

Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands NY 12204 • (518) 434-8128

www.mohawkhumane.org
Spring 2015

Diamond Recovers



In early April a Watervliet man flew into a fit of rage, picked up his girlfriend's dog and threw the dog off the front porch. Diamond, a sweet gray and white pit bull mix, landed hard on the front lawn. Watervliet Animal Control brought Diamond to the Latham Emergency Clinic, where she was x-rayed and stabilized.

The emergency veterinarians found that Diamond's pelvis was fractured and her hip was dislocated. Diamond's abuser was arrested and, soon after, convicted of Felony Cruelty to Animals.

Diamond was brought to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. She was prescribed pain medication and put on cage rest to reduce the swelling from her injuries and to prepare her for surgery.

Dr. Thomas Bowersox offered to perform Diamond's surgery at a greatly reduced rate. Thanks to our generous, dedicated supporters, the funds for Diamond's surgery were raised within just two hours of posting her story on social media. Diamond is now recovering in a volunteer foster home and will soon be ready to find her permanent home. Throughout her difficult ordeal, Diamond's loving personality never changed.

Thank you to everyone who helped Diamond on the road to recovery and to a safe forever home.



Share the Love Generates Nearly \$23,000

At a March 21st adoption event at Goldstein Subaru, a check for nearly \$23,000 was presented to MHHS by General Manager Stefanie Goldstein, Subaru District Sales Manager Ann Robillard, Goldstein Subaru Sales Manager Brian Rushford and Subaru of America's Bob Reilly.

The check reflected the results of Subaru's annual 2014 "Share the Love" campaign. This was the second year local Subaru dealers were invited to nominate a local non-profit to participate in the campaign. Last year's campaign raised over \$16,000. For every new Subaru purchased or leased from Goldstein Subaru between November 20, 2014 and January 2, 2015, Subaru of America donated \$250 to the car owner's choice of participating charities. The ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) provided a grant to help promote the event.



Brad Shear, Ann Robillard, Stefanie Goldstein,
Brian Rushford and Bob Reilly

Photos by DJ McArdle

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Upcoming Events...

**CUTEST PETS CALENDAR
PHOTO CONTEST**
June 15 - July 29
www.mohawkhumane.org

PAWS IN THE PARK
Saturday, June 27, 2015
Siena College, Loudonville



**3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204**

**Hours:
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1-4pm**

www.mohawkhumane.org

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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

We had a long, cold, snowy winter. It was hard on all of us, including animals. Now that spring is upon us, we might be starting to forget the winter. But spring brings another kind of storm to animal shelters across the country. We call it kitten season.

Cats are "seasonally polyestrous," which means they will go into heat multiple times during some seasons. When the days get longer, cats start going into heat. Once a cat weans her litter of kittens, she can almost immediately go into heat again. This creates a cycle that has been hard for us and other shelters around the country to break. We start seeing pregnant cats right on schedule, after the solstice in December.

Those kittens born in the winter have to go into foster homes for at least two months. They will then return to the Society to be spayed or neutered and adopted. It may sound simple, but it is a struggle every year to keep up with the flood of kittens coming into our shelter. The struggle results from the sheer number of kittens coming in, sometimes dozens in a single day. Sometimes kittens come with their mothers, who continue to nurse them, but often they do not and need to be bottle-fed by staff and volunteers until a foster home becomes available.

Our volunteer foster parents are true lifesavers. They open their homes to orphaned kittens and care for the kittens for weeks. During those weeks, the kittens come to the Society for regular check-ups and vaccine boosters to make sure they are healthy and on the road to their new homes. At the height of kitten season, we have upwards of 150 cats in foster homes across the Capital Region. That number of cats requires a tremendous number of volunteers who will open their homes and hearts to animals in need. While in the care of foster homes, cats and kittens are still provided with food and veterinary care by the Society.

About one third of all the cats adopted from the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society spend time in a foster home. I can't imagine how we would continue our important work without these very caring and dedicated volunteers. Our foster program is absolutely essential to make sure we are able to continue saving lives.

Please consider becoming a foster parent this year and helping with our lifesaving work. For more information you can go to our website and click on the volunteer tab or email fosters@mohawkhumane.org. Thank you for getting involved and helping the most vulnerable among us.

I can't imagine how we would continue our important work without these very caring and dedicated volunteers.

Brad Shear



Crick & Watson

Albany Animals Rescued



In June 2014, nine cats and four dogs were rescued from a home on Pine Avenue in the City of Albany, where they had been living in conditions so deplorable that the City condemned the house. The animals were all brought to the Humane Society, where our veterinary staff examined them and began the process of trying to get them healthy.

One of the dogs was so old and had gone without care for so long, there was nothing that could be done for him. Even the owners who had left him to suffer agreed it would be best to euthanize him. One of the cats had an advanced cancer that was preventing her from eating. She would also not survive because it was simply too late to treat her.

The other animals would all survive and eventually thrive. Two of the dogs, Crick and Watson, were siblings and had ear tattoos showing they were at one time used for study in a laboratory. Rather than a peaceful life of retirement, they were skin and bones, covered in their own feces and urine. But things were about to change for Crick, Watson and all the other animals taken from the house. They had finally found refuge.

It would take seven months for the investigation, arrest and prosecution of the animals' owners to be completed. Two were convicted of felony animal cruelty and sentenced to jail time. A third fled the state and still has an open warrant for her arrest. Most importantly, all of the survivors found new, loving homes, including Crick and Watson who were able to stay together.

It is only through the support of our community that we are able to accept and rehabilitate animals like these when they are so desperately in need. They are now in new homes thanks to people like you who support your local animal shelter.



A Dedicated Mom

No Different Than Any Other



On a sparsely populated country road near Tomhannock Reservoir, a good Samaritan saw an unusual site: a mother cat limping down the road while holding her baby kitten in her mouth by the scruff of his neck. Concerned for their wellbeing, the man scooped them up and brought them to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

The pair were quickly seen by our veterinarian, who determined the mother, soon to be named Arielle, was limping because of nerve damage to one of her front legs. Her paw was permanently curled under and could not be extended or used to walk on. Because of her injury, the top of her paw was dragged along the ground, causing a permanent abrasion that was at risk of infection. In spite of her injury, Arielle kept her kitten, Tiger, safe and well fed. Tiger had no idea his mother was different than any other. She continued doing her job, keeping him fed and clean, never thinking of herself.

Arielle and Tiger would stay together for several weeks in foster care so he could continue to be fed and cared for by his mother until he was old enough to be adopted. Once Tiger was weaned, Arielle's leg had to be amputated because there was no way to restore its function.

Like so many cats, Arielle is a wonderful mother who fought hard to protect her baby. Because of a caring person who took the time to bring her to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, we were able to care for both of them. Because the Society receives no funding from the state or federal governments, it is only thanks to our generous donors that we are able to care for animals like Arielle and Tiger.

Annual Gala makes a world of dif

Record-breaking attendance and dollars. That's what happened April 25 when nearly 500 animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street in Troy for the eighth annual **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala.

New York State Assemblyman Jim Tedisco and Libby Post, Executive Director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation, were the event's Honorary Chairs, while Paul Harding of Martin, Hardin & Mazzotti served as the Event Chair. Event emcee Steve Caporizzo, host of *Pet Connection* and Chief Meteorologist for NEWS10 ABC, and auctioneer LeGrande Serras of the Reel Seafood Co. kept the crowd laughing and bidding all to help the animals! Grand Central Station had guests out on the floor dancing the night away.



The 2015 Humane Heroes awards were presented to:

- Dr. Edward Becker & the Animal Hospital** - Humane Hero Award
- JCB Specialties** - Humane Business Award
- PetSmart Charities** - Humane Leadership Award
- WNYA My 4** - Humane Media Award

Congratulations to all of our award recipients. The event was a grand success with great friends and good food and wine. Everyone had a fabulous time! We are grateful to all our guests, Honorary Committee members, sponsors, auction donors and supporters. At the end of the evening, the homeless and abused animals were the true winners: the gala raised over \$130,000 to help care for them.

Thank you! to our Gener

- Excelsior College
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- The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center



Conference for MHHHS homeless animals

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Photos by Michael Gallitelli and Paula Walker

A Special Thanks to...

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 and Sandy Barringer

Rob Madeo and Ric Easton
 David Glatz and the volunteer moving crew
 Laura Petrovic and the staff of the Hilton
 Garden Inn
 JCB Specialties

A very special thank you to all our volunteers and the Gala Planning Committee and to the wonderful companies and individuals who so generously donated the wonderful items for our live and silent auctions.

In Memory Of...

Agnes, George & Trixie

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Maureen Northrup

Andrew Hagner, DVM

Donald & Susan Leonard

Ross Hannan
Jim, Elizabeth & Jenckes
Tillotson

Scott Hicks
NYSUT

Maggie Holbriiter
Thomas & Donna Buckley

Hudson
Operation ResCUTE Inc.

Judith Kamen Mitchell
Barry Mitchell, MD

**Deacon Frederick Richard
Lesser**
George & Penny Ceresia

Wendy Meola
Jessie Aitcheson

Kathleen E. Morrell
Robert Adams

Susan Mulderry
Latham Internal Medicine

Murphy
David Malsan

Jack Newell
Christine Rutigliano
Susan Tully Abdo

Ryan & Emily Pasquini
McSharry & Associates
Realty Community Give
Back Program

Ruth Price
Christina Owens & Lady
Judy

Mary Savage
Kathleen Ostapeck

James Sher Family
Lee Stanton

Dolly Lee Simmons
John & Helen Articulo

Jill Simoncic
Co-workers at ITS

Carole Smith
Barry & Tricia Smith

Jennifer Thomas
Kevin Richard

Dana Wacksman
Edward Wacksman

Wedding Guests
Joseph Sokol

Joan Wunning
Carol McDermott

PLEASE NOTE

Due to space constraints, only tribute gifts of \$25 or higher are listed in our print newsletters. Tribute gifts of all amounts are listed on our web site, www.mohawkhumane.org.

SATURDAY June 27

9AM-1PM
SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMPUS



500th Adoption at EAC

The Everyday Adoption Center at PetSmart in Latham reached another milestone in April. Pinto, a nine-year-old Chihuahua mix, was the 500th adoption since the EAC opened in August 2014. Angel Clew, pictured here with her mother, fell in love with Pinto and the feeling was mutual! Thank you to everyone who has supported the EAC and made it a great success.

Empties for Animals Bottle Sorting Party

It seemed to be an insurmountable mountain but the pile is gone, thanks to a lot of help from our friends! We held our first-ever sorting party the weekend of April 10-12, inviting the community to help us sort all those recyclable bottle and cans. And they did! We had families, individuals, MHHS volunteers, groups from RPI, Emma Willard School and Marvin & Company, and many people who just stopped by and decided to help sort. We did it by the numbers: 3 days, 150 people, 165 bottles of water, 60 pizzas, 1,121 bags and boxes of bottles and cans, and 2 tractor trailers — one over the weekend (305 bags in that one) and another April 17 (816 bags and boxes).

Thanks to those who donated all their bottles and cans, and to Goldstein Auto Group for helping us set a record in 2014 and setting the stage for an even better 2015! Bottles and cans can be dropped off at the Society in Menands or at the Goldstein Auto Group locations in Latham or on Central Avenue in Colonie.

A very special thank you to our regular sorting volunteers, Paul Cooke, Sandy Barringer, Nancy Wilson, Susan Joslin and Sue Bishop, MHHS Facilities Manager David Glatz, TOMRA, the Price Chopper in Menands and the media, who all helped make the **Empties for Animals** bottle-sorting weekend a huge success!

