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GUARDIAN SOCIETY

By including MARL in your estate plans, you are leaving a legacy of kindness to animals and joining a special group, The Guardian Society.

Those who notify MARL of inclusion in their estate plans, at any level, are eligible to become a member of The Guardian Society. Members receive special benefits including invitations to special MARL events, recognition as a special friend, and the opportunity to enroll in the Pet Guardianship Program.

It is surprisingly easy to make the gift of a lifetime. Planned gifts include but are not limited to:-

- Bequests included in wills
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Consult with your financial advisor, attorney, or trust officer to determine the best option for you. To learn more, visit marl.org or contact **Magee Humes at 248-335-9290 or mhumes@marl.org**.

THE **MARL** REPORT

FALL/WINTER



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.**

READ MORE ABOUT OUR COVER ANIMALS INSIDE



ABOUT MARL

The Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) is one of southeast Michigan's most established shelters, serving the animals and community since 1953.

MARL is a private 501(c) (3) organization, and our work is supported solely by contributions, which are tax-deductible.
Federal Tax ID: 38-1557622



CONTACT

790 Featherstone | Pontiac, MI 48342

MAIN ENTRANCE AND ADOPTION CENTER PARKING LOT:

325 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd N
Pontiac, MI 48342

P: 248.335.9290 | **F:** 248.335.0261

E: info@marl.org

www.marl.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays through Saturdays 12-5 PM

Appointments can be made for *any* day of the week between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM

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LET'S GET SOCIAL!

[@mi_animalrescueleague](https://www.instagram.com/mi_animalrescueleague)

Follow MARL on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for the latest shelter news and updates, adoptable animals, recent adoptions, upcoming events and more. Scan the QR codes below to connect!



ON THE COVER

MARL's office cat, Snowy, makes friends with only those who are worthy of her attention, and MARL alumnus, Lucille, is one of those friends. These two met for the first time while Lucille was visiting MARL for her treatment for Heartworm Disease and have been BFF's since. This unlikely duo has warmed the hearts of our team, making them the perfect choice for the cover.



LETTER FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As you look through the pages of this newsletter, you'll find stories that radiate hope, tales of remarkable success, and heartwarming images of lives saved. However, it's important to remember that the animals who arrive at our doors don't start their journey with the same sparkle you see in these pages. They come to us frightened, hurt, and often broken in spirit.

The driving force that transforms these animals from those initial moments of despair into the confident, happy companions you see in their photos is you. It takes love, care, medical attention, and time to nurture them back to health and happiness. Your help is the catalyst that sparks their incredible transformations.

As the demand for our services reaches unprecedented heights, and adoptions continue to be slower post-pandemic, we face our most challenging year yet. Animals are being surrendered and abandoned in record numbers, but you, our dedicated donors, supporters, and volunteers, are the reason we stand strong in the face of adversity.

Your support has been a beacon of light for over 1,400 homeless and at-risk dogs and cats that we have had the privilege to serve so far this year. And it's not just a number; it's 1,400 lives forever changed, 1,400 homeless animals who found hope at MARL because of your kindness and care. In the face of increasing demand and rising costs of care, we ask that you continue to join us in offering hope to the animals who look to MARL for a second chance.

Your generosity and compassion are the key ingredients that turn tales of hardship into stories of hope, and we are immensely grateful for your role in MARL's life-saving mission.

With gratitude,

Magee Humes
Executive Director

SHELTER SNAPSHOTS



Working in the world of animal welfare can be unpredictable, challenging, rewarding, and everything in between. It's a hard job, but our team of staff and volunteers are focused on providing the best care we can to as many animals as possible.

These shelter snapshots show you what a typical (or not so typical!) day in the life at MARL looks like.



Getting a dog ready to go home with their new family is such a rewarding experience for our team. Maxine was with us for 621 days before her adoption day in April. While we miss our friend, we are beyond happy to see her off to bigger and better things, our wish for every MARL dog!



Before we leave for the day, our staff does a quick headcount to make sure the cats and kittens are accounted for. If our count comes up short, we're always sure to check the cupboards. Lessons learned during kitten season!



Our office cat, Snowy, is allowed to roam freely in the upstairs lobby after hours. She enjoys perching on the blue wall behind the front desk, where she keeps tabs on the cats in the adoptable cat rooms and hisses at people from afar.



Productivity and rest are of equal importance for shelter dogs! While many of the dogs enjoy long walks and extensive exercise out in the play yard, they also benefit from receiving snuggle time, working on training, and doing enrichment activities. Bear is enjoying some much-needed R&R with one of his favorite volunteers, Janet.



At MARL, we have a lot of dogs and cats to feed! We depend on food donations from our supporters to be able to care for as many animals as we do, and when we ask, we receive. Our garage is always packed full after a food request, and we are so grateful for all of those who support us!



Who doesn't love a puppy party? In August, a Shih Tzu mix named Tokyo was brought to MARL along with her six adorable babies. During their stay with us, you could always find a staff member with an armful of pups! All six puppies (and mom!) were scooped up as soon as they were available for adoption - no surprise there!

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS



The Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) was founded in 1953 and homeless and at-risk animals have been arriving at our doors in need of a second chance every day since.

What was once an unassuming house on the corner, with one dedicated employee and a small team of volunteers, is now a one-of-a-kind facility with dynamic medical and socialization programs, a full staff, over 300 volunteers, and an incredible board of directors. This transition was made possible by the tenacity of key individuals who championed the cause, along with the community's support for MARL and its mission.

MARL is grateful to everyone who contributed to making this organization what it is today. We hope you will join us as we embark on the journey to make the next 70 years even more remarkable and transformative for the animals in need.



MARL's first facility at 790 Featherstone



MARL today at 790 Featherstone

START AT MARL

MISSY

Missy found herself homeless after her owner passed away. This was a heart-wrenching transition for this sweet senior, but her story changed when she arrived at MARL. Our team recognized Missy's need for extra comfort and reassurance and went above and beyond to help her adjust to her unfamiliar surroundings. Day by day, Missy began to regain her confidence.

Missy's story of resilience and hope didn't end at the shelter. A loving family welcomed her into their home and they have cherished her ever since. Since adoption, Missy has discovered the joy of traveling with her new family, indulging in delicious treats, and enjoying lots of snuggles on lazy afternoons. She went from timid and alone to loved and spoiled during her golden years, and her journey is a true testament to the transformative power of the care that MARL can provide.

BUBBA

Bubba's journey began when he was thrown out of a van and left to fend for himself in someone's yard. Once at MARL, Bubba quickly discovered the joy of being a dog, with all the energy and exuberance that came with it! Bubba also came to us with an infected eye that required removal by our medical team. Despite losing his eye, Bubba's spirit remained unbroken. His bold and infectious personality was unstoppable.

Finally, the day came when Bubba found his forever home. A loving family with another Terrier Mix (who also had one eye!) welcomed him into their home with open arms. It was a perfect fit, and Bubba and his new canine brother became the best of friends.

Months later, one of our volunteers had a heartwarming reunion with Bubba after spotting him out and about in Royal Oak! Even though time had passed, Bubba recognized his friend right away, as noted by his big smile and wagging tail. Though he spent 170 days at the shelter, the wait was undoubtedly well worth it, as Bubba finally found the love and happiness we knew he deserved.

BAMBI

Bambi was found abandoned on the side of the road near a busy intersection when he was just 8 weeks old. After his initial medical exam, it was discovered that Bambi was born without eyes, a condition that might have discouraged a lesser spirit - but not him. Despite his blindness, Bambi was the embodiment of playfulness, spunk, and curiosity, warming the hearts of our entire team.

As soon as he was cleared for adoption, Bambi made his online debut. An adopter saw Bambi on MARL's website and fell in love with him instantly. It was a serendipitous connection, as this adopter had recently rescued another kitten with the same unique condition from almost the exact location that Bambi was found. We have a strong suspicion that the two kittens might be long-lost siblings!

Bambi was welcomed into his forever home by both his family and his new kitten friend and has been living his best life since.





THE GIFT OF LOVE

A gift to MARL is a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize someone you care about and make a meaningful contribution to the lives of homeless dogs and cats in southeast Michigan. Listed below are gifts made in honor or in memory of a loved one in the amount of \$20 or more. These gifts were received between January 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

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Woody | Sandy Kondos

Yeager | Scott Zoner

Zane | David VanBogelen

Zekie | Barbara Bound

Zeus | Elizabeth Hollow and Scott Dolan

Zoe | Theresa Bridenbaugh



PATRICIA VERDUIN

With heavy hearts and immense gratitude, we remember Pat Verduin, a dedicated and compassionate presence in the history of MARL.

In 1993, Pat Verduin assumed the role of President of MARL's Board of Directors, embarking on a remarkable 21-year journey. Her tenure was marked by a steadfast commitment to our mission and a focus on laying the foundation for a strong, well-governed organization.

One of Pat's defining qualities was her belief in staying true to our roots and core mission while simultaneously professionalizing the organization to ensure its growth and strength. This balance, championed by Pat, remains a guiding principle at MARL to this day.

After retiring from the board, she remained an essential part of our MARL family by serving on the Community Advisory Board, and her visits were always welcomed by the team and animals.

Earlier this year, we had the privilege of celebrating Pat's 80th birthday, an occasion that reflected her enduring spirit and the lasting impact she has had on all of us.

Today, we remember Pat Verduin with gratitude for all that she brought to MARL, the lives she touched, and the legacy of compassion and leadership she leaves behind. She will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



Michigan Animal Rescue League

72K followers • 82 following



Promote

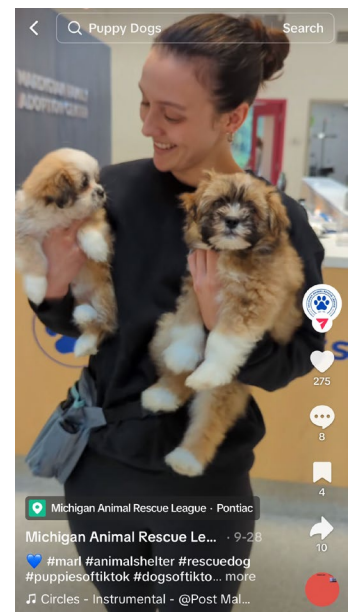
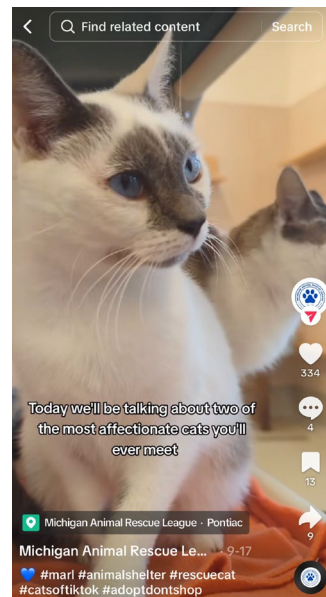
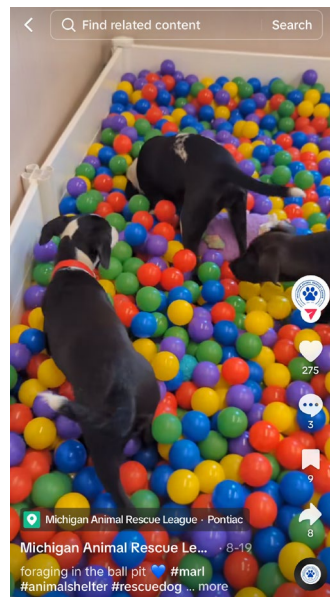
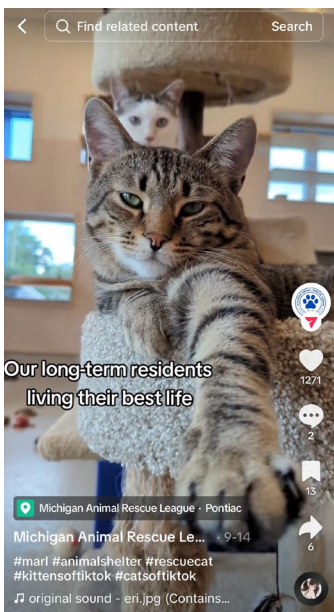
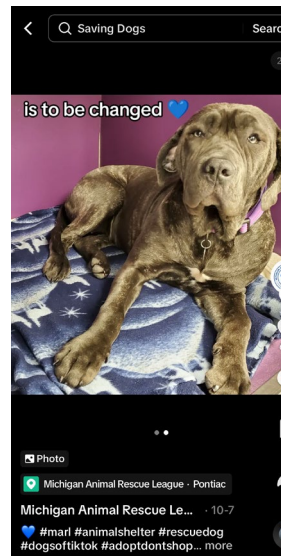
Manage

Edit

MARL's recent success in our social media efforts has been nothing short of remarkable. The transformation of the MARL TikTok account from having less than 1,000 followers to now boasting over 51,000 followers is a testament to the approach we take to promoting our mission, and showcasing what makes MARL "A Different Breed of Shelter."

What sets MARL apart in the crowded social media landscape is our commitment to challenging traditional sheltering stereotypes and offering viewers a behind-the-scenes look at day-to-day life at the shelter. The videos and posts put together by our team are characterized by a fun, upbeat, positive, and hopeful tone, capturing heartwarming moments, adoptable pets, and humorous interactions. MARL is rewriting the narrative on animal sheltering and care, and we are extremely proud of the connection and engagement we have created with our wonderful audience through our presence on social media.

If you aren't already, be sure and follow @mi_animalrescueleague on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok!





"You meet so many awesome dogs and cats in this line of work. You want to set them up for success and match them with their perfect home. The right picture or video can go a long way towards doing that. It's always incredibly rewarding to see tangible good come from our content. It's led to adoptions, donations, new volunteers – all the things that have a direct impact on our shelter and the animals that depend on us.

One of the most consistent comments we get from new viewers is something along the lines of, "Wow, I've never seen a shelter that looks like this!" It's wonderful to be able to showcase the efforts of the amazing people who've worked so hard to make MARL what it is today. We truly are "A Different Breed of Shelter," and that concept is very apparent throughout the content we are posting.

Social media can be a vehicle through which public perception of shelter animals (and shelters themselves) changes for the better. Each time we showcase a MARL cat or dog, we're giving them the voice to say, "I'm not at the shelter because I'm not good enough for a home, I'm at the shelter because the right person just hasn't come along yet."

-Tommy Sanfillippo, MARL Content Coordinator.



MICHIGAN ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE'S 14TH ANNUAL

Yappy Hour

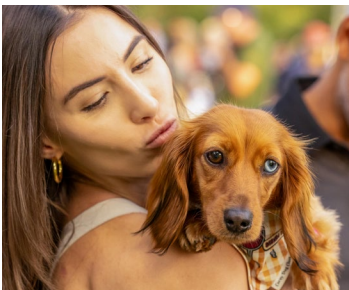
On September 21st, the Michigan Animal Rescue League celebrated its 14th Annual Yappy Hour - the only cocktail party in Metro Detroit where your dog is invited! This year's event welcomed over 500 guests who enjoyed signature cocktails, delicious food, gourmet dog treats, fun new photo opportunities, a spectacular silent auction, and more, many with their best friend by their side.

This platinum celebration of MARL's 70th Anniversary was truly special, and the evening was nothing short of spectacular. The stunning Rock Garden at Meadow Brook Hall was buzzing with countless donors, sponsors, guests, and four-legged friends, celebrating MARL's mission and countless lives saved.

The 14th Annual Yappy Hour was our most successful fundraising event to date! All event proceeds directly benefit the over 1,500 animals MARL cares for annually.

SAVE THE DATE

Plans are underway for the 15th Annual Yappy Hour on Thursday, September 12, 2024. If you are interested in learning how you can get involved in the planning and preparations, please contact Judy Hoste at jhoste@marl.org or 248-335-9290





THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

GOLD GRAND CHAMPION

PATRICK & LAURA
FENTON
THE CAPLAN FAMILY
OF RESCUES

TOP DOG

WRIGHT-HURLEY
FAMILY
EIG14T | 814 CRE LLC
PANDA PAWS
RESCUE

LOYAL FRIEND

Bashur Barry Foundation
Covington Partners Holdings
LLC
Detroit Dispensing Solutions
Eric & Sheena Fisher
Cindy & Hon. Barry Howard
Huntington Bank
Integrated Fiduciary Advisory
Services
Steven & Barbara Kohler
Sandy & Keith Kondos
Tina & Dennis Mirku
The Nichols Family
Voyager Dog Food Co.
Kimberly & Ken Whipple

BEST BUDDY

A. Alfred Taubman Foundation
Animal Emergency Center
Betsy Barnes
Cerity Partners LLC
Jeffrey & Beth Davidson
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank
Lori & Jim Issner
Susan & Tim Lucken
Luxe Event Linen
Christine & Carlos Mazzorin

Rising Sun Investments, LLC –
Linda Sue & Bob Fries
Taft/
MJ & Jay Wright

GOOD DOG

Bank of Ann Arbor - Birmingham
Margaret Bashur in memory of
Harvey Bashur
Janet & James Blanchard
Bollinger Motors Inc.
Charlie's Still on Main
Davison & Associates C.P.A.
DePorre Veterinary Hospital
Financial One Accounting
Frank Rewold & Sons
Mick & Veronica Isaacs
Justin Klamerus & Kevin Faster
Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect
Orion Oaks Animal Hospital
Peter & Nancy Quigley
Rolls Mechanical
Becky & Gary Sakwa
Serra Ford of Rochester Hills
Nicole Stassinopoulos
Tama, Budaj & Raab, P.C.
Bella Wolf & Parwents

PARTY ANIMAL

Jody & Gary Astrein
Victor & Terri Church
John April & Mike Clawson
Andrew Cronin
DeFiore Spalding LLC
Duravent Group
East Street Pilates
Sue Ellen Eisenberg & Associates, PC
Fetch! Pet Care
Nancy & James Grosfeld
David & Frances Grossman
Harold G. Schaevitz Industries
IDEXX Laboratories
Patti & Rick Phillips
Wally & Chris Schwartz
Shapiro Family
Sigma Investment Counselors
T-Rex Advisory
The Urban Dog LLC
Joe & Mary Ann Troy
Edward & Carolyn Wujek

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AT UNION ADWORKS

YAPPY HOUR 2023 HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

*Beth Davidson
*Laura Fenton

CANINE CO-CHAIRS

Bentley Davidson
Connor Davidson
Hank Fenton

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Cindy & Hon. Barry Howard
Cara & Brian Krupa

HOST COMMITTEE

Jody* & Gary Astrein
Betsy Barnes
Tracie Berry
Patricia Cox*
Lauren Fuller
Beth Hall
Charlene Handleman
Jenny Heinrich*
Connie Hogan
Deanna Malczewski
Lois Paquin
Patti Phillips
Elaine Schonberger
Rick Tully, DVM
Stacey Walker
Ann Wiacek
Robin Wright*
Lori Armstrong Yankel

* 2023 Board of Directors



These are just a few of the ways you can make a difference for the homeless animals at MARL this holiday season.

MARL WISH BOOK

'Tis the season of warmth, laughter, and giving that extra cheer to those who need it most!

While the dogs and cats in your home are unwrapping toys and treats, let's not forget the four-legged friends who are at the shelter waiting for their turn to enjoy the same. This feel-good shopping spree will make tails wag, hearts melt, and the holiday season brighter for shelter pets. Introducing the MARL Wish Book, where every item you choose is a special symbolic gift for the cats and dogs at MARL!

New toys, comfy blankets, and adventure outings are a few of the things just waiting to be selected and donated to our furry friends.

If you would like to purchase an item from the MARL Wish Book in honor of someone else, we've got you covered. You can select a customized e-card or download a printable card to let your loved one know that they've inspired a meaningful contribution in their honor.

This holiday season, help us make the shelter animals' dreams come true, one wish at a time.

BETTER THAN FRUITCAKE

Get ready to spice up your holiday party with some generosity and cheer!

If you are hosting this season's holiday party, request that your guests bring supplies from MARL's wish list or even a monetary donation to benefit the animals at MARL. Now, it's not just a party - it's a party with a purpose!

Adding this fun twist to your holiday event is a great opportunity for your guests to do good while making your holiday festivities feel twice as special. If you'd like materials and information to provide during your party this holiday season, please contact our office at 248-335-9290.

To learn more about holiday giving opportunities please visit marl.org



TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT HOLIDAY
GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
PLEASE VISIT
[MARL.ORG](https://marl.org)

CAPTION THIS!

Get ready to LOL! These paw-sitively hilarious photos capture the funny personalities of our adorable dogs and cats, and they deserve the best captions! Here are some of the titles our team came up with. Think you can do it better? Email us at photos@marl.org!



Hiding from Monday like...



Hip-Hip-Hop and you don't stop!



If it fits, I sits.



Add to cart.



Immediately no.



I'm ready for my close-up.
But first, KISSES!



It's all fun and games until
you end up in a cone.



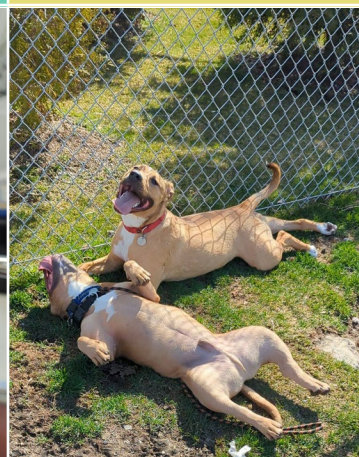
Mine.



Sharing is caring, even if it
means a crowded seat.



Just keep swimming,
just keep swimming!



Work hard, play harder,
nap hardest.



When life flips you over, relax
and enjoy the view.



FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS- CELEBRATING OUR AWARD- WINNING VOLUNTEERS

MARL is thrilled and honored to announce our recent recognition as a recipient of the 2023 Pontiac Pride Beautification Award! This award reflects the dedication of long-time MARL supporter Sandy Kondos, and her exceptional team of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to maintain the impeccable beauty of MARL's grounds and landscaping.

Whether they're planting flowers in the spring, or raking leaves in the fall, this remarkable team is always hard at work. Their dedication to maintaining the aesthetic appeal of our grounds makes MARL a welcoming destination for potential adopters, volunteers, and members of the community.

This recognition is well-deserved, and we extend our sincerest thanks to Sandy and her team for this achievement!



THANK YOU THANK YOU

ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES:

BLACK DOG CANDLE COMPANY – Donated 10% of candle sales to benefit MARL

MAGNA ELECTRONICS – Donated \$555 to benefit MARL

OAKLAND COUNTY CREDIT UNIONS – Collected \$4,000 at their annual golf outing

VILLAGE BOUTIQUE – Donated \$100 from their charity fundraiser

REAL ESTATE FOR A CAUSE TEAM – Donated \$200 to benefit MARL

SANDY KONDOS – Collected Wish List Items and monetary donations at her Cookie Exchange Party

REAL ESTATE ONE & MAX BROOCK REALTORS & OFFICE STAFF – Collected \$818 to benefit MARL

LINDA SUE & BOB FRIES – Collected Wish List items at their Troy Business Builders BNI Referral Group event

MIKE SAVOIE CHEVROLET – Donated \$7,500 from Pickup for Paws 2022

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION – Raised \$1,200 through their “Win for Charity” Program

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS – Collected \$1,000 from their “Casual Friday” donations

2GATHER EVENT VENUE – Collected \$252 from their Open House event

CLUB PETS – Collected “Wish List” items during the holiday season

ETHAN ALLEN FURNITURE DESIGN CENTER – Collected “Wish List” items during the holiday season

OAKLAND HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL – Collected “Wish List” items during the holiday season

MICHAEL & JULIE PUZSAR – Collected “Wish List” items and \$695 from their annual holiday party

KENDRICK SIMS – Regularly donates Wish List items throughout the year

SANDY KONDOS AND HER TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS – For their year-round landscaping initiatives at MARL

MARL VOLUNTEERS – For donating their time to make sure our cats and dogs receive lots of quality care while they await adoption

KIDS DOING GOOD IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

PEACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL – Donated “Wish List” items. Thanks, Greta Schlaps, for nominating MARL to be the recipient of your classroom’s holiday charity drive

KYLE RUSS – Collected \$200 in coins for his senior project and donated it to MARL

CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL – Ann Nell collected supplies at her school

MADELINE YATOOMA – Collected \$461.00 in donations at her 11th birthday party

ELLA DEAN – Is a high school student who started her own non-profit, Cozy Paws, and collected Wish List items and \$25 to benefit MARL

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #77200 – Collected \$150 to benefit MARL

SCHOOLCRAFT ELEMENTARY – Kim McLain raised \$42 from her school

LAKE ORION HIGH SCHOOL – The National Honor Society collected Wish List items

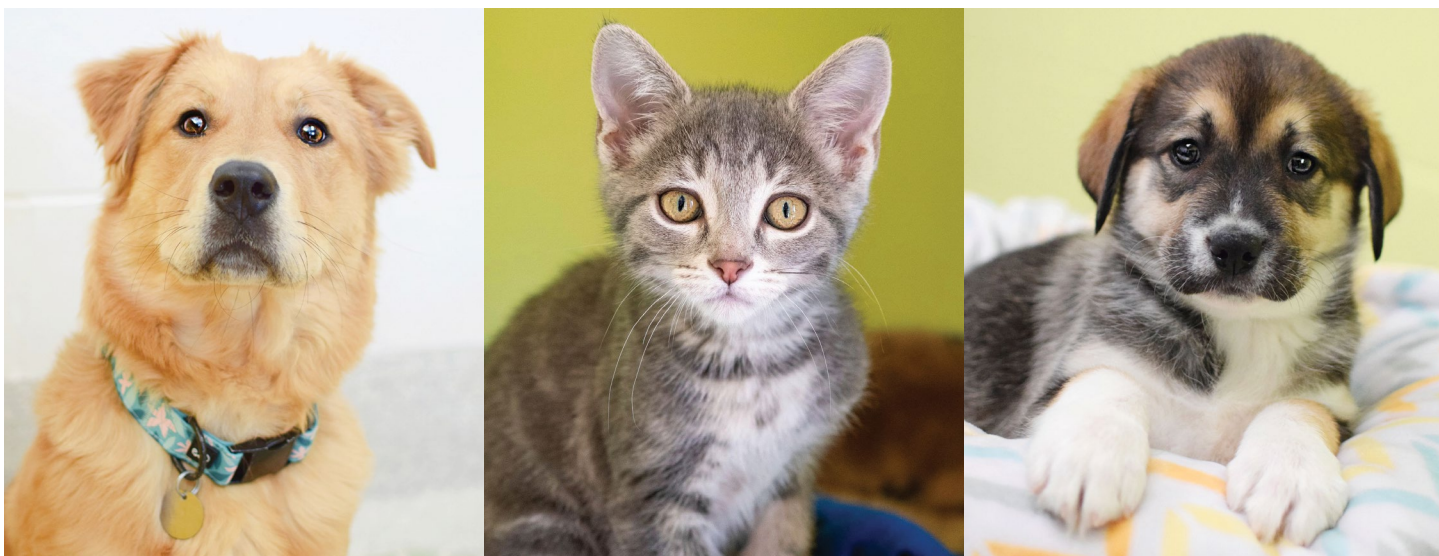
PINE TREE CENTER, LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS – Collected \$325 at their charity event to benefit MARL

HALDEN GENBERG & ADDY KITZMAN – Collected \$282 from the JNHS Charity Drive

NICK GRUNDHOFFER – Selected MARL as the recipient of handmade blankets and a monetary donation from his Eagle Scout Project

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE GENEROUS PEOPLE AND COMPANIES WHO SUPPORT MARL! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS OUR DOGS AND CATS.





MARL'S WISH LIST

Help the dogs and cats at MARL by donating these much-needed items to the shelter!

Donations can be brought to 790 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342 any day of the week before 7pm. For assistance, please ring the doorbell outside of our entrance.

WISH LIST:

Wet dog food | All brands
Wet cat food | All brands
Dry kitten food | Purina
Dry dog and puppy food | Purina One SmartBlend (red bag)
Cat toys | All types
Clorox disinfecting wipes
Paper towels
Unscented clumping cat litter
Gently used or new harnesses, leashes, and collars | All sizes
Treat puzzles
Fleece blankets



AMAZON



CHEWY

Send supplies directly to the shelter with our Amazon and Chewy wish lists! Visit marl.org or use these QR codes to learn more.

Please note that we do not accept the following: Open bags of food, pillows, newspaper, large comforters, fitted sheets, animal clothes, wire dog crates, and used grooming supplies.

Keep in mind that dropping off things that we cannot use means that our staff has less time to spend with the animals due to the sorting and re-donating of these items.