



# Forgotten Cats News

March 2021

## February Status:

We sterilized 1327 cats and placed 93 cats into loving forever home.

## Upcoming Events



We are very excited to announce that **2SP Brewery** in Aston, PA has invited us back for another **Cinco de Meow** charity night on **May 5, 2022**.

Stay tuned for more details . . . we look forward to seeing you there!



3/26, 4/9, 4/23,  
5/7, 5/21 & 6/4  
FORGOTTENCATS.ORG

**SATURDAY,**

## #DoMore24 - Thank you!



# THANK YOU!

## DO MORE DELAWARE 24

Delaware's Giving Day | [DoMore24Delaware.org](http://DoMore24Delaware.org)



On behalf of all the dedicated volunteers at **Forgotten Cats, Inc.** and the precious cats and kittens we care for - a heartfelt thank you to those that donated to the **Do More 24 Delaware** campaign - thanks to you, **we surpassed our goal!**

And because you took the time to watch and like our video, we also **won the video contest - a marketing package from NUPOINT Marketing** valued at **\$1,500!**

APRIL 9, 2022

10 AM - 4:30 PM

Cat Adoption Event

3995 Welsh Rd,  
Willow Grove, PA

Thank you for sharing in our passion and dedication to humanely reducing the homeless cat population and to stopping the suffering of the thousands of kittens born to abandoned, homeless cats.

## For Forgotten Cats, the Joy of Volunteer Support Starts at Home . . . and at School!

### Thank You Strath Haven 6<sup>th</sup> Graders!

Each year for the past 8 years at Strath Haven Middle School in Delaware County, PA, **Martin Luther King Day of Service** 6<sup>th</sup> grade activities have been coordinated by social studies teacher, **Wendy Laird**. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders organized various projects in order to raise money to donate to non-profit organizations, and this year it was Forgotten Cats' good fortune that **Wendy and her family, especially her daughters Meagan and Ally, have been devoted FC volunteers**. As they talked to the students about the kitties in need that are helped by Forgotten Cats, the students decided that they would like some of their funds donated to Forgotten Cats.



*Above, Strath Haven Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> graders, along with social studies teacher, Wendy Laird (in middle photo) enjoying MLK Day of Service activities that raised funds for several non-profits, including Forgotten Cats.*

This year, in addition to **donating \$250 to Forgotten Cats**, they raised funds for the senior citizens at Fair Acres, a troop of soldiers in the US Coast Guard, a US veterans' organization, and the Providence Animal Center, in addition to feeding 350 homeless people at Connect by Night in the Upper Darby area. Wendy Laird said once she told the students about the life saving work of the animal charities, the donations came rolling in. The students donated their own holiday money, and donated money they earned doing chores such as babysitting, yard work, cleaning, etc. They made gifts and asked friends and relatives to donate funds. Many of the parents were so touched by the students' desire to help others that they added donations to the cause. They did all of this in less than the two weeks between the winter holiday break and the MLK Day of Service.

With regard to Forgotten Cats, Wendy tells us it was her hope to spread the word about us so more people could learn of our efforts. **She and the students discussed the importance of spay/neutering pets and why it is important to adopt, rather than shop for pets.** Many students loved sharing their personal stories about their pets and were thrilled to learn that both FC and the



Providence Animal Center helped to find good homes for pets that might be more difficult to place.

Wendy's involvement with Forgotten Cats included both her human and furry children. Her daughters, Meagan and Ally have worked at special adoption events and at the Brookhaven PetSmart adoption center doing feeding, cleaning and playing with the cats. They've also helped with transporting cats to and from the Trainer clinic and the family was approved as a foster family in hopes of providing some cats and kittens a warm home to enjoy until finding their own families.

The Lairds adopted **Hannah (now Dolly)** who lived with Meagan while Meagan helped take care of Wendy's parents. Dolly was 2 years old at time of adoption, having been surrendered by her previous parents due to financial reasons. They also adopted **Smokey (now Franklin)** in November of 2020. He is a very shy Siamese that was living in a cat colony where he was most likely abandoned after his kittenhood. In May of 2021, Meagan was called upon to help a stray black cat that had been roaming a nearby neighborhood begging for food. She brought him home and called Forgotten Cats who agreed to treat him and to try to rehome him. The Lairds were asked to foster him since the Trainer facility was at maximum capacity. He had been named Roosevelt and he instantly bonded with Franklin. The Lairds called him **Blackie**. The two boys became inseparable. They would wrestle, groom and sleep together. When FC called to tell the Lairds there was an opening for Roosevelt at Trainer, the Lairds realized they could not tear him and Franklin apart, and he became their foster fail.



*Above, Meagan Laird with tiny tabby Dolly on FC adoption day, foster fail Blackie, Franklin, and Blackie cuddling with Franklin.*

Meagan Laird has recently relocated to Boston where she works as an emergency room nurse and she has taken Franklin and Blackie with her where they now live with her in Beacon Hill.

**Forgotten Cats loves all of its many volunteers . . . of all ages. We are delighted that volunteering with us can be a rewarding family, school, or community affair!**

**FOSTERS NEEDED FOR CATS & KITTENS NOW!**

**Want a furry friend  
without the commitment?  
Why not consider fostering?**

**Fostering** is essential to allow us to continue



## FOSTERS NEEDED!

PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@FORGOTTENCATS.ORG](mailto:INFO@FORGOTTENCATS.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUBMIT A FORM TO FOSTER AT [FORGOTTENCATS.ORG](http://FORGOTTENCATS.ORG)

bringing in homeless kitties from the streets. Every time you chose to foster a cat or kitten, you are literally saving a life. We cannot do what we do without **YOU**.

The **MANY** homeless kittens of the spring/summer took up all of our foster space, our adult cats have sadly been residing in our shelter longer than we like. They are desperate for a place to stretch their legs and rest their heads while they wait to be adopted. We also still have many kittens that need fostering.

Anything you can provide is better than a cage.

<https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat/>

## For Our March Spotlights Volunteer Sharon Sponheimer, Helping Save Lives is a 24/7 Commitment

by Mary Ann Emely

For Forgotten Cats, **Sharon Sponheimer** is a volunteer trapper extraordinaire, and professionally, she is nurse at Crozer Hospital where she has worked as a medical-surgical nurse, a trauma step-down unit nurse, an observation nurse, a Covid nurse - on the night shift for 21 years - and most recently as an admissions nurse on the day shift.



*Above, left to right, March spotlighted volunteer nurse Sharon Sponheimer working her day job at Crozer Hospital; with a Forgotten Cats kitten "riding shotgun" on a transport to Vermont; in her Covid garb at work; in everyday life!*

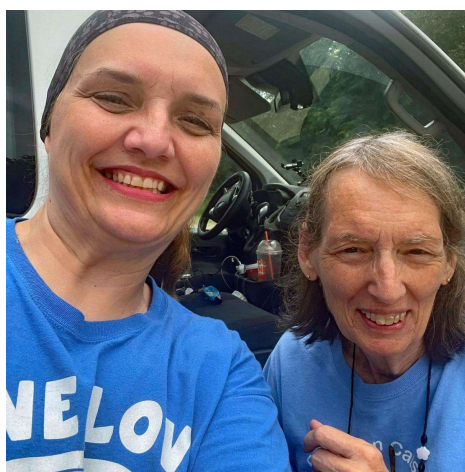
Sharon has been a registered nurse since 1995, having graduated from Widener University. She began her nursing career in long term care and in 2000 moved to Crozer Hospital where she has continued to work since that time. She began volunteering in animal rescue efforts in 2017 at Saved Me in Philadelphia where she worked primarily



with dogs. Then in June 2019 when she was in Chester Park looking for a dog, she spotted a barn with cats and kittens “all over the place”. After asking around about the cats, she learned that a fellow Crozer employee who lived nearby was their feeder. Sharon quickly realized that these cats needed her help - and as she became involved with them she was shocked to learn just how many unfixed outdoor cats there were in Delaware County.

At that point she made the switch from dogs to cats because she felt like the cats needed her help more. She started independently trapping cats and taking them to the Spayed Club until November of that year when she had 17 kittens who all needed a vet and reached out to **Forgotten Cats** for assistance. While she was waiting for the kittens to be processed, Forgotten Cats asked her if she could trap a location in Chester that had an adult and three kittens. An hour later she was back with them and that was the beginning of her Forgotten Cats volunteering - “*thanks to Olivia,*” she adds.

In addition to being a **trapper for Forgotten Cats**, primarily trapping in Chester, PA, Sharon traps for **Helping Paws of Upper Darby (HPUD)** - a group of women that help neighborhoods in Delaware County get the feral cats under control so they are no longer breeding litter after litter. HPUD also uses Forgotten Cats for their TNR surgeries. Sharon tells us that the biggest question she gets asked is why she traps in Chester. She says “I was educated at Widener University in Chester, I work at Crozer Hospital in Chester and two of my dogs, Phoebe and Auri Jo, were rescued off the streets of Chester. I spend a lot of time in Chester. **There is no animal control in Chester at all; not for the cats or the dogs.** I go into Chester to help the cats and educate the people of the community about TNVR. I have been warmly received by all with whom I have come in contact. With very few exceptions, the neighborhoods are grateful that I am there to help. I even bring my friends with me to help.” Sharon wanted to be sure to “give a big shout-out of **thanks to Lysa, Angela, Peggy and Tracy Jo.** I have also had the pleasure to trap with **Renae, Margie and Kathie in Delaware.**”



*Sharon, with FC volunteer Kathie Foss on a transport to Maine.*

Sharon says that since June 2019 she has been a part of the TNVR of just over 1,000 cats with Forgotten Cats, and even more if projects with other groups are included. She says she loves it when she gets updates from Olivia, Holly, Neal, Susan or Di about a cat that was adopted. Her favorite update so far is about one of the first cats she trapped for FC at 3rd Street in Chester, a gray and white handsome boy fostered by FC volunteer Kathy and adopted by an amazing family. “**Chester**, as we knew him lives in PA in the

Summer and Florida for the winter.” (*Forgotten Cats carried a “**Happy Endings**” story about him in the **September 2021 issue of the newsletter** - he was referenced there as “**Chester Cheetos**”.*)

When not working at the hospital or trapping for Forgotten Cats, Sharon spends time with her family which consists of her husband of 35 years, Karl, their four children (Kourtney, Katey, Kaje and Kraig), five grandchildren (Shane, Sammi, Sydney, Kane and Leah), six dogs (Onyx Marie, Liliah, Petey, Phoebe, Auri Jo and Ava Mirabelle - all rescues) and five cats (Kassy, Sassy, Terri Cat, Stormie, and Roman), and of course a

few foster cats.



*Above, Sharon's human family, and her dog family - clockwise from top left, Onyx Marie, Lilah, Phoebe, Ava Mirabelle, Auri Jo, and Petey.*



*And, of course, Sharon's cats - above left to right - Stormie who was supposed to be released back to Chester but wasn't; Roman; Kassy who was "rescued" by her son; Sassy - a rescue procured by Sharon's daughter; Terri Cat - another Chester rescue cat; and Momma, a Forgotten Cats foster.*

*Above left, 6ABC's Beccah Hendrickson does a Home Town Hero story on Sharon in 2020 - left, Sharon responds to Beccah's questions.*

In June 2020, 6ABC-TV's Beccah Hendrickson filmed a "Hometown Hero" spot on the work that Sharon does both in the hospital saving people and on the streets of Chester saving kitties. Hendrickson said "When the mask comes off and Sponheimer comes home, she's not done taking care of others, even if her patients there are a little different."

We asked Sharon for her thoughts on what she would like to see in the future as it relates to the kitties about which she is so passionate. Not surprisingly, she had several thoughts:

- *Because there are so many homeless cats and kittens in Chester, she would like to see an adoption program developed especially for the citizens of Chester - to help them adopt fully vetted cats that were once cats from the streets of Chester. Sharon says that many neighbors will ask if they can adopt, but they never apply.*
- *She would like to help develop a program with the students at Widener University where they could foster cats from Forgotten Cats. Having them foster cats for a period of time is much preferable to having them get a cat/kitten that they then let out onto the streets when they move out at the end of the semester.*



- *She would like to get commitments from Delaware County apartment complexes and housing rentals to require proof of being spayed/neutered as part of the tenants' rental agreements - because too many unfixed cats are left behind and put outside when tenants move out.*
- *Educating people in general about the importance of TNVR is a goal of Forgotten Cats and she would like to see communities amplify this message to their residents.*
- *She would like to get Animal Control back into Delaware County, rather than just fall as a responsibility onto the backs of volunteer rescue organizations.*

Forgotten Cats' Director of Development, Olivia Westley notes that over the years, as funding has allowed, "we have been helping Chester with its sizable cat overpopulation problem. In 2019 FC made a commitment to find the funding necessary to address this crisis colony by colony. Since that time we have TNR'd over 800 cats in Chester but none of this would have been possible without Sharon." Olivia says Sharon is key to the success we are starting to see in Chester, and we hope to receive the funding necessary to enable this much-needed work to continue.

Sharon, we're in awe of how much time and effort you are able to fit into a 24-hour day for both your human and feline patients, and we're very grateful that you are giving so much of it to the Forgotten Cats kitties. Thank you for being such an important part of what we do!

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## Without them, our mission would be impossible!

Volunteers! As many of you know, Forgotten Cats mission is to humanely reduce the homeless cat population and to stop the suffering of the thousands of kittens born to abandoned, homeless cats. We do this by working with colony caretakers to trap, sterilize, vaccinate, and release every cat within a colony.

Truly, we could not accomplish this mission without our volunteers, which are needed (and valued!) at just about every level of the organization. In this month's newsletter, we are going to start with our awesome phone/online screeners & schedulers, because that's where the cycle starts with the rescue of a cat(s) or kitten(s), a TNVR project begins, etc.

We have several wonderful volunteers that screen the calls for our PA and DE phone lines as well as someone that handles emails and online TNVR requests. As you might imagine, we are contacted for a variety of reasons - inquiries for clinic appointments/TNVR, surrender, assistance feeding/relocating colonies, adoption questions, donation/volunteer questions, general questions about FC or colony caretaking, etc, so our volunteers are kept very busy.

Each contact received requires some type of resolution, so our volunteers work to route the contact to the appropriate person, schedule a trapper for TNVR, schedule clinic dates, etc. Unfortunately, we do also receive many calls that FC is unable to help with. When that occurs, callers are provided with appropriate resources/references to help them with their situation.



As you can see, in many ways, our phone/online scheduling department serves as a "hub" that feeds directly into all the other parts of the organization. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers that work to ensure that every phone and email/online inquiry to FC is resolved and for starting the process of improving the lives of free-roaming cats & kittens among other things!

If you would like to be a part of this essential volunteer department at Forgotten Cats, we currently are in need of email/online screeners/schedulers. If interested, please complete our volunteer application or contact John Fedele at [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org).



## Senior Cats Are Great Companions - "Senior Cats Rock"!



Did you know that senior cats are one of the most overlooked and the hardest to find homes for? Most people prefer younger cats or the "oh so cute" kittens. But as anyone that has adopted a senior cat will tell you, it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives and the joy that adopting a senior cat brings is beyond compare. If you are looking for the perfect senior feline companion, check out Matthew, Anastasia (see below), Xenon, Bobbi, Clarence, Dunkin (see Dunkin's featured article!) & Lynx (pictured left) at:

<https://forgottencats.org/services/available-cats/>

## The Mews with the Least Views



Bridget



Anya



Everly



Sabrina



Anastasia



Julia



Each week, we receive a report from **Adopt-A-Pet** that shows us how many views each cat has received. This month, we would like to introduce you to 6 of the “**Mews with the Least Views**”!

If you would like to arrange a meet and greet with any of these beautiful ladies, please complete a no obligation application at <https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application>. If you would like to foster Bridget, Anya, or Sabrina, please complete our foster application at <https://forgottencats.org/foster-a-cat>.

**Everly** the cuddle-kitten!!! Everly has adapted well to the new environment in her foster mom's home - she was very relaxed right from the beginning. She loves to play with her mice and balls, but the stick toy is her favorite! Not only does she love to play, but she is also a cuddler! Everly is approximately 4 - 5 months old. Everly would probably do best in a home where she is not alone all day - she does not like being left alone too long. And as playful as she is, she would probably do great with another playful cat. If you think Everly would be a great addition to your family (we sure think so!). FCID# 03/08/2022 - 135

**Bridget** is at our Trainer facility, and we are still learning about her purrsonality. She weighs 9.2 lbs. and as you can see, is quite a beauty. Bridget would love to be in a home environment and is available for foster, or better yet, adoption! FCID# 02/23/2022 - 43

**Julia** - LAP CAT ALERT!!! Check out her awesome fur pattern and whiskers! Julia is the sweetest snuggle bug around - she'll lay on your lap all day if you let her. She's so precious and gentle. At around 2 years old, she is the perfect age. She's also good with other cats! FCID# 10/11/2021 - 27

**Anastasia** is a special senior (14 years old) and a real people cat! This beautiful girl has been waiting more than a year for her forever home!!! This pretty lady was abandoned by her family through no fault of her own. She's sweet and affectionate, and she likes people. She likes to have her head pet and to be combed (foster family is using a special cat comb).

Anastasia is a people cat. Her foster family does not believe Anastasia had other cats or dogs in her home of 13 years. She has 2 dogs and 4 cats in her foster home. Anastasia lives in a room with a 16-year-old girl, and they have a very special relationship. She's ok with being picked up (on her terms), but she is not a lap cat. She loves to nap, to get kisses and treats! She avoids anyone who is not human, and she does not cause any fuss with the other pets in the house. She is respectful of animal boundaries. She may be most happy in a home without other cats or dogs, but she would blend in with any others given patience. Anastasia would like to become your best friend! FCID# 03/11/2021 - 36).

### **Anya**

Do you need a blanket tester??? Anya (2-3 years old) is known to have personally slept on the comfiest blankets at the Willow Grove facility!

This beautiful girl had already been spayed before she was found on the streets of Yeadon. She is micro-chipped, but she was never registered, so we could not locate her previous owner. She's an independent cat that likes being pet on her terms, when she's had enough, she'll let you know. She's not a fan of being picked up, but in her own home she would be content to sit with her person and hang out. Would not be good for small children.

Anya is now playing in our West Chester Pet Supplies Plus adoption center. One of our volunteers says, "Anya is super sweet and loves being patted but is still nervous about coming out of her cage. Was there a Norwegian Forest Cat in her ancestry? She looks like a Nordic beauty but isn't talking." FCID# 07/20/2021 - 121

**Sabrina** loves head scratches! She looks as if she could use a friend to brighten her days. Could it be YOU??? Sabrina is currently at our Willow Grove facility but would love to be in a home environment. Please consider this beautiful girl for adoption or foster. FCID# 08/19/2021 - 21

## Looking for a snuggle-boy? Meet Dunkin!

Please meet Dunkin! This handsome big guy had already been neutered before he came through our doors. We estimate him to be 8-9 years young. Dunkin's black coat has a brown sheen when hit by the sun.

Dunkin is playing with his new foster family and foster brother Clarence! Let's check-in to see how Dunkin is doing.

"Dunkin is a sweet, playful kitty who still has a little kitten spunk in him. He is a cute, loving boy who likes pets and snuggles. He gets his name from where he was found, at a local Dunkin Donuts! He must have been someone's kitty because he is very comfortable in house living, sleeping at the end of your bed at night and relaxing on the couch with you. He loves people and is tolerant of other friendly cats. He would be a great companion for any cat lover!"

Dunkin is waiting for his forever family. Could that be you? If so, please submit our online no-obligation adoption application @ <https://forgottencats.org/adoption-application/>. Dunkin - FCID# 01/03/2022 - 70/Clarence - FCID# 04/19/2021 - 407



## Happy Endings

### Happy Endings for Isabel!

Hi, I just want to let you know that we adopted a female dilute calico cat on Labor Day weekend 2005. Her adopted name was **Isabel** which we kept.

We believe Isabel was the runt of the litter, and was ignored. Someone who saw me interested in her did mention that we probably did not want her. However, there was something about her attitude that made us want her even more. :o) Maybe we felt





sorry for her, who knows. She did require medical assistance upon adoption, and ongoing issues, but that did not stop her in living a very good life to this day. **She is well loved.**

Just so you know as we always hear stories about adopting cats and so on, but we never hear stories about how they are doing in the future. Isabel is still with us. We don't know how much longer as she has had some ongoing health issues. She is the sweetest kitty. We estimate that she will be turning 17 in May.

Thought you would like to hear a happy story about one of the fosters from Forgotten Cats.

Thanks.  
J & T Kelly



## Employment & Volunteer Opportunities with Forgotten Cats



Forgotten Cats, Inc. operates one of the largest trap, neuter, vaccinate & release (TNVR) programs in the country. *Due to expanding needs, we are seeking a **Full and Part-Time Veterinarian** to join our compassionate team, working to reduce the homeless cat population through TNVR.*

This employment opportunity offers a flexible work schedule as well as

location. Forgotten Cats operates two clinics - one in Trainer, PA (Delaware County) and one in Sussex County, DE. The candidate will perform routine and emergency surgery, as well as provide wellness services and medical treatment within our facilities.

Due to the high volume of sterilizations performed at our clinics, the candidate must have surgery experience, a willingness to learn, be able to function in a high-energy environment and enjoy working with cats. Salary is commensurate with experience.

**This is a challenging position, but the rewards of making a positive difference in the lives of sick, injured, and/or frightened cats are immense.**

Please consider joining our dynamic team where we make the extraordinary occurrence an ordinary occurrence each day.

To apply, please **email your phone number, resume and a cover letter** explaining why you are interested in the position to:

[info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)

*PS. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this job opening, please have them respond to [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org).*

## CLINIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Forgotten Cats, Inc.



This is an opportunity to help cats whose **ONLY** medical treatment during their lifetime may be when they go to our clinic. **Volunteering** at the **Trainer clinic** is an important and serious undertaking and we are looking for the few ready to make the commitment.

**Clinic Volunteers** need to commit to one specific day a week at the clinic. The reason for this is that we are dealing with the lives of the cats and we need to make sure that our volunteers know the clinic procedures and this can only be done by volunteering on at least a once a week basis.

***We will train. No medical background required.***



IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE  
CONTACT US AT [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org).



Please donate to our  
Wish List!  
**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

### [Chewy Wish List](#)

It's never been easier to give back! Help our animals in need by shopping our Wish List on Chewy to donate much-needed pet food and supplies directly to our organization.

### [Amazon Wish List](#)

Remember to shop on **Amazon Smile** and choose **Forgotten Cats** as your charity so that a donation will be made to Forgotten Cats at no additional cost to you!

## **We Want to Hear from You!**

If you have an idea for an article or a story you would like to share about a rescue, special volunteer, your adoption center or recent adoptions from Forgotten Cats, please send story and photos if possible to: [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)

## **Our Corporate Sponsors**



Forgotten Cats offers a variety of sponsorship levels - if you are interested in learning

more about our Sponsorship Program, please  
visit: <https://forgottencats.org/corporate-sponsorship/>

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