

OBSERVING, ADMIRING, BENEFITTING BUTTERFLIES AND BEES

This summer I enjoyed the privilege of spending a few days at a Benedictine Monastery on a high desert hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean in California. It is a sacred place I frequented for retreat and renewal times when I taught in San Diego forty years ago, but have not been back since.

One of the monks who welcomed me and my friend is Brother Blaise, the monastery's beekeeper. Brother Blaise is soft-spoken, with big gleeful eyes and a smile that bridges from one bit of humor to the next. Not unlike his bees creating sweet honey, Brother Blaise exudes pure kindness and gentleness, a generous sharing of himself and his gifts of work-and-prayer-imbued life and personality. Sadly we learned that Brother Blaise, now 80, is suffering from terminal cancer and is with hospice care.

Still he came to our lunch table to chat with a few jokes, broad smiles, and an offer to show us through his small, non-motorized honey and candle-making shop where he extracts as much as fifty gallons of honey a week, most of which is given to retreat guests and the town's food pantry. He teaches boy scouts and others how to make candles from bees wax.

Butterflies and Bees – small but mighty, tirelessly dedicated workers whose legacy is sweet nourishment for all, ultimately for the planet. I watched the colorful butterflies – each so beautifully unique – dance from blossom to blossom of giant hibiscus to miniscule sage. They are not even aware of how they were helping humans and our entire planet. Their lives are so fragile, in fact, endangered.

My mind travelled back to the critically endangered kittens we had rescued earlier this summer. Whose lives would they enrich, pollinating love and joy and humor amongst their human companions?

I offered a prayer of gratitude and blessing for our small staff and volunteer corps whom I knew were busy as bees at our home and neighborhoods, responding to needs as they arise, even unexpectedly, and during their deserved family time. Truly they have been pollinating kindness and life-sweetening sustenance to endangered animals and to people whose lives, for a time, seem to lack the sweet nectar of hope.

And I prayed another prayer for you, our valued supporters who provide the rich soil and seeds that grow the flowers for the success of our grassroots work of 34 years. Only because of your ensuring the right environment can our beautiful, fragile "butterflies" (with 4 paws and a happy tail) and dedicated-as-bees workers continue to do what we do. Thank you for your commitment and contribution to the life-saving work and sweet sustenance of all who are TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL.



KITTENS ARE PURRSONS TOO



Each life facing extinction without intervention

Butterflies—each so beautifully unique, each life so dedicated to its single purpose of pollinating blossoms, its life so very fragile, in fact endangered.

I thought of the endangered kittens we were able to rescue this spring and summer. How individually beautiful and unlike any other each is — even the 7 black kittens of gorgeous black momcat we named Esme. They were brought to us from too-full shelters in downstate farming counties, along with Ruby and her surviving kitten, and two brown tabbies with assorted babies between them. We help when we can, as good people from these overflowing shelters email with heart-grabbing photos and euthanasia dates posted on their cages.

PRECIOUS



SPECIAL



EACH UNIQUE

While here in Chicago a lady frantically called to tell us of a tiny kitten her dog sniffed out between the cushions of a discarded couch in the alley. A compactor trash truck would soon be coming!



Another dismayed woman saw, from her porch, a man throw a bucket of water into a hole on a neighbor's lawn. When he left she walked over to see what was in the hole, and found two kittens. In both cases, our Melanee drove to the sites and rescued these precious little ones.



Then followed weeks of bottle-feeding, cuddling (hard work!), worrying, vet visits, calling volunteers for extra help –round the clock for some, and now at the end of summer, seeking and interviewing adopters.



At the same time we must always save room – and money — for sudden calls within our specified Mission of helping the elderly and financially struggling folks who need immediate pet placement. When a mother asked if we could please take care of her daughter's beloved cat so she wouldn't have to surrender it permanently to the County control, she didn't mention that "Sweetie" had unexpectedly given birth one week ago to 7 kittens! Both parents do have jobs at a resale store, and are looking intently for an affordable place to live. Meanwhile they faithfully bring their children over to help with kittens and Sweetie whenever possible. Always welcome hands — and hearts!



Our VOLUNTEERS are true POLLINATORS.

Nursing Home Visits



Two of our elderly friends have died, and another has end stage cancer, so 8 older cats must be integrated gradually into our burgeoning population. It is never easy for an older cat who shared a home with one loving person to adjust to our medley while also grieving the non-understandable absence of its person.



Melanee and some DePaul students organized a fundraiser at a local bar



Taking Cary To Visit Her Purrson, Carol, who is temporarily in a rehab facility

THE MORE POLLINATORS THE BETTER

They spread **KINDNESS** from their hearts and from **Person to Purrson.**

Calming Fears & Building Trust



For the first few weeks that Binky came to us he refused to eat or even raise his head and move out of the corner of his cage. But look at him now kissing Gina's nose before he lies with her on the floor, feeling safe and loved again. That is the transformation, and lifesaving satisfaction a dedicated volunteer can experience – truly “pollinating kindness” from person to purrson and back again!

“BUSY AS BEES” describes daily work of our small staff and volunteer corps this summer, responding to needs as they arise, even unexpectedly and during their own family time. Truly they have been pollinating kindness and life-sweetening sustenance to endangered kittens and to people whose lives, for a time, seem to lack the sweet nectar of hope.



Getting Cats Ready For Adoption



Will you **JOIN US?**

We have a colorful variety of “blossoming tasks.”

Our kitties are SO-O-O THANKFUL to honey-sweet donors and busy-as-bees workers who completed BEE-autiful SCREENHOUSE and FRONT PORCH PAINTING earlier this summer!



Steven beautifying and preserving our front porch with a fresh coat of paint.



Your generous donations enabled us to completely renovate our cats' outdoor retreat without drawing from our monthly budget.



SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Use TBA Calendar monthly donation envelopes – even a little each month helps a lot!
- Arrange with your bank for an auto-check to come to TBA every month
- Of course you can donate via PayPal
- Arrange a fundraiser through your scouts, service groups, block party, or restaurant
- Request from your favorite businesses items for our Benefit baskets, auction or raffle
- Help write for GRANTS!
- Order gift cards through TBA from SCRIPT (previously MANNA) in Oct and March. Details to come.
- Specify TBA as your charity when you order through iGIVE, NETWORK FOR GOOD, CHEWY. COM, and other websites (Amazon smile, EBAY, Fresh Step Litter). If code is required, call office.
- Ask if your employer has a Matching Gift Program
- Send adopters... Every cat adopted not only helps that one, but makes room for another.
- Bring new friends to our Benefits or our home.
- Post TBA news and cats on your Facebook and social media

**We love our senior residents and those with special needs and challenges
Will you be a monthly sponsor for one's extra health costs?**



Big Guy (14 yrs)



Bliss (15 yrs)



**Mia (14 yrs)
Hernia and very shy**



**Rosie (16 yrs)
Hypothyroid and
arthritis. Has
outlived 3 owners.**

ENDANGERED: Our Finances

As summer wanes into the fall season of home migrations, and college/new jobs moves, more animals will be surrendered or abandoned or left with people who are unable or unwilling to care for them.

We can only help if we have the money for indefinite vet care, food, our house upkeep, and support staff. Each photo in our Summer Scrapbook, each story, each call for help, has unknown costs attached, and altogether the financial deficit of this summer's kittens, cats and monthly maintenance has almost depleted our resources, overrun our budget, and is increasingly worrisome.

The current state of our bank account warns that we may have to say "NO" more than "YES" to the next desperate callers. Please help us protect more lives by rebuilding our endangered finances.

As with all family albums, each photo in our 2017 Summer Scrapbook is one moment's still shot with a living backstory that TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL MISSION and workers try to sweeten. Butterflies and bees are small but mighty in our world. Your caring support as a volunteer, donor, voice, enables and sustains our lifesaving work!

Protect
Pollinators

USPS.com



**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO**

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Busy as Bees 

Dedicated as Butterflies 

Our 2017 Summer Scrapbook

Touched By An Animal preserves the nurturing bond between people and their companion animals by helping the Elderly and others maintain this loving relationship and by providing lifetime homes for cats when needed, in our home, where *Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too.*



BIG BROTHER SHADOW

"Our friends want to know what we've done this summer."



KITTEN SNAP

"We've been BUSY — watching our screenhouse be rebuilt, and staying out of the way of frisky kittens, and welcoming volunteers and visitors."

We hope to **CELEBRATE** our **GRATITUDE** with **ALL of YOU**

at **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S THANKSGIVING BRUNCH**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017, at the **Holiday Inn, Skokie, IL**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS



INVITATION TO COME IN OCTOBER