We used RV’s ability to slow the train down. We had to give a dog like Harley time to heal and learn to trust,” explained Barnee. “Harley was given the chance to take part in the new dog play/socialization groups. At first she would only watch from a distance. We encouraged her to slowly join in the fun and learn from other dogs.”

A turning point came when Harley started playing outside with a three month old puppy named Nola, who was 1/10th Harley’s size. “Finding companionship with other dogs brought Harley closer to accepting love from people,” Dee Dee added.

When Harley made the leap and went onto the adoption floor you could feel everyone’s spirits soar. The efforts did not stop. Homeward Bound volunteers were brought on board. Many spent quiet time with Harley and reinforced her new-found trust that people could be gentle and kind.

Yes, at Rescue Village there is a season... for every thing, and every dog, cat, horse, goat or other animal. Harley’s season is now and her wagging tail and love of affection is a testament to us all.
Life With A Purpose

When I think about Harley (see front page) I get this mental picture of so many people reaching out, extending their hands and touching this dog’s life. “Community” is the foundation of miracles, large and small, close to home or far away. Last year I experienced one of the best live concerts ever. Thousands of people sang out loud with James Taylor and Carole King, singing every word of “You’ve Got A Friend.” Do you remember the song? I bet some of you know it by heart.

It starts, “When you’re down and troubled and you need a helping hand.” (note: it is okay to sing along with this letter) Who will ever forget the night that Joplin, Missouri was almost torn off the face of the earth when the tornado hit. People, animals... gone...lost...separated...in need. As news spread, offers of help came pouring in.

I opened an Email from the national ASPCA asking if there were shelters that could send staff to help care for the hundreds of animals separated from their people and made homeless. All I could think of was how “the more you have, the more you have to give.” Rescue Village is a fortunate shelter. We have an abundance of support. Help was needed elsewhere and it was needed quickly.

Carole King’s song goes on “close your eyes and think of me and soon I will be there...” Walking out of the office and into the lobby I asked, simply, “okay, who is willing to go to Joplin to help?” There was no silence, no hesitation, no awkward turning away. Just “I’m there!,” “I will go” “Count me in” “In a heartbeat.” We could have filled ten slots but only had four, such was the generosity of everyone’s response.

Okay, keep singing... “You just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I’ll come running...” Two days later Barnee, Wendy, Erin and Dee Dee were on a plane - no, many planes, for an ever-so-long journey to Joplin.

Their experience was life-changing (for them and for the animals). Together with hundreds of other volunteers, our Rescue Village crew worked literally nonstop to make sure that animals were saved. And we all know that helping animals and helping people are inextricably linked.

They stayed for a week and we heard that shortly after that a two-day adoption event led to over 700 animals, every single one in that make-shift shelter, being adopted.

Now, the song winds up...“ winter, spring, summer or fall, all you gotta do is call... You’ve got a friend.” And so it is. Happy Holidays to each of you and a wonderful New Year. Remember the word, “community.”
"So, why do you think you should get the job as the class veterinarian?" I asked this question many times over when I interviewed fourth graders at Westwood Elementary School. Of course the first answer was always, “Because I LOVE animals!” Others were, “I know I have a way with them,” and, “Animals are just naturally drawn to me.”

These young students are valuable classroom employees throughout the school year. They all participate in a program that allows them to simulate a job experience and real world finances while working on skills that will empower them to be successful students. Project Real World has been in place in Mr. Vosicky’s fourth grade classroom for 11 years and has expanded to include the entire grade level.

Students learn about the many different jobs available to them and apply for three. Some of their choices include classroom videographer, photographer, artist, graphic designer, technology director, librarian, veterinarian, administrative assistant, store manager, meteorologist, postal worker. They compose resumes, present a letter of recommendation, and learn interviewing skills – from the initial greeting to the thank you letter. Professions from the school and community come to interview and score the students on their letters, resumes, handshakes, eye contact, posture, volume and clarity of voice, and the ability to answer questions.

These young aspiring job applicants arrived dressed as little professionals – the boys in dress slacks and shirts and ties and the girls in dresses and skirts. As well prepared and polished as they were, knowing ahead of time that their new classroom pet was likely to be a reptile made for quite entertaining interviews, especially the little shudders by some knowing that they might have to feed the animal live crickets! Many were equally enthralled and hoping it would be an iguana!

Because of this wonderful program, students become more independent, responsible, organized and accountable. Teachers see improvements in work ethic, problem solving, financial awareness, and interpersonal skills.

It is a fabulous program and I was thrilled to be a part of it! And being one table away from Mark Johnson who came to interview budding meteorologists just enriched the whole experience!

People of all ages have been known to inspire us here at RV and, recently, 8th grader Michael Hradesky did just that. Michael had a simple assignment that he took to an extraordinary level. In his language arts class, he was given the task to take a leadership role within the community. Michael ran with this (literally), and founded “Run to Rescue,” a 5K run and 1 mile walk benefitting Geauga Humane Society. Runners and walkers of all ages were invited to attend.

On July 31st, participants met at the North Chagrin Metroparks to raise money for the animals of Rescue Village. With a great turn out, Michael collected an astonishing $3,213.00! The funds Michael raised through his school project helped hundreds of sick, injured, abused and abandoned animals at Rescue Village. The staff and animals at Rescue Village thank Michael for a tremendous accomplishment!
Finnegan
_by Christian Courtwright_

Finnegan came to us sick, undernourished and broken. After months of rehab, thousands of dollars of surgery and medical costs, and hours of TLC from our staff and volunteers, Finnegan is finally available for adoption and ready for a new home. When he arrived at the Rescue Village barn he was not the most handsome horse I’ve ever seen. He was nearly bald from lice and mange. He was so thin, he looked skeletal. Finnegan’s face was swollen from an untreated infection that spread from his jaw all the way into his teeth. Being a young stallion, there was no telling him that he should behave.

After receiving extraordinary care from Dr. Kartley from Buckeye Veterinary Services and later, when he underwent surgery at the Equine Specialty Clinic, his wounds healed, his hair grew back, he put on weight and now he’s almost back to healthy. Finnegan’s spirit has never changed – he never quit and we never gave up.

FBI Raids
Rescue Village
_by Wendy Grellinger_

Mere mention of these three letters can strike fear into the heart of a criminal offender or a feeling of hope for those who are seeking answers to unsolved crimes.

In our case, the letters FBI represent a small pilot group of “cat-vocates”.

What’s it all about?

For years, Rescue Village has had a Homeward Bound team for the dogs. The day has now arrived where our cats have a comparable group!

FBI= Feline Bureau of Intervention

Currently, this pilot group consists of five long-term, highly active and dedicated volunteers who have come together to further improve the lives of all cats.

FBI Mission Statement

1) To improve the quality of life for all cats in the shelter
2) To increase the adoptability of the cats who are having trouble being adopted
3) To educate cat volunteers about the policies and procedures used in the care of the cats at Rescue Village
4) To provide education and assistance to the community and to adopters on the care and behavior of their feline friends.

Although in its infancy, this group has set high goals and standards. We are very excited about this new venture, and will keep you updated on the progress of our new FBI team!

Rescue Village Wish List

- Snuggle safe micro discs
- Sturdy chew toys for dogs
- Interactive puzzle toys for dogs
- Water bottles for small animals
- Cat Toys (Foam balls, fuzzy mice, jingle balls, lazer pointers)
- Pine wood shavings for the barn animals (Obec brand is best)
Everyone is talking about people power. During a recent interview with WKYC TV, we were asked “how many people volunteer at Rescue Village?” When we answered “There are over 500 volunteers!!” the reporter’s jaw dropped open. Amazing? Stupendous? All of the above.

There is no “typical” RV volunteer. They come in all ages (though from age 12-15 they need a parent or guardian). They are all sizes. Their belief systems and cultures vary. They are retirees, employed, unemployed, students or kids. They volunteer for an hour a week or many hours a week. They have been involved for over 10 years or just started last month and everything in-between.

RV volunteers love to walk dogs and to cuddle cats. They love to organize Woofstock, Doggone Purfect Night or other events. They help run Fix It In the Farmland rural spay/neuter clinics. They repair trails and disconnected down spouts. They muck barn stalls, work with behaviorally-challenged dogs, teach classes, clean cat cages, foster kittens and puppies. They take pictures and create art. They write cage sponsorship animal descriptions, help do laundry, get out mailings. They are welcome desk receptionists, front door greeters, adoption counselors, ambassadors with therapy dogs…and more.

Volunteers do just about anything and everything to help the animals and assist the staff of Geauga Humane Society. Just ask our 2011 Volunteers of the Year:

- Linda Betzer
- Jane Geisse
- Marcia Grout
- Jan Glasser
- Carole Nazar
- Genie Podojil
- Nancy J. Parker
- Shawn Russell
- Kyle Rylea
- Marva Toohey
- Sheila Simpson
- Marcia White

Interested in volunteering contact Lisa Ishee, our Volunteer Coordinator at 440 338-4819 x 18 or email volunteer@geaugahumane.org.

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Cage Sponsor Program

Cage Sponsors provide food, medicine and veterinary care for the animals in our shelter. Sponsors receive monthly photos and stories about the animals they are helping.

Please sign me up for—

___ cat cage(s) for ___ months at $15 each

___ dog cage(s) for ___ months at $15 each

Name__________________________________
Address ________________________________
City_____________State_____Zip __________
Phone _________________________________

This is a gift. Please send to—

Name__________________________________
Address ________________________________
City_____________State_____Zip __________
Phone _________________________________

Method of payment—

Check: Make payable to Geauga Humane Society
Amount enclosed $ ________________

Credit Card:

☐ One-time payment $ ________________
☐ Monthly payment of $ ________________

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Account # ___________________________
Expiration Date ______________________
Signature ____________________________

Please return this entire form to:
Geauga Humane Society
Post Office Box 116
Novelty, Ohio 44072
Attn: Cage Sponsor Program

Your gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Double your donation with a matching gift—see your employer for details.
Sweetpea

Sweetpea has been with our family for about eight weeks. We have a small 25 acre farm with other animals such as cows and goats. It has taken Sweet Pea a while to get adjusted to all of the sights, sounds and other farm animals, particularly the cows. Based upon her history we understand that it will take a lot of time, care and attention for Sweet Pea to learn and trust all of us. As a person who works professionally with abused and neglected children as a Child Advocate for CASA, I understand the importance of being consistent and having patience with Sweet Pea. Our family truly enjoys having Sweet Pea, and is thankful for all of the staff and volunteers at Rescue Village.

- Ada Gillespie, pictured with Anthony and Clifton

Julie

Julie is doing very well! She is such a great addition to the family. She warmed up very quickly, and gets along very well with our other dog Cuddles. She is outgoing and loves to play with other dogs. We also recently figured out that she can climb trees! Thanks so much for introducing us to Julie!

- Liping Tian

Yofi

Our new member of the family, Yofi, has been a blessing. Though he is older, he is quite a talker and still has some spunk! Whether he is resting in the afternoon or meowing first thing in the morning for his breakfast, he is a joy to have around. Thank you for allowing us to adopt him!

- Lew & Sue Harden
Traveler

My husband and I moved here from Michigan where I had to leave my kitty with my daughter. When we moved out of the apartment into our own house all I could think about was getting my kitty back, but I couldn’t take him away from my daughter. I didn’t think I could ever replace him, until I saw the video of Traveler on the Rescue Village website, I instantly fell in love. His foster mom had learned that clicker training can help shy cats deal with stressful situations. She gave it a try, and Traveler, (a very treat-motivated student) learned basic commands such as paw and sit, in no time! She brought him to the shelter so we could meet him - he was the one for us. I was a little concerned that he would have some problems adjusting to his new home, but with the help of the clicker training, he walked into our home and hearts. In two weeks time he was king of the castle. He hangs out with us, follows us around, and has made best friends with our dog, Emmie. He is loving and smart - it was meant to be. He has made our new house a real home.

-Linda Watko

For more information about cat clicker training: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6wgbCmaD8o.

from invisible fence® brand

“Oh, give me a home where a cattle dog can roam...”

Penny adopted Moose from Rescue Village on July 3rd, 2011. Her oldest son had been pleading with her for a dog since the family’s dog had passed away a few years ago. He had been doing a lot of dog research online, and since their two cats were both adopted from Rescue Village, that’s exactly where the family went when they were ready to adopt another dog. Moose is happy to be in his new home and has adjusted very well (He even gets along with the cats!). He has especially bonded with her oldest son and the two are always together. Being an Australian Cattle Dog, Moose needs a lot of exercise and likes to herd his people and other animals. To be sure he stays in his own yard, the family had an Invisible Fence Brand system installed. Moose loves the freedom he has to play ball and run around the yard with Penny’s two boys, and his family loves that he is always safe at home.

Keep your dog Safe at Home, just like Moose!

$100 OFF* (for you)
$100 DONATION (for Rescue Village)
800-824-DOGS
www.invisiblefence.com

*RV-0411 Offer valid on purchase of outdoor packages only. Must present this ad at time of purchase. Offer is not valid on previous purchase or with any other discount or promotion. Not redeemable for cash. Participating dealers only. Expires 1/31/12
For the second year in a row, the top adult fundraising title went to the incredible Cindy Woc who raised $2,025 in only 2 weeks time! Cindy worked hard collecting pledges and the entire Rescue Village team sends a huge thank you!

Jori Greene, an amazing eight year old, is a dedicated Rescue Village supporter. From volunteering weekly, to asking for RV donations in lieu of birthday gifts, to continually being a Woofstock fundraiser, Jori led the youth pack collecting over $2,000! We thank Jori for setting such a tremendous example for charitable kids!

On September 11th, we had a poignant Woofstock. We observed two minutes of silence in remembrance of the lives lost on 9-11-01. Our yearly animal blessings began with service dogs from police and sheriffs departments in our region. It was a fitting and fine start to a day that is about celebrating love and companionship between people and their dogs...a day when we gather to help the homeless animals at Rescue Village...a day when we come, as a community, in peace.

This was just the start of the day. Tunes from WDKO were hosted by Nancy Alden in the morning. Live music from RunAvrilRun filled the air in the afternoon. Great food, fun dog contests, shopping in Vendors Rrrrow, and just people and dog watching were the highlights of the day.

Over 1,900 people and 800 dogs attended, and over $60,000 was raised! We are enormously grateful to everyone who was a part of Woofstock 2011 and helped make sure thousands of animals get the shelter and care and new homes they deserve.

Special thank you to all of our amazing fundraisers, listed on the border.

Thank you to the following photographers who captured great moments of Woofstock 2011 pictured above: Marilyn Whiting and Howard Tucker with Mort Tucker Photography.
upcoming events

art from the heart—

Hand-crafted artisan gifts for holiday giving to benefit Geauga Humane Society’s Rescue Village

presented by Muddy Paw Wines

Join us at Freedom Design Kitchen & Bath
(formerly Kraftmaid Experience)
21 North Franklin St., Chagrin Falls

Friday, December 9 from 5-9pm
Opening night: an evening to shop and mingle with friends. Art sale, artists raffle, hor d’oeurves, wine tasting and adoptable animals.

Saturday, December 10 from 10-5pm
Art sale and adoptable animals

featuring artists:

Gai Russo - jewelry
26 briks - metal
Kendall Embrescia - paper
Jenny Campbell - illustration
Rhona Williams - painting
Sharon Sheinbart - ceramic
Molly Tuttin - glass
Terra Verde - candles
Kat Mitchell - illustration
Susan Scaparotti - jewelry
Betshe Bags - mixed media
Jason Radcliffe - metal
Vegan Sweet Tooth - pastry
Stephie Lou - fiber
Woofbeads

A portion of the proceeds benefit the animals of Rescue Village

Save the Date...

What: A Night by the Falls
The Party Benefiting the animals of Rescue Village

When: February 19, 2012

Where: Jekyll’s Kitchen, Chagrin Falls
6-9:30pm

Limited tickets. To reserve in advance contact Katie at marketing@geaugahumane.org
Friends & Family

In Memory of

Laurie Krych
Molly Kravitz
Kay Kovach

Aunt Helene
Amy Goodman
Florence Gafric
Dick Fulton
Valerie Gianpaulo

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Bill and Shelynn Jager

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Amine
Mary Beth and Catherine Kovanda

Patricia Kovanda

Beauty
Kris Kriss and Allen Fryedenberg

Bebop
Lisa Minnillo

Billy
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Binnie
Diane Russo Armington

Bixby
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

In Remembrance

June 1 - September 30, 2011
In Honor of Companion Animals

Betty Boop
Michelle Bashian

Oreo
Kathy Cordaro

Oreo
Michael and Dawn Miller

Pegasus
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Phoenix
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Pippin
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Rex
Casey and Jamie Bankhurst

Ridley
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Rip Tide
Stuart and Rebecca Sharpe

Rocky
Jackie and Stanley Hazen

Ruby
Edward and Barbara Wells

Rudy
Adrienne Lund

Sadie
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Sadie and Bucky
Laura and Dwight Smith

Sam and Katie
Carol Hays

Sammy
Barbara Lincoln

Shadow
Thelma and Raymond Rivin

Shane
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Sharky
Claudia Thomas

Shasta
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Sierra and Miklo
Becky Peterson

Sugar
Lori and John Gorrell

Taz
Gayle and Vance Linamen

Toby
Kay Thomas

Waldo
Patricia Kovanda

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Wendy Winder

Whiskers
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Widgeon
The Licker Family

Wiley
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

Willow
Janis Barge

Willy
Cathy and Michael Katz

Wilma
Katrina Haas

Yogi
Dr. Sharmyn Clark

For your beloved dog
Steve R. Smith and Edith W. Serkovnek

Special thanks to:

Humane Education:
Camp Helpers –
Caroline Cllick
Marissa Gelender
Elaine McNeely
Lisa Millard
Tina Ortiz
Patricia Vasek
Paula Urgelus
Brittany Pike

Guests-
Wendy Grellinger
Geauga County Sheriff
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Skunkhane Inc.
Cindy and Roger Wolf
Nancy Parker
Nikki Coben
Matt Granito
Ellita Vedder
Karriann McKinney

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for going the extra 250 miles to transport cats from Pittsburgh to RV

Pattie Group
for donating all of the wood chips for our walking trails

The Woofstock Committee for putting on a fabulous furry festival:
Bruce Hartzmark
Jodi Otto
Linda Hernandez-Walker
Lori Gorrell
Lorie Hart
Polly Feldman

Ambassadors-
Genie Podijil
Shannon Lozada
Polly Feldman

for making our trails safe and sound

Jim Jung
for keeping RV in good repair

Steve Babulski
for doing wonderful video work for RV

Ed Slaby
for making our trails safe and sound

Nancy Parker
for putting together Canine Good Citizenship (CGC)

Whitney Leffler & Anne Wiles
for assisting Nancy Parker with CGC

Paula Aveni
for assisting the Volunteer Coordinator

The GHS Board of Trustees
for your service and duty to Rescue Village

Sheila Simpson
for her years of service chairing the summer event

All of the Fix It in the Farmland volunteers
for a successful 2011 program

Jane Geisse
for coordinating the Catsmart program and making it purr

Sally Contizano
for her special appearance and help at Woofstock 2011
Geauga Humane Society/Rescue Village
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☎ 440.338.4819
e-mail info@geaugahumane.org
web www.geaugahumane.org

Rescue Village Hours
Monday: noon to 7:00pm
Tuesday: noon to 5:00pm
Wednesday: closed
Thursday: noon to 7:00pm
Friday: noon to 5:00pm
Saturday: noon to 7:00pm
Sunday: noon to 5:00pm

adoptions stop 45 minutes before posted closing times

Friends of the Rescue Village Barn

Rescue Village sits in beautiful horse country and rolling farmlands. While home to 1000’s of companion animals, there are 1000’s of horses and other large animals, like pigs, goats, llamas and alpaca living in townships and villages. Many people are just learning that Rescue Village has the only barn run by a humane society in Northeast Ohio.

Built in 2005, the barn is always full, offering safe haven, rehabilitation and adoption services to animals in need. Although it has only five stalls, the barn’s message is HUGE: all animals deserve compassion, care and our moral concern. Since 2005, Rescue Village has saved scores through this program and enforcement of Ohio humane law statutes. We are fond of saying that “the best shelter is a humane community.”

We are extremely fortunate to be embraced by animal-loving friends who are now forming “Friends of the Rescue Village Barn.” Its goals are:

~ expanding foster care options and adoption opportunities for RV barn animals
~ inspiring donations of hay, feed, bedding and needed supplies and equipment
~ expanding a network of supporters to help, including by monetary donations

Friends of the Rescue Village Barn welcomes your involvement. For more information contact director@geaugahumane.org.