

Volunteers

Volunteer Profile Kitty Rescue, Jaffrey

Just scratching the surface

A day in the life of a cat shelter offers an inside view of all that goes into providing care

All your meals are prepared and delivered by room service. No charge. Your bed's cleaned and fluffed. No charge. Have a cough, rash or toothache? Medical and dental home visits. No charge.

Feeling lonely? There are play dates geared for seniors, teens and the very young. How about a massage? Your belly and shoulders will be rubbed, scratched and patted.

GIVING BACK



Annie Card

It's Club Med for Monadnock area felines. At Kitty Rescue and Adoption in Jaffrey, 600 paws have scratching posts, and challenge beams to climb and scramble across, high above the humans who toil below.

Some of the little balls jingle when swatted. Others are placed with funny green stuff to help residents pass the day. Felt mice and other educational and recreational toys abound. Kitty Rescue and Adoption is a happening place for cool cats and those who love them.

With 150 mouths to feed, the inn is full. Founded in 2002, the rescue and adoption center operates smoothly because of the army of volunteers who show up faithfully to do whatever needs doing.

There is no paid staff and the joint runs as efficiently as any business owner could hope.

Monadnock Kitty Rescue and Adoption Inc. is a no-kill cat shelter. With donations of time, money and material goods the shelter has rescued hundreds of cats and provided them food, shelter and medical care. Hundreds of them have been adopted by loving families.

Last Saturday morning, my friend Dakota Landon and I met Cindy Cadot for our cameo volunteer shift at Kitty Rescue. Cadot has been volunteering there every Saturday for five years. In addition to caring for the cats, she fell in love with a few and brought them home to join the rest of her family in Hancock.

It was barely 10 degrees, the morning air crisp and clean as we followed Cindy from the parking lot to the front door of Kitty Rescue. You know that amazing aroma of baking bread? Or the sweet smell of just-cut grass? Close your eyes and think of your favorite smells ever: Strawberries. Lilacs. Salt air and honeysuckle. Line-dried sheets.

The home of 150 felines does not smell like any of those things. After signing in, Cindy sent us to work upstairs in CC's room. CC was a cat with multiple medical challenges; she died while a resident at the shelter. The yellow-haired CC looked out from a large framed photo across the room as we launched our assembly line attack on the litter boxes.

Armed with bright pink kitty litter



PHOTO BY ANNIE CARD

Dakota Landon, 10, a student at South Meadow School in Peterborough gets to know some of the residents at Monadnock Kitty Rescue and Adoption in Jaffrey with the guidance of volunteer Corinne Joly, an English teacher at Mascenic High who helps out at the shelter every week.

scoops, we set to work. Kind of treasure hunting, Dakota called it. Standing at side-by-side workstations, we scooped away.

Ten-year-old Dakota looked up from her steady work of sifting through the wood pellets. "Are you goofing off?" her expression seemed to ask. Not exactly. I'd deposited one big "treasure" into the wastebasket. I lifted another scoop of poop; just as it cleared the ocean of wood pellets that had encased it, a pungent vapor attacked my nostrils. I dropped the scoop. My head snapped back, my eyes watered and my gag reflex, well, it gagged.

When I realized I wasn't going to pass out after all, I found my voice: "Don't you smell that?" Dakota cheerfully told me her nose had been stuffed up for days and she didn't smell a thing. From the next room, Cindy and Donna announced their noses were also on strike. They smelled nothing. "Well, you're blessed," I told them and got back to work.

Dakota and I found a rhythm. We had our row of litter boxes freshened up in no time, chatting all the

KITTY RESCUE: WHAT'S NEEDED

- Adoptive and Foster parents
- Volunteers (caretakers and construction)
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- High efficiency laundry detergent
- Cat furniture and toys
- Canned ground cat food
- Antibacterial dish soap
- Kitchen and large trash bags
- Wood pellets for litter

while. Next, Cindy awarded us each a wire brush. We raced each other, running them along all the scratching posts, bed linens and blankets, and chairs. We emptied handful after handful of kitty fur into the wastebasket. Like the litter boxes, the work was rewarding for the immediate results.

We vacuumed the floor, and the shelves that held more than a dozen cat beds. We put fresh water in the

bowls and placed the litter boxes back along the wall. The room looked great, neat as a pin.

Start to finish, we'd cleaned the little room in about an hour.

Finally, time to visit.

Volunteer Corinne Joly, showed us around. She handed Dakota a big orange cat. Then a black one with a kind of spotted mustache. In Timmy's room, a big black kitten jumped onto Dakota's back. She laughed and leaned forward so as to provide a comfortable lounging spot. Dakota could have played there all day. My sneezes told me it was time for fresh air. We'd come back another day.

Carol Gove of Temple is Kitty Rescue's matchmaker. Dedicated to placing these cats in good homes, Carol keeps their Web site current with photos and profiles, kind of a Kitty Match.com.

Carol knows the cats as well as anyone, what their dispositions are and what kind of home they desire. Isabella, a substantial black cat with kind yellow eyes looks out from the Web site, sandwiched between Melanie and Connie: "I am a sweet friendly girl that likes attention and is talkative. I do have a bit of a weight problem but am working hard. I am currently on a diet and have lost a little weight. I am looking for a home where I can get the exercise and attention that I need."

Interested in adopting? Visit the Web site to see many of the cats available. Then call or e-mail for more information and to make an appointment to visit.

If you would like to be a foster parent for one or more kittens please call or e-mail.

Volunteers are always needed to help care for the cats' home. An hour or two a week is perfect.

Money donations help provide medical care. The Fluffy Fund was created in memory of Fluffy who suffered from numerous medical problems but lived a happy and long life because of excellent veterinarian care at the shelter. Kitty Rescue's no-kill commitment depends on generous donations to The Fluffy Fund.

For checks to Kitty Rescue and Adoption, write "Fluffy Fund" in memo line. Or go to the Web site and make a Pay Pal donation.

To volunteer, adopt or donate e-mail: info@kittyrescueandadoption.org, visit www.kittyrescueandadoption.org or call 532-9444.

Annie Card, owner of Annie Card Creative Services, developed her love for stories during her 16 years at Yankee Magazine. As executive director of a nonprofit she founded in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, she used her photography and storytelling skills to attract money and volunteers. She continues to help nonprofits tell their stories. Have a favorite volunteer in your town? Tell Annie at annie@anniecarn.com.

Help Out

WHAT'S NEEDED

RSVP/Monadnock

Contact Kathy Baird at 924-7350 if you are interested in volunteering in any of these areas, or visit www.monadnockvolunteercenter.org for more opportunities.

Drivers needed: Once a month for a full day to help residents get to appointments and other personal business.

Gardeners: Help with garden maintenance and planting.

Neighbors-in-deed: Providing companionship and assistance to senior citizens. One to two hours weekly.

Office support: Various agencies need help with answering phones, greeting clients, and other office operations.

People with disabilities: Assist clients of local agencies with crafts, learning basic computer skills, cook meals, and other activities.

Same day surgery: Caring individuals to provide reception and updates to family members about the progress of patients.

Senior citizens: Help with filling out intake paperwork for programs and services. Monadnock region. 924-7350.

Samaritans Hotline

Samaritans of the Monadnock Region are seeking volunteers to help staff their 24-hour hotline in both the Keene and Peterborough areas, offering telephone support to individuals who are in need of someone to talk to about their feeling depressed, lonely, anxious or suicidal. Monadnock region. 357-5510.

Tutors/Students Needed

For Project LIFT. Adult Ed. program assisting with study for GED exam, math, English, etc. Monadnock region. 464-5285.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Send us an e-mail with your organization's needs and upcoming volunteer opportunities at volunteers@ledgertranscript.com

LOOKING TO HELP?

If you want to volunteer, but are unsure where you fit in, you can call the Monadnock Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Monadnock Volunteer Center at 924-7350.

At this community clothing store, one price (free) fits all

By LIZZ D'ENTREMENT

Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

PETERBOROUGH — Prior to Saturday's fundraiser at the Community Clothes Closet, the shelves were stock full of new and gently worn clothing.

Now, the shelves are all virtually empty and need to be restocked with more clothing donated from residents in the area.

"I had an over-abundance of donations before I had a tiny fundraiser on Saturday," said volunteer Kim Robbins. "About half my adult

clothes disappeared and all of the kids clothes. They wiped me out."

Robbins said she is hoping to restock the shelves with plenty of infant clothing and children's clothing up to size 10, as the need for these items seem to be greatest. "I have some winter coats, but we need more warm clothing," she said.

On Saturday, when residents came to the Community Clothes Closet, located at the River Center on 46 Concord Street, they had the option of purchasing a tote bag for \$1, to fill with free clothing.

"SDE donated a box of tote bags,"

said Robbins. "Some people came with their own reasonable shopping bags," said Robbins.

Open since October, Robbins said she got the idea of starting the Community Clothes Closet because she has a large family and knows all about wearing hand-me-downs and shopping in consignment stores.

"We have six kids," said Robbins, between the ages of 6 and 20. "When money's tight, you can't always shop at thrift stores."

Robbins said all the clothing at the Community Clothes Closet is free, and everything is donated, in-

cluding the shelves and clothing racks.

"We're looking for more shelving and a clothing rack we can hang on the wall," said Robbins, who is hoping to have the clothing rack sooner, rather than later. "We have to keep things off the floor because of the chance of flooding in the spring," said Robbins.

Volunteers are also needed to help operate the establishment, open every Saturday, from 10 a.m., to 12 p.m.

"I'm still looking for 2 to 3 volunteers that can commit to one Satur-

day a month," said Robbins.

With so many residents hitting the pavement in search of a job, Robbins said she has plenty of professional clothing that people can wear on job interviews. "We have dress clothes," she said.

Realizing that it may take a little coaxing for some people to visit Community Clothes Closet, Robbins said she wants to put peoples minds at ease.

"It doesn't matter the size of their wallet," she said, because there is no charge for bringing clothing home. "Everybody is welcome," she said.

Need help with your taxes?



community resources and connections
46 Concord Street • Peterborough, NH
www.rivercenter.us

Money Matters, a program of the River Center, offers free tax preparation and helps families who qualify take advantage of available tax credits, including the earned income tax credit. Last year, the program helped about 300 individuals and families and returned nearly \$400,000 in refunds and credits to the region. The program is staffed by IRS-certified volunteers.

Money Matters also runs a 10-week financial literacy program and offers individual money management coaching. Take charge of your financial future now. Learn how to improve and control your financial situation.

For information, call 924-6800.

Monadnock Community Bank
applauds the volunteers who make Money Matters a success.



Monadnock Community Bank knows that local money matters.



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