

Number of cats and dogs spayed/neutered year to date	372
Spay/neuter expenses year to date.	\$23,819.62
Administrative expenses year to date.	924.43
Donations received year to date	21,063.08
The above totals are through 3/31/16.	

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS



May 1-June 25- It's Back! **"The Match 2016"** will be held from May 1-June 25 this year. All donations received during these dates up to \$12,000 will be matched by a couple of very generous donators. This means we have the potential to raise a total of \$24,000 for our spay/neuter programs if we are able to raise the \$12,000 in donations to earn the match. This year donations from individuals and money made at fundraising events will qualify for the match. Because we have not received funding from some of

the grants we applied for it is important that we reach this matching goal! Donations can be made online via our Facebook page or on our website www.animalsbestfriendfund.org, brought to our fundraising events, or sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077. Remember when you donate to Animal's Best Friend, at least 90 percent of your donation goes to fund spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Because we are an all volunteer group we are able to keep our administrative costs to less than 10 percent of donations we receive. Help us reach our goal by making your tax-deductible donation today and by sharing this newsletter with your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and anyone else who loves animals and asking them to support us. Every dollar counts!

May 7- Mother's Day Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus on Westnedge from 9:00am-3:00pm. We need lots of bakers and buyers for this event as the proceeds from this bake sale will count toward The Match 2016 \$12,000 goal that we are trying to raise before June 25. If you can bake for this sale please drop off the items you make to us no later 10:00am on the morning of the sale so we have all day to sell the items you donate. Please indicate what the item is and whether or not it has nuts in it due to food allergies. We will have wonderful jewelry that will make a great last minute gift for the moms in your life.

May 13&14- Garage Sale to benefit Animal's Best Friend at 310 N. John St. in Decatur, MI. Hours for this sale are Friday 9:00am-5:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm. Drop off for items you wish to donate to the sale is from 6:00-8:00pm on May 12. Please do not bring clothing items.

June 18- Father's Day Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus on Westnedge from 9:00am-3:00pm. The proceeds from this sale will also be eligible for The Match 2016 that ends on June 25, so come out and help make this sale a success by donating baked goods and buying!

Our friends at Animal Rescue Project need donation of gently used shoes, sandals or boots by May 14 (flip flops and children's shoes count!). If they collect 2,500 shoes, they will receive \$1,000 through Wooftrax. Shoes can be dropped off at the ARP shelter located at 219Peekstock St. in Kalamazoo or at MVPets.

SMITH STRONG MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We received donations for our Smith Strong Memorial Fund from Chemical Bank Paw Paw Branch; Nancy Dolan; Denise Runge; Patricia Rose; Jerre & Ray Ihrcke; Diane Karlis; Philip & Constance Micklin; Bruce & Sara Bejcek; S.F. Kapoor; Nancy Brookins; Janet West; Charles & Betsie Scott; William & Joyce Truscott; Deb Norton; Helen Page Dolan; Mary Johnson; the Mike & Sharon Seelye Family Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Mattawan Strong Fundraiser for the Smiths. We helped raise a lot of awareness about our program. As a result, we have spayed and neutered three pets so far from contacts made at this event.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following people donated to our Paws Fur Learning Medical Fund: Jerre & Ray Ihrcke; Christine & Stan McGrew; S.F. Kapoor.

The following people donated to our feral cat fund: Kim Dimock; Michele Mullen & Charles Williams; Ben & Claudia Johnson; Helen Page Dolan; Martha Cochrane; Ray & Jerre Ihrcke.

Thanks to Mike Williams; Michele Mullen; Sarah Gerstner & Linda Marquart for working at our St. Patrick's Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge. To Teresa Rakowsky; Sue Florian; Sidney Murray; Hope DeJong; Diane Karlis; Sarah Gerstner; Lorraine Haring; Karen Macklom; Carolyn Woodward; Tina Spencer; Linda Marquart; Kelly Ross; and Betsy & Melinda Ryba for donating baked goods. To Jennifer Cohen for donating crafts. To Gail Ross for donating catnip mice. We made \$797.00 at this event. To Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge for providing the location for our bake sales.

To Rebecca & Roy Morley for donating postage stamps. To Carolyn Woodward for donating catnip toys. To Theresa Noppen for sewing catnip toys. To Ray & Jerre Ihrcke for donating postage stamps. To Taylor's Florist & gifts in Paw Paw for providing a location for one of our donation cans. To Tina Spencer for donating cat toys. To Mare Johnson for designing donation cans and for monitoring our donation cans in the Gobles area.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

From

Phyllis & John Martens

In Memory Of

Beverly Whelan

GRANT UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that we recently received a grant from the Petco Foundation for our Free Spay/Neuter Program for Feral and Free-Roaming Cats! We have earmarked these funds to cover our expenses in this area for the month of April. Thank you to the Petco Foundation for their generosity and for helping the cats in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Emma the cat is still lost in the Paw Paw, MI area. She became lost late last fall by the laundromat on St. Joseph St. She is a calico cat. If someone has taken Emma in and has been looking after her they are asked to contact her owners Rex and Chris at (269)628-5160 or (269)348-2918. There is a monetary reward for reuniting Emma with her owners.

FERAL FRIENDS

As the weather gets nicer, rodent and other unwanted critter problems arise. Do you want a natural, "green", pesticide free solution? Adopt a barn cat! We have several wonderful cats looking for safe barn homes. It doesn't just have to be a barn; it can be a garage, shed, office, storage space. These spayed and neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped cats will provide great rodent control. All they ask for in return is a place to stay safe from the weather, for you to provide a fresh clean water source and supplemental food. We have cats in every color, gender and personality to suit your mousing needs. Contact Sarah in Kalamazoo County sarahgerstner@hotmail.com and Marcie in Van Buren County (269)655-1813 or (269)-906-5852.

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Our friends at Van Buren County Animal Control have continued to do amazing things! They have secured a MDARD grant that allows them to get select animals spayed and neutered prior to adoption. This ensures that animals are sterilized and there will be no "oops" litters. Adoption fees are also reduced as a result. \$15 adopts a forever furry friend; \$25 includes a county license.



We are so incredibly proud of this program and thank you for your continued support! Recently the Bissell Pet Foundation even recognized us and shared the program on their facebook page. As the school year prepares to wind down, we are looking to move the remaining classroom cats into forever homes. We have adopted out over 20 cats this year who previously wouldn't have been given a chance and most likely euthanized. Teachers, community leaders, student's families and strangers have all adopted through the program giving very deserving cats and kittens forever homes. Currently there are 3 teenage cats (a year or under), one adult and a mom nursing six kittens (they will be moved to foster at the end of the school year).

Meet the Paws Fur Learning adoptable cat crew!



Otis and Owen-This bonded brother pair loves to play! Recently they discovered ABF cat nip toys which were a big hit. These boys originally came from the Osterhout Colony. To start, the boys were looking for a barn home but in the past couple months, they have really come out of their shell. The Paws Fur Learning students hold them daily. The brothers are very curious about other cats and seem to tolerate dogs. They have been neutered, completely vaccinated, dewormed, treated with monthly flea and parasite prevention, and have an ear tip; we estimate them at about 10 months.



Alexa-This long grey haired beauty was one of the Coyote Cats from last year. Her brother was adopted by one of our wonderful volunteers and her mom is currently at Animal Rescue Project awaiting adoption. Alexa is a shy girl who needs a patient owner. She had a very rough start to life so we can't blame her for taking a bit to get to know you and trust. Alexa been spayed, completely vaccinated, dewormed, and treated with monthly flea and parasite prevention; we estimate her at a little under a year old.



Kingsford-"Kinky" as he is affectionately called was rescued this winter in subzero temps by a very caring woman who found him in the back of a garbage truck. He was in rough shape with frost bite to his ears and a nasty upper respiratory infection. He is named for his gorgeous charcoal colored. This boy loves everything and everyone! He plays soccer with his favorite ball, he expects you to kick it back to him too. He discovered catnip last week and it may be his new favorite thing. Kingsford is FIV positive. FIV is only transmitted through deep tissue bites and sexual contact between cats. Since Kinky gets along with everyone and is neutered, we feel very confident placing him in a home with other cats. He has been neutered, completely vaccinated, dewormed, treated with monthly flea and parasite prevention, and has an ear tip; we estimate him at about 2 years old.

Animal's Best Friend is an all volunteer animal welfare group dedicated to reducing cat and dog overpopulation in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Donations to Animals Best Friend are tax deductible and can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077 or made on our Facebook page or website www.animalsbestfriendfund.org. Our policy is to spend 10% or less of donations we receive on administrative expenses, which means that at least 90% of your donation funds spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped spay/neuter over 48,295 cats and dogs.