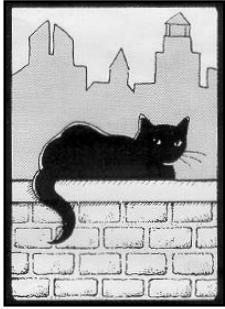


# CATmatters

*Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts. Fall 2009*

## Got ❤? We need your help!

by Betsy Frey



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
Rebecca Gibb	Vice President
Emily Doubleday	Treasurer
Chris Tomczyk	Secretary
Amy Priest	Development
Rose Majestic	Development
Lubinco Tosici, DVM	

### Additional Board Members

Roberta Reynolds	Chair, Newsletter
Jennie Llanos	Community Services Coordinator
Kathy Antos	Volunteer Coordinator

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New Haven Connecticut 06506.  
GNHCP Catmatters staff: Roberta  
Reynolds, Val Maloney

It has been over a year now since the economic recession began in September 2008, with no immediate upturn in sight. Everyone is worried about finances; empty-wallet syndrome is a common ailment these days. Unfortunately, cats haven't got the word about a recession—they don't need any government stimulus to reproduce to the point of overpopulation. The cats and human volunteers of The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP) are asking for any assistance you can give to help us continue our work to make the greater New Haven community a cat-safe and healthier environment.

### Where we start:

Our primary mission at GNHCP is to care for stray and feral cats by reducing their population growth as well as providing basic veterinary care for rescued cats. We use an approach called trap-neuter-return (TNR) to keep local colonies of feral cats from growing, and we work to educate the public about this approach whenever possible. We help by trapping feral cats for spaying or neutering before returning them to their colonies, and we arrange for transport to area veterinarians for these procedures. We also work to find new homes for stray and abandoned tame cats and kittens.

### Following through...

Some of our volunteers manage feral colonies; that is, they see to it that these outdoor cats are all spayed or neutered; are fed and given water on a regular basis; and have sheltered areas to keep them warm in the winter.

One of our recurrent projects is making insulated outdoor shelters from heavy cardboard boxes or Rubbermaid storage containers for these feral colonies. We also make sure that the cats in our Center in New Haven and volunteers' foster homes are current with their immunizations and taken to the vet when care is needed.

### Keeping on keeping on . . .

We are always available to answer questions and offer advice about TNR, our spay/neuter program, managing feral colonies, or the care of adopted cats. But to keep on keeping on, we need your help!

### Got Space?

We know that the recession has affected a lot of people's housing arrangements. Some folks have had to move into smaller houses or apartments, or share housing with other family members. But if you have room, consider sharing your space with a cat. Cats don't need a mansion to feel at home; love is more important to them than multiple bedrooms and a three-car garage. There are many ways to make even a small apartment cat-friendly.

We have many cats looking for a forever home of their own. Some are lively "teen" kittens who would enjoy having kids or other cats to play with. Some are mature cats who would make wonderful companions for older adults with quiet lifestyles. If you are retired or at home much of the time, think about making room in your life for one of our adult cats.



*Bridgette*

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Yes, it's important to consider finances in these belt-tightening times. According to the ASPCA, people living in the Northeast can expect to spend between \$500 and \$700 per year on a cat's care as of 2009. That figure includes the cost of an annual checkup at the vet and needed immunizations. But if your budget and housing situation will allow, consider adopting a cat; you will be rewarded in so many ways!

#### Got Food?

One of the ways you can help us, whether or not you have cats of your own, is by donating cat food. We need food not only for

the cats in our Center but also to help some of our friends who manage feral colonies on fixed or limited incomes. To give you an idea of the need, an 18-pound bag of dry cat food will feed a colony of a dozen cats for about a week. That bag costs \$12 or \$13 on up, depending on the brand and where you buy it. Can you help us keep food in our cupboard?



*Gus, a Special Needs cat*

Dry or canned, any brand, any size—it's all greatly appreciated. There are two ways you can help our food supply:

Buy the food yourself at your favorite supermarket or pet supply store. You can drop it off at our Center on Saturdays. Can't

get into town? No problem—e-mail [gnhcp1@gnhcp.org](mailto:gnhcp1@gnhcp.org) or call (203) 782-2287 and we'll arrange for a volunteer to come by and pick up the food.

Send us a monetary donation or Petco or gift card to GNHCP, P.O. Box 1432, New Haven, CT 06506 with a cover note or note on the memo line that the donation is to be used for cat food.

#### Got Time?

We always need volunteers to help with our various activities, from trapping cats and taking them to the vet to direct care in our Center to fundraising programs to education and community outreach. If you like cats and enjoy meeting other cat people, just let us know—we'll have a way for you to pitch in that will fit your time schedule. You can contact us via our website: [www.gnhcp.org](http://www.gnhcp.org). Our President or Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to follow up.

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. presents

### "People & Pets"

New Haven Free Public Library  
133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT  
5:30pm - 7:00pm

**October 20:** Jim Knox, Zookeeper and Wildlife Educator, Connecticut Beardsley Zoo,  
"Pets: Making Wise, not Wild Choices"

**November 17:** Jennifer Wiffenbach, Statewide Wildlife,  
"How We Can Help Wildlife"

**December 15:** Donna Velardi, Certified Animal Massage Therapist and Animal Communicator,  
"If Only They Could Talk"

## Memorial Contributions

**In Memory of "Jay"** - Susan P. Vessicchio

**In Memory of "Smokey," a beloved feral cat**  
- Joanna Baymiller

**In Memory of "Froderick Buccetti"**  
- Anthony & Toni Buccetti

**In Memory of "Pearl" & "Mom Cat Canali"**  
- Barbara Canali

**In Memory of Betsy W. O'Hara** - Janet Shoemaker

*The smallest feline is a masterpiece. - Leonardo da Vinci*

## Charitable Giving is Tax Deductible

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 2008, GNHCP was able to provide spay/neuter and veterinary assistance to 586 feral and stray cats in the greater New Haven area. In addition, 112 cats who were once homeless were placed in permanent homes!

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

Please help GNHCP continue its good work. Thank you.  
**GNHCP, P.O. Box 1432, New Haven, CT 06506**

# Volunteer Spotlight

by Roberta Reynolds

We owe a great deal of gratitude to a smart, young cat named Frunia for the contributions of this issue's Volunteer Spotlight, Beata Planeta-Wilson.

Three years ago a young stray showed up in Beata and her husband's backyard.

Knowing she would need to be spayed to prevent her from having a litter, they called The Greater New Haven Cat Project (GNHCP). That call introduced Beata to GNHCP who arranged to spay Frunia for less money than she would have

been charged at a veterinarian. But, as fate would have it, our relationship would not end there. A little over one year ago, Beata, who is employed at Yale's Medical School, coincidentally known as the "PET" Center, found a litter of kittens at work and once again, contacted GNHCP. Since she showed such solid concern for animals, Beata was asked if she would like to volunteer with us.

She began as one of our Direct Care volunteers taking on a weekly shift to clean cages and care for foster cats at our Center. Direct care and the contact she has with our rescued cats is the biggest reward for Beata. Seeing the changes in our Center's residents and watching them gain trust and eventually come to her,

looking for affection, has made her commitment to GNHCP all worthwhile. Recently she has extended her involvement by becoming a member of our adoption committee and contributing to our adoption events, assisting in the

adoption screening process, and representing GNHCP at events such as the yearly Cherry Blossom Festival in New Haven and B.A.A.C.'s Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser in North Haven.



*Frunia*

Beata has even fostered cats, most recently "The Supremes;" three female kittens rescued from a residential area in New Haven. Beata has lent her creative genius to the latest addition on our website, [www.gnhcp.org](http://www.gnhcp.org), by videotaping our Center cats in action, which are then posted via a link on their "Cats for Adoption" section. The videos have shown to be a great success with the recent adoption of "Rosa," a long-time resident of our Center who showed her playfulness and charm on her video and how wonderful an adult cat can be.

Giving back to the community through volunteering is important to Beata. Previous to her involvement with GNHCP, she volunteered at New Haven's municipal animal shelter and walked the dogs waiting to be adopted. Since helping animals through volunteer work runs so strong in her, Beata's influence has spread among her friends and coworkers, many of whom now do their own volunteer work in a variety of venues and give back to the community with their own passions.

But caring for animals is nothing new to Beata. She comes from a family of animal lovers and pet owners. Growing up in Poland, Beata always had dogs in her

household, but she cared about all creatures. It was not uncommon for her to find stray kittens who needed care, bring them home to nurture them back to health, then find them their own loving families to adopt them. When Beata's extended family gets together, their pets are always included. Dogs, cats and even a rabbit gather together and

all get along.

And what ever happened to Frunia who brought Beata to GNHCP? She has bonded with Beata and her husband and is now Beata's first true pet cat. GNHCP owes a big "Thank you" to Frunia, who sure knows how to pick her people.



*Beata's extended family's cats:  
Blacky and Purry*

## GNHCP Wish List

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

**Gift cards to WAL★MART,  
Petco or grocery stores**

**First-class stamps**

**Paper towels**

**Trash bags**

**Simple Green**

**Dish soap**

**Frontline  
KMR Powder Formula**

**Catnip toys**

**Cat treats**

**Toy Mice**

**Unopened dry and  
canned cat food**

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. presents the Seventh Annual



## *Feral Feline Festival*

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**  
Italian-American Club, Hamre Lane,  
Branford, Connecticut  
Music by Angelo Vessichio/Sound  
Alternative (Big Band to present)  
B.Y.O.B., snacks provided

**For information call 782-2287  
[gnhcp1@gnhcp.org](mailto:gnhcp1@gnhcp.org)**

# 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

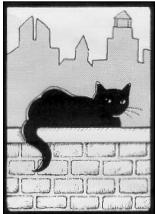
Tommy Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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  
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*www.gnhcp.org*