



## *Creating Connections Through Education* | By Director of Advocacy, Ann Griffin

Dr. James A. Comer founded the School Development Program at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Center. As a Professor of Child Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Comer developed the Comer Process, a system of education focused on child development in inner-city schools. Dr. Comer placed an emphasis on collaboration among parents, teachers, and the surrounding community. His goal was to improve young students' lives and their ability to succeed in higher education. (More information about Dr. Comer and his illustrious career may be found [here](#).) Dr. Comer is quoted as saying that "[n]o significant learning occurs without a significant relationship."

You are probably wondering how this relates to Michigan Humane and the Advocacy department. Michigan Humane has formed a significant relationship with the Detroit International Academy for Young Women (DIA), the only all-female public school in Michigan. The DIA is part of the Detroit Public Schools Community District. In coordination with Michigan Humane and the Detroit Zoo, their curriculum is focused on the biomedical sciences and veterinary medicine. The program provides students with college credit, internships, and scholarship opportunities. [Click here](#) for a brief video about the school.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to four DIA high school classes taught by Holly Glomski, a Biomedical and Veterinary Science Instructor. Her students were doing research regarding a variety of animal welfare topics, including the care of homeless animals and spay and neuter, and some students expressed an interest in animal law. Their interest coincided with a curricular objective to learn about professional ethics, and I was thrilled to be invited to talk to them about how a person becomes a lawyer; the ethical rules that apply to lawyers; and what lawyers do, with an emphasis on what animal lawyers do to help animals.

The students were very engaged and asked great questions. One student wanted to know what to do if she saw an animal victim of cruelty or neglect. Another student wanted to know how a judge decides who gets the pets in a divorce case.

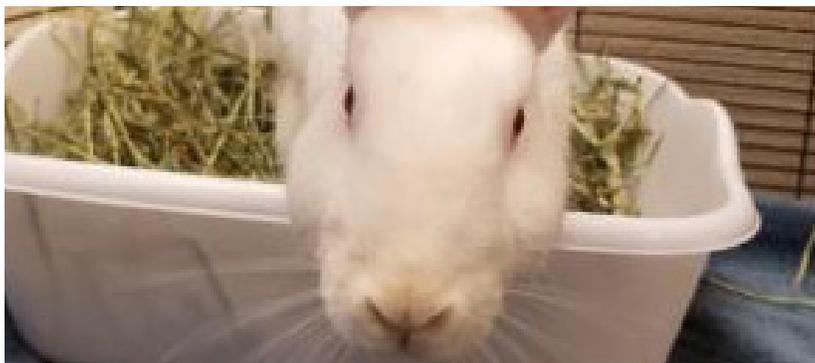
Education is a form of advocacy, and the more (and the earlier) people learn about animal welfare and how to make the world a better place for people and animals, the better equipped they will be to work toward that goal. We hope that the young people learning about veterinary science at the DIA will be Michigan Humane's future colleagues and supporters!

**A Reason To Celebrate!** | By Director, Livingston Facility and Call Center, Alicia Bennett

Last week, our Livingston location celebrated 35 adoptions in 6 days! This time last year we had 19 adoptions in a single week, largely due to the Bissell holiday pop-up event that was taking place. Since last year, we've continued to work hard day in and day out to improve and reach new goals. You know what they say... raising a baby location takes a village!

Dr. Berkshire and Eva are always willing to teach staff something new about animal health while, Gianna keeps animals moving through their pathway with such efficiency. Kylie administers vaccines like a champion and Charly creates the most wonderful and accurate Petango adoption descriptions. Diane and Eric keep our facility clean and safe so that we can focus on the animals. Sarah and Stephanie are always pivoting where the team needs them! Kaitlyn makes sure that every customer has a thorough and pleasant experience, while Ross has a way of making every donor feel so appreciated.

Last week, we celebrated 35 new families in 6 days. And behind our full adoption board, you will find a group of folks that are full of talent, teamwork and dedication toward one another and our mission.



**Trivia:**

*Q: In the classic children's story, The Velveteen Rabbit, a stuffed rabbit is given to a young boy as a Christmas present. When the rabbit meets the other toys in the nursery, what becomes his wish?*

Send your answers to [theconnection@michiganhumane.org](mailto:theconnection@michiganhumane.org), and the first person to guess correctly will receive a prize.

*Congrats to last week's winner, Mariann Gonczy. The answer to last week's trivia question was that reindeer can come from multiple areas including Alaska, Canada, Russia, Greenland and Scandinavia*



## ***Duck, Duck, Goose!*** | Facility Director, Detroit, Katie Ouwerkerk

The Michigan Humane Field Services department received a call a few weeks ago about a goose living in the city of Hamtramck. Investigator Ouwerkerk went out to investigate the situation and he met a gentleman that needed our help. This man unfortunately thought that this goose would be a good pet for his children. He quickly realized that was a mistake and he needed help to rehome this goose. Investigator Ouwerkerk, Katlyn Haynes and Nicole Nicolet worked together to help give this man some options. They started by giving him a doghouse and straw so the goose would have somewhere warm and dry to stay while he started to search for placement options. The man tried his best and couldn't find placement. Last week, Michigan Humane was able to help this man and the goose. Since Investigator Ouwerkerk was in communication with Katlyn Haynes from Rochester, he was able to transport the goose directly to Rochester Hills. This goose has since found a home with a loving staff member that works at the Rochester Hills veterinary clinic! Geese make wonderful pets if you have the space and a flock. Did you know they do extremely well with chickens and often protect the flock against predators?

If you ever have questions about wildlife or other domestics, please reach out to our wildlife technicians, Katlyn Haynes and Nicole Nicolet, for more information.

## ***Tis The Season Of Giving*** | Director of Marketing and Communications, Andy Bissonette

As we head into the final weeks of 2020, we wanted to provide everyone with an update on our end-of-year giving totals. Below is a year to year comparison:

Beginning of campaign, 11/1-12/14

- 2018: \$154,000
- 2019 \$131,000
- 2020 \$225,000

Day after Giving Tuesday through 12/14

- 2018: \$55,000
- 2019: \$35,000
- 2020: \$57,000

All of us should be incredibly proud of those numbers and what they represent- our continued efforts to make sure that the animals and families we work with are able to access the care and support they need.



## Core Values Call Out

**ALYSON MCGOWAN, JACQUELYN WESLEY AND ROBIN ZERBST** | Value: Passionate

*“Thank you to Robin, Jackie, and Alyson for being a tremendous asset to the team. Throughout the pandemic they have continued to show their passion for our patients by working long days and weekends while being short staffed. They have collaborated to come up with alternative ways to make sure all patients are assisted and that their owners are being taken care of in a timely and efficient manner. They continue to work together to ensure our new staff is trained. Thank you.”*

**DR. THOMAS** | Value: Collaborative

*“Dr. Thomas was kind enough to help the shelter out with some surgeries, even though she had a full surgery day in the clinic. She is a rock-star!”*

**MJ JOHNSON** | Value: Collaborative

*“MJ is always willing to help in any situation. She always has a great attitude and has helped me on shelter and clinic side with situations I was unsure how to handle.”*

**JARROD BEAR & ERIC WILHELM** | Value: Collaborative

*“Jarrod and Eric partnered to construct cat condos at offsite locations in Novi and Rochester Hills on short notice and with a quick turnaround time. Thank you for working together to get the job done and maintaining a high level of service to other Michigan Humane teams and partner organizations.”*

**NANCY SMITH, LINDSAY N, SAM PODERSEK AND DR. MERGENER** | Value: Collaborative

*“Thank you for working together and helping me move, adjust, prep and receive 9 animals brought in from a housefire. I appreciate each of you!”*

**NIKKI NICOLET** | Value: Passionate

*“Nikki coordinated gift exchanges for both the Shelter Medicine Team and the CSR and ACE teams so we could all enjoy a little cheer this holiday season. Thank you Nikki!”*

## Kitten In A Mitten Adventures

Our kittens and their mittens have certainly been having a busy week! Check out some of their adventures around our locations in the photos below.

*Lady Glitter Sparkles: Livingston County Center for Animal Care*



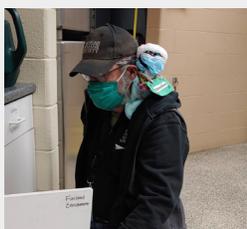
*Cindy Lou Who: Mackey Center for Animal Care*



*Walrus: The Warehouse*



*Cornelius: Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care*



**INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING CONTENT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE CONNECTION? SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO**

[theconnection@michiganhumane.org](mailto:theconnection@michiganhumane.org)