



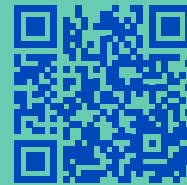
790 FEATHERSTONE
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
248.335.9290

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NEW YEAR, NEW PURPOSE

Resolution for 2026 to get more steps?
Make a difference? Give back to the community?
Volunteer with MARL! Opportunities are available in
our dog and cat care programs – join us today and
start the year off right.



**QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?
WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
PLEASE CONTACT US AT SBOVEN@MARL.ORG**

THE **MARL** REPORT

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

WINTER 2025



**THE MAGIC OF MARL
STARTS WITH YOU**



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
- Steve Engel | President Elect
- Jim Issner | Treasurer
- Jenny Heinrich | Secretary
- Arlene Agree | Director
- Jody Astrein | Director
- John Bebes | Director
- Patricia Cox | Director
- Beth Davidson | Director
- Laura Fenton | Director
- Barb Grant | 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

P: 248.335.9290 | **F:** 248.335.0261
E: info@marl.org

marl.org

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAYS – SATURDAYS 12-5 PM

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



VISIT US

ENTRANCE A – MAIN ENTRANCE AND ADOPTION CENTER PARKING LOT:
Off Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N, just south of Featherstone

ENTRANCE B – LAURA B. FENTON ENRICHMENT CENTER:
On the corner of Featherstone and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N

ENTRANCE C – ANIMAL INTAKE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ENTRANCE:
Off Featherstone

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

- Cynthia Howard | President Emeritus
- Ted Barnhart
- Tracie and Charlie Berry
- Luanne Broecker
- Jeff Davidson
- Honorable Barry Howard
- Deanna Malczewski
- Jana McNair
- Kerry Peltola
- Larry Poupard
- Rick Tully, DVM
- Ken Whipple





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day animals arrive at MARL who have nowhere else to turn – seniors in need of medical care, abandoned litters of puppies and kittens, frightened strays, and beloved pets whose families can no longer care for them. For each one MARL represents safety, compassion, and hope. Our promise to the animals – and to you, our dedicated supporters – is simple but profound: to provide exceptional care today while building a lasting legacy for tomorrow.

Keeping that promise isn't easy. It takes heart, hard work, and smart, forward-looking leadership to meet the growing and complex needs of animals who rely on us – and I'm proud to say that MARL has that leadership. Together with our dynamic Board of Directors, 25 highly skilled and compassionate staff members, and more than 300 dedicated volunteers, we are united by one mission: to deliver excellence in care today while ensuring that same standard continues long into the future.

That means constantly learning, improving, and making the best possible choices for the animals in our care – decisions informed by experience, data, and research. At MARL, every act of compassion is backed by sound stewardship and smart leadership. You can feel confident supporting MARL knowing that our team works tirelessly – and thoughtfully – to stretch every dollar and maximize every resource for the animals who need us most.

It isn't always easy work, but it's the work that matters. And that's what makes MARL a different breed of shelter.

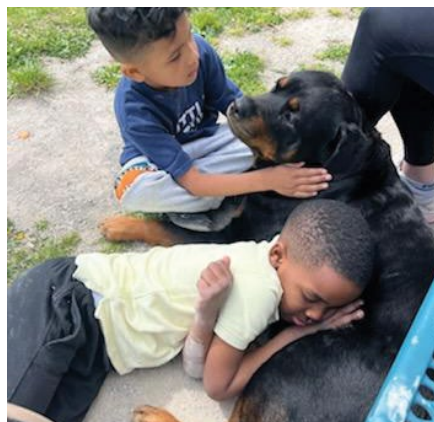
Thank you for believing in this mission and standing beside us. Your support is imperative to our truly life-saving work. Together, we're ensuring that MARL remains strong, compassionate, and ready to save lives – now and for generations to come.

Magee Humes
Executive Director



A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND PURPOSE: **LAINNEY'S LIFE AFTER MARL**

The homeless dogs and cats who come through our doors often go on to do extraordinary things. These are the animals who were once discarded, forgotten, or in crisis, and are now therapy dogs, best friends to children, companions for seniors, or simply steady sources of unconditional love for someone who really needed it. **Lainey is one of those animals.**



LAINNEY'S GENTLE PRESENCE BRINGS PEACE, CONFIDENCE, AND CONNECTION TO PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST. LAINNEY WAS ONCE DISCARDED AND FORGOTTEN. BUT TODAY, SHE'S SOMEONE'S EVERYTHING.

LAINEY'S STORY

"We knew the day we took Lainey home that there was something extra special about her. We took her on her first walk through our neighborhood, and the first group of people we passed had a child with them. The child reached out to Lainey and the mother was attempting to step aside so we could pass. But Lainey had other plans. She sat right next to the little girl until she was done petting her. Each time we passed another person, Lainey would stop and sit. She was so gentle and had a knack for knowing who needed her near them.

This prompted me to wonder if the kids in my class would benefit from her patience. I took her to school and before the students arrived, I walked her around to meet the staff. One teacher had a particularly special moment with her that morning. She leaned down and hugged Lainey. As she looked up, she had tears in her eyes. Her husband was battling cancer and was in an immense amount of pain. She said to me that she had an especially tough morning and needed that interaction.

As the students began to arrive, Lainey sat patiently and greeted every child. We have many special-needs students who struggle just to come into the building. But not on the days Lainey greeted them. Every child she encountered would touch her head and say good morning with a smile. The staff would always say the energy in the building was different on days that Lainey was there. And it was. She lifted stress from everyone.

I decided to have Lainey certified as a therapy dog and she passed with flying colors. One of the women at the training center used a wheelchair and told me that she was nervous of big dogs. But Lainey seemed to sense her apprehension. Lainey sat next to the wheelchair with her head facing away from the woman, as if she was intentionally showing her that she was not a threat. The woman cried and kept thanking me for helping her get past her fears of big dogs. I had nothing to do with it. It was all Lainey! I never trained her to do that. She just did it.

Since then, we have moved into a new home with a huge yard that is next to a busy park. Everyone who walks by our house always stops if Lainey is outside to interact with her. She is amazingly gentle with other animals. She lays down if another dog is small so they can play with her. My sister-in-law was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Every time she comes over Lainey sits right next to her and leans into her. It's like she knows she needs love. She truly is a best friend to everyone she meets.

My husband and I treat Lainey like the baby we were never blessed with. She has been such an amazing addition to our home and has become an integral part of our family.

We take her to restaurants, the baseball field to watch our nieces play, on vacations, to stores, anywhere Lainey is allowed to go, she goes. We plan to make sure Lainey lives her best life for whatever years we are lucky enough to have left with her. She is the sweetest girl, and we truly are so lucky to have found her at MARL."

– JESSICA LEMMON, MOM OF LAINEY (PREVIOUSLY SHAUNA, ADOPTED MARCH 2024)



“What started out as a festive treat has evolved into an annual tradition here at MARL – one that has gotten national media coverage, resulted in lots of new fans of Team MARL, and allowed viewers to witness unique moments of joy among a deserving group of shelter animals.

The day itself can definitely be a bit hectic – there’s lots of prep work, a tight schedule, and (first and foremost) the normal goings-on of a busy animal shelter – but it’s always worth it. The dogs are happy, immersed, and occasionally chaotic. The cats love the special treats and extra attention. And of course, we all love watching shelter animals have a fantastic day.

The outpouring of support from the public has been truly humbling, and the positive impact has been massive. We are looking forward to another great year and plan to take the day-of coverage up a notch, giving our viewers and supporters even more to enjoy. Thanksgiving has become an important date on the MARL calendar, and we hope you’ll join us for the festivities this year.”

– TOMMY SANFILIPPO, MARL CONTENT COORDINATOR





PAWSITIVELY SURE: THE PROGRAM CHANGING LIVES

MARL's Pawsitively Sure Trial Adoption Program gives potential adopters the chance to get to know their new best friend in the comfort of their own home without the pressure of a formal adoption. This unique approach helps animals who may take a little longer to find their match, offering them the time and space to truly shine once they've settled into a new routine.

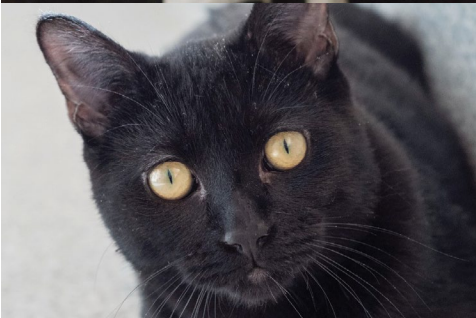
Since its launch in 2024, the program has been changing lives, both human and animal, by giving families the confidence to say "yes" and giving our residents the second chance they deserve.

THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES: 90% OF TRIAL ADOPTIONS END IN FOREVER HOMES!



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING AND WONDERING WHETHER YOUR FUTURE COMPANION QUALIFIES FOR THE PROGRAM, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT 248-335-9290 OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE.

MARL'S PAWSITIVELY SURE TRIAL ADOPTION PROGRAM IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROBIN WRIGHT AND KIM HURLEY.





REMEMBER GOUDA AND FILBERT?

Gouda was transferred to MARL from an overcrowded shelter. She was shy and uncertain around new people, and it took time and patience to earn her trust. Around the same time Filbert came through our doors, a dog so withdrawn at another shelter that he had completely shut down. His sad, solemn face captured our hearts, and we knew we had to help.

When Gouda and Filbert met at MARL, they became instant playmates, and together, their confidence began to bloom. When a prospective adopter visited the shelter, she instantly saw the bond between them and wanted to give them both the chance to continue their journey together.

HERE'S WHAT THEIR ADOPTER, EMILY SCHUBBE, HAD TO SAY ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE:

"We honestly had no idea about the option for trial adoption, but it certainly made our choice easier... particularly when I wanted to bring home two dogs instead of one! I'm sure without that option we wouldn't have been able to bring them both home, and knowing both Gouda and Filbert's personality and bond, I'm not sure how either of them would've done without having the other there with them. I'm so glad we did it. Filbert and Gouda are doing great, and we love them both. They're hilarious and bring a lot of laughs to the home. Please keep the program going. It was low stress and helped make our decisions easier!"

– EMILY SCHUBBE, MOM OF
GOUDA AND FILBERT
(ADOPTED MARCH 2025)





A SIMPLE, TAX-WISE WAY TO HELP ANIMALS IN NEED

If you're age 70½ or older and have a traditional IRA, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) - a gift sent directly from your IRA to MARL - and see your generosity go further.

WHEN YOU MAKE A QCD:

- The amount goes directly to MARL and is not counted as taxable income.
- It can satisfy part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- You may reduce your overall tax burden - even if you don't itemize deductions.

Each year, supporters use this giving option to provide lifesaving medical care, safe shelter, and second chances for the 1,500+ animals who come through MARL's doors. It's a powerful way to make an impact today while giving wisely for the future.

HOW TO MAKE A QCD:

1. Confirm you're 70½+ and have an eligible IRA.
2. Ask your IRA custodian to send your gift directly to MARL.
3. Let us know so we can thank you and provide proper documentation.

For more information, please contact us at 248-335-9290 or info@marl.org.

(Always consult your financial or tax advisor to determine what's best for your situation.)





IMPACT REPORT



1,500

Animals received life-saving care



94%

Live Release Rate



566

Animals benefited from MARL's Foster Program



UP 79%



240

Community animals benefited from outreach support



23,500

Volunteer Hours*
*Not including foster hours



UP 30%



350+

Active Volunteers



90%

Animal Care Employee Retention



132K



99K



59K





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 May 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025.

IN HONOR OF

Amelia | Christopher Stout
Amy Bell | Jonathan Lerner
Andrea Brimmer | Amy and Jeff Petoskey
Andromeda and Hawking | Susan Brown
Becky Levine | Cindy and Barry Howard
Beth and Jeff Davidson
Luisa and Joe Skoney
Beth Davidson | Jeffrey Davidson
Betsy Barnes | Charlotte Budd
Bill Edwards | Julia Greenbaum
Charlene Handleman | Nina Gilrane
Tom Lawrence
Chris Beeman | John Baker
Cindy and Barry Howard | Barbara and Marty Burnstein
Cindy Howard | Becky Levine and Lucas Marilyn Rubin
Colleen Lewis | Kristal Serna
Craig Akin | Darlene Tomczyk
David Barnes | The Nauert's

Donna Schiele | The Good Part Foundation
Dorie Wallace and family
Dan and Debby Heller
Dr. Carrie Washburn DVM | Claudia Washburn
Esther Littmann | Carl Littmann
Foster family of our kittens Leonardo and Pablo | Jill Schubiner
Frank, Jimmy, and Flip | Kathleen Laufman
and Doyle Horning
Gabriella Aronov | Men's Club of Adat Shalom
Gail and Patrick Willis | Kathy and Eric Roman
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Maria and Dan Makarski
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Matthew Mardigian | Sharon Maraian
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Rhoda Raider | The Simmons Family

Romy | Jeff Azoury
Romy Azoury | Stephanie Shankin
Sailor and Bowie | Marian and Paul Brasmer
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Stan Fayne | Katherine Bell
Judy and Brian Bell
Susan Herzfeld | Judith Lynne Johnson
Tortoise and Tareyton Nevshehir
Noel Nevshehir
Vern Vine | Laurel Vine
Vinod Sehgal | Brian Hartline
Wylie and Wendy Chase | Evangeline Chase

IN MEMORY OF

Abby | Cindy Frenkel
Abby | Dawn and Tom Freeman
Allison | Linda Knight
Apollo | Lisa and Kenny Fox
Arlene Colaluca | Jane Watters
Joyce Wegrenski and Paul Anderson
Carol Hahn
Nicole Overbeek
Arlene Trute | Al and Pauline Linden
Arlene Yovis (Dana Krut) | Michael and Faye Krut
Ashley | Briana Urban
Aston Iannettoni | Diane, Mary Zee, and Pam

Bambina | Beth Hall
Barbara Puckett | Kevin McMahon
Barbara Rutha | Donna Paul
Barnaby | Peticured
Bella | Brian Kutinsky
Bella | Donna Kelly
Bella Mitchell | Peticured
Belle | Naomi Starr
Belle | Beth and Jeff Davidson, and Bentley
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Betsy Lewis and Dayne Liberty
Barbara Wunderlich

Betty | Rachel Hayes
Betty Kay Cook | Linda McClelland
Bob Petroff | Sharon Tylanda
Bodhi | Linda Kahn Gale and Molly
Bodhi | Alan Simonelli
Brendan Santo | Kim Corey
Bruno | Marilyn Lengyel
Buddy | The Vachon Family
Capone | Liz Gannon
Carol Beck | Peggy and Tony Dahl
Carole Brice | Quaint Quilters Club
Cass | Jennifer Townsend
Cathy Ernst | Tina Zimbalatti and Rob Kemp
Pat Houk and Jim Dowbenko

Renee and Daniel Beeker
Charlie | Ellen and Rick Simmons
Cheryl Daskas | Jody and Gary Astreim
Fran and David and Family
Chief | Shelly Allyn-Podolsky
Churchill | The Simmons Family
Clarence Krupansley | Laurel Brehler
Coney Newman | Neil Babitch
Estelle Babitch
Connor Davidson | Naomi Starr
Judy and John Marx
Robin Wright and Kim Hurley
Margaret Kamenech
Molly Katchmark

Claudia Sills
Judy and Fred Green
Cooper | Robyn McCormack
Copper | Susan Scott
Craig Akin | Nella St. John
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David W. Elliott | Cheryl A. Gambaro
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Donald Derby | Susan Taphouse
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Nick Gies
Henry Ford Genesys Therapists
Dorie Wallace | Meredith and Jeff Epstein
Dough | Jill Katich
Duane Randall | Janet and Greg Priestap
Duke | Sue Gardner
Dulce | Ana Ouzounian
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David Medow
Margaret and Michael Updike
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Fig | Peticured
Fig Bigio | Patti and Rick Phillips
Fiona | Nancy Baker
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Gail | Ellen and George Forbes
Gail Brown | Kelly Badeau
Diane Simpson
Gail W. Brown and Lexi | Ellen Forbes
George Denes | Lisa Fox
Gerry Ish | Stacy Ish
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Gracie | Claire Hogan
Grand Furbabies | Mary Lou Turner
Grazyna Gejcyg | Bridget Martin
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Harry | Julie Wright
Hayley Kraft | Barbara and Brian Belanger
Hogan Mungall | Peticured
Irv Hershman | Lisa and Lily Dizik
Izzy | Mandy, Gabe, and Noah
Izzy | Beth Storm
Jean Heider | Michael Heider
Jeep | Peticured
Jennifer Axner | Grace Fuller
Jerry Fields | Allan, Linda Kahn Gale, and Molly
Joanne Bradley | Barbara Onofrio
Joel Katz | Allan and Linda Kahn Gale
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Maryann Aiton
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Lili and Adam Camden
Susy Klass
Judith Matasar | Kenneth Matasar
Juju | Elli Altman
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Katie | Claudia Wehrle
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Koda Halstead | Pam Diener
Kodi | Julie Heidt
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Maureen Proudfoot
Lacey | Amanda Brown
Lane Zawicki | Kristen Fox
Larry Steiner | Pauline and Al Linden
Leah Levinsky | Lisa and Ken Fox
Lily and Gracie | Gary and
Patricia Scott-Eisenberg
Linda Handleman | Cheryl Ruppall
Linda Render | Mary Pierce
Lois Wodika | Judy Kelly
Lola | Elizabeth Vachon
Ludwig and Harvey | Alexa Ruhfass
Magnolia | Ron and Janet Strote
Marcy | Peticured
Marie Zimmerman | Christa Byrd
Dorothy Samyn
Vicki Bonus
Janet and Tom Kotenko
Deanna Malczewski
Kitty Jelnicki
Jim's co-worker Territory 9
Barbara White
The Roodbeen Family
Lorri and Joe Zimmerman
Marjorie Lois Feldman Grossman
Sherrie and Mark Sucher
Richard A. Yorke
The Bohm Family
Rozanne Sedler
The Bellware Family
Jill Bussler and Karen Weiner
Barbara Woolf-Packard
Susan Altfeld and Lee Grosky
Shelly Rossmoore
Jaynie and Steve Craig
Jerold and Mary Blakey
Sara and Andy Craig
Barry Swidler
Amy Richards
Wolf and Shanna Mueller
Barbara and Jules Olsman
Marshall Astrein | Naomi Starr
Mary "Molly" Helen Chamberlain | Oldham Law
Mary Jane Tanner | Sisters Jean and Bonnie
Maureen Centers | Denise Kaufman
Providence UR Department
Max Blank | Ann and Royce Benjamin
Maxine Baraga | Peggy Ronan
Melissa Ann Barrett | Kathryn Londeck
Mia Fecteau | Jackie Cervi
Mike Morrow | Jeanne Byron
Miley | Fran Grossman
Mindy Vivian | Joseph Rizzo
Molly | Bev and Art Tack
Molly | John and Kathy Williams
Molly | Katie Haller

Molly Chamberlain | Ann Lynch
Megan and Sheila Lynch
Myah and Harper | Patrick and Diana Mahoney
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Peggy Murray
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Stark Reagan, P.C.
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Nancy Tsampikou | Elaine Jett
Nash | Lisa Mihovich
Nora Bones | Devon Dean
Odin and Samson | The Pason Family
Oliver | Mary Ellen Dawson
Paul Deni | Mary and Rob Seeterlin
Melissa Siegle
Wendell and Alex Peterson
Elizabeth and Frank Deni
Pepper | Eileen Abel
Peter Schirmer | Jeffrey and Jonna Young
Phoebe Macintosh | Terry and Lois Fry
Courtney Cohn
Phoenix and Jersey | Cynthia Reinhart
Pistachio | Liz Pingtella
Poco | Lauren La Valle
Poppy | Allan and Linda Kahn Gale and Molly
R. and L. Sarti | Geralyn Sarti
Rascal | Mary Elizabeth Barnes
Raymond "Ray" Michael Bisson
Random Acts of Kindness
Richard Harris | Carol Wyman
Robert H. Falska | Suzanne Palazzolo
Cynthia Falska and Patrick Tinney
Rochelle "Shelley" Krosnick | The Klein's
Elayne and Dan Steinhardt
Roger Martin | Lynne and Rich Noelke
Rosemarie Karbal | Jody and Gary Astrein
Sherry and Michael Surnow
Marla Zack and the Boys
Julie Nelson-Klein
Marilyn and Zaven Dadian
Connie Jacob
Naomi Starr
Linda and Andy Jacob
Pamela Brown
Susie Gross
Catherine and Nathan Forbes
Mark and Helaine Keller
Nancy Luckoff
Nancy and Harvey Solway
Marcie and Marc Schechter
Sharyl and Alan Ackerman
Debi Weinstein
Michelle Wolfe
Jayme and Jeffrey Kirschner
Marlo Scott
Nancy and Ron Rechter
Judee and Richard Lewis
Nora and Robert Vahratian
Karen and Richard Minkin
Stacy and David Gordon and Family
Lisa and Bob Gittleman
Roz and Stanford Blanck
Jan Rosen
Margo Apple
Kimberly Zampler
Pam Nodel
Julie Stern
Josh Berger

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Lisa and Gary Weisman
Paula and Lou Glazier
Leslie, Randy, and Missy Popkin
Lisa Rotter
Marla and Cliff Ciccote
Claudia Sills
Jennifer Bezemek
Zachary Kay
Robin and Carl Cohen
Maxine Lievois
Karen Schoenberg
Susan Sosnick
Sue Ellen Eisenberg
Adam Glassman
Renee Lossia Acho
Chris and Carrie Brochert
Denise, Bob, and Susan
Roxy Reno | Shelly Truszkowski
Ruby and Max | Nina and Jeff Lopatin
Ryder Weolosi | Michelle Bone
Sally Young | Paula D'Ambrosio
Samantha "Sammy" Kondos | Lisa and Barb
Sammy | Kim Hurley/Robin Wright
Sammy | Andrea Richards
Sandra Bockelman | Andrea Thurm
Robert and Carol Cameron
Peggy Miller
Dawn Bockelman
Herb and Sue Lucre
Sasha Mead | Mary Dempsey
Sassy | Nancy Jensen
Seeley Itchon | Casey O'Connell
Shelley Krosnick | The Kushner Family
Shorty | The Gouin Family
Simba | Jim and Lori Issner
Skye Weckstein | Patti and Rick Phillips
Snoop | Kendall Barbieri
Steele | Mary Porter
Stoner McCool | Glenn and Mary Gosine
Sunshine | Allan and Linda Kahn Gale and Molly
Suzie Q | Amanda Magill
Sweetie | Carol Mann and Carmen Totten
and Callie
Tiffany | Dottie and Roger Barnett
Toots | Pamela Maben
Trudy Smith | Elaine Brown
Valentine | Jodie Arnaudov
Vinod Sehgal | Mary Mahoney
LeAnn Maynard
The Koran Family
Natalie Jones
Jeffrey Burlingame
Marianne Huben
Walbridge Construction
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DIG Office
William Edwards | Rick and Tammy Metrick
Winston | Christy Worrell
Winston Christensen | Kristie Arens
Zoe | Sandi Stewart
ZuZu | Judy Schaffer



YAPPY HOUR 2025

On September 18, 2025, MARL hosted its most magical Yappy Hour yet. Set in the stunning gardens of Meadow Brook Hall, more than 550 guests, accompanied by hundreds of their four-legged friends, gathered for an unforgettable evening celebrating the Magic of MARL.

From food and cocktails to strolling magicians, pet psychics, red carpet photos, and a dog bar stocked with gourmet treats, every detail of the night made this celebration truly special.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, guests, and donors, we raised over \$350,000 to support the over 1,500 dogs and cats that will find safety at MARL this year. We can't thank our supporters enough for making this an unforgettable event and keeping the Magic of MARL alive for the animals who need it most.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S YAPPY HOUR, SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2026, AT MEADOW BROOK!

If you are interested in joining the host committee or becoming a sponsor for Yappy Hour 2026 please contact Sam Boven at sboven@marl.org or 248-335-9290.





THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2025 SPONSORS! THEIR SUPPORT MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!

GOLD GRAND CHAMPION

THE AGREE FAMILY
PATRICK & LAURA
FENTON
THE CAPLAN FAMILY
OF RESCUES

BEST IN SHOW

CHARLENE HANDLEMAN
AND HER MARL
RESCUES
SANDY & KEITH KONDOS
CHRISTINE & DAVID
PROVOST
MIKE SAVOIE
CHEVROLET
ROBIN WRIGHT & KIM
HURLEY
TITO'S HANDMADE
VODKA

TOP DOG

JK FARBER FAMILY
FOUNDATION
CINDY & BARRY HOWARD
BARBARA & STEVEN
KOHLER
THE BARKSHIRE RESORT
FOR PAWS

LOYAL FRIEND

Barry-Bashur Foundation in
Memory of Peggy Bashur
Marina & John Bebes
Carolyn & Jim Bellinson
Beth & Jeff Davidson
EIG14T
Lori & Jim Issner
Dr. Justin F. Klamerus
Luxe Event Linen
Tina & Dennis Mirku

Stephen Rehmann & Jeffrey
Smith
Kimberly & Ken Whipple
Laurence Wolf

BEST BUDDY

A. Alfred Taubman Foundation
Animal Emergency Center
Betsy Barnes
Cerity Partners
Deporre Veterinary Hospital
Diversified Portfolios, Inc./Ron
Yolles & Laura Hirschhorn
David & Frances Grossman
Susan & Tim Lucken
Sigma Investment Counselors
The Hope Foundation
MJ & Jay Wright

GOOD DOG

Bank of Ann Arbor
Margaret "Peggy" Bashur in
Memory of Harvey Bashur
Charlie's Still on Main
Sue Ellen Eisenberg &
Associates, PC
Empire Tile & Marble Co./The
Bianchini Family
Tracie & Steve Engel
Financial One Accounting, Inc.
Bob & Linda Sue Fries
Nancy & James Grosfeld
IDEXX Laboratories
Ms. Donna Major
Michigan Doodle Rescue
Connect
Orion Oaks Animal Hospital
Frank Rewold & Sons
Tully Veterinary Services
UHY
Carol Wyman in Memory of
Richard Harris

PARTY ANIMAL

Accubalance Bookkeeping
Services
John April & Mike Clawson
Jody & Gary Astrein

East Street Pilates
Harold G. Schaevitz Industries
Ms. Connie Hogan
Integrative Oral Medicine
Magna
Patti & Rick Phillips
Premier Pet Supply
Olivia, Dennis, & Sadie Ross
Sarah Saltzman & Scott Loney
Serra Ford Buick GMC Rochester
Hills
Trisha Mell Real Estate
Joe & Mary Ann Troy

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Steve* & Tracie Engel

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Stacey Walker
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Robin Wright*

*2025 Board of Directors



THE MAGIC OF MARL

At MARL, every detail, from the way our animals are cared for to the people who care for them, is part of what makes us “A Different Breed of Shelter.” The Magic of MARL is in the moments of love, comfort, and second chances that happen within our walls daily.



PARTY IN THE BALL PIT

The ball pit, a staple of MARL's socialization room, is one of our dogs' favorite enrichment activities. It's a place to play, explore, sniff out hidden treats, and rediscover what it feels like to relax, have fun, and just be a dog.

THE COMFORTS OF HOME

Special programs like MARL's Comfort Crew go above and beyond to ensure every animal feels secure. When fireworks or loud storms are expected, staff and volunteers stay after hours to sit with anxious dogs and cats, offering fun distractions, gentle reassurance, and company until the noise fades.





NUGGETS!

Sometimes it's the smallest thing that brings the biggest smiles. Our dogs know when it's nugget time, a special little treat just because they deserve it. It's one of MARL's most beloved traditions (and a fan favorite on social media). Everyone agrees: 10/10, always!

THE CAT'S MEOW

Cats at MARL enjoy plenty of enrichment and attention. Wand toys, catnip, lasers, and daily quality time with our amazing team of volunteers keep our feline friends active, curious, and happy while they wait for a home.



TIME FOR ZOOMIES

MARL's play yards, generously sponsored by Cindy and Barry Howard, give dogs a chance to stretch their legs, fetch, socialize with other dogs, and soak up the sunshine. Whether it's a lively play group or a quiet moment to relax outdoors, our canine residents enjoy spending lots of time charging up and feeling the wind in their fur.

LOVE YOU CAN FEEL

Every animal at MARL has a team of people who know them best. Staff and volunteers spend daily one-on-one time with our residents, giving comfort, confidence, and connection. These moments remind our dogs and cats they're safe, loved, and deserving of kindness.



WISH BOOK

With MARL's Holiday Wish Book, you can spread some holiday magic and give our animals exactly what they need most during their stay at the shelter - a cozy bed, a soothing bath, a fun outing, or a new toy to brighten their day. Each symbolic gift you choose helps keep tails wagging and hearts happy all season long.

Shopping is simple! Browse the Wish Book, select your gifts, and even donate on behalf of someone special, a perfect present for any animal lover.

To help as many animals as possible, your donation will be combined with others to support the wishes of MARL animals throughout the holidays.



**MAKES A
GREAT GIFT!**

BETTER THAN FRUITCAKE

Planning a holiday gathering this season? Add a meaningful twist by inviting your guests to bring supplies from MARL's Wish List or make a monetary donation to support the animals in our care.

It's a simple way to turn your celebration into something truly special, spreading joy not just among your guests, but to the dogs and cats spending the holidays at the shelter.

WORKPLACE GIVING

If your workplace is looking for a meaningful way to give back this holiday season, consider supporting the animals at MARL! Company-wide supply drives and fundraising events are a wonderful way to celebrate the season of giving while showing your team's compassion in action.

MARL is happy to provide everything you need to make your event a success, from marketing materials and donation boxes to arranging a formal donation drop-off. Your team can even visit the shelter to deliver your gifts in person and see firsthand the many faces benefiting from your generosity.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT HOLIDAY
GIVING? PLEASE CONTACT
SBOVEN@MARL.ORG OR
248-335-9290.**

VISIT MARL.ORG TO LEARN MORE.







NAUGHTY



PENCE

Selectively deaf when it's bathtime
Thinks commands are "suggestions"



TOAD

Plays keep away during fetch and thinks it's funny
Chewed up a staff member's treat pouch and would do it again



SNOWY

Master of the side-eye
Meows dramatically until fed, then saunters away



SASHI

Rolls over for belly rubs but it's a trap
Knocks things off the counter while making direct eye contact



NICE



DAFNY

Greets visitors with a full body wiggle
Gives the best hugs in the building



MAPLE

Shares her toys most of the time
Waits patiently for treats, even chicken nuggets



PATCHES

Nonstop purrs during medical treatments
Makes biscuits daily with no expectation of compensation



KELLY KAPOWSKI

Lets the other cats go first during dinner time
Chosen model for photo shoots but doesn't let the fame get to her head



THANK YOU



WING LAKE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Dropped off supplies, toys, and treats to benefit the dogs and cats at MARL



ORCHARD LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

Selected MARL as the charity of choice for their annual women's golf outing, donating over \$7,000 in proceeds

EMMA HAGERTY

Sold homemade bracelets and donated the proceeds to MARL

PATTENGILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GIRLS ON THE RUN TEAM

Donated supplies and proceeds from their community service project.

KATHRYN HAISLIP

Donated garage sale proceeds to benefit MARL



TROOP 77187

Collected and donated \$188 to benefit the animals at MARL

HAGOPIAN CARPET

Has generously donated carpet samples to benefit the cats at our PetSmart Adoption Center in Northville

AMAZON DDT6

Regularly donates supplies to benefit the dogs and cats at MARL

GESTHAMP NORTH AMERICA, INC

Collected and donated over \$1,000 to benefit the animals at MARL



CERITY PARTNERS

Hosted a group volunteer day here at MARL, supporting our enrichment and socialization programs

MAGNA

Hosted an onsite event for employees to visit MARL animals during their lunch break. Magna generously matched all the proceeds, raising over \$2,900

CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Held a "dress down" fundraiser, giving employees the opportunity to dress down on Fridays during the summer months. They raised \$2,246 and held two volunteer events at the shelter to allow employees to support our mission in person

MEADOWS AUTOMOTIVE

Held a car show fundraiser for MARL at High Octane Bakery in Waterford, raising over \$2,500

WALTONWOOD UNIVERSITY

MARL was the recipient of supply donations collected during their Bark Bar event

WALTONWOOD MAIN

Collected supplies during their "Dog Days of Summer" event and donated "barkuterie" treat boards for the dogs at MARL

SUBURBAN SUBARU OF TROY + ASPCA + DETROIT ZOO

Suburban Subaru of Troy hosted an adoption event at the Detroit Zoo, resulting in numerous dog adoptions, exposure, and a \$6,000 grant awarded by the ASPCA





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 Entrance C off Featherstone (790 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342) any day of the week before 7pm. For assistance, please ring the doorbell outside of our entrance.

WISH LIST:

Canned Dog Food | All brands

Canned Cat Food | All brands

Dry Kitten Food | Purina

Dry dog and puppy food | Purina One SmartBlend

Dog and cat toys | All types

Unscented clumping cat litter

Gently used or new harnesses, leashes, and collars | All sizes

Treat puzzles



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, expired medication, and used grooming supplies.

Keep in mind that dropping off things 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.