

# THE MARL REPORT

Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL)

790 Featherstone • Pontiac, Michigan • 248.335.9290 **FALL 2014**



A different breed of shelter.

Roger, MARL Resident,  
Adopted September 2014.

## ABOUT MARL

The Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) is one of southeast Michigan's most established animal shelters, serving the animals and the community since 1953. It is MARL's mission to provide the highest quality of life to dogs and cats through rescue, medical care, short- and long-term sanctuary, adoption and community outreach.

## LOCATION

790 Featherstone • Pontiac, MI 48342  
248.335.9290 • Fax (248) 335-0261  
Email: [info@marleague.org](mailto:info@marleague.org)  
Web Sites: [marl.petfinder.org](http://marl.petfinder.org)  
[michigananimalrescueleague.org](http://michigananimalrescueleague.org)

## HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:45a.m. - 4:30p.m.

## MARL BOARD

Patricia Verduin, President  
Cindy Howard, President Elect  
Lynn Carr, Secretary  
Molly Phillips, Treasurer  
Yvonne McCready, Director  
Cathy Brown, Director  
Daniel Kelly, Director  
Ed Bartone, Director  
Jana McNair, Director  
Jenny Heinrich, Director  
Luanne Broecker, Director  
Mary Jean Wright, Director

## Community Advisory Board

Nicole Ethier  
Barry Howard  
Deanna Malczewski  
Sue Spangler  
Michelle Street  
Jep Street  
Kimberly Whipple  
Ken Whipple  
Lori Yankel

MARL is a private, 501c3 organization and our work is supported solely by private contributions, which are tax-deductable.

Federal Tax ID: 38-1557622

## HAPPY RETIREMENT KAYLA!



This summer, Kayla Allen retired after 33 years as director and the face of the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Kayla was MARL's sole employee for many years, living onsite and working seven days a week to single-handedly care for upwards of 100 cats and dogs, many of whom, at the time, were housed in outdoor kennels. Under her leadership MARL grew into the organization it is today, providing care and comfort to more than 140 animals at any given time. We are very proud of Kayla's achievements and grateful for her unwavering compassion and commitment. And we are delighted that, after more than 3 decades of hard work, she now has the opportunity to relax and enjoy quality time together with her husband, Roger, who has also lent his talents to MARL in ways too numerous to recount!

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement Kayla, and **THANK YOU** for all you have done for MARL and the many thousands of animals that have benefitted from your good work and deeds over the decades!!!

- The Board Of Directors



## A fond farewell

Sixty-one years ago a small group of people created the Michigan Animal Rescue League with the mission of preserving each animal's life. In 1993 I became President and began a long journey of great change for myself and the shelter. It's now 21 years later and, as I step down, I am amazed at what we have achieved.

I learned how hard it is to remain true to that original mission. Where once it was OK to just save a life, today it's all about the quality of that life. It's about helping those who have been victimized to find a place to call home. Along with Kayla Allen, Executive Director and a caring Board of Directors, we put the building blocks in place. Through many tears of frustration and much laughter at life, we increased adoptions, hired staff, built fund raisers and improved the facility. And despite dozens of midnight trips to turn off the alarm, the humility of life / death decisions, and the profound sadness of the lives many animals live, we emerge as a very strong organization poised to move into a future that promises to do it even better for those it serves. I have great pride and confidence that our new Executive Director, Magee Humes, and President of the Board of Directors, Cindy Howard, will continue to move MARL forward to serve the animals we love.



## INTRODUCING MARL'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAGEE HUMES!

Magee Humes has been appointed by the Board of Directors as MARL'S new Executive Director. If she looks familiar, it's likely because she has been with MARL for close to 7 years, serving most recently as our Associate Director. Magee is a graduate of Central Michigan University, and in the ensuing years her business career has included marketing work for GM Eventworks, McCann-Erickson, and the Michigan Humane Society. In 2007 Magee accepted a position with MARL, bringing with her the creativity, effervescent enthusiasm, and solid leadership skills which she now carries into her new role as Executive Director. Her life-long passion for animals, her unwavering commitment to the dogs and cats of MARL, and her true respect and appreciation for the valued donors, staff, and volunteers who together comprise the MARL family, combine to make her the perfect fit for our organization. We are extremely pleased that Magee has accepted the challenge of moving MARL forward into a new era, and it is with great pleasure that we formally introduce her to you today!

# Every Animal Has a Story...

## Li



Li, a beautiful four-year-old black cat, was with us at the shelter for nearly three-and-a-half years. After all of those days, weeks and years of anticipation, Li is now enjoying the simple pleasures of a family and a home where she receives all the love and attention she has waited nearly her entire life for.

## Buffy

Buffy arrived at MARL with ragged and matted fur, having endured years of neglect and hardship. She slowly responded with joy to the kindness and care from staff and volunteers. Though we knew she would look and feel better with the warmth and security that a new home would provide, we were amazed at her transformation. Never underestimate the power of love!



## Spriggy

They say life holds many mysteries. Thus it is with Spriggy, our new office resident. Spriggy came to MARL after being found in a funeral home parking lot. When he arrived he seemed perfect for the office. It's hard to describe him. Tall, dark and handsome? Not so much. Maybe short like a door stop with great observation skills. Once placed in the office, we soon noticed that he was so intent on observing that he never moved. He sat, motionless, in the same place every day. No expression, no movement. Yes, he would eat a little and he was taken outside. But basically he just watched us. For many weeks. Then one day he moved 2 feet, then, a few days later, 4 feet and now, months later, we lose him in the yard as he explores his new world! The description today would include handsome, charming and hilarious though, truth be told, his expression has never changed.



## Wiz



*A nervous Wiz in the back of his cage when he first arrived at MARL.*

A van pulled into the parking lot one day when the shelter was closed and a woman said she found a dog on the road and wanted to turn him in. There was only one problem... we didn't see a dog in the van. We looked and looked and no dog. Finally, we saw a tiny nose peek out from under a seat. Poor Wiz was so scared that he had tucked himself under the seat of the van, hoping to go unnoticed. This was a very frightened dog who cowered in the back of his crate for days, as staff and volunteers worked to gain his trust. Meanwhile, after a series of confusing phone calls, we had found Wiz's owner. They were on vacation and weren't sure when they could come and get Wiz. So while we were waiting for Wiz's owners, the staff was making great strides with him. They could pet him, he would play fetch, and he was developing into a happy little dog. Wiz's owners never came to get him. But we think that a little time at MARL is just what Wiz needed. Now this happy little guy is available for adoption and ready for a new leash on life!



*Now Wiz is working on his tug-of-war skills with the staff and volunteers.*

*It's been a great year so far...*

## TAILS WERE WAGGING

The 21st Annual Tail-Wagger Two-Step, held on May 18th at Independence Oaks in Clarkston, was as fun as ever as we caught up with some of our favorite two- and four-legged friends.

This year's event was a great success as walkers, donors, volunteers and sponsors came together to raise over \$30,000!

Special thanks to our top fundraising individual, Debbie Arquette and top fundraising team, Team Chrysler.



### Tail-Wagger Two-Step was generously sponsored by

#### All Trails:

Honorable Jim Blanchard and Janet Blanchard  
The Law Offices of Barry L. Howard, P.C.  
Becky and Gary Sakwa  
Karen & Mickey Shapiro  
Tama, Budaj & Raab, P.C., CPAs  
Kim and Ken Whipple

#### Loyal Friend

Detroit Parrot Head Club

#### Barking Buddy:

Bryan H. Levy P.C.  
Cathy & William Eisenberg  
Linda & Jeffrey Serman  
Law Office of  
Albert L. Holtz, P.C.

#### Barkable Mention to:

DJ Ray Trevino  
Hungry Howie's Clarkston  
Anne Burns &  
The Confidence Course  
Bryan's Neighborhood Coney  
Bentley's Closet



## THERE IS NO PARTY LIKE A YAPPY HOUR PARTY!



There was only one place to be on June 5th, and that was in the stunning Rock Garden at Meadow Brook Hall for the Michigan Animal Rescue League's 5th Annual Yappy Hour! With over 250 guests, many with their 4-legged best friends by their side, it was a night to remember. The incredible silent auction was once again a highlight of the evening and alone raised \$12,400!

Back for a second year, but even better, was our at-the-door raffle. Prizes included a refurbished pet bed exclusively created by HGTV's Cari Cucksey, an iPad donated by Carhartt, and a \$500 shopping spree donated by The Village of Rochester Hills.

Special thanks to the Yappy Hour host committee, volunteers, incredible co-chairs Sue Luther, Nichole Gabridge and Cara Krupa, and our honorary co-chairs, Jim and Marge Hiller.

### Yappy Hour was generously sponsored by:

#### TOP DOG SPONSORS



#### VIP SPONSORS

Margaret & John Bashur  
Sandy & Keith Kondos  
Susan & Tim Lucken  
Stonebridge Financial Partners

#### TOAST OF THE TOWN SPONSORS

Animal Emergency Center  
Barry-Bashur Foundation  
Jennifer and Jeffrey Farber  
The Law Offices of Barry L. Howard, P.C.  
The Luther Dogs and Cat  
Yvonne and Michael McCready  
Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Therapy for Pets  
Pet Supplies Plus - Rochester  
Becky and Gary Sakwa  
Kim and Ken Whipple



#### PARTY ANIMAL SPONSORS

Betsy Barnes  
Bentley's Closet  
Cathy & Don Brown  
Customized Manufacturing & Assembly  
Mickey Guisewite &  
John DeCerchio  
Rodney Hagenbuch  
Karagosian Jewelers  
Leash Lovers  
Leslie Electric Co.  
Oakland Animal Hospital  
Pet People  
Sigma Investment Counselors  
Sit Means Sit Dog Training  
Patricia and Ron Verduin  
Kimberly Whipple  
M.J. & Jay Wright



*...and there are still lots of great things ahead...*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Can't make it to the shelter to visit our adorable dogs and cats? No problem! Join us at our off-site events, held around town at the MARL Adoption Center at Orchard Mall, Pet People in Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham and Pet Supplies Plus in Rochester.

### **October Off-Site Events:**

**Friday, October 24th**, 6pm, Mall-o-Ween at Orchard Mall.  
Trick or treat at the mall!

**Saturday, October 25th**, 10 am-2 pm, A Halloween party at the MARL Adoption Center, Orchard Mall

### **November Off-Site Events:**

**Saturday, November 1st**, 11 am-2 pm,  
Pet People, Birmingham

**Saturday, November 8th**, 11am-2pm,  
Pet Supplies Plus, Rochester

**Saturday, November 15th**, 11 am-2 pm,  
Pet People, Bloomfield Hills

**Saturday, November 22nd**, 10 am- 2 pm,  
10am-2pm, MARL Adoption Center, Orchard Mall

### **December Off-Site Events:**

**Saturday, December 6th**, 10am, Breakfast with Santa and holiday fun at the MARL Adoption Center at Orchard Mall

**Saturday, December 20th**, 11 am-2 pm,  
Pet Supplies Plus, Rochester

*Please check [MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org](http://MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org) for location details and possible changes.*



### **Michigan Animal Rescue League's Pet Adoption Center at The Orchard Mall**

In early May of this year, through the generosity and kindness of the owners and management of **The Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield**, MARL was given the opportunity to transform a storefront into a Pet Adoption Center, right in the heart of West Bloomfield! MARL now hosts monthly pet adoption events at our Orchard Mall location, introducing some of our most charming adoptable dogs, cats, kittens and puppies to our many visitors and new friends. The Pet Adoption Center at Orchard Mall perfectly accommodates MARL's furry friends and provides us with a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of our shelter and extend our presence into this wonderful community. Please join us at our future pet adoption events at The Orchard Mall and see what the excitement is all about!



# 2014 Holiday Wish List Drive

MARL is ready to make some wishes come true and you can help! The Annual Wish List Drive provides an incredible amount of much-needed supplies and donations to the animals of MARL, at a time when we need it most...as we prepare for the cold months ahead.

### **Here's How You Can Help!**

1. Your business, office, church or school can participate by setting up one of our small or large displays that feature photos of MARL dogs and cats. Visit [MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org](http://MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org) for more info.

2. You can visit one of the 30+ locations in metro Detroit that feature the MARL Wish List displays during the holiday season.

Find us at all Hiller's Markets stores, select Pet Supplies Plus stores, various Starbucks locations, salons, veterinary offices...just to name a few.

Put these participating locations on your list of places to shop while you're running your holiday errands. Select an animal from the display, make the donation and you have made a difference! Easy!



**'Tis the Season...  
for the  
MARL  
Wish List Drive!**

For a complete list of participating locations visit [MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org](http://MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org)

Don't suffer from a cold lap this winter...

## ADOPT A CAT.

A different breed of shelter.


Autumn, a 3-year old extra-toes Calico cat, is waiting for her fure-ever home.


She and her many feline friends are available for adoption at MARL. Visit them at the shelter or view them online at [michigananimalrescueleague.org](http://michigananimalrescueleague.org)


# Easy Ways to Make a Difference


You can make a difference for the dogs and cats of MARL, just by doing the things you do anyway. Check out these easy ways to make a difference and you can feel good about supporting MARL every time you make a purchase!


**Links and more details can be found at [MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org](http://MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org).**


 **AmazonSmile.com**  
Everyone loves shopping Amazon! Same products, same prices, same service. By using AmazonSmile instead of the typical Amazon shopping site, a percentage of the price on eligible purchases will be donated to MARL.

 **Kroger Community Rewards**  
Shop at Kroger? Link your Kroger Plus Card to MARL in the Community Rewards section of your account. So easy!

 **Bravelets** are more than just something you wear on your wrist. They are a symbol of hope, strength and courage. For each item purchased on MARL's Bravepage, a \$10 donation will be made to MARL.

 **Fresh Step Paw Points**  
Become a Fresh Step Paw Points member and donate from your computer! Instead of buying litter and hauling it to the shelter, simply donate Paw Points to MARL. The shelter can redeem these points for much-needed litter.

 **Bissell Pet Foundation**  
With every Bissell product purchase, Bissell will donate \$1, \$5 or \$10 to the Bissell Pet Foundation. Simply visit [www.bissell.com/pets](http://www.bissell.com/pets) after your purchase and enter the code from your receipt to activate your donation.

 **Charity Motors**  
Looking to get rid of your car, RV, motorcycle or other vehicle? Donate it to Charity Motors and a portion of the fair market value will be sent to the shelter.

## Want to Be a Doggone Good Gift Giver This Holiday Season?

Hi. I'm Augie, the main man at MARL. Everyone thinks I'm just an old shelter dog who lays around and eats biscuits. Truth is, I've been watching over everyone while I enjoy my stay here at MARL. You could even say I'm like the resident Santa Paws, keeping track of who's been naughty and who's been nice. That makes me an expert on NICE! And you want to know a nice gift to give during the holidays?



A donation to a MARL dog or cat! Did you know you can make a donation and give it as a gift to someone? NICE! Check out the holiday giving info at [MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org](http://MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org) to see how YOU can give a very nice gift...and get on the nice list yourself!

## Saying Goodbye to Dear Friends...



**Odie, MARL Office Dog.** We miss you, friend!



**Katy Verduin, 2001-2014,** Fiesty to her last breath!

## Interested in volunteering?

Our volunteers make all the difference in the extra care that we can provide our dogs and cats!

There are many opportunities available. Contact the MARL Volunteer Coordinator, Dave, at 248-335-9290 to get started!

# Pawing to say Thank You...



*Becky and Gary Sakwa  
with their dog Dudley.*

As you may know, long-time MARL supporters, Becky and Gary Sakwa, offered to match donations up to \$10,000 to meet the most important needs of our shelter animals.

Thanks to their generosity, we were able to reach out to our supporters and offer them the opportunity to have their donations doubled! The response has been overwhelming and having exceeded our goal, we are thrilled to be able to address our cat housing system and offer our many cats the opportunity to stretch, climb, perch, and just be more comfortable! We are also able to install adjustable dividers in our kennel area so that the dogs who are overwhelmed by the busy kennels can enjoy a more serene environment.

These renovations will have an immediate, positive impact on the day-to-day lives of our shelter animals, and for that we are extremely grateful to the Sakwas and for all who joined them in making a difference!



Ummm...  
Volunteers?  
Yeah, you!  
My friends and I  
just want to say  
**THANKS**  
for lending a  
paw at the  
Michigan Animal  
Rescue League!  
*We love you!*



## Barkable & Meowable Mentions

To **Nyah and Miles**, who texted family and friends and hit the streets with a wheelbarrow and some big hearts when they heard about the Sakwa matching donation opportunity. Nyah and Miles have always been friends of the shelter, and this time they collected cans from neighbors and friends to raise money for the dogs and cats of MARL.

*We think that is pretty fantastic!*

**Pet People** of Bloomfield Hills, and **Pet People** of Birmingham, **Pet Supplies Plus** of Rochester, and the **Birmingham Farmer's Market** for rolling out the red carpet to our dogs and cats by hosting off-site adoption events. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring our adoptable animals to these various locations throughout the year!

**Nancy and Mark Stesney** for hosting the 5th annual Knucklehead Knoll golf outing benefiting MARL. This event brought in a fantastic crowd and an impressive \$2,600.

**Meredith Weir** celebrated her 9th Birthday with a Barkin' Bash. All her guests brought dog and cat supplies in lieu of gifts for the Birthday girl!

**Dubin Cleaners and Laundry** for their ongoing support and for hosting a MARL adoption event for the third year in a row.

**Sasha and Rich Woloch** for getting together all of their friends for a day of golf in support of the dogs and cats of MARL! They raised over \$800...and had a lot of fun in the process!

**Paws up to the following for the generous donations of supplies:**  
Pet Supplies Plus, Royal Oak, Pet Supplies Plus, Waterford, English Gardens, Notre Dame Preparatory, Bryan's Neighborhood Coney, Jacobsen's Flowers, The Luther Family, PetsMart, Northville

To **Pet People** Birmingham, for donating 10% of their Grand Opening Weekend proceeds to MARL!

## These cuties are available for adoption...



**Tychus**

8 years old, male, coonhound mix  
special, happy, constant companion



**Nimbus**

11 weeks old, male, domestic short hair  
silly, playful, entertaining



**Jackie**

3 years old, female, domestic short hair  
quiet, gentle, sweet



**Bella**

4 years old, female, hound mix  
lovable, playful and well-behaved





NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROYAL OAK, MI  
PERMIT NO. 851

A different breed of shelter.

790 Featherstone  
Pontiac, MI 48342  
(248) 335-9290  
Dedicated to Saving Animals

# DONATION SLIP

**YES!** I want to help the homeless animals of southeast Michigan.

Here is my tax deductible donation in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Michigan Animal Rescue League)

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AmEx

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have finished **The MARL Report** please feel free to share it with your friends and family!