



Limestone, Maine, October 2017

Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed a spooky Halloween with your family and pets! All went well up here in Limestone; as usual we hid from the onslaught of ghosts and skeletons. I am kidding, nobody ever comes to our neck of woods. I fear iPhones and bloody weird games are more up to the tastes of the younger generation than candy. But that's okay, I don't mind at all not having to deal with that.

All is well at the Shelter; our dogs have enjoyed a great fall with plenty of running and roaming around outside, and we are now getting ready to hibernate, or at least getting ready for another long harsh winter.

We had our fundraiser drawing last week, thank you very much to each and every one of you for buying tickets, which helped us very much solving the problem of how to heat the Shelter this winter. I just read that the Trump Administration is planning on raising the gas taxes 40% and I fear that if this will be passed on and the heating oil prices will once again go sky high.

The winners of this year's heating fuel fundraiser are:

1st prize of \$250 goes to Mary Grace Lenihan, congratulations!

The other prizes are being mailed to: Mark Resendes, Irma Simon, Bob Moore, Karen Deady, Judy Crosby, Sandra Nicholson, Bonnie Buckmore, Colen Bean, Jon Anderson, Lynn Frischman, Harry Clark and Marlene Kaplan. The Catignani's entered their dog Rocky, who also won a prize. ☺

This month the following supporters of our animals made sure that they had plenty to eat, the proper vet care, and lots of TLC given to them by Eric, Ted and Rebecca. A big Thank You to our volunteers and the following people:

Al Smith, Belmont
Belfast Polo Club, Northport
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Harry Clark, Beverly
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford

Jean & Ralph Catignani
Jeannine Dickey
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Jon Anderson, Augusta
Judith Crosby, Belfast
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Kim Doherty, Woburn
Larry & Arlene Hayes
Leanna Dwyer
Linda Merriam
Lynn Frischmann, Los Gatos

Manuel German, Reading
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
Sally Sayer, Albany
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Steve Martin, Augusta
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Michael Kane mailed us a donation in memory of Alma Kane, who passed away in June 2017 at the nice age of 99 years old. Michael says, "She taught me to love and respect all creatures." We are very sorry for your loss, Michael.

We also received a donation to our animals from Marcia Smith, in memory of her late husband Stan, and their dog Dixie. Stan was a great lover of animals, and he will be very much missed by Marcia and the creatures at Charley's.

John Ingersoll from North Reading is sponsoring our dog Taylor. Thank you much for that, John.

To all the above who helped us again through a tough month with high vet bills, a huge THANK YOU!

Another era has come to an end: Several years ago we stopped our yearly Boston fundraiser because it was just not feasible any longer to rent a place, and work many days before and after collecting items, baking, cooking, etc. The last few years hardly anybody would show up, other than a few women who would argue the heck with us to get a pair of earrings for next to nothing. So we decided to quit.

Cindy Houston and her husband Steve, Jackie Lowney and Kim Doherty were doing a yard sale in September for many years at Cindy's home. She collected, sorted, cleaned and washed many of the donated items, and stored them away until September each year. Every year there were less and less customers, the few which came did not make it worthwhile for all the work involved in setting up this yard sale. This year September was no good because of personal reasons, so last week the ladies decided to give it one more try. It was the last time they did so. Cindy did send me a check, and I thank her, Steve, Jackie and Kim very, very much to give it another try. But I also understand why this yard sale is coming to an end. People just don't need "things" any more. Everybody has enough stuff in their home, especially us from the older generations. Young people are mostly interested in electronic gadgets, and not so much in animals. The yard sale was great while it lasted. But there comes a time when we have to cut our losses and say: Enough is enough.

And this is enough for October's newsletter, too. Mary could not get her cat report to me in time; she has been without power for several days just like the rest of southern Maine, due to high winds.

We wish you a happy month of November, and a happy Thanksgiving.

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

