



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Cat's Cradle Receives Gift In Memory Of Doris Sandy

The family of Doris J. Sandy contacted us about making a gift in memory of Doris, a loving sister, caring aunt, and good friend to many. Doris loved cats and rescued many who became special pets during her lifetime. Doris passed in December of 2022.

As we talked with her sister Mary about how the family wanted to honor Doris's life, we discussed program areas that needed support. As our current van had over 270,000 miles, we knew replacing it was a capital expenditure we knew could be coming soon. Mary and I started becoming excited as we talked about the possibility of a new van and making sure that it would capture what would have made Doris happy. The Sandy family made a gift to help us by a van for our adoption program also gave additional funds to help with other projects throughout the year.

Bob Ryder, Board Member of Cat's Cradle, and I attended the luncheon hosted in honor of Doris Sandy after her memorial service in July. We are so grateful for this family and their support of Doris's wishes to support an organization that helps cats like the ones she rescued herself.

We are all so appreciative of this generous gift. We are very excited about our new van and we are already putting it to use!

Sherri Heishman
Executive Director



SUMMERTIME CHALLENGE UPDATE!

Thanks to our amazing supporters! You have done it yet again - - you came through, and we met our goal to secure \$50,000 in matching funds from our generous, anonymous donor. We were a bit short of our challenge goal of \$75,000, but we achieved over \$63,000! We are so grateful to all of you - - **you have an unbroken record of helping us achieve our matching funds goal in this single largest annual fundraiser to keep our doors open and our programs afloat.** We appreciate you and the support you lend to Cat's Cradle!

We can't do it without you, folks, and we are humbled that you have never let us down - - you put your compassion into action to help us save the lives of the animals who can't help themselves. No matter what you donated this year, we are grateful for every single contribution, and each dollar will help to support our vital programs.

We especially want to recognize our incredible **Challenge Sponsors** and have posted their names in a blog post which you will find on our website at: www.catscradleva.org/latest-news.



Silver Jubilee



New to the Team



Broadway, VA native **Lea Summers** (left) is a JMU student majoring in sociology and independent studies where she is learning about animal welfare organizations. She is also minoring in nonprofit studies and honors interdisciplinary studies, and she hopes to graduate in 2024. Her hobbies include hiking the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, working on her latest art project, watching YouTube educational videos about various types of animals, or reading a good book while curled up with her cats Tilly (a bottle baby stray she raised) and Cat's Cradle alums Banjo and Cymbal. Lea hopes to continue learning about animal welfare and nonprofit organizations. Lea is an adoption/phone counselor.

Connie Feely (right) is a licensed veterinary technician and works full time at Virginia Veterinary Specialists as the Oncology tech. In her off-time, you can find her paddleboarding on the river or enjoying libations at a local brewery (bonus if there is live music). She has 4 cats: one is a Cat's Cradle alum, two she rescued, and the baby is a sweet angel she took home from work with a heart condition who was only expected to live to be 1-2 years old. He beat the odds and will soon be 3! Connie is an adoption/phone counselor.



Sam Bergman (left) graduated from JMU with a BS in biology in May 2023 and will be taking a gap year before attending medical school! She has always loved helping animals of all species but particularly feline friends! She is thrilled to be joining the Cat's Cradle's mission to support and protect our community's vulnerable and homeless cats. In her free time, you can find her hiking, foraging, training her dog, cooking up random and elaborate recipes, and reading high fantasy novels. Sam hopes to leave Harrisonburg a better place than she found it, especially for our furry friends here. Sam is an adoption/phone counselor.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

2023 NUMBERS

- 2,104 spay/neuter surgeries facilitated through 8/31
- 574 cats and kittens rescued from partner shelters through 8/31
- 442 cats and kittens adopted out through 8/31
- 103 families have been authorized for medical assistance through 4/30
- Trap, Neuter, Return: 591 through mid-August



Pet Retention Grant

We are honored to receive a three-year Community Partners Grant from the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge (CFCBR)! This grant of \$3,000 each year for the next three years will support our expanding pet retention program, which provides financial assistance to vulnerable members of our community to defray veterinary bills and help them keep their pets. Total veterinary bills associated this program now average over \$50,000 each year. All CFCBR grant funds will be used to pay veterinary fees. The \$3,000 per year in grant funding should cover assistance for approximately 25 families each year.

As well, we are honored to receive a \$1,760 gift through the Community Foundation from the Gwen David Feline Medical Assistance Fund to provide additional support for this pet retention/medical assistance program. Ms. David has been a long-time donor to our programs (and former volunteer, when she lived locally) and is especially passionate about helping special needs cats and kittens.

In 2014, we were able to help only twelve families in this way – with the help of grants from the Community Foundation, Gwen David, and other donors, we are now authorizing financial assistance to around **250 families each year!**



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2023 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN (CVC)



Calling all state employees! Now's your chance to help Cat's Cradle by signing up to make your donation through payroll deduction. The campaign starts in October and runs through December. You can check it out at www.cvcgives.org. Cat's Cradle's charity code is 200079, but you can also search us by name:


Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley

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catscradleva.org





COFFEE & CATS
cat's cradle

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WANT TO LOVE ON KITTIES?**

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Harrisonburg's first
Cat Café!**

Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy visiting with kitties in one of our private kitty rooms. All proceeds go to our spay/neuter program.

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catscradleva.org