



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, August, 2012

Dear Friends,

It seems as if I had just written a newsletter, and here I go again, another month has passed in the blink of an eye! Summer is almost over, the leaves are starting to fall of our birch tree, and my hair is starting to fall out just thinking that I have to deal with another winter soon ☹️
But that's life...

It has been an interesting month to say the least. Lots of bad news, some great news, some oh-well-news.

So I may as well plunge right into it:

We received a letter from Good Shepherd Food Bank, here is the short version:

"... due to the sluggish economy, state and federal assistance programs being cut, demand for our services is at an all-time high. Due to the limited resources we must inform you, that, beginning January 1, 2013, we will be unable to provide donated food to your agency"

That's a low blow for us. For the past few years Good Shepherd has provided us with most of our dog food, canned and dry. We did pay a small fee, eight cents a pound, but that was nothing compared to what the food will cost us on the "free market". We did manage to get all of their canned food they had left, which will do us for close to a year, and we also have lots and lots of treats, but NO dry food, which is really the most important. So we really would appreciate it, when you come to the fundraiser, if you bring us a bag or two of dried dog food. No Wal-Mart brand Old Roy please, that gives our 4-legged friends a bad case of diarrhea. Pedigree, Purina or Beneful are fine. Thank you!

The second piece of bad and also sad news is that our supporter Viola McDonald died. She was 90 years old, so that is a nice age. Still, we will miss her. Many of you who come to our yearly fundraiser had the pleasure of meeting her. She was the lady who had a large family and made sure everybody donated their birthday and Christmas gifts for her to our shelter. She knew Charley, so my guess is that she was involved with Charley's Strays for over 20 years.

But Thank God there is some great news, too: John Wells, the gentleman who adopted big old goofy Jake the black lab last year, once again spend several weekends in front of Shaws and Mardens, and helped us tremendously with his fund raising. He also sent me this email:

Just thought I would let you know that Jake, my hundred pound black lab mix, who has been representing Charley's Strays at my tables this summer and who was twice before I adopted him scheduled for euthanasia has just received his certificate as a therapy dog and will begin visiting hospitals for Alzheimer's patients and the mentally disadvantaged at the end of this month when I am no longer able to set up my tables. Not a bad accomplishment for a "throwaway" dog, I think.

Well, Jake would not have been able to do this accomplishment without John, so a huge



Thank you to John Wells!

And just so you see all is not just hunky dory when John sets up his fundraiser table for Charley's, here is another note from him:

I have this weekend off. When I went to Shaw's this morning, I found that the Salvation Army had taken over both doors and, quite belligerently, had no intention of moving, even though Charley's Strays was the only organization signed on the calendar for this weekend. Anyway, I didn't want to cause a scene, and Shaw's was perfectly willing to sign me on for next weekend, so I just came home. But I don't think I will be contributing to the Salvation Army any time soon.

And now to the upcoming fundraisers:

Cindy Houston has her annual fundraiser on Sept. 15th. Well, at least she will try to have one- she has very little to sell. She did receive two or three packages, one came as far away as California, but that's all. The California package contained several nice pieces of jewelry, which Cindy took to a local jewelry store, so that's already sold. A couple of people dropped off a few items, but not enough to even think about making some money for our Shelter. Here is Cindy's phone number 781-932-3387, in case you do find something worth selling in one of those closets in your home.

WE NEED MORE THINGS TO SELL!

As to our yearly fundraiser in Woburn in October; I don't know the details yet other than that the pastor is getting several different organizations to set up tables. The church will also have a hot dog stand and other goodies, and of course there is the animal blessing. Possibly, this means that we will have a big crowd. I am already emptying my closets of things I have not used the past five years. Hopefully this will bring in some money to buy the black gold for winter, heating fuel.

Thank you!

Help in the form of checks came this month from:

Enid Hayes in memory of Patrick Hawes – I am not sure if I got the name right, Enid's handwriting was not so good this month ☺ I think she was in a hurry baking all the goodies she wants to bring to the fundraiser.

Cynthia Thompson in honor of Galen, Ken, Walter and Andy's August birthday.

Kate Ahrens in honor of her parents' 60th wedding anniversary.

Donna Wade who paid our taxes.

And **Dorothy Eckstein** who also paid part of the taxes in honor of Willa Rockett's 99th birthday!



We also received checks, stamps and coupons from our following supporters:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Arlene Quiron, Augusta
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Chickie Smith, Woburn
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Donna Wade, Unity
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Oss.
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Emily Jorgensen, E. Boston
Enid Hayes, Halifax

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conw.
Jim Lavita, Dennis
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Joe Blake, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Wells, Oakland
Joseph Kogut, Upton
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Karen Deady, Madison
Karen Rapallo, Wakefield
Kate Ahrens, Granby
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly

Marian Delarue, Woburn
Mary Klayda, Winchester
Melody Lavers, Pownal
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Paula Wisniowski, Tyngsboro
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Robert Hull, Lawrence,
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon

Thank you very, very much to all of you, without your support there would be no Charleys Strays!

I received a note from our supporter Shirley Rancourt, who lives in Tennessee:

"We are doing what we can here to take care of unwanted animals. 3 weeks ago we took in 4 puppies, abandoned in a plastic laundry basket. My sister-in law and brother-in-law brought them home. Got fencing and 2 doghouses, and they have a great place now. Sassy, Pepper, Sweetie and Bandit are doing fine..."

Thank God for people like you!

And this brings me to the end of my doggie part, the kitty report from Mary as always at the end.

Wishing you a beautiful month of September, and please don't forget about Cindy's fundraiser.

Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim

CAT REPORT – AUGUST 2012

It's been another quiet month for our little cats. Luckily, they don't mind the hot weather as much as I do. All but Lisa either have access to the screened porch or are in rooms with window air conditioners, and the kitchen where Lisa lives adjoins both the air-conditioned FIV room and the porch. Although the porch gets warmer than I enjoy on a sunny day, most of the cats sleep there all day, rather than inside where it's a bit cooler.

I've added a new boy to the FIV group (the ones who've tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus), from friends who tamed him and would have adopted him if they'd had a place to segregate him from their other cats. His former "mother" comes to visit him, often bringing one or more grandchildren. She pets Carleton while the grandchildren pet the other FIVs. Mr. Tom and Buddy are delighted with the extra attention.

Many thanks, as always, to the cats' friends and supporters. This month I've had lots of useful coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Arlene Hayes, Emily Jorgensen, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon, Al Smith, John Walsh and, Gabriele reports, an anonymous donor from Waterville; and Pepper Charles gave canned cat food.