Happy almost Friday everyone! Here are your updates for the week:

STRATEGIC PLANNING: We are scheduling our first strategic planning session with the board, management team and HR Collaborative for September. This first session will help us establish our vision, determine where we are going as an organization, and also begin creating the steps to get there. This will be an exciting time for us, and we will be asking for your input along the way. Remember the first all staff meeting we had when I started at HSWM? Remember all those post- its that you all filled out with your wishes and dreams for the future? Some of those will be incorporated into our plan as well, The rest will have to wait until the next round. I haven't forgotten about them and they are still on my office wall!

OFFSITE ADOPTIONS: Kathy and Tania will be managing sending cats to our offsite adoption partners moving forward and Jaime will be managing the adoption process for those animals.  Please direct any questions you may have regarding offsite cats to the appropriate person.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN SHELTERS: Here is some great info regarding disease transmission in shelters and how to prevent it. Please take the time to watch this short video. Our animals depend on us to keep them healthy while they are under our care!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN5-EKGFyN0&feature=youtu.be>

HSUS SEMINAR:  HSUS is hosting a webinar on Sept. 3 from 7-8:30 pm on the current state of animal sheltering. It is free and open to all staff that work in a Michigan shelter. I will attach the flyer with the registration link to this email for any of you that are interested in participating.

HALLMARK CHANNEL TAILS OF JOY:  Most of you know that we have been working with the Hallmark Channel on a project to follow animals transferred up from Louisiana through Bissell Pet Foundation. Their film crew followed a transport (featuring Tania!) in February. They came to the shelter in June to follow up, take some shelter footage and interview some adopters. This show premieres Monday, August 31 at 11 am on the Hallmark Channel if you are interested in watching. I believe it will be available on demand the following day.

COVID: As of this minute, nothing has changed regarding current state level executive orders. We will continue monitoring for any updates and pass them along as they are placed into effect. Please remember to wear your masks at all times while you are in the shelter unless you are the only person in an office with a closed door. This includes hallways and rest rooms. Please continue taking your lunch breaks in the breakroom, training room kitchen (1 person at a time in each of these areas), outside, in your car, or in your personal office or office space. Masks may be removed for eating and drinking only if you are the only person in the room, or 6 or more feet away from each other outside. We appreciate you continuing to remind volunteers and patrons to wear their masks appropriately as well.

LABOR DAY:  Labor Day is coming up on Monday, September 7. The shelter will be closed that day. A reminder for full time staff: if Monday is your typical day off, you will need to take an additional day off that week to account for the paid holiday. Anyone who is scheduled to work in animal care on that day will receive holiday pay. Please see Stephanie if you have questions.

BARK IN THE DARK: Bark will be on October 3, and will be mostly virtual this year. Please stay tuned for details coming next week.

TRANSPORT: We will be going to TN this Sunday and returning Monday night with a puppy transport. We should be getting 2-3 litters of puppies and a few young adults.

The winner for last week's gift card drawing is Megan. Congratulations Megan! Please see Stephanie to get your gift card. Once you have read this email and watched the disease transmission video, please respond to me with your favorite color to be entered for next week's drawing. I will be off tomorrow since Pixie is having surgery, but please feel free to call/text/email if you need anything. Have a great weekend everyone!

Best,

Holly