

# THE **MARL** REPORT

SPRING SUMMER 2024



THE **QUALITY OF THE WAIT**  
MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR COVER ANIMAL INSIDE](#)



## ABOUT MARL

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

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

## MARL BOARD

**Robin Wright** | President  
**Jim Issner** | Treasurer  
**Patricia Cox** | Secretary  
**Steve Engel** | Executive Committee  
**Jody Astrein** | Director  
**Beth Davidson** | Director  
**Laura Fenton** | Director  
**Barb Grant** | Director  
**Jenny Heinrich** | Director  
**Dan Kelly** | Director  
**Justin Klamerus** | Director  
**Kristi Pennex** | Director  
**Kimberly Whipple** | Director

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Magee Humes

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

@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 to connect!



## CONTACT

### MAILING ADDRESS:

790 Featherstone | Pontiac, MI 48342

### ENTRANCE A – MAIN ENTRANCE AND ADOPTION CENTER PARKING LOT:

Off Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N,  
just south of Featherstone

### ENTRANCE C – ANIMAL INTAKE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ENTRANCE:

Off Featherstone

**P:** 248.335.9290 | **F:** 248.335.0261

**E:** info@marl.org

[marl.org](http://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**

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Cynthia Howard, President Emeritus  
Ted Barnhart  
Luanne Broecker  
Jeff Davidson  
Honorable Barry Howard  
Deanna Malczewski  
Jana McNair  
Susan Murphy  
Kerry Peltola  
Rick Tully, DVM  
Ken Whipple

## ON THE COVER

Mittens was surrendered in June of 2023 after her owner was no longer able to care for her. During her time at MARL, Mittens stole the hearts of everyone she met with her sweet disposition and silly antics. After 163 days in our care, Mittens found her perfect match. Second chances start at MARL, and our team gave Mittens lots of love and well wishes on her adoption day.





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARL provides life-saving care to over 1500 dogs and cats per year. This includes animals who arrive as strays and others surrendered by the only family they have ever known. Some are simply left on our doorstep. Some arrive injured or ill, requiring emergency medical attention. Some are terrified, while others are immediately grateful for the comfort, nutrition, and kindness they receive upon their arrival. No matter how they arrive, MARL is committed to providing each with the specialized and high level of care that we are known for as **"A Different Breed of Shelter."**

We are very proud to provide the level of care we do for as many animals as we do. However, the need for our services is growing, with more animals arriving at our doors in desperate need every day. While we remain steadfast in our commitment to responding to these animals, we can't do it alone. As we look toward the future and strive to respond to the growing needs of our community, we know we must expand our base of support. And we kindly ask for your assistance in spreading awareness of MARL.

If you believe in the mission of MARL and the difference we're making in the lives of animals and people, please consider sharing our story with your friends, family, and colleagues. Together, we can expand our reach and save even more lives. Furthermore, if you know of individuals who share our passion for animal welfare, we would be honored to connect with them. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and we'll gladly arrange a tour or appointment to share more about our work and how they can get involved.

IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH.

**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.



Play buddies are a great way for our dogs to burn energy and build confidence. Millie and Barnacle became instant BFF's and spent their time at MARL playing chase, going for buddy walks, and occasionally, drawing straws to decide who would retrieve the toy they accidentally dropped in the pool.



Our four-legged residents enjoyed special meals for Thanksgiving, a tradition that our animals and social media followers look forward to annually. Their full bellies and smiling faces were made possible by our generous supporters and incredible team of staff and volunteers!



When our team of cat volunteers arrives in the morning there is often a lineup at the door in our cageless cat room. The cats are patiently (and sometimes not so patiently) waiting for their canned food breakfast. Single file, everyone!



Grooming can be a big task, especially for dogs like Sampson who have gone many months without receiving care. At MARL, we want to help all our animals feel and look their best! As a result, dog and cat fur is a common fashion accessory for our team.



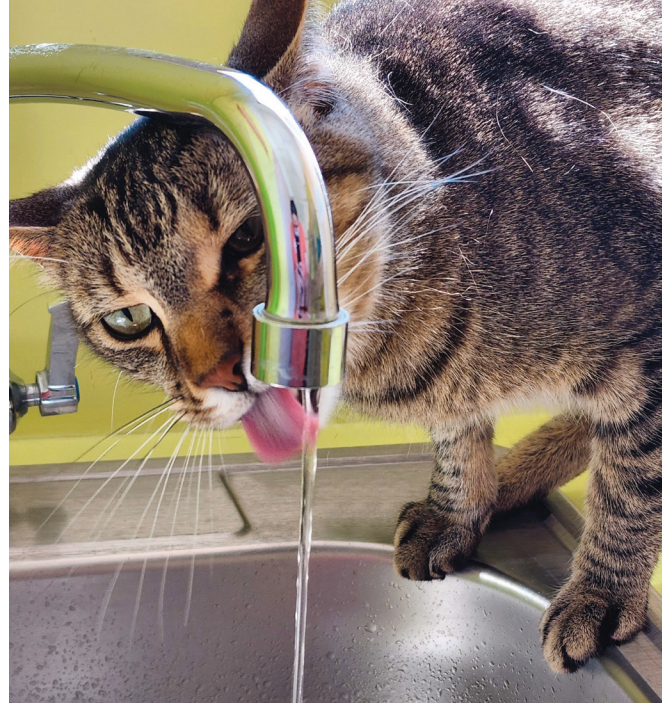
Party in the ball pit! Dogs like Darrell and Lady benefit from daily enrichment activities like training sessions and sniffing out treats in the ball pit. Adding different types of enrichment to a dog's daily routine helps minimize stress during their stay at the shelter.



In 2023 our Executive Director, Magee Humes, celebrated her 15-year anniversary with MARL. The team threw her a well-deserved surprise party to honor her accomplishments, hard work, and dedication to the organization and animals we serve. MARL alumni, Clive, stayed late with the managers to help decorate for the occasion.  
**Congratulations, Magee!**



# CAT CARE PROGRAM



## MEET ERIN

Erin joined the team just over three years ago as an Animal Care Technician. Her love for cats, ability to connect with people, and positive energy made her an obvious fit for the Cat Care Coordinator position. Erin leads our cat care program, including movement of cats from intake to adoption, approving adoptions, overseeing our PetSmart Adoption Program, and so much more. Her dedication to the cats (and every animal that walks through our doors) truly embodies the spirit of MARL, **a different breed of shelter.**

## FUN AND GAMES

At MARL, we don't just put a cat in a cage and call it good. Our feline residents enjoy a variety of enrichment activities to relieve stress and make the shelter a fun place to be while waiting for forever homes. Whether they're chasing laser pointers, playing with bubbles, or snuggling on laps, the cats and kittens at MARL get plenty of exercise time, playtime, and quality time with people who love them.



# TEAMWORK MAKES THE **DREAM WORK**

While our staff provides the oversight, our incredible team of cat volunteers are the heart and soul of our cat care program. These dedicated folks cover shifts between the hours of 8am and 6pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Our cat volunteer team assists with cleaning, feeding, socializing, and everything in between. They are an essential part of our cat's lives and we couldn't provide the level of care MARL is known for to as many cats as we do without their support.



## FELINE FREESTYLE

MARL's cage-free cat room is a fun and unique housing option for adoptable feline residents that enjoy the company of other cats. This room houses up to 15 cats at any given time and allows them to roam freely 24/7, with plenty of opportunities to climb, perch, run, play, and nap in sunny spots to their heart's content.

**"Our cage-free room is especially beneficial for shy or timid cats who may be overlooked in a kennel. I've seen plenty of cats who are extremely nervous around people really blossom in this room. The ability to roam freely really helps build their confidence and allows their personality to shine around potential adopters."**

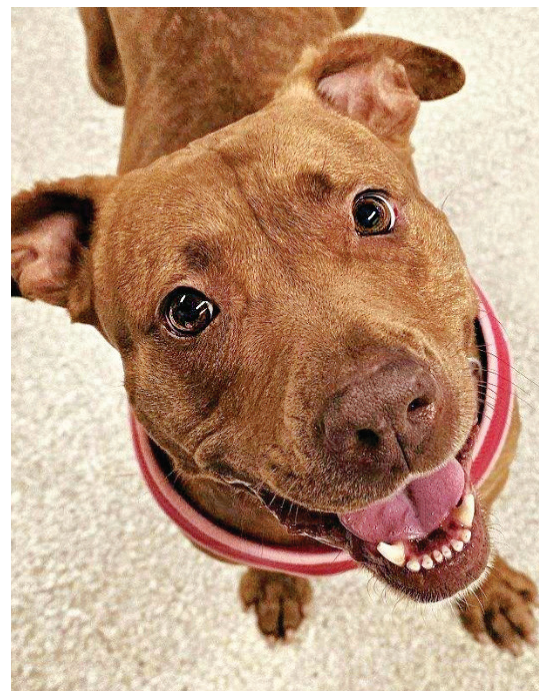
**- TOMMY SANFILLIPPO, CONTENT COORDINATOR**

## PETSMART ADOPTION PROGRAM

Did you know that MARL houses adoptable cats at the PetSmart Adoption Center in Northville? Hundreds of cat adoptions take place out of our PetSmart Adoption Center annually, allowing MARL to help even more cats in need.

We are currently looking for dedicated cat lovers to join our PetSmart Volunteer Team! The cats and kittens at PetSmart can't wait to meet you. To learn more, please visit [marl.org](http://marl.org).







## FAITH'S STORY

Faith and her puppies found themselves in MARL's care on August 31, 2023. Her puppies arrived in a laundry hamper, covered in dirt and fleas. They were in deplorable condition and initially appeared lifeless. Our medical team jumped into action, providing them with immediate life-saving care. It took our team hours to provide baths, food, and fluids to all seven puppies.

Their surrenderer informed our team that Faith had her puppies in a backyard and was living underneath a deck. Not only was Faith emaciated, but she also tested positive for Heartworm Disease. Despite her rough past, Faith's spirit remained unbroken. She trusted our team and was grateful for all the care and TLC she was receiving.

Faith was a wonderful mom and just a few short months after her arrival, one by one, all her puppies walked out the door with their new families. While Faith was eager and ready to find a home of her own, she was still nervous with new people and unsure of how to be a dog. Slowly and surely, she began to show the same trust for our volunteer team as she had for the MARL staff. It didn't take long before she became an avid greeter at the door of her kennel whenever a new face walked by and quickly became the star of every dog playgroup. Faith developed a love for toys, being tucked in at night, and spending quiet time with people. Her journey from intake to adoption was remarkable, a true testament of how **"the quality of the wait"** can make all the difference in the future of an animal.

**After 162 days in MARL's care, Faith found her perfect match. We are happy to report that Faith wasted no time making herself at home and is already incredibly loved and spoiled, our wish for every MARL animal.**



# 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 October 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024.

## IN HONOR OF

**Asher Tainsky** | Men's Club of Adat Shalom  
**Aunt Laura** | Journey Masters  
**Bandit Yost and Hodar Kessler** | Laura Schnurstein and Brian Yost  
**Becky Levine** | Debbie Weston  
**Betsy Barnes** | Maryann and Robert Barnes  
**Binkowski Family** | Victoria and James Kaltz  
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**Bob and Patti Kohnert** | Marilyn Kohnert  
**Bryan Cicinelli** | The Detroit Engineering Family  
**Bubba** | Brendan and Erme  
**Carolyn Hartshorn** | Joseph Hartshorn  
**Carrie Weingartz** | T. Dawn Klomp  
**Charlotte Maples** | Penelope Maples  
**Chris Halas** | Barbara Cumming  
**Christine Jeryan** | Jamie Stranding  
**Club Pet Too, Lisner Animal Hospital, and Becky Levine** | Cindy, Barry, & Big Joe Howard  
**Conner and McLean** | Melissa and Tom Mark  
**Connie Sepelak** | Tony and Jodi Mollica  
**Cynthia Howard** | Donna Nowak  
**Doggie in The Window staff** | Sheri Mark, Snickers and Princess  
**Dorian Johnson** | Carrie Camfield and Danny Schester  
**Dr. Elena Osborne** | Denise Kaufman  
**Fiona** | Nancy Baker  
**Henry Ford Health Medical Education & the Department of Medicine** | Kim Baker-Genaw  
**Ida Stober** | Helen Clarke  
**Ilene Rubin** | The Holidays  
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**Jay and MJ Wright** | Allison Modelski  
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**Jenny Heinrich** | Theresa and Jerry Bismack  
**Jo Macek** | Yvonne and Frank Schalm  
**Jordyn Tepman** | Men's Club of Adat Shalom  
**Julie Emery** | Kat Darvishzadeh  
**Kevin Knapp and David Hunter** | Cheryl Green  
**Kim Hurley and Robin Wright** | Mary Jean Schoettle

**Kimberly and Ken Whipple** | Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lodal  
**Laura and Luke Bates-VanEkeren** | Laura Cassar  
**Laura and Pat Fenton** | Christine Provost  
**Laura Hatton** | Karen and Josh McCullough  
**Liam** | Noah and Cassie Salame  
**Linda Kahn Gale** | Alyssa Gale  
**Linda Sue Fries** | Adam Rhein  
**Lynne Fugate** | Margaret Finucane  
**Maevie Quinlivan-Clette** | Amanda Coleman  
**Magee Humes** | Josh and Jana McNair  
**Margo Rosenthal** | Jody and Gary Astrein  
**Maria Musu** | Kyleigh Ritter  
**Marilyn Kohnert** | Bob and Patti Kohnert  
**Martha Wiswesser Bruursema** | Tim Bruursema  
**Mary Borgeesen** | Carolyn Huzinec  
**Mary Cox** | Glenna Paukstis  
**Mary Keller** | Rob and Lori Shultz  
**Michele and Jim Fleming** | Sandra Wardell  
**Michele Catherine Drake** | Donna Hanson, Jason Abrams, and Lucky Allen Heggs  
**Mike Daly** | Jessica Daly  
**Mindy Oviatt** | Beth Wilson  
**Misty and Marlowe** | Judy Juzsak  
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**Nelson Marinacci** | Derek Patterson  
**Olivia and Dennis Ross** | Elissa Grossman  
**Olivia Herskovic** | Men's Club of Adat Shalom  
**Opie and in memory of Tess** | Pamela Hynes  
**Patricia Verduin** | Janet Sablez and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Grakul  
**Paz and Sol** | Marina Haque  
**Pierre and Mary DePorre** | DePorre Family Foundation  
**Polly Stone** | Sharron Reiner  
**PWD Jack Bauer** | Jennifer Bauer  
**Rachel Wilson** | Anthony Hutcheson  
**Reagan and Elliot Burgess and in memory of Ryder** | Georgia Burgess

**Rebecca Levine** | Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Chapman  
**Rebekah Craft** | Karen Tait  
**Red and in memory of Choco** | John Almstadt  
**Ronald Verduin** | John Almstadt  
**Rosemarie Gancer** | Carol Gancer  
**Rosie and Mochi** | Debbie and Steve Weston  
**Sabrina Badalamenti** | Jill Bekish  
**Sandy Humenny** | Annie Mell  
**Sandy Prokopp** | Larry and Mariam Imerman  
**Selena Cooper** | Shawn Cooper  
**Steve Black and Gretel** | Amy Meadows  
**Stuart and Christina Vedder** | Victor and Susan Amato  
**Sue Johnston** | Jeanne Byron  
**Susan Brown** | Ken and Mary Thompson  
**The Fenton Family** | Mary Gene Crimmins  
**Timothy Duncan, DVM and Keith Gillespie, DVM** | Dr. and Mrs. Brian A. Weeks  
**Vincent Goldman** | Kevin and Danielle Mayne  
**Yvonne and Frank Schalm** | Jola and Van  
**Ziggy** | Margaret Borowski

# IN MEMORY OF

**Abby** | Linda and Herbie Glass  
**Al Sundell** | Deborah Atkins  
**Alan Beacom** | Linda and Larry Krispin  
**Angelo** | Shelly Allyn-Podolsky  
**Annie Wallace** | Christine Lustig  
**Aqua and Boots (Doober)** | Valarie and Robert Trusty  
**Baby** | Jenny Heinrich  
**Bailey** | Deborah Tashman  
**Bentley** | Leann McCloskey  
**Betty Boop** | Allan and Linda Kahn Gale  
**Betty White** | Nancy VonKoehnen  
**Beverly Wiscombe** | Sherrill Pearson  
**Billy Sauer** | James De La Haye  
**Blake Garrett** | John and Angie Kaiser  
**Boomer, Nitro, and Aku** | Lori Yankel  
**Bradley, Icia, Ray, & Rachell** | Francine Cutler  
**Brian Birch** | Susan and Irwin Lubar and The Schonberger Family  
**Brody** | Catherine Johnson  
**Bryan W. Cicinelli** | Cindie and Sam Kitchin, CSM Products, Inc., Jerry and Denise O'Rourke, Lisa Cicinelli, and Mary Lou, Elaine, Julia, Martin, Andy, Stan, Melissa, and Matt  
**Bubba** | Lou and Denise Matteocci  
**Buddy** | Judy Roscoe  
**Buddy ("The Ambassador")** | Dennis and Leigh Ann Naas  
**Buster** | Lauren and Marty Panek  
**Callie** | Cheryl Ruppall  
**Casey** | Lynn Meadow  
**Charlie** | Rick and Marilyn Moss  
**Cheech and Murphy** | Bill Leaga  
**Chief** | Lauren Davenport  
**Chloe** | Marian and Paul Brasmer  
**Claire Wolf** | Holly Wolf  
**Cookie, Em and Cleo and thankful for Willy** | Barbara and Rick Spina  
**Dale Koppin** | Diane Kendall  
**Danny Knoblock** | Beth Knoblock  
**Darcy** | Robin Wright and Kim Hurley  
**David Fallscheer** | Gina and Artie Horwitz  
**David M. Bouvier** | Hugs from David  
**Dee** | Marie Stinnett  
**Dennis Drury** | Michael and Jacquelyn Malek  
**Dexter Sr.** | Jennifer Smith  
**Diane Wilson** | Sarah Burkitt  
**Dorothy Braden** | Wanda Uhl  
**Dr. Carrie Washburn** | Claudia and Jon Washburn  
**Dr. David Alan Golumbia** | Mr. and Mrs. Robert Karbel  
**Drama and Benji** | Jeffery Torrice  
**Dudley** | The Weitz Family  
**Earl Stone** | Pauline Stone  
**Enzo Iannettoni** | Diane, Mary, and Pam  
**Ester Dixon** | Naomi Fleischmann  
**Evelyn Maura Edwards** | Dani Smith, Dr. Stacey Francis, and Susan Weinrebe  
**Festus and Marshall** | Keith Kawula and Beth Garrow  
**Finnegin** | Beth and Henry Storm

**Fred** | Rachel Hayes  
**Gary Plank and Batman and Mary Plank Keller and Nomad** | Emilie Plank  
**Geneva Stephens** | Jeanette Summerfield  
**George Dudley** | Rick and Carol Barrett  
**Glenn Catheart** | Edward and Hildi Grysiak  
**Gloria White** | Michele Bleznak  
**Gucci** | Marcella Gargulinski  
**Heidi Leigh Lengyel** | Marilyn and Steven Lengyel  
**Heidi, A.K.A. Big Girl Cunningham** | Ron and LuAnn Hudson  
**Henry Reed** | Tim Wright and Joyce Stringer  
**Hermis** | Beth Storm  
**Ivy** | Andrea Brimmer  
**Izzy and in honor of Oaks** | Debbie and Steve Weston  
**Jack B Nimble** | Robert and Cathy Hawley  
**Jake** | Janet Pedersen  
**James Bartlett LeDuc** | Michael Faber  
**Jane Somers** | Esther and David Littmann  
**Janet Bayn** | Nancy Rand  
**Jazz** | Harriet Snider  
**Jean Heider** | Michael Heider  
**Jean Morrison** | Alisa Bayer, Harriet and Lloyd Snider, and Sue Egbert  
**Jeanne and Walter Kerwick** | Margaret Barrett  
**Jeffrey Whitt** | Peticured  
**Jerry Saputo** | Neil Tubben  
**Jerzie Youngblood** | Russ and Carol Youngblood  
**Jesse Elkin** | Kenny and Lisa Fox  
**Jessica Armstrong** | Christina Battle  
**Joan Coyle** | Francine Kramer  
**John Corbets** | Janine Corbets  
**Joseph Tackett** | Amanda Tackett; CAM / Kevin Koehler; EP; Kerry and Rowan; Kathryn Tanner; Mary and Rick Whiting; Mary Carabott; Patti Hudson and Dennis Tousana  
**Judith Matasar** | Terry and Mark Weisz  
**Julie Eisenberg** | Suzie Leach Share  
**Justin Peltier** | Judi Peltier  
**Karen Ann Fleming** | Kristine Graham  
**Karen S. Glanz** | Melissa and Scott Glanz  
**Karma** | Fred and Connie Sepelak  
**Karmi** | Julie and Jan Klein  
**Kathryn Larson** | Lynn Hoekstra  
**Kay Sendegas** | Friends of Avondale Youth Assistance; Patrick Miles  
**Keith Miller** | Cynthia Jones; Donna McCuiston  
**Komi** | Lynn Delaney; Marion Prover  
**Kona Semler-Faigley** | Deborah Semler  
**Lady Jayda Czech/Korpi** | Cindy and Barry Howard  
**Lenore Katz** | Debbie and Jim Lecours; Rondi Brower and Philip Gilly; Susan and Richard Roth  
**Lenore Katz and Merlin** | Melinda Saulson  
**LeRoy Perry** | Stacy Hogan  
**Les Schoonover** | Al and Joan Stauffacher; Ann Marie and Chris Ciceri; Benjamin and Sun Woo; Bina and Cal Hall; Bob and

Susan Blank; Dale and Joanie Stevens; Dale and Mary Kay Gayeski; Dale and Sally Gerard; Dave and Kathleen Royer; Dave and Kathy Calver; Debbie Payne; Eileen and Howard Roff; John and Ann Watts; John and Susanne Meehan; Larry Simmons; Mark and Kathy Rheame; Martha Custer; Rick and Anne Calice; Roger Chapman; Susan Schoonover; Tom and Shirley Utter  
**Lilibit** | Jan and Gary Dembs  
**Lily** | Dennis Lakomy, Darlene Frederick and Sadie  
**Lily** | Jonathan Chudler  
**Linda Ann Hebert** | The Schonberger Family  
**Linda Cassar** | Mark and Laura Cassar  
**Linda Hebert** | TBE Sisterhood  
**Lucky** | Pat Shaw and Rabin Family  
**Lucky and Oscar** | Anita Farrar  
**Lucy** | Cary Storchan  
**Luka** | Jennifer Bruss  
**Lulu and Lola** | Kathryn Bell and Janet Dooley  
**Luna** | The Weitz's, Sasson's and Leib's  
**Marshall** | Stacey Krsac  
**Mary Sappington** | Leann McCloskey  
**Mary Susan Marshall** | Eve Ryan; PolyFlex Products LLC; Richard and Kelly Anne Comeau; Sirian Family and Akkashian Families; Toni Button  
**Max** | Carolyn Hartigan  
**Maya and Rocky** | Stefanie Varga  
**Michele Catherine Drake** | Connie Lynne MacKinnon; David Herrington; John Lesser; Laura Claeys; Paul Edwards; Plante & Moran, PLLC; Robert Shefferly III; Steve Neihsel  
**Midnight** | Cheryl Beamgard  
**Molly** | Nadine Scodellaro  
**Mookie and Tiki** | Daniel Bamber  
**Mother** | Helene and Art Indianer  
**Mrs. Wasserman** | Larry and Sue Lankowsky  
**Mufasa** | Karl Wolfe  
**Murfee and Mojo** | Marcy Gargulinski  
**Murphy** | Joe and Mary Ann Troy  
**Murphy (Mojo)** | Thomas Sachs  
**Neal Charness** | Barbara Levin; Lynne and Hal Schoen  
**Nick Pastor** | Lon Mehlos  
**Nicki Oliver** | Georgina Hagemeyer  
**Nikki Hogan** | Stacy Hogan  
**Ollie** | Sheila Berman  
**Pascelle Shulman** | Elyse Hoffman  
**Patricia Elsey** | Leslie and Lynn Caren-Schmeling  
**Patricia Verduin** | Bob and Fran Sulak; David Landaw; Deanna Malczewski; Dennis Merrick and Judith Mac; Doreen Chandler; Janet and Mark Davison; Jenny Heinrich; Jerry Burton; Jim and Karen Smith; John Almstadt; John Van Hoven; Judith Asbury; Kristie Kelly; Kristin Trenholm; Lisa Pence; Lori Yankel; Michelle Guisewite; Molly Phillips; Patricia Ball; Patricia Redner-Colvin; Robin Wright and Kim Hurley;

Susan Schoonover; Ted and Janet Payne; The Berry's  
**Paul Socha** | Kevin McMahon  
**Penelope Easlick** | Leslie Molder  
**Penny** | James Martin  
**Polly Porter** | Susan Dovitz  
**Poppi** | Val Kushman  
**Poppy** | Linda Knight  
**Professor David Alan Golumbia** | Jim and Anne Van Dyke  
**Pudding and Bootsy** | Linda Wright  
**Raisa Irwin** | Linda Sue and Robert Fries  
**Renata Gillespie** | Art and Bev Tack  
**Renee Hunter** | Larry and Linda Krispin  
**Richard and Karen Blacklaw** | Gary Chaffee  
**Richard Yerant** | Cathy Klein  
**Ripley** | Shelly Allyn-Podolsky  
**Robert and Susan Jones** | Becky Schigelone  
**Robert Falska** | Cynthia Falska and Patrick Tinney  
**Rona Coventry** | Jenifer Simbeni  
**Rory West** | Nancy West  
**Roscoe** | Nora Plank  
**Rosko** | Emilie Plank  
**Roxy Durak** | Joseph Rizzo Jr.  
**Rudy Ortey** | Cynthia Harper  
**Rupert T. Dog** | Amanda Graham  
**Samuel Howard** | Enzo Metcalf; Marilyn Rubin; Robin Wright and Kim Hurley; Sandy and Keith Kondos; Sheila and Angelo Graziano  
**Scout** | Cheryl Ruppall  
**Sharon Drew Clow** | Gwen Matheys  
**Shelby** | Amanda Tovar  
**Sheryl** | Lynn Asker  
**Snoopy** | Jenny Brown  
**Stella Moulton** | George Peters  
**Stephanie K. Nelson** | Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chick  
**Steven Ryland Gentry** | Lynn Kuczajda  
**Stoli** | Rachel Hayes  
**Storm** | Claire and Robert Kruse  
**Struedel** | Greg and Virginia Gruse  
**Stuffings Repokis** | Rick Bridenbaugh  
**Sue Marshall** | Sue Waldrop  
**Sukha Weston** | Wilhemina Feraco  
**Sydney** | Belinda Stockman  
**The Three Musketeers** | Daniel Bamber  
**Thomas Caponi** | Branex Group; Carla and Eric Horst; Dr. Isaac Krause, Dr. Jordan Krause, and Dr. Daren Krause; Mary Carrell; Paula Artman; Sharon Ashton; Suzanne and Steven Graham; The Dennis Caponi, Sr. Family; Tom Blaska; JR Automation  
**Toni Bufe** | William Bufe  
**Toni Cantley** | Amy Nelson  
**Toots** | Pamela Jones-Maven  
**Walter** | Chris Walker  
**Willow** | Marian and Paul Brasmer  
**Yukon** | Jimmy Childers  
**Zoe Zucker** | Carol Ellis  
**ZuZu** | Marian and Paul Brasmer



# A DIFFERENT BREED OF SHELTER

Did you know that MARL's entire team is Fear-Free certified? Our staff of 22 uses best practices to ensure that every animal that walks through our doors is happy, healthy, and as stress-free as possible from intake until adoption.

**"Every animal that comes to MARL has a story—some have been uprooted from the only home they have ever known, some are found alone outside, and some have never experienced a person being nice to them. MARL's mission is to help all of our dogs and cats feel as comfortable as they can as soon as they set foot in our building, and it doesn't stop there. By making individualized behavioral plans for every animal using enrichment, outings, training, playgroups with other animals, quiet time, and more, we help each animal become happy, healthy, and the most confident they can be before adoption."**

**- KATHLEEN CRAIG,  
SHELTER MANAGER**







# MARL'S MEDICAL TEAM IS CHANGING LIVES

Every animal that arrives at MARL requires some sort of medical care. From routine vaccinations, exams, and preventative care, to radiographs, bloodwork, and specialized surgery, MARL's medical team provides every dog and cat with exactly what they need to get back on their feet and ready for adoption.



**"Animals come in with frostbite, covered in fleas, some extremely emaciated and starving. We see some pretty disturbing things. But the silver lining is we know when these animals arrive here, they are out of harm's way, and we are going to do whatever we can to turn their lives around."**

**- STEFANY KULCZYCKI, MEDICAL SUPERVISOR**

Over one third of MARL's 15,000 square foot facility is dedicated to the veterinary care of our residents. The medical wing features a surgery suite, exam rooms, important diagnostic equipment, an x-ray machine, and plenty of custom animal housing designed to reduce the spread of disease. This upgrade from our previous facility has provided our team with a space that finally matches the level of care happening within its walls.

While our incredible facility plays a crucial role in the quality of care we are able to provide, it is our hardworking and dedicated medical team that makes all the difference. Our medical program is overseen by Dr. Rick Tully, with support from Dr. Bryan Cornwall, Dr. Pierre DePorre, and Dr. Deb DePorre. Our Medical Care Supervisor, Stefany, oversees the daily operations in our medical department, ensuring that each animal receives the compassion, care and support they need during their stay at the shelter.

It is a culmination of donations, support from our community, our state-of-the-art facility, and our incredible medical team that allows MARL to accept and provide a lifeline to even the most vulnerable dogs and cats.



**"We have numerous situations where we've had animals come in that look like they might not make it to the next day. And then, through the care of these special people, things start to work out. This is a volunteer position and I get paid more than anyone in the state because I get to see that. The ladies and gentlemen that I work with here, come here because it is so rewarding. The animals are really lucky to be here. Many of them have been in more than one situation, some worse than others, but once they get here, everything changes."**

**- RICK TULLY, DVM**





# JOIN US FOR THE **15TH ANNUAL YAPPY HOUR**

On September 12, 2024, the Michigan Animal Rescue League will celebrate its 15th Annual Yappy Hour – the only cocktail party in Metro Detroit where your dog is invited. Come enjoy signature cocktails, delicious food, gourmet dog treats, fun new photo opportunities, a spectacular silent auction and more - all in the magical gardens of Meadow Brook Hall. We hope you will join us to help raise life-saving funds so we can find the “Happily Ever After” for the cats and dogs we serve.

For more information, visit [marl.org/yappy-hour](https://marl.org/yappy-hour) or contact:

**JUDY HOSTE, EVENT MANAGER**

[jhoste@marl.org](mailto:jhoste@marl.org)

**248-335-9290, ext. 113**





# THANK YOU AGAIN 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  
Beth & Jeff 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, Inc.  
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.  
Trish Mell Real Estate  
Bella Wolf & Parents

## 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 2024 HOST COMMITTEE

### CO-CHAIRS

Steve\* & Tracie Engel  
Laura Fenton\*

### CANINE CO-CHAIRS

Hank Fenton

### HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Beth\* & Jeff Davidson  
Cindy & Hon. Barry Howard  
Cara & Brian Krupa

### HOST COMMITTEE

Lynn Artes  
Jody\* & Gary Astrein  
Betsy Barnes  
Mo Berndtson  
Tracie Berry  
Karen Briggs  
Patty Cox\*  
Lauren Fuller  
Barb Grant\*  
Beth Hall  
Charlene Handleman  
Jenny Heinrich\*  
Connie Hogan  
Deanna Malczewski  
Julie Orr  
Patti Phillips  
Sheila Sarver  
Elaine Schonberger  
Rick Tully, DVM  
Stacey Walker  
Robin Wright\*  
Lori Armstrong Yankel

\* 2024 Board of Directors



# MARL DOGS **OUT ON THE TOWN**

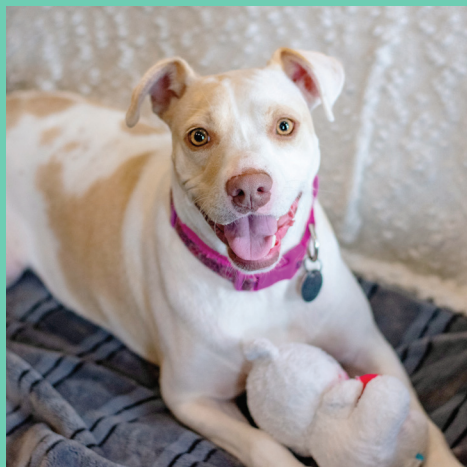
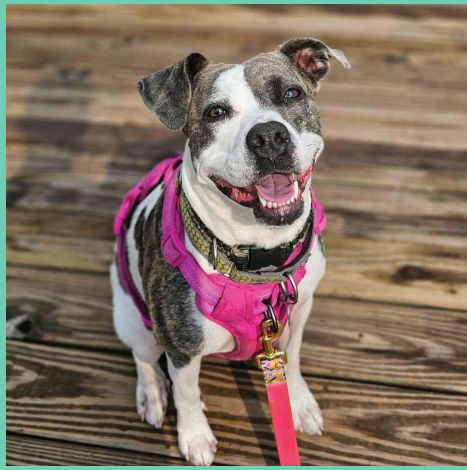
MARL's enrichment program is just one of the many ways we strive to give our dogs the best "quality of the wait". Adjusting to shelter life can be hard and even when staff and volunteers make every effort to make a dog's temporary home welcoming, it can still be a challenging transition for new residents. Enrichment is a fun way to keep dogs thinking and moving, and to ultimately keep them happy and healthy. There's one activity that stands out from the rest - outings!

Volunteers who are in the outing program can take a dog out for a day (or night) on the town. MARL dogs frequent local parks, ice cream shops, dog-friendly stores, nature trails, and more. Sometimes they even have sleepovers with their favorite volunteers! These outings are more than just fun - volunteers fill out a "report card" after each outing to relay how the dog reacted to new experiences outside the shelter environment, information that is invaluable for our team and for future adopters.

**"We had a great outing with Mittens! She met my husband and kids at a nature center for a hike and she was a superstar! My girls are 11 years old, and she did beautifully while taking treats from them and listening when they asked her to sit and lay down. We went to Starbucks for a pup cup, and she really enjoyed running around, playing and being a dog. She is a fantastic girl!"**

**- KRISTIE PUGH, MARL VOLUNTEER**







# 2023 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

## SHELTER STATISTICS



**794**

CAT  
INTAKES



**390**

DOG  
INTAKES



**346**

OUTREACH  
ANIMALS  
SERVED



**342**

ANIMALS  
FOSTERED



**17,507**

HOURS  
VOLUNTEERED



**304**

ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEERS

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO WERE RECOGNIZED  
AT THE 2023 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON.



**CAT** VOLUNTEER TEAM



**DOG** VOLUNTEER TEAM

### VOLUNTEERS WHO SPENT THE MOST TIME WITH OUR CATS

Josy Foisy – 528 hours volunteered  
Linda Sue Fries – 368 hours volunteered  
Jane Flusche – 317 hours volunteered

### VOLUNTEERS WHO FOSTERED THE MOST ANIMALS

Laura Sipsock  
Laura Umland  
Sheena Sandoval  
Debby & Mike Desnoyers

### VOLUNTEERS WHO SPENT THE MOST TIME WITH OUR DOGS

Betsy Barnes – 395  
Joe Troy – 328  
Ashley Bruske – 309

### VOLUNTEERS WHO TOOK THE MOST DOGS ON OUTINGS

Jennifer & Kendall Todd  
Christine Dubek  
Jacki Deni



# HAPPY TAILS

When you adopt from MARL, we are going to tell you everything we know about your new best friend. We aren't about getting animals out the door; we're about being honest and making matches that last a lifetime. Our customer service-based approach to adoption ensures that our animals are getting exactly what they need to thrive with their new family.

**Below are just a few recent updates from dogs and cats adopted from MARL.**

We love hearing from our alumni! Please send photos and updates to [photos@marl.org](mailto:photos@marl.org)



**Charlie**

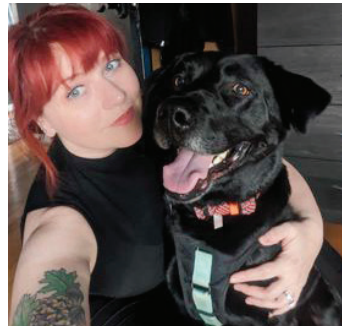
Adopted September 2023



**Copper**

(formerly Goggles)

Adopted February 2024



**George**

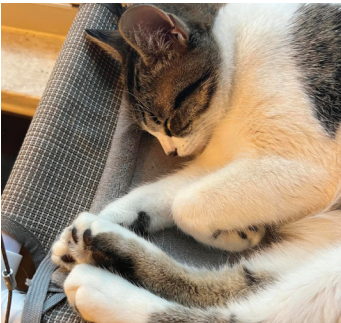
(formerly Ryder)

Adopted March 2024



**Jimmy Dean**

Adopted February 2024



**Kaimana**

(formerly Sarah)

Adopted December 2023



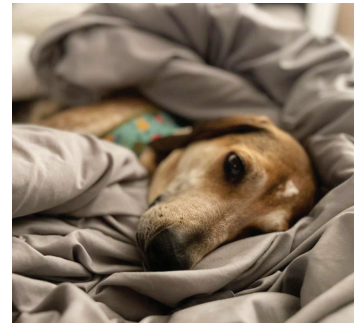
**Mittens**

Adopted December 2023



**Oreo**

Adopted February 2024



**Queso Bella**

(formerly Reba)

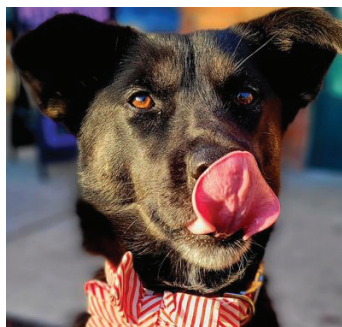
Adopted March 2024



**Roary Rose**

(formerly Happy)

Adopted February 2023



**Roxanne**

Adopted July 2022



**Sylveon**

Adopted June 2023



**Walter and Trixie**

Adopted October 2021  
and February 2022

[illegible]

## ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES:

**AIRBOX FLEXIBLE PRODUCTS** – donated food, treats, toys & supplies collected during the Holiday Season

**CHARLIE'S STILL ON MAIN** – donated 10% of their “Moose” specialty drink proceeds in honor of their best buddy, “Moose” to benefit the animals of MARL

**CLUB PET** – donated “Wish List” items collected during the Holiday Season

**NOVI CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC** – donated “Wish List” items and cash donations during the Holiday Season

**OAKLAND HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL –**  
donated “Wish List” items collected during the  
Holiday Season

**REAL ESTATE ONE & MAX BROOCK REALTORS  
OF CLARKSTON** – donated over \$700 from their  
euchre tournament to benefit the animals of MARL

**VIBE CREDIT UNION** – donated over \$700 from their euchre tournament and chili cook-off

## KIDS DOING GOOD IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

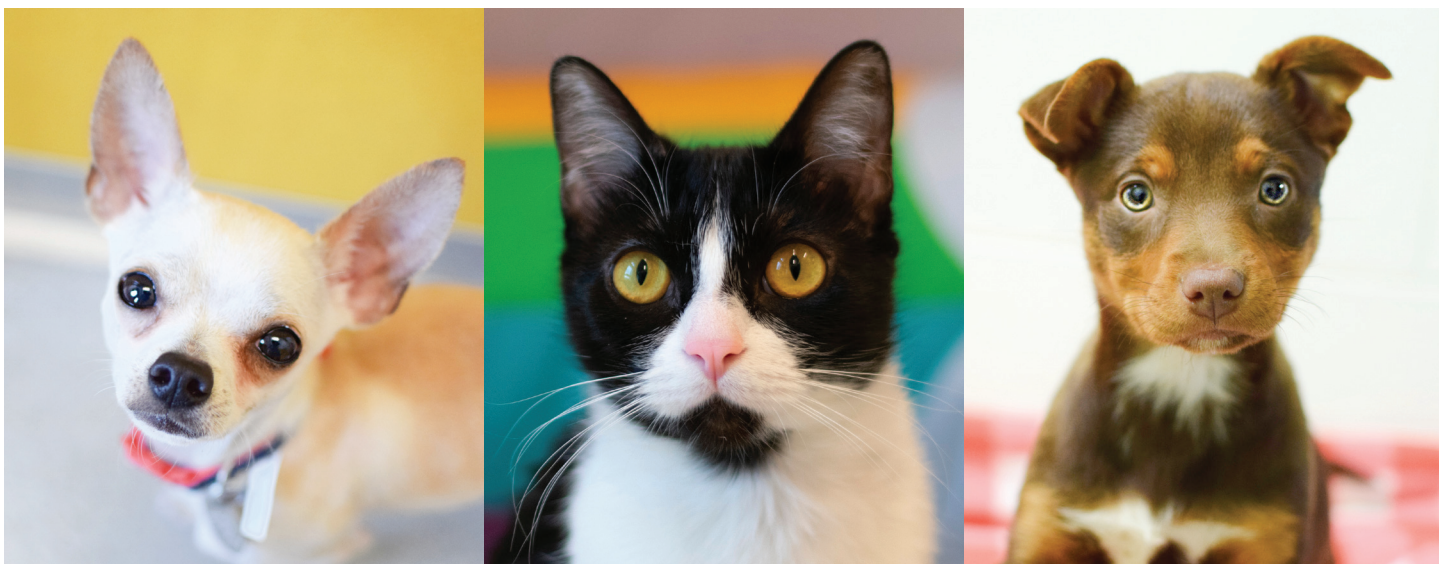
**RACHEL BENFORD, GIRL SCOUT TROOP 77075 –**  
Raised over \$500 to benefit MARL

**HUNTER EDDINGTON** – collected \$125 and supplies during the Holiday Season

**ELIZA LIPP** – collected cat & dog supplies in lieu of presents for her 10th birthday to benefit the animals at MARL

**AINSLEY LIEFER** – Donated over 40 homemade snuffle mats to benefit the animals at MARL

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 brands  
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 the 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.**



790 FEATHERSTONE  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN  
248.335.9290

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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PERMIT NO. 851



## GUARDIAN SOCIETY

You can make a lasting impact in a variety of ways beyond traditional donations with a range of giving options to suit your preferences and financial goals.

Whether it's through a will or trust, retirement assets, life insurance, IRA rollover, charitable gift annuity, or stock, bond, or mutual fund donations, your support ensures the sustainability and growth of our work.

Each method offers unique benefits and opportunities to leave a legacy that will positively impact future generations.

**Contact Magee Humes at 248-335-9290 or  
[mhumes@marl.org](mailto:mhumes@marl.org) to start a conversation.**