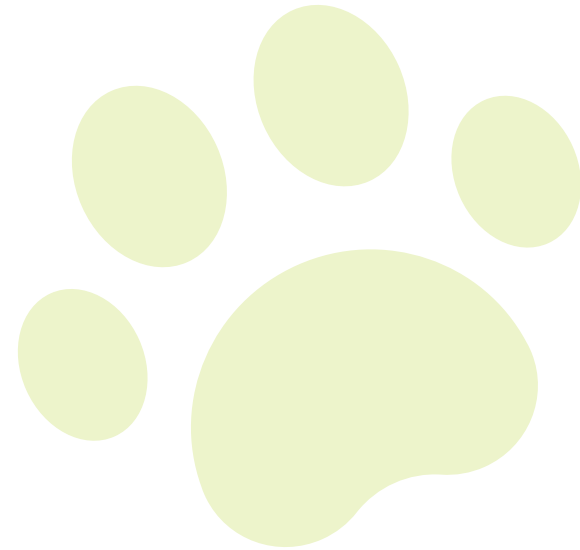


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Impact Report



Mr. Pickles
June, 2020



Instagram: @hswmi

We need your help!
Donate today at www.hswestmi.org/give
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3077 Wilson Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us at
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A Special Thanks to

137th Birthday Party Sponsors

While we couldn't be together in person for HSWM's Birthday Party this year, we want to thank our sponsors, Meijer and VCA Animal Hospitals, for supporting animals in need in these unpredictable times.



Meet Mr. Pickles!

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Near the end of April, a small, scruffy black dog arrived at Humane Society of West Michigan with masses on his rear and eyes so crusted over he was unable to see. In addition, he walked with a wobble as a result of a deformation in his front legs. Despite his lengthy list of concerns, HSWM's veterinary team fell in love with him and eventually dubbed him Mr. Pickles.

It became clear that Mr. Pickles was permanently blind and his eyes were causing him a great deal of pain. Dr. Thompson, HSWM's shelter veterinarian, chose to operate and successfully removed both eyes as well as the masses on his rear. Mr. Pickles quickly adjusted to life without eyes and began his long road to recovery. He has stayed in the home of Dr. Thompson, enjoying spending time with her children and family dogs. When he's ready, Mr. Pickles will find a family that

will love him despite his past. Until then, we're happy to continue helping him grow stronger and healthier each day!

Animals like Mr. Pickles are given a second chance at life because of donors like you. Thank you for helping Humane Society of West Michigan provide medical care and find homes for thousands of animals each year.





HSWM Friends and Family,

Humane Society of West Michigan has been a local pillar for 137 years, and we hope to continue to be able to serve the animals, and people of West Michigan for another 137 and beyond. We have operated by bringing humane treatment to animals and partnering with the community to encourage kindness, empathy, and commitment to a better future.

During this time, we all look for the helpers, the doers, those continuing to bring a light to the world, and those who remind us that we can endure. We can learn and move through this difficult time and our future can be brighter.

We are with you West Michigan,

Holly Guild – Executive Director

Tails From a Foster Mom

Kelly began fostering for Humane Society of West Michigan in July of 2018, starting with a cat named Birdie and her two newborn kittens. Since then, she has shared her home with seventy cats and kittens.

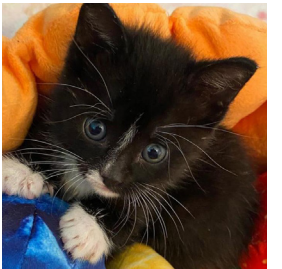
The majority of Kelly’s fosters have been young kittens, many of which require diligent bottle-feeding every two hours. HSWM is able to provide each foster family with all of the supplies, food, medication, and more through donations from our community. With the close support of HSWM’s foster program and knowledgeable cat staff, volunteers like Kelly have saved hundreds of little lives.

Her favorite foster memory involves the first litter of orphaned kittens she brought home. “Finn, Declan, Kieran and Ronan were found in a parking lot by a postal carrier discarded in a plastic bag”, she said.

After 9 weeks of feedings, socialization, and unconditional love, the kittens were adopted by the postal carrier and his family.

Of course, fostering can be emotionally tough as well. When it comes to saying goodbye to the animals she’s cared for for weeks or even months, Kelly views the send off as a “graduation” into a loving forever home. She said, “Whether it be the tiniest little kittens reaching milestones, under socialized kittens seeking our attention or kittens who just aren’t well get better; watching them thrive and grow is the most rewarding experience”.

We’re so thankful for dedicated foster parents like Kelly for opening their hearts and homes to cats, dogs, and small animals. A place to call home, no matter how temporary, makes all the difference for an animal in need.



Get Ready For Bark in the Dark 2020!

For more information or to register online, please visit the HSWM Bark in the Dark website at www.barkinthedark.org



Saturday, October 3rd
5:00pm at Riverside Park, Grand Rapids

Join us for the eighth annual Bark in the Dark! This family and dog friendly glow-in-the-dark 5k and 1 mile fun run/walk is always a blast!

Don’t want to run? Don’t worry! Bark in the Dark is so much more than a race! Featuring a dog costume contest, a beer tent, food from local restaurants, music, and sponsor booths - you can even skip the run and just come for the fun!

Recyclables for Rescues

As COVID-19 canceled events and social-distancing became the new normal, Megan Ellinger, HSWM’s Events Coordinator, knew she’d have to get a little creative when it came to fundraising. With the closure of businesses also came a halt in Michigan’s can and bottles returns. In April we launched “Recyclables for Rescues”, offering those with accumulating cans and bottles a chance to donate them to the shelter. We never expected what happened next.

Over the course of a week enough cans and bottles were donated to fill the Training Center from floor to ceiling. Every day saw hundreds more cans and bottles being dropped off. After completely running out of space, we ended the collection.

A local company donated a semi-trailer to be used for can and bottle storage. With the help of staff and volunteers, we were able



to sort and prepare the cans and bottles to be returned. Megan estimates that more than 150,000 returnable items were donated to HSWM during our collection.

What started as a fun idea turned into a surprising source of funding during a difficult time. Thank you to everyone who helped make Recyclables for Rescues such a success for HSWM and its animals!

