



# Cat Tales

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2013

Welcome to our second newsletter. It's hard to believe it's been since last fall that we last touched base. We've been very busy and have a lot of great new things to share with you!

As you know, the core of The Meow Mission is spaying and neutering Michiana's free-roaming cats. Best Friends Society estimates 60,000 of these cats in just South Bend. Needless to say, we've got our work cut out!

We began our mission the end of 2011 and held our first fundraiser, a bowling event entitled Alleys for Alley Cats. We were able to pay for our 501(c)(3) application and spay 4 cats with the funds we raised. We received our official non-profit status in 2012 and hit the fundraising pretty hard allowing us to fix 161 cats!

So far this year, we've fixed 28 cats and are projecting an additional 200! We've applied for a grant from Petsmart Charities that would allow us to double that number. Please keep your fingers crossed for us, we'd love to be able to help that many cats!



Milestone

## We received the GuideStar Exchange Seal!

We're so very proud to report that we've received GuideStar's Exchange Seal!

**We are the ONLY animal welfare group in Michiana with the seal!**

What this means: All registered nonprofits have profiles on GuideStar, an organization designed to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. GuideStar serves to legitimize nonprofits. The seal is a leading symbol of transparency and accountability in the nonprofit world.

We are dedicated to transparency. We are a legitimate 501(c)(3) non-profit that reports in detail all income and expenses. We want you to know how we use your donations – and you can see that **98%** of our expenses went to ABC Clinic for spay/neuter surgeries! The 2% was used for the annual cost of our PO box. We seek donations for every other expense an organization normally has – printing costs, postage, mailing labels, giveaways, marketing materials, banners, signs, etc. The more we are able to save expenses, the more we are able to focus on our mission – to spay and neuter Michiana's free-roaming cats.



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THE MEOW MISSION  
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL  
THE HUMANE WAY

MEOW MISSION LIMITED

Mishawaka, IN

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### MEOW MISSION LIMITED

Physical Address: **Mishawaka, IN 46546**

EIN: **45-3617099**

Web URL: [www.themeowmission.org](http://www.themeowmission.org)

Blog URL: [www.facebook.com/the...](http://www.facebook.com/the...)

Leadership: **Jodi Aker**

*Detailed Financial and People Data included in the GuideStar Premium Report*

✓ <b>GuideStar Seal</b>	Committed to transparency
✓ <b>Registered with IRS</b>	Legitimacy information is available
✓ <b>Financial Data</b>	Annual Revenue and Expense data reported
✓ <b>Mission Objectives</b>	Mission Statement is available
✓ <b>Impact Statement</b>	Impact Statement from nonprofit is available
☆☆☆☆☆	No Personal Reviews available

### Legitimacy Information

- This organization is registered with the IRS.
- This organization is required to file an IRS Form 990-N.

Institutional funders should note that an organization's inclusion on GuideStar.org does not satisfy IRS Rev. Proc. 2011-33 for identifying supporting organizations.

Summary

Financials

Forms 990 & Docs

People

Programs & Help

New



**This organization has earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal, demonstrating its commitment to transparency.**

*Is this your organization's report?  
Update your organization's information today!*



## **Mews Flash...** The Meow Mission has become a full-service TNR group!

*You spoke, Michiana, and we listened.*

As of yet, we've strictly been fundraisers and educators. The cats we've helped fix have all been trapped by their caretakers or our friends at Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition. We've unsuccessfully looked for trapping help in St. Joseph County. So many of the folks who contact us either aren't able to do the trapping themselves or they need the traps. It's very important to trap an entire colony at once – those kitties are quite savvy and they figure out pretty quickly what's going on once a kitty gets trapped!

We put our heads together and decided there was no option, we were going to have to get our hands dirty and start trapping. The question then became, how do we raise the funds needed to buy traps? We launched our trap fund appeal the end of January and within four weeks, we'd met our goal! One very generous donor even bought us six traps! WOW!

Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to purchase ten brand-spanking new Tomahawk traps! We now have 16 traps and can't wait to get started. With the help of Alley Cat Allies ([alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)) and our friends at Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition (boy, that's a mouthful), we are educating ourselves in all aspects of safe, successful trapping and should be ready to hit the streets in a few weeks!

*Thank you, Michiana, we could not have done it without you!*

# Make the Planet a Better Place to Live.

Recycling your small electronics and ink cartridges is not only good for the environment, it also helps us pay for spay/neuter surgeries for Michiana's free-roaming cats.

Help us recycle, so  
they don't have to



**Please consider donating your cell phones, printer cartridges, and small electronics (mp3 players, digital cameras, GPSs, laptops).**

Contact us for pick up, or feel free to drop off at any of our Meow Munchies cat food donation spots (look for the pink bin). Thank you!

Email us at [info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org) or call 574.300.3353



Have you liked us on Facebook yet?  
[www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission](http://www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission)

## **Trap, Neuter, Return. It Works.**

*"TNR is fast becoming the predominant approach to feral cat management in the United States because it is proven to stabilize feral cat colony growth and gradually reduce the population of outdoor cats compassionately and effectively."* – Huffington Post, March 5, 2013

*"...the TNR program works to cut down not only on the number of cats roaming community streets, but also the shelter population, thus saving taxpayers' money."* – Georgetown Times, February 20, 2013

*"the No-Kill Equation is a proven way to decrease the number of pets being euthanized. The equation has 10 parts, but at the top of list are spay/neuter and trap-neuter-return programs."* – The Virginian Pilot, March 12, 2013

# Wags to Riches II



# Meow Munchies

Spring is right around the corner and we can't wait for May – that's when we'll be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual rummage sale,

Wags to Riches. Please think of us when you're cleaning out your closets, downsizing, or simply de-cluttering. We'll even pick up, how about that?

Contact us at

[info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org) or call us at 574.300.3353. We'll post more details about the sale next month.

Think of us  
when you  
decide you  
just cannot  
stand all that  
clutter any  
more



We started our feral food program, Meow Munchies, last year and it has taken off! In order to qualify for the program, all cats in the colony must be spayed/neutered or in the process of. We've got some great caretakers with large colonies that can really use help with cat food. Most of these folks have taken it upon themselves to spay and neuter their colonies by themselves and have been providing quality care for years. We just love to help such responsible caretakers and rely on donations to do so.

## Donation drop locations and times:

### Mishawaka:

Pet Refuge, 2300 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, M-F 10am-3pm

-or-

1503 Kensington Place, 24hrs/7 days

### Granger:

ABC Clinic, 12692 Sandy Dr, Ste 117, M-F 7am-5:30pm

### South Bend:

For Pets Sake, 3023 W. Mishawaka Ave

M-F 7:30am-1pm, Saturday 7:30-11am

-or-

Furry Friends & More Pet Sitting, 52670 Primrose Road

24hrs/7 days



# Get Your \$15 Fix!

In celebration of National Feral Cat Day, we held ABC Clinic's first Fix-a-Feral day, "Get Your \$15 Fix". Dr. Hatch and the wonderful staff dedicated their entire day to fixing feral cats for us. Thanks to the funds we raised with our rummage sale and bowling event, we were able to offer 50 surgeries to colony caretakers for just \$15/cat. Pet Refuge posted our flyer on their FaceBook page and within two days, all 50 appointments were full! We're thrilled that so many of Michiana's caretakers realize the importance of fixing their colonies! With your help, we will be able to offer this promotion again in October.



Cats came into the clinic in traps and carriers. We always advise covering the traps with a light weight blanket or sheet—this helps calm the cat and helps prevent the cat from hurting itself.



**Our first lucky kitty in pre-op**



**All's a go for surgery!**



**After surgery, the kitties recover wrapped in soft, warm towels and blankets. Note the tube sock pillows under the cats—these are filled with rice and warmed up so each kitty gets its own heating pad**





## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alleys for Alley Cats

Last October, in celebration of National Feral Cat Day, we held our second annual bowling fundraiser, Alleys for Alley Cats at Bowler's Country Club in South Bend. We enjoyed a scrumptious Polish Dinner (best on the West side!), fun contests, door prizes, raffles and a great 50/50. And we sure can't forget our special kitty cocktail – delicious AND pink! Thanks to some great volunteers and wonderful sponsors – Dan Berry Insurance Agency, River Bend Hose, and our event sponsor, Bunk & Biscuit, we were able to double last year's proceeds (and have fun while doing it)!

A very big thank you to Alleys official sponsors,  
Bunk & Biscuit!

Courtney & Tyler made sure everyone received a special goody bag





# Bunk & Biscuit

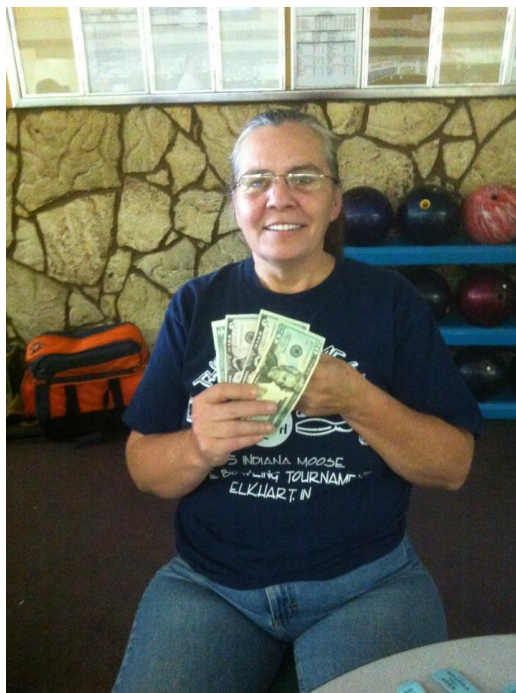
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A Quiet Place to Stay and Play

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**269-684-BUNK**





## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alleys for Alley Cats



Cindy shows off her 50/50 win while Dawn is pretty as a princess in her tiara from her complimentary goody bag



Guests enjoyed great food, prizes, and of course, helping Michiana's free-roaming cats!



Thanks to our lane sponsors, Dan Berry Insurance & River Bend Hose



# Purina Weight Circle Program

## Save Your Circles!

Purina has a great savings opportunity called the Weight Circle Program. We save the circles—found on bags of Purina cat food—and send them in to Purina who then sends us rebate checks we use to buy cat food for our Meow Munchies\* food program. If you buy Purina cat food, please save your weight circles for us. **Every little bit helps.** Please drop these off at our cat food donation drops, or, mail to us at PO Box 192, Mishawaka, IN 46546.

\*To qualify for Meow Munchies, all cats must be spayed and neutered, or in the process of, and be provided quality colony care. No food will be provided to any unaltered cats

Have you seen these guys? They're Purina weight circles and they're found on bags of Purina cat food.

Cats have lived outdoors for more than 10,000 years—they are a natural part of the landscape. Today, they live healthy lives outdoors and play important roles in the ecosystem—as they did thousands of years ago and as all domestic cats are biologically adapted to do. What has changed in that time is how people have re- shaped the environment to suit our needs, at a great cost to the other species that share our ecosystem. -[www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)



Pretty Dolly was VERY popular with the neighborhood Tom cats. Her very worried caretaker worked diligently with our friend, Marlena from Furry Friends & More Pet Sitting, who helped her trap Dolly and get her to ABC. She'll be missed by those Toms and we sure are glad!

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OWNER





# Coping with Kitten Season

Have you heard of “Kitten Season?” Kitten season is really three seasons in one, starting in spring, peaking in late spring or early summer, and ending in fall. Cats’ heat cycles are regulated by weather. Once our temperatures increase, so does mating. The warmer weather allows cats with uncontrollable hormones to roam looking for a chance to mate. A cat can go into heat as young as FIVE months and three times a year (yep, that means she can have THREE litters per year) and will remain in heat until she mates and becomes pregnant. Once pregnant, it is a mere 9 weeks before kittens are born and then it all begins again. You read right, a female can become pregnant with her next litter while she is still nursing! Spaying and neutering is the **ONLY** way to control the overpopulation.

We are in full-fledge kitten season and have so much work ahead of us. We have several large colonies in very low income areas of South Bend that need our help. We are blessed to have the volunteers who have the time and drive to help trap the cats and get them to ABC for surgery, but we need financial assistance to pay for the surgeries. Won’t you consider sponsoring a spay today?

Have you liked us on Facebook yet?  
[www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission](http://www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission)



*The E. colony, the first colony we fixed—the majority of the colony were kittens.*





# Sponsor a Spay

Your \$35 donation will provide a sterilization surgery for one un-owned, free-roaming cat and *prevent the additional 3,200 kittens produced.*

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Name

Email

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Address

State

Zip

\_\_\_\$ 35 for 1 Cat



\_\_\_\$ 70 for 2 Cats



\_\_\_\$140 for 1 Litter



\_\_\_Other

Make checks payable to The Meow Mission and send to PO Box 192, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or pay with your credit card on our website, [www.themeowmission.org/donate](http://www.themeowmission.org/donate)

The Meow Mission is a 501(c)3 registered nonprofit, your donation is 100% deductible.