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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 14, Issue 2 • April 15, 2014

Give Local Midland

Give Local Midland is part of a national event with local impact. We are joining hundreds of communities across the country in a one-day giving challenge to raise funds for local causes.

Marking the centennial anniversary of community foundations, Give Local America allows Midland to generate significant funds for uses right in our own backyard. For one day, every dollar given to local nonprofits will be matched by funds from a national pool of sponsorships, as well as local matches – making every gift go further.

On May 6 at 12:00 a.m., the website will begin accepting donations to over 50 area nonprofits and causes – for 24 hours only!

The giving event is open all day through www.givelocalmidland.org. The community foundation is also hosting an in-person event from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. where you can meet and network with many of our local nonprofits, hear some great grant stories, and learn more about your community foundation.

Everyone can be a philanthropist, right here in Midland County. Imagine the impact we can have if we invite our entire community to give local!



SOS EVENTS

Saturdays

12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

Adopt-athon
Saginaw PetSmart

May 1

Rummage Sale Drop-Off

May 2–3

Rummage Sale

May 6

Give Local Midland

May 7

Neuter Palooza
M-20 Animal Hospital

May 10

Parade Your Pet

June 7

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Paws and Save a Life
Downtown Adoption Event
Main Street, Midland

June 21

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bark for Life
Stratford Park, Midland

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

June, July, August

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

October 4

Dirty Dog Trail Run

Quilts for Cages Recognizes Luanne Stickley

Quilts for Cages sincerely thanks Luanne Stickley for her sewing and contribution of pet quilts and catnip mice donated to SOS Animal Rescue. Some of the material was donated to SOS Animal Rescue from people and businesses but quite a lot of material came from Luanne herself.

Over the last year, Luanne has sewn and contributed over 300 quilts, cage covers, and table covers for pets' warmth and comfort. She has also donated twice as many catnip mice, fish, and hearts for the kitties' entertainment. Sales of mice provide extra funds for SOS Animal Rescue.

Thanks, Luanne, for your constant contribution to the warmth, comfort, and entertainment for our wonderful animal friends. We are sure they appreciate all that you've done as well.



Working Together to Make a Difference

Excerpt from Mlive.com Saginaw News, Mark Tower

SAGINAW, MI — Animal rescue groups took between 50 and 60 cats from the Saginaw County Animal Care Center this week, Interim Director Elaine Thompson said.

A shelter volunteer group, Saginaw Adoptable Pets, posted on Facebook on December 30 that seven rescue groups took a total of 59 cats in response to a large outbreak of an upper respiratory virus at the county facility, 1312 Gratiot in Saginaw.

Thompson confirmed that a large number of cats were surrendered to get an outbreak under control. Staff and veterinarians under contract with the shelter had been unsuccessfully attempting to fight off the infections through treatment for the last few weeks, she said.

The choices a shelter like Saginaw County has in that situation, Thompson explained, are to eliminate the cat population through rescue groups and mass adoptions or by euthanizing the animals.

Allowing rescue operations to take the cats, she said, is the preferable option. Thompson said that, as far as she knows, the December 30 rescue was the largest number of animals ever transferred out of the Saginaw County facility in a single day.

Nancy Engel is president of Frankenmuth-based Pet Angel Shelter and Rescue, which took eight of the cats surrendered by the Animal Care Center.

"Volunteers there got word that they were just going to mass-euthanize everybody if we didn't get in there," Engel said.

The Saginaw Adoptable Pets Facebook post credits the following pet rescues for help in the process: Pet Angel Cat Adoption & Rescue, Friends of Heavenly Paws of Michigan, Lucky Day Animal Rescue, SOS Animal Rescue in Midland, Great Lakes Bay Animal Society, Lake Haven Animal Rescue, and NBS Animal Rescue.

Follow up to the story published on mlive.com on January 2, 2014: SOS Animal Rescue pulled 27 cats during this rescue operation. PetSmart Charities provided an emergency grant for the medical care of the cats including spay/neuter surgeries, rabies and distemper vaccines, deworming and FIV testing. SOS Animal Rescue very much appreciates PetSmart Charities for their generosity.

See a video of this rescue operation on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/sosanimalrescue1.

Pet Food Assistance Program	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 ytd
families helped	50	40	77	138	13
dogs		56	121	180	6
cats		149	159	210	27
other animals		11	2	6	0
lbs dog food out			2458	6386	171
lbs cat food out			1627	2824	271

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that saves the lives of homeless pets. More than 400,000 dogs and cats find homes each year through our adoption program in all PetSmart® stores and our sponsored adoption events. PetSmart Charities grants more money to directly help pets in need than any other animal welfare group in North America, with a focus on funding spay/neuter services that help communities solve pet overpopulation. PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization, separate from PetSmart, Inc.

SOS Animal Rescue Joins Pets for Patriots Pet Adoption Program for Veterans



SOS Animal Rescue has partnered with Pets for Patriots, Inc., a not-for-profit that connects last-chance shelter pets with our country's loyal service men and women, to increase the adoption of adult and other at-risk homeless pets by veteran and service members of the United States military.

In spite of the demonstrated emotional and physical benefits of companion pets, more dogs and cats are killed each year than the populations of Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota and Vermont combined. Working with Pets for Patriots, SOS Animal Rescue gives local veterans, service members and their families the gift of unconditional friendship and love while providing millions of dogs and cats a second chance at life.

"Working with Pets for Patriots, we hope to motivate our local veterans and service members to give these animals a loving home says President, Joann Taylor.

This will help us place more hard-to-adopt pets with good people who need or want a companion pet, and save these innocent animals from becoming permanent foster residents.

Individuals are welcome from all United States armed forces and at any stage of their careers. Eligible pets must meet one of three criteria: dog or cat two years or older, dog over 40 pounds regardless of age, or a special needs dog or cat.

Joining Pets for Patriots is entirely free to veterans, though they are responsible for the discounted pet adoption fee. To reduce the chance that these pets are surrendered, the charity sends a \$150 gift card upon proof of eligible adoption to help with food and other essentials, and provides access to local veterinary partners who agree to offer ongoing discounted care.

"Our goal is to help our adoption partners re-home harder-to-place pets that still have years of love and life to give," says Beth Zimmerman, founder and executive director of Pets for Patriots. "while at the same time making it more affordable for military personnel to bring a pet into their lives. We're delighted to work with [your shelter] to give these last-chance pets a second chance at life and, in so doing, to enhance the lives of veterans in the community. Everybody wins."

SOS Animal Rescue quickly saw the potential to find hard-to-adopt dogs and cats permanent homes with service members. "We are able to place about 320 pets each year," says Joann Taylor "Through our partnership with Pets for Patriots, we hope to provide forever homes to even more loving animals with the many service members and veterans in our area."

Individuals must first apply through Pets for Patriots and provide proof of their military service or honorable discharge. Approval typically takes one to two business days, after which they can visit SOS Animal Rescue at the PetSmart store in Saginaw for assistance in choosing their new best friend.



Poison Help Line

1-888-426-4435

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



Ross Medical, thank you for the fund-raising drive!



SOS Animal Rescue on YouTube

Our social media reach keeps expanding. We have a YouTube channel www.youtube.com/sosanimalrescue1.

We have videos posted of recent events, the Neuter Palooza, our big cat rescue last summer, saving Journey the severely frostbitten cat and more. Check it out at www.YouTube.com/sosanimalrescue1.

Platinum Sponsors

Coastal Pet Products
Coffee News
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PetSmart
Precious Cat
Purdue
General RV Center
Surrey Vet Clinic
Tractor Supply Company
VetMed of Midland
Veterinary Health Center

Gold Sponsors

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ASPCA
Krogers
Larkin Food Center
Northern Animal Clinic
Soldan's
Superior Title and Settlement

Silver Sponsors

Garber Automotive Group
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Papa John's
Quilts For Cages

Bronze Sponsors

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BPV Environmental
Cat's Pride
C Specialties, Inc
Coyer Candles
Dunham's
Goal Post Pizza
Gordonville Grocery
Hartz Mountain Corp
Hugs for Homeless animals
Jake's Old City Grill
Mercato di O&V
Pizza Hut
Prime Lending
Qdoba
Ross Medical Education Center
Scrapbooks Galore & More
Serendipity 181
Shelley's Bed and Biscuit
Shirlene's Cuisine
Soaring Eagle Water Park
Sport's Junction
Subway
Target
Texan
Ways to Wellness



Dirty Dog Run

Saturday, October 4

Midland City Forest



Kroger Community Rewards

Remember to sign up again in April. Kroger requires everyone to sign up each year. We know signing up each year takes time but we do appreciate your help.

Thank you for using Kroger and designating us as your charity. Last quarter raised \$157 through your generosity. Sign up at www.kroger.com/communityrewards Our number is 91497.

An Art-Full Collaboration

The Goodbye Winter Art Blast held March 20 and hosted by Serendipity 181 turned out to be a fun and successful evening.

Art lovers and supporters of SOS Animal Rescue alike mingled throughout the gallery. They were able to partake in finger food, sample the wine provided by Darlene Anderson of Wines for Humanity along with being able to browse the array of artwork and handmade jewelry and other items that Serendipity 181 offers.

Michigan artists and artisans from Midland and Vassar donated lovely pieces for the night's silent art auction, with all proceeds going to support SOSAR's programs. SOS Animal Rescue would like to thank the following artists and artisans for their generous contributions:

Louise Chen (Louise Chen Art Studio); Bonnie Barker; Carol Sue Bentley (Carol Sue Designs & Photography); Christina M. Erskine (Kan'd Ham Art); Janet Hart; Crista Rowe (Crowe Designs); Judy Golda Scheuffele; Hannah Tiffin (Legacy Art Studio); and Molly Warren-Haycock (Hive Design).

SOS Animal Rescue would like to thank those of you that showed your support by attending the event, and last but not least, Mary Moore and Carol Sue Bentley of Serendipity 181 for their contribution in making the Art Blast a success.



Thank you for your donations that help all of these animals receive medical care. They are still in need of forever homes.



Chabaka – blind due to cruelty of someone putting chemicals in her eyes

Heidi – needs eye surgery



Angel – received surgery and is awaiting analysis of her bladder stones

A black cat, Mac and Cheese, is being held by a person wearing a red shirt. The cat's right front leg is amputated, and the wound is large and raw. The cat is looking towards the camera.

I FOUND A HOME!

Survivor, leg amputated due to injury
(shown above before surgery)

A ginger cat, Mac and Cheese, is lying down on a grey surface. The cat is looking towards the camera.

I FOUND A HOME!

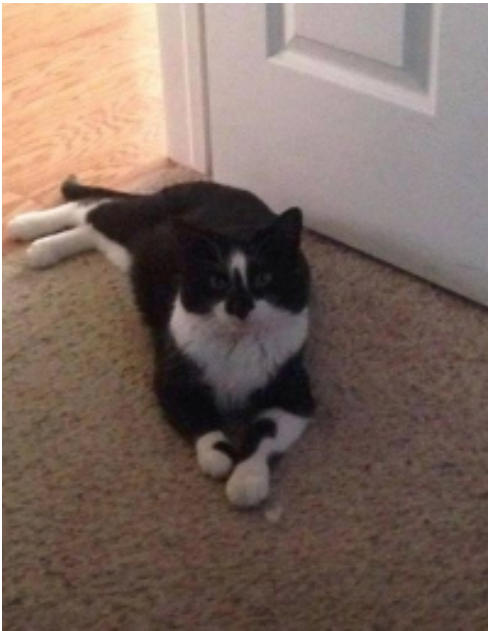
Mac and Cheese – shot with a BB gun

Thank you for your donations that help all of these animals receive medical care. They are still in need of forever homes.



Dusty – underwent surgery to remove cancerous mammary glands

Lainee – FIV positive



Pete – FIV positive



Chewey – needs eye surgery

Thank You, Wall & Webb Jewelers!

We would like to extend a thank you to the family-owned and family-operated Wall & Webb Jewelers in downtown Midland for their ongoing support of SOS Animal Rescue.

Besides the SOSAR donation jar on their counter which is always generously filled by their customers, Helen Wall sells odds and ends in the second storefront window to facilitate even more funds for the group.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The following volunteer opportunities are available:

Become a foster home and save a life

Deliver pet food to Midland families in need

Help with rummage sale on May 1-3

Help with Paws and Save a Life on June 7

Help with Bark For Life on June 21

Spay/Neuter Statistics

Your donations have provided spay neuter assistance to pet number 2000 in January 2014. If each surgery prevents two litters of unwanted puppies or kittens from being born the program has saved over 16,000 from a life of hunger, cruelty and disease. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many.

SPAY/NEUTER	thru 2013	2014	Total
female cats	806	48	854
male cats	491	58	549
female dogs	388	11	399
male dogs	267	9	276
total	1952	126	2078

Thank You for Displaying SOS Donation Canisters!

Auto Technicians
B-Xtreme Cycle & Sport
Countryside Vet Clinic
Eastman Animal Clinic
Elvira's
The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe
HQ Bicycle
Larkin Food Store
M-20 Animal Hospital
Northern Animal Clinic
Soldan's
Surrey Vet Clinic
Wall & Webb

Thank you to The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe for a great fund-raiser, Survivor Cupcakes. Survivor is a rescued cat that required a leg amputation due to injury. Abigail Bierschbach is presenting the check to SOS Animal Rescue President, Joann Taylor. The funds were used for Survivor's surgery. You can read about Survivor on his own facebook page at www.facebook.com/savesurvivorthecat.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to M-20 Animal Hospital for your continuing the Neuter Palooza events that were held each month this year providing free male cat neuters to pets in low income families or feral cats. The next event is May 7. If you are interested contact us at 492-0042 for an application or fill one out on line at our website, www.sosanimalrescue.org.

Thank you to Qdoba for providing lunch at the March Neuter Palooza.

Thank you to Bone Daddy's for providing lunch at the April Neuter Palooza.

Tammy Beal	In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Schultz Mother by Rena Marx	Todd Sutt
Sharon Brady	Betty Shangle	Debbie Adams Tighe
Kelly Burke in memory of Peanut	Suzette Sharp	Dr. Tina Rogenburg
Olivia Caton	In memory of Helen Thelen's father by Rena Marx	The seven cats saved from the hoarding house including Dusty who needed a mammary chamber surgery
In memory of Robert Carylton's wife by Rena Marx	John and Lynne Warner in memory of Oscar	Ashley Adrian
C Specialties, Inc. for Cat Cubby's	For Survivor's medical bills (front leg amputation)	Rita Ames
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Chodl's father by Rena Marx	Catherine Abbott	Jackie Bush
Melinda Diment	Linda Bader	Connie and Bob
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Erznoznik's father by Rena Marx	Kelly Burke	Kristie C
In memory of the mother and grandmother of the Feldpausch family by Rena Marx	Peter Chludil	Dawn Cook
Susan Fliegel	Beverly Damron	Jean Dishaw
Judy Fox	Chris Erskine	Dougherty Family
In memory of the mother of Leigh and Keith Glover by Rena Marx	Monica Essenmacher	Tonya Fransioli
In memory of the husband and father of Janice Griggs and Family by Rena Marx	Hannah Gates	Kris Gibson
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hanfer's grandmother by Rena Marx	Meghan Kozubal	Angela Gipson
In memory of Andrew Luttig's wife by Rena Marx	Steven Locke	Pam Grieve
Loretta Mackenroth	Jamie Mansfield	Aubrey Guilbault
Toni Nelson	Kay McEntee	Heather Kettelhohn
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Porath's father by Rena Marx	chris Morris	Lynne Klenow
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Reis's mom by Rena Marx	Renee Moxlow	Kay McEntee
Sherry Rogers	Charlotte Stamper	Becky Roda
AnneKelly-Rowley	Anthony Steven	Karen S.
Madeline Sasse	For Chewey, Chabaka, and Sicko's medical bills (eye issues)	several anonymous donors
	Breanne Russell	Mary Ellen Warner
	Teri Perrin	Joanne Scott
	Jusitna Helta	the Walter family
	For Mac and Cheese's medical bills (shot with a BB gun)	For Aztek (paralyzed cat)
		Renee Moxlow

BOOK REVIEWS BY CHRIS ERSKINE

It's Raining Cats and Cats!

By Jeanne Prevost

Children ages 4–8, grades 1–3

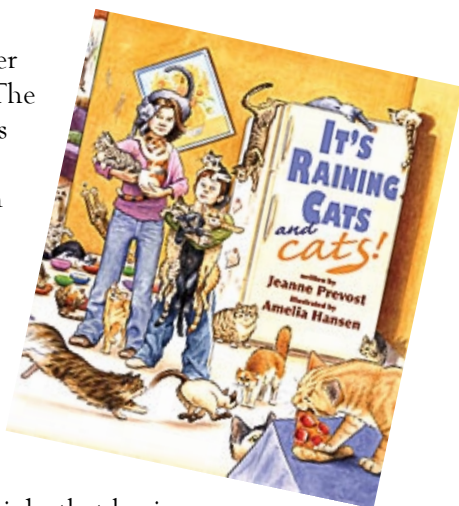
It's Raining Cats and Cats! demonstrates to children the importance of spaying and neutering in a format that is easy for kids to understand while entertaining with humorous and cute illustrations by Ameila Hansen.

Molly the cat was brought home after her spay surgery. The little boy, Jim, asks his mother about Molly's sutures on her tummy, upon which the mother replies, "If she hadn't had this special surgery operation, Jim, she'd have litters of kittens every year." Jim thinks that having kittens would be fun. His mother suggests that they imagine what would happen if Molly did not have the surgery. Jim imagines a house full of kittens and cats, starting with Molly and then multiplying and multiplying and multiplying.

Now with so many cats and kittens, Jim and his mother take an imaginary journey to try and find homes for all of them. They soon learn that cats are never easy to adopt out and shelters are full.

It's Raining Cats and Cats!, although light-hearted and humorous, could be an important first step toward educating your child about responsible pet care. The book also includes a back page of information on why pets should be spayed and neutered and some of the consequences when we don't.

As a winner of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award, this lovely story touches on a very serious and tragic ongoing problem that is easily fixed if people would just spay and neuter. With kitten season just around the corner, this book holds even more significance. A must read!



Ginger Finds a Home

by Charlotte Voake

Ages Preschool–K

Ginger Finds a Home is a story of a skinny rat-tail cat that has been forced to survive alone without anyone to love and care for him. He lives in a patch of weeds, drinking from muddy puddles and retrieving any scrap of food found in trash cans.

One evening, however, he discovers a plate of cat food in the field of weeds he calls home. He finds yet another plate the following evening along with a little girl nearby. She tried to stroke his fur, but he became frightened and ran to hide in the weeds. The plate of food and the little girl became a daily ritual, instilling trust in the skinny cat whom the little girl had named Ginger. She knew that this little kitty needed someone to love and care for him.

Over time, Ginger followed the little girl home. Inside the house, Ginger became frightened and bolted back outside. He had never been in a house before. The little girl was not swayed and continued to reassure Ginger that her house was the place for him to call home.

Ginger Finds a Home has

quirky and simple illustrations that children and adults will love. This book teaches young children patience and understanding when it comes to our pets. So often, young children do

not understand that our pets are not toys and that they need to be handled and treated gently and lovingly. For example, one illustration shows the little girl holding Ginger in the appropriate manner that one should hold a cat or dog. This book encourages kindness and the need and ability to care and love our pets and other animals.

I do recommend this book for young children. With a warm and fuzzy ending, this is a good starter book that gently demonstrates the plight of cats and kittens left to fend for themselves.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

**Friday, May 2
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 3
9 a.m. – 12 noon**

***Proceeds benefit
our fostering,
pet food, and spay/
neuter programs.***

**SAME LOCATION:
104 W. Wackerly St.
corner of Jefferson and
Wackerly, next to
Sylvan Learning Center**

**We accept
gently used items.**

**Donation Drop-Off:
12–8 p.m.**

Thursday, May 1

***No adult clothes
or large exercise
equipment please.***

We are a 501c3 non-profit agency and
all donations are tax deductible.

Bark for Life

June 21

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stratford Park, Midland, Michigan

SOS Animal Rescue is proud to be a supporter of Bark for Life. Much like Relay for Life, this event raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The difference: the walk is for the dogs!

This is the second year for this successful event. Opening ceremony is at 10:15 a.m., then a walk around the pond with your team and four-legged friends. The walk is about one mile long and is followed by fun activities for people and dogs until 2:00 p.m.

Our goal for this event is public visibility, an opportunity to reach out to a different kind of crowd from our typical events, and the chance to engage with people who are passionate about another cause.

SOS Animal Rescue will be an event sponsor which includes hosting an activity booth for kids. We will also have a registered walking team for this event. Please bring tents, tables, coolers, etc.; it is an outdoor event, so we will need to be prepared for the weather.

If you are interested in joining our walking team, please sign up at the following link: http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/BFLCY14LS?team_id=1621669&pg=team&fr_id=56201. The cost is \$10 per dog.

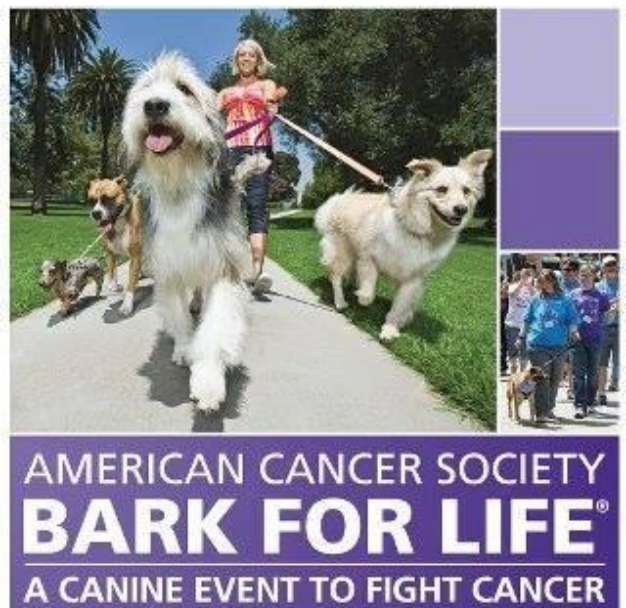
If you are interested in helping in our booth with fundraising or activities, send us a note at info@sosar.org indicating what you would like to do.

If you are not sure how you can help, or if you have ideas for fund-raisers, we'd love to hear from you! So far we are signed up to sell water, sell animal related magnets, and do something artsy with paw prints. Have another idea? Please share. Want to shake "hands" to create paw prints? Let us know that too!

Finally, there will be a silent auction and we are looking for donations to give the ACS for this fund-raiser. We will accept donations of any sort to help put together a nice auction gift.

We are hoping to help make this event a success for American Cancer Society, so please let us know how you can help and/or join our team.

Joann Taylor
SOS Animal Rescue





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www.sosanimalrescue.org

www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue

Officers

Joann Taylor, President
Shelley Park, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
Karla Oldenburg, Treasurer

Mission Statement

SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to reduce the number of unwanted pets in the Midland area through placement, public education, spay/neuter assistance programs, and support for the efforts of local animal welfare groups.

Board of Directors

Dawn Carsten
Liz Shook

Newsletter Editor
Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM, GOLD, & SILVER SPONSORS!



Morley Portraiture



Animal Pal



Shelley Park



Coffee News



Surrey Veterinary Clinic

Midland VetMED

Quilts for Cages



M-20 Animal Hospital



Veterinary Health Center