

# Capital Pet



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

[www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)  
Spring 2012



## 1,000

While many people would look at a black cat with a little white spot on her chest and think she's like thousands of others, they would be wrong. The same could be said about a long-haired white cat with a few dark spots. Not only are these cats special to their new families, they also represent milestones for the Humane Society.

The Society partners with PetSmart stores in Latham and Glenmont. Like all PetSmarts locations, there are spaces set aside for animal rescues and shelters to house cats available for adoption. We bring cats to the stores and they live there seven days a week until they are adopted.

Our two satellite locations in PetSmart Latham Farms and PetSmart Glenmont are unique not only because of the lives saved there but because they are completely volunteer-run. It takes about 45 volunteers at each site to keep the centers running. Volunteers are there at least twice a day, every day, no matter the weather -- holidays, weekday or weekend -- to make sure the kitties are taken care of and find new homes.

This past February the 1,000th cat was adopted from each of these locations. In Latham it was a little black cat we called Infinity, renamed Minnie by her new family. We've been told she has fit perfectly into her new family. In Glenmont it was a cat named Hoosick. Hoosick had a special place in the hearts of our staff and volunteers because she was a very shy cat from terrible circumstances -- one of two cats who came from a cruelty case in Valley Falls along with 26 dogs. Hoosick came out of her shell and turned out to be a sweet, friendly cat who just wants to be held.

These two cats stand out because they happened to mark the 1,000-cat milestone for each of our adoption centers. For us, we are thankful for every adoption that led up to these two and look forward to the next 1,000. A special thanks to all of our volunteers who make this possible and our partners at PetSmart who donate space in their stores for our lifesaving cause.



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### *Save the Date...*

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PAWS IN THE PARK  
WALK AND COMMUNITY DAY**  
Saturday, June 9, 2012  
Siena College, Loudonville

**2013 CUTEST PETS  
CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST**  
Starts Monday, July 2, 2012

**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ART  
SAVES ANIMALS**  
Thursday, October 11, 2012  
The Arts Center, Troy

### *Going Green?*

If you would prefer to receive our quarterly newsletters via email, please send an email request to [newsletter@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:newsletter@mohawkhumane.org).

3 Oakland Avenue  
Menands, NY 12204



**Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 10am-6pm**

**Saturday 10am-5pm**

**Sunday 1-4pm**

[www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)

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518.434.0217 (f)

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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

# From the Director

*"In the spring of 1887 a case of neglect and unkindness, if not of positive cruelty, to a little girl who was born in the poorhouse in Albany County but was then living with a family in West Troy called into existence what proved to be the beginning of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society. This organization was incorporated on June 9th, 1887, as the Albany County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, under the general children anti-cruelty society enabling act of the State of New York, known as Chapter 130 of the laws of 1875."*

These words are the introduction to a history of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society that was written by one of our founders, Dr. William O. Stillman, in 1904. The history was part of a display at the 1904 World's Fair exhibition and was awarded a gold medal. It may surprise some to know that the Humane Society was founded to protect children. It would be just two years later when this fledgling child protection agency would add animals to their charges and for the next 70 years would protect both. The child shelters were closed in the late 1950s and the Humane Society dedicated itself purely to the protection of animals.

The history of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society is long and storied, with many successes as an influential voice for animals throughout the Capital Region, New York State and the nation. Times were not always easy for the Society with many difficult decisions along the way, like whether the group could continue caring for children. Money has always been tight for the Society, but it still managed to build the region's first animal shelter and the second non-profit veterinary clinic in New York State. Expansion continued throughout the years and helped the Society lead the animal protection movement in the state.

The Society was one of the first SPCAs in New York, giving it the authority to commission peace officers who investigate animal cruelty (and originally also investigated child abuse). Times change and the focus of the Society shifted from the early days of primarily protecting horses and children to a focus on domestic pets. Spaying and neutering has become a strong focus of the society, and so has animal adoption.

Reflecting on the first 125 years of the Society reminds me how many people give so much of their time, passion and energy to the Society and the animals we protect. This is a good reminder that as executive director I am just one in a long line of people who are stewards of a movement that was here before me and will hopefully be here long after I am gone. My job is to continue to strengthen the Society and help more animals while I am here and leave a better, stronger organization for the people who will follow.

Our entire community should be proud to have had the foresight to create one of the nation's first animal protection organizations and of our shared passion for the growth of a vision that is now 125 years old.

*Brad Shear*







## Basic Manners and Tricks

Are you wondering what tricks have to do with teaching your dog basic skills such as sit, down and stay? Teaching your dog a few tricks engages his mind and continues to build the trusting relationship the two of you have already begun to form.

In the past two years I have added to the curriculum of the Family Manners class I teach. During the six-week class, students are asked to teach their dog a trick. Along the way, we discuss how things are progressing as each student demonstrates how they're coming along with their trick. Students learn to observe their dogs and learn when it is best to mark the correct increment of behavior, and they become better trainers. On graduation night, we all enjoy what the dogs and handlers have accomplished.

Teaching a dog a trick is stress free -- everyone has fun. And the more your dog learns, the more quickly he will learn the everyday behaviors of sit, down and stay.

Teaching tricks helps owners think about how their dog is learning. Tricks also engage your dog's mind. Tricks are a form of mental exercise. Have your dog perform a few tricks before giving his dinner. Entertain guests while your dog shows off what you have taught him.

For the dog who might be a bit distracted in certain situations, tricks can keep him focused on you. A barking dog can be kept quiet if you ask him to bring a toy to you while guests enter the house.

Thinking of doing some pet therapy work? Patients, visitors and staff will have their day brightened when they see your dog performing a repertoire of tricks.

Best of all, tricks make all of us laugh!

*Chris Danker, CPDT, has over four decades of showing and handling her own dogs as well as dogs for clients. Participating in many venues, Chris has handled dogs to multiple National and Regional Specialty wins, and over 70 titles in obedience, agility and conformation. She is active in pet therapy with her own dogs. Chris is a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog International (TDI) evaluator.*

*Chris is now teaching classes and workshops at the Humane Society. Check our website [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org) for the latest dates and times.*







# tributes

**Cecile Reich**  
Elizabeth Brown

**Riley**  
Jennifer Ford  
Louise Quattrochi

**Marilyn Romano**  
Albany County Purchasing Division  
Gail & Bill Meehan  
Beverly & Don Montgomery  
Frank Myers  
Al & Pat Rickman  
Ann Seabridge  
Lynn Seabridge  
Tri County Indoor Track League

**Romeo**  
Mark Khoury

**Rosie**  
Cathy Pettigrew

**Rubi**  
Libby Zucker

**Rufio**  
Paige Maguire

**Gail Samuelson**  
Peter Herrmann

**Teresa Sanna**  
Hannah Rosenthal

**John Sasso, Sr.**  
JoAnn Campbell  
Linda Campbell

**Satchmo**  
George & Jill Weinisch

**Esther Savoca**  
Kim Colello  
James Kalohn  
Jeff & Pat Kinary  
Deborah Raucchi  
Eileen Tierney

**Peter Scanlan**  
Margaret Callahan  
Mary McCabe  
Bill McPherson  
Ed Warren

**Robert Schermerhorn**  
Jessica Dukett  
Barbara McCasland, Angela  
McCasland & Andy Pregent  
Joe Rubino  
Samaritan Hospital Co-workers &  
Friends of Paula Dingman  
Lona & Joseph Smith

**Arthur Schinzel**  
Marjorie Hotaling

**Warren Schneider**  
Mel, Diana & Dan Byron  
Roz & Bob Coglianese  
Bruce & Anna Fernald  
Leslie King  
Elliott & Leita Marinstein  
Hank Reimer  
Bernie Rich, Donna Byer & Sheila  
Ritoch  
Susan Ryan  
Gail & Robert Schwartz  
Stephen Susser  
Rosemary Vogt

**Marilyn Seabridge**  
Irving Brownheim

**Mark Seymour**  
Lori Reisner

**Shadow**  
Joanne Altenweg

**Rose Marie Shunk**  
Elizabeth & Matthew Bogdanowicz  
Mildred Futia  
Barbara, Paul & Mary Shunk  
St. Peter's Hospital - 6 McAuley Staff

**Darlene Singley**  
Theresa Femia

**Brian Slater**  
Linda Berkeley  
Susan & Con Burke  
Madeline Gigante  
Jennifer Kaelin  
Sherry Kruggel & Family  
Kellianne Lam  
B. Colyer Wade, K. Evans, S.  
Landon-Socha & S. Laubenstein  
Mary Majestic  
George & Mary Lou Moffett  
Doris M. Smith and Vincent &  
Karen Sfara  
Weise Family

**Regina Smith**  
NYS DMV Information Technology  
Unit

**Zoe Smith**  
Stacy Wood

**Smudge**  
Rae Clark

**Art Snay**  
Victoria Harper  
Elvis Koenig

**Joan Sorvari**  
Ann Lee  
Carol & Chuck Turner  
John & Lianne Watson  
Cathy Lee Williams

**Norman Speevak**  
Mark, Frances, Daniel & Joshua  
Goldberg

**Joseph Spirawak**  
Olin Chlor Alkali Products Division  
Lisa Pastrick

**Mary Sterling**  
Shawn Chatterton

**Jake Streeter**  
Lana Courter

**Sundance**  
Cargill Inc.

**Sunny**  
Shirley Kane

**Missy Taylor**  
Linda Taylor & Bruce Raver

**Tetley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Wright

**Tiger, Cricket, Ollie, Bridget,**

**Amber & Sammy**  
Carol Elmendorf

**Pauline Tully**  
Nancy Webb

**Ubu**  
Elizabeth Manning

**Alexander Urquhart, Jr.**  
The Donworths, Tribles & Cohans  
Pam & Walt Grayson  
Stephanie Perry

**Patricia Vacarelli**  
Blue Star Mothers of America -  
Capital Region NY 2 Chapter  
NYS Dept. of Transportation -  
Schenectady County Residency  
Paula Wiesnet

**Ezra Waldman**  
Nancy DeRossi  
Myers Sunshine Fund

**Timothy Walsh**  
Lana Courter  
RPI Chemistry Department

**Jet Weir**  
Meegan Fitzpatrick

**Deborah Wever**  
NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance  
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Steven & Rosemary Roberts  
Village of Colonie Herbert B. Kuhn  
Senior Citizens Club

**Ronald Wickham**  
HVCC Faculty Student Association  
Joan & Frank O'Grady

**Wishes**  
Margaret Wilson

**Zach & Casey**  
Lynne Landrigan

**Richard Zandri**  
Debra McFee

**Dorothy Zdziebloski**  
Shirley Dearstyne

**Zeke & Sandy**  
Kathryn Gerbino

**Zoey**  
Geri Mulligan

## In Honor Of...

**Anna Abbruzzese**  
Tim & Linda Reilly

**All needy animals**  
David Kozakiewicz

**Kim Bruton**  
Christopher Bishop

**Jane Burgdorf**  
Patrick & Michelle Brown

**Lai-Yee Burnham**  
Matthew Burnham

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Nancy Gutterman

**Diva**  
RoseMarie Stevens

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Linda Baker

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Jeff Freeman

**Michele Forte**  
John Fandl

**Tanya Frink**  
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Debra Orminski  
Patricia Rathje  
Suzanne Reisner  
JoEllen & Chad Smith

**Sai Ganesh**  
Mithun Chittajallu

**Eric Hausamann**  
Ellen Meyers

**Jake & Amy**  
Kathleen Stapleton

**Kathy**  
Lynne & Rick Doty

**Katie**  
Andrea Lurie

**Shannon Kelley**  
Patricia Santillo

**Christine Kelly & Gina Cocchiara**  
Alexandra Newman & Eileen  
Geagan

**Mary Kerwin**  
Lorraine Mara

**Amanda Kittel**  
Genevieve Anderson

**Pablo Leon**  
Karin Kasparian

**Mark & Jason - Colonie Animal Hospital**  
Ron Graef & JoAnne Torre-Graef

**Cora Mason Jefts**  
Danielle Dynysiuk

**Connie Mayer**  
Kathleen Tempel

**Barb McNamee**  
Annie Cosgrove

**Misty & Koko**  
Donna Done

**Cory Nugent**  
Mark Duffy

**Carr Pangburn**  
Linda Pangburn & Stephen Bogan

**Dominick Perfetti**  
Julia Maher

**Rosalie Phan**  
John McGreevy

**Precious (Fat Cat)**  
Ralph Bulson

**Carol Provost**  
Carrie Genaway

**Gillian Roeder**  
Henry & Karen Meier  
Gregory & Carol Roeder  
Markus & Narumi Stein

**Mary Savage**  
Kimberly Kane  
Kathleen Ostapeck

**Nava Kayleigh Shear**  
James Hendler

**Sam Shear**  
David & Carlynn Thompson

**Dolly Lee Simmons**  
John Articulo

**Carole Smith**  
Tricia Smith

**Hannah Sossner**  
Dennis & Jo Ann Weiss

**Susan Stickney**  
Patricia Babbie-Reo

**Jeter Toolan**  
Jaime Toolan

**Virginia Touhey & Kathy Simmonds**  
Sara Coonley

**Michele Tsamardinios**  
Karen Beck

**Robert Vancavage**  
New York State Automobile  
Dealers Assoc. Employees

**Katherine Wallace**  
Barbara Wallace

# thank you!

## PLEASE NOTE

Due to space constraints, only tribute gifts of \$25 or higher are listed in our print newsletters. Tributes of all amounts are listed on our web site, [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org).

## SAVE LIVES

in the comfort of your home

Over 1,200 MHHS animals were cared for last year in volunteer foster homes, most of them kittens. Foster parents take animals home with them for a few weeks and care for them until they're ready to come back to the shelter for adoption.

### We Need Your Help Now

"Kitten season" has arrived again in the Capital Region, flooding the Humane Society with orphaned kittens. These kittens need people with big hearts, not big wallets. Each animal you foster is a life you save.

Join us today for a rewarding experience!

Email [fosters@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:fosters@mohawkhumane.org) or call (518) 810-2568



# The Gala

Record-breaking attendance and fundraising goals shattered – that’s what happened on April 21 when animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street in Troy for the fifth annual **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala. The event celebrated the Society’s 125th anniversary.

Paul B. Harding served as the Event Chair and the ever-popular Steve Caporizzo, Chief Meteorologist for WTEN News 10, was emcee and celebrity auctioneer. Steve kept the crowd laughing, crying and bidding – all to help the animals! New this year was the paddle raiser auction to support the Veterinary Supply Fund. Live music by Grand Central Station had guests on the floor dancing the night away.

## Humane Heroes awards were presented:

### BUSINESS AWARD

Goldstein Auto Group

### NON-PROFIT AWARD

Community Resource Federal Credit Union

### BUSINESS EDUCATION AWARD

Harmony Hill third grade students and their teachers

### ADVOCATE AWARD

John Norton, volunteer photographer

### DR. WILLIAM O. STILLMAN AWARD

Steve Caporizzo

## Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

The event was a grand success with fabulous food and wine. We are grateful to all our attendees, Honorary Committee members, sponsors, auction item donors, volunteers and supporters. With your help, we raised over \$100,000 for the Society’s homeless and abused animals!



All photos by Joe Schuyler

# Thank You

to our generous sponsors:

Joseph Carr, Fleuracious Designs, Goldstein Auto Group, Martin Harding & Mazzotti, News 10 ABC, Times Union, BBL Hospitality, Camelot Print & Copy Center, Capital District Colon & Rectal Surgery Associates, Community Resource Federal Credit Union, Coppola Design, E. Stewart Jones Law Firm, Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center, LaFave Wein & Frament PLLC, Pet Spas of America, CDL Training School, Miller Animal Hospital, New York Press & Graphics, Save A Bull, TD Bank, Upstate Veterinary Specialties, The Animal Hospital, CSEA, Friends of Washington Park Troy, KeyBank, Nigro Companies, Pioneer Bank, Rowland & LeBrou PLLC, Siemens Industry and Tech Valley Communications

**Special thanks** to Casa Flora, Lindsey Deon, David Glatz and the volunteer moving crew, Hilton Garden Inn and the Rensselaer Banquet & Conference Facility, JCB Specialties, John Norton, and Circle K Members from RPI and SUNY Albany

**Extra special thanks** to Honorary Board Member Jeff Bulger for donating all of the great wine, liquor and beer for the silent auction and champagne for our anniversary toast.











# Happy Tails *Stormy*

## *Injured Cat Finds New Life*

Recently, a beautiful Siamese mix cat from the streets of Troy was brought to the Humane Society by a good Samaritan. There are many cats wandering the streets in our neighborhoods, but this one was unusual not only because of her beautiful coloring (and crossed eyes) but because of a severe injury to her leg.

The cat, soon to be named Stormy, had one front leg that was broken so badly that it was at almost a 90-degree angle to her body. She was quickly taken to Canterbury Animal Hospital where Dr. Estra x-rayed her leg and determined the extent of the damage. Luckily the leg could be saved, but it would need to be set and splinted. Stormy then had several weeks with a bright red wrap on her leg while resting and recuperating.

Throughout the healing process, Stormy continued to be nothing but a sweet kitty always looking for a little scratch on the head. Her leg was soon healed and, while it might never be quite perfect, she can now walk on it like a normal cat.

We'll probably never know how Stormy was injured, but thanks to a caring neighbor, a caring veterinarian in our community and the work of the staff and volunteers at the Humane Society, she has recovered from a traumatizing injury and is ready to find a new home where she can stay inside and remain safe from injury.

## *Breeder Arrested* FOR CRUELTY

At MHHS, we frequently find ourselves called by state and local police to assist with animal cruelty cases. Of course we want to help, but we wish it did not happen so often. When we receive that first call to assist, we often get a very general description of the situation and don't know what we'll be facing until we arrive.

When State Police called and asked us for assistance at a house in Valley Falls, we were told there were about 15 dogs in very bad conditions. It was already late in the afternoon so we knew there would be a long night ahead. When our staff arrived, we found numerous dogs and puppies and two cats living in filth. The owner of the dogs said she had purchased them to start a breeding operation and had just sold three of her puppies to a pet store in a local mall.

We immediately started working on finding all the dogs and puppies in the house, which was difficult because of the large accumulation of trash and debris. The animals themselves were covered in their own urine and feces. Ultimately, we

would remove 26 dogs and two cats from conditions that Social Services and town officials labeled uninhabitable.

Removing animals from cruelty is only the beginning. They were brought back to the Humane Society, where Medical Director Dr. Sarah Madaio and her staff worked late into the night to examine and treat all of the dogs and cats. Thorough exams must be done immediately by a veterinarian in case they are needed as evidence in any future criminal prosecution.

The next day our friends at the Animal House in Cohoes came to groom the dogs and ready them for adoption to new homes. The cats and some of the dogs were ready for adoption after just a couple of weeks of recovery, while others were with us for months before they were healthy enough to find new homes.

Thankfully, because of our supporters, all the animals seized on that day have found new loving homes and have been spayed or neutered so they can never again be bred for profit. Animal cruelty charges are still pending against the previous owner.

