

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

KAR Friends

Special 2012 Fall Edition

The Woman Behind KAR's Annual Dinner and Auction

By Nancy Dolan

Many of you know that Kalamazoo Animal Rescue's biggest fundraiser of the year is our Annual Dinner and Auction event, held every November. But do you know that this event, which draws 200 attendees and includes numerous items donated by area businesses, began as a result of the efforts of just one volunteer?

In 1999, Dusty Reeds, who joined the rescue in 1994, was determined to launch a fundraiser to benefit KAR's animals. She proposed selling tickets for dinner at a local restaurant, complete with entertainment and items available for bidding, but she was told it would never work. So Dusty said, "I'll do it myself." And she did. The first event, hosted by the Gull Lake Cafe, attracted 36 paid diners who were entertained by WMU music students and Barn Theater actors. The Barn Theater provided items to be auctioned and a total of \$3,500 was raised. It was a smashing success!

Thirteen years later, Dusty continues to lead the efforts for KAR's most important annual fundraiser, which has been held at the Gull Lake Country Club for the past eight years. And every year, a dozen KAR volunteers hit the streets asking local businesses to donate items for the cause of helping

homeless cats and dogs in our communities.

During the Auction, attendees bid on a large selection of diverse items ranging from a bicycle, a living room rug, a leaf blower, holiday ornaments, vintage Barbie Dolls, framed paintings, jewelry, quilts, crafts, and much more.

Proceeds from the event become KAR's primary source of funds to pay for thousands of dollars in expenses associated with rescuing and placing 450-500 cats and dogs each year into loving homes.


Details about this year's event are posted on our website: www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org. Please consider attending. Or adopt one of our pets. Or take a moment to mail a donation to KAR using the coupon on page 3 and the enclosed envelope. Our promise to you, your donation of any amount is important, and will be applied directly to the mission of helping homeless cats and dogs who are struggling to live and who depend on KAR to give them hope for a future.

Follow our animals at karfosters.blogspot.com or become a fan ...



After 2012, Dusty will be handing over the fundraising baton for the Annual Dinner and Auction to Yvonne Stork who has kindly accepted the leadership role for future events. According to Yvonne, "Dusty puts her heart and soul into KAR. Whether it's fostering or fundraising, her dedication, hard work and enthusiasm is simply amazing. I'm proud to work with her and be part of the fundraising team."

Heather Payne, 2012 KAR President adds, "Not enough can be said about Dusty's love and dedication to the animals and our community. Her commitment to help heal and find loving homes has brought joy to so many—canine, feline, and human alike."

Dusty is a high volume dog and cat foster home, a fundraising dynamo, and proof that one person with passion and determination can make a tremendous difference to her or his community. 

Shop and Earn Money for KAR!

Love to shop? Sign up for an eScrip Community Card and earn cash for KAR whenever you go shopping, anywhere in the country. eScrip makes contributions to a group you designate, like KAR, at no cost to you!

Participation is easy...

- Pick up a personal eScrip Community Card at any Harding's store or contact KAR and we will mail a card to you.
- Register the card by calling 1-800-931-6258 or you can activate the card by going to www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/hardings/index.jsp. During registration, select KAR as a charity to support, and up to two other organizations.
- If you already have an eScrip card, you can add KAR as one of your charities.



- Register all of your grocery, retail and drug store loyalty cards, as well as credit and debit cards with eScrip to earn money for your favorite charities.

When you go shopping...

- Use your registered credit or debit cards at any participating eScrip merchant, including PetSmart, Petco, and the eScrip Mall website
- Dine at participating locations
- Show your eScrip card to the cashier during checkout

How does KAR earn money? Well, participating merchants make an automatic donation based on

Community Fundraising Efforts

A sincere thank you to the following people, groups and businesses who recently held fundraisers to benefit Kalamazoo Animal Rescue:

- Greater Kalamazoo United Way
- Omega Castings
- PetCo Foundation
- PetSmart Charities
- Pfizer United Way
- Two Thumbs Up!

everyone's purchases. The rescue receives a donation check four times a year. In 2011, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue received over \$1,270. The more people that participate in eScrip and select KAR as their charity, the more money the rescue receives to help homeless cats and dogs. 🐾



Black Friday Online Adoption Event

Rather than battling crowds the Friday after Thanksgiving, make it a Black Friday to remember and adopt a black cat from Kalamazoo Animal Rescue. Did you know that black pets are often the last to be adopted? Check out the KAR website from November 12th to 30th and help a black cat find a home in time for the holidays!



About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through private donations.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Southwest Michigan.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent homes.

Adopt

If you or someone you know is looking for a furry companion please consider adopting from KAR. Animals live in private foster homes until adopted. To see the available cats and dogs, visit www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org.

Other Ways to Help

- Donations to help us pay vet bills
- Cat and dog food
- Cat litter
- Dog crates and cat carriers

KAR Friends

Looking for great tips and information on caring for pets? **KAR Friends** provides helpful pet-related articles, heartwarming dog and cat rescue stories, news about upcoming events, and valuable coupons and special offers from area sponsors. Previous issues are archived on the KAR website. To receive your own personalized copy, go to our website and subscribe today!



Jasmine's Journey

Transcribed By Lynn Bolhuis

I have the best life ever! I am truly blessed to have a family that loves and adores me. All of this is possible because of KAR. You see, I was going through a rough patch back in March 2009. I found myself sitting in a cage at Animal Services with two young puppies because we weren't wanted any more. My babies were adopted but no one came for me. Time was running out.

A dog foster with KAR heard about my predicament and came to meet me. I was so happy to have someone take me out of the cage and spend time with me that I poured on the charm. I passed a temperament evaluation with flying colors—I didn't even know I was taking a test. My prayer to leave the shelter and go to a new home was answered, at least partially. The lady became



my foster mom and she took me home with her.

In the weeks that followed, my foster parents took really good care of me. One day we went to an adoption event at Petco. A nice couple stopped by and we spent time together, even went for a stroll around the store. A few days later I saw them again when we visited their home. My foster parents saw that I was very much at ease with David and Kathy, and they proceeded to adopt me to them. They were ecstatic and I have never been happier!

Every day I walk 1-1/2 miles in the morning and evening whether it's sunny, rainy or snowy. My dad brushes my coat so it glistens, and he rubs my belly which I love. He also makes sure that I say my prayers at bedtime. I like routine and have my



family on a regular schedule: my teeth are brushed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I perform my repertoire of tricks on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with an occasional special performance for guests. Some of the things I have learned to do include: sit, stay, wave, dance, high five, play dead, and roll over.

My dad says, "I am the best dog ever and he calls me his sweetheart." I was their first rescue and they highly recommend this option to people looking to adopt a new pet. My journey ended happily ever after and for that I am so thankful. When I pray each night, I give thanks for my home and family and for the foster volunteers who rescue animals and find homes for them; and that the many homeless pets still in shelters will find a great home like I did. 🐾

WANTED: Dog and Cat Foster Homes

KAR needs people willing to open their hearts and homes to animals in need. Food, supplies and vet care are provided by the rescue. New foster volunteers receive training and mentoring. For more information, visit our website and click on Volunteer Now.

I want to support Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and give hope to homeless dogs and cats. Here is my tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your check payable to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this coupon with your check to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue • P.O. Box 3295 • Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Prim – A Cat Who Likes Rats

By Danielle Wallis

Last autumn, KAR received a call from a lady whose daughter had found a tiny kitten wandering in the middle of the road. The daughter thought the kitten might be injured so she intervened and took the white kitty home to care for her.

While they had her, the ladies thought the kitten might be deaf as she did not respond to noises in the house. The kitten's eyes were a different color too which made her appearance quite unique. The rescue stepped in when the lady realized her own cat would not tolerate another feline in the house.

In addition to Prim's deafness, it came to light that she had a slight heart murmur but she was made ready for adoption. Prim enjoyed being at her foster home and her

foster mom thought that she might be there awhile due to her disability.

Her foster mom could go into Prim's room, feed her and clean the litter box and she would not stir!

Just one week after coming into KAR, a young couple submitted an adoption application. They had previous experience with a deaf cat so this turned out to be a match made in heaven. Prim is living with a dog, two rats and a new kitty brother. Prim's favorite friends appear to be the rats. "She is so great with them! She'll hop in the cage and lay down with them. And they love her too." Her new mom



thinks they can "sense her disability and don't feel threatened by her. It's so heartwarming to see animals that are supposed to possess a prey-predator mentality be friends despite

that and we do too!"

Prim loves to wrestle with her kitty brother, snuggle with her mom and dad, and wait to be vacuumed. Her new mom will vacuum her and Prim will ask for more. She cannot hear so the vibration of the vacuum is great stimulation. According to her mom, "She is just such a joy to have. We have friends come over that swear up and down that they do not like cats, but they adore Prim! She has so many sides to her personality. We're learning more and more about her every day." 🐾