



Missaukee
HUMANE SOCIETY

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December 2024



A No-Kill Shelter
Open 6 days a week
Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm
Closed Sunday & Holidays



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

This year has been a transformative journey for our organization, fueled by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the tireless efforts of our board of directors. Each board member selflessly contributes their time, propelling us forward. Together, we've crafted a Standard Operating Procedures handbook and an Employee Handbook, milestones achieved through the collaborative spirit of our board and Leadership Team. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to every board member for their unwavering commitment. Special thanks to Ron Draur & Builders for their invaluable expertise and relentless pursuit in advancing our veterinary clinic expansion project. With optimism, we aim to unveil this new chapter by February 2025.

We are deeply thankful for the generosity of our donors and supporters, whose contributions have brought us to \$105,000 which is close to achieving our ambitious goal of \$125,000. This journey is far from over, and we eagerly invite you to join us in making a lasting impact through our various sponsorship opportunities, including the transformative Buy a Brick program outlined on page 2.

In 2023, we embarked on a journey to empower the next generation of veterinary technicians by establishing the MHS Veterinary Technology Scholarship program. This initiative proudly awards two dedicated students with \$500 scholarships each, fueling their passion for animal care. Join us in celebrating Jennifer Raymo and Laci Anthony, the trailblazers selected as the 2024 recipients, as they take a significant step forward in their remarkable careers.

When I started at MHS in 2004, I envisioned the potential for this organization to evolve. I am grateful to everyone who has been part of my journey, both in the past and currently. It is essential to surround yourself with individuals who support and contribute to the realization of your objectives.

All my best,

Kyle Musselman, Executive Director

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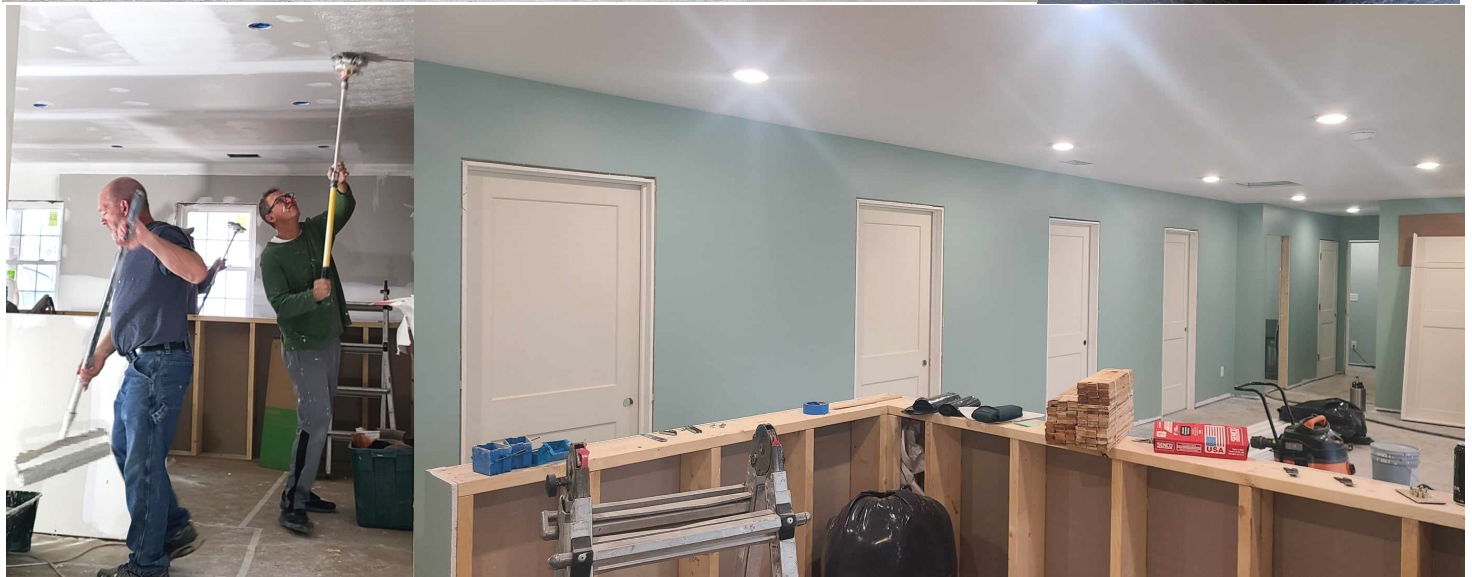
MHS Capital Campaign & Project Update



Some of the Humane Society's original founders and earliest supporters had a dream to someday build a bigger clinic where they could help more of our community's pets. The new clinic will offer more services for shelter animals, and also low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and other more affordable medical services to the public. The 1,750-foot, one-story addition includes four exam rooms, pharmacy area, reception area, offices at the south end of the existing shelter, and is expected to be completed by early 2025.

The Missaukee Humane Society has raised nearly \$105,000 toward its \$125,000 goal. The public can help by:

- ◆ Buying a brick at the new clinic with a personalized message. A perfect way to be a part of the project, honor or memorialize a loved one or pet, or give a special holiday gift.
- ◆ Details at <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mhs>
- ◆ Sponsoring a cat or dog kennel, or a cat or dog play area.
- ◆ Sponsoring or donating to the new clinic in various ways.





NEW CLIENTS WELCOME! APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE!

Services provided include, but not limited to:

Spaying & Neutering

Preventative Care

Vaccines

Testing & Diagnostics

Exams with a Licensed Veterinarian

Since 2014, MHS has offered low-cost spaying and neutering services to the public. As a result, over 4,000 community pets have been spayed or neutered.

We do not restrict our services to Missaukee County residents.

Our clinic has clients from across northern and lower Michigan.

Schedule Today! Call (231) 839-3800



FOSTER TO ADOPT PROGRAM

Every animal who comes into our care is uniquely precious and deserving of a wonderful forever home. Sadly, adult animals are frequently overlooked by adopters. These precious animals have so much to offer. To prove that, we are starting a new program here at MHS - Foster to Adopt.

This program will focus on our long-term residents.

Prospective foster homes will be given 2 weeks with the long-term resident to decide if he or she fits into their family.

MHS announces The Amber Fund

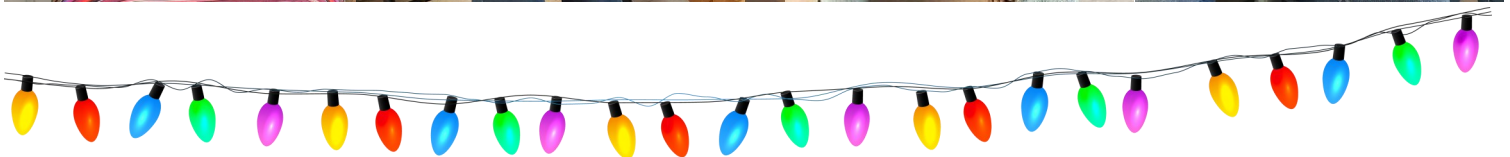
Animals enrich our lives in various ways, whether by choice or chance. Our dedication to providing them with exceptional care, including top-tier veterinary services, is steadfast. Recognizing the challenges that can hinder access to such care, the Missaukee Humane Society has created The Amber Fund. Named in honor of a cherished cat belonging to one of our team members, this fund aims to support pets of financially strained owners by covering or assisting with their medical expenses.

Fueled by the kindness and generosity of our community, The Amber Fund welcomes your support.

We invite you to explore how you can contribute to this noble cause.

If you would like to donate to The Amber Fund, please specify it in your communication with us.





To view more Happy Tails ... visit: www.facebook.com/MHSPETS

SHELTER WISH LIST & CONTACTS

SOME WISH LIST ITEMS:

- Cat Litter (scoopable preferred)
- 4health Cat & Kitten Food (all life stages formula at TSC)
- Dog Food - inquire
- Copy Paper
- Paper Towels
- Canned Kitten Food
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Pine Sol (original scent)
- Kitten Chow
- Garbage Bags
- Collars, Leashes & Harnesses
- Treats & Toys



**Help Us!
To Find Them
the Right Home**

To fill out the foster application, please visit

www.mhspets.org/foster

For More Information: **231-839-3800**

They Need Your 

Can't adopt?
Not able to volunteer?

Consider becoming a
Foster Home!



MHS Staff:

Kyle Musselman, Executive Director

Jessi Urie, Shelter Manager & Vet Assistant

Lylybell Schwab, Licensed Veterinary Technician

Phoebe Bilyea, Animal Care/Photography & Vet Asst

Beth Pickford, Receptionist & Volunteer Coord.

Kelli McClure, Animal Care & Training

Lori Howell, Assistant Shelter Manager

Judy Vargo, Animal Care

Shelby LaForest, Receptionist & Animal Care

Jacelyn Moggo, Animal Care & Receptionist

Heather Aikin, Receptionist & Partners In Education

Kelsey Hansen, Animal Care & Receptionist

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jacelyn@mhspets.org

heather@mhspets.org

kelsey@mhspets.org



Staff News:

Lori Howell has been promoted to Assistant Shelter Manager. Lylybell Schwab will serve as the Licensed Veterinary Technician and will be responsible for medical schedules and general population health.



Senior Dog Takes a Couple Detours To New Home

A 13-year-old dog who was supposed to live out her last few days in a Good Samaritan's home is still thriving, several months later. Megan Pluymert saw the dog walking along side of the road when she was on her way to Manton from Grand Rapids, and stopped to help. Tags on the dog's collar said "Brownie," but the phone numbers and address were dead ends. So Megan brought Brownie to Missaukee Humane Society.

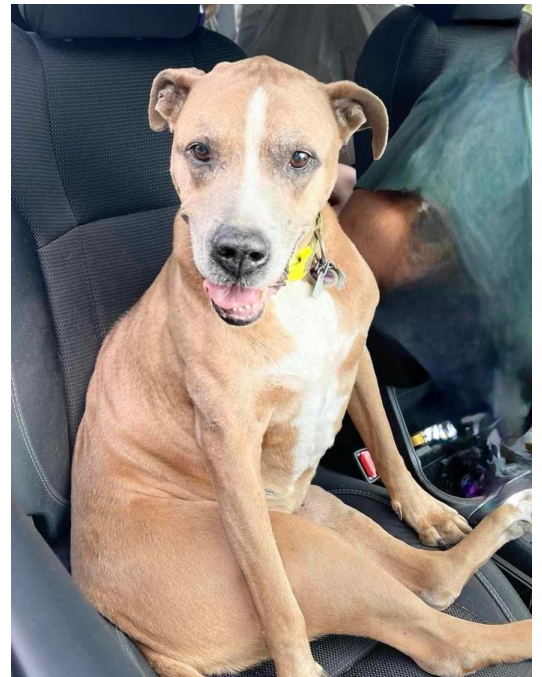
"My husband's brother had adopted from MHS before so we knew to go there," Megan said. "I called every day to see how Brownie was doing. I really wanted to keep her, but I wanted the owner to come forward." They never did. When the shelter's veterinary staff examined Brownie and ran some bloodwork, it turned out she had cancer. Megan and her husband Aaron asked if they could foster Brownie for a weekend and give her the best couple days of her life, and made an appointment with their veterinarian downstate to have her humanely euthanized.

That was three months ago. Brownie is still with us, but her route to a new forever home still had one more detour.

When Aaron was back in the area a month or so after they took Brownie home, he took her for a walk downtown Lake City. And someone recognized her. Her owner. It was obvious that they knew Brownie, and she knew them, so Aaron gave them back their dog. "I didn't get to say goodbye, so it was really brutal," Megan said. "I wanted to get another dog right away, but Aaron said, "Let's wait."

Aaron must have had a premonition. A month later Brownie's owner contacted Megan and said they knew Brownie was sick, had taken her in recently after their aunt died, and were going to have to give her up for good. Megan didn't waste a minute making another trip to Northern Michigan. "I was originally going to take her for just a couple days, but she still seems full of life," Megan says. Despite Brownie's age and diagnosis, Megan's vet downstate said Brownie doesn't seem ready to go just yet. So she's on some medications, a monthly Librela shot for very bad arthritis, and has a new microchip – just in case she gets lost again.

"I've found strays before, but I always found the owners," Megan says. "This was a unique situation. Turns out Brownie had lived in Tennessee, and Florida and now Michigan. She's very special, and I'm glad to have her back. She's a very happy girl."





WHO YOUR DONATIONS HELP

From a dire beginning as a frail, botfly-infested stray discovered in a car engine, Crush's journey is nothing short of miraculous. His resilience not only led him to survive but to flourish, captivating the shelter manager's heart with his craving for affectionate head kisses. This spirited kitten, with his zest for life and playful demeanor, quickly transformed from a grim prognosis to a beacon of joy. Crush's quest for constant attention and his penchant for stealing human food, combined with his mischievous teasing of other cats, reveal a personality that is both cheeky and endearing. However, his aversion to large dogs, boisterous children, and neglect underscores his need for a nurturing environment. For those seeking a companion that thrives on companionship and revels in the joy of life's simple pleasures, Crush could very well be the ideal match.



Kitty Diagnosed with Feline Leukemia Discovers Unconditional Love in a Hospice Home

Spooky, a beautiful cat, was given to us by her previous owner. Having been outdoors for a while, she had numerous neck wounds, which have since fully healed. Unfortunately, Spooky tested positive for feline leukemia.

With a shelter environment not being suitable for a cat with a weakened immune system, we sought out a loving hospice foster home. Fortunately, we found the perfect haven for this lovely girl. She has settled in wonderfully, gained weight, and is relishing many joyful days.





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