Don’t Give Up
’Cause You Have Friends

Do you root for the underdog and sometimes hang your hopes on a wing and a prayer? Do you love the story of Seabiscuit or how, against all odds, so many of Michael Vick’s dogs were saved? Our very own Snuggy is not famous and, by all measurements, had little chance of survival after being hit by a car. But this is the story about how a lot of hard work, a loyal circle of friends and a busload of faith saved one dog’s life. This is about Snuggy and about not giving up.

Cars drive fast in rural Geauga County. It is not unusual for animals to be struck and die on the side of the road. Mary Manchester was traveling down Bell Street, near Snyder, and stopped when she spotted a dog lying in a snow bank. It was a black Pomeranian. Mary gently scooped him up and made a quick decision to head to Rescue Village, just a couple of miles away.

Shelter staff rushed him to the medical clinic. “All signs pointed to a significant spinal cord injury. I did not think this was going to end well. But there was something about his responsiveness that said ‘let’s keep going.’ We weren’t willing to give up,” said Dr. Megan Volpe, Medical Director at Rescue Village.

Days passed and this dog, dubbed “Snuggy”, showed tiny signs of improvement. Everyone was becoming attached and worried that if he did not make it, their hearts would be broken.

A fractured tibia also had to be fixed. Dr. Mark Schlesinger initially performed three surgeries.

Healing and rehab would take months of quiet care. Cynthia Fant and her family volunteered to foster Snuggy. It was heartwarming to see Cynthia, her 3 year-old son Alex and Snuggy come to the shelter for evaluations.

The last stage: a final minor surgery and then Snuggy was put up for adoption.

Our spirits soar knowing that Snuggy, a real underdog, came through his injuries. It was a group effort involving a Good Samaritan, a great shelter, awesome veterinarians, a patient foster family and one little Pomeranian, who decided just not to quit.
Welcome to the World

It was all crystal clear… why we do this good but hard work. Inside the barn our rescued goat, Sidney, gave birth and brought us grace. Baby farm animals are born every day. Yet, as this new life emerged, we watched with such wonder and such immense hope. Surrounded by other rescued animals… our horses Zoey, Sweet Pea and Gandalf; our roosters, and two more adult goats… Christian, Susan, Kat, Sarah, Dr. Clark, and I took it all in.

If you know Sarah Westman, you will at some point experience her calm knowing of the animals. For years, she worked in the field stopping animal cruelty and neglect. She watched our Rescue Village barn get raised. Now its stalls are almost always full. She thanked Christian, our Humane Agent who rescued the goats, with a simple truth, “Because you saved these goats, this little kid had a chance to be born.”

It is so incredibly hard to witness the toll that human neglect and cruelty take on animals. It shows on their bodies and in their eyes. We find ways to cope with what we see. How many times have you or I questioned out loud, “how can a person do this? How does anyone let an animal starve? How can anyone hurt any of these animals?” Mostly we are at a loss for answers, so we find strength in and inspiration from all of the people who care, and from the animals themselves.

Seeing Sidney go from being a starving goat with an uncertain future to being healthy enough to carry a pregnancy and give birth, answered another question, “how do we do this work every day?” It’s ironic. We are committed to spaying and neutering animals, including our barn animals, so we can stem the tide of homelessness and abandonment. Still, we were totally thrilled by this baby goat, the first animal to be born in our barn.

The kid touched ground at noon. Late that night, I hopped in my car and drove to the barn. I just had to go there. It was 11pm, and it was really dark at Rescue Village. There was a big full moon in the sky and tons of stars and constellations. There was Sidney, standing still as her baby nursed. Loud baas, soft baas—goats making all kinds of goat noise. It was like being in a cabin at camp after lights out and everyone’s talking and wide awake. All I could think of to say was “Welcome to the world little one. You are life. You are our shining star.”
Charges Filed

As a result of the on-going economic turmoil, Humane Agent Christian Courtwright has been responding to an increased number of calls about potential cases of animal cruelty and neglect. In 2010, over 3,000 animals lives were touched.

Sadly, this work never ends. On January 1, Christian responded to a serious complaint—deceased animals and several others in need of immediate care and assistance.

With the help of staff, volunteers and other agencies, we were able to bring Zoey, a beautiful speckled grey mare (possibly part Appaloosa and Arabian), along with three goats (Sidney, Billy and Sierra), two chickens and two cats, on that unusually warm winter day, to Rescue Village. Each one required immediate care from starvation and neglect. Zoey was in the worst condition—weak, hungry and anxious.

Over the past couple of months, Zoey has been closely monitored. She is slowly (and properly) gaining weight and rebuilding her trust in humans. Zoey and the goats are just waiting for veterinary clearance, so that they can have their chance at a forever home.

We celebrated in late January, when the two cats were adopted, and once again in February when the chickens were made available for adoption.

Looking out into the pasture, we know we are doing vital mission work when we see Zoey gaining weight and strength and enjoying her time in the pasture with Gandalf, a previous humane case recovering from laminitis, and a thoroughbred bay, Sweet Pea.

Far away from their life of hardship, they are now receiving care and attention from dedicated staff and volunteers, to heal these animals’ wounds.

As for the owners... they are facing animal cruelty charges. The rescued animals have had their opportunity to heal, and now they will have an opportunity for justice.

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Barn Wish List

- High quality, fresh hay
- Obec Pine wood shavings
- Nature’s Blend Horse Feed (12%) or any other high quality 12% horse feed
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

If you can dream it
In April, 2010, the arrival of spring was a wonder, but we were frustrated that whenever a bunch of dogs were adopted it took too much time to refill their kennels. Our shelter lacks enough intake kennels to quickly keep that adoption floor full. We looked at the problem and started to brainstorm solutions. We partnered with Canine Express and began transporting dogs in from out-of-state, who just needed a second chance.

One dream led to another and, in the fall of 2010, a big vision took shape. We are calling it 2011 Year of the Dog. In June, we will launch a special core program: dog socialization playgroups. Our Program Coordinator, Erin Hawes, is building a new adult dog foster network. Canine Good Citizenship will be offered through the Homeward Bound program.

Jenny Campbell (who created the mural in Marino’s Cool Cat Cafe) will put the frosting on the cake by painting murals in the dog get-acquainted rooms. A seed was planted, and now it is a garden full of innovation!

We promise to take snapshots along the way. Saving lives is what we do and we love our work. Anything is possible because: if you can dream it, you can plan it, and if you can plan it, you can achieve it!

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.

Rescue Village Wish List
• Stretch and Scratch exercise products for caged cats, available online at www.stretchandscratch.com
• Dry food (Purina One, Purina Chows, or Pedigree) for dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies
• Peanut butter (for dog treats)
• Canned vegetables for the barn animals
• Paper towels
• Garbage bags (33 gallon)
• Bleach
• Laundry detergent (Arm & Hammer liquid)
Girard (now called Wabi-Sabi) was adopted by Rescue Village volunteer Brenda Donahue and partner Chuck Herbruck in December 2010.

“We fell in love with this lovely gray cat with green eyes and adopted him, only a few days after he was placed on the adoption floor.

Sabi (named for the cat in the Japanese book Wabi-Sabi) had a prominent limp in his front right leg, so we visited our vet promptly the adoption. The vet noticed his right front leg turns outward from the first joint down, as though he is signaling a right turn! He limps considerably, and to compensate for his shortened nonworking front leg, his right rear leg strokes out to the side like a ‘pusher’, as though he has trained for ice skating.

We are in awe of Wabi Sabi’s good spiritedness, sense of humor, play, and his ability to run in a loping way. The faster Sabi runs, the less he limps! He is affectionate, healthy, happy and pain-free, and he doesn’t know he is not perfect! Sabi weighed 10.25 lbs. in December; now he weighs nearly 12 lbs.”

Teddy (now called Remy) was adopted by Robin Lowe and roommate Larry Adams Jr. on New Year’s Eve.

“When adopted, Remy had a shoulder injury. On January 24, he received a clean bill of health from his surgeon, Dr. Vogt, at the Akron Veterinary Hospital, and from his regular veterinarian Dr. Paul Clemens.

Remy is enjoying the run of the house… preferring to nap on the couch and sleep on the bed. He also loves his walks and is very ready for spring so he can go to the park. Until then, he plays with his Kong Wubba, a favorite tug toy and his trusty tennis ball. He goes to Larry with the Wubba, because he can throw it better! Carrots… Remy loves baby carrots and even lets our friends’ young children give them to him as a treat.

Best of all, Remy knows that we are “Mommy” and “Daddy” and can have a normal, long life despite his accident.”

Special thanks to:

- The Burton Vet Clinic for their continued support with our special cases
- The entire Welcome Desk Volunteer Crew who work to make everyone’s first impression of RV a great impression!
- Eagle Scout Troop #265 led by Michael Luch
- Jamie from Lifestyle Floors for donating carpet squares for the Rescue Village Pre-School Story Time
- Winter Camp helpers: Lisa Millard, Brittany and Brian Pike, McKenzie Pauly
- All About Dogs for grooming services
- The friendly greeters at the front door at Rescue Village
- Photo/video volunteers for Petango $50K contest: Stephen Burks, Whitney Leffler, Ruth Ann Kennedy, Kathy & Lindsey Campbell
- Ed Slaby for expert photography
- The Snow Melter for the Shelter Committee: Tiffany Mushrush Mentzer (Chair), Hope Brustein, Judy Cruxton, Jan Glasser, Nicki Greer, Cheryl Hawkins, Susie Meyer, Lindell Northup, Heather Perigo, Shawn Russell, Sheila Simpson, Katie Stump, Stacy Westervelt
- Nancy Alden/WDOK for helping our animals find homes through her Pet of the Week Program
- The Artists that made Art from the Heart so spectacular: Alpaca Fiber Studio, Jenny Mendes, Sandy Philipson, Gai Russo, Susan Scaparotti, Sharon Sheinbart, Betsy Somershill, David Taylor, Molly Tuttin, Jason Wein, Jill Weider, Rhona Williams, Vegan Sweet Tooth (Rebecca Bryan), WoofBeads (Opal Contizano and Katherine Kulp)
As part of Hawken’s fifth grade Leadership curriculum, Hawken students have spread out to organizations throughout Cleveland to learn more about what leadership means in specific professional fields. One small group of students has had the good fortune to be mentored by our own Education Coordinator, Mary Carney. The fourteen students in this small group are passionate about animal advocacy, and Mary is helping them find ways to support needy animals in their community.

In fifth grade, Hawken students take an in-depth look at what it means to be a leader. They examine and practice personal leadership, peer leadership, school leadership, and community leadership. Their year of learning will conclude with an evening of public speaking at the Gries Center, Hawken’s new campus in University Circle. Students will share personal reflections on their experience as leaders in the community.

Students first met Mary at the Gries Center in the fall, when they identified what an animal advocate does and discussed needs of animals in the Cleveland community. With these ideas in mind, students brainstormed possible ways to address these animal needs in the Hawken school community. Education was a recurring theme, and these Hawken students are currently creating skits and presentations to teach younger students about proper pet care and animal concerns. Mary gave students a small library of books and resources to help them.

The fifth graders received an education, themselves, on a recent January afternoon when they shadowed Mary at the Geauga Humane Society. It was a day they will not soon forget!! The importance of providing resources for these homeless pets at Rescue Village was not lost on these students. Throughout the day they learned about animal care and discussed the role community members and volunteers play in the support of these animals. It was evident to students that Rescue Village staff and volunteers take excellent care of animals during their stay. Hawken students are eager to contribute to this wonderful organization, and they are now planning an in-school pet supply drive to gather donations for Rescue Village.

Sheri Mowry adopted Annie, a Lab mix puppy, this summer from Rescue Village. She grew attached to Annie after seeing her as a baby in the foster home of a Rescue Village volunteer, and she waited outside the shelter one morning to be first in line when the litter of puppies was finally ready for adoption! She recalls that Annie “was quite a handful” for the first 6 months. Invisible fence® offered a free obedience training session and helped with her jumping up to greet visitors and pulling on walks. Sheri also has an Invisible Fence® Brand Outdoor System to keep Annie safe in the yard, and it allows her the freedom to run around and burn off her puppy energy. Her favorite things to do outside in her yard are to chase birds and play in the snow!

To help her stay out of mischief inside the house, Sheri also uses PetFree™ Indoor Solutions to keep Annie out of certain areas that are not dog friendly. While Annie still has plenty of energy and curiosity, Sheri says she is now the perfect companion for her, and they are living in harmony!
Securing the Future of Rescue Village

The animals coming through the doors of Rescue Village have arrived at a safe haven filled with kind, compassionate and caring animal lovers dedicated to finding them a loving, forever home. This is possible because of the generosity of thousands of people throughout Northeast Ohio who want the best for sick, injured, abused and abandoned animals.

Sometimes, we receive gifts through wills and trusts with little or no advance notice. For instance, in September Executive Director Hope Brustein opened the mail and was overwhelmed and delighted to find a very generous check from the estate of Susan M. Miller. Jennifer, sister and the executor of Ms. Miller’s estate, fondly shared stories about Susan’s love for animals and people. This wonderful woman, who passed away suddenly at the age of 50, began to rescue stray animals at 8-years-old. Susan had six rescued cats and managed a feral cat colony of twelve. Jennifer said that “Every time Susan turned around she was taking care of a person or a pet. She was always a giver!”

Geauga Human Society also thanks Odessa C. Moser, Sharon L. Thomans, Arlene F. Anderson, Constance Thomas, Dorothy M. Petrasek Trust, The Dybala Family Trust, Clara M. Greve, Grace L. Cone Trust, Edward Klipec, Kenneth Vanyar and Elanore M. Hudgeon (made In Memory of Evelyn K. Dillion) for remembering our shelter animals in their estate plans.

If you have any questions about planned giving or would like to name GHS as a beneficiary in your will, please call 440-338-4819 ext. 40 for more information.

Remembering Bebe Ober

In Memoriam

Bebe Ober—A Compassionate Champion  September 20, 1921 – December 21, 2010

Everywhere people and animals go at Rescue Village, Bebe is there.

When I came to Rescue Village, some 3 ½ years ago, Bebe was one of the first people I met. Everyone had told me to be ready for Bebe, that she was not very large physically, but a giant when it came to helping animals and fulfilling her dreams and beliefs. She did not disappoint! She was outspoken in her opposition to animal cruelty, and the need for rescue, shelter, adoption, spay and neuter.

What is so striking is the impact Bebe had on her world. She lived with grace, conviction, insistence and a huge heart. And in the face of personal loss and the knowledge that animals needed champions, she stood very, very tall.

Bebe’s role at Rescue Village is indelibly marked upon these walls. There is no forgetting Bebe, because without her there would be no Rescue Village.

There is a Spanish saying when a person of great significance has passed, “Bebe Ober esta presente.” Bebe Ober is present among us.

— Hope Brustein
SnowMelter for the Shelter 2011
Presented by Black Lab Corporation

SnowMelter for the Shelter was held on February 26th at the Federated Church Family Life Center in Bainbridge. It was a magical winter’s evening with storytelling by Cleveland’s own Michael Heaton, the “Minister of Culture”, music by the renowned George Foley Trio, live and silent auctions. Hot soups and gourmet sandwiches, accompanied by wine from Muddy Paw and beer from Cellar Rats Brewery, were a hit with the guests and patrons.

Special thanks to our sponsors—
Black Lab Corporation, Pawsome Pets, Herschman Architects, Benesch Attorneys at Law, Shawn Russell & Mark Belasic

Thank you to our table sponsors—

Save the Date…
for the fourth annual Doggone Purrfect Night
presented by Sylvia Oliver—
Saturday, June 25, 2011
at Rescue Village

Join us for a warm and wonderful evening— a comfortably elegant party with old and new friends. Enjoy delicious top-notch food and drink. The silent auction will have a fabulous new look, and there will be a fantastic band for listening and dancing. All this splendor is in support of Rescue Village and the lives we save every day.

440.338.4819 ext.19/www.geaugahumane.org

painting: Betsy Somershield
Geauga Humane Society’s

Woofstock 2011
Annual Dog Walk and Family Festival for Pets and their People

Save the Date

September 11, 2011 • 9am–3pm • 10am One-Mile Dog Walk
The Holden Arboretum • Rain or shine • $5 parking per vehicle

Who You, Your Family, Your Friends & Your Dog
What Dog Walk, Canine Games, Dog Agility, Kids’ Games, Shopping & Live Music
Why To help Geauga Humane Society reach their $100,000 goal, so they can continue
to care for thousands of homeless animals each year.
How Raise pledges between now and event day; win great prizes.
To register & to start collecting pledges, go to www.geaugahumane.org
and click on Woofstock.

All proceeds benefit Geauga Humane Society
What a Difference a Year Can Make!

Roll back the clock to June 2009. A sense that change was in the air when we started hearing from a very excited staff member about her dreams of more space and activities for our shelter cats. Like a seed planted in the spring, a dream was germinating and our cat program was going to be remodeled. We named this big endeavor *Year of the Cat*.

Cat cages turned into double-sized cat condos where felines can stretch, jump and show their true personalities. The cat community room became Marino’s Cool Cat Café… known for its delightful mural and welcoming policies… increasing adoptions by over 300% from this room. That’s Liberace in the Café… he went home on February 13, 2011.