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www.safehavenforcats.org www.safecareclinic.org

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**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020** 

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# **CELEBRATING and SHARING our LIFESAVING SUCCESS!**

Annual Report July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

### **Message from Pam Miller, Founder & President**

One year ago, I wrote about SAFE Haven's promise to the stray and abandoned animals in our community. Our commitment to this cause has been unflinching; to do <u>everything</u> we could to increase the lifesaving capacity in our programs. Now, just one year later and in spite of everything going on, we have accomplished the first part of our goal...**thanks to you**!. Construction is complete and we have moved into our new 5,400 square feet of space, doubling the size of our center.

We are off and running and the benefits to the cats are numerous:

- More colony rooms in the shelter
- More and swifter adoptions (281 in 14 weeks!)
- Air handling systems designed for animals
- Spay/Neuter Clinic capacity doubled; appointment wait times cut in half
- Lower prices for spay/neuter surgeries for our community
- Sterilizing dogs of all sizes too!

But finishing construction and moving in was just the beginning. Now comes the truly hard work of sustaining our important services and expanding them even further until all the cats (and dogs too!) have homes.



Throwback Thursday Original SAFE Haven Tee

I hope you will be pleased with everything you read in our annual report newsletter. None of this would be possible without you, our donors, adopters, clinic customers, rescuers, volunteers, and loyal friends.

With gratitude,

Pamela Miller

Pamela Miller Founder & President

Every photo of a cat in this newsletter is an actual cat from **SAFE Haven**. **NO STOCK PHOTOS HERE!** 

### How COVID-19 has affected SAFE Haven

### Just a word or two about COVID.

Like most businesses in the Triangle, SAFE Haven and the SAFE Care Clinic were closed to the public for 9 weeks in March and April.

During that time, the staff of thirteen and our devoted fosters kept 81 cats and kittens in the "manner to which they had become accustomed." In other words, we waited on them hand and paw! (This is normally accomplished by 100 volunteers a week!)

This turned out to be an incredible time of enrichment for the cats and we spent time every day thinking up activities for them. We blew bubbles, planted kitty grass, and trained



them to clickers. Many of us took classes on "Fear Free Cat Handling." We rigged up videos for them of birds and squirrels. One of our cat caretakers even made frozen tuna fish juice ice cubes for the kitties. (Spoiler alert – some did <u>not</u> like the Frozen Tuna Challenge!)

The downside of this was the cancellation of our 16th Annual Tuxedo Cat Ball which usually brings in over \$120,000 for the shelter. Plus, while we were closed, we lost \$5,000 a week in fees so almost \$50,000. Our Feline Fundamentals classes have transitioned online and volunteer open houses, our Run for Their Lives 5K Race (for October), "Cat"sino Royale (for July) and all other in person activities have been cancelled. As you can imagine, the cumulative financial impact of losing these fundraising events at such a critical time for our region was especially painful.

We reopened the shelter for adoptions in May creating an adoption appointment system to control the number of people inside our small shelter. This is working very well, and we are adopting as many if not more that we were before COVID-19.



We were unable to hold our annual Kitten Shower and Palooza Open House event in May. Instead we held a Drive-In Kitten Shower. People were very generous donating 1,000 cans of food, toys, treats and bedding.

The SAFE Care Clinic reopened shortly thereafter, to the public. The irony of our brand new lobby is that the public does not get to see it! Under guidance from the AVMA, we are checking in our daily clinic customers outside in front of our building

We slowly, reopened to our volunteers, although with masks in place and not as many per shift as we formerly had.

More good news – Our Pet Food Pantry, which had to close while we renovated and moved, will be open by the time you read this!

Drive-In Kitten Shower

### Because of YOU ... We are Saving Innocent Lives Every Day!

#### Your generous support saved many, many lives at SAFE

Haven this year, and you are the main reason for our shared success. Below is our "annual report" infographic so you can see all the good we are accomplishing together. We provided services to 6,199 animals this year (only a 4% decrease AND we were closed for nine weeks because of COVID-19) at a cost of \$153.10 each. The only way we are able to meet this challenge and provide these vital services is with the support of 417 unselfish volunteers who donated 13,059 hours of time this year with a value of over \$315,917. In addition, \$56,947 worth of food, towels, beds, and other in-kind services were donated in 2019/2020



#### Thanks to all our partners in the business of saving lives . . .

SAFE HAVEN'S AMAZING



# **Adoption Program Recap**

### In June, our adoption center EXPANDED BY ONE-THIRD.

#### The goal of the expansion is:



To increase adoptions from 900 to 1,100 annually (22% increase)

- Move newly arrived and guarantined cats and kittens to their own building, keeping them separate from kitties ready for adoption.
- Create an ADA accessible "get acquainted" adoption room
- Add additional group housing space to provide more "homelike" settings
- Enhance volunteer and public areas in the shelter



Expanded shelter – lots of space!



New Adoption Room at the Shelter



More Colony Housing

Thank you to our amazing donors who made the adoption center expansion possible

# Adoption Program Recap 849 Cats and Kittens Find Happy Homes!

Through your steadfast faith in SAFE Haven and with your support, we have had a very successful adoption year, finding homes for 849 stray cats this year. This also means that each cat's time at the shelter is shrinking and they are finding homes more and more quickly. The average time it takes a cat to be adopted at SAFE Haven is just 30.11 days. (After a one-week isolation period.)

We attribute this success to our loving, compassionate adopters. In addition, it takes seven groups of volunteers to provide care for these cats prior to their "leaving the building!" These volunteer groups are adoption counselors, cleaning captains, enrichment team members, fosters, litter box team members, shelter cleaning team members, and Tabby Cabbies. Please see their names in the volunteer section of this report.

#### Who are these cats?

People are always curious about where all these cats come from. Well, here is the answer! They were all former stray, abandoned, injured, or orphaned cats and kittens – mostly from the Triangle.

#### Where they came from . . .

- 44% Directly from the Community
- 6% Life of the Cat in Danger
- 36% Partner Euthanizing Shelters
- 12% Hoarding/National Disasters



2% Abandoned at our Shelter



#### This year our cats were 56.5% female and 43.5% male



### Our Community Cares – Adoption Miracles

SAFE Haven places many cats each year that come to us in not-quite-perfect condition. After all, these are all stray, abandoned, orphaned, and sometimes injured cats and kittens. How we wish they could talk to us; tell us where they have been. But we make a commitment to them to restore them to health and find them a permanent home regardless of their former circumstances. Here are some examples of what your support makes possible.



Before

#### Sergeant Snuggle

Sarge came to SAFE Haven after being surrendered to a vet for euthanasia because he was FIV+. Of course, the vet would not do it so Sarge came to us! What a mess! This lovable, purring, bundle of love had a terribly misshapen ear, chronic un-fixable ear infections, skin problems – you name it. It turns out the cure for his ear infections was to surgically remove his ear canal. Sounds drastic but as a last resort it works! As you can see from Sergeant's "after" photo he is very happy and went to his forever home shortly after his recovery.



After



**Before** 

#### Flittermouse (means "little bat")

When Flittermouse was abandoned at our shelter, he had severe infections in both his eyes, was malnourished to the point of starvation and severely dehydrated. When our staff found him, he was barely alive. He spent many weeks in foster trying to recuperate and heal. His road to recovery has been slow but he is a happy and healthy kitten now.



After

#### Chapman

A kind person in Knightdale found Chapman as a stray in his neighborhood. One look in his mouth when he arrived was all we needed to know he was in trouble. He had a condition called stomatitis where the body attacks the teeth and rots them! Imagine the pain! But the "cure" for this is to remove all the bad teeth and that is what we did! This darling kitty found his forever home shortly after that.



### **Adoption Miracles continued**



After Surgery

#### **Conway Kitty**

This kitty was found in a feral colony in Raleigh, but he was not feral at all! When he first arrived, however, he limped severely, and something was obviously wrong with his rear leg. Long story short, his hip had been broken and his knee was misaligned. So, we got it all fixed and he went to a wonderful home.



Going Home!

### **Hurricanes Barry and Dorian**

What was unheard of a few years ago, happens every year now – a major hurricane hits the U.S. As a partner with the Humane Society of the U.S., SAFE Haven is always ready to help displaced cats in situations like these. Over the years, animal welfare organizations have developed best practices when dealing with these situations. In advance of the storm, existing animals in animal shelters are moved out to safer cities. This makes space for them to take in lost or stray animals locally after the storm has passed. SAFE Haven took in 63 cats from hurricane disasters last year and 39 from hoarders.



It will be ok, we promise!



King from North Myrtle Beach Animal Shelter (Hurricane Dorian)



The cats arriving



Welcome to SAFE Haven

Look at all these joyful smiles! This is what it is all about! The day our formerly stray and unwanted cats and kittens go home with their people, who will show them nothing but pure love for the rest of their lives!



Boysenberry Tea



Braxton and Wyatt





Froggy and Hopalong



Gomer



Louise



Lauren Bacall



Scarlet Dawn



Sparkly

Whether it is our annual Run for Their Lives 5k & CatFest or our Kitten Shower, something is always going on at the shelter, as you can see from these photos.







Run for Their Lives 5K



Start of the 5K

Cuteness!





The Youngest Winner of the 5K



"Cat"sino Royale

### SAFE Care Clinic Program Recap

By the time you read this, the Clinic will have completed a large expansion, doubling the physical space of the Medical Center. SAFE Care has a new logo too and a separate website to make scheduling appointments even easier. In addition, SAFE Care was one of only five clinics in the United States accepted into the National Spay Neuter Response Team of the ASPCA. Located in Asheville, North Carolina, the NSNRT provides extensive training, grants, and support for highly qualified spay/neuter clinics.

Why was this expansion needed? As one of only 17 low cost spay/neuter clinics in the entire State of North Carolina, our clinic has experienced a dramatic increase in the need for our services over the last few years. People from thirty-one counties all over Eastern North Carolina make the trip to Raleigh and comprised the 3,192 surgeries we performed last year. Appointment wait times were growing to six weeks!

#### The goals are simple:

- Decrease euthanasia through low cost sterilization of cats and dogs.
- Increase yearly surgeries from 3,200 to 7,500
- Reduce wait times for appointments by half
- Reduce the price for these services to the public
- Offer sterilization services for dogs. Our focus will remain on cats because as you will see from the statistics on the next page, they are euthanized at over twice the rate of dogs in North Carolina.
- Increase the numbers of pets vaccinated for rabies



As you can see from these before and after photos the new clinic is up and running.



Treatment area before



Treatment area now!



Post op before



Surgery before



Post op now!



Surgery now!

Thank you to our amazing donors who made this expansion possible.



### SAFE Care Clinic 2019-2020 Program Recap

#### Help for the public with pets, strays and feral cats.

From "No Hump Wednesdays" to our "Leaf the Altering to Us" package, we have had fun while promoting one goal: to spay and neuter as many cats and kittens as we can every day, to reduce euthanasia of healthy animals.



**More than 34,000 cats** have been spayed at the SAFE Care Clinic since it opened in 2001. If they would have produced even two kittens each, they would have added 208,000 stray cats to the Triangle in only two years. In 2019 in the Triangle and surrounding counties\*, 5,826 cats (40% of those entering the shelter system), and 2,228 dogs (17%) were euthanized at other organizations. (NC Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Division, Animal Welfare Section, Animal Welfare Reports.) \*Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Orange, Wake and Harnett.



**The SAFE Care Clinic**, owned by Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, helps cats, kittens, and feral cats every day. The clinic is founded on the principle that no one is ever turned away because they cannot pay the already low fee of \$75/\$65 female/male cat.

SAFE Haven helps other rescue groups and shelters to make sure more cats and dogs are sterilized before adoption. They include: Beyond Fences, Franklin County Animal Services, FCAS/Paws for Life, Marden's Ark/Marden's Cat Tales, Purr Partners, the SPCA of Franklin County, Saving Grace, Best Friend Pet Adoption, Neshama Animal Rescue, and the Friends of Wake County Kitty Clip and Pit Stop Program.



### SAFE Haven's TNVR Mission

Part of the expansion of the SAFE Care Clinic enables us to lower our prices to sterilize feral cats! The price, in fact, has dropped from \$85 to \$30! We also now have a dedicated pre and post-op room just for ferals. Why do we put so much effort into supporting community cats?

"Un-owned or semi-owned community cats number between 30 to 40 million in the U.S. Only 2% of them are sterilized." (Managing Community Cats, HSUS, 2014.) How many community or feral cats do we have in the Triangle? According to experts, a mid-range formula is 10% of the human population. The current population of the Triangle is 1.3 million people. In fact, we are the 16th fastest growing region in the nation. That would be an incredible 130,000 cats.



Through aggressive and mostly free services, with your help, we have sterilized and vaccinated 427 feral cats and kittens this year, each of whom was ear tipped.

#### SAFE Haven supports our community in many other ways to help feral cats:

- Loan of humane traps and training/support to safely catch elusive cats
- The Basics of TNVR classes held every year
- A confidential, third party registry that can help you reclaim a feral cat in Wake County at safecareclinic.org.
- Free food for feral colony managers
- Home of Operation Catnip, the Triangle's oldest feral cat sterilization program. Hosted one Sunday a month at SAFE Haven, OC sterilizes about 481 cats a year

#### **Make your Spay/Neuter Appointment**

**Call:** 919 872-7730 **Email:** info@safecareclinic.org **Website:** safecareclinic.org

**Basic package includes:** sterilization, exam, pain meds, rabies and distemper vaccines, ear cleaning and nail trims! Additional services available: FeLV/FIV testing (cats), microchip, deworming, FeLV vaccine (cats), heartworm testing (dogs) and parasite control.

#### DOGS

Male Dogs

4 to 59# - \$100 60# and up - \$110 Over 100# - \$120

#### CATS

\$75 female \$65 male



Spay-ghetti and No Balls Fundraiser for the Clinic

#### **Foundation Grants**

As you might imagine, unlike human causes there are very few grants available for animals. Although grants make up a small percentage of our income, SAFE Haven wants to gratefully acknowledge the support of the following for the SAFE Care Clinic:

The Margaret T. Petrie Spaying and Neutering Foundation The ASPCA National Spay/Neuter Response Team The Summerlee Foundation

Over 100# – \$120 **Female Dogs** 4 to 59# – \$110

60# and up – \$125 Over 100# – \$135

### **Volunteer Program Recap** Celebrating SAFE Haven's Incredible Volunteers

This year hundreds of volunteers selflessly donated over 13,059 hours of their time to our animal shelter adding \$315,917 to our bottom line. (One hour of volunteer time is valued at \$24.18 by the Points of Light Foundation.)

# Here are some of our volunteer roles – we have something for everyone!

#### **Board of Directors and Advisory Council**-

On a top level, you can advance the long term goals and vision of SAFE Haven.

#### **Board of Directors**

Jill Odom, Chair; Mary Ka Powers, Vice Chair; Leslie Karlsson, Treasurer; Janet Hensel, Tom O'Larnic, Elizabeth Moss Ohrberg, Shelby Kinsey, R. Lynn Coleman, Becky Loyd, Pam Miller, and Doug Eader. Finance Committee: Pam Glines and Lauren Williams.

#### **Advisory Council**

Holly Crumpler, Rita Dimoulas, Sondra Jarvis, Pat McLaughlin, Sue Minns, and Mary Murphy.

#### **Cleaning Captains & Crew; Litter Box**

**Team**—Come to the shelter and scoop, tidy up, refill waters, do laundry, mop floors, etc.

#### **Cleaning Captains**

Gary Bolz, Kelly Bolz, Jennifer Byrd, Nancy Canterbury, Madison Dirks, Jackie Dornan, Dawn Fulks, Carolyn Holbrook, Sondra Jarvis, Melanie Loury, Gina Southall, Donna Stiles, Chris Tackett, Amy White, and Michael Yarnell.

#### Litter Box Team

Eve Barkley, Sarah Buddendeck, Kathy Burke, Matthew Dickerson, Jamie Freet, Katie Furnas, Carolyn Haley, Jordyn Herring, Gretchen Hogg-O'Briant, Olga Lobastova, Melanie Loury, Mark McClintock, Todd Morman, Joe Nelms, Laura Pigg, Autumn Raymond, John Sabol, Sydney Santoro, Leverett Smith III, Cynthia Stewart, Allysa Thomas, Deisy Vega, Michael Yarnell, and Matthew Yoon.

**Tabby Cabby**—Transport cats to veterinary specialists for treatments or pick up cats at other shelters, (like the Wake County Shelter).

Rosa Chrismon, Lynda Harris, Lisa Loiselle, Pat McLaughlin, Gina Southall, Chris Tackett, and Paul Zipin



Rosa Chrismon, Connie Burns, Janet Hensel, Liz Moss Ohrberg & Ginger Rice receive Volunteer Awards

**Mouse Makers**—Help assemble catnip mice toys that are sold at area veterinarian's offices.

Gail Bauer, Sarah Buddendeck, Suzanne Caso, Janet Hensel, Gail Krywenko, Melanie Loury, Sue Minns, and Rachael Paden.

**Pet Food Pantry Volunteer**—Help distribute tons of food to needy dogs and cats. Place and monitor food collection barrels at various locations.

Rita Dimoulas, Kristen Elliott, Janet Hensel, Inez Leyden, Melanie Loury, Rob Loury, Sue Minns, Joe Nelms, Mike Payne, Dick Richardson, John Sabol, Paula Trexler, and Michael Yarnell.

**Adoption Counselor**—Help make connections between excited adopters to their new family member.

Chris Ault, Lisa Bachelder, Susan Bartholomew, Mary Carver, Rosa Chrismon, Ruth Covington, Patricia Crowe, Holly Crumpler, Adrianne Drollette, Joyce Gardner, Jill Guthrie, Michelle Hansen, Heather Hensley, Gretchen Hogg-O'Briant, Kerry Holbrook, Sondra Jarvis, Dianne LaPlante, Lisa Loiselle, Pat McLaughlin, Mary Murphy, Lindsay Russ, Carmen Samples, Elyse Schmidt, Sally Skelton, Susan Smith, Chris Tackett, Linda Thompson, Susan Wallace, Lauren Williams, Pamela Williams, and Peggy Wyatt.

**Feline Enrichment** — Are you the Cat Whisperer? Work with our cats to help them regain their essential "Catness".

Wendy Abrams, Susan Anderson, Lisa Bachelder, Susan Bartholomew, Gail Bauer, Kelly Bolz, Kerry Holbrook, Lisa Karner, Nadine Maloney, Barbara Mason, Mark McClintock, Pat McLaughlin, Mary Murphy, Mike Payne, and Susan Wallace.



### **Volunteer Program Recap**

**Clinic Helpers** — clean and restock our clinic after a busy day of surgery, help make appointments, answer questions, teach customers how to use humane traps.

Kristine Adamson, April Ayala, Lisa Bachelder, Gretchen Hogg-O'Briant, Sue Minns, Mary Murphy, Lynelle Perry, Margie Reid, Marla Spencer, Susan Steltenpohl, and Mary Wiles.

**Foster Home Provider** — Take a SAFE Haven cat into your home on a temporary basis.

Chris Ault, Michelle Bergeron, Cathy Biondi, Hillary Brown, Sarah Buddendeck, Molly Carty, Rosa Chrismon, Adrianne Drollette, Liz Elliott, Elizabeth Gardner, Joyce Gardner, Teri Goodrich, Julie Gillen, Traci Highsmith, Gina Hilton, Laura Hunter, Stacy Ingham, Terri Kelly, Shelby Kinsey, Stephanie Lowd, Rebecca Loyd, Renee Luongo, Nadine Maloney, Sue Minns, Jacqui Murphy, Eileen Nicholas, Melissa Nowel, Gina Southall, Marla Spencer, Chris Tackett, Kristin Turk, Susan Wallace, Jennifer Waters, Christine Wilks, and Margaret Woodlief.



### Although currently on hold these are other volunteer opportunities:

**Fill-a-Truck Volunteer**—Distribute our "wish list" to shoppers on their way into Walmart. Fill-a-Truck when they come out with their incredible donations for the cats.

**Special Events**—Volunteer to work at one of our major events: Run for their Lives 5k (October), the Tuxedo Cat Ball (April) or Kitten Palooza (May).

#### Additional volunteers who participate in shelter cleaning or events!

**Rachel Alcorn** Emma Allen Ellen Anderberg Roberta Andrews Michael Barfield Donna Bell Kim Bell Paula Bell Joe Belna Denise Besley Amy Black Camryn Blackard Karen Blackard Richard Michael Bradner Alex Breiholz EJ Brewer Scott Bricker Sally Brooks Jessica Brown Kianna Brown Mollie Brown Tracy Brown Sarah Bryan Connie Burns Shakia Byrd Sarah Calton Malena Carlsson Liz Carr Shawna Carr Dawn Cassar-Mueller Julie Cazin Emily Chandler

Carolina Chiquito Stephanie Cimpi Emma Coggins Alexandra Coleman Jessica Coley Jenna Constantino Michael Cooley Betsy Cooper Joan Cooper Katelyn Crespo Melissa Crespo Meredith Cromley Addison Crookenden Dylan Crumpler Audrey Cummings Barry Curtis Robert Danaher Sarah Danaher Katie Davis Linda Davis Tim Davis Angela Day Pauline de Touchet Phoebe DeGroote Vicky DeGroote Dave Demo Pauline Demo Michael Denman Sonya Detwiler Angie Dirks Stacy Dockus Karon Donnelly

Pamela Doolittle Jenna Doubleday Carol Doyle Elizabeth Dreher Callie Dugas **Emily Dumonceaux** Holly Durham Jeena Dutta Lauren Dvson Cecilia Edgar Liz Elliott Betty Ellison Erin Ellison Odilia Espinoza Zora Falkowski Ava Ferris Ben Fesko

Joey Fish Lynne Fish Allison Fletcher Jessika Foland **Ruthie Freedman** Jamie Freet Karen Friedlander Nicole Friedlander Jessica Friedman Jenn Frost Silvia Gambardella John Garcia David Gay Vera Gettinger Carrie Glass Patti Godin Michelle Gonzalez



#### Additional volunteers who participate in shelter cleaning or events!

Kim Gooden Laura Goodman Isabella Goupil Pamela Graber Annette Gray Tami Gray Jessica Green Nichole Green Caitlin Greenstein Ryan Griffin Erin Gross Madison Gullett Sharon Guss Jessica Hackman Megan Hackman Carolyn Hall Charles Hall Gina Hall Sean Hall Shelby Hammerstein Kim Hand Sarah Hardin Betty Harmon Rebekah Harper Paige Harris Hadley Hartwell Walt Harwell Linnea Heid Sarah Heinsohn Laura Helwig Rebekah Henry Michelle Hernandez Grace Herring Kaitlyn Hobson Halie Holland Shirley Hopkins Ada Horton Alexandra Horvath **Taylor Houyoux** Anna Hutchins Trevor Jordan Maria Jump Suzy Kaelin Debra Kalavsky Cindy Kametches Lisa Kamin Karolyn Kaye Emily Kelley Makenzie Kelly Janet Kennedy Lauren Kennedy Emma Kirkpatrick Francine Knott Leslie Knuth William Kraus Tracey Lackey Hayden Lambert Joann Laney Richard Langellotti Vanessa LaPiana Chloe Lapish Laurel Lapish

Melissa Lassen Natalie Leger Laura Leland Pam Litchfield Alessandra Lonardo Chandler Lopes Sophia Lopez Lisa Louque Sierra Lowery Christie Mabry Lyne MacDonald Sparky MacMillan Daniel Macri Nicole Manley Lisa Marengo Christopher Martin Monserrat Martinez Corrie Matheny Luke Matheny Alex Matsuo Tammy Matthews Colton McAllister Carleen McKenna Peggy McKenna Brooke McKinley Alexi McNabb **Dimante Mcneil** Kiara Mendes Colette Miller Corenthia Mills Amber Mirza Kara Mlakar Allison Molin Alyssa Monroe Ruth Montague Kat Morgan Elizabeth Morris Bridget Munger Jo Murphree Dan Murphy Jennifer Murphy Joan Nicholas-Walker Ryan O'Cain Genevieve Olive Meia Kayleigh Olorvida Katalyna Ortiz Jorge Ortiz Ardila Caiou Osterhoudt Julie Papay **Devin Parks** Ann Perry Sarah Petterson Josie Pfeiffer Matthew Phillips Mara Pickard Suzanne Pierce Susan Pitts Sara Powell Matthew Prather Garrison Priem Leonard Proseus Daniela Pulidoromo



Kylie Quainoo Paige Ramsev Cameron Rice Brittany Richard Douglas Rickert Jay Riley Nancy Ritter Kelsey Roberts Larry Robertson Leigh Ann Robertson Jennifer Rudinger Jack Rush Ken Samples Jeni Sandberg David Sasser Lauren Satterfield Ellie Schneider **Emily Schoendorf** Samantha Schpero Evan Schwartz Meredith Seagraves Sarah Seely Linda Shafer Dana Sheinhaus Dvlan Sherk Vicki Sherk Jeanne Simmons Jeremy Sliwinski Jolie Smith Sam Smith Samantha Smith Jennifer Smith-Thomas John Sprague Krystle Stainback **Cindy Stammers** Andrew Steele **Rachel Stefanic** Rebecca Stephen Maren Stephenson Carmen Stevenson Emma Stewart Diana Stiefel **Taylor Stiles** Nina Swim-Wright Erika Tapia Angelika Teuber

Nancy Thoma Olivia Thomas Cristina Thordsen Ashley Thurston Christina Thurston Bradley Tomlinson Lillian Turner Rena Ullum Alyssa Vail Stephanie Valentino Breanna Van Meeteren Holly Vance Juliett Ventaloro Lizeth Verastegui Alicia Villa Veronica Villasuso Venegas Matt Wade Karen Wahle Julie Wall Aliyah Wallace Courtney Wallace Jordanna Wallace Chrys Ward-Baker Deirdre Warner Vanessa Wav Chris Weathers Donna Weber Rachel Weber Andrea Wehrwein Haley Wester Mary White Kevin Williams Kristen Williams Penelope Williams Nvasia Williford Kathy Willis Cindy Wilson Eric Wolf Pat Wood Sarah Wright Chris Yarborough Nell Yen Amanda Zeren Kayla Zimmerman Shannon Zimmerman Cassandra Zink

### **Community Outreach & Education Programs Recap**

#### **The Pet Food Pantry**

The Pantry is the only one of its kind in Raleigh. Last year we **fed 321 cats, 107 dogs**, and helped 92 families by providing them with over 22,000 pounds of food. People in need can apply for help from the Pantry. There are just a few simple rules: They can't have any more than six animals, cannot adopt any more pets while receiving food from the Pantry, and SAFE Haven assists them to assure that 100% of their pets are spayed and neutered.

One way we get food for the Pantry is at the "Fill-a-Truck" event at the Wake Forest Walmart but these are currently on hold







#### New Outreach! Purr Cup Cafe

Although currently on hold, we are thrilled we are going to have SAFE Haven cats at Raleigh's first and only Cat Café. Located just south of downtown, the Purr Cup Café is going to be THE place to visit with all your cat (and coffee and pastry) loving friends!

#### **Feline Fundamentals**

Last year 180 people attended classes at SAFE Haven on topics such as:

Emergency Planning for Your Pets, Your Mature Cat Companion, Household Harmony, and the Basics of TNVR. Unfortunately, some of our in-person classes were cancelled because of COVID-19.



**Our latest class is online**, however. Cat Enrichment is an hour and a half of amazing, useful information for every cat lover. Are you helping your cat be the best cat they can be? What does a cat's best life look like?

In this on-demand class, learn from Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, medical director of the SAFE Care Clinic, everything you need to know to enrich your cat's day-to-day. You'll get ideas on how to fill their environment with sensory experiences that keep them engaged and tips for activities that lead to positive bonding.

#### You'll learn:

- Why some scents are great, and others are dangerous to your cat
- How play time affects a cat's mental health
- How you can use technology to engage your cat
- Why a cat's natural instincts lead them to act the way they do

And so much more. This on-demand class will give you not only ideas of what to do, but why you should and how it helps your cat. Don't you owe it to your BFF – best feline friend – to help them be happy?

#### Only \$5 to get the video presentation; you can watch it any time at your leisure.

**Here is the link:** https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cat-enrichment-with-dr-jenniferbledsoe-nix-tickets-113793535528



### **Individual Contributions:** The Key to Success for the Cats

#### *Thanks to 6,722 gifts from compassionate animal people, SAFE Haven met its financial goals this past fiscal year.* Additionally,

we successfully managed our expenses and benefited from \$315,917 of donated time from our volunteers. Over \$18,000 of cat and dog food, paper towels, toys and litter were also donated to the cats. A total of \$38,947 of in-kind goods and services were donated to our special events.

We conducted a successful Matching Campaign in October-December 2019. The generosity of our donors and friends allowed us to exceed a \$130,000 challenge match. The Tuxedo Cat Ball, our largest fundraising event of the year, scheduled for April 2020, had to be cancelled.

Donations are vital to our organization since adoption fees do not cover the basic medical care of the cats SAFE Haven takes into our shelter. In addition, as a "No Kill" shelter, we believe in treating every medical condition we are able to – just like you do for your beloved pets. You may not know it, but as a private, nonprofit animal shelter, we do not get any funds from the City of



Raleigh, Wake County, or the State of North Carolina. **Because it is of the utmost importance, we continue to offer no cost or low-cost sterilization services to every person/cat in our community who needs it, the support of our donors is vital to this mission.** Several hundred cats who use the spay/neuter services of the clinic have never been to a veterinarian. Were it not for the availability of these services, many cats would go unneutered and hundreds of homeless kittens would be born.

> Note: Many people ask us why we are not on rated on Charity Navigator. It is because Charity Navigator only includes nonprofits whose organizational budget is over a million dollars. SAFE Haven's budget is just slightly over a million dollars, so we look forward to a listing soon. SAFE Haven is, however, a Silver Rated Charity on Guidestar. You can access our most recent (year-end June 30, 2019) tax return (990) at safehavenforcats.com; simply click on the "About Us" button.



# July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 SAFE Haven—the numbers at a glance.

The following charts show you (our supporters) how your dollars are spent and what the major expenses of the organization are.





### **Income by Category**







### **THANK YOU TO OUR PAW PALS\***

... MORE THAN 215 DONORS WHO GIVE TO SAFE HAVEN MONTHLY!

#### \*Join our Paw Pals at safehavenforcats.org

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You can become a monthly donor with your credit card, from your bank directly to ours, or with a check every month. It is easy and efficient.

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# Let your LOVE FOR CATS live on as your LEGACY.

Please consider including SAFE Haven for Cats in your will or other estate plans. You can guarantee stray and abandoned cats and kittens can be helped, whenever they are in need, while considering your needs and tax-planning strategies. We would be glad to discuss any planned giving option with you – in confidence and without obligation. For more information, please call Pam Miller at (919) 582-7834 or email us at Pam@ safehavenforcats.org

You may designate SAFE Haven for Cats in your will, living trust, insurance policy, or other estate plans in any of the following ways:

- Name **SAFE Haven for Cats** as the beneficiary of a specific amount or percentage of your estate/trust.
- Name **SAFE Haven for Cats** as the beneficiary of your retirement account (or a portion of it). This can include an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Keogh plan, or other qualified retirement plan.
- Life Insurance name **SAFE Haven for Cats** as the primary or secondary beneficiary.
- Stocks or bank accounts name **SAFE Haven for Cats** as the direct charity to "transfer upon death".



#### Gifts now:

SAFE Haven appreciatively welcomes gifts of Required Minimum Distributions from IRA's and stocks, bonds and mutual funds too! Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) are becoming an increasingly popular way to provide financial support to SAFE Haven.

Did you know that when the **Congress passed the "Cares Act"** this year they made a provision to allow you to deduct charitable gifts even if you no longer itemize but take the standard deduction?

Yes, that's correct. You will be able to deduct \$300 in charitable donations on your taxes for 2020.



SAFE Haven announces the "Serenity Surviving Cat Program"

At SAFE Haven for Cats we are frequently contacted by caring cat owners who are making plans for their cats in their estates. If there are no friends or family members who are willing or able to care for your cats, it is possible to have peace of mind through your estate plan and the **Serenity Surviving Cat Program**. For more information, please contact pam@ safehavenforcats.org.

### SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS LEGACY SOCIETY

Please let us know if you have included SAFE Haven for Cats in your estate plans so we may thank you and recognize you as a member of the SAFE Haven Legacy Society. The Society celebrates members who have included SAFE Haven for Cats in their Estate Plans.

Bonnie C. Andrews Peter Emil Campbell\* Nell Coletta Clyde M. and Eunice I. Crider Sidney and Carla Dalis Annick deFramond Leah L. Dey Alice Dulaney Michael & Joy Ferrell Kay M. Flynn\* **Diane Hardy** Trisha L. Hasch **Bernice Holshouser** John and Nancy Lambert Lisa and Dave Loiselle Jan Maher\* Eileen McGrath and Thomas Tiemann Pat and Jim McLaughlin

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### SAFE Haven Media Recap

Facebook is the place to find out what is going on at SAFE Haven and interact with our online community. Our **#4everSAFE** campaign (which encourages people to post pictures of the cats they adopt from SAFE Haven) has hundreds of shared photos and comments.

Our websites have been visited by 75,000 people this year

and are a key tool in educating the public about overpopulation and connecting our community to our services. Visit us at **www.safehavenforcats.org** or **www.safecareclinic.org** and tell a friend about SAFE Haven! SAFE Haven is also active on Twitter and Instagram and publishes a monthly E-News (the Cat Chronicle) that is received by over 13,000 people. Twice a year, The Scratching Post, SAFE Haven's Newsletter is mailed to 7,000 people and is read by an additional 5,000 people online.





#### IF WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR E-Mail

you are definitely missing out. There is an envelope in this newsletter. Simply fill out your name and e-mail and drop it in the mail to us, OR email info@safehavenforcats.org **OUR MISSION:** To use no-kill principles and education to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter services, and community programs.

**OUR VISION:** To be the industry leader in ending euthanasia to control animal population and eliminate pet homelessness.

#### **OUR CORE VALUES:**

#### SAFE Haven for Cats believes that:

• Every animal and human at SAFE Haven is an individual being with a personality, feelings, intrinsic worth and value. As such, they will be treated with respect and care in a non-judgmental, safe environment.

• We will always exist as a 501(c)(3) no-kill organization and strive to find homes for every adoptable, treatable and recoverable cat we accept.

• Community volunteers are a vital part of our success and we acknowledge and celebrate their contributions.

• Affordable sterilization, community education and trap/ neuter/return are proven methods to stop euthanasia as a means of population control for companion animals.

• No animal will ever be adopted before sterilization.

• No animal will be euthanized except in the case of illness, injury or other condition from which they cannot recover, and only by lethal injection.

• Partnering, collaborating and advocating with other organizations and government agencies increases our ability to benefit these animals and save lives.



#### SAFE Haven for Cats BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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8431-137 Garvey Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616

The Scratching Post is published Haven for Cats and is sent to SAFE volunteers, adopters and donors i you will continue to share it to you friends and other animal loving per

FE ven e hope mily,

**SAFE Haven for Cats** 8431-137 Garvey Drive Raleigh, NC 27616 919.872.SAFE (7233) safehavenforcats.org safecareclinic.org

#### Photos:

Photos in this publication are courtesy of contributors, Mary Ka Powers, Dylan Crumpler and Brittani Halbert Photography.

#### **About SAFE Haven for Cats**

SAFE Haven's mission is to use no-kill principles and education to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter services, and community programs.

# Shara says THANK YOU Read all about last year in our Annual Report Newsletter

