



TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO
P.O. Box 59067
Chicago, IL 60659
www.touchedbyananimal.org



Let's color 2021 springtime
green, sunshine bright yellow,
cloudless sky blue, cardinal red.



The COLOR of SPRINGTIME is in the FLOWERS
The COLOR of WINTER is in the IMAGINATION."

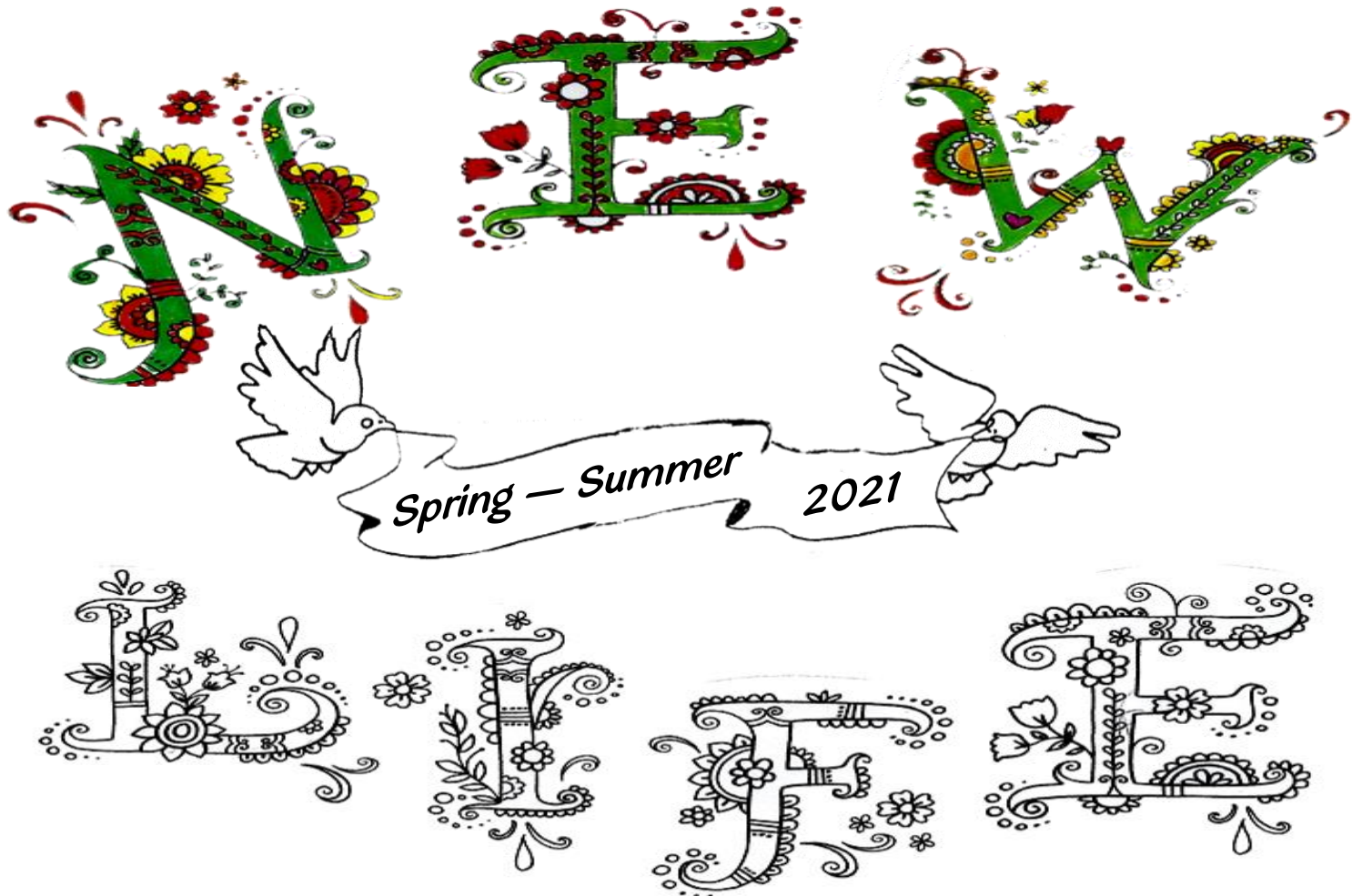
-Ward Elliot Hour



Let's color our NEW LIFE
SPRINGTIME GREEN with HOPE, SUNSHINE YELLOW with JOYS,
SKYBLUE CLARITY, and FOCUS-CATCHING CARDINAL RED
A WONDEROUS Kaleidoscope of NEW COLORS
we can apply to the drab year just past –
with which to brighten our NEW DISCOVERIES,
NEW MINDFULNESS, NEW APPRECIATION
of our NEW and RENEWED LIVES –
NEW HUGS, NEW GET-TOGETHERS, NEW FUTURE.

"Life comes at us in waves;
We can't predict or control these waves,
But we can learn to surf."

-Dan Millman





Achilles



Mama & Babies



Abby & Quinn



Chowder



Rosaline



Shakespeare

NEW LIFE in the outside animal world predictably brings **NEW KITTENS** whose **MOTHER CATS** try bravely to keep them alive and healthy.

Lots of NEW SUPPRISES, NEW JOYS everyday, evoke **NEW SMILES** from our small welcoming staff and caring volunteers, as we watch these precious kittens grow, and introduce them to loving human companionship, for their new lifetime homes.



Aphrodite



Gracie & Babies



Tom Feeding Athena

This Spring, we have squeezed in MORE LITTERS in danger, **MORE lost ORPHAN kittens**, **MORE STARVING PREGNANT cats**, **MORE puzzled ABANDONED cats**, **MORE cats** sadly surrendered by persons with changing health, financial, or living situations ~ **MORE in 2020 than EVER** in our 37 years!

With realistic limited hope for monthly donations, we have, nonetheless, not turned away any feline or person in need, thereby honoring you who have given, and trusting in God and **YOU** that more sustaining generous support of our Mission will continue.



Little Orphan Annie



Sandy



Zeus & Athena



Violet & Babies



Juliette & Babies



Copy Cat



Black Jack



DeVry



WE CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

with promise of a **NEW LIFE**, contented and secure, for wary momcats. Some may need extra time and reassurance to build **NEW TRUST** in humans.



Not Mama Minestrone! She scanned the neighborhood when she gave birth in a discarded box, and chose a house with a door slightly ajar, and noted the soft-spoken couple sitting and talking in one room. So she quietly walked in and out four times to deposit her babies on the bed. Then she greeted the surprised couple with a soft plea, "MEOW, will you give me a **NEW HOME** and food, Please?" **SMART MAMA!**



Minestrone's Kittens

New **STORIES** tumble over each other on our cellphones – E-mails, texts, live callers, forwarded from friends, telling us about adult cats who need **NEW LIVES**. Neighbors moved, left cats in or outside empty homes. Illnesses or hospitalization extends dependence on neighbors, pandemic job losses cause moving in with relatives who are allergic, frustrated spouses or caregiver becomes abusive. "Please take my cat. I don't know what else to do!" "I love my cat so much, can you please keep him for a while until my situation improves and I can take him back?"

Abby and Quinn have a loving family so why are they here? Their family is struggling with the loss of a job and then their apartment. Crashing with friends and family makes it difficult for everyone. Their family was desperate for a safe place for the kitties until they can get back on their feet. Meanwhile, we welcome the family to visit and spend time with their much loved kitties, a comfort to all of them.



Quinn



Abby



NEWLY-OBSERVANT CARING PEOPLE see cats – some with newborn litters, on and under porches, in window wells, behind bushes, under broken sidewalks. Some **HERO RESCUERS** spend hours calling shelters—"too full," "closed for COVID," "Fill out waiting lists on website," – until they find us, often late evening.

When this little cat was rescued, she was so small and thin, the children who found her named her **Mouse**, and we thought she was a neutered male. As her lean body began to fill out, we congratulated ourselves on feeding her with high-nutrient prescription food. An ultrasound confirmed our suspicion, however: **Mouse** was pregnant, with excess amniotic fluid causing her soft bulging. Sweet little **Mouse** gave us an overnight purrfect surprise of three healthy kittens. We are so very glad we could give her a safe home, nutritious food, and vet care just in time!



Mouse & Babies



Teen Volunteers

Our patient team, including untiring volunteers, summon **NEW FELINE COMMUNICATION SKILLS** to assure these anxious cats for as long as it takes.



Chris



Kayla



Uber

Uber is a sweet young girl who was found by an Uber driver by the side of the road. She had a wound on her side and looked so sad and forlorn. This caring Uber driver drove around all day hoping to find a shelter to take her. Every place she called she hit a roadblock, until she finally called us and we agreed to make a place for her.



MEET JACKIE CHAN, OUR \$8,000+ "GOLDEN BOY".

He was a favorite of a kind rescuer who patiently worked with him outside for many months to gain his trust until she could coax him into a carrier to bring him to us and prepare for his happy new life with a family. Jack was wary at first, but sweet, and made it through his initial health exams and treatments, even with praise from our vet for his appealing purrsonality. She advised us that two teeth would need extraction soon, so we made an appointment for the following week. Overnight a swollen cheek signaled an abscess beginning so an immediate dental was arranged.



The following week a lovely lady came looking for "just the right cat" to join her and her single lonely cat. She and our intuitive matchmaker, Melanee, thought Jack would be purrfect. Ceecee spent much time bonding with him and completing our adoption paperwork. The next morning, she would come back for him to start their new life together.

But the next morning our staff found Jack lying on his side unable to lift his head, with almost white gums, sure signs of anemia. We rushed him to our vet, who, after blood tests and ultrasound, said he needed an immediate transfusion and ICU overnight care at MedVet, a 24/7 specialty hospital.

That evening the truly kind vet called to say our cat showed signs of improvement after one transfusion, but his lab test results were still pending; the cause and prognosis were not yet clear. To keep Jack alive she suggested another transfusion and again overnight ICU. I was told the estimated cost and 3 choices: 1. accept, 2. Take home overnight until test results return, knowing that he may not survive the night, 3. "Humanely euthanize."

Of course, #3 was not a choice for us, even as I consulted with key staff to decide between the first and second options. Jack was only one year old, had struggled through growing up outside, put his trust in humans, and had a promising cherished life ahead of perhaps 20 years. At what point do we put a dollar limit on life? Choice # 2 was no better, because it would be deliberately choosing to risk his life without even a clear diagnosis or prognosis. Choice # 1 commits \$8-10,000 with an uncertain outcome. I always feel accountable to donors for spending their money. Would some ask, "How can you invest so much in one cat, when that amount could save many lives.?" But over 37 years of saving CATS as PURRSONS TOO and the people's lives we have witnessed being invaluabley TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, made the decision clear: Jack would stay at MedVet where he would be given a fighting chance.

Waiting for the phone call the next morning, I offered a special prayer to our Creator of Life to inspire some of our caring friends who have the means, to donate generously in the near future. Or for one of the charitable foundation grants we continuously apply for to arrive.



Jackie Chan today in his new home.

News from the excited veterinarian could not have been better: Jackie Chan (our little fighter) was sitting up, responsive, eating, and his illness would not recur! A previous flea or tick bite had entered Jack's blood stream and was slowly destroying his red blood cells. His abscessed tooth infection reduced his immune system so that microplasm accelerated red blood cell loss. Two blood transfusions rebuilt his blood, tooth extractions cleared infection, and of course, there would be no more fleas or ticks to attack Jack's contented indoor long life!



NEW EXPENSES, NEW NEEDS, NEW BUDGET CALCULATIONS, NEW "THINK OUT OF THE BOX" CHALLENGES, NEW HOUSE REPAIRS SUSPENDED

With every heart-wrenching call asking us to take a cat/kittens, or to help an anguished person with beloved pet assistance, I visualize an immediate **MINIMAL EXPENSE** of \$300.00+ for complete veterinary exam, vaccines and boosters, internal and external parasite elimination, FIV/FELV blood test, *often* spay or neuter surgery, microchip, *possibly* geriatric blood study, dental, prescription diet, antibiotics, xray and ultrasound.

HOW DO WE SET A \$ LIMIT ON NEW LIFE OR THE NEW LOVE & ENDURING COMFORT this cat can give to its NEW PERSONS?



While I am mentally "putting a hold" on the financial challenges of accepting a new cat/kitten, a more immediate need is for an available cage. Pandemic crises have brought us far more felines in a short time than

ever before. Are any ICU cats ready to move to outer rooms? Any kittens ready for the nursery floor? Any adopters going to take their new cat home tomorrow? Any old rusty cages in the basement to be reassembled temporarily? Any foster homes for special needs cats?

When asking these questions of our daily caregivers I am thrilled to learn that our very generous friend, Karen, had earlier learned of this need and ordered a 3-tiered set of cages to be delivered tomorrow! A \$1,600.00 surprise Lifesaving GIFT! THANK YOU KAREN!



We heard a loud clamor of lumber being dropped over our fence, and learned that our good and generous friend, Peter, had ordered the construction company who was doing some work for him to rebuild our unsafe, long-unusable ramp. This has been a **BIG** priority project for many years, but always delayed for cost-"We'll try next year's budget!"

THANK YOU PETER and JANET! Now our friends in wheelchairs or on walkers can visit their cats here or enjoy an hour with ours!



Now we are hoping to add to our remodeling fund enough to replace this unusable rusty porch elevator and repaint the front porch and stairs.



Our Heroes!

NEW APPRECIATION FOR THOSE WHO GOT US THROUGH 2020



NEW HUGS - VIRTUALLY

(I.E. "Essentially, Effectively, Implicitly")

Our SUPER-DEDICATED, always willing to work "over and above", 6 person staff~

OUR FAITHFUL DONORS, SOME FOR MANY YEARS - WHO SHARE WHAT THEY CAN MONTHLY -\$5, 10, 15, 20....\$100. We can count on these and look forward to regular mail and website donations. We also appreciate the kind and encouraging notes and cards sometimes enclosed. We share these with staff and volunteers on our bulletin board. Please do not, however, apologize for the amount you send; we all have financial constraints and have deep gratitude for the sincere caring that accompanies every gift.

It is always a thrilling surprise when those who **CAN** choose to share some of their stimulus check, IRA, Donor Advised Fund, Birthday or Memorial Remembrance, employee match, or creative fundraising proceeds. Such very generous gifts humble me and cause us all to reaffirm the Mission and practices of **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL**.

Admittedly, almost two years without our annual Benefit Brunches, Arlington Pet Expo, and summer neighborhood festivals caused some anxious accounting, but our **CARING FRIENDS -- YOU --** have pulled us through -- and we, as well as a **RECORD NUMBER** of cats, kittens, and people who reached out to us this year, are extremely grateful.

4 Chicago Tribune | Section 2 | Friday, March 5, 2021

Study: 1 in 3 nonprofits are in financial peril amid pandemic

By Glenn Gamboa
Associated Press

WITH YOUR HELP, we have struggled through 2020, and have actually been able to help MORE cats, kittens, and people than ever before!

Your quick, generous responses to our Mother's Day "It's Raining Kittens" and other occasional online pleas have brought amazing surprise cartons of needed supplies from Chewy.com, Amazon Wish List, and Network For Good, as well as wonderful checks to help with crucial veterinary care.



DID YOU KNOW that TBA organization exists financially solely because of **INDIVIDUAL** supporters/donors like you? That is how we started 37 years ago as a small, neighbor-helping-neighbor group, with volunteers, adopters, and those we help continuing to support our efforts, some donors still for 20 & 30 years.



Melanee: Administrative Assistant, Chief of Staff, Adoption Counselor, Volunteer Coordinator, Surrogate Kitten Mom when needed. We gratefully celebrate Melanee's 5 years with us!



Sue: Director of Operations, Event Coordinator, General Assistant to staff and cats. 2021 is Sue's 25th anniversary of faithful service with Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too & Touched By An Animal



Scott: Offsite grant writer, researcher, archiver, graphics designer. Began working with TBA in 2017 as a house and cat caretaker.

Maynor & Mireya: Our hard working house and cat Chief Caretakers who keep our home, cages, and catio meticulously clean and welcoming for felines and visitors.



Marijon: Founder 37 years ago, and continuing CEO, CFO, working from offsite office with communications, strategic planning, scheduling, newsletter and P.R. writing.

Our wonderful dedicated ESSENTIAL helpers~



Corinne: Astute Vet Assistant, who weekly checks each feline resident, notes changes, and advises as needed.



Dr. Ashley Rossman, DVM: Provides our cats' veterinary care at Glen Oak Dog and Cat Hospital and annually at our house. Dr. Ashley serves on our Board of Directors.



Cathie: Is a Board member and 11 year active volunteer who helps at Berwyn House 2 days a week and at Marijon's offsite office with administrative work on Mondays.

Julia Van Vliet: Comes every Sunday afternoon, bringing young friends and orients student volunteers. Julia is also Board Secretary who does a lot of networking with TBA supporters and donors.

Andy Lukavsky: Is our Board Treasurer, IT specialist, Tech/Website Advisor.

James Hill: Is our Accountant, Financial Advisor, and Board Member.

Jim Vincent: Owner of Diner Films, has been recording our Benefits & special events for years, and produced the THANKSGIVING 2020 video on our website to introduce you to TBA's Mission, practices, and key personnel.

CASSIE: Gives invaluable cleaning help 3 day a week for 7 years and counting.

Every Day we and our cats, feel A NEW SPECIAL THANKS to our Faithful FRIENDS who frequently come to comfort and socialize our cats and help in many ways: Rhoda, Cheryl, Patrick, Carol, Salvador, Roy, Chip, Ava, Sarah, Che, and visitors by appointment during Covid.





NEW THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION TOGETHER: NOVEMBER 21, 2021

♥ NEW IDEAS ♥ NEW FRIENDS ♥ NEW FUTURE



Our whole team is eagerly looking forward to a **BIG NEW WELCOME** of GUESTS to our **THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION** at the Holiday Inn, Skokie, on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2021**.

We want to express **OUR GRATITUDE** personally, with our cats zooming on-screen, virtually purring **THEIR THANKS** to you for remembering their needs throughout these two years, especially, and enabling us to share our home with **SO MANY** needy cats and kittens. We all have much for which to be thankful, and we would like to do so **WITH YOU IN PERSON**.

NEW IDEAS: This Fall, we will launch an online **AUCTION** of 4 beautiful framed original works of art drawn especially for **TBA/CAPT** by Chicago Artist, Martha Casper, and commissioned by Sherry Merola. They are **BEAUTIFUL!**

Watch, too, for our **TREASURE CHEST** of **DONATED RAFFLE ITEMS** in our Fall newsletter and on our website. Both the auction and raffle will be concluded at our Thanksgiving Benefit Brunch.



NEW FRIENDS: If **YOU** are enjoying a cat companion from our care, or if we have been able to help you with a pet, we hope that you will pay it forward by regularly donating, volunteering, and networking for our continued help to others so that they too can be **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S LOVE**.



NEW FUTURE: Our **FUTURE** (and perhaps yours with your companion animals?) is back in serious planning with a local Architect/Developer, Frederick Phillips, and experienced Development Project Coordinator, Melanie Glass, pursuing property in Lake County, IL. All three of us share the values of **TREASURING ALL LIVES** – human, animal, and the natural environment: plants, gardens, conservation. Read my **Vision Statement** for our Continuing Care Retirement Community on our website:

www.treasuredlivescommunity.org

We will share progress update at our November 21 Benefit.



Let's **COLOR** our **NEW DAYS** **SUNSHINE BRIGHT** with **RAINBOWS** of New Connections, new friends, new beauty, new surprises, new **HUGS**, new ideas, renewed Smiles!

