



## Charley's Strays, Inc.

February 27, 2011

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened in the past couple of months; some good, some sad and some ugly. Let's start with the good news, first. **Bottles for Charley's Strays** was the goal of the third grade children in Madison Elementary School. They collected pennies and worked hard in rolling these pennies for our Shelter. The grand total was close to \$250. Karen Deady, their teacher, matched that money and sent us a check of \$500! A huge **Thank you** to Karen and her students. 😊

In November I wrote in my newsletter that our Washer was on its last feet, as far as Washers have feet. Karen Rapallo, one of Charley's long-time supporters, felt pity for our people who had to baby-sit the washer (or is it washer sit) through the whole cycle because it was just too old and worn out to do it by itself. Karen had a local store deliver a brand new washing machine to the Shelter! The downside; the dogs don't get to watch the people anymore making fools of themselves while kicking and swearing at the washer. I believe they thoroughly enjoyed the show every time blankets needed to be washed. **Thank you**, Karen.

The other good news is that our supporters listened to my plea in November about the shortage of money. I was very afraid of how to pay bills to keep the shelter afloat. We received enough money to be able to pay all the bills, well, the most important ones anyway. Now we are on our way to make it through another hard winter. Thank you very much to everybody who chipped in with a couple of extra dollars.

Recent news is that Jim and I made it back safe and sound from Florida. We had a nice time with my daughter and son-in-law. Jim built a couple of fire pits for the people who rent us their cabin in order to save on rent; and he did his usual maintenance jobs for them. But for the second year in a row it was much too cold. These houses in Florida are not built like ours up here. They are so drafty that if I was a bit thinner, (okay, make that a lot) the wind would blow me straight from one room in the house to the other. Thank God I have these extra pounds, or I may be fish food because I was blown away. On the way back, starting in the Carolinas, we saw almost as much snow as in Maine. We actually did see as much in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Unbelievable! We left a few days early to outrun yet another storm, and we managed by a few hours. The bad news is that we only had a foot of snow on the ground up here in Limestone when we arrived, but the winter weather followed us – now we have three feet.

Which is nothing compared to what's going on at the shelter. Rebecca told me that the snow is waist-high. What really cracks me up is that she thinks it's great. We made a deal with a neighbor years ago that he could plant corn or whatever on the piece of land, which had been used by our bull Oliver/Loretta as the cow's pasture, in exchange for moving our snow. Reb has other ideas; she shoveled little trails to and from the various buildings and the runs were the Huskies hang out, and the dogs play hide and seek in these "tunnels". She says they love to play in the snow, on top of the snow; there is an ice crust on it and in the various trails through the snow. As long as they are all happy.

**Here are a couple pictures of the students counting donations:**



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**The sad news:**

Our volunteer Karen adopted one of our dogs, Bosco, a few years back. Poor Bosco became ill, was diagnosed with cancer, and even though Karen did everything possible for him, including chemo treatments, he could not fight this horrible illness. He died. This page is dedicated to our Bosco.



**Bosco P. Tobias 2001 - 12/29/2010  
by Karen Tobias**

Bosco Tobias passed away Wednesday, December 29, 2010, with his "Mama" and friend Marc, by his side just one day short of the fifth anniversary of his adoption from Charley's Strays on December 30, 2005. In addition to his mom and Marc, Bosco will be fondly remembered and missed by his little brother Riley, his sister Annie, his loving Grammy and Grampa, with whom he spent many fun-filled and just plain laid back days, his cousins Bear, Lady and Ajax, his friend Dana, who always shared Bear and Lady's stash of pig ears and were immensely enjoyed, his Auntie E, friend Winkie, very special friend Ted, who helped him find his way to Charley's and ultimately to his forever home, and Mary, his very good friend to the end.

Bosco was a lover of life and small pleasures. He enjoyed long walks, many of which were taken through the fields and woods with his cousins behind Grammy and Grampa's house, car rides, barking for treats, wading in the water at Jamie's Pond in Hallowell, snuggling on the couch and in bed with his mom and hanging out with his immediate and extended family. He especially enjoyed trips to Compass Pond, where he held the title of Best Bunkmate Ever. Bosco was known for his never-ending and sometimes indiscriminating quest for food, having once discovered and

then devouring an entire deer stomach in minutes. The opening of a fresh can of his food was always an occasion for a celebratory bark and wiggle. Despite having had a rough start in life, Bosco's inner gentleman soon blossomed, and he became the best big softest chocolate dog in the whole world.

In Bosco's memory and honor, please believe in the power of second chances and remember to always make time to appreciate the beings in your life who bring you happiness.

Right now we are dealing with a cancer case at the Shelter, too. Our dog Floyd started getting a puffy face. First we thought a wasp may have stung him, but when it started to swell even more and he had a hard time breathing, Ted took him to an emergency clinic in Bangor. Things like this usually happen at night when our regular vet is not available. The clinic kept Floyd overnight and put him on Prednisone. They were not sure what was causing the swelling other than maybe an inflamed gland. Floyd stayed on the meds for several weeks, but it did not get any better. Floyd went to a different vet for another examination. This vet, one of our three regulars, said Floyd needed surgery, but since the gland was next to the jugular vein, this was a very dangerous procedure and he was not going to do it. He referred us to another clinic below Portland. Many tests and x-rays later, we got the results: Cancer. Last night I got a call from Reb, letting me know that Ted had just taken Floyd to the vet for his final visit. Floyd was choking; he could not get enough oxygen into his system anymore to support him, and had to be put down. Floyd was only four years old.

Now to the people who once again helped Charley's Strays to survive another bad stretch. These names are the total of the past three months, so don't let the volume make you think we have just tripled our supporters:

Alice Winston, Swampscott  
Ann Sargent, Chestnut Hill  
Barbara Askew, Quincy  
Barton Lee Patrick, Northport  
Betsy Anderson, Framingham  
Beverly Lowry, Belfast  
Beverly Mahey, China Village  
C. Ames/R. McKinney, Grand Isle  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Charlotte Travis, Saugus  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
David Hingston, Chelmsford  
Denise Lawrence, Reading  
Denise Trombly, Nashua  
Diane Rizzo, Oxford  
Donna Bering, Lynn  
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee  
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford  
Dorothy Watkins, Amesbury  
Elizabeth Fay, Belfast  
Elizabeth Morgan, Portland  
Emile Jorgensen, E. Boston  
Enid Hayes, Halifax  
G & R Welch, Stonington  
Gail Delarue, Woburn  
George Hinds, Cambridge  
Grace Kiley, N. Andover  
Harry Clark, Beverly

Inge Maiellano, Marblehead  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Irma Simon, S. China  
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford  
Jane Frost, Richmond  
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conway  
Jean Tillson, Franklin  
Jennie Bering, Lynn  
Joan Ryan, New Bedford  
Joe Blake, New Bedford  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
John Caswell, Newport  
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta  
Joseph Kogut, Upton  
Josephine Ford, Holden  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Judith Gallo, Canton  
Judy & Al Smith, Belmont  
Judy Crosby, Belfast  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Karen German, Reading  
Karen Pirello, Stoneham  
Kathleen Dowd, Weymouth  
Kathleen Heffel, Weymouth  
Katie Klegg, Sanford  
Kellee Lowney, New Bedford  
Laureen Alden, Stoughton  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Linda Scotti, Beverly  
Lorena Clark, Beverly  
Lynn Frischmann, Los Gatos  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport  
Marcus Nordberg, Topsham

Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marie O'Brian, Pawtucket  
Mark Resendes, Revere  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Martha Brooks, Richmond  
Mary Grace Lenihan, Lynnfield  
Mary Jane Gorton, Floral City  
Mary Klayda, Winchester  
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville  
Melody Lavers, Pownell  
Michael Kane, Greenwood  
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle  
Nancy Brown, Waltham  
Nancy Capone, Wakefield  
P.A. Lenk, China Village  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Paula Wisniowski, Tyngsboro  
Pauline Connaughton, Randolph  
R.D. Bournival, Nashua  
Robert Hull, Lawrence  
Roberta Chaves, Westport  
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Sherry Moody, Dresden  
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon  
Susan Borsic, Woburn  
The Bachrachs, Petersham  
The Sommers Foundation, Brookf.  
Victor Santos, N. Reading  
Viola McDonald, Woburn  
Willa Rockett, Belmont  
Wm. Hanrahan, Westwood

We received a donation in memory of Richard Chaves from Victor Santos.

The parents of Marie-Kristin Friedow, the girl who died so young – I wrote about it several months ago, also send a donation in her memory.

Richard and Nancy Herron mailed us a check in memory of Elizabeth Johnson. Then we received several donations in honor of dog Bridget's birthday from James Bean/Lynne Kaplowitz and her "parents" ( I have not sorted that out yet.)

Glennis Veilleux brought us three bags of dog toys in memory of her "Paws Veilleux". Karen Tobias gave us a check in memory of Bosco, and so did her boss, Scott and Patricia Bullock.

The colleagues of our friend and supporter Jean Tillson mailed us a check in honor of something very, very special she did for a friend. And a friend of hers from England also sent her a check in honor of her birthday, which Jean matched and mailed to us.

**Thank you very much** to the above supporters of our animals, and to all of you who have sent us checks, stamps, coupons, blankets and packages filled with yummys.

The horrible news is that we have lost another dear friend and supporter to a terrible illness. I just found out that Doug Robertson from Dennis, Massachusetts, passed away. My deepest sympathy goes to James Lavita and all of Doug's friends and relatives.

This brings me to the end of our newsletter.

We wish you a great month of March WITHOUT more ice and snow. Stay happy and healthy.

**Gabriele, Karen, Mary, Betty, Reb, Ted and Jim**

Please below for Mary's cat-news

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## **CAT REPORT FEBRUARY 2011**

Goodness, it's been so long since I've written one of these reports I can't even remember what's happened! In summary, though: lots of nice presents for the cats, Christmas and otherwise, and lots of trips to the vet, so far without major bad outcomes.

Last fall it was Alison and Robin who'd been vetted. They're both doing well. Robin had dental work and seems to have recovered completely; he's his usual loving self. Ali is now with Lisa in the kitchen. They're both mostly black, but Ali has a cute double white triangle on her face, so I can usually tell at a glance which cat is sleeping on which bed (unless Ali has her head buried under her paws). I've also learned that it's Ali who's more likely to be under my feet helping fix meals.

So far this year I've had four or five more at the vet's, including Purina/Meg, our 16-year-old who's the only remaining cat who knew Charley, with her second attack of pancreatitis. She recovered quickly and is doing fine in the upstairs halls, occasionally spending all or part of the night on my bed. Mr. Tom, our 12-year-old FIV+ tiger, has also been diagnosed with pancreatitis, and he isn't responding to antibiotics as well as Purina did. The main symptom is that he eats less than usual, so I'm giving him time in one of the walk-in cages where he can nibble as often as he wants to. He doesn't mind being in the cage, seems to feel all right, and certainly has lots of energy when it comes to resisting his medication.

Three of Tia's four gray kittens have been spayed or neutered, and I'm happy to report that Michelle has found a home with a nice couple a bit north of here. Ashley's the one who's not spayed. She's been in twice and both times had enough of an upper respiratory problem so Dr. Tim didn't want to anesthetize her for surgery. It's so minor I can't tell she has it – no sneezing or visible runny nose, and certainly she acts healthy. Right now she's on a second antibiotic, since the first one didn't do the trick; I'll make another appointment in a couple weeks, with my fingers crossed. Her two brothers are quite different from each other, though they look alike (these four are the only kittens I've needed to put collars on, as the only way to tell who's who). Ryan is super-friendly with people; Grover, who's been mistrustful ever since I lugged him in for his second vaccination, still skulks out of my reach, though he plays nicely with other cats and kittens.

I know I'll forget some of the many thank-yous the cats owe, but here's at least part of a list. They got Christmas presents from Karen (including a nice sturdy scratching post that Agnes, Emery and Robin really like) and Teresa (her handmade catnip toys that most of the cats enjoy). Someone, whose name I never got, brought some very nice cat beds to the kennel, and I also picked up food and toys from the same or a different person. Jane, who adopted Lisa's sister and brought her to Alaska (where she's well loved) sent the traditional Valentine's box of catnip toys and loose catnip. Sue and Harold Charles, alas, lost their cat Olivia in the fall, but they continue to send food to my cats in her memory. A woman I never met donated two big boxes of canned food. Laurie, who gave us Buddy the Bullet Cat, provided miscellaneous medications, food and supplies for cats and dogs. Teresa, her sister Suzanne, P.A., Iris Martinello, Jennie and Donna Bering and Al and Judy Smith all sent lots of coupons. If I've left someone off, my apologies.