

Only hope is you're safe and sound. I can feel your heart, next to mine.

This time. This time.



Now I keep all my heroes on my side. I keep all my heroes on my side.

We have a singular vision at Friendship APL. What is this vision? To save as many lives as possible. Just six years ago, our shelter was responsible for providing care for over one thousand five hundred wayward pets. Last year this amazing group of individuals helped three thousand seven hundred and thirty seven dogs, cats and other companion animals. You cannot help but feel their love and passion for the animals they help.

#### Heroes

# by Cameron AG

**Executive Director** 

**Gregory Willey** 

**Chief Financial Officer** 

Lynne Fujka

**Chief Humane Officer** 

Denise Willis

**Humane Officer** 

Sue Hixson

**Animal Care Supervisor** 

Allysa Leboda

**Intake Supervisor** 

Stephanie Spicer

**Adoption Supervisor** 

**Katie Love** 

**Foster Coordinator** 

Helena Prosowski

**Dog Trainer** 

**Don Hitchens** 

**Animal Care Specialist** 

Becca Lauffer

Angela Long

**Beth Price** 

Sarah Wolf

**Board of Directors** 

Deb McFadden, President

Amy Richards, Vice President

Patrick Radachi, Treasurer

Valerie Porterfield, Secretary

Justis Clifford, Trustee

Dawn Ermler-Fischer, Trustee

David Humphrey, Trustee

Chris Pyanowski, Trustee

Barbara Sangiacomo, Trustee

Kathy Schlather, Trustee

Linda Stepan, Trustee

Friendship Animal Protective League

8303 Murray Ridge Road

**Elyria, OH 44035** 

440-322-4321

www.friendshipapl.org

The music contained in this Annual Report is available on Spotify.

Go to Friendship APL Songbook 4 to listen.

#### A Message from Our Board President

If you were a child or teenager growing up in the 80's, you may have seen the 1986 movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. A quote from the movie: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

In 2016 life moved pretty fast at Friendship APL (FAPL). We took in over 3,732 animals, almost all of which needed medical care. The shelter spent an all-time high of over \$90,000 to save these animals so they could find homes. If you follow us on Facebook, you would have seen story after story of cats, one climbing a high wire, some kittens getting stuck in drain pipes and an array of other feline stories and injuries. We had similar injury stories for our canine friends. Some dogs were left outside to starve, some dogs were hit by cars and some injured dogs came to us from other facilities. Executive Director Greg Willey and the small but mighty staff of FAPL bring in animals weekly that are saved from other kennels or shelters. Without our volunteers and foster families, both of which made up the all-time high of 52,600 hours of volunteer time this year, we would not have been able to take in the number of animals that we did. We thank each of our donors and estates for supporting our work to get these animals the medical attention they need and into the loving homes they deserve.

In 2016 FAPL did have its share of highs and lows. Some of our lows included having to

mourn the loss of one of our young volunteers, Grayce. Grayce passed away from a horse riding accident while she was on spring break. The shelter had to overcome the loss of some kittens due to an outbreak of feline panleukopenia. We also encountered animal leg amputations that were too severe to repair while we continued our fight against heart worm infections.

Some of our highs include our soon-tobe renovated dog room which will be named in Gracye's honor. The Cleveland Indians and FAPL joined together to create a 2017 calendar featuring shelter pets and players. We had a blast at the ballpark while the Indians continued their march to the World Series. We have Girl Scout Cadette Laura, who is busy making feral cat houses. Laura and other volunteers provide these houses to those who may need them to provide safety and shelter to feral cats. We continued our relationship with other shelters and kennels and with Grafton Prison where many dogs go to be trained for 6-8 weeks. We have a program with Wags for Warriors, we continue to help with Trap Neuter Release (TNR) programs for feral cats and we started a children's reading program where the kids read to the shelter pets. We grew our relationships with local news stations so that each week we are on tv with a featured animal. We have a program with Petco in Lorain County that houses a few of our cats so they can be seen and adopted. We also made new friends and connections along the

way with our events at various venues. We started our online shelter articles and newsletter, which you can find on our website <a href="http://friendshipapl.org">http://friendshipapl.org</a>. Finally, I am proud of our Board of Directors, which grew to 11 members this year. I want to thank them for all of the teamwork and dedication they put into the shelter.



Board President Deb McFadden & Sir Meowsalot

It was a pretty amazing year. But that's not all, I received a Facebook message about a very young girl who saw one of our mailers that her dad received. The mailer discussed the story of a cat named Sir Meowsalot, who you may remember was a kitten tossed from a moving vehicle causing several broken and shattered bones. It was the

kind of thing that makes your stomach turn, yet a kind woman who saw this happen picked him up and took him to our shelter knowing he would get medical attention. The compassion of our young people today is amazing. This little girl McKenna sent us a drawing and a note with \$20 telling us she wanted to help Sir Meowsalot, that she was glad he was taken care of and that his story had a happy ending. Maybe one day she will be a young volunteer at the shelter!

Lastly, if you remember my article from the 2015 report you will know that Greg Willey left a cat in my care when he went on vacation, which I ended up keeping. Lo and behold, Greg went out of town again this year and I agreed to care for Sir Meowsalot in his absence. Do you see a trend here? I adopted Sir Meowsalot. He has since been renamed Max and is pictured here. He still has some physical challenges and may never get much bigger due to his injuries, but he is loved by everyone including his three cat siblings, Mellow, Mya and Misty, all FAPL rescues. So, life does move pretty fast, and if you miss any of it, catch us on Facebook, subscribe to our newsletter or go on our website to read the weekly articles.

Thank you for your continued support of Friendship APL, we couldn't do it without you.

Deb McFadden Board President Well the road is wide, and waters run on either side,
And my shadow went with fading light, stretching out towards the night.

'Cause the Sun is low, and I yet have still so far to go,
My lonely heart is beating so, tired of the wonder...

When I need to get home, you're my guiding light.



This is the second cat rescued out of the drain pipe. You can see the water beginning to fill the pipe. You can feel the cold and the fear in the kitten's eyes.

#### Guiding light

#### Out of the Darkness

#### By Greg Willey—Executive Director

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, I received a call about a kitten in a drain pipe in Oberlin. When arrived, I found the owners of the property looking into a drain right below a gutter. I could feel the steady drops of rain beginning to fall.

We tried everything to get the little kitten to come to the front of the drainpipe, but it was far too scared to and only kept retreating back farther and farther into the drain. We tried to lure the kitten out with food and toys. The rain started pouring harder, and we could see that the drain was starting to fill with water because the kitten was blocking the drain. The homeowner came up with a plan to use a piece of plastic to help divert some of the water away from the drain, but the task was looking more and more hopeless.

Sitting there in the mud, I made a last ditch effort. I rolled up my sleeve and shoved my hand down into the pipe. It was such a tight fit I actually scraped the skin off around my forearm, but I could

#### by Foy Vance & Ed Sheeran



Members of the Oberlin Fire Department dry off the third and final kitten rescued from the pipe.

feel fur. I wrapped my fingers around the little kitten and was able to pull the small calico out of the pipe. The owners brought out a towel and dried off the poor thing.

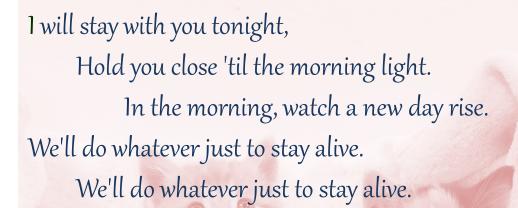
After a few minutes, they handed the kitten over to me and I began to walk back to my car to take the kitten to a clinic to check her out for hypothermia from sitting in the cold water. As I was

walking, I heard the faintest meow come from behind me. I placed the kitten in a carrier and walked back over to the pipe. Another meow. Could there have been two kittens? It was truly a downpour now. I took out my phone and opened the camera app. I set the timer and flash and stuck the phone down the pipe and waited. The camera flashed. I looked at the picture. There he was - a little orange tabby staring right at me. He was too far in for me to grab this time. The owners called the Oberlin Fire Department. While we waited for them to arrive, I sat in the rain trying to keep more water for going down the drain.

The men and women of the Oberlin Fire Department were amazing. They took apart the gutter to prevent water from going down the drain. They began digging out the drain and used a power saw to cut through it. I was easily able to reach in and grab the kitten. We were all so happy to have rescued this poor baby. We loaded the kitten into the carrier with his sister. Something told me to take one more picture to make sure the pipe was clear. I snapped a couple photos. First picture. Nothing. Second picture. Nothing. Third picture. I could see something. I zoomed in. There it was, two

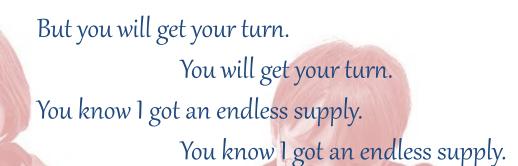
little eyes staring back at me. This kitten was about thirty feet inside the pipe. This one was going to be tricky. Thankfully members from the city works department showed up with a drain snake with a camera and a light that could be lowered into the pipe. The initial idea was to drive the kitten out the other end of the pipe where it emptied into a basin. However, there was a point where the kitten just would not move any more. But oddly enough, when they started pulling the light back, the kitten began to follow it. It took three tries and several hours, but finally one of the firemen was able to grab the cold, wet calico from the pipe.

I rushed all three kittens to the emergency clinic where they were warmed up and kept under observation for signs of hypothermia. The next day, they were released and placed with a foster family. I would like to thank the Oberlin Fire Department for their herculean effort to help me save these kittens. Without their support and the support of all our law enforcement officers and civil servants throughout Lorain County, I would not be able to save nearly as many of these cats and dogs as I do.





Sunshine with his new Mom at 5 months old. Seeing the happiness on the adopters face makes all the hardship associated with our work worthwhile.





Some of our young volunteers hold puppies that were dropped off for adoption by our friends at Geauga Mom and Pups.

# **Endless Supply**

# by Rogue Wave

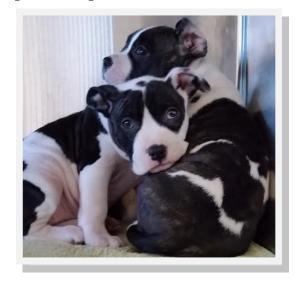
Labor of Love

By Kimberly Bushek—Foster for Geauga Moms and Pup Rescue

Geauga Mom and Pup Rescue consists of a group of dedicated volunteers who donate their spare time, money and expertise. They provide a safe and healthy living environment to mom dogs and their puppies. The group takes in pregnant mom dogs who, depending on the breed, can give birth to as many as 15 puppies. Upon reaching the appropriate age and health status, the group needs to find homes for them. Because we are an volunteer organization with no physical structure, we ask for the assistance of Friendship APL. They take the puppies, as well as the mother, and find homes for them. This is what separates Friendship from various other rescue groups; their love toward helping all dogs not just the easily adoptable puppies.

Friendship APL has proven to be a phenomenal partner in the search to find not only the puppies new homes but also the mom dogs. Geauga Mom and Pup Rescue receives puppies from across the United States who arrive emaciated and covered in parasites. Friendship allows the rescue group to focus on the moms and puppies so they can become healthy and ready for adoption.

There are many shelters across Ohio; however, Friendship has proven time and again their professionalism and commitment toward the safety and well-being of our moms and their litters. We truly appreciate everything Friendship has done for Geauga Mom and Pup Rescue and look forward to the continued partnership.



A Dog Walker's Journey

By Wendy Norris—Lead Dog Walker and member of the Muttley Crew

Author Donald McCraig wrote, "a young dog's faith is absolute... Dogs are notorious for hope. Dogs believe that this morning, this very morning, may begin a day of fascination, easily grander than any day in the past."

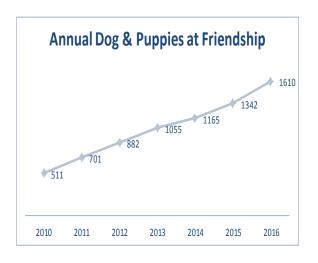
As dog walkers, each time we walk a dog, we get to share in that gratitude and joy. Our furry friends at the shelter look forward to the time we spend playing with them, loving them and taking them for walks.

Each month approximately 40 new volunteers take the dog walking 101 class I teach. Dog walkers walk dogs in any weather. It doesn't matter if it is below zero or extremely hot. Snowing or raining, the dogs get walked and loved.

Volunteers come in on all holidays and

get the dogs out and give them attention. Even on Thanksgiving and Christmas, volunteers show up to spend time with the dogs. We try to make their stay at the shelter as pleasant as possible. We share their stories and special qualities with those looking to adopt. Many of us take the dogs home and make them a part of our own families.

Those of us who walk dogs have the privilege of experiencing love, trust, joy and most of all hope each time we walk at Friendship APL.



When I look into your eyes,

it's like watching the night sky or a beautiful sunrise.

Well, there's so much they hold. And just like them old stars,

I see that you've come so far to be right where you are.

How old is your soul?

Well, I won't give up on us even if the skies get rough.

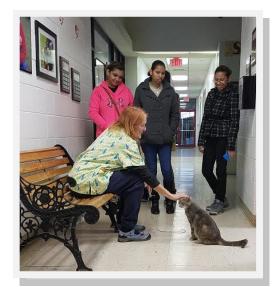
1'm giving you all my love.

1'm still looking up.

Volunteer Wendy Norris
comforts a new arrival at
Friendship Animal Protective
League. The dogs we receive are
often terrified of their new
surroundings. It is our volunteers
that help these dogs acclimate
to their temporary home.



#### Scars



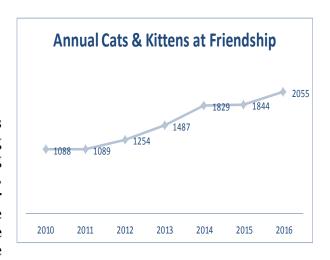
Volunteer Priscilla Hefner introduces a shelter cat to our visitors.

#### No Excuses

#### By Priscilla Hefner -Cat Socializer Extraordinaire

Brushing, petting and talking to the cats has an amazing effect on them. Watching a cat go from being afraid to being friendly and playful is very rewarding, and now that cat has a much better chance to get a home. And helping all the other great people who work at the shelter—all the foster families and the staff members and the volunteers who clean cages and walk dogs—makes me feel needed and useful.

People say they cannot volunteer at the shelter because they would want to take all the animals home with them. I do not want to take all the animals home since I can not take proper care of that many animals. Let's be realistic. I am only one person. Not being able to help every single animal is not an excuse to avoid helping as many of them as I can. Other volunteers can help those I can not. Like the sign at Friendship says, "Anything can be done with a little help."





Jorah came to us after being rescued from kids who were attempting to set him on fire. He had a broken leg and was covered in a severe fungal infection. Thanks to the doctors at Fox Veterinary Hospital, we were able to amputate the broken leg and heal the damage done by the infection.

We lived through scars this time.

But I've made up my mind,

we can't leave us behind anymore.

Temporary Homes & Forever Loves

By Mary Cordray—Creator of the
Friendship APL Foster Program

Each year the generosity of volunteers who are foster parents makes all the difference for animals who need special care to heal and grow. For some animals, a foster home means the chance to live.

For eight orphaned kittens foster Kristen Stylski sacrificed sleep while patiently feeding each kitten every few hours. Tara Tibayan cared for three Chihuahua pups whose mom died immediately after they were born. These pups only weighed four ounces when she took them home. Eight weeks later, they are eating on their own and playing!

The goal over the next years is to build increased structure for the growing program, so that we are able to offer more support to the volunteers who join our foster network. Through the guidance of the foster coordinator, Helena Prosowski, and our growing number of volunteer case managers—our fosters receive assistance so they may provide the best care.

At times fostering animals can be challenging, but it also a very rewarding experience. Together we share our tears of joy as they send their fosters on to their forever homes.

To join our dedicated team of fosters, you can attend an orientation the third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm at the shelter.



Auggie was rescued from the streets of Lorain. Every bone in his body was visible.

Lorain Animal Clinic began the work of saving him, but our fosters completed the job. They not only provide a safe environment in which to recover, but help these animals learn to trust and love again.



Shelter by Dorothy

# Fundraising & Events Volunteers of the Month

Employees of Schlather Insurance, *January*Wags to Riches Volunteers, *February*Fix Elyria, *March* 

Erin George & Lake Ridge Academy Students, *April* 

Deb McFadden, May

Pat More, June

Diane Cotrufo, July

Joyce Castriagano, August

Amy Richards & The Cleveland Indians, September

Brynn Berkowitz, October

Gregg Senko, November

David Humphrey, December

# Kathy Jolly & Nancy Berens

# Cat Care & Socialization Volunteers of the Month

Diane Burda, *January* Celesta Menges, *February* 

Cindy Amos, March

Jack Kerrigan, April

Dr. Lauren Cross, May

Phil Dicke, June

Susan Klingbeil, July

Priscilla Hefner, August

Barb Retzloff, September

Theresa Smith, October

Carolyn Horwedel, November

The Ponczocha Family, December

1'm a world of pain, and you're a safe place.

When I run away, you're the only home I know.

# Dog Care & Walking Volunteers of the Month

Denise Higgins, January
Mitch Galehouse, February
Derek Pleska, March
Cathy & Leah Sunderman, April
Dawn & Sydney Hatcher, May
Amanda Rak, June
Ginger & Mia Vasilakas, July
Angela Long, August
Tim Rusinski, September
Pat Rischel, October
Wendy Norris, November
Justis Clifford, December

# Sandy Press Adoptions & Fostering Volunteers of the Month

Kim Krock, January
Kelly Shaker, February
Denise & Brittany Workman, March
Lise Day, April
Beth Price, May
Mary Delmonte, June
Tracy & Erin Isenberg, July
Lin Greenwald, August
The Dietz Family, September
Tara Tibayan, October
Kathy Norrod, November
Maureen Jordan, December

Will you give me shelter?
Will you give me shelter from myself?

# Superman

#### End of the Line

#### By Rick Broz, Volunteer & City of Lorain Police Officer

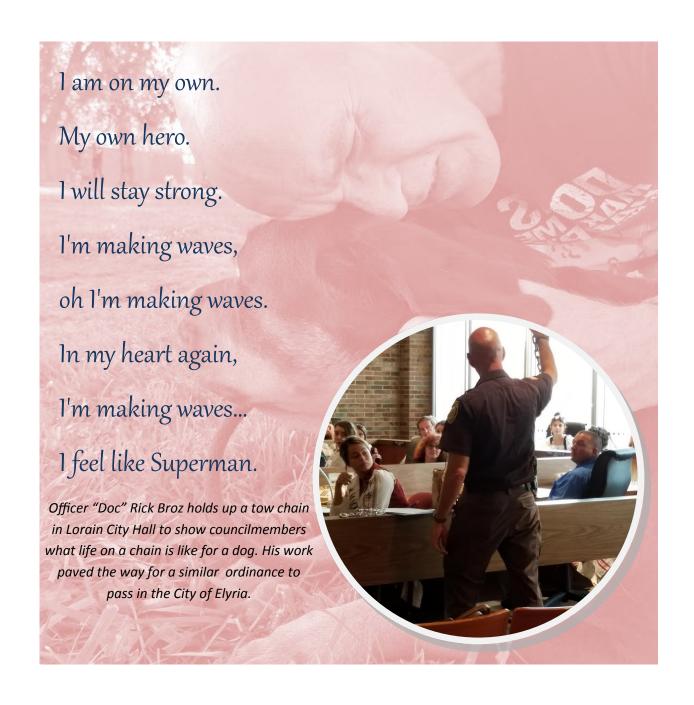
For years, some dogs in Lorain had to suffer through life because of neglectful or thoughtless owners. Spending their entire lives chained in backyards through bitter Ohio winters and sweltering summers, these dogs not only suffered from neglect but loneliness and lack of socialization which often led to medical ailments, such as fleas, mange malnutrition and embedded collars as well as presenting a danger to the public when their tether or collar broke. Many of these dogs were owned by backyard breeders, used as watch dogs or just owned by humans who didn't care after they had grown out of the cute puppy stage.

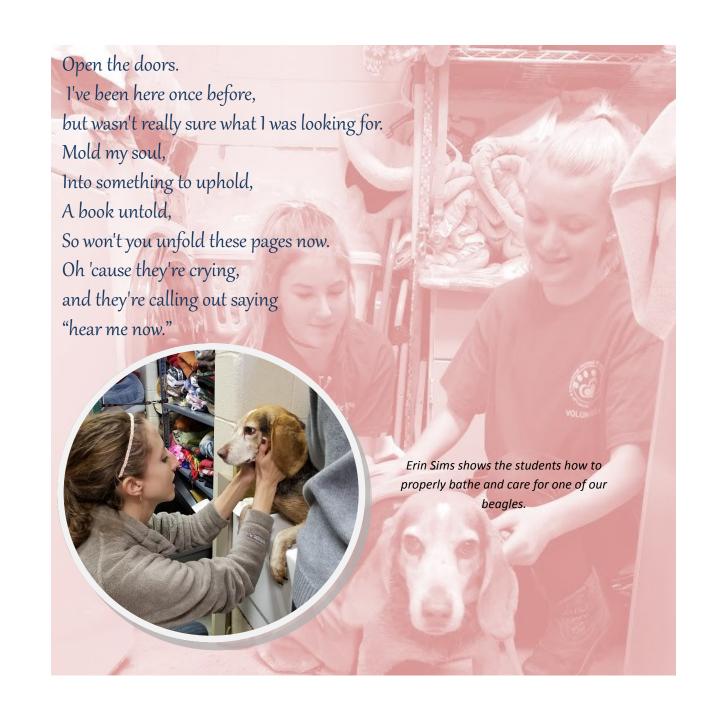
Even after Chief Rivera assigned me to the duties of Humane Officer in 2014, I was forced to watch these dogs suffer as Ohio's animal welfare laws were vague and impotent and the owners would stay just within the law's archaic restrictions. On July 20th of 2016, working with Lindey

# by American Authors

Zehel, Friendship Executive Director Gregory Willey and Lorain City Councilmen Angel Arroyo and Greg Argenti, we were able to pass Lorain's anti-tethering law on the first try. The ordinance not only gave specific restrictions on times and manners in which a dog could be tethered, but included jail sentences for repeat offenders, giving the ordinance a little more of a bite. I noticed an immediate reaction to the passage of this ordinance. Most dog owners complied by bringing their dogs in at night or building fences and kennels to at least remove the chains from the dog's necks. A few did not and were cited and others had the dogs taken when coupled with cruelty charges. The numbers of these dogs breaking loose have been nearly eliminated and complaints of tethered barking dogs at night have also been greatly reduced.

This new ordinance not only gives the dogs a chance for a better life but hopefully will begin to enlighten owners to consider their dogs as a member of the family not just furry outside furniture.





# Moving Mountains

#### A Lesson in Love

# By Erin George, Teacher at Lake Ridge Academy and Volunteer

This is my fourth year volunteering with students at the Friendship APL. At Lake Ridge Academy, 7th grade students have the choice of being involved in one of three service groups. The animal shelter is always a popular choice. Students' applications must be accepted and then they take a volunteer class and a dog walking training class through the shelter. Once they are all certified volunteers, we make multiple trips to walk dogs together at the shelter. We also hold many fundraisers at the school in hopes of raising \$1,000 to prepare for our annual "Fun Run" in the spring. The students in the group are involved in character-building experiences and learn valuable life lessons throughout the year.

It is a joy to share my passion of animals with students who share the same passion. The pre-teens may not be old enough to walk dogs on their own at the shelter, but they are old enough to make a huge difference in the lives of animals. Interacting with the animals during a couple school trips is not enough for many of the students. My husband Alan and I take requests to meet a few students at a time on weekends to walk dogs. They could spend hours with us at the shelter running in the outdoor pens, bathing dogs, cleaning puppy cages or just petting a shy dog in an adoption room. It is a great advertisement to see a big Pitbull Terrier mix giving kisses to a five-foot tall, young human on social media. My students are encouraged to take their phones and post pictures to help get our furry friends adopted. It is a win-win as every two and four-legged creature involved benefits from these experiences, including my husband and me.

Just recently, five of my students met up with Alan and me at an adoption event. One of the girls stood at the door at Petco with a leash holding a Rottweiler mix in her hand, welcoming every person who

#### Undefeatable

came in the door to take a look at her adoptable friend. One passerby mentioned that it really helped to soften the look of the Rottweiler when being held by a small girl. Others mentioned how the cats would sell themselves when content in the arms of my students. A couple of students walked a dog around Petco and led the dog choose whatever toys or treats she wanted. One boy even purchased a collar and leash for a shelter dog that did not have either. When these animals get adopted, the students could not wait to tell their parents. They each felt a sense of pride because they knew very well that they had a hand in finding those animals a home.

During the spring "Fun Run" the number of participants had doubled and we hope for the same this year. Each year, the new group of students help raise money, design and order t-shirts, spread the word, pack race day envelopes, set up and clean up the event. They put their heart into raising as much money as we can for Friendship, and it is amazing to

#### by Young Rising Sons

see this dedication from current and past students. We have raised \$6,000 for the shelter and counting! I love my students, and I love the animals! Being able to be with both at the same time brings me great happiness. And knowing that we are working together to make a difference in the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves incredibly rewarding. Words cannot describe how proud I am of my students and thankful I am to both Lake Ridge Academy and Friendship APL for allowing this type of mutualistic relationship to exist.





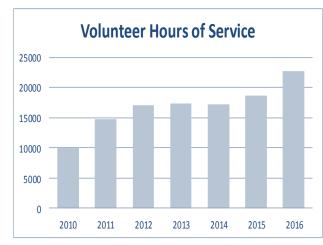
#### The Blessing

By Abby McElhannon—Volunteer and Member of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee

Over my five years at the Friendship APL I have had some of the best fun and most amazing experiences of my life. To think of how many animals I have seen come and go through the shelter and how they each had an impact on me as I did on them is something so spectacular to think about it. Each experience in my life has helped shape me as a person and thankfully most of those experiences have been at the APL. I have been able to not only expand my knowledge of animals and animal rescue but I have been able to become a better person overall. The people at Friendship have had such an amazing influence on me, between their knowledge, kindness, and leadership I have gained more wisdom and knowledge than I could have ever imagined in five years.

The animals that have and will come through the shelter have had the greatest effect on me. To see a humble creature who may have been abused, found as a stray, or dropped off by their family for any reason, find trust in you and be happy whenever they see you is one of the greatest, most humbling experiences life could offer. I consider it such a blessing that I've been able to spend a third of my life volunteering at Friendship because without it I wouldn't be the person I am currently and I have found so much love in the last five years alone that I can't wait to see what the next few years bring!

To join our dedicated team of volunteers, you can attend an orientation the second Saturday of the month at 10:00am at the shelter.



I've been down the very road you're walking now.

It doesn't have to be so dark and lonesome.

It takes a while but we can figure this thing out and turn it back around.



Abby Mchellannon, featured here with Ryder, can single-handedly remind you of the joy that comes with working with the dogs and cats at Friendship APL.

#### You're Not Alone



Picture Worth a Thousand Words

By Kathy Norrod—Photographer &

Muttley Crew Member

Dog adoptions are a vital part of any shelter and the Friendship APL is no different. There's no better feeling than to see a dog walk out of the door with their forever family to start a new life. Tons of things have to come together for a dog to get adopted.

Things have come a long way since 2009 when Greg arrived. I started my website work that year and have been volunteer-

#### by The Mowgli's

ing since 2007 as a dog walker. Before Greg, maybe ten dogs and cats were posted on the site... even though there may have been fifteen dogs and twenty five cats available for adoption, which is not a very large population of dogs and cats for a shelter. No one bothered. Since then there could be over fifty cats and two hundred cats available for adoption at the shelter at any time.

Friendship had over 2,500 pets adopted this year! Each and every year gets better and better!

Today most pets, no matter how many, are posted on our website. Once a dog hits the floor, I step in. The dogs are posted on four different websites.

- 1. www.friendshipapl.org
- 2. www.petfinder.com
- 3. www.adoptapet.com
- 4. www.petango.com

A bio and photo of the dog is also posted on their kennel too which lets potential adopters know a little bit about the dog when they come to visit the shelter. I post late into the next morning every Wednesday and most of each Thursday. It never



One step closer to the ones we love.

You've been searching for the sun so long.

1 mean it when 1 say,

You're not alone,

Even when you feel so far from home.

Everybody's here.

You're not alone.



The elusive Kathy Norrod is hard to get a photo of because she is too busy taking pictures of everyone else. We caught her in the Indians Dugout ready to make the call to the bullpen.

fails, I will get a few adoption emails at one o'clock in the morning on a dog I posted at eleven the night before. People must always be searching for that perfect dog!

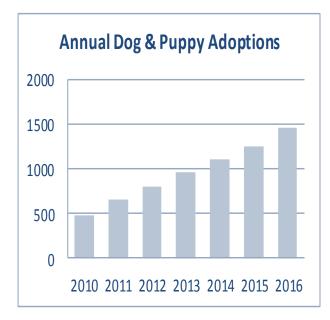
I usually make a trip to the shelter every Saturday morning to post the photos and bios on the kennels. My own dogs love this because they get to take a ride in the car with me to the shelter and go for a walk on the Oberlin bike path on the way home.

I also handle the adoption email. I receive and answer up to fifteen emails everyday from people asking questions about the pets that are up for adoption. We get emails from people wanting to set up a meet and greet between their bunny and one waiting for a home at the shelter. We get emails from all over the country asking to adopt. One asked if we could transport a dog to Canada, which Greg actually met the owner half way outside Buffalo.

Finally, at the end of each day, photos of all the adoptions are sent to the Friendship APL Facebook page where Sherry Minn posts for all to see and celebrate.

I have rambled on for quite some time.

I'm pretty sure most people didn't know what goes into getting a dog adopted. With everyone at Friendship, it's a pure labor of love to help find a homeless pet a family to call their own. "Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog the world will change forever." And that's what it's all about.



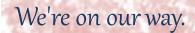
It's gonna be my lucky day when the stars align and clouds have gone away.
We're big enough to fill the Milky Way., and we're not afraid.
It's my lucky day!

Gonna fly around the world. Let everybody know my time is now, And my friends at home are pointing from the ground But I'm not coming down from my lucky day.



What an incredible journey...

Rowan came from us from Mahoning County through rescuer Jason Dean Cooke. He spent a week with us before heading to his new home in Indiana with the Ritten Family.



Hold me close.

We're losing time.

Hold me close.

We're falling to the ground.

We rescued this big fluffy guy off of a telephone pole in Elyria. It was the work of Tracy Isenberg that led to him being returned to his grateful owner.



#### On Our Way

#### Find Your Way Home By Tracy Isenberg—Photographer & Facilitator of Sam The Parrot on Facebook

Thanks to the combined efforts of staff and volunteers at the Friendship APL, 1,552 kittens/cats found homes in 2016. The process begins with the intake staff and continues with the staff, volunteers and fosters who care for them until they are socialized and ready to be adopted. Once they are on the floor and available for adoption, the kittens/cats still receive love, attention and care from staff and volunteers. The more comfortable and trusting they are of people, the better chance they have of being adopted, and enthusiasm from the staff and volunteers goes a long way in showing what great pets the cats could be.

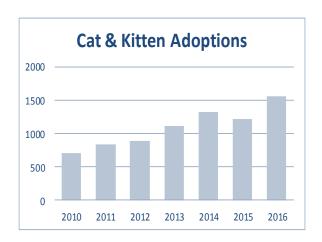
Pictures are taken and bios written for the adoptable cats are posted on the Petfinder and AdoptaPet websites. Many hours of love go into this to help find great homes for the cats and kittens. Pictures and bios are also posted and shared on Facebook as another way to get the word out to as many as possible who may be looking for a cat to become part of their family. Videos are created to help find the open heart that wants

# by The Royal Concept

to be their home. Pictures and bios are also published weekly in the Chronicle Telegram's "Critter Chronicles" and the Rural Urban newspaper.

In the cattery, which was renovated in 2016, potential adopters can interact with the cats to see which ones would be a good fit for their homes, and it allows people to see how the animals interact with other cats. As many new cat owners will testify, sometimes you choose the cat and sometimes the cat chooses you!

2016 was a great year for so many cats that now have homes thanks to the Friendship APL Director Greg Willey, the FAPL staff and volunteers and all the adopters.





#### Catch and Release

# Set Us Free By Rachel Vanek – Friendship

Volunteer, Foster and Trapper

If you love something, let it go. No words better describe the feral cat population and Trap Neuter Return (TNR). As an animal lover, it is hard to imagine a cat not wanting the warm embrace of a happy family, the soft jingle of a toy rolling down the hall, and an endless food supply. Some cats are born to the wild, a smaller version of their large and exotic relatives, feasting and forever living off the land. They will never feel a hand stroke their fur. They will never hear the sound of a can opener. And they are perfectly happy just the way they are.

As a humane trapper, you grow a respect for the lives these feral cats lead. They do not want our pity, but they could use our help. The TNR program through Friendship APL provides care and resources that greatly extend the quality and length of feral cats' lives. Volunteers and staff utilize live traps to humanely catch feral cats identified from within the community. The cats are transported to a local low cost spay/neuter clinic, and receive

#### by Matt Simons

surgery as well as a rabies shot and any further medical attention before being released safely back into the wild. Once returned, the cats resume their lives as normal, but without the chances of reproductive disorders such as cancer. Friendship APL also provides resources for shelters and food for caregivers of feral cat colonies, which help cats throughout the year even after the surgery is long forgotten.

And TNR not only helps the lives of feral cats today, but helps prevent the birth of future unwanted litters. Every year, kittens are born just to succumb to the harsh forces of nature. For this reason, many kitten fosters are also advocates for and regularly participate in TNR. With the sad reality that there are never enough cat fosters, it is a profession you hope to put yourself out of one day, with the help of TNR and cat advocates within the community.

#### Some Day Soon

#### by Alexi Murdoch

#### The Feel Good Heart

# Virginia Green—Pat a Pet Coordinator and Member of the **Muttley Crew**

For me, my journey with Pat a Pet started with visiting my grandfather at Wesleyan Village. As I walked to his room, many people wanted to pet my dog and talk. Many of the residents reminisced of their pets from long ago. It made my heart feel good to have made a difference in their day.

This experience motivated me to see if the Friendship APL had such a program. This was in 2005, and I continue to volunteer my support of this program...

From the folks who are being visited, to the animals who are receiving lots of love and socialization, I am filled with such Virginia Green helps us take a picture of one our gladness that I am able to make a difference in so many lives.



new arrivals at Friendship APL.



This for you I pray.

I pray for you today.



Bringing dogs and puppies or cats and kittens to visit the elderly is truly one of the most enjoyable events at the shelter. You can instantly see their eyes light up often from tears of joy at the opportunity to hold a furry friend.

## FRIENDSHIP ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

### Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended October 31, 2016

		Temporarily	Permanently	
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Restricted	Restricted	<u>Total</u>
Revenue and Support				
Contributions	\$ 534,395	\$	\$ 670	\$ 535,065
Program revenue	273,462	0.5	-	273,46
Grants	PVM 2,631	14,169		16,80
Sales	42,363	III +		42,36
Less cost of goods sold	(34,672)	-	1/2" -	(34,672
Fundraising event income	110,885			10,88
Less direct event expenses	(59,320)			(59,320
Investment income	14,499	-	485	14,98
Other income	687	-		68
Total revenue and support	884,930	14,169	1,155	900,25
Net assets released from				
restrictions	44,749	(44,749)		
	929,679	(30,580)	1,155	900,25

# Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended October 31, 2016

#### **Expenses**

Program services	717,080			717,080
Management and general	73,978			73,978
Fundraising	32,812			32,812
Total expenses	823,870	7 -	<b>70</b> -	823,870
Changes in net assets	105,809	(30,580)	1,155	76,384
	F 1 9/16			
Net assets, beginning of year	1,048,545	36,208	12,056	1,096,809
		1	4	
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 1,154,345</u>	\$5,628 \$	13,211	<u>\$ 1,173,193</u>

#### A Message from Our Treasurer, Patrick Radachi

Thank you once again to all of our donors! Contributions to Friendship APL are up and a number of individuals remembered the organization in their estate plans. Because of this generosity, we will be able to remodel three rooms later this year. This remodeling will give our cats and dogs more space and will allow them to be more comfortable during their stay at the shelter. Once again, our biggest animal care expenses are spay/

neuter and veterinary bills to treat sick and injured animals – spay/neuter expenses are up 14% and veterinary expenses have more than doubled from the prior year! Despite these increases, nearly 90 cents of every dollar we take in goes to fund our program expenses. As always, our financial statements will be posted on Guidestar.org once they are complete.

#### We are able to save lives thanks to the support of our donors...

Lake Ridge Academy Eileen & Randall Adams Melanie & Tim Adkins James & Lori Afrates Colleen Akers Jasmine Alameeri Michael & Kathy Albanese Michelle Alexander Peggy Aliff Mary Allen Christine & Brad Allison Teri Alten Chadrick Anderson Marcus Anderson Hardy Animal Nutrition **Donald Anthony** Kristy Antila Sarah Antonetti Kim & Carl Apicella Kristie & James Archer Sandvick Architects, Inc. Tina Arebalo Zachary & Julie Arnold Donna & Jim Ashton J. C. Auto Body, Inc. The Avon Lake American Legion **Auxiliary Unit 211** Sabry & Maryam Ayad Alice & Fermin Avala Rick & Rebecca Baker Kenneth & Carol Bakos Thomas & Madeleine Ballantine **Buckeye Community Bank** Lorain County Bar Association

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The length of time for a cat to find a home dropped to 47 days which is two weeks over the national average.

Betty Fenelon

Cheryl Conetsco

#### The length of time for a dog to find their forever family is 15 days faster than the rest of Ohio.

Colin McFarlane &
Kerry Ferrell
Friends of Fido Inc.
Kelly Fields
Megan Fiore

Sheffield Lake Firefighters Local 2355

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Dawn & Leonard Fischer

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Shane & Nadia Leary

Gayle & Steve Lengel

An astounding 3,071 companion animals found their forever homes. That is up 17% from 2015.

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Kyle Kleppel

Joseph Knechtges

Don Klier

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Karen & Ron Thielman

Elaine Thome

Patricia & Mike Thomin Claude & June Thompson Elaine & Robert Thompson

Tara Tibayan

Our volunteers have contributed 22,735 hours this year which is the equivalent of eleven additional staff.

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Heli Vires-Collins
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Traci Purdum Von Duyke

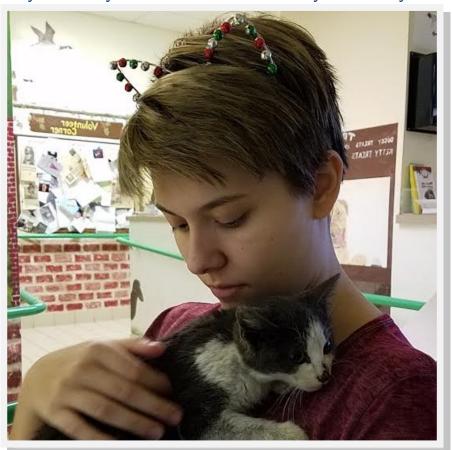
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#### by Capital Cities

1 could lift you up.
1 could show you what you want to see, and take you where you want to be.



You could be my luck.

Even if the sky is falling down, I know that we'll be safe and sound.