



CREATED TO ADVOCATE FOR AND SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF COMMUNITY/FERAL CATS IN OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND BEYOND

2015 Annual Report to the Community

Welcome

A Feral Haven was founded in late November 2014 with the mission to partner with community caregivers, animal welfare groups, governmental agencies, and the citizens of Ottawa County and beyond to advocate for and support the health and welfare of community/feral cats (un-owned, un-socialized) by providing spay/neuter, vaccination, food, and winter shelters to these cats in their home neighborhoods and by providing sanctuary and care to displaced feral/community cats.

We are grateful to the individuals, local businesses, and foundations that have supported our efforts and invite you to read what has been accomplished in 2015. We are especially grateful to C-SNIP and West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic for accepting our vouchers, Harbor Humane Society for partnering to remove, socialize, and adopt feral born kittens, and Dr. Wendy Swift of Ottawa Animal Hospital for providing veterinary services to *A Feral Haven* adoptable kittens.



Carleen Bauer
President
Board of Directors

Founders and Board of Directors



Pictured left to right:

- **Carleen Bauer;** President
- **Debra Westerhof;** Treasurer
- **Christina DeConinck;** Secretary
- **Sara Bennett;** Vice President



Dr. Wendy Swift;
Veterinarian Oversight

Generous Donors

Grants

We were the grateful recipients of grants from the following foundations:

- Anonymous
- The Binky Foundation
- On Shore Foundation
- Walmart Foundation

Collaborating Businesses and Organizations

- C-SNIP
- Harbor Humane Society
- Ottawa Animal Hospital
- West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic

Donation Bank Hosting Businesses

- Cobblestone Crafts & Hobbies
- Graphix Signs & Embroidery
- Not So Shabby
- Ottawa Animal Hospital (East Office)
- Pet Supplies Plus (Holland Location)
- Port Sheldon Party Store

Supporting Businesses

These businesses provided support in 2015 by hosting fundraising events, donating, or providing advertising.

- Cat Lady Productions
- Culver's
- Hops at 84 East
- Petco Together "We Can" Campaign
- Sam's Club
- ServiceMaster of Ottawa and Allegan County

In-Kind Donations

- BestPals Animal Rescue Center
- Buckman, MacDonald, Bauer & Brown PC
- C-SNIP
- Cat Lady Productions
- Generous Community Members
- Harbor Humane Society
- Ottawa Animal Hospital
- Pet Supplies Plus (Holland Location)
- Pine Ridge Assisted Living Facility
- The Worden Company

Business Sponsorship

- Pine Ridge Assisted Living Facility



Debra comments:

"We wish to thank Janet Vormittag on the articles in Cats and Dogs Magazine about the founding and the hut building activities of our organization this year."



Culvers Fundraising in July

Accomplishments

- **Caregivers:** 10 caregivers or caregiving groups partnered with us to receive voucher services in 2015. 6 other caregivers received food support.
- **Non-profit Status:** We received our 501 (c) 3 non-profit status determination letter on February 6, 2015 with an effective date of December 16, 2014.
- **Website:** Our website, www.aferalhaven.org was established in May, 2015.



A caregiver noted:

"I've been thinking about you and wishing you the best 2016--for you personally as well as for A Feral Haven. I'm so thankful that Sara and Ethan made those awesome Haven Huts for the kitties. They have proven just what a God send they are! The kitties are safe and warm during this winter time. Thank you for the wonderful love, time and effort that you all put into everything you do. The kitties and I really appreciated the bountiful gift of foods in December."



Another caregiver noted:

"Late in the winter of 2015 I heard about a new group aimed at helping people with feral cats. I needed HELP with my colony of about 20. I contacted A Feral Haven.

I attended an open meeting of other feral caregivers. What a wonderful feeling to know I wasn't the only crazy in the world! Within a week, Deb, Christina, and Sara came to meet my colony. They told me about West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic and provided me with vouchers and live traps to start the process of getting my colony under control. There were several of the females great with kitten (pregnant) and I was also aided in catching and socializing the kittens (20 kittens were placed through Harbor Humane).

Numerous fund raisers have been held and I have had the privilege of returning the help they have shared with me. That help has included food and feral huts for shelter, not to mention the phone calls and emails.

I now have 15 happy, healthy semi tame ferals that give me great joy and make me smile with their antics and there isn't a mouse in the neighborhood."

Accomplishments

A caregiver noted:

"I picked up our last 3 cats this morning (from CSNIP), the mama & 2 males. They were SUPER happy to be let out! The mom was out of sight before I could stand up! The other 2 went directly under our deck to look for their siblings.

Thank you again for your help. I would not have known what to do without it. I met a lady who had one kitten that you were helping her with. I believe her name was Mary. She is as happy with your help as I am! ."

- **Spay/ Neuter Vouchers:** 63 cats from 9 locations received services at C-SNIP or West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic through our voucher program. Each cat received vaccinations, ear tip, and microchip and 61 cats (34 females & 27 males) were spayed or neutered. 2 cats had been spayed or neutered previously.

- **Food:** We shared 1172 pounds of donated dry food and over 82 pounds of moist food with caregivers and their colonies. Together, these caregivers at 13 different sites are feeding at least 75 cats.

Kittens: 27 kittens were taken in by Harbor Humane Society through our collaboration. They were fostered, socialized, and placed for adoption into homes.

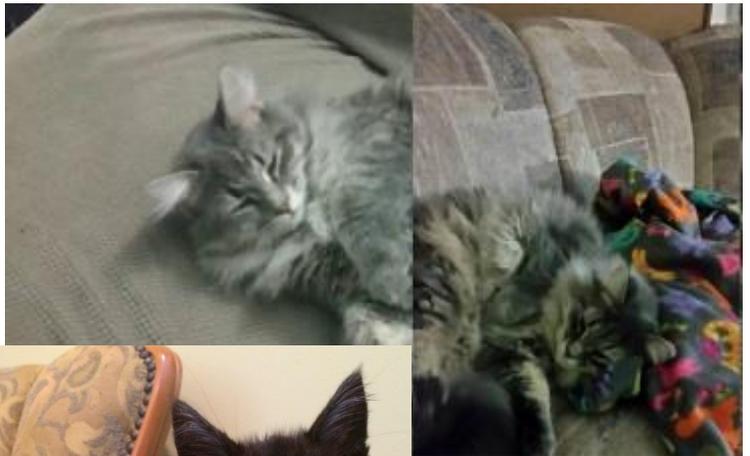
Adoptions: 3 young cats were fostered and socialized directly through *A Feral Haven*.



8 week old kittens: Raylan, Dewey, Ava, Boyd were pulled from a feral colony, socialized, and adopted from Harbor Humane Society.

One such kitten is Carter - formerly Dewey... Carter's pet parent wrote:

"I absolutely love this little guy. It's (because of) people like you who donate their time and care that I will get many years of enjoyment with him. Bless you."



Above: Hope and Faith were fostered for months before they found their forever home.

Left: Milo needed most of the fall to recover after his rescue, and is now thriving in his forever home too.

Accomplishments

• **Haven Huts:** 15 insulated wood huts were designed and built by volunteers and delivered to requesting caregivers to provide shelter to their community cats. Cost per hut was \$65.43. An additional 5 small Styrofoam shelters were also supplied.

• **Volunteers:** We continue to develop opportunities to utilize volunteers. In 2015, 20 volunteers donated 1,017 hours by:

- Building Haven Huts
- Collecting data
- Delivering food & traps
- Designing the website
- Educating
- Fostering kittens
- Grant writing
- Helping at fundraising events
- Supporting caregivers
- Trapping and transporting cats

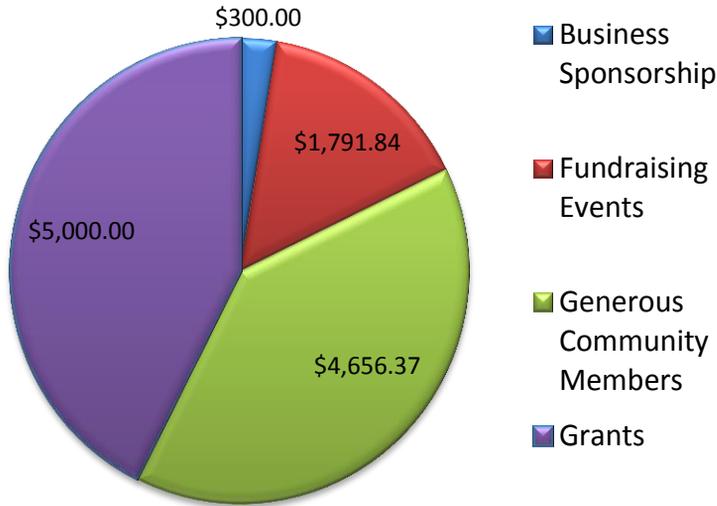


Sara comments:

"I'm so proud of what we all were able to accomplish in 2015. Now, I understand why ferals are called "community" cats; I have met some of the most compassionate people in my life while protecting these fuzzy felines. Thank you for the opportunity."

Financial Report

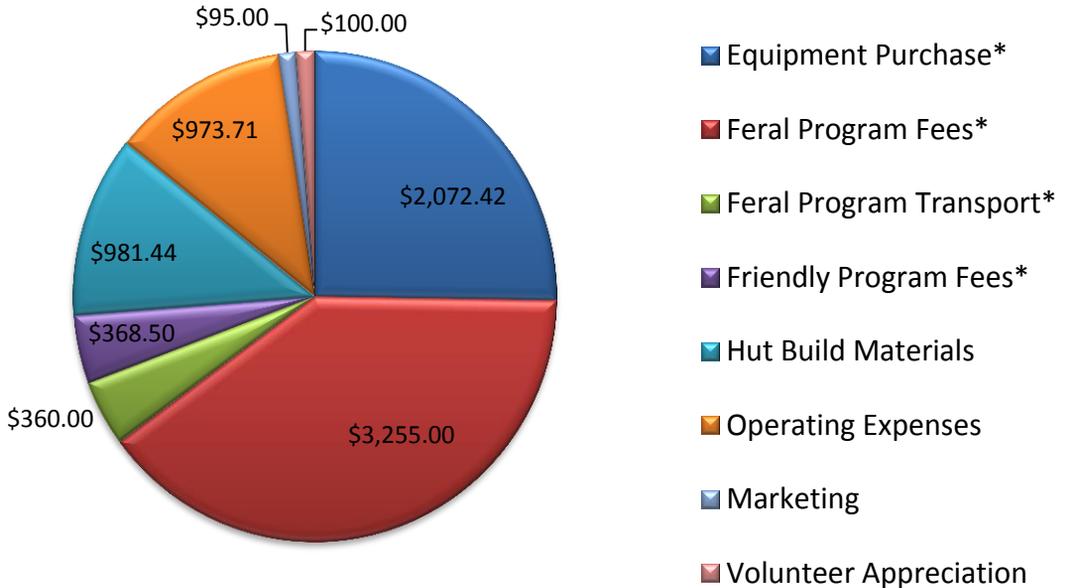
Income (or Revenue): \$11,748.84



Christina comments about **The WGUV Morning Show**

“Debra and I are grateful that we were invited to share information about our organization on The WGUV Morning Show with host Shelley Irwin in December. We appreciated Shelley’s supportive and professional manner.”

Expenses: \$8,206.07



* Equipment Purchase: Carriers, Foster/Recovery Crates, Humane Live Traps

* Feral Program Fees: Spay/Neuter, Vaccinations, Ear Tip, Microchip

* Feral Program Transport: Provided by C-SNIP

* Friendly Program Fees: Spay, Vaccination, Microchip, Vet Expenses for Adoptable Cats