



We <3 Volunteers! | By Volunteer Manager, Jennifer Rosen

We are excited to celebrate our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week starting on April 18th. It is an amazing thing to give your time, and often your heart, to a cause you strongly believe in. Caring for animals and our community is what we do. Our volunteers are always there supporting us, whether it's working on-site, at events, or with administrative duties.



This coming week we have several things planned to say thank you. One example is a reciprocal program with various organizations to offer special benefits to volunteers in the metro area. Volunteers might decide to take advantage of a free tour at Van Hoosen Farms, the Detroit Opera House, a virtual presentation with Leader Dogs for the Blind, or other various discounts offered to them. Michigan Humane is offering our adoption discount to volunteers from other organizations during April 17-25.



Our work is never finished, and it takes a team effort to accomplish all we do. Working alongside like-minded individuals makes even the toughest days better. If you are on-site next week, I challenge staff and volunteers alike, to say hello or thank you to anyone you see volunteering. This is the perfect opportunity to make everyone feel appreciated and perhaps meet someone new.



A Note from Matt Pepper about our Volunteers

The value of our work is in the compassion and dedication of the people who make it happen every day. We have an incredible staff. Working alongside our team every day, is an amazing group of volunteers. Frankly, our staff cannot possibly do it alone – our volunteers are equally important to our mission. These are selfless people who give of their own time, resources, and expertise to elevate the experience for the people and pets who are touched by our services and programs. Please join me in thanking the thousands of volunteers who contribute and support our mission. We could not do it without you!

Upcoming Events

- One Health (Detroit) April 18
- Quarterly Road Show April 20, 22, 23
- Kitten Shower April 25

Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's Month | By Media Manager, Anna Chrisman

In 2002, our team fielded over 4,600 cruelty and rescue calls! We recently had the opportunity to chat with Dispatch Officer **Mariela Miller-Beekal** about her job and the role that our Field Services team plays in helping the animals in our community stay safe.

How long have you been with Michigan Humane?:

3 years

What does your job entail?:

The dispatch office takes calls from the community for animal-related issues, including sick or injured animals, animals without necessities (food, water, appropriate shelter), and animals that might be the victim of cruelty or neglect. We prepare all the needed information for the field agents and cruelty investigators to assist the animals, communicate with the shelter team about what animals are coming into care, connect pet owners with the resources they need and support the rest of the team in a variety of ways.

How important is community involvement when it comes to preventing cruelty?:

A lot of people in the city call us because they are concerned about the welfare of animals, either their own or ones that belong to other people. They provide us with information about what the animal needs and we can then make sure that the pet owner is connected with the right resources- medical care, food, shelter, etc. We want people to be able to care for their animals and in turn, be able to care for themselves so the animal doesn't have to come into the shelter. These calls from our community are what tell us who to help and how.

Do you have a favorite Michigan Humane story?:

I took a call from a person taking photographs inside an abandoned warehouse about an injured dog he had seen. The whole team went out to the location to try and locate the dog and bring it back. We eventually got her and brought her back to the shelter. I got very attached to her- she'd hang out with me in the dispatch office on the weekends, and when she found a new family, I sent her home with her bed from the office and got a chance to meet her adopters. I had all the feelings!



Please list "does the dishes" on my pet profile.
(Submitted by Erika Sikora-Harrington)



When there's an extra chicken nugget in your
10 piece McNugget meal!
(Submitted by Tara Bagazinski)

Core Values Call Out

MICHELLE BARNETT | Value: Passionate

“Michelle always shows kindness and passion on each call. Her commitment to helping each customer is such an asset to the organization and I’m sure her callers appreciate the hard work she puts into each and every one of them.”

NICOLE NICOLET | Value: Collaborative

“Nikki is a fantastic team player who is happy to take on new roles. Whether is tackling a new project or filling in for a fellow staff member, Nikki is always willing to try something new!”

EYLESSIA VILLASENIOR | Value: Compassionate

“Eylessia went far above and beyond for a customer in need of assistance, thank you!”

BEN CUTLIP | Value: Collaborative

“For many months now, Ben has been helping us out in Detroit. He has been a very important part of our little family. Recently, Ben accepted a position at RH. Not only do I want to say “thank you, Ben!” Detroit would like to say we will really miss you.”

KATHERINE WOOD | Value: Compassionate

“Katherine is so caring and kind to everyone and everything. She always has a positive attitude and never lets anything get her down. Katherine is an amazing part of the clinic team and we are so lucky to have her. Keep up the great work!”

PAMELA DYBOWSKI | Value: Collaborative

“On Wednesday, 04/04/21, 50 cats were brought in by Statewide Rescue and Investigations. As the cats were being unloaded, triaged and then moved into the Cat colony, Pam stopped what she was doing and stepped into offer assistance. Pam while moving through the Cat colonies with the incoming cases also stopped to check on other animals she had rescued earlier in the week. I often observe Pam stepping up to offer a hand without prompting. Pam consistently displays optimism and willingness to share in the efforts of the team. I appreciate and commend her support in both the community and within the office.”

STEVE THOMAS | Value: Collaborative

“Steve is always willing to help in any situation. He also is a great resource as he is very knowledgeable about all things MH. He has a great attitude and is a great colleague.”

GIANNA MONTANO | Value: Passionate

“Not only has Gianna been working so hard, but she never hesitates to stop and take the time to help a co-worker in order to get the job done with the best result. Thank you for always being a team player!”

SHELBY MCWILLIAMS | Value: Collaborative

“Thank you for all of your help with the stray database project!”

JAN RAMOS, NICOL FERNANDEZ, AMY TUNNEY | Value: Passionate

“The Detroit team is so lucky to have each of you on our team! You all are so passionate about the animals and it is so great knowing they are in good hands and each one is thought about individually. We appreciate all that you do for them. So many wouldn’t have made it if it weren’t for you three!”

KERA DRURY | Value: Compassionate

“It is still so amazing that you have only been here 8 months when it seems like you have always been here. We are so glad you joined our team and we are lucky to have you!”

DEVON JAMES | Value: Collaborative

“Devon always helps out his co-workers. He scanned each and every contract into our computer when we were unable to do it ourselves. He’s always a team player!”

DELAWRENCE PAYTON AND THOMAS ERICKSON | Value: Collaborative

“Thomas and DeLawrence did amazing troubleshooting when a semi-truck of donations that were loaded improperly arrived at the warehouse. They collaborated together to get the job done!”

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OF THE CONNECTION? SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO**

theconnection@michiganhumane.org