

The Paw Print

December 2013

COMING SOON: A SUPERIOR SHELTER



Staff and volunteers from AAHS and HSDC gather at the Coming Soon sign for the proposed Superior adoption center to show their support for project.

After five long years and many meetings, plans are coming together for the City of Superior and Douglas County to build an adoption center on the corner of U.S. Highway 2 and Moccasin Mike Road. This new, state-of-the-art building will provide a larger, more comfortable and welcoming space for animals and visitors alike than the current shelter located on Hill Avenue in Superior. This facility will also provide adequate space to serve all the homeless cats and dogs of Douglas County. Animal Allies Humane Society will manage the new facility, whose operations will be modeled on Duluth's successful shelter programs.

The new animal shelter will cost an estimated \$3 million to build. The City of Superior has committed \$2.2 million, the Humane Society of Douglas County has committed \$210,000, and, to date, local businesses and individuals have given \$71,000 in gifts and pledges toward its construction. Douglas County will also contribute \$410,000 toward operating costs of the adoption center over the next ten years.

With these commitments in place, there remains a gap of approximately \$500,000 that must be raised to complete the project. Animal Allies Humane Society, in partnership with the City of Superior, Douglas County, and the Humane Society of Douglas County, will be launching the **Bridge the Gap** capital campaign in the coming months.

This **Bridge the Gap** campaign will run through the winter and spring of 2014, aiming to raise the funds needed to begin construction in the summer of 2014.

Upon completion of the new adoption center, the Humane Society of Douglas County will meet its long-time goal of merging with Animal Allies Humane Society.

Please consider becoming a part of this amazing achievement for the Twin Ports. If you are interested in starting a pledge for the **Bridge the Gap** capital campaign, please contact John Wm. Gustafson at john@animalallies.net or 218-623-6353, or visit www.animalallies.net/bridgethegap.



Architectural rendering of the proposed shelter.

She was found hanging in barbed wire...

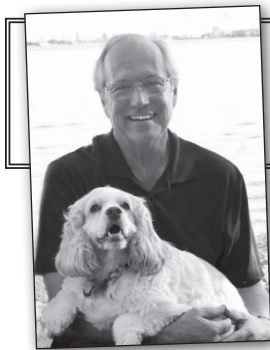
While out on a walk late this September, St. Louis County residents found a cat hanging tangled in barbed wire. They approached the struggling cat and were further surprised to find a litter of three young kittens nearby. It appeared that the stuck cat was a mama with a family, and they all needed help.



Photo by Jennie Connelly

The finders gently untangled the mother cat from the wire, scooped up the three little kittens, and rushed them all to Animal Allies. There, the medical team went straight to work, evaluating the extent of the cat's injuries and making sure the baby kittens were well fed. Once mom, later named "Barbra Streisand," was resting comfortably with a clean dressing on her wounds, the vet staff decided to find a surrogate mother for the kittens to allow Barbra time to heal without the stress of caring for her little ones.

Continued on Page 10



Rick and Chantey

YOUR GENEROSITY DRIVES OUR MISSION

The end of our fiscal year is rapidly approaching, and we need your help now more than ever to reach a balanced budget for 2013. The continued generosity of our many volunteers, donors and members

is critical to fulfill our mission this year. We are so grateful to have a community of generous animal lovers who genuinely care for the welfare of homeless animals, a community that takes care of those who cannot care for themselves.

With your support, Animal Allies Humane Society has been able to:

- Maintain its commitment to zero euthanasia for four years. Since 2010, no animals have been euthanized due to lack of space or length of stay. Every healthy animal who enters our adoption program stays there until they find a new family.
- Find homes for over 10,000 cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies since opening the doors of the Duluth adoption center in March 2009.
- Provide over 26,000 spay or neuter surgeries to shelter animals and privately owned pets across the region, drastically reducing the number of homeless and unwanted litters entering our shelters.
- Reach thousands of area children through classroom presentations, service learning projects, birthday parties, camps, videos and the Youth Allies program, teaching lessons of compassion and care to strengthen the future of animal welfare.
- Carry out the Homeward Bound Capital Campaign, which built the beautiful facility on Airport Road in Duluth.

None of this would have been possible without your support.

But there is much work left to be done. Every day, new animals enter the shelter doors. These animals are often hungry or scared, some are injured or sick, and no matter the reason for their arrival, they all need a loving hand of comfort and care. With your generosity, this can be provided. Would you consider making a donation today?

On behalf of all the cats and dogs, puppies and kittens at Animal Allies, thank you and all the best wishes for the holiday season and new year ahead.

For the animals,

Rick Sailstad, Executive Director

T: 218-623-6348

E: rick@animalallies.net

P.S. Thank you for your donations and memberships. If you are able, I encourage you to make an additional gift or increase your membership before December 31st. Your support, no matter the amount, is crucial for the many animals in our care.

Proposed 2014 Slate of Officers:

President: Tim Riley

Vice President: Jim Balmer

Secretary: Ryan Irlbeck

Treasurer: Mark Pilon

All current members are invited to join the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 19th at 4:30pm.



Mission Statement

Animal Allies Humane Society strives to ensure a lifetime of loving care for every pet by reducing overpopulation, increasing adoption, and fostering humane values.

Vision Statement

Animal Allies Humane Society is guided by a humane ethic to build communities that universally value animals, understand their needs, and take action to meet them.

Animal Allies will be a leader in working toward:

- Elimination of pet overpopulation and the euthanasia of adoptable animals.
- Providing quality temporary care to homeless animals then placing them in permanent loving homes.
- Educating the community on humane treatment and responsible guardianship of companion animals.

Animal Allies will directly provide high quality animal sheltering services.

Animal Allies will support the efforts of partner agencies to provide high quality animal sheltering services.

Locations: 4006 Airport Rd, Duluth, MN 55811 P: (218) 722-5341 • 2225 Hill Avenue, Superior, WI 54880 P: (715) 394-7387

MEET A VOLUNTEER INTERN



Kelsey and her dog Brutus

Kelsey Collier has been working as an intern at Animal Allies for over six months. Kelsey works with our Volunteer Coordinator, Becky Mathiowetz. She helps with trainings and orientations for our volunteers, data entry, special events, volunteer fairs, and also works with the dogs in our adoption program.

Kelsey is a senior at the University of Minnesota Duluth with a double major in Communications and French. She has two dogs: Brutus who she adopted about five years ago, and Kit. Kelsey will be helping as an intern at our Duluth location until January, when she is off to France for a semester studying abroad in Montpellier.

BARC: ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OUR CANINE FRIENDS

The Behavioral Applications Regarding Canines (BARC) Program is coordinated by Julie Slowiak, PhD, through the Department of Psychology at UMD. Students in the program engage shelter dogs in “polite puppy” training and enrichment activities to help them get adopted more quickly and adapt better to their new homes.

Dogs that are selected to participate in the program learn basic skills such as “sit”, “stay”, and “come,” and are redirected away from less-desirable behaviors like jumping and barking. BARC trainers use behavioral principles with an emphasis on positive reinforcement. The two students participating in the BARC Program this year are Rae DeBruyne and Kaysie Bergum. Rae is a senior at UMD, majoring in Human Resource Management with a minor in Psychology. This semester Rae is working on enrichment and training with the dogs. Next semester she will help train some of our Dog Buddy volunteers and lead general volunteer orientation. For over twelve years, Rae has been training dogs to compete in agility, rally, therapy work, and dock diving—including the four Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers she has at home. Rae hopes to open her own training facility one day.



Kaysie and Rae with Captin

Kaysie is a freshman at UMD studying Psychology and Criminology. This semester she is working on enrichment and training with the dogs, and will expand to training and

mentoring our new Dog Buddy volunteers. Kaysie adopted a kitten, CiCi, from Animal Allies earlier this year. She also has a 15-year-old cat, Mayhem, and a Samoyed, Kiya, at home. Kaysie plans to join the FBI/CIA in the future to experience the world, and allow her to help people.

In the future, the BARC program hopes to provide post-adoption consultation to area pet owners. For more information about the BARC Program, please contact faculty supervisor Julie Slowiak, PhD at jslowiak@d.umn.edu.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Through the end of September, volunteers donated over 25,000 hours at our Duluth and Superior locations this year. This is the equivalent of 17 full-time employees! A huge thank you goes out to our Dog and Cat Buddies, Interns, BARC trainers, Fosters, Docents, Humane Education Volunteers, Office Assistants, Board and Committee Members, and Special Event and Community Outreach Volunteers. Thank you for all that you do for the animals! With your help, the lives of over 1,800 animals have been saved already this year.



CAN YOU HELP?

Love Kittens and Puppies? Each year, fosters help us save the lives of hundreds of animals. Our biggest foster needs at Animal Allies are for kittens and puppies under 8 weeks of age. We're looking for homes that are willing to give the gift of love and time for the animals in our foster care program. Foster volunteers must be at least 21 years old.

Get Outside and Enjoy the Brisk Morning Air! Winter is almost here, and we are looking for Dog Buddies for enrichment activities, walks, and occasional playgroups. Winter is always a difficult time of year to find help for our canine friends, so if you enjoy the outdoors, this volunteer position is for you! **Duluth:** 8am to 4pm on Mondays, 8am to 6pm Tuesday through Sunday. **Superior:** 8am to 6pm Tuesday through Saturday, 8am to 4:30pm Sundays.

Help Adopters Find Their New Best Friend. Docents/Shelter Greeters are needed at our Duluth location Tuesday through Sunday from Noon to 6pm to greet visitors, give tours of the shelter, answer questions, and help potential adopters find a new member of their family! Hours for Superior Docents are Tuesday through Saturday from Noon to 6pm.

Cat Lovers Needed! We're looking for Cat Buddies between the hours of 8am and Noon who are willing to help keep our cat areas clean, and occasionally groom, trim nails, socialize, and provide enrichment for the cats in our adoption program. Weekend help is especially needed. Our cats and kittens will love you!

Get Involved Today!

For more information on volunteering, please contact Becky at volunteer@animalallies.net or call 218-623-6343.



Fur Ball 2013 AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

On October 19, over 200 attendees and volunteers came together to support the mission of Animal Allies Humane Society. The Fur Ball always offers an elegant evening of fine dining, live music, dancing, exciting live and silent auctions, and bidding. This year proved to be no exception. New this year was the introduction of electronic bidding by BidPal. Guests used either their smart phone or one of the handheld devices provided to bid on silent auction items. Bidders could choose between making a one-time bid, setting an automatic re-bid with a maximum bid for an item, or even buying an item right on the spot. BidPal prompted vigorous competition between bidders and the event witnessed an increase of income for the silent auction as a result. In total, the event raised over \$88,000! Fundraising events like the Fur Ball are so important to achieve the mission of Animal Allies Humane Society. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who helped with the event. Without you, none of our achievements would be possible.

The Future of Animal Welfare



Olivia at the Fur Ball!

This year, members of the Youth Allies program came to the Fur Ball to share how Animal Allies has influenced their lives. Along with the group was a very special girl named Olivia. This summer, Olivia sold a toy and donated the \$50 she made to Animal Allies.

She had recently attended an Animal Allies summer camp, which spurred her decision to help the cats and dogs in our care. Olivia's generosity,

along with the energy and enthusiasm of the other youth, inspired attendees of the Fur Ball to donate over \$11,000 that night! We are so grateful for the support of Fur Ball attendees, who recognized that the way to build a caring community is by teaching young citizens to treat animals with compassion and respect. Thank you all for sharing this special night with us.



Youth Allies at Fur Ball

*Photos by Just Cuz
Photography*



See more photos at www.animalallies.net/furball

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Michele Fitzgerald and
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Geri Fresacher
Alan & Suzan Gonia
Mary Gronseth

Scotty Haugen
Ryan Irlbeck
Matthew Johnson
Maggie Kading
Cheryl and Bernard
Kostrzab
Liz Middlemist
Vincent & Laura Regan
Lendora Roberts
Madeleine Robins
RaLynn Schmalzried
Thomas Supinski
Jen Wright

ANIMAL FRIEND

June Anderson
Kristine Bryngelson
Pat Castellano
Michele DesRosier
Lita and Brian Doesken
Jackie Fanning
Sue Fleming
Amber Jacobson
Genie Jacobson
David and Debbie
Johnson
Janet Lewis

Roger Petry
Richard and Maria
Plasch
Anna Sjodin
Joetta Snow
Tom and JoAnn Stillman
Lori Williams

We sincerely thank our sustaining members, who provide a monthly gift for the animals in our care.

BOY SCOUTS AND ADULT LEADERS FROM BSA TROOP 28 “BRIGHTEN” ANIMAL’S LIVES

On June 1, a group of Scouts and adult leaders from Boy Scout Troop 28 in Duluth Heights gathered at Animal Allies Humane Society to install new solar lighting along the walking trails.

With about twenty people on hand to help, nearly forty posts with solar lights were installed by the end of the project.

“We hope that these lights will help people be able to walk dogs at dawn or dusk, especially during the late fall and winter seasons with the change to daylight savings time,” said Aaron Roline, the Eagle Scout candidate who organized the project.

We’d like to extend our thanks to Troop 28 for installing the lights. Because of you, our dogs have a very “bright” future ahead!



Continued from page 1

Luckily, there happened to be a shy, gentle mother cat who had recently given birth at the shelter and was now living with a foster volunteer. Barbra’s kittens were brought to the volunteer’s home in the hopes that this new mom would take over their care. Before long, she was treating Barbra’s three babies as if they were her own. With her kittens well cared for in their foster home, Barbra was able to stay at the shelter for specialized wound care.

At the time this story was written, the outlook for these four little lives improved vastly. Barbra’s wound is healing nicely and she tolerates her bandage changes very well. The three little kittens have been growing steadily, and the foster volunteer caring for them reports that even their timid adoptive mother cat is beginning to come out of her shell. In just a few short weeks, with the touch of many caring hands, another four lives were saved.



Barbra stands up to stretch her legs in her kennel.

Photo by Jennie Connelly



Barbra gets a scratch for being patient during her bandage change.



Barbra’s kittens rest at their foster home.

Your donations help stories like these possible. Please consider becoming a member, or making a gift to Animal Allies Humane Society, today to make a difference in the lives of homeless pets.

Photo by Jennie Connelly

SAVE A LIFE BECOME AN ANIMAL ALLIES MEMBER



All Members Receive:

- Animal Allies Membership Cling
- 10% off adoption
- 10% retail discount
- 10% off humane education activities
- Voting Privileges
- Continued Subscription to The *Paw Print* newsletter
- Newsletter acknowledgement of Membership
- The 2013 Limited Edition Membership Tote Bag

**Additional benefits earned with increased membership levels!*

Membership levels

☐ Spay/Neuter Hero

\$5,000 Annually / \$400 Monthly

This level spays/neuters all the animals in the Duluth shelter for one month. **Additional benefits: 4 complimentary tickets to the Fur Ball, recognition on the Spay/Neuter Donor Wall, kennel sponsorship and an Animal Allies messenger bag.*

☐ Miriam Carlstedt Society

\$1,000 Annually / \$80 Monthly

This level provides an animal extra care to treat ailments such as heartworm, broken bones, or medical conditions. **Additional benefits: 2 complimentary tickets to the Fur Ball, recognition with a paw on the Donor Wall, kennel sponsorship and an Animal Allies messenger bag.*

☐ Animal Angel

\$500 Annually / \$40 Monthly

This level feeds 40 dogs and 27 cats in the shelter for one month. **Additional benefit: Recognized kennel sponsorship for one year and an Animal Allies messenger bag.*

☐ Animal Protector

\$250 Annually / \$20 Monthly

This level will spay/neuter a mother and her litter of four puppies. **Additional benefits: Animal Allies messenger bag.*

☐ Animal Friend

\$100 Annually / \$10 Monthly

This level vaccinates 10 dogs against disease.

☐ Family/Business – \$50 Annually

This level feeds 20 dogs for one week.

☐ Animal Ally – \$30 Annually

This level microchips 3 pets to help them return home should they become lost.

☐ Student/Senior – \$25 Annually

This level feeds 25 cats for one week.

Become a Monthly Sustaining Member!

Same great membership benefits, easy monthly payments
For more information, or to become a Sustaining Member visit
www.animalallies.net/member or call (218) 722-9084

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Please be assured that AAHS does not sell or give contact information to any other organization.

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☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Acct # _____

Exp _____

Signature _____

Thank you for your donation

Donation Amount _____

In honor of Person, name _____

In memory of Person, name _____

In honor of Pet, name _____

In memory of Pet, name _____

Send acknowledgement to:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch the website for adoption promotions this winter!

**December 19
4:30 pm**

General Membership Meeting

All current members are invited to attend the general membership meeting, which will be held directly after the 3:30pm board meeting.

**December 19
5:00-6:30 pm**

“Burn the Mortgage” Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the completion of the Homeward Bound Capital Campaign.

December 31

Last day to make a tax deductible contribution for 2013

Help Animal Allies finish the year with a balanced budget! Make a donation today.

June 7

Walk for Animals

This walk saves lives! Mark your calendar for this fun family event.

All proceeds benefit the on-going Animal Allies adoption, spay-neuter, and humane education programs.

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