



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

2020 Annual Report to the Community

Welcome

2020 was an unusual year as the economy slowed, we were still able to move forward providing more voucher assistance than in 2019. Please look at our annual report to see the detailed information of the progress we made this year. With the state shutdown it has impacted us in terms of less opportunity to fundraise, so we have had to creatively come up with new ideas to keep our services going.

We are happy to acknowledge our wonderful caregivers, generous donors and volunteers. A special thanks to C-SNIP, Harbor Humane Society, Mac's Landing Veterinary Services, Ottawa Animal Hospital, and Southkent Veterinary Hospital for their expertise in helping our community cats. We also need to give a shout out to Northland Lanes and Hops at 84 East for their generous assistance, without you we couldn't accomplish as much as we did this year.

The Board of Directors at A Feral Haven looks forward to the years to come to be even more impactful. To help us to assist more outdoor cats please donate and or volunteer so organizations like ours can continue to serve our community and beyond.



Thank you,

Carleen Bauer
President
Board of Directors



Board of Directors



Pictured left to right:

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



Dr. Wendy Swift;
Veterinarian Oversight

Generous Donors

Grants

We were grateful recipients of grants from the following foundations:

- Anonymous

Collaborating Businesses & Organizations

- C-SNIP
- Harbor Humane Society
- Mac's Landing Veterinary Services
- Ottawa Animal Hospital
- Southkent Veterinary Hospital

Donation Bank Hosting Businesses

- Cobblestone Crafts & Hobbies
- Crane's Pie Pantry Restaurant
- Earl's Meats
- Mac's Landing Veterinary Services
- Northland Lanes
- Ottawa Animal Hospital
- Persona Salon & Spa

Supporting Businesses

These businesses partnered for fundraising events/opportunities or provided advertising.

- Cats and Dogs Magazine
- Greater Holland USBC
- Hops @ 84 East
- ServiceMaster of Ottawa & Allegan County

In-Kind Donations:

- Generous Community Members
- Hands 4 Paws
- Harbor Humane Society

Business Sponsorship

- Pine Ridge Assisted Living Facility



Sara's comments:

We want to thank Holland USBC, Jim DeGraaf and Northland Lanes for organizing the "Mary G. Beverly Memorial Tournament" in November. Mary, our first caregiver, passed away last December. We appreciate them honoring an incredible woman and recognizing Mary's love for her feral cat colony and advocating for them in her community.



Accomplishments

Caregivers: 17 new caregivers/colonies registered

Spay/Neuter Services: Each cat was spayed/neutered, ear tipped, and received vaccinations

- 140 cats from 30 different locations received services through our voucher program
- 84 females, 54 males, & 2 cats were previously sterilized
- 1 cat died in recovery

Veterinarian Services:

- 1 injured cat received veterinarian treatment

Food Shared:

- 2,084 pounds of dry food
- 5 pounds of moist food
- 16 caregivers providing for over 175 cats

Structures:

- 2 existing Haven Huts redistributed
- 4 existing Haven Huts refurbished

Happenings at Colonies:

This section acknowledges the variety of events that have occurred to our partnering caregivers

We rejoice with them when the news is good and offer our condolences when the news is sad:

- 2 cats joined existing colonies
- 25 kittens and cats were admitted to local shelters/rescues or placed into homes directly through caregivers
- 10 cats reported missing or have died

Volunteers:

We continue to develop opportunities to utilize volunteers.

- 6 volunteers donated 566 hours



A “Tail” from an Allegan Feral Community

Sandy and I first got involved in the spring of 2018. It was still cold and snowy and we saw 3 young kittens out in our pines. They grow up fast in the wild or they don't survive. Sandy tried to feed them but as soon as they saw her coming they were gone. I was able to track them to our neighbor Bill's back porch. There were maybe a dozen cats and kittens huddled together. After speaking with Bill, found out he was feeding two dozen cats and welcomed any help. We were able to trap 2 adults and gather 5 kittens that summer. My sister has been caring for ferals, in Grand Rapids, for as long as I can remember.

We got 2 live traps from her. She also advised us to wait until fall and set the traps at dusk. That was when I contacted A Feral Haven. With their help we were able to spay/neuter 18 adults and several kittens. Some of the kittens were adoptable and Harbor Humane Society took and placed them. Sadly, Bill passed away last year and the home was sold. The new owners did not want the cats around. The entire colony was born and raised in that wild lot behind Bill's house, moving them was not going to end well.

Today, the remaining cats are spread throughout the neighborhood. Sandy and I feed 3 or 4. Bill's son, who lives nearby, feeds 3 of them. And our other neighbor has taken 2 into her home and feeds 3 that prefer to remain free.



This is Goldie. She was in the first group we trapped. She was almost always the first to greet me when I came to feed. She would run up the street as soon as I came out of the driveway. She was a talker and if I was late she would let me know about it. I took this photo just before she disappeared and am still heartbroken.

--- David

Caregiver Comments....

A caregiver noted:

Our beautiful Florine. She was an outside feral that has moved inside. We have been trying to catch her mom for three years. She blessed us with three more kittens last spring that look just like her. Maybe this year we can get her. Thank you, A Feral Haven, for working with us and keeping our community from exploding.



A caregiver noted :

It's been a crazy 2020! We still have 3 cats we care for! They are all going strong! Luna (mom) is getting gray but still healthy! Our tiny tiger girl is still really leery of people but allows a pet while eating. Snowball is still very social with us! He hears my car coming up the road & runs to the driveway. He waits for me to get out & comes for a scratch & tummy rub. He loves for me to brush his tummy with the de-shedding brush.



Christina's comments:

In 2020, spay and neuter services were unavailable to our partnering caregivers from the end of March until the second week of June. Appointments were delayed and new procedures put in place by service providers. Despite the delays, our persevering partnering caregivers trapped, transported, and returned 140 cats to surgery! I think that is amazing and I would like to thank them all.

Caregiver Comments

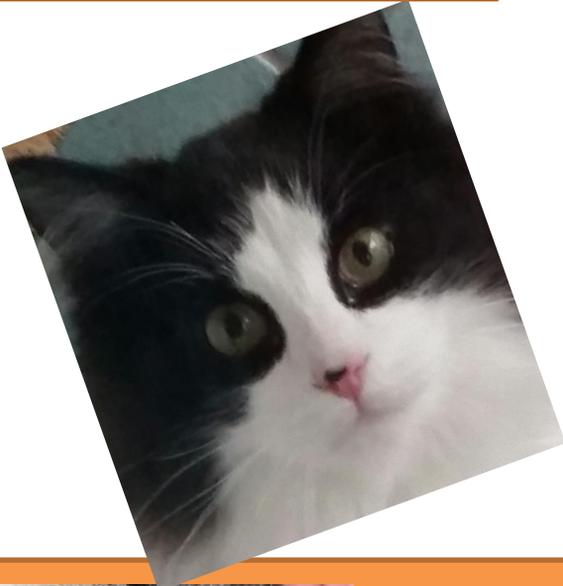
A caregiver noted:

This is Tux & Missy, HHS got them adopted, together, in less than a week.



A caregiver noted:

We have been feeding Misty since the summer of 2015! She comes quite regularly after dark. I can watch her through the window, but if she sees any movement, she is gone in a flash! She looks good and healthy! We always worry about her when she missed a night or two and are glad to see her come back!



A caregiver noted:

In the winter they spend most of the time snuggled up in the cat house from A Feral Haven. The organization is what saved these cats. I knew nothing about feral cats or what to do with them. I called and got guidance & here we are 4 years later.

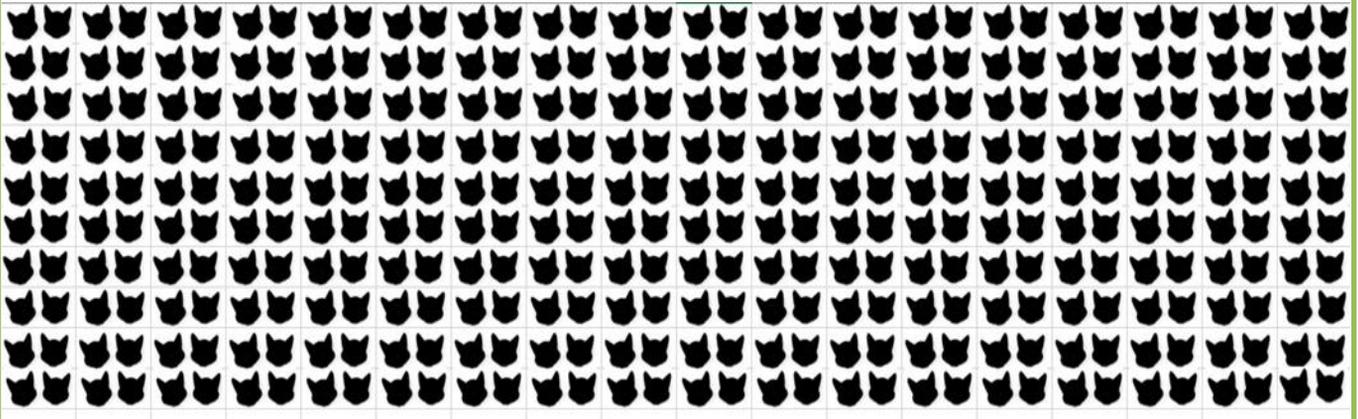
The only photo I can get is of Snowball. The other 2 run when the phone comes out! Thank you to A Feral Haven for all you do! Without them a lot of cats would not survive!



Impact

Spaying is a major part of controlling the population of feral cats in Ottawa and Allegan county colonies.

Let's assume that a female cat will have 2 litters of 3 kittens, which would be 6 kittens per female per year. Since **84** females were spayed through our voucher program in 2020, then a potential **504** kittens will not be born into feral colonies in 2021.



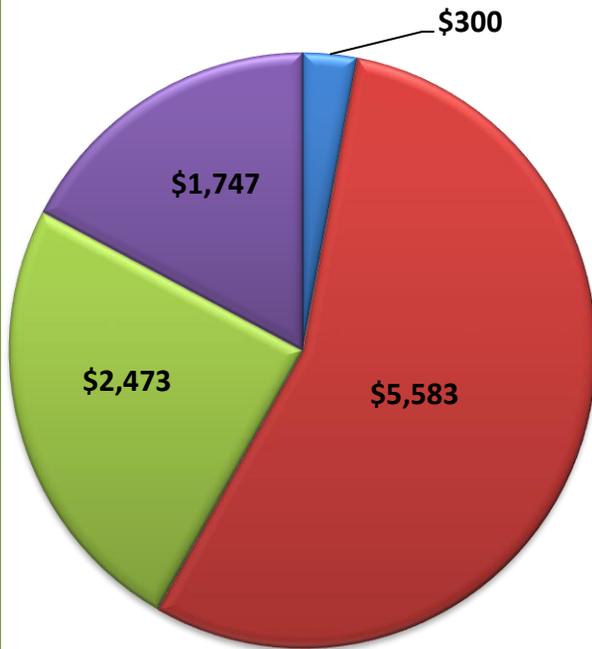
Debra's comments:

The entire Board wishes to thank our partnering agencies for their help in offering medical services to community cats even in a pandemic. Managing a business during normal times can be taxing but they stepped up and helped when they could. Hopefully 2021 will be easier and healthier for everyone



Financial Report

Income (or Revenue): \$10,102



■ Business Sponsorship

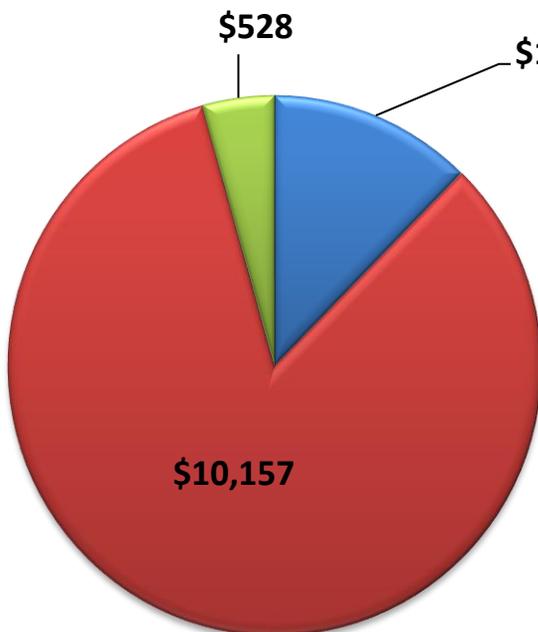
■ Generous Community Members

■ Grants

■ Fundraising Events

● Includes Memorial Donations in remembrance of 3 loved ones

Expenses: \$12,193



■ Cat Food

■ Feral Program Fees

■ Operating Expenses

● Cat Food: Food purchased by AFH when need exceeded donations

● Feral Program Fees: Spay/Neuter, Vaccinations, Ear Tip