

C Tmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts.

Fall 2019



MY EXTRA CATS

By Rhea Hirshman

I call them my “extra cats”: Momma Jazzy, her son Brando, their family friend Sidney. Big Archie comes around frequently, and shy Wendell shows up a few times a week.

For the past two years or so, I have been caring for this clowder of kitties, all of whom have been neutered and vaccinated through the Greater Haven Cat Project. Before we caught and spayed her, pregnant and hungry Jazzy, barely out of kittenhood herself, gave birth to three babies across the street from me, carrying them back and forth between houses for reasons known only to her.

One kitten survived only a few days. Another, a little black and white girl that I named Mazie, who was remarkably friendly for a feral kitty, disappeared a month or two after she and her mom and brother had been to the vet. My best hope is that someone saw how sweet she was, and scooped her up into a loving home. But I am realistic enough to know the unlikelihood of that happy scenario.

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1996 to address the problems of cat overpopulation, neglect and abuse in our area. GNHCP provides spay/neuter assistance for feral, stray and abandoned cats, and promotes responsible pet ownership through educational workshops. The organization is comprised solely of volunteers, and is funded through private donations, fundraising events and grants.

The GNHCP Board

Executive Committee

Cheryl DeFilippo	President
Diane Frost	Vice-President
Emily Doubleday	Treasurer
Sue Jordan	Secretary
Katherine Gaudet	Fundraising
Linda Klise	Development
Robert A. Schaper	V.M.D.

Additional Board Members

Renee Costantini, Public Relations
Rachel Schupp, Webmaster
Ellen Su, Webmaster & Graphic Designer

GNHCP Catmatters staff

Muffy German, Ellen Su, Rhea Hirshman

Visit us Online!

Website: www.GNHCP.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GNHCP
Instagram: @gnhcp.inc



Wendell, Archie, and Jazzy

Twice a day, I put out food for the gang. Three shelters filled with warm straw (also from GNHCP) are available on my deck, and the core group makes good use of them. The kitties come running when my car pulls into the driveway. Sidney is the most skittish, but is also the one who is always in front of the house. Brando and his mom Jazzy, who tend to wander further afield, chatter when they see me. Archie squawks for his breakfast in the morning, and the others steer clear of him while he eats. Wendell, who used to eat only when the other cats and I had turned away, has begun to stay around when I put down the food, and has been accepted by the others as a member of the crew.



Jazzy, Sidney, and Brando

Maybe this winter, he will join them in using the shelters.

The two kitties who live with me are fascinated by their outdoor neighbors, sometimes postponing their own breakfasts until they have spent time looking out the living room window to check on the doings on the deck.

I, of course, worry about my outside brood, and am relieved every time I come home and see them waiting for me. Despite the food and shelter I provide, they are still subject to the dangers of the great wide world. Still, I am grateful that they chose my home as their place of refuge, and have become part of my extended feline family.

EVENTS

Fill the Forester for Ferals

A Cat Food Drive for GNHCP



**Saturday, 12/7
10am-2pm**

Premier Subaru Branford
150 North Main Street
Branford, CT 06405
(800) 411-4551

Holiday Giving with GNHCP



At GNHCP, we keep our overhead costs low and the benefits for felines high. We have a strong tradition of stretching our donors' dollars as far as they can go.

Our work would not be possible without the generous financial support of caring people like you. In 2018, GNHCP was able to provide spay/neuter and veterinary assistance to 574 feral and stray cats in the greater New Haven area.

Your donation will go to work instantly to enable GNHCP to continue its mission to address cat overpopulation through spaying/neutering and public education. If you prefer, you can designate where you would like your donation to be used: to provide food and veterinary care for our foster cats or our special needs cats (The Tommy Fund); to the spay/neuter program or feral and stray cats; or for overhead at our Center (i.e., electric bill, rent, etc). With the flurry of activity that takes place from mid-November through the end of the calendar year, now is the time to consider an end-of-year donation to GNHCP. GNHCP is also able to receive securities.

GNHCP is an authorized tax-exempt, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

What does it mean to be a 501(c)(3) organization? For donors like you, this means your contributions may be fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law.

Please help GNHCP continue its good work. Thank you.



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

December 3rd, 2019

Help us support cats like Andi!

Forget Black Friday and Cyber Monday, join the international Giving Tuesday movement by donating to GNHCP on 12/3, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving!

Go to our website to learn more:
www.gnhcp.org



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TAKE A WALK WITH ELLEN SU

Have you met Greater New Haven Cat Project's volunteer, Ellen Su? She is a stellar graphic designer who has transformed the appearance of the Cat Project. Stop in on a Saturday afternoon and see the Center's new look. The window graphics, posters, and collages of cat photos are the handsome products of her artist's eye. Even GNHCP's byline, "Every cat matters. Every person counts" is inscribed in lyrical script on the left wall above the cats' quarters. Her official GNHCP volunteer position is webmaster and graphic designer, but she also does "a little bit of social media."

A Yale graduate, Ellen has been volunteering for about two years. She became aware of the Cat Project in two ways. Her fiancé, Jonathan enrolled in the MD/PhD Program at Yale where he met Cheryl who happens to be one of the Associate Directors of the program. Around the same time Ellen, who lives in the East Rock neighborhood, happened to walk by the Center on State Street and "got curious when I saw a cat in the window." That encounter continued to spark her interest. She said, "When I moved to a new apartment that allowed cats, I was interested in potentially fostering and helping out with graphic design, so I sent in a volunteer application form. Cheryl invited me to the Volunteer meeting in January, which was my first time learning more about the Cat Project's mission and work."

In her professional life, Ellen is "a product designer and co-founder of a small medical device company in New Haven. The company makes a device that helps kids with scoliosis make sure that they are wearing their back braces correctly so that they can avoid surgery." Her work for GNHCP is a perfect fit with her professional skills and interests. She says, "I do graphic design and some website work in my usual job, in addition to organizational and administrative tasks, so I get to use a lot of the same skills."



Dali and Bubbles very patiently dressed as an Avo(cat)o and an Abo-gato (lawyer in Spanish) for Halloween

Ellen has two cats, brothers Dali and Bubbles, whom she adopted three years ago from a friend of a friend in Brooklyn. Now four and a half, they are amazingly resourceful in getting what they want. Both cats were determined to go outside. They rattled the door knob until it fell off! Then, they learned to open the deadbolt lock. Ellen and Jonathan "felt bad that the cats were stuck in our one-bedroom apartment all day, but we knew how detrimental it can be for both the cats and local wildlife to have unsupervised cats outside." They came up with a creative compromise: "we decided to leash train them." She noted that the training "took a lot of bribery and patience for a few

months, but the process really paid off. Now they come running when ask them if they want to take a walk." Once outside, Dali and Bubbles take the lead and "they love wandering around the back yard on their leashes and harnesses." Back inside the apartment, Bubbles and Dali now have a constant source of entertainment: Ellen and Jonathan put up a bird feeder right outside the window!

Recently, Ellen commented: "It's been very rewarding to work with the cat project and with all the other wonderful volunteers. I've been very impressed with all that GNHCP is able to accomplish, and how dedicated the volunteers are." The truth is that GNHCP is equally grateful to have such a wonderful, creative and generous volunteer in Ellen.



Dali and Bubbles enjoying their walks



Memorial Contributions



In Memory of Josephine Earley-O'Connell, from Charles Iadaresta
In Memory of "Chloe" & "Mitzi" Parsons, from Catharine Parsons
In Memory of "Poikila, et al." from Joseph Solodow
In Memory of "Felicia" & "Lulu", from Betsy Bryan



Donations

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP), begun in 1996, works to combat the cat overpopulation dilemma with a comprehensive spay/neuter program that focuses on the numerous feral colonies and abandoned cats of Connecticut. We also locate excellent, stable homes for the friendly cats and kittens that are found or abandoned in the streets and houses of the Greater New Haven area. Finally, we offer other programs such as The Tommy Fund, Barn Home Project and regular operations at our Center. If you would like to aid and abet our burgeoning mission, then please consider one of the following options for your gracious donation:

Basic Donation:

With an annual donation of \$25, you will receive copies of our newsletter, Catmatters twice a year.

Population Donation:

With an annual donation of \$45, you will receive a copy of our newsletter, Catmatters, twice yearly as well as a 10% discount on all tickets for a GNHCP fundraising event. Most importantly, this type of gift enables GNHCP to spay one female cat and to promote a healthy, humane approach to the cat overpopulation problem.

Gift Donation:

With a minimum donation of \$25, this gift is a great idea for a birthday or holiday for the fellow or sister cat lover in your life. The recipient will receive an acknowledgment on your behalf in addition to our newsletter, Catmatters, for one year.

Memorial Donation:

You can recognize a special animal or person in your life with a donation that will help other cats.

Additional Contribution:

Any additional donations received through our newsletter will help to fund our spay/neuter program, The Tommy Fund (for extraordinary veterinary expenses) or operations at our Center.

Foster Cat Sponsorship:

With a donation of \$125, you will receive our newsletter, Catmatters, for one year, a photo and update on your sponsored cat and a 10% discount on GNHCP merchandise or tickets for a GNHCP fundraising event.

Please sign me up for a:

Basic Donation (\$25) : _____ Population Donation (\$45) : _____ Gift Donation (\$25) : _____ Sponsor a Foster Cat (\$125): _____

Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In memory of: _____

Contribution to GNHCP: Spay/Neuter Program \$ _____ Tommy Fund \$ _____ Center expenses \$ _____

Name _____

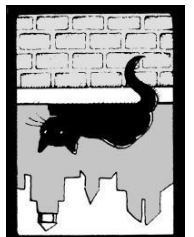
Full Address _____

Thank you for your support of our efforts. All donations are tax deductible.



www.gnhcp.org
Visit us on the web

The Greater
New Haven
Cat Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 1432
New Haven,
Connecticut 06506



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Haven, CT
Permit No. 526