

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

Visit us Online!

Website: www.GNHCP.org
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CATmatters

EveryCatMatters.EveryPersonCounts.

CAT HAVEN IN FAIR HAVEN

Fall 2022

By Aileen I Fernandez

If you were to ask their neighbors to describe Minerva and Adan, they would tell you about a couple who has a great impact on their community in Fair Haven. Adan is outside every day of the year, helping to clean up the neighborhood and local park, while Minerva cares for the neighborhood cats and is often found speaking with her neighbors about the importance of responsible pet ownership.

Four years ago, Minerva encountered a stray cat at her doorstep. Wanting to care for the cat, she went out and purchased some cat food and started to feed him. Adan cautioned her that soon she would have a whole slew of cats, but she waved him away, loving how friendly the visitor was. As the months went by, Minerva and Adan started to receive more feline visitors until, one day, Minerva realized they now had five daily visitors. "They were all so cute, and some of them were so friendly!"

About two years ago, Minerva noticed one of the strays lying on her porch badly hurt. She started asking around and calling different animal rescues to see if she could get some help for "Kitty" (as her daughter, another animal lover, had named him). She was finally directed to The Greater New Haven Cat Project (GNHCP), and felt a wave of relief



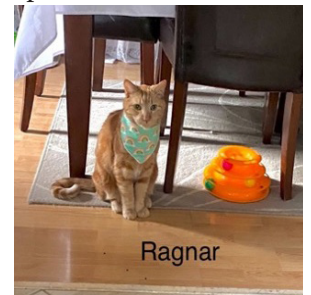
Left: Kitty in the outdoor shelter. Right: The other outdoor cats (clockwise) Gandalf, Chai, Riley, & Larry enjoying some quality time together

when she heard back from Cheryl, president of GNHCP. "I called and emailed and was so relieved when they actually responded! Cheryl came and picked up the kitten. I was nervous he would not survive since he was in such bad shape. But the vets were able to stitch him up, neuter him and return him to me."

After Kitty was taken care of, GNHCP helped to trap/neuter/return (TNR) the four other cats. They were fixtures around the neighborhood, so the neighbors were happy to be able to get them the help they needed. Adan even built a shelter for them. "We brought some of them inside during the winter, but they were not all friendly, so this was our solution." Not only are Minerva and Adan taking care of the neighborhood cats, in addition to two of their own, but they are educating their friends and family on caring for their feline friends. Minerva convinced her brother-in-law and mother-in-law to reach out to GNHCP to spay/neuter their own cats and TNR the cats in their neighborhood. She also connected another friend with GNHCP to get them help with their four kittens.

"I am responsible for helping to teach my Latinx community. I try to emphasize that if we all do a little bit, we can make a great change." Minerva is proud to be considered the "cat lady" in her neighborhood.

She is grateful her cats are all vaccinated and spayed/neutered to help keep them healthy. She finds joy every day in feeding them in the morning and the afternoon and she would not have it any other way. "I am so thankful for everything GNHCP has done for me and my friends and family. I always talk about what a great organization it is and how much you all care!"



Minerva's two indoor cats Frankie (left) and Ragnar (right)

RESOURCES.....

Did You Know?



ACCESSING CARE IS AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP. HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES THAT HELP SENIORS AND VETERANS CARE FOR THEIR PETS!

Senior Paw Project

Senior Paw Project is a referral-based program from The Catherine Violet Hubbard (CVH) Sanctuary that provides critically needed pet food, veterinary care assistance and foster/respite care to senior pet owners struggling to keep or care for their animals.

To learn more, email seniorpaw@cvhfoundation.org or call 866-620-8640 x701

www.cvhfoundation.org/senior-paw-project



The CVH Sanctuary in Newtown, CT honors the memory of six-year-old Catherine, a compassionate animal lover who lost her life at Sandy Hook Elementary School on 12/14/2012

Veterinary Care Everywhere

Veterinary Care Everywhere (VCE) based in West Haven, CT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity that provides free or low cost at-home veterinary care to companion animals whose primary caregivers are seniors (70+), are veterans (60+), or have a disability (any age). VCE operates across CT within 60 miles of New Haven.

To learn more call (800) 533-1898 or visit www.vetcareeverywhere.org



EVENTS.....

Order yours today!
every cat matters

GNHCP CALENDAR 2023

gnhcp.org/calendar

GNHCP #GlobalCatDay FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 10/16/22

HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND DONATE!

GNHCP's mission is to end the suffering of homeless cats through the practice of trap/neuter/return (TNR), and also to educate the community ethically about the importance of animal welfare. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment for all stray, abandoned, and feral cats by educating the public as to the importance of our mission and to meet the spay/neuter needs of as many cats and people as possible.

GNHCP.ORG/GLOBALCATDAY

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday 11/29/22

Forget Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Join the international #GivingTuesday movement by donating to GNHCP on 11/29, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving!

Visit our website or Facebook page to learn more!

www.gnhcp.org/givingtuesday

Fill the Forester for Ferals

Cat food drive to benefit The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc

Saturday, December 3 from 10am-2pm

Premier Subaru Branford
155 North Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Feral Feline Festival

IN PERSON RAFFLE
Nov 5th & 12th | 2-6pm

GNHCP CENTER
965 STATE ST. NEW HAVEN
RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$5

ONLINE AUCTION
Begins @ 8am Nov 5
Ends @ 8pm Nov 12

RAFFLE BASKET SILENT AUCTION

Bid for our great raffle baskets!

Learn more & join in:
gnhcp.org/FeralFelineFestival

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT By Rhea Hirshman.....

MELISSA JENSEN

At Melissa Jensen’s childhood abode in Willington, near the University of Connecticut, animals were always part of the family. Besides loving the cats and dogs and rabbits who lived in and around the home she shared with her parents and younger sister, Melissa grew up riding horses, participating in the local 4-H club, and spending time with the goats on her aunt’s goat farm in Union, Connecticut. “I feel a deep connection with all animals,” she says, “and so have been vegetarian since I was 15, and a vegan for the past four years.” During her childhood, Melissa’s special feline buddy was Jamie, a shorthair calico kitty. “She was sweet and smart, and loved me the most,” Melissa remembers. Currently, Melissa’s feline companion is Lucy, a fluffy longhair with tabby markings. (“We think she may have some Norwegian forest cat in her,” Melissa says.). Lucy was originally adopted by Melissa’s grandmother and came to live with Melissa when her grandmother passed away a few years ago. Lucy, now 16 is “queen of the castle,” reigning over the New Haven home that Melissa also shares with her boyfriend Logan.

“Logan was not a cat person until he met me,” Melissa says. “But he is now and is happy to play video games and watch baseball with Lucy on his lap.”

Melissa, who works as a secretary in the Mathematics Department at Southern Connecticut State University, began looking for volunteer opportunities after moving to New Haven. “I was living down the street from the Cat Project,” she says, “and walked past when they were having an open

house in April of 2019. I met Cheryl, and I met the cats, and it seemed like a perfect fit.” Shortly thereafter, Melissa began doing the Wednesday evening care shift at the GNHCP center.

With Lucy ruling the roost, Melissa won’t be bringing home any other permanent feline residents for the time being, although she did foster two kittens early in the covid-19 pandemic. But, when Lucy’s time comes, Melissa and Logan will be looking to give a loving home to a bonded pair of senior kitties.

For people who are thinking about volunteering with GNHCP but are reluctant for fear that they will want to adopt all the cats in the center, Melissa says: “I know a lot of people think they can’t volunteer because they will want to rescue every animal. But by caring for them in the time you are with them, you are helping to ensure that they will go to good homes – and that is the best feeling.”



Melissa posing with sweet Lucy, the Queen of the household

HOLIDAY GIVING WITH GNHCP.....

At GNHCP, we keep our overhead low — stretching our donors’ dollars for the benefit of our felines. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of caring people like you. Since 1996, GNHCP has been able to provide spay/neuter and veterinary assistance to more than 11,456 feral and stray cats in the greater New Haven area.

Your donation will work instantly to continue our mission to address cat overpopulation through spaying/neutering and public education. You can also designate how 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 for feral and stray cats; or for overhead at our center (e.g. electricity, rent); or for salary support.

With the flurry of activity between mid-November through the end of the year, now is the time to consider an end-of-year donation. 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. This classification means your contributions may be fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. Please help GNHCP continue its important work. Thank you.

♥ Memorial Contributions ♥

- In Memory of Maggie Fields, from Patricia Collins
- In Memory of Josephine Earley-O’Connell, from Charles Iadaresta
- In Memory of Alberta Palfy, from Karen & Joe O’Mara
- In Memory of Emma Clarke, from Patti Clarke
- In Memory of “Dev” and “Trixie,” from Jeanine Cassara
- In Memory of our beloved feral, “Dev,” from Suzanne Cassara & Hector Samuel



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.

Foster Cat Sponsorship:

Foster cat sponsorship includes an update and photo of the foster cat you are sponsoring.

Please sign me up for a:

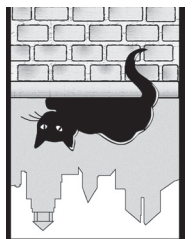
Basic Donation : \$ _____ Operating Costs : \$ _____ Gift Donation : \$ _____ Sponsor a Foster Cat : \$ _____
Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In memory of: _____
Contribution to GNHCP: Spay/Neuter Program \$ _____ Tommy Fund \$ _____ Center expenses \$ _____
Name _____
Full Address _____

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



www.gnhcp.org
Visit us on the web

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New Haven
Cat Project, Inc.
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New Haven,
Connecticut 06506



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