

FALL 2024

P.O. Box 7

Macomb, IL  
61455

309-837-5611

HSMCIL.ORG

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hsmcil



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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



Autumn Greetings,

In past newsletters and via other media, we've expressed how much we appreciate the ongoing generosity of the citizens of McDonough County and the quick response of community members when shelter supplies are in short supply or when special assistance is required to help an animal in need. What is also extremely valuable to us is the creative thinking of individuals who take the initiative to make things happen – all for the benefit of needy animals. The various efforts to raise funds to build the new animal shelter exemplify this creativity and commitment, as does Lars Gossel's *Foster Village* to address the overflow of dogs at the shelter.

Lars has fostered dogs with special needs for us for a number of years – usually one dog at a time until they find homes. However, this spring and summer there has been what seems like a record number of dogs either released to the shelter or picked up as strays and not claimed. They tend to be great dogs, usually healthy and good-natured. Through either being let down by their humans or just by a "simple twist of fate" they have found themselves at the shelter. In consultation with the HSMC Board and shelter staff, Lars moved forward with a plan to create a *foster village*, with separate housing in a fenced-in pasture adjacent to Gossel's Doghouse. Shelter dogs have separate dog-houses with enclosed patios and a large grassy area in which to play and interact with visitors. Lars has also built a *foster village of volunteers* who come play with the dogs and take them into town for events and promotion. He has accomplished this by asking for help from the public – both for building supplies and for volunteer hours. He has an account established at West Side Lumber for donations to cover expenses for the *foster village* facilities.

Dr. Karen Blakely created the *Have A Heart Build a Dream* a project to help raise funds for the new animal shelter building. One of the three fiberglass Rocky bulldogs that stand beside All Pets was looking a bit worse for wear. He is the original alpha dog Rocky from Rocky On Parade Round 1 (2013), making him 11 years old. Dr. Blakeley decided he needed some TLC and took him home. She spent many hours this summer giving him a complete "check up" (sanding to remove the flaky clear coat and chipped paint) and "surgery" (bondo to repair several cracks and holes). Then after painting him, she covered him with painted hearts. The hearts are being sold to the public to honor past or present pets. A special section is reserved to honor law enforcement K-9 dogs.

We can't neglect to mention the Community Cat Project folks (Claire Kernek and Charlotte Durkin) and the work they are doing to care for the community cats on the Square and beyond in Macomb. Laci Joy has also opened up Crafty Coop as a space to raise and promote some of these potential feline friends. The list could go on and on. We are blessed.

~Bonnie Smith-Skripps, HSMC President

## We thank Patti and Allen Nemec for Their Support

The Humane Society of McDonough County (HSMC) recently received a much appreciated, very generous donation from Patti and Allen Nemec to support their ongoing work to assist needy animals in McDonough County. Patti and Allen are active participants in, and advocates for the HSMC's efforts. They chose to transfer stocks to the HSMC through an Edward Jones representative. This not only helps the animals, but also lessens the burden of paying taxes on capital gains.



L to R: HSMC President Bonnie Skripps, Allen Nemec, Patti Pasquesi-Nemec, Treasurer Terri Hare

We continue to be present in our community. We participate in Pet Supplies Plus special days and we recently took adoptable pets to Bickford Cottage and Farm King.





## *Play It Forward Was a Great Success*

The Wine Sellers hosted the 4th Annual *Play It Forward* to raise money for the New Animal Shelter Building Campaign on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect; the music was great; and the patrons were generous. At the end of the night there was \$4560 in cash and checks in the tip jar.

We so appreciate Julia and Craig Burns for their wonderful hospitality and their event planner, Karen Trusley for making sure the event ran smoothly. We want to thank all of our musicians who donated their time and talents to make the day so special ... Joel & the Wetzells , Whitney Ashe, Tim Harting and Kevin Hunt, EastEnders, Michael Murphy, Forgottonia Trainwreck and Bill Maakestad. And also a thank you to Zac Green of Feeding Forgottonia for cooking smash burgers all afternoon and evening . They were yummy and added to the enjoyment of the participants.

Several shelter and foster dogs were also welcomed at the event. Thank you, Lars Gossel, and shelter volunteers for taking the time to bring the dogs to the party; a good time was had by all. And, we can't wait until the 5th Annual *Play it Forward*!



# Brix Challenge 2024



A “NON-event/BIG event”  
fundraiser for the Humane Society  
of McDonough County

*The Brix Challenge is the easiest way to  
help animals in need & know you are making a positive  
difference from the comforts of your own home.*

The Brix Challenge raises funds specifically for the annual operating costs of the HSMC. For the 11<sup>th</sup> year Chris and Pee Wee are challenging others to join them in raising the most funds possible for the HSMC’s operating budget. The money raised will allow the HSMC to continue and expand its never-ending efforts to assist animals in need in McDonough County. The HSMC is a 100% volunteer organization whose revenue stream is 100% dependent on memberships, gifts and donations. YOU can join in the Brix Challenge 2024 and know you are directly changing the lives of animals in need by doing so.

To be a part of the “Brix Challenge 2024” please send your tax-deductible donations to: The Brix Challenge, Humane Society of McDonough County, PO Box 7, Macomb, IL 61455. You may also use the PayPal or Venmo options on the HSMC website at [www.hsmcil.org](http://www.hsmcil.org). Together we can make a difference in the lives of many animals needing help. Thank You for choosing to be a part of that. The HSMC is an Illinois Not-for Profit and a qualified 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

## Lulu at the Gossel Foster Village

On September 26th Lulu was transported from the shelter to Gossel’s Dog House where she will have her own doghouse in an enclosed pasture area. She will have the freedom to sit outside and run laps around the area. Lars has worked hard over the summer to fence in the new foster area and to obtain a couple of doghouses for dogs from the shelter. Lulu’s new home was purchased through a donation to HSMC that was designated for foster facilities. Lulu is a very happy girl now that she can enjoy the outdoors and not be confined in a kennel. Lulu joins the five other dogs that Lars is currently fostering from the shelter. The Foster Village separates the foster facilities from the Gossel’s Day Care and Boarding.







## Happy Birthday Andrew!

Here you see Andrew Stuckart of Bougher, Krisher, Stuckart & Clark, Attorneys at Law, P.C. handing over his birthday check from office colleagues to Bonnie. The group donation was made out to the HSMC New Animal Shelter Building Campaign. We are honored by this, and also appreciate Andrew as a volunteer Saturday morning shelter dog walker and an ongoing member of the Casino Night Planning Committee.

Thank You very much!



111 S Side Square  
Macomb, IL  
(309) 575-4590

On August 1st, Ann and James Fowler who own Escape MJ's, presented Bonnie with a check for \$500. They held a fundraiser for the New Animal Shelter Fund shortly after opening Escape MJ's. Thirty percent of all proceeds from rooms booked on July 25th-28th were directed to the HSMC Campaign for a New Animal Shelter. They also advertised that the public could bring toys, dog and cat food, and/or cat litter for the animals at the shelter currently. We so appreciate their generosity and support of our efforts. They are true animal lovers.



**Email:** [mcas@macomb.com](mailto:mcas@macomb.com)

**Animal Control Officers:**

Zach Welch, Head ACO  
Malique Reardon  
Tristin Kirkham (part-time)  
Annetta Ogle (part-time)

McDonough County Animal Shelter  
101 Tower Road  
Macomb, IL 61455  
Phone: 309-837-2989

**Open to the Public:**  
Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sat: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Sunday: CLOSED to the Public  
Holidays: CLOSED to the Public

The McDonough County Animal Shelter is a county-run facility staffed by county employees. The HSMC does not have independent access to the shelter, nor the authority to arrange adoptions. The HSMC works diligently to promote adoption of the animals available at the McDonough County Animal Shelter.

### Business Members

- ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen
- All Pets Veterinary Clinic
- American Legion Post 6
- Arnold Brothers
- Bushnell Veterinary Service
- Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home
- Escape MJ's
- Free Range Yoga
- Gossel's Dog House
- Green Shingle Graphics
- Hickory Kennels
- Krista Skien Photography
- Matthew S. McClure, DMD
- No Place Like Home
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck, Inc
- Royal Printing
- Sweet Briar Corner Market
- The Community News Brief
- The Wine Sellers



### CatTails at Yappy Hour Another Success!

We had a fun evening at this year's beach-themed CatTails at Yappy Hour and raised \$7,000 to support our programs. We had our usual silent auction, but this year we had a bake pull instead of a wine pull, and it was a huge success. Thank you to all of our home bakers who donated freshly baked goods for the pull.

We thank our sponsors and silent auction item donors:

**Sponsors:** Bushnell Veterinary Service, Cathy Ackers, Clock Tower Bank, Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home, Dawn Haus, Don and Joy Hubner, Dr. Betty Kaspar, Dr. Jamie McClure, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, First Bankers Trust, First Investment Services-Dave Garner, First Mid Insurance Group, Kunes Country Auto, Paws n Claws, Pet Supplies Plus, Roger Kelso, Rosemary Aten, Sharon Lindahl, Sue's Ride Share.

**Donors:** Alice Henry, All Pets Veterinary Service, Animal Medical Center, Ann Stites, Arnold Brothers, Carrie DePoy, Chicago Bears, Cole St. Coffee, Core Clem-APEX, Macomb Country Club, the Crafty Coop, Dana Moon, Diamond K Woodworking, Doran Turnquist, Gossel's Dog House, Hart's Nursery, Head to Tail Grooming, Kirk and Kimberly Hare, Krista Skien Photography, Lars Gossel, MacTown, Margaret Ovitt, No Place Like Home, Nostalgia Decorating & Home Décor, Par-a-Dice Casino, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria Symphony, Pet Supplies Plus, Riverside Hotel, Skip Skripps Ceramics, Spring Lake Rentals, Terri Hare, Woods Apiary.

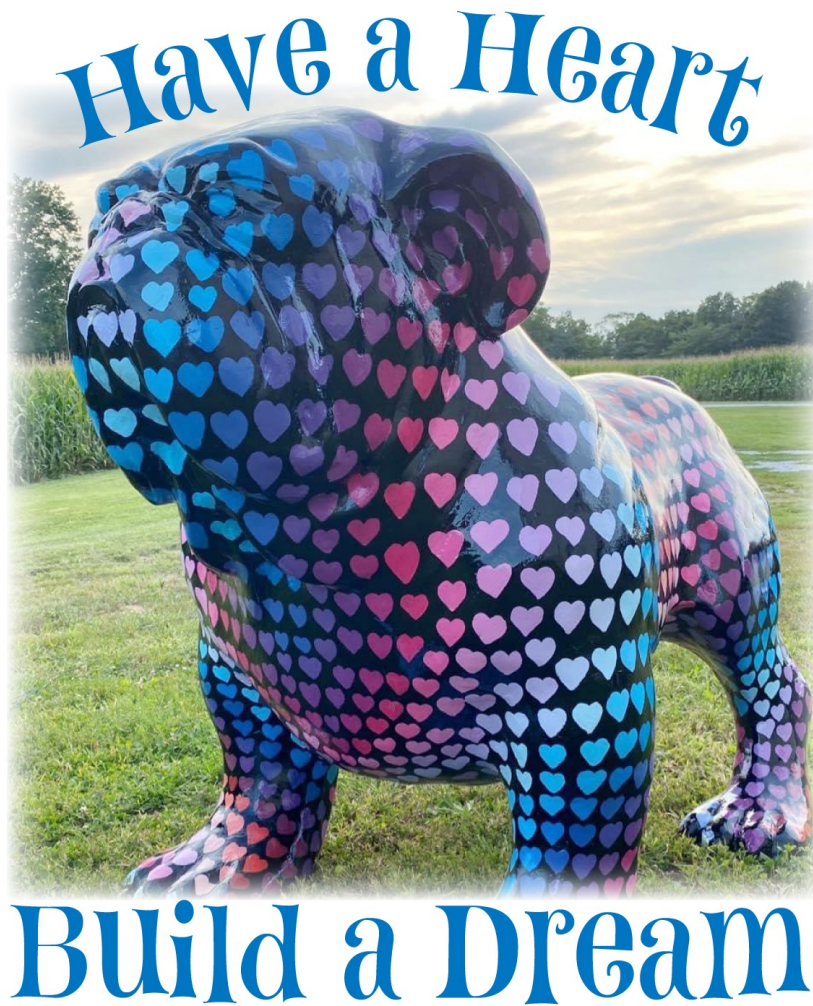
Thank you to all of the bakers who dropped off baked goods!



HSMC volunteers and adoptable shelter dogs participated in the August 26 Downtown Block Party to welcome back Western. Fun was had by all!







**An initiative by Dr. Karen Blakeley to fund a  
new Animal Shelter in McDonough County**

The HAVE A HEART BUILD A DREAM campaign is to raise funds for a new animal shelter in McDonough County. The campaign is a bridge between the Rocky On-Parade program and the Humane Society of McDonough County. The original Rocky that was housed at All Pets needed a redo, much like the shelter. The new design has hearts that can be sponsored\* and personalized with the name of your favorite pet(s)! 100% of the funds generated from sponsorship will be donated to the Humane Society of McDonough County for the new building. Once completed, Rocky will be moved and take up residence at the new building. \*Suggested donation for inclusion on the Rocky Dog \$50 per pet name - we pick the location \$100 per pet name - you pick the heart color and approximate location. For More Information: Have a Heart Build a Dream page on Facebook, GOFUNDME.COM-search "Have a Heart Build a Dream" or contact Dr. Blakeley at All Pets Veterinary Clinic (309) 833-2365. Thanks so much for your support.





**Casino Night 2025**  
**Saturday, March 1, 2025**  
**Park Place of Macomb**



**2024 HSMC Executive Board**

Officer/President  
Officer/Vice President  
Officer/Treasurer/Correspondence  
Officer/Recording Secretary  
Director/Membership  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Director

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Dana Moon  
Terri Hare  
Amy Betz  
Candice Biswell  
Dave Monninger  
Felix Chu  
Jen Tibbitts  
Ann Stites  
Sharon Lindahl  
JB Biernbaum  
Brian Waller  
Brandi Baker  
Savannah Ballard