



BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

November 2015



Give Thanks

In this season of thanksgiving, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who make BENCHS a success. The dedicated staff and volunteers contribute in unbelievable ways to make every single cat and dog at the shelter feel loved and well cared for while they wait for their forever homes. Without the help of our generous donors, none of this would be possible. Thank you everyone! BENCHS is a unique and vibrant shelter because of you.

A Special Thank you note from Molly Harvey, Shelter Manager:



I have been a part of the shelter for about 9 months now. Before shelter life I was a very appreciative person, I thought. Now, I know I am an appreciative person. The last nine months have been the most humbling, rewarding, thought provoking months of my life. Just like when raising children, it takes a village to keep this animal shelter running smoothly. I want to take this moment to thank all of the villagers who make this shelter what it is, awesome! The dog walkers, Adopt A Condo helpers, front desk volunteers, cleaners, fosters, adopters, photographers, board members, financial supporters, adoption day helpers, gardeners, fundraising volunteers, transporters, shoppers, veterinarians, animal behaviorists and trainers, data entry, social media managers and most of all my staff. We come from a

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variety of backgrounds, but our one commonality unites us, our love for the animals. Without that we wouldn't be half the shelter we are today. I am also thankful that we are on track to find more homes for pets this year than we ever have in shelter history. This wouldn't be possible without the village. I am thankful for you! Molly Harvey-Shelter Manager



BENCHS Bake Sale

One of my fondest memories about Christmas is holiday baking. My mom and I would bake dozens of batches of spritz, white roll outs, krumkake, Russian teacakes, gingerbread men, and thumbprints. We arranged these cookies on plates and gave them to friends and family throughout the holiday season. Truly, these were gifts from the heart.

Not too many people have time to bake like this anymore. But that doesn't mean you have to be without homemade cookies and goodies this holiday season. BENCHS supporters will be baking delicious holiday treats for the BENCHS Holiday Bake Sale on Saturday, December 5, from 10:00-4:00 at Pet Expo. We are seeking volunteers to bake their favorite holiday cookie, bar, cake, or bread and bring them to Riverside Regional Pet Shelter on Friday, December 4, between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Or you can drop off at Pet Expo starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. The baked goods should be packaged and labeled. If your bars or cookies include nuts or your bread is gluten free, please indicate on the label. You may even want to include the recipe. Volunteers will price your items and bring them to the sale on Saturday morning, December 5. We invite you to come to the sale between 10:00 and 4:00 and invite your friends. All of the proceeds from the bake sale go to taking care of the homeless cats and dogs at the shelter. What a great way to celebrate the holiday season and support BENCHS!



Puppy Classes at BENCHS

Homes Needed



May I Have Your Attention Please?

Happy Thanksgiving

The shelter will not be open for adoptions on Thursday, November 26.

If you are interested in adopting a pet, we will reopen on Friday, Nov. 27 at 2pm.

Shelter Logowear

The holidays are just around the corner, and we will be taking orders for T-shirts, Hoodies and Crew-neck sweatshirts with the BENCHS logo.

Order forms will be available at the shelter, along with samples of available colors and sizes.

Payment must be made at the time of the order and orders must be placed by Dec. 9 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Watch the website (www.BENCHS.org) or our Facebook page for more details.



Upcoming Events

Holiday Bake Sale

December 5
10am - 4pm
Pet Expo



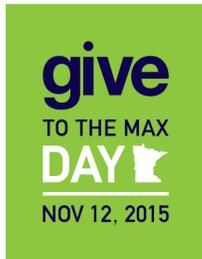
Shannon Lloyd, a certified professional dog trainer will be teaching a class for puppies between the ages of 8 and 18 weeks. The first class begins on Dec. 12 at 11 am This unique puppy class focuses on safe socialization. Puppies will learn to control the frequency and force of mouthing while playing with all size pups of similar ages. The class is well structured to provide a safe environment for off-leash play. Puppies will learn to temper their play styles.

Socializing your puppy is more than just about teaching him to behave at the dog park. It's about teaching your dog how to respond to new and potentially stressful situations in a way that's calm and safe for everyone involved. Cost for the class is \$50 for 4 weeks, with 4 free optional sessions available.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Shannon will also be teaching a AKC STAR puppy class beginning January 2, 11 am - noon for puppies aged 18 weeks to one year. Cost is \$75 for the six week class.

Want more information? [Click here](#).



Give to the Max Update

BENCHS donors did indeed "Give to the Max" on Thursday, Nov. 12. When the board members arrived at the shelter at 10 am, we were amazed to find that 75 donors had made online gifts of \$6,209. Earlier, the post office had delivered over \$5,000 in donations. We were off to an awesome start to the day.

The website was checked hourly for the latest donation figures and results posted in the Apollo. Excitement grew along with our total gifts. By mid-afternoon, the arrival of several staff members was our reminder to check the latest numbers. Having donors stop by to drop off checks and share stories of why they support us, watching families meet and adopt a new pet into their family, and observing the flurry of activity around the surgical suite and mobile spay/neuter van reminded us of the importance of BENCHS to the community.

The board set our goal for this event at \$40,000 - \$10,000 more than last year. Several donors agreed to match funds that were received up to \$14,000. When we

Kiwanis Holiday Lights Parade

6:00 PM Sibley Park
Wave to our mascots, Jake and Catnip, who will be riding in a convertible

Kiwanis Holiday Lights

Volunteer Shifts
December 13
4:40 - 7pm
6:30 - 9:30pm

December 24
4:40 - 7pm
6:30 - 9:30 pm

December 25
4:40 -7pm
6:30 - 9:30pm

December 26
4:40 - 7pm
6:30 - 9:30pm.

[Click here to volunteer](#)

Puppy Class

Begins Dec. 12, 11am
for puppies 8 - 18 weeks
old

[Register](#)



Vital Statistics

October Adoptions

Cats - 32
Dogs - 24

Total - 56



left the shelter at 8pm, we within about \$4,000 of our goal, and donations continued to be made. At the end of the day and into the early hours of Friday the 13th, our total donations received totaled \$37,410. We ranked #39 in a group of non-profits whose budgets go as high as \$1 million. BENCHS is one of the smaller groups in the pool.

We are also delighted that 70 new families have made a choice to help support BENCHS financially. Donations continue to trickle in and we're hoping to announce on Thanksgiving that we have reached our goal.

Thanks to everyone who made sure our message got out on Facebook, email blasts, postcards, and our website. And to our donors who not only share their money with us, but share our story of the great work that can be done when saving lives and creating families is your primary mission.

It feels like Christmas came to BENCHS a bit early this year!



Kiwanis Holiday Lights

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Volunteers, including 30 representatives from BENCHS, spent the last few weeks decorating Sibley Park for this annual festival.

We will need more volunteers to help during the event.

Our nights to work are

Sunday, December 13, (10 volunteers per shift)
Thursday, December 24 (2 volunteers per shift),
Friday, December 25 (2 volunteers per shift) and
Saturday, Dec. 26 (7 volunteers per shift).

The first shift is 4:40 - 7:00 pm. A meal will be available at the end of the shift. Second shift is 6:30 - 9:30 (or when the last car rolls through the park.) Come a bit early for dinner before your shift.

Four volunteers are needed on **January 2 from 1-3pm** to help with packing up lights and decorations.

This is a great fundraiser for BENCHS. Last year we received over \$700 from Kiwanis for our volunteer time.

Treasury Notes

January - October
Income Statement

Operating Income:
\$243,456

Operating Expenses:
\$267,526

Net Loss: **\$(24,070)**

While we are celebrating the generosity of donors on Give to the Max Day, the board is also sighing a huge sigh of relief. Our financial reserves were tapped out as we took in a number of animals who had serious and costly medical expenses. It's because of donors who care that we are able to accept these animals, treat them, and place them in loving homes. Thank you!

Holiday and year end donations have always been a treasurer's dream.

Our supporters remember us at this time and shower us with the resources we need to save those unfortunate critters. We're not totally out of the woods yet, so as you are looking at year end donations, keep BENCHS cats and dogs in mind.



Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

Shopping Amazon this holiday season? Click the link above to register for Amazon Smile and 5% of your purchases will go to BENCHS

[WoofTrax](#)

Add this app to your mobile phone, turn it on whenever

It's a great way to volunteer and enjoy share the holiday spirit.

[Sign up here](#)

Don't forget to find our tree in the row of volunteer organization trees. Vote for your favorite. Hint: BENCHS.

If you can't volunteer, please visit the park and consider making a cash donation. Visitor donations are shared between non-profits working the event based on the number of volunteer hours worked.



Elin Ringstrom Memorial Fund



Dr. Elin Ringstrom, an emergency medicine doctor in Mankato and a strong BENCHS supporter, passed away on September 26 after a brief battle with cancer. Friends of Dr. Ringstrom asked to set up a fund in her memory and the monies would go to upgrades for equipment in our surgical suite. We are pleased to announce that the goal of \$12,000 has been surpassed and the surgical suite will soon be named in Dr. Ringstrom's memory. Donations, received from

around the world, serve as a testament to how one person can touch many lives in many places. Our hope is that with the refurbishing of our surgical suite, we will be able to follow Dr. Ringstrom's example of kindness and compassion for animals in need.



Volunteer Spotlight



What is it like to be a BENCHS volunteer? Why do people decide to volunteer?

What are the benefits of volunteering at BENCHS? In order to answer these questions and give our readers a more personal view about volunteering, the

you take a walk and BENCHS will receive a donation for every mile that you walk. Great for you, your dog and BENCHS.



[Apply to Volunteer](#)

Dog Walkers

Orientation Session at 3:30pm on dog walking days. All dog walkers are required to attend a session. Sign up for Dog Walker Training during orientation

Front Desk Receptionist

Scribe

Work with staff to enter data into our ShelterManager database during animal intake.

Cleaners

Yard Work, Snow Removal Check
"Groundskeeping/Gardening" on the volunteer interest form



[Donate](#)

[Become a Member of BENCHS](#)

Membership - \$35 individual/family

[Kibble Klub Sustaining Membership](#)

Sustaining members begin at \$10 per month

[Special Funds](#)

Sponsor a Pet Spay/Neuter Fund
Vet & Vaccine Fund



next few newsletters will focus on an individual volunteer who really makes a difference.

When Sue Beyer retired after teaching elementary school in Le Center for 40 years, she wanted to volunteer in a setting different from the classroom. She began as a volunteer cleaning cat condos in January. After a short time, she noticed other things that needed to be done, like laundry and cleaning, and it wasn't long before she was spending all day Monday and part of Wednesday volunteering at BENCHS. When I asked her what she liked most about volunteering, she told me, "It makes me feel good. I can do what I like to do and every day is different." Volunteering at BENCHS keeps her active, she meets new people, and she definitely gets her dog and cat fix. Sue also helps at the dog walking desk, by signing in and out the dog walkers and making sure the process runs smoothly. She told me that volunteering gives her life structure, but at the same time she knows she can keep a flexible schedule. "Volunteering at BENCHS makes me feel good in my heart." Thank you Sue for making a difference!



Happy Tails

Every cat and dog at BENCHS has a story. We hope you enjoy these stories about dogs and cats that have found their forever homes.

Sugar



Sugar, a high energy Coon Hound/Mastiff mix, waited almost 4 months for her perfect forever home. This month a farmer came in with his family and adopted her. What a perfect match!

Dakota



Dakota was adopted by a young

[SOS - Save our Smiles](#)

Help cover the cost of dental care for our animals

[Make a Contribution](#)

Support the shelter with a donation or memorial



May I Come Home for Christmas?

As the weather gets colder, the shelter continues to receive calls daily about homeless animals. Here are a few of our cats and dogs who would like the gift of a forever home for Christmas. To learn more about these cats and dogs and more, visit [Petfinder](#).



Cuddles and Snickers



Marie and Frank are a bonded pair that need to find a home together



man named Dakota!

Alli



Alli, one of our longest and happiest residents has found a spot in the hearts of this couple!!

Thank you for adopting a senior dog!! (Now we don't have any senior dogs left!!!)

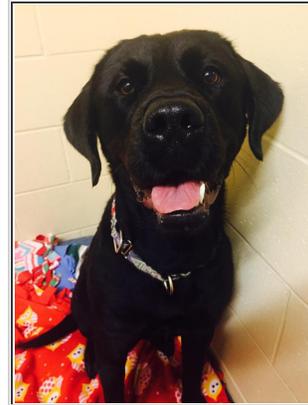
Pearl



Pearl found her forever home this month. Her new master obviously loves her very much!



Zada is our longest resident



Kiera

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

Happily at home at 1250 North Drive, Mankato, MN • 507.625.6373

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