Giving young animals bright and healthy futures!

Each year, the Humane Society of Summit County rescues nearly 1,000 kittens and over 150 puppies from terrible situations of illness, injury, abuse, neglect, and abandonment. These small, fragile animals require special care and attention outside of the shelter environment to recover, survive, and ultimately find their forever families.

With the amazing support of our volunteers, our organization provides this expert care through our Foster Care Program. Young animals come to our facility, are treated by our intake and veterinary team, and then placed with temporary families—our volunteer fosters—who open their hearts and homes to these kittens and puppies in need.

Rori, a Shepherd mix puppy, entered our foster care program when she was just a couple weeks old after she was found to be suffering from a dangerously infected wound on her shoulder. A dedicated family welcomed Rori into their home and provided her with scheduled formula feeding, antibiotics, baths, socialization, and endless love. Focused and delicate care such as this can be difficult to provide in a shelter setting, making foster homes like Rori’s essential to the success of our mission!

Within a few weeks, Rori was big, strong, and healthy and returned to our shelter to find her new family. Her sweet and silly personality caught the attention of a visiting family, and, within mere hours of returning to the shelter, Rori had found her forever family!

Stories such as Rori’s are special, but not necessarily unique! All year long, but especially during the summer, young animals are rescued and given a second chance at love and happiness through our Foster Care Program, which continues to expand and impact more and more animals in need.

Last year, the Humane Society of Summit County was awarded a transformational grant from The Cynthia Parker Matthews Family Foundation in support of our Foster Care Program. This financial support provided the means to create a staff Foster Coordinator position, in turn allowing us to better serve our animals and assist our foster families. Over 80 families currently volunteer their time, hearts, and homes to help our rescued animals and are truly the core of our Foster Care Program. Support such as this makes their selflessness and dedication even more impactful.

Together through efforts from our volunteers, donors, and adopters, young, vulnerable animals are saved, rehabilitated, and provided with wonderful futures. Learn more about how you can make an impact as a volunteer foster family by visiting www.summithumane.org or by calling 234-212-9843.
Dawn and her husband Ron have been cherished supporters of the Humane Society of Summit County’s mission for decades, but they are also adopters! Dawn and Ron visited the shelter and happened to meet Hank, a special needs puppy who suffered from epilepsy. Hank would need to find a forever family with a big heart willing to accommodate his medical needs. Luckily for Hank, Dawn and Ron have huge hearts! Hank found his forever family!

Dawn recounts, “This is a photo from the first day I met Hank and fell in love! I’m fortunate to be home enough to give him the special attention that he needs each day. He’s an absolute sweetheart and has completely stolen my heart.”

**FOREVER HOMES**

**ADOPTER PROFILE:**
**Ron and Dawn Hartman**

Jackson
Holley
Nilly
Macaroni
Junior
Theo
Kimber
Necie
Harper
While we can never know how Biggles the cat ended up outside and on her own, we do know that her future is now filled with love and hope.

Biggles came to us after our Humane Officers found her as a stray in need of immediate veterinary attention. She was very thin and suffering from a severe skin condition. Her body was covered in scabs and fleas and her fur had become patchy and thin. Biggles was obviously in pain and struggling to survive in the elements.

At the Humane Society of Summit County, Biggles was given medications, vaccines, and soothing treatments for her skin. She was also showered with love and affection as she completed her difficult recovery. Throughout her ordeal, Biggles was friendly and appreciative of the care she received from staff and volunteers at the shelter.

Today, Biggles patiently waits to meet her forever family!

Remember the Animals in Your Year-End Giving

The holidays are an important time to support causes that are dear to you, and we hope you will consider making a gift to the animals! In addition to a traditional donation, here are some different ways to support HSSC:

**HONORARY GIFTS**
What should you get for the pet-lover in your life who has everything? A gift in their honor to HSSC! Visit [www.summithumane.org/donate](http://www.summithumane.org/donate) and click “Tribute Gift”. We’ll send a letter notifying your loved one of the gift you made for them.

**GIFTS OF STOCK**
A direct transfer of stock may give you an immediate deduction and save capital gains tax if the shares have appreciated—all while providing the greatest possible benefit for the animals at HSSC!

Transfer deadlines for the 2019 tax-year are in early December. Ask your financial advisor for details and to initiate your gift.

**IRA MINIMUM REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS**
If you are 70-1/2 years old, you may take advantage of a simple way to lower your tax burden. Up to $100,000 may be donated from your IRA to HSSC with no tax on the income.

Please contact Louise DiLullo, Director of Development, at (234)212-9749 or ldilullo@summithumane.org for more information.

Save the Date!

**2020 Events**

**Bow Wow Bingo**
Friday, March 6
6pm-9pm
St. George Family Center
Fairlawn

**Bark in the Park**
Saturday, May 9
11am-3pm
Lock 3 Park
Akron

**Putts for Pets**
Monday, July 13
12pm-6pm
Silver Lake Country Club
Stow

**Pawsibility Ball**
Saturday, August 29
6pm-10pm
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
Fairlawn
Volunteers Make All the Difference

HSSC relies on the generosity of volunteers to rescue over 2700 animals every year. Annually, over 600 volunteers dedicate 40,000 hours of time to support our animal rescue, care, enrichment, and adoption efforts. Thank you to our volunteers who make this work possible!

Janet Bartlett
Office Volunteer

Sarah Whitford
Event Volunteer
“I’ve loved my 15 years of volunteering because even when you think you are spread too thin with work and life, HSSC makes your heart full.”

Marianne Kay
Veterinary Volunteer
“It gives me a lot of happiness to be able to use my medical background to help our animals and bring comfort to them.”

Janet Bartlett
Office Volunteer

Marianne Kay
Veterinary Volunteer
“It gives me a lot of happiness to be able to use my medical background to help our animals and bring comfort to them.”

Jim Sebastian
Dog Training Volunteer

Elizabeth Marino
Media & Outreach Volunteer
“When I think about helping our community’s abandoned and cruelly treated animals, I often think about changing lives one at a time—the furry kind and human kind, equally.”

PJ Estin
Happy Tails Volunteer

Elizabeth Marino
Media & Outreach Volunteer
“When I think about helping our community’s abandoned and cruelly treated animals, I often think about changing lives one at a time—the furry kind and human kind, equally.”

Kathy Kraft
Kitty City Volunteer
“I love working with potential adopters, especially when they find their ‘purrfect’ new family member!”

Brenda Ehrhardt
Foster Volunteer
“I volunteer to help those that can’t help themselves!”

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“When I think about helping our community’s abandoned and cruelly treated animals, I often think about changing lives one at a time—the furry kind and human kind, equally.”

Steve Waypa
MAC Volunteer

Nick Urban
Dog Walking Volunteer

Learn more and become a volunteer at HSSC by visiting www.summithumane.org/Volunteers!