hard to get anyone to listen to my philosophical musings—most of my kitty companions are simply not interested in the ideas of a baby, as they call me. Please listen when I say I have much to share with my forever family.



O Goodness! I woke up this morning in a room full of cats with 4 LEGS! What in heaven's name happened to those poor things? Personally, I feel that 3 legs is the perfect number. That is what I have, and I am indeed perfect! Sure I trip myself up once in a while, but that is because I have a lot of life to live and I am in a hurry to find my forever home so I can get started! Won't you come and meet me? My name is Georgette; I am 10 years young and very attractive. You will recognize me because in this place, I am truly one of a kind!



RJ is my code name. Actually, my mom named me Rodger Jumpfoot, but when I hired on to the spy agency I cannot name, they suggested the initials that you see here. Being a spy isn't easy--especially when you are a standout 4 year-old red and gold classic tabby cat like me. Still, since "coming in from the cold" here at the Center I continue practicing my spy skills by slinking, pouncing and observing my fellows. I have my resume out for a new position---House Cat Extraordinary. We can have a "private" meeting here at the Center. Ask for RJ, and prepare to be amazed.



Penny for your thoughts? Gosh, I would love to have a family to think about me. I really love people and I'm hoping to adopt one or two for my very own. I think it would be nice if my new humans enjoy lap time, because I really do. All I need is a chance and I will show them just how lovely it is to have a big cuddly cat to love.



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

- **Antrim County Animal Shelter** for their continued support.
 - **Antrim County Businesses** for their support of the Silent Auction and other events.
 - **Antrim County Residents** for their outpouring of support!
 - **Bee Well Mead and Cider** for supplying all the tasty spirits at the 2nd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction.
 - **Chris and Merrie Corbett** for their continued support.
 - Jack Bodis of **Creative Characters** in Central Lake for his help in the formatting and printing of this newsletter.
 - **Moka Bellaire/Starlight Lounge** for supplying all the fantastic food at the 2nd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction.
 - **Dr. Pantenburg and staff at Bellaire Animal Hospital** along with **Dr Ackler and staff at Mancelona Veterinary Hospital** for their dedication to the animals here at the center.
 - **Participating Restaurants** that kindly donate chili for our cook off every October.
 - **Stone Water Inn** for hosting the 2nd Annual Cider Tasting and Auction.
 - **Village Markets** for support and donations of community cash.
- All our **AMAZING VOLUNTEERS** who keep the center running smoothly —

In Memory Of Gilbert Richards

*Donald and Roberta Lukins
Edward and Christine Boyer
Anonymous
Terry Rowe
Kathleen Hunter
Susan Nichols
Joy Whittlesey
Marion and Alan Kuntzman
Shirley Spaniel
Sherrie Hicks*

**Tara – Ronald and Luann
Donaldson's beloved dog
Bellaire Animal Hospital**
Jack McKay
Jim and Joyce Burgass



In Honor Of

Chris and Merrie Corbett
Kris and Donna Harris

**Carol – The Cat Whisperer's
Birthday**
William and Catherine Peterson

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

ADOPT-A-PET!



Nadine is a good name for me--exotic, not just your run of the mill tuxedo cat name (I don't want to offend so I won't tell you the more mundane names of my fellow tuxedo residents at the Center). I am only 3 and have lots of good years left to give and receive the love I crave. I am very sociable and kind and would love to meet you sometime--you have my number? Call the center and ask to speak to me. Soon!

Summer 2017 Donors of Fifty Dollars +

Bellaire Dental Health Care
Brierly Anderson Jr.
Chris and Merrie Corbett
Daniel Standford
Deborah Moore
Dennis and Sheri Thompson
Diane Arietta
Dr Dennis and Michele
Spillane
Gilbert Richards

North Central Academy Girls
On The Run
Harris Family
Joy Whittlesey
Kalin and Sophia Johnson
Karen and John Thumm
Kelly Zimmerman
Kitty and Andrew Schaedel
Kris and Donna Harris
Lillian McLachlan

Marc Maday
Marion and Alan Kuntzman
Martha Dunning
Mary Henderson
Naida Dewey
Nichols Family
Peter and Jean Persons
Phylis McKay
Sherrie Hicks
Shirley Wolfe

Stuff and Such
Susan Nichols
The Whitening Pro
Thomans and Brenda
Lambert
Village Market Food Centers
William and Catherine
Peterson



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



**Help From
My Friends**

3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, Mi 49615

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Central Lake, MI
PERMIT 22

Remember when you have
shopping to do –



Help From My Friends receives a portion of the sales
from this site. Please give it a try, it doesn't cost you
and we get a donation!

You'll also find a link to this site on
helpfrommyfriends.org

For those in the Antrim County area...

If you save your receipts (including gas receipts)
from the Central Lake, Elk Rapids, and Rapid City
Village Markets, or any Family Fare,
please mail them to:

Help From My Friends' Pet Crisis Center
3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615
*A portion of their Community Cash program
will be donated to the center.*

*"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights.
That is the way of a whole human being"*

—Abraham Lincoln



Please recycle, pass this newsletter on! ☺

ADOPT-A-PET!



*Paul, Ringo, John and George have taken over with their kitten energy.
All are 4 months old, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, neutered, up to date
on shots and ready to go! When they are not carrying around balls and
chasing one another they are looking for a lap to purr on.*