



# Kitty Angels

*An All-Volunteer, Non-Profit Shelter for Needy Cats*

P. O. Box 638  
Tyngsboro, MA 01879  
978-649-4681

[www.kittyangels.org](http://www.kittyangels.org)



*...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters*

*Issue #4*

## **The People We Meet — Lessons in Compassion**

Kitty Angels has been in existence for over 20 years. During that time our original intent has never changed: to help the cats that need assistance most – the strays and ferals. As we reach out to help these cats, we often encounter some very special people.

Many friendships have been formed over the years and we have come to care deeply for the people we have encountered along the way. Some of these people are generous, kind, brave and self-sufficient souls; people with happy homes and lives, and some are as lonely, abandoned or down-and-out as the needy cats we strive to help. All of these people have taught us lessons in love and compassion.

Let me tell you about a few memorable individuals:

We will never forget the homeless men under the bridge. In the dead cold of winter they huddled around a fire trying to stay warm. We had heard that they were there and that they had collected a group of homeless cats off of the city streets. These men were struggling to take care of themselves and the cats, but the cats were increasing in numbers and there simply was not enough for anyone to eat, man or feline. As we brought food for the cats we couldn't help noticing the longing in the men's eyes as they looked at the cats feasting on such an abundance of food. Realizing that the men were just as hungry, we began to make the bridge a regular stop, delivering food, warm blankets and jackets and collecting the cats to tend to them and find them permanent homes. Eventually the men were forced by the city to move from that location. How remarkable that these unfortunate men willingly shared their meager provisions with their collection of home-



less cats – we often think of them and the lesson in compassion that they taught; we wish them well and will always wonder what became of each of them.

Ruthie is one of those rare individuals that anyone would be lucky to know. Now in her 80's, we first saw her pushing a heavily laden cart of cat food. Her diminutive size made her progress slow as she passed by us while we were doing an adoption day at a pet store. As she was exiting the store we stopped her and asked how many cats she had. She cheerfully told us that she was feeding many homeless cats in the city of Lawrence. We took her phone number and promised that we would come and check things out. So began our involvement with that city and this incredibly kind woman who sacrificed her comforts for those of the homeless cats. Ruthie would venture into all sorts of neighborhoods to her feeding spots, bag of cat food, jug of water, and a special baggie of "chick-chick" – rotisserie chicken – in her arms. She would leave her basement windows open year-round so that the strays would have a warm and safe spot in which they could sleep. This brave-hearted, compassionate woman has been a saving grace to so many living creatures in need; cats, dogs, pigeons, squirrels, you name it and Ruthie has rescued it!

We can't forget to mention our dear friend, Pat, who has the most amazing heart for the cats and dogs whose lucky lives she has touched. We met Pat while trapping a kitten that became lost after jumping from a second story balcony. Pat was feeding several colonies of cats in the city of Lowell, each and every day, for years and years. She would start her day by picking up two dogs that lived in a junked car lot. She

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*"There is something about the presence of a cat... that seems to take the bite out of being alone."  
Louis J. Camuti*

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## Compassionate People

(Continued from page 1)

would hoist the big dogs into her car and drive them to her feeding stations where they would sit while she delivered food and water to the grateful (and hungry) ferals and strays along her route. Pat had made sure that many of the ferals had been spayed and neutered; paying their medical bills out of her meager retirement checks. She was an "army of one" in a city whose stray and feral animal population desperately needed a friend. After her feeding rounds, Pat would take the dogs to the park and walk them, or to the vets office where, again, she would pay out of her own pocket to give these dogs any medical care that they needed. Then, she would sneak them home for the day and let them lay around her apartment while she prepared their meals. She followed this routine until, one day, the last of the two dogs, Scooby, no longer able to walk, was gently put to sleep. Although Pat is no longer able to make her rounds, we still speak with her on a regular basis. Kitty Angels has found homes for most of her cats. The few elderly and unadoptable cats that were left in her colonies are living in one of our foster homes. Pat's commitments to the animals in her life remind us that we are not alone in the struggle to make a difference.

On a routine visit to Lawrence to feed some feral cats, we met a group of young boys on the city streets. They were fascinated by the fact that we were feeding the stray cats and asked if they could pour the food into the bowls, wipe out the water dishes, carry the water jug, etc. These wonderful children were so very enthusiastic and asked when we would be back again so that they could help out. They told us how a few of them had started their own group called "The Animal Protec-

tors of Lawrence." One of the boys brought us a baby bird that had fallen from his nest, and later stood with tears running down his cheeks as we wrapped the deceased baby bird in a towel. They sometimes carried cans of food around with them in case they found a cat that "looked hungry." The boys called us early one morning because they had witnessed a cat get hit by a car during the night. They drew straws to see which one would pick up the "dead cat," but seeing that the cat was still alive, they brought it into one of the boy's homes. When we picked up the cat, she had a broken jaw and a bit of brain damage, but to this day she is alive and well, thanks to the Animal Protectors of Lawrence. Although the group has disbanded and Joel, the "President," has moved back to El Salvador, we will always remember the gentle and pure hearts of these young men.

We could go on and on. We have met the most amazing and wonderful people in our travels and there is simply not room enough to list everyone who has done kind deeds and gone the extra mile to help an animal in need. Many people set out food and water and provide shelter for stray animals, not knowing where to turn to get help. We are inspired by each and every one of you and we love your beautiful hearts. We couldn't do it without you!

The wonderful message is that compassionate people abound! We have learned so much about life on this journey and observed so many acts of kindness extended both to people and animals. We look forward to the new people and animals we will meet as the journey continues.



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## Have Something of Value That You Would Like to Donate???

Please contact Gail Mosher at 978-430-8055 or e-mail her at [gail@hnhre.com](mailto:gail@hnhre.com). She will post and auction your item on eBay or Craigslist to raise the most money possible and 100% of the proceeds will go to Kitty Angels!! Please don't hesitate...you'd be amazed at how even simple items — used cell phones, glassware (Princess House for example), music boxes, collectibles, porcelain — are easily sold on eBay.



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## Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home?????

Gail Mosher (yup...same Gail Mosher as above) is a local real estate agent and an ardent supporter of Kitty Angels. If you are thinking of buying or selling a home, please mention Kitty Angels at your first meeting with Gail and she will donate up to 10% of her commission to Kitty Angels. You can reach Gail at *Hearth N Home Realty*, in Tyngsboro, MA, by phone at 978-430-8055, by e-mail at [gail@hnhre.com](mailto:gail@hnhre.com) and on the web at [www.gailmosher.com](http://www.gailmosher.com). Thanks, Gail !!!!

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*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted"*  
Aesop, *The Lion and the Mouse*

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## ***THE STARFISH STORY***

**WHILE WALKING ALONG THE SHORE ONE MORNING, A MAN WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE IN THE DISTANCE WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PERSON DANCING. HE SMILED AT THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE DANCING THE NEW DAY, SO HE WALKED FASTER TO CATCH UP.**

**AS HE GOT CLOSER, THE MAN NOTICED THAT THE PERSON WAS A YOUNG MAN, AND THAT HE WAS NOT DANCING AT ALL. THE YOUNG MAN WAS REACHING DOWN, PICKING UP SMALL OBJECTS, AND GENTLY TOSSING THEM INTO THE OCEAN. THE OLDER MAN CAME CLOSER AND CALLED OUT "GOOD MORNING! MAY I ASK WHAT YOU ARE DOING?"**

**THE YOUNG MAN PAUSED, LOOKED UP, AND REPLIED "THROWING STARFISH BACK INTO THE OCEAN."**

**SEEING COUNTLESS STARFISH UP AND DOWN THE SHORE, AND CONSIDERING THE YOUNG MAN'S EFFORTS FUTILE, THE OLDER MAN SAID, "THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF STARFISH ALL ALONG THIS BEACH. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GET TO ALL OF THEM. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY SAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**

**THE YOUNG MAN BENT DOWN, PICKED UP ANOTHER STARFISH, THREW IT INTO THE OCEAN AND REPLIED, "IT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THAT ONE."**

**THE OLDER MAN WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE YOUNG MAN'S LOVE FOR THE LIVING AND HIS OWN INDIFFERENCE. HE LEFT, UNABLE TO GET THE THOUGHT OF THE YOUNG MAN OUT OF HIS MIND. THAT NIGHT, HE REALIZED THAT THE YOUNG MAN WAS REALLY AFFECTING THE WORLD BY TAKING ACTION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IN THE MORNING HE RETURNED TO THE BEACH AND JOINED THE YOUNG MAN - TOGETHER, THEY WALKED ALONG THE SHORE THROWING STARFISH BACK INTO THE OCEAN.**

*This story has appeared in various forms. Some sources say that Mr. Loren Eiseley was the author of the original version.*

The tragedy of pet overpopulation seems insurmountable when considering the millions (yes, millions) of adoptable pets killed each year in the United States. The "Starfish Story" reminds us that we, with the help of adopters, donors and the many friends that we have made along the way, are making a difference in the lives of cats...one cat at a time.



### ***They Rely on Your Generosity.....***

Each year brings an increasing number of cats into our shelter. While this provides more opportunities to place needy cats into lifelong loving homes, it also means that we need to supply more veterinary services, food, litter and shelter space — and care for a growing number of “unplaceable” cats in foster homes and TNR colonies. *We're so grateful for your donations* — without them so many of the cats that we have been able to save would have simply been added to the grim statistics of animal suffering. Thank you so very much for you help — but please understand that our task never ends and that we need your continued support to continue our work!!

There are so many ways to help — some of which are listed on our website at:

**[www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html](http://www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html)**

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*"It is impossible to keep a straight face in the presence of one or more kittens."  
Cynthia E. Varnado*

# HEAVENLY HOMES

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Kitty Angels primary mission is to save those poor hopeless cats that live in the shadows of every city and town – outside, on the streets, beside the highway, in fields and woods, struggling to survive. Tragically, without intervention and help, many of these cats will die a lonely and painful death, unable to endure their daily exposure to the elements, traffic, predators, disease and cruel and abusive people. Yet, with prompt medical care, a proper diet and a caring hand, many of these animals become loving household pets, grateful for having been rescued from the burden of their former wretched lives. Thanks to you, we've seen this story repeated thousands of times. Here are a pair of cats whose happy endings were made possible by your support and donations and by your willingness to offer lifelong, loving, homes to wonderful cats. Thank you!!!!



**Meep and JP Buzzerbee** Bonnie and Jim wrote to say: "When we first met JP Buzzerbee at PETSMART, we thought that he was scowling at us. Then we realized that the poor guy's ears were permanently "crumpled" due to a terrible ear mite infestation before he was rescued. There was a sign on his cage that said "gives head butts for kisses." We wondered if such a big, tough looking guy could really be that affectionate. From the minute we brought him home (five years ago), he has been the most amazingly loving, affectionate, and intelligent cat.

We saw Meep on the KA website three years ago. He just had such a sad little look on his face in his photo that we had to go see him in person. When I first held him on my lap he was shaking, but after sitting for a little bit, he stopped. I looked down and realized he was asleep – we guessed that meant he approved of us! Initially, he and JP Buzzerbee did not exactly get along. But with some help from Kitty Angels...the boys have become friends.

Both JP Buzzerbee and Meep are FIV+, and neither of them were kittens when we adopted them. But they are happy and healthy boys who have brought us nothing but love and absolute joy. We'd like to encourage anyone considering adopting a cat to take a look at the older, "down-on-their-luck" kitties. They have so much to share. We can't thank Kitty Angels enough for bringing these two "love bugs" into our lives!"

You *must* take a look at Meep and JP's "blog" at <http://buzznmeep.blogspot.com>. It's a hilarious, cat's-eye view of the world that you will want to go back to time and again.



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## HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS

-  **Money...**to pay for the daily care and medical bills of the cats.
-  **Does your employer have a matching gift program?** Multiply your donation by taking advantage of it.
-  **Donate stock, securities or assets.** Contact us for information.
-  **Estate Planning...**consider making a bequest to Kitty Angels, by will or by trust. Contact us for information.
-  **Shop at your favorite online stores** and have a portion of the purchase price benefit Kitty Angels. Start your shopping at iGive at <http://www.igive.com/KittyAngels> It costs you nothing extra.
-  **Donate online with a credit card through Network For Good.** You can donate anonymously and dedicate your donation. <http://www.guidestar.org/partners/networkforgood/donate.jsp?ein=04-3270369>
-  **Drop** your used printer cartridges at PetSmart in Nashua at Royal Ridge Mall, or in any of our donation boxes.
-  **You can donate a used car** through AutosForAnimals. Kitty Angels will receive a portion of the proceeds and you may be eligible for a tax deduction. For more information, visit <http://www.autos4animals.net/>
-  **Leftover medical supplies, prescription drugs and foods...**for our cats on special diets and those with thyroid, diabetes, heart problems, etc., insulin, syringes, fluids and prescription cat foods are always needed.
-  **Cat Food, Kitty Litter, Postage Stamps, Towels, Cleaning Supplies**

**For these and other ways you can help, please visit the How to Help page on our web site at <http://www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html>**

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*"I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days."*  
Bill Dana

## **Spencer's Story...a true story by a KA volunteer**

A few months ago, the City of Lawrence, MA, received a call about a suspected cat hoarder who was keeping a large number of cats in a house in which she no longer lived. She was observed going to the house a few times a week to throw ripped bags of cat food on the floor from which the cats would eat. Spencer, a gorgeous flame-point Siamese mix with big trusting blue eyes, was one of the more than twenty cats living in this house. The conditions in the house were heartbreaking: the fleas were so bad that all of the cats were anemic; some even had heart murmurs from having lost so much blood to the fleas. Sadly, several cats had died. To make matters worse, when the owner heard that the Board of Health was planning an investigation, she threw all of the cats outdoors to fend for themselves!

Kitty Angels learned of these poor, abandoned, cats and, in cooperation with another rescue group, caught them one-by-one. Spencer was not as lucky as some of the other captured cats — after being spotted in an inaccessible and rotted-out crawl space, he disappeared for several weeks as the search for him continued. Then came the horrible news: Spencer had been seen several streets away, dragging his back legs behind him. When we found him he was hiding under a dumpster and would not come out — lying on her stomach, and just barely able to reach him with her fingertips, a KA volunteer was finally able to retrieve him.

Spencer was rushed to a 24-hour emergency veterinary hospital where we were told that the prognosis was not good. He was anemic, emaciated and dehydrated; he had three wounds of unknown origin that were infested with maggots; worst of all, Spencer had been hit by a car and had suffered a broken back and broken rib. The only good news was that he still had feeling in his back legs, so there was a slight chance for recovery. We chose to give Spencer the chance that he deserved and proceeding with intense, and very expensive, veterinary care.

Spencer was hospitalized for a week before going home into foster care. Restricted to cage rest for several weeks, Spencer made progress one small step at a time. Eventually, he was able to stand on his hind legs and use his litter box; he even comes to greet his “foster mom” at the door of “his bedroom” whenever she goes in to help with his physical therapy exercises. Spencer has become the sweetest, most lovable and appreciative guy around. He loves to be loved and showers us with loud purrs and head butts.

As you can imagine, Spencer's care was quite costly, but saving him is what KA is all about. There are so many cats out there like Spencer — cats whose daily suffering cannot be ameliorated without your donations. *Please help and Thank You so very much!!!*

### **Your donations saved Spencer's life...there are so many more injured, needy and homeless animals...please help!!!**

**Yes, I want to help with a tax-deductible donation to Kitty Angels:**

\$150 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Every Donation Makes a Difference!!!!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We NEVER provide your personal information to ANYONE!!



Spencer...on the road to recovery, thanks to the generosity of kind and caring donors like you

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## ABOUT KITTY ANGELS

Kitty Angels is a no-kill shelter dedicated to rescuing stray and abandoned cats, furnishing them with treatment for injuries or other health problems, and placing them into life-long, loving, indoor homes with compatible owners. We take all necessary steps to ensure the well being of our cats, including emergency and routine medical care, screening for infectious diseases, spaying and neutering, and providing rabies, distemper and other necessary vaccinations. We take in and place or foster hundreds of cats each year and deal with many feral cat populations. Kitty Angels is an all-volunteer organization. **We have no paid staff – every cent of every donation goes to caring for needy cats!** Because the cost of caring for our cats greatly exceeds our adoption fees, we depend on the generosity of individuals and businesses to make up the difference. **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today...and, please be sure to send us a Matching Gifts Form if your employer offers one...we and the cats would very much appreciate it!!**

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## THANK YOU !!

*A very special thanks to all of you who have opened your hearts and homes to animals; to those who have donated in some way to help us or others who act in concert with our cause; and to our team of dedicated volunteers and foster home caregivers. You are the ones who's caring, kindness and generosity makes the difference. We couldn't do what we do without your continued support.*

And, thanks to **PETSMART** for providing us with first class space in their store in the Royal Ridge Mall in Nashua, NH. You can see some of our adoptable cats in the cages at the front of the store and you can see us there on weekend adoption days.

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**KA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** ...people to assist with our Trap, Neuter, Return program; people who can build feral feeding stations and winter shelters; people to make follow-up phone calls regarding adopted cats; and feeders to put out food and water, two or three times a week, at established feral colonies at Exit 8 in Nashua, NH and on White Street in Lowell, MA (just off the Boulevard). See our website for further information.

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