

FORGOTTEN Cats

OCTOBER
News

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2017



A Day of Appreciation

On September 24 Forgotten Cats hosted its first Volunteer Appreciation Event at Bellevue State Park. It was a truly great day for all who attended, with great food and entertainment, in addition to the wonderful opportunity to "put faces with names" for so many volunteers who only interact via email and phone. It was such a pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves, as our volunteers are the absolute best of any organization, and are the heart of everything we do.

**Without you, none of our achievements
in saving kitty lives would be possible.**

Sierra of AutumnLeaf Fundraisers was there with her group's wonderful craft items (all sales benefit Forgotten Cats), there was a kitty prop photo booth, delicious food (including 300 kitty cupcakes made by an awesomely talented volunteer), door prizes, raffles, and important messages presented by Felicia Cross, Jane Chickadel, and others. All volunteers received a newly-designed FC tee shirt (there are some left, email oliviawestleyfc@gmail.com).

There was one very special guest, a tiny fuzzy black bottle-baby kitten. He was found as a newborn during a trapping operation and was being given to another volunteer for foster. This little guy epitomizes what Forgotten Cats stands for... to stop unwanted kitten births, but when they do happen, bring them into foster care for eventual placement in forever homes.

We have an amazing group of 715 volunteers, and each of you is very special to us, and plays a very special role in the success we have enjoyed over the years. It was a joy to see everyone enjoy the party, and we look forward to hosting more events in the future.

STATUS UPDATE:
**In September, we sterilized 723 cats and placed 177 cats
in loving forever homes.**

Visit our website at
www.forgottencats.org

From One Volunteer to Another

By Mary Ryan

In talking about service to others, Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

I've often thought about how Forgotten Cats has changed my life and helped me create a life filled with meaningful service, rewards, and yes, challenges. I started several years ago volunteering at the Jenkintown PetSmart adoption center and found my way to the clinic. I've done feed and clean, worked in recovery, done trapping, opened the Pottstown Adoption Center, and recruit, train, and schedule volunteers at Willow Grove.

As the volunteer coordinator, I've met amazing people who have inspired me to grow, not only in my knowledge of cats, but in my service to others and as a human being.

I've heard from many volunteers their reasons for volunteering: some love animals and are passionate about making a difference. Others are retired, and instead of kicking back, have chosen the trenches of hard and often heartbreaking work in our shelter and clinic. Many juggle jobs, children, disabled and ill relatives, and multiple responsibilities to volunteer a few hours a week. Still others are dealing with a personal loss or tragedy, and their service to animals gives them a sense of purpose and the knowledge that they helped at least one life breathe easier.

As Felicia reminds us, volunteers are the heart of our organization. Our accomplishments include sterilizing over 100,000 and adopting out over 10,000 cats. The numbers, however, don't tell the incredible stories of individuals rescued from the mean streets, homeless cats placed into loving homes, and tragically unwanted births prevented. This is what our volunteers do every day.

As our WG friend Susan Zimmerman says, "We are only as good as our volunteers." We want to improve what we do. We strive to educate ourselves, to grow in our knowledge and management and practices. We learn from our mistakes.

As an organization, our stakeholders are obviously the cats, their caretakers, and the public, but also our volunteers. Volunteer retention is a huge problem for animal rescues and shelters. Research shows that if volunteers quit, it's usually in the first month. The reasons are varied. Other volunteers leave after years, suffering frustration and burnout. It's a well-known phenomenon that volunteers in shelters and animal rescue, unlike other volunteer opportunities, experience profound stress, feelings of being overwhelmed, and guilt over not being able to save them all. This is known as compassion fatigue.

How can we attract and retain volunteers? Why do we stay? Looking at my own experience, the things that keep me going are: finding a specific thing that I can do well and enjoy doing, seeing the big picture of our organization, hearing success stories, and building community with other volunteers. We must help our volunteers, new and seasoned, to learn, grow, and find a place with Forgotten Cats. We must bring in new people, so they can learn and help our organization grow.

As the animal advocate and writer Cleveland Armory observed, "anyone who has ever been around a cat for any length of time well knows, cats have enormous patience with the limitations of



the humankind."

My message is this: to help the cats, be patient with ourselves, support one another, and continue learning. The cats depend on each and every one of you, and together we can work to make a better world for them and ourselves.



FUN FACT:

Research demonstrates that volunteering leads to better health and that older volunteers are the most likely to receive physical and mental health benefits from their volunteer activities.



Thank You!

Forgotten Cats, Inc. would like to formally acknowledge and thank the following businesses and individuals who sponsored our Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Honeybee Gardens
Risnychok & Associates

WSFS Bank
Pet Supplies Plus
The Kenny Family Foundation
The Gables at Chadds Ford
East Goshen Veterinary Hospital
Kentmere Animal Hospital
Wilmington Animal Hospital
Quick Lane at Garnet Ford
McCarthy & Company
Nancy Williams
Patricia Patton

A special thank you to all the wonderful local businesses and individuals that donated raffle prizes.

Lastly, thank you to our amazing committee of volunteers that planned this event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Barbara Garrison, Sue Patton, Eva Glick, Rose Tropea, Connie Handago, Anne Meddings, Laura Nemecek, Anita Lowman, Michele Adams, Susan Silverman, Laraine Gilroy, Krista DiAngelus, Joanne Fonash, and Amanda Martella

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events to socialize.

October 17, 2017 - Friends Helping Friends Day at Boscov's
8:00 am - 10:00 pm

November 5, 2017 - Painting with a Purpose Event at Painting with a Twist, Wilmington DE
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

November 11 & 12, 2017 - PetSmart National Adoption Event
Christiana, Brandywine, King of Prussia, Levittown, and Jenkintown PetSmarts are participating.

Lets Keep in Touch!

302-429-0124 (DE)
215-219-8148 (PA)

4023 Kennett Pike, Suite 422
Greenville, DE 19807

Donate Today!

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Forgotten Cats, Inc., Suite 422, 4023 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807

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