

SAFE HAVEN TIMES



Summer/Fall 2025

Fostering Dogs, Changing Lives

By: Amanda Kautz, Foster Coordinator

Jill and John are two of our wonderful fosters. They have compassionate hearts and provide the best experiences for the dogs in their care. They are committed to fostering until the dogs get adopted into the best homes for them. They have fostered many dogs for Safe Haven and we are forever grateful to them.

Jill first became involved with Safe Haven in 2014, after moving here full time, as a donor and volunteer. In December 2019, she received a call from Safe Haven about a dog, Farrah, who was depressed, scared, sad, and cowering in her kennel. Jill was asked if she would be willing to foster Farrah. When Jill met Farrah she was so scared it broke Jill's heart. She knew she needed to take this girl home. As soon as she was brought into the house, Farrah relaxed.

For Jill, watching the dogs come out of their shells and seeing their personalities emerge is just one of the rewarding aspects of fostering. Of course, there are challenges along the way. One of the biggest is preventing accidents by helping the dog establish a routine of going potty and learning their cues. Another potential challenge is leash aggression, typically out of fear. To help with this, Jill takes them out in public exposing them to different situations, helping them to become more comfortable with whatever they may encounter and confident in themselves.

Seeing the part she plays in giving these dogs a safe and fun environment and knowing they aren't confined to a kennel is motivation for Jill to continue fostering. She is very focused on learning what her fosters need in their forever home. Sometimes an adoption doesn't work out and that is okay. Jill states, "My fosters will never go back to the kennel. They will come back to me until we get it right." She is very adamant about keeping her fosters until they

are adopted into their forever home.

Jill mentions, "Safe Haven has been a great partner while I foster. If I'm traveling, they provide help with the dogs." To Jill, it's especially rewarding to help an older dog, one who has been in a kennel setting for an extended period of time, or was in a home and is now in a shelter and very confused and scared. When their fosters get to the house and start to relax, they know they are making a difference in the lives of their fosters. Jill says, "Assisting in finding the dog a forever home and getting feedback from the adopters completes the circle of how important this work is."

We are so appreciative of wonderful fosters like Jill and John. We can never express how much fostering benefits the animals and humans. It is an amazing feeling to be a foster for dogs or cats, knowing you are helping them on their journey to finding their forever homes. New foster families are always needed! Stop by the shelter during normal business hours of 10am-3pm Monday through Saturday to learn more.



Jill with fosters Gigi and Piper. Piper ended up being a foster fail for Jill and John, who adopted her!

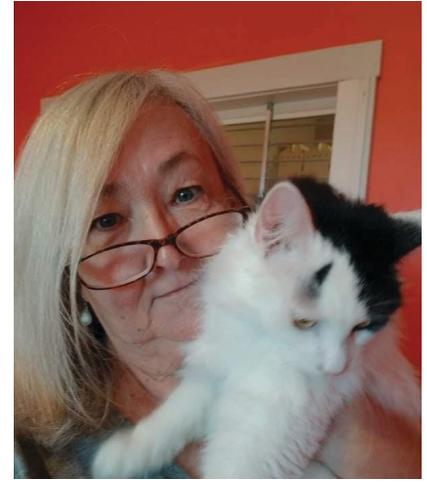
Our Amazing Team!



Jeannette Thraen McCullum
Shelter Manager



Anne Marie James
Bookkeeper



Cher Dyle
Volunteer Coordinator



Taylor Edler
Veterinary Assistant



Amanda Kautz
Foster Coordinator



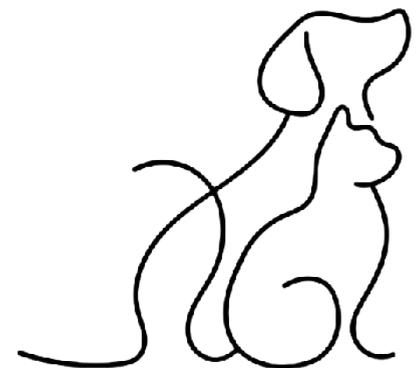
Andrew Roos Barlow
Shelter Assistant



Kristin Roos Barlow
Shelter Assistant



Allie Velazquez
Shelter Assistant



From the President

SUPPLEMENTING DONOR GIVING THROUGH GRANTS

As with all non-profits, Safe Haven has a constant need to find funding sources. One area that has recently provided financial relief is the securing of grants from various sources. It should be noted that there is intense competition for many grant programs. Through the financial guidance provided by our board of directors, we have been able to maintain funds to adequately guard against downturns and emergencies.

Because of the ability of Safe Haven to manage its finances responsibly, we often do not qualify as being the most in need when compared to other shelters. When pursuing grants, numerous denials can be disheartening. Further, we do not have a person with grant writing experience. We would certainly welcome someone with this background to assist in pursuing the many available grant opportunities.

Over the past year, we have applied for over a dozen grants. These applications ranged from \$500 to \$25,000. We have had some success securing funding amid several rejections. These

grants included:

- *Athletes for Animals*, a St. Louis-based group formed by professional athletes
- *Emma Loves Dogs*, Wisconsin-based, honoring a young girl who died of cancer
- *Every Pet Project*, sponsored by Virbac, a supplier of animal pharmaceuticals
- *Penny Fix*, which provides spay/neuter funds through individual donations
- *ASPCA/Riley Subaru*, for the *Subaru Loves Pets* event in October
- *Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque*, IT grant to analyze and upgrade facilities

These grants have been valuable in supplying funds to supplement money received from the many generous donors we have. If you have connections with grantor's who have interest in making the lives of pets and their owners better, please let us know.

Thank you!

Sam

Sam Smith
Board President



Meet Safe Haven's Newest Board Member

Safe Haven thanks Brooke Bernard for volunteering to serve on our Board of Directors. Brooke attended her first board meeting as a director in October. The Board looks forward to working with Brooke and learning from the new ideas and skills she brings with her to the group.

"My name is Brooke, and I joined the Safe Haven Board in August after volunteering since last November. Volunteering quickly became one of the highlights of my week. My own cat of 17 years was a light in my life, and serving on the board is a meaningful way to give back. I'm lending my knowledge of AI and digital communication to help support Safe Haven's ongoing growth."

Welcome aboard, Brooke!

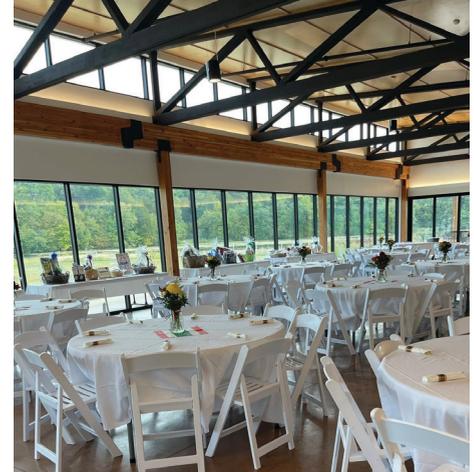


Safe Haven Humane Society of Jo Daviess County

2025 Paws at the Pavilion Fall Fundraiser a Success!



Safe Haven seems to have a sweet tooth! Desserts were plentiful at the event, as was camaraderie between fellow animal lovers.



The GTA's lake-front facility was beautifully decorated for us.

The annual fall fundraising Gala took on a new look this year as Safe Haven hosted *Paws at the Pavilion* on September 20 at the new GTA event center on the shores of Lake Galena. It was a huge success thanks to all who attended and supported it, bringing in the highest amount of revenue in the event's history. The evening featured a delicious catered dinner, live and silent auctions, and good conversations among friends. The Board and staff thank everyone who participated on behalf of our shelter dogs and cats. We hope to see you at next year's event, which has become a very important part of Safe Haven's annual fundraising efforts.

Safe Haven Thanks the 2025 Paws at the Pavilion Supporters

2 Dogz Canine Training
Beauty Nails
Beyond the Horizon
Big Bill's Sandwich Shop
Big Heart Too
Bob Dittmar
Bob Thorsness
Bowser Lady Michelle Polly
Cave of the Mounds
Celebrity Hats
Char Wenc
Chocolat 229
Coxy's Liquor
Cucino Bella
Denise Loughran
Dirty Gurt's
Eagle Ridge Inn
Edward Jones
Elizabeth Garage

Elle & Becks Coffee
Eshelman Pottery
Fergedaboutit Winery
Flashback
Fried Green Tomatoes
From Head to Toe
Galena Apothecary
Galena Country Tourism
Galena Square Veterinary Clinic
Galena Wal-Mart
GTA Board of Directors
Hoskins Building Center
Jail House Inn
Jason Wiegard
Joe Mattingly
John & Kay Day
Lacoma Golf Club
Log Cabin Steakhouse
M&W Feed

Mary Katos
Michelle Dieter Photography
Midwest Medical Center
Nancy Easum
National Mississippi River
Museum
ORA Dubuque
P.T. Murphy Magic
Paradise Bar & Grill
Ray & Carol Scarpelli
Riley Subaru
River Bend Gallery
Sam & Lynda Smith
Studio 5
Sundown Mountain
The Underground
Timmerman's Supper Club
Unitarian Universalist Church
Woodbine Bend

From the Treasurer

In this Season of Thanksgiving and Holiday, I think it is appropriate to acknowledge all of those who have supported Safe Haven through this past year: our wonderful donors who have given from the heart to make Safe Haven all it can be... all of the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly in the background to keep the wheels turning... our dedicated staff who work so hard for Safe Haven... our key suppliers of goods and services who support Safe Haven day in and day out... our Board of Directors who make the strategic decisions to keep Safe Haven pointed in the right direction... our Golf Outing and Gala (and other fundraiser) committees who worked to create our showcase events.

We are proud to announce that in the past year we have enhanced our facilities to better serve you by bringing on-line a Low-Cost Clinic for pet spay/neuter.

But there is more that Safe Haven can do within our community, and our ability to do that is supported by you. Please consider a donation this Holiday Season.

Thank you!

Dave

Dave Kizior, Board Treasurer



There Are Many Ways to Give to Safe Haven

Consider gifts or donations to Safe Haven. There are many ways you can do that:

Bequests: A legacy contribution can be added to your will. A legacy contribution can take the form of cash, securities, life insurance, or assets such as real estate. A bequest from a will or trust distribution may be fully deductible for federal tax purposes. Check with your tax advisor for eligibility.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD): QCD's are an option for taxpayers over age 70 ½ that allows them to make a donation to a qualified non-profit, 501(c)(3), with a tax-free withdrawal from their retirement account. QCD's are especially advantageous after age 73, when a QCD can apply to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Donor Advised Funds (DAF): A DAF is a charitable savings account that allows donors to give money to charities over time while receiving an

immediate tax benefit. DAFs are not subject to annual giving requirements. You can give as little or as much as you want on an annual basis.

Christmas Appeal: A gift to Safe Haven during the holiday season can be part of your year-end giving.

Membership & Pet Sponsorships: Donations to Safe Haven can be made monthly or yearly through our website (savehavenforpets.org) or through our Facebook Page.

Golf Outing & Gala & Birdies for Charity: Consider participating in our seasonal events, or consider sponsorship or silent auction items for these events.

Memorials: Safe Haven can be the beneficiary of a gift or memorial at the time of one's passing if designated by the survivor's family members.

Some of Our Amazing Volunteers in Action!

"It's a profound truth: change is power. It's the engine of transformation, the force that shifts situations from one state to another.

In the context of shelter pets, this resonates deeply. Every small action - donating, volunteering, fostering, or adopting - contributes to a wave of change that can entirely redefine an animal's life. It's the power to alter their story from one of uncertainty to one of safety, love, and a forever home.

To those who support us, thank you. You are actively making a difference. To those who may not know us well, we invite you to exercise your power by getting to know us and supporting Safe Haven and its mission."

~ Cher Dyle, Safe Haven Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Hours Update

Total volunteer hours
as of October 31:
3573.5

Month with the most hours:
September/451



Young entrepreneur and Safe Haven supporter, Leo, worked hard this past year at his very own lemonade stand raising money for our animals. He stopped by the shelter at the start of the school year - 4th grade for him - to deliver a hard-earned \$900 donation to Safe Haven. Thank you Leo, you are awesome!



Keeping it in the family. Look who we found volunteering to take care of the building's landscaping - none other than Jan Thraen, our Shelter Manager's Mom! Jan came to spruce up the landscaping around the building, something staff can have a hard time getting to with all of the needed animal care.



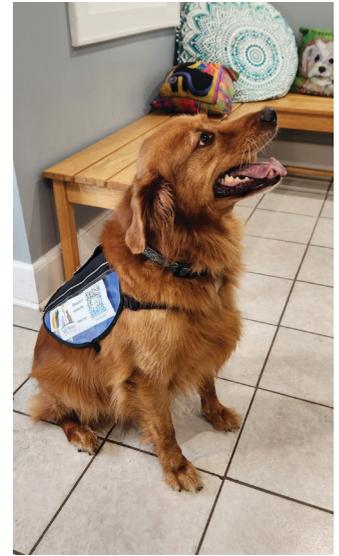
There is new agility equipment in the front dog yard of the shelter, all of which was generously donated to us by Mark Sumpter/Eagle Ridge Realty. This has added a lot of fun to our dogs' outside time while giving them valuable enrichment, training and socializing. Volunteer Trudy Bennorth helped set up the agility field.



Shelter dog Pretty tours Elizabeth with volunteer Karla Rowles. If you would like to brighten a dogs day by taking one on a walk, stop by the shelter and become a volunteer.



We introduced you to Safe Haven's first "Ambassador" Ronan and his owner, Rachel O'Brien in the last newsletter. Now, Ronan has an official fundraising vest, which he put to good use during Galena's Oktoberfest celebration. This summer/fall, Ronan has raised \$293.00 in donations!



This fall, staff welcomed the arrival of Wyndham/World Mark Galena employees on their company "Wish Day," where staff can choose how to make an impact on the community through volunteering. We were grateful they decided to spend their "Wish Day" with us at Safe Haven. They conquered some big projects we'd been putting off and there was time to visit the pets too. Thank you Jennifer, Dawn, Taleaha, Mike, Gigi, and Malkiel. We enjoyed your visit and you made a difference in the lives of our pets!



'The Binge Club' is a group of eight women from five states who meet annually to explore a new part of the country in search of fun. This year, they stopped by the shelter to volunteer! The group formed in 2020 while binge watching Netflix shows and then meeting virtually to discuss them. Although originally formed to pass time during Covid, the Club's annual travels continue to this day. As of October 2025 they have watched and discussed more than 120 network TV series. While at Safe Haven they were busy with cleaning, photographing our dogs, writing new copy for posts, and socialize our cats, kittens, and pups.

Winter Cat Shelter Project Underway

Is your cat a working cat, living outside and catching mice? Does your cat sneak out at night and refuse to come in? Maybe you have a beloved community cat that you care for? If you answered yes to any of the above, check out our winter cat shelters because all our feline friends deserve to have a warm place to stay. If you are interested in one for your outdoor cat, please call us at 815-858-2265 to place an order. They are \$25/each. If you would like to contribute to the project, you may donate an 18-gallon tote. Used totes are fine, just make sure that the lid that fits securely.



Staff member Amanda with a 'before' tote.



Volunteer Norm with completed shelters.

Sponsor-A-Pet - Starts at Just \$10/Month!

Your monthly donation of \$10 or more helps to support one of our cats or dogs in the shelter. All major credit cards are accepted. You may cancel at anytime. Please consider joining those who make these contributions by signing up at safehavenforpets.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage.

David Anderson
Stephanie Beardsley
Kathleen Behof
Lisa Bourrette
Nancy Buening
Steve & Trish Bianchetta
Gary Binder
Mary & Brian Brandt
August Comella
Dan & Connie Consedine
Juanita Cox
John & Kay Day
Divine Interventions
Cathy Dorwick

Bob & Lu Douglas
Edith Duncan
Steve Efken
Linda & Wilfred Enders
Andrea Garvey
Larry & Karen Gorczowski
Pam Hall
Bernie & Mary Carol Harris
Debra Huso
Nancy Hyman
Barb Jansz
Richard & Karen Jasper
Shari Kochman
Lucy Koropchuk

Pat & Linda Malia
Brittany & Dave Middendorf
Joseph Murnane
Tom & Wallene Neumiller
Donna Pries
James & Ulrike Rachuy
Helen Reed
Joyce Secor
Sam & Lynda Smith
The Freckles Foundation/Jeni Pearce
Doug Troutman
John & Lisa Wilhelmsen

Safe Haven Out & About



Volunteers took several dogs to Elizabeth's Fall Harvest Celebration in August, including our friendly girl, Molly.



Casey Newman (L), Owner/Operator of McDonald's/Galena and Jeffery Hess-Ward hosted a *Community Night* to benefit Safe Haven. Luna and Hendrix joined them, both of whom have since been adopted!



Safe Haven pups attended a play at the Galena Center for the Arts that was about Buster the Dog!



Board Treasurer Dave pulling double duty at a *Share Night* sponsored by Culver's/Galena.



Gary Binder and puppy at the *Subaru Loves Pets* event at Riley Subaru in Dubuque.



Look at this group! Some of Safe Haven's incredible volunteers at the annual Recognition Lunch held in November.

A Few of Our Happy Tails



Luna



Students at Eastland Elementary drew pictures of our adoptable animals. They did an amazing job and helped Emerson find his forever home.



Pip



Bonded pair Petra & Randy



Bely the bulldog



Cookie



Goose (a Safe Haven resident for over a year!)



Pookie

Gifts Given In Memory Of

Diane Lewis
Curtis Sheffield

Stewie, Beloved cat of
Cathy Elwell & Pete Corby
Emily & Gregg Painter

My friend Lois's dog,
Rainy
Judith Le Blanc

Barbara Bruser
Karen & Neal Morgan

My son's cat Rufus
Barbara Thrun

Juanita Steichen
Janet Connor

My Aunt, Betty Swart
Kathy Kaiser

Tom Rivera, An Animals
Best Friend

Kitty Behof & Gary
Wendland
Beth & Larry Doria
Susan Hinrichsen
Jill Powers & John
Loebel
Michael & Linda Beth
Scholz

Susan Loring
Terry Loring

Dan Prather
Marci Prather

Dr. Terrence Allen Brown
Kishore Thampy
Alan Steinke
Gail Williams

Raymie Young
Joni Decker
Rebecca Palo
Jeni Pearce

Boyd Brown
Jeni Pearce
Wendy & Steve Meyer

Betty Wade
Prairie Ridge of Galena

Flurry, Alisha Furlong's
Fur baby
Steve & Wendy Meyer

Margaret Ann Wurster
Jacquelyn Meyer

Frannie Morgan
Carol Kucan-Gaffin

My Aunt, Judy Decker
Terry Koch

Bizzy, former Safe Haven
resident and beloved pet
of the Harbach family
Melissa Harbach

Peppy Girl, the beloved
dog of Janice Kuehl
Linda Enders

Aleighcia Renae Lara,
who loved animals and
plants
Mittie Den Herder

Our Gentle Giant,
Jackson James
Anne Marie James &
Thor Richmond

The smallest feet
make the



biggest footprints
in our hearts

Gifts Given In Honor Of

Jeannette & Kevin McCullum's
Wedding

Nancy & Mark Ahnell
Jan & Jim Bergeron
Anne Marie James & Thor
Richmond

Barb Jansz
Chad & Amanda Kautz
Joe & Elizabeth Kennedy
Alycia Kidwell

Ramona Navitsky
Cynthia Petersen
Ellaine & Alex Reyther
Jennifer Torres-Rivera
Ray & Carol Scarpelli
Sam & Lynda Smith

Cheryl & Tom Stine
Wayne & Julie Tomlinson
Carol Trebian
Jack Woodard

Remi & Roux, who are not stray
mutts, but rather, "self-made ex-
plorers, made from limited edition
artisanal blends, and descendants
of unregistered royal lineages"
Rhea Jung

Ray Scarpelli's 90th Birthday
Shirley Ramstedt
Michael & Linda Beth Scholz
Rosemary Scarpelli

Dana Rowe's Graduation
Allan Mendel
Nick Pintozzi
Kim Reilly

We try very hard to ensure that
our in memory of and in honor of
donations are included correctly in
our newsletter.

If you made a donation and it was
not included or it was misspelled,
please send an email to safe-havenbookkeeper1471@gmail.com
and we will make sure it is
corrected in our next newsletter.



Safe Haven
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815.858.2265
www.safehavenforpets.org
safehaven1471@gmail.com

Year-end Giving Reminder

If you have not done so, please consider a year-end gift to Safe Haven so that we can continue to do all of the good work you have read about in this newsletter.

Just point your smartphone camera at the QR code and click 'qr.codes' in the yellow tab that will show up at the bottom of the image. You will be taken directly to the donation page of our website.

Making a donation is quick and secure. Safe Haven does not sell, share, or otherwise reveal donor information to any 3rd party.

