



Bonnie and Casey at an MHS fundraising event

## Legacies of Second Chances

**Few people make change happen. It not only takes commitment to an idea, but also determination to move it forward. In this issue of *The Scoop* we highlight people (and one dog!) whose actions have made a difference. Each in their own way left the legacy of a better life for the animals and people we serve.**

When she joined the board in 2013, Bonnie Benson questioned what was being done to reduce the number of animals that were surrendered. Were we making sure that every dog and cat was spayed or neutered?

The answer was "not really." In those days the shelter provided \$25-off certificates to be used for surgery at private clinics. No more than half

the certificates ever made it back to the shelter for reimbursement.

By the July, 2014 board meeting, Bonnie had heard enough. At the new business section of the agenda she raised her hand. "We need to do 100% spay/neuter before we adopt these animals. That's the only way we can be sure it's done." She put a \$10,000 check on the table and challenged the board to match it so that we would have enough set aside for a one-year pilot project.

Coincidentally (or maybe not?!) our signature fundraiser, Cocktails at the Grand Cottage, was two weeks later. Bonnie's challenge helped us to quickly complete the match in the Fund-a-Paws paddle raise.

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The Michiana Humane Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We enrich our community by giving animals, and the people who love them, a second chance.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR What's the Best That Could Happen?

A legacy is your impact on the world. I like to think of it in positive terms - how can I make things better for the next generation? What can I do to promote an improvement in the way the world works?

This issue of *The Scoop* is all about legacies to the animals from members of the Michiana Humane Society community. How have they made the world a safer, healthier, kinder place for our four-legged friends?

You'll read about Bonnie Benson and the Spay-Neuter Initiative, and Gail Lowrie who introduced MHS to Will Schauble and Jason Spohn to launch Cocktails at the Grand Cottage right when the shelter needed it most. These are major legacies that changed our world for all the animals to come.

We have other legacies that happen much more regularly. When our Shelter Manager, Karen Edwards, approaches a frightened kitten and its snarls turn to purrs, Karen has changed that kitten's life. Or when Volunteer Bob Kasarda asked if he could take two dogs into the Dog Park at once, Bob created a play group program that now eases kennel stress for every MHS dog.

We recently celebrated Lead Kennel Tech David Schroeder's ten-year anniversary at MHS! He has advanced from volunteering to his current position training and overseeing kennel techs. He carries so much organizational knowledge - his legacy is to keep sharing the lessons that have already been learned.

Each and every one of us can leave a legacy for the animals. Be kind. Be gentle. Provide a safe, comfortable place for pets to sleep, healthy food, and appropriate daily exercise. It doesn't have to take a lot of money or time...Just invest your love in something you care deeply about.

What's the best that could happen?



Executive Director

## Legacies of Second Chances

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On January 1, 2015 the Michiana Humane Society began the Spay-Neuter Initiative. All dogs, cats and rabbits would be fixed before adoption. In the seven years since, nearly 3,000 pets have gone into good homes and had no chance to increase the population of unwanted animals in the community.

**That is Bonnie's legacy.** 🌸

## Giving Back and Making a Difference



Fully 1/3 of the 2,917 surgeries MHS organized over the past seven years were done in-house thanks to retired vets Tim Sullivan and Erik Wagner. Their generosity in working with us pro bono had a huge impact on our animals, and kept their surgical skills top notch. We are grateful! We are always looking for licensed veterinarians who might want to give back to the community. If you know one, please let us know!



## Feeding HOPE

### My Dog Always Eats First

"My dog always eats first" is often the sentiment of pet owners who can't quite make ends meet. Tim Scott recognized the problem of food insecurity after years in corporate marketing for Land o' Lakes and their partnership with Feeding America.

When the pandemic began he suggested that the Michiana Humane Society could play a vital role by collecting pet food for a local food pantry, freeing more funds for recipients to use towards feeding their children and themselves. His legacy lives on through Feeding Hope, the Michiana Humane Society pet food pantry program.

Caring for dogs came naturally to Tim Scott. As he neared retirement, Tim and his partner, Jeff Welch, decided to open Welcott Farm: A Dog Retreat on their property in Gallien, Michigan. Tim joined the MHS Board in 2020 and he and Jeff often fostered dogs. In some cases, they even introduced them to their new families!

Tim served on the board until his death in November of 2021. He chose to put his energy into a program that helps struggling families keep their pets: Feeding Hope. Every month, Michiana Humane Society, Welcott Farm and Brandt's Old



Fashion Emporium collect donations of pet food and drop them off at the Trinity Episcopal Church Food Pantry in Michigan City, and to Meals on Wheels of SW Michigan. Some of the donations are distributed directly from the shelter.

Since beginning the program thousands of pounds of kibble and canned food have been donated to Feeding Hope.

Tim would coordinate the delivery of food, always with efficiency, a smile, or a sympathetic ear. He would share with us how pet owners headed straight for the pet food section before considering what they needed for themselves. Every month all the pet food gets used.

Today Tim's Welcott Farm colleagues continue his service, and you can, too. We accept donations of unopened

pet food and treats any time during business hours. Smaller packages are always needed, since many food pantry clients travel on foot. If you know someone that is struggling to pay their grocery bill, please let them know about Feeding Hope. Too many pet owners in our community are food insecure. A donation can keep a pet and their family together.

Tim Scott's caring spirit and legacy will endure through the hope we can feed in our community. 🌻



### Petey's Legacy

He didn't intentionally change the world for other animals, but when the sad puppy was left at the Michiana Humane Society suffering from a horrible case of mange, Petey's legacy began.

He's become a legend here at the Michiana Humane Society. If you've

been around a while you've no doubt heard of him, but if not, here's his story.

Staff arriving to work at 8 am on Monday, May 4, 2015 discovered a spotted puppy in the back pen. He could barely walk, so inflamed was his skin. Shelter Manager Karen Edwards told Executive Director Johanna Humbert

it did not look good. And to be sure, in the past a dog that sick would have been euthanized to end his suffering, since there was no money for vet bills.

But when Karen picked Petey up, his tail wagged. And when she put him on the table to get a better look at him he got wiggly. He was just a six-month old puppy who had been allowed to develop a horrible case of mange.

So Karen and Johanna decided to send Petey to Michigan City Animal Hospital for

evaluation. Before they determined his fate, they wanted to have options. By the end of the day they knew his care would cost \$1,500, with in-hospital attention to check-ups until his skin healed.

Then MHS did something new: We took to Facebook to ask for help for Petey. We didn't have that \$1,500 in the bank, but if we could raise it in one day, we could commit to Petey's care. And did the donations roll in! By Wednesday we had raised \$3,000, enough to fix Petey and to have money available for the next sick pet. That was the start of Petey's Fund for Sick Animals, a legacy of sorts for all the animals to come.

And yes, Petey grew more and more playful and puppy like with every week and early in July he was able to be adopted. Now a 7-year-old member of the Fournier family of New Buffalo, Petey enjoys sunbathing and the beach, loves everyone he meets, and is adored by his people, Dan and Diana. 🌻



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## A Grand Legacy

At the beginning of 2010 the Michiana Humane Society was in a bad financial hole. The Board of Directors knew that without a major new income source, the future was not bright. And that is when board member and Harbor Country realtor Gail Lowrie introduced us to Will Schauble and Jason Spohn.

Gail knew a good entertaining space when she saw one. She convinced Will and Jason (and their beloved Airedales) to open up their New Buffalo lakefront home, Grand Cottage, to a fundraising cocktail party for Michiana Humane Society. Cocktails at the Grand Cottage was born.

The event was a great success, and raised the bar for Michiana Humane Society's fundraising

potential with sensational live auction items, event sponsorships, raffles and our "fund-a-paws" paddle raise. Word spread that this party was not to be missed and our shelter animals benefited for ten grand years, in which time the party raised over \$1.1 million for the animals.

After a 2-year hiatus, we are excited to announce that Cocktails at Grand Cottage is back! Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in July when we will gather for the most spectacular event in Harbor Country!

Sadly, we lost Gail Lowrie early this year to cancer. We dedicate this year's Grand Cottage to her memory, and the legacy she created by starting the event in 2010. 🍷



## Upcoming Events to Support Shelter Pets



**Paws & Pints • Michigan City, Indiana  
Saturday, May 7th, 2022 from 11:00am - 3:00pm**

Michiana Humane Society and Friendship Botanic Gardens invite you and your dog(s) to Paws & Pints! Paws & Pints features a dog-walking course through Friendship Botanic Garden's beautiful 100+ acres of hiking trails and gardens. Tickets include admission to The Gardens, a goody bag with items for you and your pet, a Paws & Pints bandana and live music from Nate Miller and the Turn Ups.

**Tickets are on sale now!**

Food and drinks will be available for purchase from local favorites like Burn 'Em Brewing, Shady Creek Winery, Social Que BBQ, and Zorn Brew Works. All dogs must be leashed.

**Cocktails at the Grand Cottage  
New Buffalo, Michigan • Saturday, July 30, 2022**

Cocktails at the Grand Cottage returns as our signature fundraising event in 2022! Hosted at a beautiful lakeshore private home, this event is not to be missed! Join us at the spectacular venue while enjoying cocktails, small bites and an exciting live auction.

**Ticket sales open May 31st, 2022.**

Sponsorships are available now. Sponsorship inquiries may be directed to Colleen Ryan at [cryan.pr@gmail.com](mailto:cryan.pr@gmail.com).

**Remember Me Thursday  
Michigan City, Indiana • Thursday, September 22**

Annually, MHS and shelters across the country partake in Remember Me Thursday to remember pets we have lost and shine the light on the millions of pets still awaiting adoption. We join together for a luminary lighting ceremony in the front yard of the shelter. You are invited to dedicate luminaries in remembrance of your pets.

Luminaries will be available for purchase in September. Event attendance is free and open to the public.

**Artist Studio Tours  
Harbor Country • Saturday, October 1, 2022**

Save the date! Back by popular demand, artists of Harbor Country will open their private studios for a day of behind-the-scenes tours. Guests will enjoy the day exploring the vibrant art community of Harbor Country and join together at a cocktail reception in the evening.

**Ticket on sale late summer.**

Sponsorships are available now. Sponsorship inquiries may be directed to Heidi Tuthill at [Heidi@michianapets.org](mailto:Heidi@michianapets.org).

**Dollars 4 Doodles  
August 17 - August 31, 2022  
Order online beginning August 17**

Dollars 4 Doodles will turn your pet into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece (or disaster-piece). Make a donation and submit a photo of your pet, then we'll send you a doodle created by our wonderful, yet artistically challenged, staff and volunteers. However, you never know what you're going to get! Our Doodlers range from professional artists to young children.

Guaranteed to bring many laughs and to be a great conversation piece in your home. Start saving your best pet photos now! Already had your pet doodled? A doodle makes a great gift.

## Karen's Corner – Don't Eat That!

**Whether your pets are indoors or out, curious mouths will try to taste things we people wish they wouldn't! Here are a few tips and techniques to discourage them.**

### **Bitter Apple Spray**

This is a product that you mist onto whatever you want left alone.

Chair legs, plants, etc. It has an extremely bitter taste that discourages most, but not all, cats and dogs. Note that you will need to repeat the spraying periodically until the pet decides to stay away. And for some reason, there are pets who seem almost to like Bitter Apple – so be sure to monitor them until you're certain!

### **Block access**

If you have a curious puppy or kitten who wants to explore the kitchen, or peruse your dinner plate, the easiest way to avoid an accidental poisoning is to shut the door on them. If you can keep your pet out of the kitchen or dining room, they won't get into your food.

### **Leash walking**

Similarly, if your dog gets into trash outside, the simplest way to avoid trouble is to keep him leashed away from the trash.

### **Muzzle**

In extreme cases, it may be necessary to muzzle your dog to keep her from eating bad things. This would certainly be a last resort. Of course any of these techniques relies on the person managing the situation. Can you teach your pet to make a better choice?

### **Drop it!**

You can teach your dog to drop whatever is in his mouth with a fun game. Use some high quality treats (cheese or meat cut into pea-sized pieces) and a toy your dog likes. Give Pup the toy, then while it's in his mouth say "Yes!" and then offer a treat. Pup will likely drop the toy. Before he finishes the treat, you pick up the toy (you can drop a few treats if he eats fast). Repeat the sequence 5-10 times per training session – toy, "Yes!", treat. You'll notice that Pup starts to drop the toy when you say "Yes!", anticipating the treat. Do multiple sessions each day.

After you've trained this sequence for a few days, expand it by adding your "drop it" cue. Maybe you'll use "Yuck!" or "No, no!" or something else. Be consistent. The expanded sequence is toy, cue (dog drops toy), "Yes!", treat. Again, practice this many times, and in different locations, with different toys.

You can search the internet for "train my dog to drop it" to get more tips and techniques. Good luck! 🌸



## Leave Your Mark

### **Donate**

Michigan Humane Society has an operating budget of \$760,000 and cares for 60 – 100+ animals at a time. Did you know that MHS receives no tax dollars? We rely on private donations to do our work, providing second chances for over 1,000 homeless pets annually. All donations, big and small, help the animals!

Become a Humane Hero! Sign up to donate monthly and we will charge your card automatically. A monthly gift allows you to have a bigger impact by making smaller donations over time.

To become a Humane Hero click the "Donate" tab at [MichiganPets.org](http://MichiganPets.org) and check the "recurring donation" box when making your gift. Or call us at 219-872-4499.

### **Volunteer**

We rely on volunteers to help care for the shelter every day. Volunteers as young as 13 can help with daily tasks like laundry, dishes, organizing and socializing with animals. It goes without saying that volunteers make an impact on the animals' lives, but volunteering is also a great way to keep yourself healthy, physically and mentally. Volunteer at MHS and you'll make plenty of new friends (humans and animals).

### **Foster**

Sometimes the lifetime commitment of adopting is not right but you know that for the next weeks or months you have room in your home and in your heart for a shelter pet. We provide the basic supplies and vet care. You provide the temporary comforts of home, care and love. Pets need foster homes for many reasons. Sometimes they are too young to be adopted, some may be recovering from a surgery or medical treatment, others are too stressed or uncomfortable with shelter life. Fosters are the key to a happy and safe transition into a pet's fur-ever home.

### **Adopt**

To borrow a phrase from an MHS supporter: "unconditional love is for real." Unconditional love is also fur-ever.

Second chances aren't just for the animals. Adopting a shelter pet can bring you the companionship of a lifetime. The loyalty of a rescued pet is unrivaled. Choose to adopt a shelter pet and encourage your friends and family to adopt instead of shop. 🌸