

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 GNHCP merchandise or 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.



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

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THE GREATER NEW HAVEN CAT PROJECT, INC.

CATmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts. Fall 2007

A Tail of Two Cities

by Mike Franzman

People often ask if The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP) helps felines from towns *other* than New Haven. The answer to that question is probably where the 'Greater' came from in GNHCP's moniker. If you read *CatMatters* regularly, you already know that we help cats in need from many surrounding towns; it just so happens that our organization is based in New Haven, where feline need seems greatest.



Bella

This issue we will focus on one particular neighborhood, and the events that occurred down one particular dead-end street in East Haven. Here, a trio of helpful neighbors began to notice that something wasn't quite right in their neighborhood. Suddenly there was a cat loitering, where none had been before. This cat's meandering, back and forth from one street to another, soon set into motion a collaborative effort.

"The cat used to just sit in front of the house, my daughter noticed it." Says Karen, of East Haven. Because it was winter, they didn't see it all the time, but eventually began to notice that the cat appeared regularly, and needed some help. "The cat just sat there and cried and cried - finally my husband said we

had to start feeding it - what we didn't know at the time is that she was pregnant."

Apparently, someone abandoned this calico cat in her most dire hour of need. Because of the cat's skittish behavior, no one could get close enough to know of her impending delivery, but soon enough, the end result was evident: "She was living under my neighbor's (Janet) deck next door, and she had the kittens there," says Karen. The mother and her litter of five methodically went back and forth between the houses, sometimes under Karen's shed, sometimes back under the deck. Janet notes, "she kept moving her kittens from yard to yard every time they were found by one of the neighbors."

By now, Janet and Karen were feeding the calico and her kittens regularly, but getting close enough to offer any further assistance was difficult. Still, the neighbors persisted, knowing that eventually, the cats would become trusting enough to allow human contact. Jennifer was able to catch three of them from beneath Karen's shed: an orange and white male named Forest, and a black and white male named Diageo. These two were adopted, and Janet kept the third, a female calico, Mia. The remaining kittens, however, would not be so cooperative.

Always at a safe distance, the kittens grew, and as spring came, they became bolder. Soon they would venture out from hiding, following close behind the mother. "They wouldn't come out unless the mother did first, it was the cutest thing, they'd follow her out into the yard. One of them was black and white, and one was orange and white." Says Karen, "The mother would nurture them in the beginning, though it seems like now they are more on their own."

The developing kittens began to explore

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Visit us on the web

www.gnhcp.org

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their new world, and got into some surprising places. One day after closing up the garage, its new resident made his presence known: "The orange and white one was hiding in the back of the garage... we noticed him at the window, but he wouldn't come out, so we just started feeding him in there. Eventually, the mother was meowing to the son through the window." The mother cat finally managed to coerce the male back out of the garage with a lick and a swat. "It was very funny", noted Karen's husband.

As the kittens matured, so did their personalities. They actually managed to win over Karen's entire family! "And we were not cat people, we liked dogs... my husband did not especially like cats, but now he sits out there with the cats for hours, getting them used to people, playing with them, they are smart..."

"The mother is now friendly, you can touch her. She is obviously a housecat that somebody let go, which is sad... And the black and white one was the most curious; he would come close, though we couldn't catch him. We knew we had to catch them to get them spayed and neutered, but we couldn't get them. We were so frustrated... you really can't get help for cats, no one will help you with cats. The Humane Society was out of Have-A-Heart traps, other places didn't return calls, we

didn't know what to do, or where to turn." "Then one day I was in Xpect Discounts buying cat food, and I happened to ask a woman in the cat food aisle, just in case she had advice, and she told us all about The Greater New Haven Cat Project!"

When Karen got home, armed with



Above, Socks; below, Mason



this new knowledge, she immediately went online and searched for GNHCP. What she found there made all the difference. "That was how I met Cheryl, she called me right back, gave me the cages to trap them, God bless her, not even for what we had to do, but she explains everything, from how to catch them, to how not to frighten them once they are caught, everything... We caught the mother and the black one first, and got them taken care of -shots, spayed, neutered, all right away."

Within days, the kittens were all trapped, neutered, and released. "Three cats, to a vet on our own, would have cost us hundreds of dollars, but the GNHCP took care of it all, I am going to give a nice donation to them", says Karen.

But the process had another unexpected result too: The remaining cats all had names now. The calico mother cat is Bella. The black and white one is now called Socks. The orange and white one goes by the name of Mason.

"Socks seems to be ours now, he comes in for breakfast and dinner. Mason is a bit more unsocialized, but if someone wants him, he is probably adoptable, we can get him." If anyone is interested, contact GNHCP on the web, or via telephone. The Center is also open every Saturday for anyone interested in adopting a great cat.

And the tail continues! Now go and do likewise...

Volunteer Spotlight

by Valerie Maloney

Marie and Joan have been close friends since childhood when they grew up in same neighborhood of New Haven. The friends both love animals of all kinds and have been volunteering for GNHCP for over three years.



The Dynamic Duo - left, Joan and right, Marie

Marie's involvement with GNHCP began when five kittens were born in the parking lot of her brother's place of business in New Haven. Marie called GNHCP to trap and spay the mother and others in the colony and find homes for the kittens. Marie was very thankful because she knew the cats would now have better lives. No new pregnancies to stress the health of the females, and the males would be less likely to get

involved in fighting. Marie knew then she would volunteer with GNHCP to help the organization continue its good work.

Marie enlisted her friend Joan. The friends volunteer about two hours a week caring for the cats awaiting adoption at the GNHCP Center. They enjoy letting all the cats out of their cages at the same time while they clean up and dish out the fresh food. Two of the cats have been very lucky to be adopted by Marie and Joan. Marie adopted the shy Carmen and Joan adopted Cinnamon who has become fast friends with her husband, Joe.

Since Marie and Joan have retired from their jobs, they also help out with fundraising for GNHCP. Marie makes afghans, sells raffle tickets, and whatever needs to be done. Joan donates items for the raffles and has enlisted her husband, Joe, who helps GNHCP by making phone calls about fundraising events.

Together, the "dynamic duo" of Marie and Joan, decided they would raise money needed for Wink, one of the GNHCP foster cats, to have eye surgery. Wink is now healthy and all are hoping the same family will adopt her and her sister, Nell.

Marie and Joan are wonderful, giving people who donate their time to other important causes. Marie donates her time to her church and Joan

collects bottles and cans for two local charities. When they are not volunteering their time, you might find them perfecting their Tai Chi; a form of martial arts.

Both Marie and Joan would like to encourage anyone and everyone to volunteer with GNHCP. Joan explains that it "makes you feel good" to help. You can do whatever you would like to assist. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated and will help to improve the lives of cats in the Greater New Haven area.



Above, Carmen;

right, Cinnamon



The Importance of Community Support Annual Reception Benefits GNHCP's Spay/Neuter Program

by Valerie Maloney

It's no wonder the Annual Reception for The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP) is one of the most sought-after invitations by New Haven society. This is because the lovely and interesting Beverly Bradshaw-Carbonella hosts the event. New Haven's Wooster Square has been Bev's home for over 44 years and is where she and her late husband raised their two children. Bev has always had pets of her own, including a cat named Max who was adopted from a local animal shelter. Max lived with Bev's family as their beloved pet for 12 years.



Beverly

Bev loves New Haven and gives back to her community by serving as the President of the Historic Wooster Square Society and by volun-

teering her time with the New Haven Preservation Trust and the New Haven Colony Historical Society, now known as the New Haven Museum and Historical Society.

Another way Bev serves the community is by supporting GNHCP. She loves to entertain and each year plans and hosts an annual reception for GNHCP at her home on Wooster Square. Her engaging personality draws people from the greater New Haven area to attend the reception. Whether they come to converse with Bev or to support GNHCP is a moot point because

the event is enjoyed by all. Bev's inspiration for the reception stems from her long-term friendship with Jane Scarpellino, a GNHCP

volunteer, whose efforts on Wooster Street have improved the lives of the feral cats that reside there. Admiration for Jane's dedication to the ferals and the organization was instrumental for Beverly wanting to help.

Bev's home is impeccably decorated and laden with beautiful works of art. Her parlor shelves are awash with photographs that give you a glimpse into her long and intriguing life. Her decorating flair is a result of her background as the Fashion Director for the Edw. Malley Company; New Haven's Premier Department Store until the 1960's. Among her many talents are painting and photography.

The Bradshaw-Carbonella Annual Reception is one of the most successful fundraisers that enables GNHCP to continue to improve the lives of stray, abandoned, and feral cats in the greater New Haven area. We greatly appreciate Bev's generosity and hard work.

Playful, Young Female Looking for Love

I'm young, affectionate and a great bird watcher. I'll even share my humans because I like everyone. Call and ask for me, "Petra" at (203) 782-2287 or visit www.gnhcp.org.



The Very Best Pet Network® is supported by your local Wal-Mart® store and Purina. Visit your local Wal-Mart® pet department to see the Very Best Pet Network™ adoption board with pictures of adoptable pets.



Memorial Contributions

- In memory of Bubba - Christine Tomczyk
- In memory of Maggie - Rose Quiello
- In memory of Lacey - Pam Landry
- In memory of Snowball - Keith Newell
- In memory of Jesse - Nancy Dometios
- In memory of Tia Tegua - Karina Danvers
- In memory of Meredith and Bea - GNHCP Direct Care Volunteers

GNHCP Wish List

Things to keep our Center clean and running smoothly and to keep our animals happy and healthy.

Gift cards to WAL★MART, Petco or grocery stores

First-class stamps

Paper towels

Trash bags

Simple Green

Dish soap

Revolution

Frontline

KMR Powder Formula

Catnip toys

Cat treats

Toy Mice