



CAT ANGEL NETWORK



Together, we CAN make a difference!

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CAT ANGEL NETWORK 2015/16 Board of Directors

Charlotte Jay, *President*

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Linda Petro, *Treasurer*

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Development / Secretary*

Maryellen Barbarish

Kirsten Byrd

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*The Veterinary Advisor
to the Board is*

Dr. Denise Atkinson Hall



MISSION STATEMENT

- 🐾 *To prevent the suffering of abandoned cats through rescue, spay/neuter, medical care, shelter, and adoption to approved homes.*
- 🐾 *To educate the public about the proper care of cats, the importance of spaying and neutering, and the benefits of adopting shelter cats.*
- 🐾 *To operate as a no-kill, all volunteer, non-profit organization.*



CONTENTS

Annual Benefit Auction	1
20 th Anniversary Retrospective	1
Meet Our Volunteers	3
Could You Foster?	3
Concert Results	3
Donate Your Car	4
Redner's Receipt Changes	4

Our Annual Benefit Auction is Sunday October 23rd Join Us as We Highlight the FUN in FUNd raising!

We will be putting our best paws forward for this year's gala auction, and we really want YOU to come join in the fun. It's all happening on Sunday, October 23rd in Griffith Hall at the Ludwig's Corner Fire Company. With both silent and live auctions, excellent food, and a room filled with cat lovers, the event is always too fun to miss! There is no pressure to buy, but



few can resist the wonderful bargains, creating a "purrfect" opportunity to do a little holiday shopping. We will have a great variety of terrific items up for auction.



We are most fortunate to have Bud and Annette Smith from Smith Auction Company running the live auction. They make bidding fun and easy for the novice auction attendee!

(Please turn to page 4 for FAQ and additional information)

20th Anniversary Retrospective Cat Angel Network: Our Story and Our History

by Charlotte Jay and Elaine Richert

A single decision to help a single cat for a single week – that was the humble beginning of Cat Angel Network twenty years ago in August, 1996.



It started with a phone call from a cat rescuer about a pregnant cat on a Lancaster farm. The kitty was in danger of being sold to a company that used cats for experimentation. The rescuer was going on vacation and begged for someone to care for this cat for a week. We were horrified by the danger facing this mother-to-be, and since she was not expected to give birth for several weeks, we agreed to house the kitty in the storage room of a detached garage. But the kitty, named Mrs. Gray after a cat Charlotte had as a child, decided she couldn't wait, and on the first day of her "visit," five baby boys were born in Charlotte's lap.

(cont'd on page 2)

20th Anniversary Retrospective

(cont'd from page 1)

The rescuer never returned to pick up the kitties, and the mama cat and her kittens stayed. We found forever homes for Mrs. Gray and two of her boys, and these became our very first adoptions. (Want to make a guess who became CAN's first "foster failure" and adopted the other three boys?)

News has a way of traveling fast, and it wasn't long before people started contacting us to help with a cat shot with BBs, a thin stray, and unwanted cats at a housing development. With each additional cat we said, "Well, it's just one more – no big deal." Soon we began to realize that we would need to have a plan if we were going to continue to take "just one more." So we worked out a system for the intake, care, and adoption of kitties. We cared for as many as our pocketbooks could afford, solicited adopters from a tiny ad in the Pottstown Mercury newspaper, and had a \$35 adoption fee, with adopters signing a Spay/Neuter Agreement. As expenses (and the number of cats) grew, we began to seriously consider taking a GIANT next step, that of changing our informal project into a bona fide, non-profit corporation.

We discovered the process is neither easy nor inexpensive. There are pages of complicated forms to fill out, and thousands of dollars of fees to be paid. Our first challenge was registering a name for our non-profit that was not already being used in the state of Pennsylvania. In the '90's The Oprah Show often featured her charitable "Angel Network," providing assistance to people in need. From this we coined the name "Cat Angel Network," with the inspiring acronym we love - CAN. Then in March, 1998, we were granted our 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status which allowed us to solicit tax deductible donations so we wouldn't have to continue personal funding. We were on our way!

We realized that we needed capable people to handle the many functions of operating an organization and so a Board of Directors was formed. They created the mission statement that has guided us to this day with its philosophy of operating as a no-kill, all volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, spay/neuter, and adoption of abandoned cats. Our motto "Together, we CAN make a difference!" reflected the acknowledgement that it would take the efforts of many caring volunteers to do this work.

We have indeed been blessed over the years with attracting capable, qualified, and cat loving volunteers. Some of our volunteers agreed to become foster parents, and these foster homes enabled us to increase the numbers we could help. Of course, we had no trouble acquiring the cats, but obviously this ability to foster additional kitties affected our need for an outlet for adoptions.

Our prayers were answered when we were contacted by the manager of PetSmart in Downingtown in early 1999 with the very welcome offer to become their store's adoption partner. We have continued that wonderful relationship for the past 17 years. In October, 2005, Petsmart opened its Pottstown store, and we became the adoption partner in that store

in addition to Downingtown. We've had a very successful and rewarding relationship with them for the past 11 years. Our association with this second store pushed our adoption numbers for the year 2006 over the 600 mark for the first time! We look forward to the opportunity to find many more loving forever homes through both our adoption centers.



Shelter expansion (2001)

Raising funds to cover the extraordinary expenses involved has always been a challenge. Two ongoing events have greatly helped to keep us going. In the spring of 2002, we held our first Annual Benefit Concert at the West Chester University, and we haven't missed a year since. Our first auction was held on November 8, 2003. It was an art auction and was so successful that we decided to expand it and hold an Annual Auction that included both silent and live auctions of all-donated items. It has continued to be our major fundraiser ever since.

The funds raised through these efforts were instrumental in turning that detached garage on private property into a heated eight room shelter, plus a small storage area and a bathroom dubbed the "CAN CAN." Volunteers installed flooring and painted walls, including the addition of

beautiful stenciling in each room. Slowly but surely the shelter was outfitted with cages, cat trees, and all the equipment necessary to comfortably care for cats and kittens and prepare them for adoption. Today hundreds of kitties every year pass through the meticulously maintained rooms of the shelter on their way to foster homes or to Petsmart.

Other cats, especially the shy and senior ones, have become life-long residents who are lovingly pampered by our shelter volunteers.

It is so satisfying to look back over the years and think about the thousands of kitties who have been touched by the work of CAN. Where would they be if we had not decided to open that storage room to Mrs. Gray in August of 1996? The many volunteers, fosters, trappers, veterinarians, donors, adopters, etc. who have been a part of this twenty year journey have to know that they have indeed "made a difference." Looking forward, we are committed to standing together to improve and expand our efforts, for we know that the work continues! 🐾



Sheldon and Bodey snuggling in the shelter



Two of the 80 kittens rescued during a large TNR project (2005-2006)



Alfie, happily recovered from injuries after being hit by a car (circa 2005)

Meet Our Volunteers



Christi Farr

CAN volunteer **Christi Farr** is an example of “moving up quickly in the company.” Although she has only been with Cat Angel Network for about 1½ years, in addition to meet & greet at weekend adoptathons, in April she became the PetSmart scheduler and recently assumed the job of training coordinator. Christi is a true blessing to the organization and performs her duties with a deep sense of responsibility and enthusiasm. Her dedication and positive attitude are very inspiring qualities and she is a shining example for the new volunteers that she trains.



Christi at PetSmart with a friend

Christi, who lives in Barto, grew up in the Lehigh Valley and attended Lycoming College. She graduated in 2008 with a degree in chemistry. She is a regional sales manager for Jungbunzlauer, a company based in Switzerland, dealing with the industrial and personal care market. Her northeast territory involves travel during the work week and sometimes overnight.

Christi’s family, including two younger brothers, always had family pets and she was known as “the person most likely to become a crazy cat lady.” She and her husband, Zach presently have two cats. Christi’s aunt, who has been active in leadership positions with the SPCA for many years, inspired her to become a volunteer. Christi says it is very important to “give back” and wanted to do that with cats who have been such a big part of her life.

Karen Feister

Many times the public perception of cat rescue volunteers is that of the middle-aged (or older) spinster-type “cat lady.” At CAN we like to dispel those myths. **Karen Feister**, a twenty something hair stylist at Callista Grand in West Chester, has been a CAN volunteer for more than two years. She’s always lived in the area and really loves Southeastern PA.

Karen says: “technically I am an only child but that all changed, when at the age of seven, my parents decided that an addition to the family was in order.” That’s when their first cat joined the family. Her mom and dad took her out one day and when they returned, a very special cat was waiting for them. Karen named the two year old, orange tabby Tiger and today her adopted “fur brother” is approaching 21 years! They are still best friends although a few years ago Baby and Janice became a part of the family too.

Each time she stopped into PetSmart, Karen found herself wanting to take home all the cats, so in February 2012, she submitted a CAN volunteer application. After training, she started helping at weekend adoptathon events in Downingtown and soon added cleaning and feeding in the adoption center. Then came her first foster kitty and “she’s been hooked ever since.”



Karen with an admirer

Fostering is hard work, sometimes challenging and emotional but so rewarding “to know that the lives of precious creatures are happier and better because of you.”

Karen appreciates her fellow volunteers and is thankful to them for all they do to make CAN possible and for the team spirit that embodies our motto: “Together we CAN make a difference.”

Could You Be A CAN Foster Care Provider?

Did you know that most CAN kitties live with foster families until they find their forever homes? Perhaps you have occasionally thought of fostering but worried about the commitment of time and energy. Many people think only of fostering kittens – fun and entertaining, of course – but definitely a high energy commitment.



Musha in her foster home

However, our foster needs are quite varied. We are often looking for a short term foster homes for one or two older cats who need some TLC and adjustment to a new environment. The more foster homes we have, the more kitties we can accept into CAN and ultimately, place in forever homes. Our foster coordinators support you throughout the process and as a foster parent you have the joy of knowing you have helped change the lives of many deserving kitties. Even fostering a few cats a year makes a difference.

Please consider becoming a foster parent. If you are interested or would like to know more about fostering, please call 610-385-6714 or fill out a volunteer application at www.catangel.org.



17th Annual Cat Concert Raises Over \$5,000

Our 17th Annual Concert for Cats, a special event unique to our organization, raised over \$5,000 – an amount that will help us greatly in our rescue efforts. Held at West Chester University, the concert featured two wonderful university music groups and a number of exceptional friends of our organization. The audience was treated to a great variety of music, with many selections accompanied by videos of our amazing cats. Mark your calendar now for our 18th Annual Concert which will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 3 p.m. in the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre at West Chester University. 🐾

Annual Benefit Auction

(cont'd from page 1)

When and where is the event? The date is Sunday, October 23rd from 2-5 p.m. Registration begins at 1:45. Silent auction tables begin closing at 3:15 and the live auction starts at 3:45, so we suggest that you arrive no later than 2:15.

The event will be held in Griffith Hall, a part of Ludwig's Corner Fire Company. The address is 1325 North Pottstown Pike, Glenmoore, PA – conveniently located on Route 100.

Where do I get tickets? The price of admission is \$20 per person in advance (by October 15th), and \$25 at the door, or October 15th-23rd. Admission includes delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. There are no physical tickets. Just fill out the form in this newsletter and return it with your check/cash or go to our website where you can purchase admission using a major credit card or PayPal. Your name will be on a list of attendees, so you will only need to check in at the door. We strongly encourage ticket purchase in advance and appreciate receiving your ticket return coupons, credit card, or PayPal payment by October 15th. Tickets at the door will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Dress? We suggest "business casual."

How can I help make this event a success? If you would like to contribute a new item for the auction, please contact Henry. Also, we could

use help advertising the event. We can send you a flyer via email to print out or to forward to you friends, relatives, neighbors. In addition, we would love to have the assistance of one or more businesses or individuals to cover all or part of the cost of the fire hall. This expense is \$650.00. If you would like to cover this cost in full or in part, please contact Henry.

What type of items are acceptable for the auction? Unique items, restaurant gift certificates, practical items, jewelry, items of value, and bottles of wine tend to go well at the auction. Since we have limited table space, we may not be able to accommodate many very large items with a value of less than \$60.

What is the deadline to donate items? The deadline is October 7th. After that date, we may still be able to take high quality items that will bring a good price at the auction.

What payment is accepted at the event? Cash and checks for purchases under \$100. Credit cards can be used for purchases over that amount.

Other questions? Please contact: Henry Grabb at catangelpa@aol.com (or call 484-947-3684).

Thank you for your support!

Donate Your Car

By using DonationLine (www.donationline.com), you can donate your car to Cat Angel Network with a few easy steps. Simply go to their web site, or call 1-877-227-7487 to find out if your car is eligible for donation. Most cars are eligible even if they are not running. Generally, DonationLine will accept cars that they can sell at a wholesale auction for more than the cost of towing and processing.



The process is easy and painless, and most of our car donors have reported that their vehicle was picked up within a few days! In addition, since DonationLine is a national company, your friends and family members outside of this area are eligible to donate cars to Cat Angel Network as well. Since we began this program a number of years ago, we have had several donations from across the country.

Car donation is an outstanding way to help Cat Angel Network and remove the stress of dealing with selling a car that you are no longer using.

Redner's Changes Receipt Program

Effective August 2016, Redner's Warehouse Market is replacing the former Redner's Pump Perks Card/Save-A-Tape Card. In order for you to get your new Redner's Rewards Card, just go to the courtesy desk to obtain your new Rewards Card.

Thanks to you for turning in your Redner's Market register tapes. We received approximately \$1236 in 2015 from Redner's Markets. We receive 1% of the total receipts on the tapes.

Please keep saving your register receipts and bring them in to the adoption centers at Petsmart in Downingtown and Pottstown. You can also mail them to us at Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464 PLEASE remember to save the ENTIRE register tape. Do not alter or cut the tapes in any way as they will not be accepted if the entire tape is not submitted. It's an easy way to help Cat Angel Network and it doesn't cost you anything!

Be sure to show the cashier your Redner's Rewards Card when you shop at Redners to make the register tapes count for CAN. If you don't have a Redner's Rewards Card, ask for one at the customer service counter. 🐾

2016 Auction Ticket Purchase and Donation Form

Please return this form with your check payable to Cat Angel Network. All tickets will be held at the door.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

I have enclosed a check totalling \$ _____ for _____ tickets. Tickets are \$20 each.

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ as a donation to help save cats' lives.

Please make checks payable to **Cat Angel Network** and mail to:
Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464.

Tickets purchased after October 15 and at the door will cost \$25. Ticket purchases cannot be refunded. If, for some reason, you cannot attend, please consider your ticket purchase to be a donation.

