

# Paw Prints

Bitter Root Humane Association



## 2nd Time Around Jewelry Sale

Vintage,  
new,  
costume,  
handmade,  
previously  
loved  
jewelry and  
accessories!

**Saturday, July 31st, 2021**

**Ravalli County Fairgrounds Floral Bldg**

**Hamilton - 9am to 2pm**

**Affordable Prices - Crafters Welcome!**

**All proceeds to**



**Shelter Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 1-6 pm; Wed - CLOSED; Sat - noon - 5 pm; Sun - 2-5 pm**

**Serving Our Community Since 1972**



262 Fairgrounds Road  
P.O. Box 57  
Hamilton, MT 59840

406.363.5311  
execdirector@bitterroothumane.org  
www.bitterroothumane.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathie Butts, President  
Mary Gehl, Vice President/Secretary  
Linda Williams, Treasurer  
Barbara Garten  
Sue McCormack  
Robin Dewey  
Jen Chase  
Michele Craig  
Lisa Allison  
Chad Hillman  
Kathy Good, President Emeritus  
BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com

### STAFF:

Danny Groshong, Executive Director  
Rachel Kramer, Operations Manager  
Peggie Noffsinger, Bookkeeper  
Chelsea Detweiler  
Office/Volunteer Coordinator  
Char, Medical Specialist  
Amber, Lead Animal Care Attendant

### Animal Care Attendants/ Adoption Counselors

Heather, Megan, Sarah , Betty,  
Andrew & Grace

BRHA is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization  
able to receive charitable donations and gifts.  
Tax ID# 81-0351709



## Prez Corner.....Kathie Butts

I am so pleased that we have been able to resume business as usual after this long pandemically altered year. Many thanks to, and much admiration for, the shelter staff. They made it happen.

When then Governor Bullock declared that we were/are an essential service, we had no idea what was coming. We stayed open for the year. No small feat without the financial benefit of being able to fundraise. The Boards of Directors that came before us, did a fabulous job of investing wisely and creating an endowment fund that supplements operating monies. Your donations were gratefully received and with the reserves we had - we got through that exceedingly difficult year.

Governor Bullock's decision that we provide a service essential to our county and valley got me to thinking about who we serve and how many families provide homes to animals in our area. I found some great information from the American Veterinary Medicine Association. In the United States there are approximately 76 million dogs and 58 million cats, our primary shelter guests. Dogs live in approximately 48 million US households and cats live in approximately 31 million households. Using the formula provided by the AVMA and a very unscientific estimate of Ravalli County population, I believe somewhere around 22,000 to 25,000 households in the County have at least one companion animal. These families help keep our valley a healthier and happier place by limiting animals at large which reduces dog bites, potential attacks on farm animals, dog packs and sick animals on our streets. Sick animals often lead to people

being treated for rabies.

And as our population increases so will the households with pets. Many of the folks new to Ravalli County expect a level of county services equal to counties that operate with sales tax, higher property taxes, and impact fees. Our county leaders have historically recognized the income limitations of the folks who live here and have resisted these methods of collecting funding. Rather, we enjoy the work of many non-profit organizations. It is clear that the Bitter Root Humane Association and the animal shelter it provides are an important part of living here and the need for our shelter will grow in the foreseeable future.

We have 2 pressing needs. One is to replace our operating reserves. The other is to begin to substantially reduce the mortgage we will have on the new building. We have raised three quarters of the funding needed for the building and have additional loan funding from Trail West Bank. Our pandemically altered year has raised our awareness of the need to eliminate as much of that mortgage as quickly as possible. We are asking for your help. Your Donations of \$5 to \$50,000 dollars or more..... are very much needed and appreciated. There are multiple ways to donate, many are tax advantaged. To learn more, contact the shelter or any member of the Board of Directors. Fundraising efforts are coming back in full swing and with your help we can get back to normal.

Thank you!  
Kathie



It's not all "meeting time" for BRHA board members. Our Treasurer Linda Williams usually is keeping our finances in check, and normally Chad Hillman and Barb Garten "volunteer" their photography skills to help our critters get adopted, but with cleaning & new donated cat towers to assemble along with grass to mow all their many talents are being put to work!





Our new doors are open,  
no appointments and no masks required!  
As we slowly get settled in, learn our new routines and continue to  
work on the finishing touches, we hope you'll stop by to see all  
our wonderful "guests" and  
stay tuned for our official Grand Opening!



Our dream has truly come true and this  
awesome community asset would not have been  
possible without the untiring passion of many,  
especially our donors!

Our building fund is still in need of the  
community's help to complete the project debt  
free...see page 11 if you'd like to help.  
**THANK YOU** for helping us care for animals!



# Meet the New Staff.....

Hello, Supporters of BRHA! My name is Danny Groshong and I am the first Executive Director of the Bitter Root Humane Association. Originally from Oklahoma, I have lived all over the U.S., working in the nonprofit field as a Human Resources and Communications Manager. My wife and I moved here in March, after she was offered a job by Rocky Mountain Laboratories. I grew up on a small farm, caring for cows, pigs, goats, and, of course, dogs and cats. There has always been a soft spot in my heart for any animal I meet, but those in the shelter are truly special, and the ability to support and help them find their new families is a dream come true.



As I was hired in March, it is truly astounding what the Board of Directors and the generosity of our community have come together to build – a ten thousand square foot shelter designed specifically to care for the animals of Ravalli County. It is my honor to lead staff and volunteers in this new phase, and I hope I and the shelter can continue to count on your support. My initial goals revolve around increasing our revenue through grant opportunities and increasing awareness of who we are and what we do in the community. I hope to create bonds and partnerships with area businesses, organizations and schools and increase participation within the community.

Please reach out to me at [execdirector@bitterroothumane.org](mailto:execdirector@bitterroothumane.org) if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is anything the shelter can do for you! I would like to once again thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity, and thank the community for your support of this organization as we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



*It's all hands on  
deck for our  
newest  
Animal Care  
Attendants  
Grace & Andrew!*



## National Puppy Day Celebrated for BRHA!

Our own "Rootie" was out and about celebrating this awesome

Hamilton Downtown Association event.

Our thanks to all the businesses that participated in making this day so special for BRHA...your support makes it possible for us to do what we do, taking care of all the homeless animals that come through our doors!



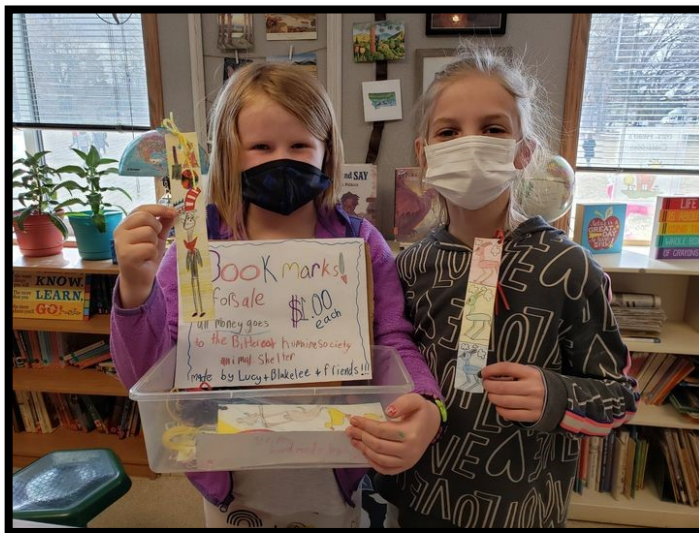


# HUMANE EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY!



**Huge thank you to Mrs. Ogden's 3rd grade class for sharing their love of animals with us!**

**To read the full story check out  
Michelle McConnaha's full article online in the April 9,  
2021 issue of the Ravalli Republic**



**Blakelee B. & Lucy D.  
from Corvallis School selling homemade  
bookmarks for \$1 each to support BRHA!  
Your thoughtfulness will go along way to  
save lives of homeless animals!**



**Huge thanks to Mrs. Hunt's class at Daly Elementary for sharing their "Random Acts of Kindness" Project with BRHA. 4 beds & 4 Frisbees were donated with funds by the Friends of the Hamilton School Foundation.**

**Your "kindness" will make some homeless  
pets very, very happy!**





# Manager's Corner.....by Rachel Kramer

My favorite time of the year has arrived...Kitten Season! Although fostering kittens is rewarding, it is also very exhausting! BRHA Foster Program is a critical component of shelter management. At any given time, we can have 30 to 70 kittens in foster care, including several "bottle fed" kittens that are with staff 24-hours a day requiring specialized care.

Our program is designed to place kittens in foster homes within 24 to 36 hours of arriving to the shelter. Kittens are so fragile and their immune systems are susceptible to illness if placed in the shelter environment.

This year our kitten season will be like no other year. We are preparing to move into our amazing new shelter that has been a dream of many for the past 15 years. We are working out of boxes, with part of them in the new shelter while others are still in the old shelter. The staff has proven to be resilient and continues to place the welfare of animals in our care as their number one priority.

Some tips to remember if you find abandoned kittens; you may have good intentions but removing kittens greatly reduces their chance of survival. Mama cat may be off searching for food. It is not unusual for mama cat to be gone for several hours or she may be in the process of moving them to a different location. Kittens can survive several hours without food as long as they are warm. Kittens should only be removed if they are in immediate grave danger or if they appear to be very sick.

If you are considering adopting a kitten this year you may want to adopt two kittens. Two kittens are actually less work. Their youthful energy is placed on each other and they become more well-adjusted pets.

If you would like to learn more about our foster care program, please contact me at 406-363-5311 to discuss the best fit for you and your home.



**Adult cats are altered, vaccinated and microchipped. They're ready to charm you and earn a spot in your heart. Adopt an adult cat NOW for only \$35!**

 **IT'S RAINING KITTENS!**

BRHA is currently accepting applications for kittens! Several are available now with plenty more to come in the next few months. They're altered, vaccinated and microchipped. Come see!



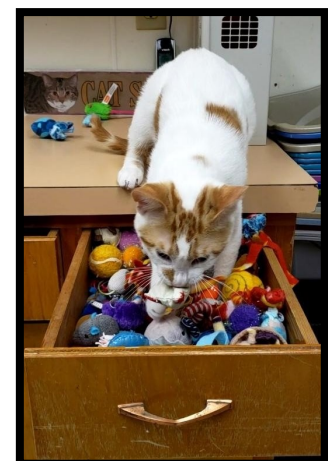
## Our Wish List....

We are always in need of many items both for our critters and everyday supplies. Our ongoing list can be downloaded on our website under the "How Can I Help" page and check out our "Wish Lists" on Amazon and Chewy.com

Moving into our new facility, we could use more brooms & dust pans, 13 & 20 gallon trash bags and small garbage bags.



Zola says THANK YOU to the Stock Farm Club for their recent awesome donation of towels for our new shelter!



Our critters always enjoy getting toys!



# Remembrances

.....February 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021

BRHA is so grateful for the support and generosity of so many who choose to honor, memorialize or pay tribute to the special people and pets in their lives. Your remembrances will assist BRHA in caring for all the homeless pets while they wait for their forever homes.

## *In Loving Memory of Pets*

FOR	FROM
Angel	Lois Vallance
Rusty	Bill & Mabel Becker
Lily	Erma Badt
Sugar & Zeus	Michael McKee
Memphis, Rolfe & Doc	Susan Thomas
Frankie	Mary Gehl
Frank, Brenda Berenyi's cat	Lois Vallance
Simon	Karen Shear
"Bob" Hagland	Peggy Ratcheson
The Jodsaas' Beloved Pets	Rob & Joyce Anne Jodsaas
Leroy	Helen Buker
Mobi	Jean Roberts
Tom, precious cat	Alberta Snyder
Yogi	Cheryl Dooley
Django, a very good dog	Steve & Jackie Gundersen
Baby	Helen Buker
Winnie	Monty & Mo Montague
Oliver	Mary & Al Gehl



## **The Pet Crematorium**

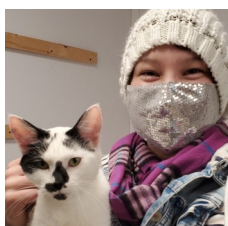
Losing your pet can be a difficult experience for you and your family. To many, the loss is not only of a pet, but of a very close friend and member of the family.

The Pet Crematorium at Bitter Root Humane Association will treat your pet with dignity, honor and the respect that a faithful companion deserves.

For information, please call us at (406) 363-5311 or visit our website at [www.bitterroothumane.org](http://www.bitterroothumane.org) and click on services.

## *In Loving Memory of People*

FOR	FROM
David Angelo	Curtis Durrant
Les & Nan Groenveld	Hal & Audrey Babb
Frank McCauley	Bobbie McCauley
Elaine Hamilton	Hal & Audrey Babb
Father Rich Grant	Grubby Urchin, Class of '72
Christine Howe	Kent Alvdridge
Azilee Lohrke	Bobbie McCauley
Wanda Lee Miller	Sharon Alexander
Viola Overton	James Dullenty
Gwen Sneiger	Bobbie McCauley
Lenna Margie Lindquist	Lolo Lindquist
Jane Davidson	Bobbie McCauley
Kathie Roubik	Judy LaScala Walter & Eileen Gottschall Marilyn Saunders Dave & Charlotte Roubik
Darlene Grove	Joan Nygaard Marilyn Saunders
Dick Bermingham	Tori Nobles & Don Stephens
Wanda Miller	Shelley Peretti
Ron Kramer	Bernice Kratofil



**Don't miss out on a single issue of the BRHA Paw Prints Newsletter...annual memberships run January through December...check your label for your membership expiration date and renew if you have expired!**



# Remembrances

Continued from page 7



## Doing more with your support!

In this time of uncertainty, there's a fundamental truth that gives us hope - that the Bitter Root Humane Association is here to serve our community, through good times and bad and that together we can do extraordinary things.

A wonderful way to support BRHA, in our dream of opening our new doors debt free, would be to purchase a \$1,000 Buy-A-Tomorrow leaf for the BRHA *"Unleash Tomorrow Tree"*. What a great way honor, memorialize or pay tribute to the special people and pets in your life, advertise your business or show your support!

Once our new shelter is complete, a beautiful wall mural tree will be painted in our community room and your "leaf" & name of choice will be proudly displayed as a generous donor & supporter!

Simply use the coupon on our inside back page to mail in your "Buy-A-Tomorrow" donation...and you can buy as many leaves as you like! Can't afford a leaf all at once? No problem, we can set you up with a monthly payment option simply by contacting our Treasurer, Linda Williams at (406) 239-3169.

**With your help we can make our dream come true!**

## In Loving Memory of People

FOR	FROM
Lenny Hellman	Bernice Kratofil
John Boche	Alice Foster
Luanne Bauman	Belle Burrington
Helen Robertt	Belle Burrington
Patricia Thornton & Abby	Donna & Chuck Steffensen
Wanda Miller	Jean Roberts
Violet Thomas	Jean Roberts
Mr & Mrs Hugh Davidson	Shari Givens
Darryl Taulman	Wendy Zabaidi Deborah Peterson Mildenberger Motors Alice Foster Helen Buker Thomas & Barbara Lee
Tom Ford	Alice Foster
Father Mike Smith	Ann Marie Carbin
Elaine Wasseem	Al & Mary Gehl Dave & Sue McCormack
Sue Olson	Leonard & Barbara McCann
George Seachrist	Alice Foster Ron & Susan Kullick Edna Blanchfield Kent & Diane Myers Don & Lizzie Moon
Dr. Howard Day	Parnelli Sharp
Judy Paul	"Jorja"
Teralee Ann Park	Terry & Janice Park

## In Honor Of

FOR	FROM
Sharp K9 Family	Karen Shaw
Sue Devlin	Brian Devlin



## "RIBBONS FOR LIFE" A RAFFLE HUGE SUCCESS!

**191 tickets were sold for a total of \$955.00 with 70% to BRHA and 30% to our players.**

### Congrats to our winners!

**1st Place—Peggy T.  
\$114.60**

**2nd Place - Jane G. \$85.95**

**3rd Place - Lorelei R.  
\$57.30**

**4th Place - Carol M.  
\$28.65**

*We sincerely thank everyone that played and double thanks to our winners who donated their good fortune back to help us care for all the critters!*



# Volunteers

By Chelsea Detweiler



As a Volunteer Coordinator, the biggest challenge I've faced in the past year was the limit placed on recruiting new volunteers. While the interest from the public to volunteer at BRHA did not wane in the slightest, my ability to say "Yes, Welcome!" was cut down at the knees, which disappointed all of the inquiring folks and left staff at the shelter scrambling to do all our tasks with a very minimal team of current volunteers. Social distancing guidelines meant that volunteers could not help out in our small kitchen while at the same time the construction of our new shelter eliminated several play yards for the dogs and volunteers to socialize. But, as the timing of COVID and construction left BRHA equally in the lurch, the completion of our new shelter and the lifting of COVID restrictions have aligned for us to be able to say WELCOME BACK, VOLUNTEERS! We are opening up recruitment of new volunteers at this time, which we are so excited about! We are accepting applications for all positions and as we figure out our volunteer needs in our new shelter, more positions will be created and announced. It's very exciting to see our brand new washer and dryer, the shiny and clean food prep room, and to visualize the hustle and bustle of a morning at the shelter filled with volunteers coming and going. A few of our current needs and those that might be needed in the new shelter are as follows: Advocats (cat socializers), dog walkers, dishwashers, laundry helpers, grounds cleanup and maintenance, transporters, errand runners, window washers, bunny socializers, office assistance and much more! Our current volunteer application can be found on our website and is available in paper form at the shelter. We can't wait to update our rosters of committed volunteers and eagerly await saying YES again to those who want to be involved. Thank you!



**BRHA loves a parade!  
2021 Corvallis Memorial  
Day Parade**

## 2020's Volunteer of the Year

was awarded to Sally Graver, a Dog Walker whose commitment and reliability impressed the staff day after day. Congratulations, Sally, and thank you so much!



## "Change" for Dani's Fund

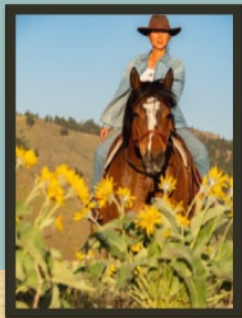
Corvallis Drug, 1029 Main Street in Corvallis, is a great supporter of BRHA and proudly hosts one of our Dani Fund donation jars! All the monies collected are used to finance a particular medical issue or procedure, that we would otherwise not be able to afford, thus making an animal's life better and a forever home possible.

If your business would like to host a "Dani Fund" jar to help "change" the life of a homeless pet, please call Robin @ (406) 381-2912 or Carol @ (406) 642-3699.





# LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE?



## HOW ABOUT A PROFESSIONAL PHOTO SESSION?

Renowned Bitterroot photographers **Bonnie Cazier** and **Barb Garten** have teamed up to create a once in a lifetime opportunity to have an outdoor photo session with you, your family and your favorite pets!



BRHA is a tax-exempt charitable organization  
Tax ID# 81-0351709



Cost: \$500 donation to the Bitter Root Humane Association (BRHA). Session includes: onsite set up, 10 edited images, and an 8 x 10 canvas print! Please call Barb Garten at (513) 292-2997 to arrange a session. All proceeds donated to the BRHA.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



We needed some muscle and some **Hamilton Volunteer Firefighters** heard our call! Thank you for always being there for our community!



**Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply** "round up" event surprised us with a \$4,131.60 donation! Thank You to them and all their loyal customers for supporting BRHA.



The "Lucky Looser Ladies" took 3rd Place in the **Groovz's "Peel off the Pounds" Contest** and donated their prize to BRHA! Congrats Ladies & thanks for sharing your success with all our critters!



They sure do....our last donation check from Amazon was \$206.59! **THANK YOU** to all Amazon shoppers that have chosen BRHA as their charitable giving organization.

Huge **THANKS** to Dani M & "Constance the cat" for these awesome handmade blankets and to all the folks who keep us supplied with items for our critters, everyday needs and our Community Pet Pantry!



With having more cat rooms in the new shelter, all the new donated cat towers will be put to great use. These Kuranda brand towers are perfect for our new cleaning system too! **Thank you** to all our donors and our assemblers...our cats will love them!





## HOW CAN I HELP?

**Yes, I want to help!** General Operations Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Building Fund General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Buy-A-Tomorrow Leaf (s) @ \$1,000.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list leaf name(s) on separate piece of paper*

*\*If you would like to arrange a monthly payment plan for buying a leaf, please contact our Treasure, Linda Williams at (406) 239-316*



Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Debit/Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: BRHA Mail to: PO Box 57, Hamilton, MT 59840*

**With your continued support we can continue to make "Happy Tails"!**



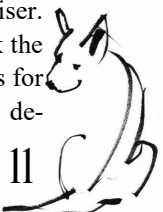
## What's Happening?

*As we go to print, unfortunately, some of our events don't have exact dates yet....please check our web-site and Face book page often for updates!*

- 2nd Time Around Jewelry Sale - July 31st
- Quilt Raffle - Displayed & tickets on sale at shelter
- Fin's Pint Night for Pets - August 14th
- Dunk the Mayor - September 3rd
- Festival of Wreaths - November 20th
- #Giving Tuesday - November 30th
- Cookie Walk, Bake Sale & More - Dec 4th or 11th



Julie Davis (center) & two other members of *The Bitterroot Bunch Quilters*, presented BRHA with two beautiful quilts to be used as a raffle fundraiser. The quilts, one "dog" and one "cat" themed, took the group over a year to complete! Thank You ladies for these awesome donations....and stay tuned for details on this upcoming fundraiser!





262 Fairgrounds Road  
P.O. Box 57  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Permit No. 38

## PASS IT ON

to a friend when you are finished reading your newsletter. By increasing readership and awareness you will be performing a valuable service for the animals we're trying to help. You can assist us in cutting costs by advising us of your change of address or duplicate mailings. We would appreciate your help in updating our records.

## New Membership & Renewal Application

Your address label indicates the year that your current membership expires. If you have any questions, please call Sue McCormack (406) 370-8071. Your continued support is so important to all the animals. Thank you!

Senior (65+): \$15 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$25 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \$30 ea

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please add me to email newsletter list

Mailing

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) Please send me information on the Kennel Sponsorship Program
- ( ) Please have the Volunteer Coordinator contact me
- ( ) Please contact me with information on the Foster Program
- ( ) Please contact me about Board of Director positions and responsibilities

Bitter Root Humane Association PO Box 57 Hamilton, MT 59840

