



pet *pause*

WINTER 2022

FROM MHS BOARD PRESIDENT, JOANNE RICE

As I write this, it's a lovely time of year but also the time of year when I begin to stress over getting things off my to-do list accomplished! It's the "Hallogivingmas" season, as Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas follow each other in such quick succession! The pumpkins are on the front porch; the cornucopia is on the dining table, and the Christmas list is in progress.

In many ways, this is the best time of year for kindnesses, as evidenced by the generosity of people to one another and to the animals who reside at our shelter. When this issue of *PetPause* reaches your mailboxes, Thanksgiving will be just past us, and we'll be ready for our Wrap It Up Gift Wrap fundraiser. Every December at Gift Wrap, MHS staff and volunteers wrap hundreds of packages to adorn the home and tuck under the Christmas tree of so many people. It is rewarding when folks return to pick up their gifts, and we can actually see some of the stress leave their faces; one holiday task has been done! Speaking on behalf of the many MHS volunteers and staff who wrap these presents each December, this fundraiser is especially fulfilling for us as it allows us to do something for our MHS supporters to ease their holiday workload. Goodness knows our MHS supporters certainly ease our load throughout the year each time they give of their finances or themselves to support our shelter.

With the end of 2022 already in view, we have had another fruitful year of providing care for thousands of animals at the MHS. Our Dog-u-tante Ball in April, the summer's Pet Photo Contest, and September's Catini event were all successful in raising funds to support our mission of saving lives and completing families. And thanks to an industrious foster program, we have been able to save many very young kittens and puppies who would not have done well in the shelter environment.

Challenges continue for us, namely the upsetting uptick in animals that have been surrendered to the MHS and especially, an increasing number of medium to large-sized dogs entering our shelter. We have responded by hosting low-cost adoption days (even at a financial loss to our shelter) to hopefully find new homes for these deserving animals. Our MHS Intervention Program has made strides in assisting low-income families in keeping their pets healthy at home, and in spaying/neutering local feral cat colonies. However, it is only through the generosity of the community—that's all of you—that we have been able to provide these services. On behalf of the MHS Board, MHS staff, and the entire MHS team, we cannot thank you enough. May your holidays be blessed with laughter and all the joys of the season.

LONG AWAITED EVENING FOR OUR FELINE FRIENDS: CATINI PARTY RETURNS AFTER THREE YEAR HIATUS

Can you believe the last MHS Catini soiree was held March 9, 2019? Thanks to the 2020-2021 shutdowns, the Catini fundraiser has been on hold for three and a half years much to the disappointment of the MHS. On the evening of September 17 though, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., we were finally able to open our doors to all fans of our feline friends and kick off our long-awaited Catini party with plenty of enthusiasm.

After paying for their tickets outside the front door, guests had a chance to meet our MHS Intervention Coordinator, Denton Hawk. Denton had a booth set up in the shelter lobby to raise funds for what the MHS refers to as “kitten kits,” which are go-home supplies of cat crates, cat litter, and cat food that we send home with our fosters who volunteer to foster MHS cats or kittens. Denton has done much to save cat lives through a series of Intervention programs aimed at stewarding our community’s feral and stray cat population through humane efforts that prioritize saving lives over euthanasia. At the Catini, he was happy to answer all questions attendees had about these programs, as well as field questions on fostering cats and kittens.

In addition to learning about the MHS’s strides (and needs) in providing better care for the community’s homeless cat population, Catini guests also got to do some shopping! We had a superb silent auction filled to the brim with an assortment of jewelry, various types of goodie baskets, artwork, mugs, cat supplies and cat beds, and a wide array of cat-themed home décor items. Even more impressive than the 100 plus items available for bidding is the fact that every single item sold by evening’s end!



Tiers of Sweetness provided the cutest kitty cat cupcakes for our Catini soiree.

MHS Intervention Program Coordinator Denton Hawk stands by at the Catini ready to provide information on the ways the MHS is saving feral feline lives.



Refreshments are a given at any party, and a delicious spread of hors d’oeuvres and desserts was offered up for guests, anchored by a lovely floral centerpiece designed by MHS Board member, Elizabeth Schaum. All buffet delicacies had been prepared by the talented

(and very kindhearted) caterer Jennie Weller, who for the fifth time running contributed all of the food at no cost to us. Jennie’s buffet selections included: boiled shrimp, assortments of cheeses and fruits, beef sliders and turkey sliders, tasty tartlets and chocolaty brownies. And to round out Jennie’s dessert offerings, the compassionate ladies at Tiers of Sweetness Bakery had baked some almond cupcakes and red velvet cupcakes adorably decorated with kitty faces. The cupcakes were also donated to the MHS at no cost to our shelter. Drink selections included bottled water, lemonade, and specially mixed “catmopolitan” drinks, prepared by MHS employee Cam Houston, who graciously served as bartender. Tito’s Handmade Vodka generously donated all of the vodka for the cocktails at no cost to us. And by the way, Tito’s isn’t any rail standard stuff. Made in Austin, Texas, Tito’s prepares their vodka the time-honored way, in batches using pot stills.

If all of this weren’t reason enough to enjoy oneself at the Catini, perhaps the highlight of the party for our guests was getting to spend time with the real VIPs of the evening: our shelter cats! The cat rooms were open to our guests, and everyone enjoyed getting to pet and spend time with our MHS cats and kittens, and you better believe all of the shelter cats lapped up every

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CATINI PARTY RETURNS *Continued*

moment of attention. As a perfect capping off to the Catini party, the next day fifteen shelter cats were adopted from the MHS! And we are pleased to report that the Catini fundraiser brought in a grand tally of \$10,000 for the MHS. Talk about two sweet end-notes to a memorable evening in honor of our feline friends!

As always, pulling off a successful shelter fundraiser doesn't happen without a lot of folks' contributions and generosity. Thank you notes are in order. First, the MHS wants to thank the major sponsor for our Catini party, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing of Montgomery. Your generous giving allowed us to launch this September soiree with much success! The MHS also wants to thank Jennie Weller of Jennie Weller Catering for her continuing pro bono contribution of such delicious food to the Catini; Jennie you are so good to our shelter! And thank you to the great ladies at Tiers of Sweetness for gifting us with those whimsical (and tasty) cupcakes for our guests. The MHS also appreciates the generosity of Tito's Handmade Vodka. And finally, thank you to Cam Houston for bartending, and thank you to all attendees, silent auction bidders and donors, and everyone who otherwise supported the Catini. I know of at least one kindhearted individual who was unable to attend but made sure to donate what would have been her ticket price to the MHS anyway! We are so glad we got to host this important fundraiser for our feline friends, and we couldn't have made it sparkle as it did without such a grand display of collective support.

A highlight of the evening for guests was spending time with MHS shelter cats and kittens.



Bartending service with a warm smile: MHS employee Cam Houston prepared the evening's cocktails.



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Founded in 1921

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SUBARU'S OCTOBER SUPPORT OF OUR SHELTER

Throughout the month of October, Subaru retailers all across the country partnered with various animal rescue organizations and shelters, offering to donate \$100 for every pet adopted throughout the month of October, up to the amount of \$3100. Montgomery Subaru decided to partner with the MHS, and we are thrilled to report that by the end of October, we had earned the capping total of a \$3100 donation to our shelter.

Montgomery Subaru also joined forces with the MHS by co-hosting a reduced-rate adoption day event at the shelter on Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. That Saturday turned out to be a warm autumn day full of freebies, goodies, and a score of animal adoptions! Marketing and Development Manager Lea Turbert, MHS Volunteer Coordinator Nenita Jones, Assistant Adoptions Manager Kristina Dery, and some MHS volunteers welcomed folks to the MHS to meet our wonderful cats and dogs.

Megan Campbell, Marketing Director at Montgomery Subaru had a booth set up in the MHS lobby that Saturday, right outside the cat room where she was giving away bright orange bandanas for all newly adopted pets and utterly unique plush dog toys that were shaped as what else but Subaru SUVs! In addition, Megan was operating a pet-tag making machine to generate personalized, engraved, metal pet tags in a matter of minutes. For every person who adopted an animal from the shelter that day, Megan offered to create a personalized pet tag for their newly adopted pet. Folks could choose from an array of assorted metal colors and metal shapes (hearts, round medallions, or dog-bones). And for those who had not yet chosen a name for their new companion, coupons were available that could be redeemed at Montgomery Subaru at a later date for a complimentary, personalized pet tag.

The MHS is happy to report that ten sweet animals were adopted on October 8. We had a colorful, large-scale doghouse frame that folks could pose within, alongside their new cat or new dog. And no adopted animal went to his or her forever home empty-pawed. In addition to Megan's giveaways from Subaru, the MHS



MHS shelter kitten Stitch gets adopted!



Who says dogs can't smile! Shelter dog Smokey is bright-eyed, camera ready, and overjoyed to be adopted!



Megan Campbell displays her pet-tag making machine and the plush Subaru car toys and bandanas that went home with folks who adopted a MHS shelter animal on Saturday, October 8.



Since photos in PetPause print black and white, you'll have to take our word for it, but MHS shelter dog Nana, who was happily adopted on Saturday, October 8, has the prettiest blue eyes.

had put together some great goodie bags for all newly adopted pets. Every adopted animal went home with a leash/collar, pet toys, and a selection of pet treats and dry food samples courtesy of local business, For Healthy Pets. (Incidentally, For Healthy Pets also participated in the Yappy Hour fundraiser for the MHS; see p. 11 of our newsletter for information on that event.)

The MHS was grateful indeed to provide ten wonderful animals with new forever homes within the span of a day, thanks to this adoption event on October 8. And what an added joy it was to welcome that \$3100 donation at the close of October, thanks to our friends at Subaru, who continue to provide loyal support of our shelter and our mission.



A handsome couple and a happy kitten: Liam heads home with his new family.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVEN TEARS

The Montgomery Humane Society has wrapped up another favorable year with our life-saving efforts showing strong results. Each year our mission shifts, just a little, to focus on a specific animal group or animal issue in the hopes of saving more animal lives. Over the last couple of years our focus has been on saving more lives within our community's feral cat population and within our community's medium/large-sized dog population.

Saving Cat Lives: Our "Trap-Neuter-Return"(TNR), "Shelter-Neuter-Return"(SNR), and "Working Cats" programs—all of which fall under the umbrella of the MHS's Intervention Program headed up by Denton Hawk—have been operating beautifully. Through these programs, hundreds of cats have been brought to the shelter to receive veterinary care and rabies vaccinations, to be spayed/neutered, and then to be placed back into the community. The cats that are part of our "Working Cats" or "Barn Cats" programs are typically outdoor cats that are too feral to be adopted as indoor cat pets, but can still become part of the family by working to rid properties, farms, or businesses of unwanted pests. These cats do require a little upfront work from their caregivers, but according to those folks who have gotten "working" or "barn cats" from the MHS, all efforts have been well worth it.

Through all of these programs, we are slowly bringing stability to feral cat colonies in our community. And ultimately, thanks to consistent spaying and neutering practices, we hope to reduce the number of feral cats roaming the streets. Monetized largely through grant funds, these MHS cat programs are free of charge, have saved thousands of lives, and will stabilize our feral cat population.

Saving Dog Lives: In addition to focusing on our feral cat population, the MHS has also been addressing the heartbreaking uptick in the number of medium-sized and large-sized dogs at our shelter. This challenge is not particular only to the MHS. The number of medium-sized and large-sized dogs has exploded in every facility across the country. Strays and owner-surrendered pets continue to flood facilities across our nation, and with all facilities full, transportation of these animals to other rescue organizations becomes

extremely limited. For anyone wishing to visit our shelter to meet the animals and hopefully adopt an animal, the MHS is continuing to ask folks to make an appointment before they visit. However, the sheer number of surrendered pet dogs and stray dogs that are brought into our shelter remains a challenge. For stray dogs who we surmise are pets, our Animal Service Officers and MHS Humane Officer Division work together to return these animals back to their owners, but often we lack the identifying information needed to reunite pets and pet owners. Hopefully new microchipping laws will help in this particular area.

Once dogs do come into our care at the MHS, we begin the battle of finding room to board and care for these canines, in addition to giving these dogs the necessary veterinary care, medical evaluations, and spay/neuter surgeries they need. We also must run all of our shelter dogs through behavioral testing before they can be put up for adoption. It's a tremendous amount of work and with limited funds and facility space, we often feel constrained in what we can do for these deserving dogs.

It has been said that working in animal welfare is similar to emptying the ocean with a teaspoon. It can most certainly feel that way for us when we are working overtime to get these good shelter dogs adopted into good homes. Nonetheless, our recent successes with our stray and feral cats give us hope that we can eventually make some headway with our adult medium and large-sized dogs. Please help us by spreading the word about how these dogs need good homes via social media and word of mouth. These precious souls need as many voices rooting for them as we can muster.

MHS Adoption Center on 2585 Bell Road Has Opened: If there has been a recent silver lining for the MHS regarding the increasing numbers of medium and large-sized dogs that have entered our shelter doors, that silver lining has been the opening of a second MHS Adoption Center on Bell Road. To make room for more adoptable dogs, we were able to open a second adoption center on 2585 Bell Road, thanks to the recent receipt of some pivotal grant monies. This location on Bell Road does not have the ability to function as our main shelter and cannot house all of our programs.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *STEVEN TEARS* *Continued*

Thus, only animals that are currently spayed/neutered and are fully ready to be adopted can be placed in our Bell Road Adoption Center.

To date, I am thrilled to report that we have done forty successful adoptions at Bell Road to date. Sadly, this is not enough to make the Bell Road Adoption Center self-sustaining yet, but we are hopeful that in the time we are there, adoption numbers will increase. We are so desiring to make the Bell Road Adoption Center financially sustainable since so many canine lives depend upon its success.

Please Visit and Spread the Word on MHS Bell Road Adoption Center: Please help us spread the word about our new 2585 Bell Road Adoption Center. For those of you who have visited the MHS on 1150 John Overton Drive, you know that despite our best efforts the MHS can be an overwhelming environment for many animals (and for some people too) due to the sheer variety and volume of animal welfare work we are doing there. In contrast,

2585 Bell Road is a much calmer environment and a much smaller facility. No sick or injured animals, no Intake department, no medical treatments being given, no owners dumping off their pets with nary a second thought: adoptions are the only thing done at 2585 Bell Road. Each one of the animals at the Bell Road Adoption Center is 100% ready for his or her new home. The location is open 7 days a week, 11am-4pm, and no appointment is necessary to visit our Bell Road location.

We really hope you find the time to visit. What a gift our Bell Road Adoption Center has been, and we are doing all we can to spread the word so this facility can succeed! Please assist us in our efforts. If we can make our Bell Road location succeed financially, there is no telling how many animals we can give a second chance at life through adoption. Again, thank you all for your continued support. We couldn't fight these battles for the animals without you!

FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, *NENITA JONES*

Take Out Tuesday

While our need for MHS volunteers and foster parents is never-ending, and we feel the minimum requirements are quite manageable for most folks, we know that not everybody has the time, desire, or availability to fully commit. Being a MHS volunteer requires a minimum of 6 hours per month for one calendar year, and being a MHS foster requires opening up your home to care for a shelter animal for a few weeks. But for those who long to assist our shelter in a hands-on way, but are not able to commit to being a MHS volunteer or foster, we have a new MHS program that I am delighted to introduce to everyone.

This new program is called "Take Out Tuesday," and it is tailor-made for those that want to directly interact with our shelter animals but are not able to become active volunteers or fosters. Although I must mention that if you are already a MHS volunteer or MHS foster and also want to participate in "Take Out Tuesday," we will, of course, welcome you with open arms! In our "Take Out Tuesday" program, we allow folks to take one of our adoptable dogs out for an hour or two to

allow that animal a little break from the shelter environment. Not only does this program give our dogs a much-needed break from their shelter kennels, it also allows our shelter dogs the exciting fun of exploring a new environment.

Despite the name of this program, these field trips don't have to occur on a Tuesday but can be scheduled for any day of the week! Those who have participated in the program have taken MHS shelter dogs to local parks, to their homes for a little extra attention, or to their secured backyards to let the dogs run around and play. Some of our "Take Out Tuesday" participants have even driven shelter dogs to Starbucks for one of the coffee store's famous "pup cups," a dog-friendly treat created just for canines by the Starbucks baristas.

Our sweet shelter dogs have to spend so



With a toy to hold and a sunshine-filled backyard made for romping, the adorably named MHS shelter dog, Piglet, thoroughly enjoys Take Out Tuesday.

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FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, NENITA JONES *Continued*

much time in their shelter kennels, and the MHS is always searching for new ways to enrich our shelter animals' quality of life as they await their forever homes. "Take Out Tuesday" is a program that really provides in that area, and needless to say, our shelter dogs adore these outings. Moreover, "Take Out Tuesday" provides us, the MHS staff, with some great insight into what makes our shelter dogs so special from the perspective of someone who is spending one-on-one time with that animal outside the confines of the shelter.

If you think you might be interested in participating in this fun-loving new venture and have any questions at all, please reach out to me, Nenita, via e-mail at volunteers@montgomeryhumane.com. You can also reach me via phone at (334) 409-0622, ext. 202. And if what you've read thus far about "Take Out Tuesday" has already convinced you that you are ready to participate in this wonderful program, you can apply right on our website by filling out the same form as foster applicants would use: <https://www.montgomeryhumane.com/foster-application/>.



MHS shelter dog Henry, who has such gentle and sweet eyes, gets some affection from loving hands on his Take Out Tuesday.



MHS shelter dog Davis shows that Take Out Tuesdays can include tasty treats. Davis relishes his Starbucks "pup cup" and a fun ride in the car.



MHS shelter dog Gecko relaxes with a ball in the midst of Take Out Tuesday playtime.

MHS shelter dog Miss Molly proves that some dogs were born to ride shotgun; a Take Out Tuesday car drive suits her just fine.

HAPPY TAILS TO YOU: CELEBRATING SHELTER ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

In this issue of *PetPause*, in which we celebrate September's successful Catini party, it's quite fitting that our "Happy Tail" centers upon a happily adopted MHS shelter cat. Making the deal even sweeter is that Zoe had been previously adopted from our shelter only to be returned. When Hali Pearce discovered this deserving feline on the MHS Facebook page, she decided to give Zoe another chance at life. This time, it turned out to be a lasting chance. We guess that makes Zoe a "third chance" cat, but perhaps that's just as it should be, because they do say that cats have nine lives! Read on to learn more about this sweet kitty and the happy forever home she has found with Hali. And as always if you are considering adding an animal friend to your life, please opt to adopt from the MHS!

After impishly getting into some soot (leave it to a cat to find a way!), a bath was in order for Zoe.



Sleepy-time for Zoe: it's safe to say that this cat looks utterly content in her new home.

ZOE

ADOPTED BY: HALI PEARCE

1. When did you adopt Zoe (month/year)? How old was Zoe when you adopted her (rough estimate is fine)?

I adopted Zoe on September 24, 2022. She was approximately 7-8 months old.

2. Thank you so much for welcoming this deserving cat into your home. Why did you decide to open your home to Zoe and adopt this cat in particular?

I love white cats. In fact, I already had a three-old white cat named Ivy. I recently had to put down my 14 year-old Pomeranian dog in August, and I had been thinking about getting another pet. When I saw Zoe's picture on the Montgomery Humane Society's Facebook page (she was named Snowball at the time), I had to have her.

3. What were your first few days like with Zoe after you brought her home? How was her adjustment to your home?

The first few days were an adjustment. I tried to ease Zoe into her home by putting her litter box, toys, food, and blankets in a separate room and closing the door, so she could adjust to the house without being overwhelmed by me and Ivy. After one day of me bringing in food and sitting with her, she warmed up to me and was constantly wanting to be petted. After three days in her private room, I let her out into the rest of the house, and she's been running the house ever since!

4. Do you have any other companion animals or just Zoe? If you have other animals, what are their name(s), how have they reacted to Zoe, and how has Zoe reacted to them?

I have my other white cat, Ivy, that I mentioned earlier. Ivy is still a little skeptical of Zoe. Zoe is very high energy and just wants to play, but Ivy gets a little jealous. As long as Zoe isn't pouncing on Ivy's tail, they do well. They both like to sleep on top of me every day!

5. What activities does Zoe especially enjoy?

Zoe is a super curious little girl. She enjoys getting into every nook and cranny in the house, including the fireplace, but only when it is unlit, obviously!

6. Does Zoe have a daily routine at your house, or

do her activities vary from day to day?

The girls, Zoe and Ivy, get fed at 6:30 in the morning and in the evenings around 7:00. Zoe spends the day climbing on her cat tree, practicing her hunting skills on Ivy, and snoozing in the sun. When I get home from work, she likes to nap on my lap. She spends the night sleeping on top of me.

7. What are some of Zoe's favorite treats or foods?

Zoe's favorite food is Ivy's food! She also loves the freeze-dried salmon pieces I buy for her.

8. Describe Zoe's personality. What are some of her endearing/funny characteristics?

She is super high energy and curious. She is also very vocal; she is constantly meowing. It's so cute.

9. Are there any memories or thoughts of Zoe that stand out in your heart that you'd like to share?

I came home from work last week, and I suddenly discovered that I had a grey kitten instead of a white kitten! Zoe had decided to get into the fireplace and was covered in soot!

10. At the MHS, we want to encourage responsible animal lovers who are considering bringing an animal into their homes to adopt that animal from a shelter. Our shelter animals certainly need considerate, kind owners and good homes. How has Zoe enriched your life? What would you say to an animal lover to encourage him or her to adopt a pet from a shelter like the MHS?

I don't think there's anything better in the world than having a little being in your life that loves you without question. Both of my cats were rescues, and I can't imagine a day without them. They brighten my day every day. I encourage anyone who is thinking of getting a shelter animal, and who has the means to give them a good life, to definitely go through with it. Zoe had been previously adopted and returned to the shelter before I adopted her. I don't know the circumstances behind her return, but it breaks my heart that she may have felt unwanted by her prior family. I want to give her a home that makes her feel loved every day.

FROM THE INTERVENTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR, *DENTON HAWK*

Although we are encouraged by the progress we have made over the past few years towards saving more animals, particularly cats, we are always looking for ways to save even more. Our cat save rate stands at 77.68%, and we would like to increase that number to greater than 90% by the year 2025. To assist us in reaching this goal, the MHS Intervention Program team applied for a grant offered by the Rachael Ray Foundation in collaboration with the esteemed Best Friends Animal Society. Considering that U.S. shelters euthanize cats at a rate of 2 to 1 compared to dogs, a top priority of the Rachael Ray Save Them All Grant is to save more of these cats that are being euthanized, particularly in the Southeast.

In applying for this grant, our Intervention team requested \$30,415 to both reduce the number of cats entering the shelter and to provide medical treatment and routine care for the cats that do enter the shelter. In terms of the needs of cats entering our shelter, un-weaned kittens, in particular, require a lot of immediate care. This grant will hopefully provide us with funds for the medical treatment, deworming, vaccinations, and check-ups of the cats that enter our shelter doors. The MHS will also use funds to utilize on-air platforms like radio and television to educate the community on what to do if they find stray kittens.

Incidentally if you find stray kittens, do you know what you should do? You might think the answer would be to scoop those kittens up and drive them right to our shelter. Think again. The MHS actually asks that before you call us or rush to bring a litter of kittens to our doors that you wait. Specifically, you should wait for about 10 hours to see if mother cat returns to her litter. The reasons for this “wait and see” strategy is that un-weaned kittens have the greatest chance of survival by far if they can stay with their mother.

Although this hoped-for Rachael Ray Foundation grant may go a long way in helping us reach our goal, we know that we can’t get there without your help. And one of the best ways that you can assist us in caring for stray cats and kittens is by volunteering as a MHS foster. Last year we took in over 800 un-weaned and weaned kittens. We are always in need of loving foster parents to care for these animals for a few weeks, until they

are old enough to be fixed or adopted out.

For more information on fostering, visit the MHS website at www.montgomeryhumane.com and click on the green “get involved” tab at the top of the homepage, and then click on the tab “How do I foster a MHS pet?” You can also visit our Facebook page “Friendly Fosters of MHS” to see foster opportunities. For further questions or inquiries on fostering, feel free to e-mail our new Foster Coordinator, Ashlie Smith at: ashliesmith@montgomeryhumane.com or at adoptions@montgomeryhumane.com

If fostering is not a good fit for you, consider sponsoring a kitten foster kit. A donation of \$100 allows us to put together a kitten kit that will be given to new foster parents to provide a jump start in their fostering efforts. For any questions on how to earmark MHS donations so they go directly towards purchasing kitten foster kits, contact our MSH Marketing and Development Manager Lea Turbert via e-mail at leatubert@montgomeryhumane.com or via phone at (334) 409-0622, ext. 207.

Only through collaborative efforts between our local community, the Montgomery Humane Society, and animal welfare organizations like the Rachael Ray Foundation and the Best Friends Animal Society, can we achieve a “no-kill cat” save rate of better than 90%. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to help our shelter achieve our mission of “saving lives...completing families.” I look forward to continuing our work together.

INTERVENTION BY THE NUMBERS

	Oct. 2020- Sept. 2021	Oct. 2021- Sept.2022
Families Assisted	644	727
Animals Assisted	1402	1274
Dogs Assisted	344	279
Cats Assisted	1067	995
Animals Fixed and Vaccinated	1164	1158
Community Cats (TNR) Fixed and Vaccinated	506	431
Return-To-Field Cats (SNR) Fixed and Vaccinated	295	404
Owned Pets Fixed and Vaccinated	363	323
Medical Treatment Cases	135	145

MHS INTERVENTION PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

In addition to saving feline lives in our shelter and community, the MHS Intervention Program also assists responsible, low-income pet owners in caring for their animals when costly pet-care expenses arise. Mr. Brett Kelley and his family had adopted and fallen in love with Max, a 12-week-old terrier mix. But Max stopped eating and drinking and had become lethargic. Loss of appetite/thirst and lack of energy are two tell-tale symptoms of parvovirus, a serious and potentially fatal disease for puppies that requires immediate attention. Parvovirus is easy to prevent through vaccinations, but once a puppy gets parvo, the treatment process is involved and quite expensive due to hospitalization costs.

Mr. Kelley had no extra funds available to get Max treated, but he did not want his puppy to suffer any illness. He quickly called a local veterinarian to see if there was anything the vet could do to help him and his dog. The vet referred him to Denton Hawk and the MHS's Intervention Program, and as soon as Mr. Kelley's application was approved by the MHS, he and Max were referred to Carmichael Road Animal Hospital. There Dr. Westbrook and his team decided to administer Colorado State University's outpatient parvovirus protocol to treat Max. This affordable but still-effective

treatment was actually developed and pioneered six or so years ago by a team of veterinarians at Colorado State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Fort Collins. Max's successful treatment was completely covered by MHS Intervention Program funds that had recently rolled in, thanks to a grant from the Petco Love Foundation. Mr. Kelley was happily reunited with his pup Max, now healthy and fully recovered.

Not just one party but four parties were responsible in getting Max the veterinary care he needed. Mr. Kelley and his initial phone call to his local vet, the MHS Intervention Program, Dr. Westbrook and the great veterinary staff at Carmichael Road Animal Hospital, and the grant monies provided by Petco Love Foundation collectively made Max's treatment possible. As MHS Intervention Program Coordinator Denton Hawk likes to say: "teamwork makes the dream work," and Max is a perfect example of a dog who greatly benefitted from this collaborative, community effort.



Mr. Kelley and Max

GET READY FOR GIFT WRAP

The calendar countdown to Christmas and Hanukkah is upon us. The holiday season is a rich time, but it can be easily overrun by too many tasks, overly stacked schedules, and other stresses. You can strike one big to-do off your December list though, and that's the wrapping of your presents. Let the Montgomery Humane Society take care of that this year, and give back to our community's homeless animals too!

From December 1-December 24, the MHS is holding our annual winter fundraiser, our "Wrap It Up" Gift Wrap service. We will be at the same Eastchase locale as last year: 2460 Berryhill Road, right near Kohl's Department Store. Bring your gifts to us, and we will wrap them in exchange

for a donation to our shelter. Lea Turbert (MHS Marketing and Development Manager) will greet you as you enter and depending on the number and size of gifts you're bringing in, Lea will then give you a suggested donation amount to have those gifts wrapped. You can wait there as we wrap your packages, or you can return later and pick them up. Moreover, we'll have our newly designed MHS t-shirts and our MHS "Friends for Life" 2023 calendars available to purchase at Gift Wrap.

At Gift Wrap, we offer an array of ribbon choices, Christmas-themed wrapping papers, and of course, some delightful cat-themed and dog-themed papers as well. We are happy to do everything to

Continued on page 11

GET READY FOR GIFT WRAP *Continued*

your specifications, or you can let us choose the ribbon/wrapping paper. Unless told otherwise, our MHS wrappers routinely place a small foil MHS sticker on



each wrapped present to let the recipient know that their gift supported the mission of the MHS. By letting the MHS wrap your gifts this holiday season, you make Yuletide a little brighter for the many homeless animals seeking refuge at our shelter. So, with your packages and presents in tow, make that December drive over to Eastchase, and let the MHS wrap it all up in plenty of holiday heart and Christmastime compassion!

GIFT WRAP DAYS AND HOURS:

December 1-December 17: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(Sundays: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.)

December 19-December 23: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 2460 Berryhill Road, near Kohl's
Department Store in Eastchase

EASTCHASE HOSTS EARLY EVENING YAPPY HOUR EVENT FOR THE MHS

On Thursday, September 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. out on the patio by Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, the Shoppes at Eastchase sponsored a “Yappy Hour” for the MHS. This benefit was organized by Suzanna Wasserman Edwards and Camille Sanford, two ladies who had also hosted a Yappy Hour back in September of 2021 for the MHS. Our shelter certainly appreciates Suzanna’s and Camille’s kind support of our mission, and it was lovely to be remembered again this September.

For the Yappy Hour, guests were encouraged to bring both their dogs and a goods donation



Left, Camille Sanford and right, Suzanna Wasserman Edwards pose in front of the cheerful Yappy Hour backdrop.

of some sort for the MHS. The MHS, in turn, brought eight shelter

dogs out to the event. A few MHS volunteers, including a fine group of military volunteers from Gunter AFB, were on hand to assist with our shelter animals, and our shelter

dogs really relished the evening. It gave them a chance to get out of their shelter kennels and enjoy a little festivity! Several businesses had tents and stations set up so guests could peruse their merchandise. It was fairly hot and humid (as is typical of Alabama even in later September), but we had plenty of water to keep our shelter pups hydrated. And Frutta Bowls (a healthy, fast-service superfoods café) had free treats on hand that they kindly gave to our MHS shelter dogs.

We also appreciated all of the great goods donations that guests dropped off at the Yappy Hour for us. We received dog and cat food, dog toys, and office supplies including pens, markers, highlighters, and copy paper. We also received a



For Healthy Pets, one of the businesses at Yappy hour, specializes in healthful, natural pet food and treats.

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EASTCHASE HOSTS EARLY EVENING YAPPY HOUR EVENT *Continued*

gasoline gift card, which was welcomed with much enthusiasm, as our team goes through quite a lot of gasoline transporting shelter animals to various veterinary appointments.

On behalf of all of our staff and volunteers at the MHS, we'd like to thank the following businesses who participated in this September's Yappy Hour: Burtons Homemade Dog Treats, CBD Divine, Five Freckle K9, For Healthy Pets Pet Food and Supply Store, Frutta Bowls, and Pooch La La. And a special note of appreciation also goes out to the great group from Gunter AFB who assisted with our shelter dogs, all of the guests who dropped off goods donations, and to Suzanna Wasserman Edwards and Camille Sanford for hosting this September gathering for our shelter.



Pooch La La displayed their merchandise of pet clothes and accessories for Yappy Hour attendees to peruse.



For dog-training the way it should be, check out Yappy hour participant Five Freckle K9 at www.fivefrecklek9.com



Local business CBDivine also showed up to support the MHS by participating in Yappy Hour.



Burton's Treats had plenty of homemade dog treats on offer at Yappy Hour.

FROM THE HUMANE EDUCATION COORDINATOR, MARY HUGHES

Montgomery area students, once again, combined their love of animals and their love of art for the Montgomery Humane Society's 2022 Home for the Holidays "Howl-i-day Card" contest. The students were asked to convey the message of happy pets being adopted and going to their forever-after homes. Prizes were awarded for grand prize, second place, third place and honorable mention. The grand prize winner's artwork is now colorfully displayed on the Montgomery Humane Society's 2022 holiday cards. Congratulations are in order to grand prize winner Evie Townsend who is a nine-year old student at the Montgomery Academy, and to our 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention place winners too. What fantastic work from these young artists, and what a fantastic way to spread the message of love for animals!

Howl-i-day Card Contest Prize Winners

Grand Prize: Evie Townsend
2nd place: Elizabeth Burton
3rd place: Olivia Caraway
Honorable Mention: Carina Ocampo



Evie Townsend with her winning artwork that will adorn the MHS "Howl-i-day" cards.



THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: A DOZEN WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SHELTER THIS SEASON

1. Adopt a MHS Shelter Animal: Is there any more meaningful and lasting way of transforming an animal's life for the better? Meeting our MHS shelter animals requires an appointment to allow plenty of time for you to visit with our cats and dogs. To make an appointment, simply visit this link on our MHS website, <https://www.montgomeryhumane.com/adoptions/adoptions-front-desk/> and you're well on your way to welcoming a new animal companion into your life! You can also send an e-mail to adoptions@montgomeryhumane.com or call (334) 409-0622 option 2 with any questions you might have.

2. Foster a MHS Shelter Animal: One of the greatest gifts you can give to our shelter animals is the gift of fostering. For an animal to be cared for in the comfort of a home for a few weeks is a blessing incomparable. And you might find that you grow to so love your foster animals, you end up adopting them! It happens pretty frequently! Please visit www.montgomeryhumane.com/get-involved/how-do-i-foster-an-mhs-pet/ for more information on fostering for the MHS. You can also send an e-mail to adoptions@montgomeryhumane.com or call (334) 409-0622, option 2 for more information on fostering.

3. Become a MHS Volunteer: What a wealth of opportunities to spend time with our animals and bolster our mission await you as a MHS volunteer! There are truly too many to list here, but please feel free to reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator Nenita Jones at volunteers@montgomeryhumane.com or call (334) 409-0622, ext. 202 with any questions or to garner more information about becoming a MHS volunteer.

4. Purchase a Kuranda Bed for a MHS Shelter Animal: Shelter kennel spaces can be stressful for our shelter animals despite our most diligent efforts. One very heartwarming way to make shelter residences more comfortable for our shelter dogs and cats is through the gift of a Kuranda bed, allowing our animals a comfortable space to rest and sleep off of the cold, hard floor. See the following link <https://shelterbeds.org/index.php/donate/25357> for more information

on how you can easily purchase a Kuranda bed for our shelter that would bring so much comfort to a sweet dog. Alternatively, if you go to our website homepage, click on the green "donate" tab at the top of our homepage, and then click on the box labeled Kuranda Pet Bed, it should bring you right to the ordering page for the beds.

5. Drop off a Goods Donation to the MHS: We keep a running list of items and goods that we are in need of at the MHS. If you would like to take a look, you can access the list here: <https://www.montgomeryhumane.com/donate/items-needed/>. Alternatively, if you go to our website homepage, click the green "donate" tab at the top of our homepage, and then scroll down to click on the box labeled "Items Needed," it should bring you right to the wishlist.

6. Bring Your Packages to the MHS Gift Wrap this December: Giving gifts this Hanukkah and Christmas season? Want to have those packages wrapped beautifully and contribute to the MHS—all in one fell swoop? Then please make plans to drop by our December Gift Wrap with your presents in tow! See p. 10 of this newsletter for all the details on our Gift Wrap fundraiser.

7. Donate to the MHS's Humane Officer Division: A heartbreaking reality of animal welfare work is the ongoing fight against animal cruelty and neglect. Our MHS Humane Officer Division and animal services officers fight this fight daily, and it's an arduous one. You can contribute directly to their cause by earmarking a donation/check to the MHS Humane Officer Division. Please call or contact our Marketing and Development Manager Lea Turbert via e-mail at leatubert@montgomeryhumane.com or via phone at (334) 409-0622, ext. 207 with any questions about how to do so.

8. Donate to the MHS's Pet Treatment Fund: Scores of animals enter our doors sick, injured, and in need of immediate medical attention. Veterinary procedures and more involved medical treatments can be notoriously expensive. You can assist us in caring for our most vulnerable and at-need animals by

Continued on page 14

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: A DOZEN WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SHELTER THIS SEASON *Continued*

donating directly to our Pet Treatment Fund. If you click on the green “donate” tab on the top of the MHS homepage and then scroll down to click on the box labeled “Pet Treatment Fund Pledge,” you should be directed to where you can place a donation, or you can follow this link for more information <https://www.montgomeryhumane.com/donate/pet-treatment-fund-pledge/>

9. Purchase a MHS “Friends for Life” 2022-2023 Calendar: Calendars can be purchased in person at our main shelter locale at 1150 John Overton Drive or at Candle Cabin on 8135 Vaughn Road. Calendars can also be purchased online at our MHS website: <https://www.montgomeryhumane.com/2023-calendars/>

10. Purchase Some “Home for the Howl-i-days” Cards: Our annual “Howl-i-day” cards featuring the winning artwork of a local student are ready to be ordered. Please e-mail our MHS Treasurer Glenda Easterling at glendaeasterling@montgomeryhumane.com for pricing information and to order cards.

11. Purchase Items for the MHS from our Chewy.com Wishlist Do you ever order dog

food or pet toys from the website chewy.com? Did you know that you can also purchase a few items for the MHS, and chewy.com will deliver them to us? Check out our [chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com/g/montgomeryhumane-society_b71605086) wishlist at https://www.chewy.com/g/montgomeryhumane-society_b71605086 and the next time you’re shopping their website, purchase an item or two for the homeless animals that reside at the MHS.

12. Spread the Word about the MHS and our New Adoption Center at 2585 Bell Road: We saved one of the best (and completely cost-free ways) to assist our shelter for last. We need as many folks as possible to know about our wonderful animals in need of homes, and all that we do to save the lives of the animals in our community. You can be that voice for us. Right now, we are diligently trying to get the word out about our new MHS Adoption Center on 2585 Bell Road. So please share, talk, upload, post, and do whatever you can to spread the word about the MHS, our new Bell Road Adoption Center, and our animals that are in such need of good, forever homes.

MEMORIALS • HONORARIUM • DONATIONS • AUGUST 24, 2022 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3, 2022

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Wick and Chee Chee Many

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Wayne Crosby

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Jimmy and Lucy Jehle

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