



Charley's Strays, Inc.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 64, Limestone, ME 04750
Tel. Shelter 207-426-9482 or Jim at 207-325-8894
www.charleysstrays.us

Limestone, October, 2013

Dear Friends,

Here we are almost at the end of 2013! Seeing the decorations in the stores I can't help but wonder why everybody is in such a hurry to gear up for Christmas, Thanksgiving is still a month away. Oh well, I guess that's part of the way we think, always being in a hurry for whatever day it is to be done and over with, on to the next event . . .

And speaking of events, our fundraiser is also done and over with. It was an interesting one, to say the least. We had a whole 10 people visiting from our supporters, not counting our helpers Cindy, Jean, Jackie and her daughter Kellee, and Al Smith.

So yes, it was a bummer. The only thing, which made it not a total disaster were the bargain hunters, which are a nice breed of people, unless they come with those big black birds, the ones which pick carcasses clean. Jim will not let me call them by their scientific name. These birds are fun to watch when they run from one table to the next, pushing each other out of the way. But not so much fun when they stuff their one-dollar bags full of items to the busting point, and will give you exactly what you ask for: One Dollar.

Jean Tillson and her husband Jay, who I had the pleasure to meet for the first time, had made a bunch of posters and signs for the streets, all showing the way to the church and to us. Jean also had advertised in Craigslist for us. Along with the church, we also had a nice write-up in the local newspaper. The article featured a photo of

Tipi, a former dog of Charley's who had the sense and good luck to find Cindy Houston and husband to spend the rest of her life with.

So thanks to all of the advertising, we did draw a nice crowd. Most of them were interested in buying the home baked cakes and tickets for Jackie Lowney's beautiful baskets. They also tried very hard to win the big prize of \$300, but Thank God one of "our own" won this one, as the bargain hunters were surely not to give up any parts of any prizes for the Shelter!

So, this said, I will move right on to the particulars of the fundraiser:

Cindy Houston deserves a huge THANK YOU for baking lots off goodies, paying for the downstairs room of the church, organizing and brewing the coffee, and dealing with the crowd. She also bought a bunch of tickets for the baskets and the \$300 prize, and THANK GOD she won it, rather her grandson did. Without asking the little tyke she gave it right back to Charley's Strays! So we were lucky, once again, and we are very grateful to Cindy for saving our hides ☺, since that would have hurt us. Very little money came in from the ticket sale, and paying out the big prize from that would have left us with hardly any money to buy heating oil.

A big hug and a big THANK YOU goes to Jean Tillson: She collected at least 20 boxes full of things to sell, some really nice items, and lots of flea market articles. Just before closing the bargain hunters and black birds came, and filled up one shopping bag after another for a dollar each Understandably Jean would have the Shelter take in the one-dollar sales rather than boxing up everything and take back home or give to other charities. Not so understandable is that these people were all told that the money was badly needed for the animal shelter, but they would not even think to give us a few pennies as a donation. Oh well, so is the human race. And of course Jean had the questionable pleasure to deal with this crowd, too.

Jackie Lowney once again outdid herself with beautiful baskets; some for Halloween, some for Christmas, some for children, some filled with wine – they were all perfectly done, as always. Thank you so much Jackie!

Dorothy and Stan Eckstein, our loooooong-time supporters who have never let us down at the fundraiser, as they have come to see us every year for the past 16 years also brought two beautiful baskets filled with fruits to be raffled. Thank you Dorothy and Stan!

And of course a big THANK you to Al Smith, who once again did the raffling, with his great sense of humor, and who made us smile even when the going was tough ☺.

We did meet one of Charley's "old" friends and supporters, Mark, for the first time, and shared some "Charley" stories with him. Mark also brought his two cute dogs along, so with my own, these two, and Cindy's beagle there was a little life, at least.

Another gentleman, Charles, who had seen the signs, I guess, came in and asked if we could use special diet-food, and brought us several cases KD that we are very grateful for.

A big THANK YOU to our supporters who came to visit and the food/blankets/and other goodies they brought for the Shelter.



Which brings me right to the following supporters; as always we appreciate your help very much, be it donations, stamps, care packages, ticket-money, coupons, a little note here or there, it's all needed for our Strays:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Arlene Hayes, Rading
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Cynthia Thompson, Millinocket
Diane Rizzo, Bryant Pond
Donna Bering, Saugus
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Enid Hayes, Halifax
George Hinds, Cambridge
George Watkins, Amesbury
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, China
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conway
Jennie Bering, Saugus
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Karen German, Reading
Karen Rapallo, Wakefield
Kellee Lowney, New Bedford

Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Mark Resendes, Revere
Mary Jane Gorton, Floral City
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Pat Thain, Dracut
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Richard Williams, Winslow
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Ruth Giusti, Titusville
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn

We received a donation from Diane Rizzo in memory of her beagle Samson. I feel with you, Diane!



Something for our Maine supporters to think about: I know Boston and our fundraiser is to far away, but there is a "Fleabag Ball" coming up in Bangor on November 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM, at the 112th Armory Aviation Club, at 345 Filmore Street. This annual Fleabag Ball is held in memory of dog Lenny who lost his life due to spinal disease. The past recipient of the donations, among a couple of other shelters, was Charley's Strays.

So, if you have a little time and a little money, take a trip to Bangor, I am sure you will have lots of fun!

And with this I will close for today, wishing you a happy Thanksgiving.

Mary's Cat Report follows on the next page.

Gabriele
Mary, Ted and Jim



CAT REPORT – OCTOBER 2013

The fall house call went well, in spite of the usual wild scrambles to catch elusive cats who did not want vaccinations, thank you. There will be a few follow-ups, including Mr. Tom, who's on antibiotics to try to clear up an ear infection and will be going to the vet to have his ears thoroughly cleaned. So far he's being good about taking his medication mixed in canned food. Tom isn't even on the fall list, but while Dr. Macmillan was there I asked her to look at his ears, because the left one seemed to be bothering him.

Emery, who is on the list, has had the sniffles for weeks now, and he's still so unmanageable I could figure no way to segregate him to give him medicated food. So Dr. Macmillan brought an injectable antibiotic and gave him that, after the technician who came with her managed to pin him down. I can't tell yet whether it's going to work; at night he seems a little better, but by morning he's snorting again. I feel sorry for him, silly cat, for not yet figuring out that he's in a safe place and can trust me, after all this time. Fortunately, he likes the other cats, so he's not lonely. He and Robin frequently sleep on the same cat-bed.

Tiger, our new FIV+, was no trouble at all. Lisa was good about having her nails trimmed – because of her funny feet, they don't get worn down as the other cats' do and need attention often. Ashley, Grover and Ryan led us a merry chase, and Grover was so upset, either emotionally or physically or both, that he didn't want any supper that night. Agnes, too, was off her food a bit.

A nice thing happened earlier this month. I was in the checkout line at Walmart with my typical cartful of bagged and canned cat food, and (as often happens) the man and woman behind me commented and I explained that I was involved in cat rescue and frequently had a lot of cats to feed. The woman handed me a \$5 bill and said "This is for the cats." Turned out the man had known Charley and was interested to hear the shelter is still in operation. They told me they had rescued a cat and nursed her through diabetes until she was 18.

Other people were generous to our cats this month, too. My neighbor Kathy gave them several bags of treats; Pepper Charles sent canned food; and we got coupons from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon and Al Smith. Gabriele tells me people who came to the fun-raiser brought things for cats, too; those I plan to pick up at the kennel Nov. 2. Many thanks to all of you.

