



Little Shelter, Big Results

Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

October 2015

The Old, the New, the Gently-Used...You Gave and Saved

A boat, an engine hoist, an antique medical exam table. An entire room full of holiday decorations and another room full of books and records. Hundreds of household items. Five long rows of furniture. These are just some of the items that were brought and sold at the Barn Sale in August, raising \$25,023.10 to care for the shelter animals. That broke last year's record by over \$3,600!

The Barn Sale is one of the most challenging and rewarding of our events every year. The committee started months in advance and, in total, volunteers put in over 700 hours sorting, cleaning, packing, unpacking, transporting, pricing and displaying thousands of items.

Sale Days

The real excitement starts the week before the sale, when people begin arriving at the barn with their donations. Each year, we think we're used to it...the generosity. But each year, we still feel overwhelmed by what you bring to support the animals. Car after car, filled with donations. That box of books will be worth enough to feed one of the cats for two days. That dresser will provide money for spay/neuter services for two cats. That lawn mower will fund the vaccines for a litter of kittens.

Of course, the Barn Sale wouldn't be complete without the actual "sale." Over three days, hundreds of people came to shop. The woman who spent \$5 paid for hot dogs to help train the dogs. The couple who bought three tables covered the cost of repairs for our overworked washing machine.

It All Adds Up

Every item donated had value, and the purchase of those items provides critical funds to support the shelter. The amount of money from this year's sale will be enough to cover the budgeted costs of running the shelter for a month. Plus, items which one person no longer wanted went on to have new purpose with other people. Just like the animals at the shelter.



Puppy Quinn and her five siblings all came in severely undernourished and with terrible skin problems. The amount of money raised from an antique desk chair was enough to cover the cost of their extra time in foster care and medication. They were all able to get healthy and find wonderful homes.

To make a memorial or gift donation, please send a check along with your name
and the name of the person or pet you want to honor to:

Brown County Humane Society, P.O. Box 746, Nashville, IN 47448

Donations Were Made in Honor of...

Becky Burr

Robert and Holly Sieck

Bob and Linda Worland's wedding

Thomas and Pamela Crawford

Destiny Myers

Christina Myers

Elizabeth Martin's birthday

Ashley Szekeres

Georgie and Chedder

Carole Rhoades

Judy Millikan

Pat Denny

Karen and Larry

Thomas and Ann Rotelli

Maria's birthday

Marjorie Cook

Mary Perez

Marilyn McAtee

Rinda Robbins

The marriage of Carol Zapapas & Anthony Krug

Brian and Kelly Jennings

Amy Beck and Gary Wiczorek

Sue Ann Werling

The Brown County Community Foundation

For the Environmental Leadership Award

Donations Were Made in Memory of...

Chris Wagner

Ginger Christie

Charlie and Ann Mari Jones

John Fick

A Scales

Patrick and Glenda Murray

Matthew Darbyshire

Jeffrey and Margareta Grove

Douglas and Pamela Freeman

Dante

Pat and Kendra Loyal

Doris

Sue Findley

Dusty Ritchison

Jim and Barbara Stinson

Ed Flemming

Evan and Sue Ann Werling

Robert Torok

Don Torok

Givalike Org

Wayne and Patricia Thummel

Donations Were Made in Memory of...

Ellie

Phillip Smith and Sue Ahbe

Frank Platusic

Michael and Emogene Grant

Cynthia Polakis

George Blair

Carl and Sarah Epler

Ginger Cat

Lee Edgren and Richard Phillips

Hap

James and Judith Huber

Jean Bond

Gerald and Linda Broussard

Joe and Frankie

Steven and Sue Crandall

Lina

Stephanie Sharp

Steven and Kathleen Sharp

Lois Slevan

Country Gospel Music Church

Maggie

Wanda Jones

Maxine Fleetwood

Teri Bleuel and Charles McCalla

Catherine Roundtree

Stephen Pyles and Patti Fleetwood

Jerry and Debbie Fleetwood

Judith and Gerry Rea

Jennifer Bryant

Lyndel Parker

Garry and Nancy Pugh

Brenda Kirts

Lois and James Gredy

Carol Cooper

Molly

Wanda Jones

Paul Gebhard

Tamar Kander

Darrel and Janet Kramer

Veronica Wald

Pauline Ellis

Doug and Teresa Baird

Cathy Anderson

David and Janice Fisher

Robert and Sheila Wines

Tom Corollo

Gloria Corollo

Tom Pugh

Teresa Russell



SPOT Highlights

We're thrilled to announce that we've recently spayed/neutered the 4,000th Brown County pet through the SPOT program! It's a big milestone in just five years, and a big part of why we've seen a reduction in animals coming into the shelter by over 57%.

We're very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of volunteers to manage this program. What the SPOT team really does is build relationships and help individuals to find the best solutions for their pets. That doesn't only involve spay/neuter, but as we move into the colder months, the team will begin delivering straw for outdoor pets, providing dog houses and feral cat houses, and continuing to educate wherever we can.

If you're a Brown County resident and would like assistance from SPOT, or want to sign up to get your pets spayed/neutered, you can call the SPOT team at: 812-703-0797.

Taking Chances

When Lee adopted Nicoe, she did it mostly out of kindness. She'd lost her beloved cat, and wasn't sure she wanted to adopt again. Besides, Nicoe wasn't exactly the most outgoing cat at the shelter. He had to be bribed with chicken nuggets to allow petting. He didn't like to come out of his condo. He was generally indifferent to people. But the shelter staff was hopeful that once he was in a home, he would blossom. Lee was aware that she may never get to pet Nicoe, but he'd spent almost three years at the shelter and she knew she could at least provide a better home. She decided to take a chance on him.

Sure enough, when they got home, Nicoe immediately hid under the bed and mostly stayed there for ten days. Then, as she lay in bed on the tenth day, Lee heard a meow. Nicoe was at the side of the bed, asking to be petted. Ever since, his favorite place at night is curled up next to Lee.

Shortly after that, Lee sent us a beautiful card. She wrote "*What I did not expect is that I have totally fallen in love with him. My idea was to give him a home, but he is so beautiful and loving. He has filled my heart with joy and love and already I would not know how to live without him. He truly is a joy. And so I want to thank each and every one of you for loving and caring for him. If he had been at any other shelter, we all know it would not have a happy ending.*"



Nicoe relaxing at home on his bed next to the fireplace.

Lee gave Nicoe the time he needed to feel safe and comfortable on his own terms. At a recent gathering at Lee's, the once indifferent shelter cat went from one person to the next, practically demanding attention.

Lee and Nicoe's story is special, but it's not entirely unusual. Sherman, the foster cat, hid under a chair for days but went on to become a wonderful and constant companion. Basel hid for weeks, but has now become an integrated part of her new family. The stories are plentiful. For people with a little patience, sometimes taking a chance on an animal results in even stronger bonds.

BCHS MISSION: *The BCHS is a community resource dedicated to promoting animal welfare. We provide temporary shelter to pets in need and promote adoption into permanent, loving homes. We support and promote spaying and neutering to eliminate pet overpopulation. We advocate compassionate care and respect for animals through public education.*

The Cat Who Taught Us

When he came to the shelter, Marcus quickly became a favorite. His outgoing personality made us laugh, and his love of people (and their laps) got him lots of attention. He was irresistible, and we knew that he would find his new home quickly.

Then something changed. He became...cautious. Somehow, Marcus had gone blind.

Poor Marcus would have to learn how to navigate the world with this terrible disability and we would have to put all of our efforts into finding a home willing to adopt him. We were devastated.

But someone forgot to tell Marcus to be devastated. His cautious behavior lasted about a day. Soon he was right back looking for attention, jumping on the desk, and using his whiskers to feel the walls.

By the end of the week, Marcus knew where his litter and food were, had established his rest area on a chair, and was playing with the other cats. When he chased a plastic ball with a bell inside around the room, we knew he'd be ok. He knocked his head a few times, but it was all part of his learning process.

Marcus also found a friend in Tilly. The kitten would curl up on his chair and Marcus would groom her until she fell asleep. Then he would sleep himself.

By the end of the second week, Marcus was headed home. That same personality he had when he came to the shelter quickly won over his new family. All they saw was his affection and his enthusiasm, not his disability. Of course, Tilly went too, along with another kitten. Now they'll be able to guide each other through life together.

Marcus taught us a lesson. *We* were the ones who thought his disability would hold him back, but he just went on being Marcus. His personality would see him through. Bravo, Marcus!



Thank you for your support. You bring joy not only to the animals, but also to the people who share their lives.

Until next time.

Upcoming Events

November: 2015 Chocolate Walk: This year's walk will take place on November 14th. Stroll through Nashville and sample different chocolate treats from over 30 shops. Tickets are on sale now. The event has sold out for the last several years, so plan to get your tickets early! Buy online at: www.bchumane.org/chocolate-walk/ or call 812-327-3016 between 9 am – 6 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities

Email Erika at volunteer@bchumane.org for information about any of these opportunities.

- Chocolate Walk Volunteers – over 70 volunteers needed for 4 hour shifts.
- Handy person(s) –All-around handy person to help with general upkeep at the shelter.
- Cat photographer – Come once a week to photograph cats for online posting.

Honors

- Board treasurer, Jane Weatherford, was once again asked to speak at the national Best Friends Animal Conference about how BCHS has become such a successful rural shelter.
- Board president, Sue Ann Werling, was part of a panel discussion at a symposium sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States: "Making It Work in Your Community- Examples of Innovative Approaches." She talked about the SPOT program and supporting feral cats in Brown County.

BCHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Sarah Armstrong

Kennel Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley, Jackie Jones,

Meischa Lacy, Destiny Myers, Brandon Shoobridge

Behavior Coordinator: Sean Medina

SPOT Coordinator: Red Nastoff

Volunteer & Communications Manager: Erika Imhoof

Development Manager: Megan Gushwa

Board of Directors

Sue Ann Werling – President; Greg Bennett – Secretary; Jane Weatherford – Treasurer

Ruthann Berck, Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman, Ingrid Skoog