



BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

January 2016

Looking Forward to 2016



As a little girl, one of my favorite memories was opening a new calendar on January 1, looking at the blank squares and imagining all the wonderful things that would fill that calendar by the end of the year. I get a bit of that same excitement as I look forward to this next year at BENCHS. Last year we placed 832 animals in new homes and the goal set by our managers for this year is to place 1,000 animals. Imagine all the lives that are impacted by that many rescues!

The board is looking forward to the fun events that make BENCHS one of the most respected shelters in the area. We'll be offering Spay/Neuter Clinics every month, regular puppy training classes for shelter puppies as well as non-shelter puppies, dog walker classes and certification, and volunteer orientations. We'll keep you posted in future issues on the dates for these events as well as all of our fundraisers. Our rose sale and Pasta at the Pub are both in February and the Pins for Paws Bowling tournament will be in early March. Our goal for each of these events is greater community involvement.

We'd like to increase the number of volunteers who find satisfaction in spending some of their time and energy at BENCHS, whether its walking dogs, caring for a condo, helping at an event or clinic or cleaning. We have a place for a variety of skills and interests. Can our volunteers work more than 10,000 hours?

Our donors were especially generous at the end of 2015, allowing us to start this year with a bit of a financial cushion. We are awed by the support we receive from donors across the country. We could not survive without this support and are so very grateful to each of our donors. Last year, there were 914 individuals, families, businesses, organizations and employers who supported BENCHS with a donation. Amazing! We're hoping for 1,000 donors in 2016.

In This Issue



- [Looking Forward](#)
- [Let There Be Light](#)
- [Partners in Training](#)
- [Buster's Legacy](#)
- [Puppy Classes](#)
- [Super Kids](#)
- [Happy Tails](#)
- [Special Thanks](#)
- [Our Wish List](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Vital Statistics](#)
- [Treasury Notes](#)
- [Painless Giving](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Volunteer](#)



**Special Thanks to
the Auto Restorer's
Club of So. MN**

We have an exciting year in front of us. By December, my clean calendar will be full of stories and a bit tattered and well used. I can't want to see what's in store for BENCHS in 2016.



Let There Be Light



Can you see me now?

If you've visited the shelter on a winter afternoon looking for a cat to adopt, you had to search hard to find the cats in the unlit condos facing the parking lot. The board had discussed the problem and it appeared that finding a way to light those condos would be costly. A casual conversation at a Christmas party introduced us to Brad Nelson, a local electrician who might be able to help us out. He found a blank plate in one of the condos which meant that they had been wired for light fixtures. Brad's son, Aaron, spent a day in late December installing new

lights in all of our front condos and donated his time. He also installed a light sensor which turns the condo lights on only when they are needed. What the board had feared would be a major electrical project was easily and inexpensively completed in a single day. The staff, the cats, and the board are so grateful to Brad and Aaron who gave us a wonderful Christmas gift.



Partners in Training

Every single dog and cat at BENCHS is special, but Rio has a unique story. Rio was one of the first group of puppies to be trained by Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADS), shortly after he was adopted from BENCHS by the Ball family in 2011.



PawPADS is a non-profit organization in Lakeville, Minnesota that trains assistance dogs and places them with people with disabilities. In 2011, PawPADS partnered with the Bureau of Prisons to offer the Prison Road Puppies Program. Rio spent two years being trained by an inmate trainer, and learned over 80 different tasks. After completing his training, Rio was placed as a Diabetic Alert Dog and partnered with Jerome and Thor Ball, who are both diabetic. During the day, Rio accompanies Jeremy to work where he alerts him of impending blood sugar levels. In the evenings and on the week-ends, he alerts both Jeremy and Thor about their blood glucose levels. The Ball family is so grateful for Rio's hard work every day and indebted to Rio's inmate

Every year the Auto Restorers Club of Southern Minnesota makes donations to organizations from the money they raise at their annual car show.

Susan Kroon attended their meeting on January 17, and gratefully accepted their donation of \$2500 for BENCHS. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Valentine Rose Sale

Once again, BENCHS will be having its annual rose sale. The cost is \$20.00 for a bouquet of one dozen roses wrapped in paw print paper. You can place your order online at BENCHS.org or at the shelter from 3 pm to 5 pm. Flowers will be available for pick-up on Friday, Feb. 12 and Saturday, February 13, at the Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. All proceeds go toward the care of homeless cats and dogs at the shelter!

10th Annual Pasta at the Pub

February 28
3:30 - 6:30 pm
Pub 500

All you can eat!
3 types of pasta, 2 sauces,
salad, garlic toast and soda.

Tickets are available online at benchs.org or at the shelter from 3 - 5 pm.
\$10 in advance
\$12 at the door

A wonderful tradition of filling up on great pasta and joining other BENCHS fans!

If you would be willing to sell a packet of tickets to friends and family email susan.kroon@gmail.com

trainer. Rio – you are one special dog!



Buster's Legacy

Some years ago at the old BENCHS location on Madison Avenue, a black and white cat was adopted. He was known as Buster and was the beloved pet to Sue Hamre for many years. Sadly, as with all pets, the day came that Buster was done on this planet and passed. His "mom" was so grateful to BENCHS for providing her this wonderful companion who according to her brought her joy many times every day of his life.

She gave a gift to BENCHS and asked that we create something special in memory of this best friend. We finally have nearly completed this project. The Busters Legacy, Meet and Greet room is framed, painted and last week we moved in two garden benches for seating. This NO DOGS ALLOWED space is designed to be a visiting space for potential cat adoptions. A lovely quiet room that will allow families to spend time with a cat and see if it is a match!

This beautiful tribute to Buster will make cat adoptions smoother and hopefully increase the number of cats that leave BENCHS. Thank you to Sue Hamre.



Puppy Training Classes

Shannon Lloyd, a certified professional dog trainer, is continuing her classes for puppies between the ages of 8 and 18 weeks. This unique puppy class focuses on safe socialization. Puppies are taught 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. Puppy class is included in the adoption fee for qualifying puppies. There is space for one more puppy in our current class. Next class begins February 27. Register online at benchs.org.

Shannon also teaches an AKC Star Puppy class. This class is for more than 18 weeks and less than one year old before the session ends. Participants will become prepared for juvenile to adolescent developmental stages. Pet parents will find guidance and support. Also included is basic manners training, setting the foundation for a well behaved adult dog! In addition to the basic skills, Shannon will teach manners (wait at the door, go to your bed, touch your hand) and a few tricks! Cost for the



Pins for Paws

March 8
WOW Zone

Gather a team and join us for an afternoon of food, fun and prizes. Watch the website for more information.



Vital Statistics

December Adoptions

Cats & Kittens - 39
Dogs & Puppies - 16
Total - 55



Treasury Notes

December Income Statement

Operations Income:
\$ 70,115

Operations Expenses:
\$41,383

Net Income (Loss)
\$28,519

2015 Annual Income Statement

Operations Income:
\$ 347,111

Operations Expenses:
\$332,193

Net Income (Loss)
\$ 14,917

6 week class is \$75. The next class begins on February 27.
 Register online at www.benchs.org.

SuperKids



Brenna, age 4, didn't want any birthday presents for herself, she wanted to give gifts to the cats and dogs at the shelter. ♥

Madison, age 8 asked her family if they could buy Christmas gifts for the animals at the shelter instead of buying her gifts. What an amazing girl and an awesome family!



Happy Tails

Mattson, aka Gio

Ali and her friends decided to have dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings on Halloween night. As they were parking their car, they noticed a litter of six abandoned kittens in the bushes. A good Samaritan took two of the kittens home and Ali took the other four home for the night to bottle feed. The next day she called animal control and the kittens were picked up. But Ali couldn't forget these kittens and told her boyfriend she thought it was a sign that they should adopt. Although most of the kittens did not make it, little Mattson survived. Ali and her boyfriend waited almost two months to bring him home. Mattson now rules the roost and loves to be held like a baby. Ali and her boyfriend renamed him "Gio," short for Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini, one of their favorite artists.



Carmen



Wish List

To make your shopping a bit easier, they included the place to purchase certain items in parentheses. A few items are in **bold** because we use only that brand. Thank you for remembering the homeless animals.

Bleach tablets (Walmart/
Hy-Vee)

Liquid bleach

Simple Green

Dawn dish soap

Stamps

Premium Edge adult cat food

Premium Edge kitten food

Premium Edge dog food

Premium Edge puppy food

(Premium Edge is available at Pet Expo)

Canned cat food

Canned dog food

Catnip toys

Large Kongs

Dog toys

Blankets

Towels

Liquid laundry detergent

Flat cat beds (easily washed)

Water resistant apron



Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

Are you an Amazon addict?

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



When Nate and Kara first met Carmen about a year ago at BENCHS, they were told she was brought to the shelter by a man who captured her on his land. He called her a "wild dog," and said if the shelter didn't take her, he would shoot her. Carmen was so dirty and matted she had to be shaved, and the staff also had to treat a wound on her neck. She was so scared and the only way she knew how to show that fear was to show aggression. The staff was hesitant to let them near Carmen, but Nate insisted and spent hours sitting by her kennel throwing her treats. Before too long, Carmen began to trust him and allowed Nate to brush her and they began playing catch. Nate continued to spend time with Carmen, showing her that people can be good and kind and loving. After some training, Nate and Kara agreed to foster Carmen until a suitable home could be found, but it wasn't long before they realized they could never part with this dog they had grown to love. Nate and Kara adopted Carmen at the end of August and cannot imagine life without her.

Nora

Alyssa Munsterman has always loved cats. About a year ago, she and her roommate decided they would like to foster some kittens from BENCHS. They took in three babies and kept them until they were old enough to be adopted. She remembers how much she enjoyed this experience. After Alyssa graduated from college, she and her cat, Memow, moved into a new house and both became lonely. She decided it would be a good time to foster kittens again, so went to BENCHS to find out about fostering. While she was waiting to talk to Molly, a scraggly little cat caught her eye. Molly asked her if she would consider fostering an older cat and put Nora in Allyssa's arms. Nora immediately began to purr and Allyssa knew how much this kitty needed her love. Allyssa learned how Nora had come to the shelter as a stray and weighed only 2lbs. Most of her weight was matted fur. She had to be shaved almost to her skin and became depressed and had problems with her teeth and eating. Alyssa began by feeding Nora wet food and it wasn't too long before she was eating dry food and playing with Memow. When Molly called to see how Nora was doing and asked Allyssa if she could bring her back in a few weeks so she could be weighed and put up for adoption, Allyssa knew she could not give up this kitty who had won her heart. With the help of her mom, Allyssa adopted Nora and this scraggly kitty now weighs over 6 lbs. Alyssa and Memow are no longer lonely.



[Apply to Volunteer](#)

Front Desk Receptionist

Data Entry

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

E-newsletter Layout

Website Management



[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

[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



Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

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

[Sign up to receive Paws for News e-newsletter](#)

Like us on Facebook 