



# Catmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts.

Spring 2024



## TWO (OR MORE) ARE BETTER THAN ONE: ADOPTING CATS TOGETHER

BY JAN BROWN

When Amy Davis and her partner Brian Humpal came to adopt a cat from GNHCP a couple of years ago, they had planned to adopt just one. Fast forward to today, and they now have four cats, all from GNHCP. Most recently, the couple adopted Maren and Marnie (now Molly and Ginny, respectively) a young adult mother-daughter pair.

For a while, Amy had wanted to adopt a bonded pair – cats that have a prior special connection that most often occurs with littermates who grow up together but can also form between unrelated cats. Her sister had also encouraged Amy and Brian to adopt a bonded pair. Adopting two cats together often helps them to adjust more easily in their new surroundings. This companionship can be especially important for bonded pairs, who often struggle to adjust or become depressed if separated.

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, fundraising events and grants.

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Rhea Hirshman, Jan Brown

### Visit us Online!

Website: [www.GNHCP.org](http://www.GNHCP.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GNHCP](http://www.facebook.com/GNHCP)  
Instagram & TikTok: @gnhpc.inc

Amy and Brian had already seen the benefits of adopting two cats together with their cats Minnie and Wolfie (previously named Meadow and Turbo). They adopted Minnie and Wolfie just two weeks apart in July of 2022. One of the shyest fosters, Minnie had kept her distance and hid when Amy and Brian visited the GNHCP's center one day. Then, as Amy and Brian were preparing to leave, it was as if Minnie knew her moment had come.

She approached the couple and started rubbing against their legs. To Amy, this was a sign. When she told the story to her friends, they agreed: the cat had chosen her new family, and Amy had to adopt her.

But during that visit, Amy and Brian's son Jackson had also connected with a gray male kitten and they decided to adopt him as well. In hindsight, they believe that adopting Wolfie really helped Minnie with the transition into a new home. A shy cat, Minnie hid under a bed for a long time before she started to explore. Wolfie was familiar to her from her time at the shelter, and since he was a kitten, he was outgoing and fearless. He helped Minnie feel safe to come out of her shell and settle into her new home.



Clockwise from top left : Wolfie surveying all from the table; Molly cuddled up on the couch; Ginny participating in a Valentine's Day surprise; Minnie sleeping in her cat tree

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In the meantime, Amy and Brian had been following GNHCP's website and social media, and in September of 2023, they decided it was time to add Maren (Molly) and Marnie (Ginny) to their family.

When the couple brought Molly and Ginny into the home a little over a year later, they saw a similar dynamic. Molly, the more adventurous of the pair, was the first to explore the house. Ginny was timid, and much slower to come out of the office space that they started in. Without Molly's example to encourage her, Ginny would have taken longer to settle in.

Once the two cats did feel at home, though, the bond that Molly and Ginny shared became less apparent. Almost immediately, Molly bonded with Jackson and Ginny connected with Brian. Ginny is a talker, and she will cry for Brian when he leaves. While Molly was fairly protective of Ginny while they were at the center, now she seems mostly indifferent to Ginny's distress. The family jokes about how independent the two are from each other. "Bonded pair, huh?" they ask.



Molly snuggling with her favorite human, Jackson

The house is now complete with confident cats, who are all bonded with one another and their humans.



## EVENTS

CALLING ALL TRIVIA EX-PURR-TS!

# TRIVIA NIGHT

BENEFITTING GNHCP

Wednesday, April 17th 2024  
6:30-8:30pm

**EAST ROCK BREWING CO.**  
285 NICOLL ST SUITE 103, NEW HAVEN, CT

Join for a fun night of trivia and raffle baskets in support of GNHCP! \$5 minimum donation to participate. Prepay online or pay cash at the door!

**VISIT [GNHCP.ORG/TRIVIA](http://GNHCP.ORG/TRIVIA) TO LEARN MORE & SIGN UP!**

Save the date!

**THE great GIVE**  
MAY 1-2, 2024

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

The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

Visit [www.gnhcp.org/greatgive](http://www.gnhcp.org/greatgive) to support GNHCP during this event!

The Greater New Haven Cat Project is hosting a...

# Tag Sale

Saturday, May 18th  
9 am to 3 pm

**2 BELFAST ST, MILFORD, CT**

For more details visit [GNHCP.org](http://GNHCP.org)

PSST...MEOWTHER'S DAY IS MAY 14TH!

Get your cards today!

[www.gnhcp.org/mothersday](http://www.gnhcp.org/mothersday)

**\$20**

HAPPY Mother's DAY

I LOVE YOU MORE THAN CATS LOVE CATS.  
TREAT YOURSELF LIKE A CAT TODAY -- CURL UP, RELAX, AND DEMAND THE ATTENTION YOU DESERVE!

**GNHCP + HERITAGE CANDLES**

We are partnering with Heritage Candles for a fundraising campaign during the month of April.

**50% of every sale goes to GNHCP.**

Visit [www.gnhcp.org/candles](http://www.gnhcp.org/candles) to learn more!

Sale ends April 30th!

**CATSTOCK Mascot Contest!**

Enter by 5/31 for the chance to have your cat featured as the GNHCP Catstock Mascot!

Each submission is \$10. All proceeds benefit GNHCP.

**VISIT [GNHCP.ORG/CATSTOCK](http://GNHCP.ORG/CATSTOCK) TO LEARN MORE**

Catstock is scheduled for Friday, July 12th, 7-9:30pm at Best video Film and Cultural Center in Hamden, CT

Your cat's picture goes on the poster!

# GNHCP RAFFLE

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

- \$250 Visa gift card
- \$200 Big Y gift card
- \$100 Cabela's gift card
- \$50 Chewy gift card

**May 1 - July 27. Drawing on July 27th @6 PM.**

Winner need not be present to win

[www.gnhcp.org/raffle](http://www.gnhcp.org/raffle)



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JANELLE K. . . .



THE GREATER NEW HAVEN CAT PROJECT  
*Volunteer spotlight: Meet Janelle K.*



She has bene  
volunteering at  
GNHCP since  
2023.

In addition to participating in fundraising efforts, she uses her 17+ year expertise to help with GNHCP's accounting needs!

She enjoys spending time with her two rescues, Hailey and Lily! She also loves to spend time with family and friends, as well as baking and crafting.

Janelle's rescues:

Hailey and Lily



@GNHCP.INC

## CAN'T ADOPT? SPONSOR A FOSTER!

Love cats but someone in your household is allergic? Not allowed to have your own where you live? You can still get your "cat fix" via our virtual sponsorship program. For a \$150 donation, you can sponsor a GNHCP cat of your choosing for one year. You'll receive:

- A framed certificate and thank you letter in the mail.
- Emailed quarterly updates about your cat's progress (plus lots of cute photos).
- A "happy at home" follow-up once your sponsored kitty has found its furever home.

Your support goes towards the care of your sponsored cat, as well as to our other GNHCP fosters. The annual sponsorship is the purr-fect way to provide for a cat in need, even if you're unable to bring them home yourself.

To sponsor a cat, go to [www.gnhcp.org](http://www.gnhcp.org) and click on the blue button to Sponsor a Foster Today. At the payment section, include the cat's name in the "Description Field" when you check out.



## HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

Each year GNHCP experiences a substantial increase in the number of requests from Greater New Haven communities in need of our help, and we were very fortunate in 2023 to receive funds from numerous organizations committed to supporting GNHCP programs.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following organizations for their generosity, which goes towards ensuring GNHCP's continued success: Allan Louis Loeb Foundation; Athletes for Animals Foundation; Bartlett Foundation; Bernice Barbour Foundation; Robert J. and Kathleen G. Bradley Fund; The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven; Connecticut Department of Agriculture Animal Population Control Program; Doris Day Animal Foundation; Kelley Family Fund; George A. & Grace Long Foundation; Maisie Foundation; Silas Orion Fund, R.E.A.P. (Rights, Education, Adoption and Protection for Animal Welfare); Jonathan David and Evelyn Ruback Foundation/Morgan Stanley Gift; and Simchick Stewardship Fund.

We thank these partners for their sponsorship of our mission and the resources they provided to help fund the spaying/neutering and vaccination of feral and tame cats, food for feral cats, operation costs, and veterinary care for foster cats.



## Memorial Contributions



- In Memory of Bernice Giskin - Lynelle & Dave Suraci
- In Memory of Josephine Earley-O'Connell - Charles Iadaresta
- In Memory of Christopher Canali - Barbara Canali
- In Memory of "Ethel" Ives - Judith Carter
- In Memory of All Cat Lovers (past and present) - Lori & Kenneth Minkema
- In Memory of our beloved kitty "Curtis" - Diane & Steve Mierz
- In Honor of "Barnum" & "Bailey" - Sid Lillick



# Donations

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP), established in 1996, works to combat the cat overpopulation problem with a comprehensive low-cost spay/neuter program for tame cats and a trap/neuter/return (TNR) program for feral cats. Friendly cats and kittens that we have rescued are also adopted into loving, stable homes. If you would like to support our mission, please consider one of the following options:

## Basic Donation:

Basic donations fund our spay/neuter programs for tame and feral cats.

## Operating Costs:

Donations toward operating costs fund overhead and salary-related costs.

## Gift Donation:

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 be used for the Tommy Fund, which provides extraordinary veterinary treatments for feral and GNHCP foster cats.

## Virtual Sponsorship:

Virtual Sponsorship includes an update and photo of the foster cat you are sponsoring.

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Please sign me up for a:

Basic Donation : \_\_\_\_\_      Operating Costs : \_\_\_\_\_      Gift Donation : \_\_\_\_\_      Sponsor a Foster Cat : \_\_\_\_\_  
 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  
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Non Profit Org.  
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New Haven, CT  
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**Spring 2024 Edition (Digital)**

**Featuring:**

- Two (or more) are better than one:  
adopting cats together
- Volunteer spotlight
- Charitable giving
- Sponsor a foster

[www.gnhcp.org/newsletters](http://www.gnhcp.org/newsletters)