

# CRITTER CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



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## Director's Message

The past few months have brought with them exciting developments for the shelter, including the receipt of generous grants from the **Petco Foundation** and **The J. Edwin Treagle Foundation**. We welcomed aboard new team members, and two current team members transitioned to new roles. We celebrated our life-saving partners during Family Fun Day and revamped our approach to volunteer recruitment.

During 2Q19 and *together*, we helped 124 pets find their forever homes, transferred in 86 homeless pets from shelters approaching critical capacity and transferred 121 homeless pets to our adoption-guaranteed partners through our Highway to Home program. These successes are the direct result of your heart for homeless pets and generosity for our cause. It is my sincere hope that you share in the sense of accomplishment we feel when reflecting on the past few months.

The GMHS family—donors, volunteers and team members—fill our shelter with light, love and hope. As you well know, for many of the pets who enter our care, we offer their first positive encounter with people. Throughout this issue, you'll find stories of the transformative power offered by all of those with whom we partner.

I also hope you feel inspired as you read further, for there are more lives to be saved. There are more homeless pets and community members still to benefit from the special brand of joy we bring to our life-saving efforts. And, we'll do so together!

Sincerely,

**April Martinez**  
Executive Director

# Fixin' to Save Spay & Neuter Clinic



During the June 1 Family Fun Day, GMHS announced the clinic's name change to Fixin' to Save Spay & Neuter Clinic and unveiled the new logo.

GMHS' Spay/Neuter Clinic is now known as **Fixin' to Save Spay & Neuter Clinic**. While the name has changed, the mission to offer low- and no-cost access to spay/neuter surgeries remains the same!

The next time you pass White Marsh Shopping Center, be sure to check out the clinic's new sign. GMHS sends a heartfelt thanks to the generous donor who funded the sign and our friends **Jeff Green** and **Sign Media, Inc.** for doing such a superb job of the sign's installation.

Stay in touch with Fixin' to Save by visiting them on the web at [fixintosave.org](http://fixintosave.org), on social media @FixintoSave and by email at [fixintosave@gmhumanesociety.org](mailto:fixintosave@gmhumanesociety.org).

"DEDICATED TO PROVIDING THE SAME QUALITY OF CARE AND COMPASSION FOR YOUR PETS, FIXIN' TO SAVE IS COMMITTED TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY ONE SURGERY AT A TIME."

**CANDY SIX**  
FIXIN' TO SAVE  
CLINIC DIRECTOR

## Compassionate Community

Throughout 2Q19, GMHS received a number of pet food, supply and monetary donations from friends of the shelter. Below are just two of the groups who visited us to present donations. GMHS thanks you and all supporters for your heart for homeless pets!



**Tristan** requested pet food and supplies to be donated to GMHS for his fifth birthday. He and his little brother visit the shelter to deliver the donations.



After Family Fun Day, our friends **Rick** and **Bonnie French**, owners of **Shore Bites** food truck, present Executive Director April Martinez with a donation of their proceeds from the event.

# Highway to Home Update

GMHS received a \$15,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to help fund our Highway to Home transport program. The generous support of the Petco Foundation helps homeless pets benefit from the transport partnerships we share with 39 adoption-guaranteed agencies. Since the March 1, 2019, grant award, 174 homeless pets have benefited from the program.

Doggo (below) is just one of the 121 pets who found their Highway to Home during 2Q19. He was among three dogs on the June 17 transport to the **SPCA of Hancock County** (Maine). Doggo entered the care of GMHS in August 2018 and was adopted fewer than 48 hours after his arrival in Maine!



Thank you to the Petco Foundation for helping pets make their way to communities with a shortage of adoptable pets and helping us save even more lives!

"HIGHWAY TO HOME HAS HELPED 2,051 PETS FIND THEIR FOREVER HOMES SINCE 2015. AND, WE'RE ON TRACK TO HELP MORE THAN 400 PETS FIND THEIR HIGHWAY TO HOME THIS YEAR ALONE."

AMANDA SCOTT  
SHELTER MANAGER

## 2Q19 Shelter Snapshot

	Dogs	Cats
Owner Surrender	20	64
Stray	16	149
Transferred In	72	14
Adopted	64	60
Returned to Owner	9	3
Transferred Out	30	91
Euthanized	1	2



2Q19 Shelter Snapshot



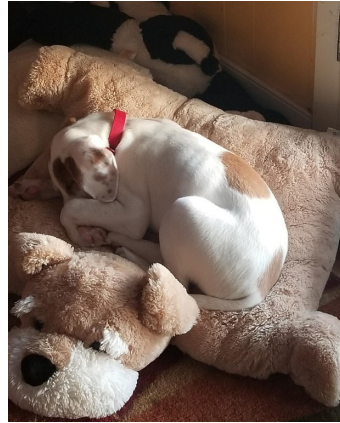
Thanks to generous support from our staff, volunteers and donors, GMHS is able to provide daily care, cover special medical needs, foster animals in homes as needed and arrange transportation to our adoption-guaranteed agency partners for homeless pets.

We're also committed to education, outreach and transparency.

GMHS' annual statistics are available on our [website](#), and we are pleased to share a quarterly snapshot with you, our friends and supporters.

Monthly snapshots are available on social media. Visit us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @gmhumanesociety to check them out.

# Letter from Samson



Dear Friends at GMHS,

Thank you for helping me find my "forever home." While at GMHS, my name was Raj, but my parents changed it to Samson Alexander Moncure. They call me Sammy. I am doing very well. I love my new family, and they love me.

My first mom Bernadette, my siblings and I came to GMHS from another shelter. My friends at GMHS made sure we had everything we needed to grow big and strong and get adopted. When I was adopted, I also got a new sister Lucy and a new brother Jefferson. As you can see, I like to copy him because he's so cool and we have a lot in common. He was adopted from GMHS, too! (I really like to hang out with him by the pool.) One of my favorite places to nap is on my teddy bear pillow, and I am one snoozy hound.

Well, got to go. This letter writing stuff has made me tired--I need a nap.

Love, Sammy

PS Click [here](#) to check out the other pups and kitties who need a home, too!

# Shelter Odds & Ends

## Staffing

If you have visited the shelter recently, you've likely noticed some new faces as well as familiar faces in new roles. Below is an overview of some of the recent changes:

- **Amy Willoughby** has transitioned to the GMHS' humane educator role from the Behavior Team. She spends her time in the community and around the shelter, educating individuals and groups about animal care and behavior and responsible pet ownership.
- **Waynette Petty** has been named GMHS' volunteer coordinator. She is responsible for the management of all aspects of the volunteer program, including community service and Helping Hands volunteers, and continues to offer adoption and animal care support.
- **Anne-Sophie Marchal**, LVT, has joined GMHS as a member of the shelter's Vet Care Team. She has 14 years' experience in veterinary clinics and is excited to work in shelter medicine.

## Volunteer Program

We've heard your feedback and have been working hard to make volunteering at GMHS as accessible as possible. Prospective volunteers are invited to attend a volunteer open house, held the second Thursday of each month, from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, in the shelter's lobby. Guests will learn about the many ways they can lend their time and talents to save and transform the lives of homeless pets. Registration is not required. Visit the [Volunteer Program](#) webpage for open house dates and more information.



## Lend Your Support

Below are just a few ways to get involved and support homeless pets like little Spork (above):

- The shelter's dryer is fastly approaching its end of life. GMHS recently received a \$4,000 grant from The J. Edwin Treakle Foundation toward the purchase of a new stackable gas dryer. One-third of the way toward our goal of \$11,500, \$7,500 is needed to fully fund the purchase of the dryer and to retrofit the space for it. Click the paw print to the left to donate, type *dryer* in the special instructions field and help us reach our goal!
- Kitten season is upon us! This is a time when the kittens and cats in our care consume an astounding amount of Purina Kitten Chow and use an enormous amount of non-clumping cat litter. If you'd like to support our feline care by donating, food and litter may be dropped off at the shelter during business hours.
- Join us at the shelter for our August 8 Volunteer Open House. If you have a heart for homeless pets and desire to share your time and talents in support of our life-saving mission, we hope you will join us!

"IT IS REALLY INSPIRING TO SEE AND HELP PEOPLE LEARN. IN THIS NEW ROLE, I AM ABLE TO EMPOWER FUTURE ADOPTERS WITH INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE."

AMY WILLOUGHBY  
HUMANE EDUCATOR



# GMHS Benefits from Eagle Scout Project



Eagle Scout Aidan Wells alongside the dedication sign commemorating his Eagle Scout service project.



Wells and volunteers take advantage of clear weather as they work on the walking path.

During spring 2019, Boy Scout **Aidan Wells** set out to improve the lives of the kennel team members and dogs living at GMHS. The Wells family and Boy Scouts of America Troop 111 engineered a brick walkway to help the team safely walk dogs across the yard and into the miles of walking trails.

Before Wells dedicated his Eagle Scout service project to GMHS, all 46 resident dogs at the shelter walked across a dirt and grass yard to access walking trails. Heavy, frequent foot traffic created ruts in the yard's dirt, making the ground uneven and difficult to navigate. Snow and ice also made the yard difficult to cross comfortably as salt could not be spread on the grass because it is harmful to dogs' paw pads. Morning dew on the grass would soak shoes and socks within minutes, and rainstorms easily turned the backyard into a mud pit.

GMHS Humane Educator Amy Willoughby states, "Walking the dogs in our care is extremely important to their emotional and physical well-being. Navigating the back yard before the walkway was installed was always a game of 'Did I wear the correct shoes today?' and 'Can I walk this dog safely to the trails in this weather?'"

The new walkway was constructed with durability and resourcefulness in mind. A level trench was first dug to eliminate the pooling of water in the yard. While the installation of pea gravel and rock underneath the brick path was costlier, it is also more effective for proper drainage. Wells recruited fellow Troop 111 members and other volunteers, borrowed equipment and recycled existing supplies at the GMHS animal shelter to reduce costs. Once the walkway was completed, the remainder of the gravel and rock was used to fill in holes in the GMHS driveway.

GMHS Board of Directors Member **Dr. Richard Crowder** served as technical and project advisor for the effort. Periodic meetings were held to discuss project planning and implementation of the large undertaking. A dedication sign was placed to commemorate Wells' contribution for the benefit of our community's homeless pets and their caregivers.

While a walkway may not be an obvious need at an animal shelter, it supports the quality of life for GMHS dogs and team members. Crowder says, "I believe this [project] epitomizes the lessons that participating in scouting brings. Our furry pals and the entire GMHS family are grateful."

From the bottom of all of our hearts—and pads of our puppy toes—GMHS thanks Wells, Troop 111 members, and their family and friends who helped install the walkway and make GMHS a safe harbor for homeless pets. And, our congratulations to Wells for earning the rank of Eagle Scout!

# Event Highlights



Photo by **Ray Stubblebine**  
**Jean Howard**, of **CA & J Farm**, leads Family Fun Day participants in a drum circle.

June 1 marked GMHS' 4th Annual Family Fun Day. The event included the presentation of the Humane Business Awards to businesses who provided support during 2018. Also presented were the Compassion in Action Awards, which are presented annually to volunteers in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to our life-saving mission.

Heartfelt thanks are in order for many who made the event a success: Family Fun Day Committee Chair **Beverly Spencer** and Committee Members **Ula Ilnytsky** and **Sulva Dow**; the GMHS and **Coast Guard** volunteers who provided event set-up; staff who have readied the shelter; and **Organic Green Lawncare** for their generous sponsorship of radio ads on WIGO Country and Bay FM; and the vendors who share a heart for homeless pets and love of our community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**  
**RUN FOR RESCUES 5K**  
**BEAVERDAM PARK**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2019**  
**BOW WOW AND MEOW 5K**  
**YORK RIVER STATE PARK**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2019**  
**GMHS OYSTER ROAST**  
**COLRAINE POINT**

**JANUARY 25, 2020**  
**THE GOLDEN PAWS 2020**  
**GALA AND AUCTION**  
**ABINGDON RURITAN CLUB**



Photo by **Ray Stubblebine**  
Humane Business Award recipients gather for a photo after the awards ceremony. Recipients hailed from as far away as Texas and as near as Gloucester Courthouse.



Photo by **Ray Stubblebine**  
Volunteers **Kimberly Powell**, **Beverly Spencer** and **Lori Roscher** (left to right) receive Compassion in Action Awards.



It's

# Family Fun Day!

at Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society

## Humane Business Award Recipients

- 2 Hounds Design
- 5 Star Oriental Medicine
- Abingdon Ruritan Club
- Anderson's Corner Animal Hospital
- Animal Care of Gloucester
- Artistic Touch Custom Painting
- Bangkok Noi Thai Cuisine
- Bay Aviation
- Bayscapes
- Belroi Agility and Obedience Center
- Bennett Mineral Company
- Benny's Auto
- Black Dog Gallery
- Breeden and Breeden
- Brent and Becky's Bulbs
- Bruce Nelson Photography
- C.A. & J. Farm
- Chesapeake Bank
- Chesapeake Bank Wealth Management
- Chesapeake Marine Training Institute
- Chick-fil-A
- Crittenden Studio
- Crossed Paw Collars
- Cuddle Clones
- Dominion Energy
- Donner Construction
- Eckhard's Restaurant
- Ferguson Center for the Arts
- Ferguson Enterprises
- Flourishing Farms
- Four Paws Mobile Veterinary Clinic
- Gallery Rinard
- Gloucester County Sheriff's Office
- Gloucester Florist
- Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia
- Gloucester Realty Corporation
- Gloucester Supply & Ace Hardware
- Gloucester Veterinary Hospital
- Gloucester Yoga
- Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal
- Gregg Construction
- Harris Garage
- Hartfield Animal Hospital
- Harvest Moon Garden & Design
- Home Depot
- Inn at Warner Hall
- John Henry Printing
- Just the Dishes
- Ken Houtz Chevrolet-Buick
- Kendra Scott
- Kezic Gallery
- Klein Mechanical
- Let's Get Frank Tours
- Liberty Diversified International
- Lockwood's Carpets
- Lowe's
- Lulu Birds Kitchen
- Marketplace Antiques
- Mellon Mechanical
- Mike's Tire and Automotive
- Miller's Services
- Mobjack Bay Marina
- Mobjack Bay Seafood
- Motivation Design/Kurgo
- Naked Mountain Winery
- NAPA
- Nauti Nell's
- Nestle Purina
- North American Rescue
- Nuttall Country Store
- Oasis Books
- Off Leash K9 Dog Training
- Office Supply of Gloucester
- O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Organic Green Lawn Care
- Patriot Tours and Provisions
- Petco
- PetSmart
- Phillips Energy
- Power Mechanical
- Premier Heating and Air Services
- Rappahannock Concrete
- Rare Home Improvements
- Red Truck Rural Bakery
- Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center
- Runamok Maple
- Safe Harbor Storage
- Sanderling Resort
- Sara Harris Photography
- SCAT, Inc.
- Shore Bites
- Simply Classic Cabinets & Construction
- Split Enz
- Studio of Ken Bailey
- T.J. Maxx
- The Abingdon Group
- The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg
- The Closing Shop
- The Jefferson Hotel
- The Nurturey
- The Velvet Shoestrung
- The Village Blacksmith
- The Windsor Court Hotel
- Tony and Milena's
- Tractor Supply Company
- Traveler's Rest Hunt Club
- Tri-County Veterinary Hospital
- Vashti's Jewelry
- Virginia Beach School of Dance
- W.T. Fary Brothers Co.
- Waddell's Tree Service
- Walmart
- Water Pro
- West Point Pharmacy
- WestRock
- Whitley's Peanut Factory
- Willaby's Cafe and Catering
- WXGM 99.1 FM Radio
- Your Pie Gloucester