



BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

April 2016



Volunteer Month

Since April is Volunteer Month, there is no better time to say thank you to all of the people who volunteer at BENCHS. Without these volunteers, the dogs and cats at the shelter would not get the love and care they need while they are waiting for their forever homes. If you are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of animals, there are lots of ways you can volunteer at BENCHS. Some of the opportunities include staffing the front desk during adoption hours or dog walking hours, helping staff with the intake of new animals, assisting with spay/neuter clinic check in, adopting a condo, cleaning, graphic design, and computed related projects. The hours are flexible and even a small time commitment makes a difference. You will make new friends, feel good about making a difference in the lives of these animals, feel like you are part of a community, and have fun. If you are interested in volunteering at BENCHS, please go on the website and complete a volunteer interest form. <http://www.benchs.org/volunteer-interest-form.html>



Danielle Vetter, Intern



Dani Vetter, a Communications Major at Bethany Lutheran College,

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has been working as an intern at BENCHS since January. Dani has been involved in numerous projects, including organizing a highly successful fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in March that raised over \$600.00 for BENCHS. Dani's other projects include helping with the adoption process, assisting with the spay-neuter clinics, and serving as coordinator and trainer for the cat condo volunteers. When asked her about some of her best experiences, she said she ended up falling in love with two of the cats and adopting both of them. She also loved watching dogs being adopted by their forever families. Dani will graduate in December from Bethany, and hopes to find a full-time position as a Volunteer Coordinator for a humane society or another non-profit organization. Thank you Dani for all of your valuable contributions to BENCHS.



Foster Homes Needed for Mama Cats and Their Kittens

Kitten time is here. As soon as the weather turns warmer and the amount of daylight increases, the reproductive cycle of female cats kicks into gear. They go into heat for the first time in late January and since the gestation period is about 60 days, the first litters of the season begin to appear in mid-March. And that's just the beginning. Female cats can have up to three litters of kittens before the season ends.



WE NEED YOUR HELP. These pregnant cats need a quiet place to give birth and raise their babies and we quickly run out of room at the shelter. We urgently need foster homes for this kitten season. Do you have a room you can close off that is quiet and safe? BENCHS will provide everything you need, including food, litter, litter pan, bedding and dishes. When the kittens are old enough to adopt, they can be returned to the shelter and put up for adoption. Their mama will be spayed and then put up for adoption. If you do not have the room, maybe you know someone who does. Please spread the word so these mamas have a safe place to give birth and raise their kittens. If you are willing to foster, please contact Molly at rps@hickorytech.net.

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)



Our Wish List

As we move into Kitten season, our wish list changes just a bit to focus on the needs of our smallest residents. To make your shopping a bit easier, we 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 at this time.

Simple Green

Dawn dish soap

Premium Edge kitten food

Premium Edge puppy food

(Premium Edge is available at Pet Expo)

Non seafood/fish canned cat food

Kitten bottles

Kitten Milk Replacer

Liquid laundry detergent

Flat cat beds (easily washed)



Past Events

Pizza for Paws

Pizza Ranch

\$636

Wine, Beer & Chocolate Tasting

April 7

Country Inn & Suites

\$14,000

This is a preliminary figure. We still have some



Farewell, Jerry Wegman



It's hard to believe that it was more than 10 years ago that Jerry Wegman attended a dinner gathering where we were in the very early stages of planning a capital campaign to build a much needed shelter. As the process unfolded, we realized that a leader for the campaign was needed. Jerry agreed to this role even

though he had never done anything like it. He recruited Mary Weller as his co-chair.

There were fundraisers, meetings, phone-a thons, and letters to write and send. It was a huge undertaking in a short period of time. Jerry was amazing at keeping our efforts on schedule. Under his leadership, we succeeded in raising \$1.2 million during a recession. Jerry continued to support the shelter once it was built. He co-chaired the Pins for Paws annual bowling tournament, wrangled donations for the wine tasting silent auction and always championed the cause.

Easter Sunday Jerry collapsed while hustling into church with Easter breakfast. Always busy, always helping. We miss Jerry now and will continue to miss his support and energy as the program moves ahead. We know our successes will make Jerry proud. He is watching over us!



Spring Plant & Bake Sale Donations Needed

If your garden is overflowing with plants that need splitting or thinning out, we can help by accepting plant donations for the BENCHS annual Plant and Bake Sale.

This year's sale is scheduled for May 21 at Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. Please

write the name of the donated plant on the bag or container to help us identify it. If you need help splitting a large plant--drop the plants off and we will split and pot them for you. Contact the shelter (507-625-6373) if you have a large number of plants to donate and arrangements can be made to pick them up.

outstanding bills. Final figure in the May issue.

It takes a large number of volunteers to make this event so successful. A special thanks to committee chairs Suzy, Carrie and Pauline.

Save the Date

Wine, Beer and Chocolate Tasting

April 20, 2017



Upcoming Events

Spring Plant and Bake Sale

**May 21 9am - 5pm
Riverside Regional Pet Shelter
1250 N. River Drive**

Looking for a perfect plant to fill a spot in your garden, patio pots, or window planters? We will have a large variety from which to choose. In addition, we will have people on hand who can guide you in selecting a plant that is perfect for that shady or sunny spot in your yard.

NEW THIS YEAR
Check our our Flealess Flea Market for gently used pet supplies and other treasures.

BENCHS Annual Garage Sale

**July 22, 22, 24
600 Hope St
Mankato**

Please start collecting gently used household

Donations Needed

Hostas	Columbine	Astilbe	Bleeding Heart
Day Lilies	Yarrow	Coreopsis	Dianthus
Coneflowers	Liatris	Monarda	Phlox
Penstemon	Rudbeckia	Salvia	Hen and Chicks
Snow on the Mountain	Rhubarb	Grasses	

Tomato and pepper Herbs (Basil, parsley, cilantro, thyme)
 Annuals Bulbs (Gladiolas, dahlias)
 Houseplants

Not a gardener? We will also be looking for bakers to donate baked goods. Our bake sale tables are packed with breads, cupcakes, bars, cookies, and even homemade doggie treats.

We need your donations to make this a successful event. All proceeds go to caring for the animals at BENCHS.



Super Kids

Happy Birthday to Evalynn and Hannah!

And thanks to their parents who are teaching them the joy of caring and sharing.



Maggie (12) and **Evalynn** (5) pose with shelter donations that Evalynn asked for instead of birthday gifts.

Hannah asked for donations to the animals for her birthday. She (and her family) brought in piles of great donations- dog and cat food, dog treats, toys and fluffy blankets. Awesome!



The Girls on the Run SSND team chose BENCHS as their community impact project. Their bake sale raised \$220.40.

items you cannot use or no longer want. We can turn your discards into a lifeline for homeless cats and dogs at RRPS.

This year the goal is to have the biggest garage sale in our history and raise \$20,000 at the sale.



How can we make it happen? **DONATIONS**

Take an hour to sort a drawer, clean a closet, organize the garage, and shuffle through your books, then box everything up and bring it to the sale site. We will be taking donations daily July 12 -21 from 10am—5pm.

If you would like to help set up, sell or clean up, please contact Suzy at susan.kroon@gmail.com

We'll have more information about the Garage Sale next month.



Vital Statistics

March Adoptions

Cats & Kittens - 43
 Dogs & Puppies - 31
 Total - 74



Treasury Notes

March Income Statement



Girls on the Run is organized by the YWCA . One pillar of the program is to teach girls how they can make a positive impact on their community



Volunteer Spotlight

These Two Make a Great Team



Every Tuesday afternoon, JJ and Chris travel from Blue Earth to volunteer at BENCHS. As a married couple, they both wanted to volunteer at something they were passionate about and that something was dogs. For two years, JJ and Chris have worked at the front desk and walked dogs. They love seeing how excited the dogs get when they know they are going out to walk and enjoy meeting new people and visiting with the regulars. Thank you JJ and Chris!



Happy Tails

Cori

Josiah adopted Brixton, who he



Operations Income:
\$ 27,307

Operations Expenses
\$27,940

Net Income (Loss)
\$(633)



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.



[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

Data Entry

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

Cleaners

Yard Work, Gardening Check

renamed Cori, last August, Cori is a good boy who loves to be outside. He is friendly with everyone and loves other dogs and is well-behaved. Josiah wants to thank BENCHS for his awesome dog Cori.



Desi



Desi was adopted by Brooke in January and from the beginning, she made herself right at home. Brooke never knows what she is going to find when she gets home from work, because Desi loves to turn random household items into toys. But when she is not into mischief, Desi loves to snuggle and have her ears scratched.

Marley

Paulina and her husband adopted Marley from BENCHS in June 2010. They wanted a companion for their dog Clementine. Marley and Clementine have been friends for almost seven years now. They are inseparable! Paulina and her husband now have two small children and Marley has been amazing with them. The Camacho family would like to thank BENCHS for Marley. They absolutely love him.



Thea



Kelsey adopted Thea from BENCHS about a year ago. Kelsey struggles with depression and PTSD and Thea's loyalty and companionship have made a profound difference in her life. Thea is now a registered Emotional Support Animal and when Kelsey has a bad day, Thea makes her feel safe with her excited tail wags and kisses. Because Thea is a 90 lb. bull-dog pit mix, she can be intimidating to some, but she is hilariously unaware of her size and often sits in Kelsey's lab. Kelsey would like to thank BENCHS for her wonderful dog. She may have rescued Thea and given her a permanent home, but she also found a dog that rescued her and made her life much better.

"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

[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

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