

Catmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts.

Spring 2021



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 primarily of volunteers, and is funded through private donations, fund-raising events and grants.

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Visit us Online!

Website: www.GNHCP.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GNHCP
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PATIENCE AND LOVE

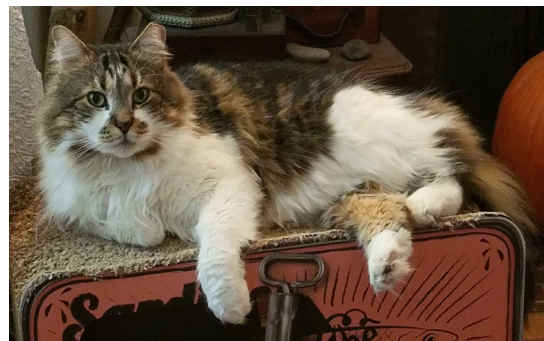
Lessons learned by a feral cat lover

Heather has always loved animals. Since the first time she took a stray cat in from her parents' yard, she was destined to care for cats. Over 20 years ago, she experienced her first "foster fail" while volunteering. The moment she heard someone wanted to meet her foster cat, she knew the adoption wasn't going to work out - he was hers. Since then she has adopted and helped a number of cats, including Jeremiah- her first feral cat who would not let anyone touch him at first, Sydney- the black and white cat who sauntered up to her and walked into her carrier at an adoption event, and Raven, the tiny long-haired, black cat who would sleep on Heather's leaf bags and who would eat around Heather's schedule before eventually moving in.



(From left to right) Titus, Ginger, Papa Samuel and Lucy enjoying a meal one of their first days inside

She currently has 5 cats at home: Ellis, a 21 pound Maine Coon she adopted from The Greater New Haven Cat Project (GNHCP) and her newest additions: three kittens and an orange tabby who she rescued last summer. Heather first discovered the kittens in the shed in her backyard in June of 2020. While feeding the birds in her yard, one of the kittens popped its head out, alerting her of their presence. She began to feed them, eventually recruiting GNHCP to help TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return). By that time there were the three kittens Titus, Ginger, and Lucille Ball aka "Lucy" and a male cat "Papa Samuel" who started making an appearance later in the summer. Though unsure if Samuel was even the kittens' father, he cared for them so much, Heather considers him their "adoptive" dad. After the cats were spayed/neutered, she welcomed them into her home. The first night, she slept in the living room to "stay close in case something happened".



Ellis (former GNHCP foster) models and considers his new siblings

Now the four cats live in a large room downstairs with windows to the other rooms. She lets them mingle with Ellis, but that has been a slow process. Ellis loves the kittens, and vice versa, but he's not the biggest fan of Papa. So for now she is just keeping them separated.

Papa loves to be petted. Even though he is still scared and slowly learning to trust her,

he purrs when he sees her, loves his cat bed and is happy. The kittens are acclimating more slowly. Titus is a brave little kitten and is happy to explore and say "hi" to Heather, but the girls have been a slower process. Lucy has just started letting Heather really pet her and Ginger is still very, very timid. But Heather finds joy in the every little step. They all walk around with their tails up, they're not hiding their tails between their legs, and Ellis and the kittens hit toys to each other under the door where there's a little space.

"Working with feral cats is not easy. It is important to give them the time that they need. When you adopt an animal you can't expect them to be lap cats immediately, especially when you're trying to socialize them. You need to be slow. You need to be gentle. And to give them time to process that 'Okay, this person is not so bad.' So every little step, every little progress that we make, makes me so happy." It's been wonderful for Heather to see how these cats are blossoming. Though it's taking months, to her they're worth it.




Clockwise: Lucy, Titus, Samuel, and Ginger

MEET SPOTT BY VERONICA ISLES

Spott was living in my yard when I bought my house. I learned from the neighbors that they had been caring for him since 2005. I wanted to give Spott better care and readily took to him. He lets me pet him and handle him in case he needs to go to the vet. We made two trips to the vet last year because he injured his foot and needed antibiotics. He trusts me and now spends the cold winters in my three seasons room. I built a cardboard box shelter that has blankets all around it, and have a warming bed inside that stays plugged in. I crack open one of the sliding doors so that Spott can come and go as he pleases. He prefers to remain an outdoor kitty, but is the most spoiled feral you will ever meet! I would readily take him in as a housecat, but he says "no" to that.

Check out Veronica's YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/veronicaisles> where she plans to create videos on how to help feral cats and share resources with her subscribers.

Save the Date!



THE great Give®
MAY 4-5, 2021

A 36-hour, online-giving event to support local nonprofits

The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

Support GNHCP during this event:
www.gnhcp.org/greatgive

For More Information, Visit TheGreatGive.org

Tag Sale!

9AM - 3PM

Saturday, May 22nd, 2021
2 Belfast St, Milford, CT

Bring items to donate or take home some treasures at our annual tag sale! Call (203) 782-2287 or email gnhcp1@gnhcp.org for more details. Rain Date May 29th



PSST...MEOWTHER'S DAY IS
MAY 9TH!

Order a Mother's day card online before 4/30:

www.gnhcp.org/mothersday



Spend a *Buck* and try your *Luck!*

GNHCP RAFFLE!

It's the annual GNHCP Raffle! Purchase your raffle ticket from a GNHCP volunteer for \$1 between **May 1** and **July 24**. Raffle drawing to be held at The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. on **7/24/21 at 6 PM**.

Winner need not be present to win.

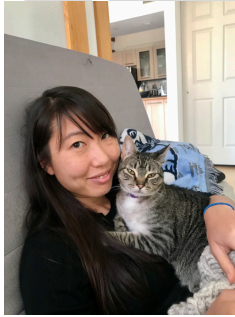
Four Prizes to be awarded:

- \$250 Visa gift card
- \$200 gift card for Stop & Shop
- \$100 gift card for Subway
- \$50 gift card for Chewy.com

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DR. YONGHEE CHO & STEVE MARSTON

BY RHEA HIRSHMAN



As a little girl growing up in Brockport, New York, Yonghee Cho always wanted pets. “I loved animals,” she says, “but my family was not as enthusiastic.”

Yonghee with Bowie

Now, Yonghee can lavish that love on her two feline companions (Prince and Bowie) in the home she shares with her husband, Steve Marston. Steve, unlike his wife, grew up with cats in his family’s Chapel Hill, North Carolina household. His special feline buddy was a gray girl named Ani, who slept on his pillow and joined Steve when he read the comics. The couple brings their mutual love for cats to the Greater New Haven Cat Project every Monday night, when they do their weekly GNHCP caretaking shift.

Yonghee and Steve arrived in New Haven in the fall of 2018 from Hershey, PA, where Yonghee did a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecological surgery; she now has a practice in

gynecological surgery and is an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences at Yale School of Medicine. Steve is a visiting lecturer in American Studies at Trinity College in Hartford; focusing on the intersection of sports, society, and culture, he teaches and writes about the ways power, ideas, and humanity operate in the world of athletics.

How did they become involved in GNHCP? As Steve tells it: “After we had lived here for several months, we were walking down State Street, saw the GNHCP window, and stopped in to talk with Cheryl. We’d been looking for a way to connect to our new community, and we both love cats. The Cat Project was perfect for us!”

During their Monday nights shifts, Yonghee and Steve take great joy from getting to know the cats and seeing each one’s personality change and grow. “I especially love watching the shy ones begin to gain a sense of security and learn to trust,” Yonghee says. They also took in a foster (who has since found a permanent home) when the Cat Project

had to shut down early in the covid-19 pandemic, and they participate in other GNHCP activities such as the annual gift-wrapping fund-raiser and building shelters that are distributed to those caring for community cats.



Prince and Bowie

“Working with the Cat Project has given us a purpose and a community,” Steve says. From her perspective as a physician, Yonghee adds, “In my work, I take care of humans. There is something different and moving about taking care of animals, who can’t advocate for themselves. Our



Steve with Bowie

care helps them find good homes where they can be loved and bring others joy. Also, working at the GNHCP center helps prevent me from begging Steve to let me bring home 50 cats!”



MEET THE FOSTERS

Learn about two GNHCP STARS!

Jenna is a sweet 8-year old who loves to tumble around and roll on her back, especially if it means she can get a belly rub! She is looking for a new, quiet place to call home.

Lacy is a young, shy adult female cat who is very curious. She enjoys the companionship of other cats, and would do best in a house without a lot of activity.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Although GNHCP has faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were very fortunate to receive funds from a variety of organizations committed to supporting GNHCP’s programs. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the following organizations who have generously contributed to GNHCP: The Allan Louis Loeb Foundation, Athletes for Animals, Bartlett Foundation, Bernice Barbour Foundation, Connecticut Department of Agriculture: APCP, The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, Doris Day Animal Foundation, Louis & Joan M. Sirico Fund, Petco Foundation, Petfinder Foundation, R.E.A.P. (Rights, Education, Adoption & Protection for Animal Welfare), and Robert J. and Kathleen G. Bradley Fund. Resources donated by these agencies have funded the spaying and neutering of feral and tame cats, as well as veterinary care for GNHCP foster cats, new cat beds and food for feral cats. GNHCP would sincerely like to thank these organizations for their sponsorship of our mission and the help they provide to extend these programs.

Memorial Contributions

- In Memory of “Pitter” (from Amy Savage)
- In Memory of “Blackie” (from Loretta Merlone)
- In Memory of Josephine Earley-O’Connell (from Charles Iadaresta)
- In Memory of “Nelly” (from Jeanine Cassara)
- In Memory of my Grandmother (from Michael & Susan Keeney)
- In Memory of Elsie Lovallo (from Judith Chepul)
- In Memory of Christopher Canali (from Barbara Canali)
- In Memory of “Paul” Bliss, beloved cat (from Christine Bliss)
- In Memory of Beautiful “Nelly” (from Suzanne & Hector Samuel)
- In Memory of “Casey” (from Bernice Giskin)
- In Memory of “Maggie” (from Cheryl Doebrick)
- In Honor of “Rafael” (from Kenneth Hawkins)
- In Memory of Carol Brooks (from Noreen Endriss)



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 \$60, you will receive a copy of our newsletter, Catmatters, twice yearly. 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:

Please sign me up for a:

Basic Donation (\$25) : _____ Population Donation (\$90) : _____ Gift Donation (\$25) : _____ Sponsor a Foster Cat (\$125): _____

Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In memory of: _____

Contribution to GNHCP: Spay/Neuter Program \$ _____ Tommy Fund \$ _____ Operational Expenses \$ _____

Name _____

Full Address _____

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, and a photo and update on your sponsored cat.

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



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C T matters

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Spring 2021 Edition (Digital)

Featuring:

- A story from a feral cat caregiver
- Meet Spott
- Volunteer spotlight
- A heartfelt thank you
- "Meow Talk" comic

www.gnhcp.org/newsletters