



A Place Where Animals
CAN FIND HOMES

2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER



GREATER BIRMINGHAM
HUMANE SOCIETY

MAKE IT A *Magical Summer*

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL GIVE MORE PETS THE SUMMER THEY DESERVE.

Picnics. Lazy days on the Lake. Trips to the Beach. Cool naps in the poolside shade. These images all evoke the magic of summertime.

However, for over 3,000 animals who will come through the doors of GBHS between June and August, this is only a dream since many of them will never have known the magical power of love or care – let alone the joys of summer activities with a family.

With your help, we can turn these dreams into precious realities.

The cost of serving the homeless, abandoned, and neglected animals who dream of a home this summer will be nearly \$300,000. It will require the blood, sweat, and determination of numerous volunteers, foster parents, staff, and people like you.

Your contributions will provide these pets with much-needed medical care, food, and shelter until they experience their first taste of summer magic with a loving family.

Because of you, last year GBHS was able to forward our mission of promoting the humane treatment of people and animals to over **660,000 people** in an 1100 square mile service area. You helped us rescue animals from puppy mills, natural disasters, and dog fighting rings. Our Animal Control Officers responded to animals in emergencies at all hours of the day and night. With your assistance, we have maintained our reputation as one of the largest, oldest, and most well run animal shelters in the country.

Your generosity helped find homes for thousands of animals last year. We need your help to continue turning dreams into realities this summer. If we can raise \$50,000 by June 1st, we can make sure that more animals spend summer enjoying the taste of ice cream instead of hunger, sleeping on a soft couch instead of the hard ground, and experiencing the magic of family instead of complete loneliness.

YOUR GIFT OF \$1,000

will heal the hearts of 18 dogs who are suffering from heartworms.

YOUR DONATION OF \$500

will provide spay or neuter surgery to 20 animals so we can continue the fight against overpopulation.

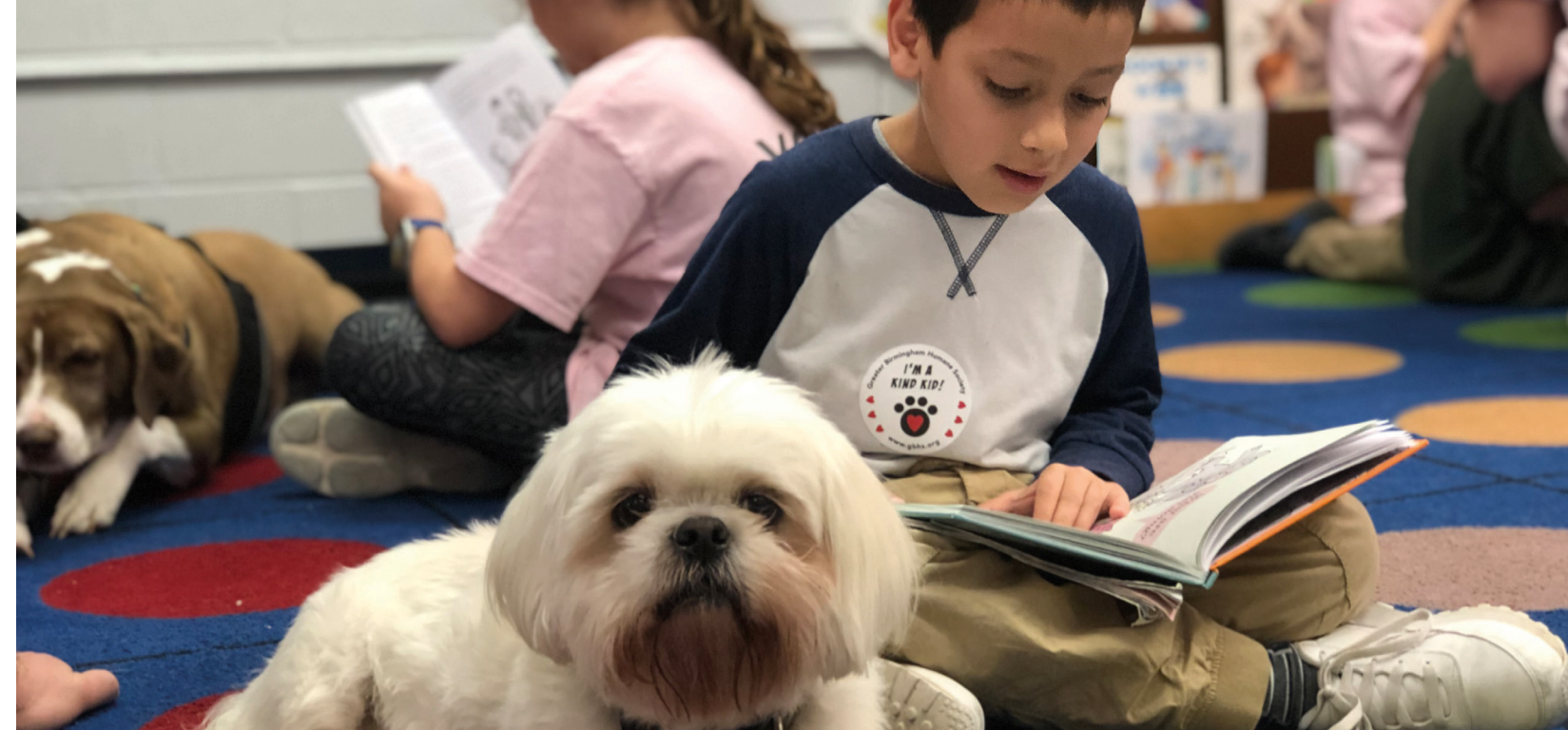
AND YOUR \$150 CONTRIBUTION

will rescue a dog or cat from the streets and provide their veterinary treatments and loving care until they find their forever home.

GBHS is a place where dreams come true for animals in need, and these miracles only happen with support from people like you. This year, instead of just experiencing the magic of summertime – why not be the magic, yourself?

- ALLISON CORNELIUS, CEO

Allison



CREATING KIND KIDS

When Dr. Herbert Phillips founded the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, one of his most firmly held beliefs was that teaching our children the importance of being humane was as vitally important to a well-rounded education as Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Over 135 years later, Dr. Phillips' legacy lives on as our "Pawsitive Education" program visits schools all over the Greater Birmingham area to teach the importance of not only being kind to animals but to each other as well.

Your generous donations helped GBHS recruit and train educational volunteers Carol Coppock, Kathi Wolf, Jennifer Alden, and Sally Brown who teach each class with the help of their canine teacher's aids who are also "alumni" of GBHS. This dynamic team of human and animal educators stresses 4 things:

- the importance of being a responsible pet owner
- dog safety
- empathy (by showing that animals have feelings just like people do)
- the importance of being aware and respecting those feelings.

Studies show that children who receive humane education at a young age are more than 50% less likely to commit acts of cruelty or abuse to their animals, and ultimately their spouse, or children. "The program has such an impact on the kids, and on the volunteers as well," said volunteer Carol Coppock. "Not only are the students learning valuable information about how to be kind to animals they're also learning how to be more kind to each other. They're learning that maybe the way they see people in their community treat dogs, isn't the way those dogs should be treated."



Last year, GBHS took the "Pawsitive Education" program into more than 50 classrooms in Jefferson County with plans to expand the program in 2019. Your support of programs like "Pawsitive Education" makes it possible for us to offer this curriculum to local schools free of charge. Without donors like you, many schools who desperately need humane education would not be able to connect GBHS with their students.

Because of your efforts to teach children the value of being humane to animals and people, we can create a future where fewer pets need the services of shelters like GBHS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE "PAWSITIVE EDUCATION" PROGRAM OR TO SCHEDULE A CLASSROOM OR LIBRARY VISIT
PLEASE CONTACT DANIEL MARTIN AT 205-942-1211 X. 230 OR EMAIL DMARTIN@GBHS.ORG

MAMA'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

YOUR LOVE GIVES NEW LIFE TO A DOG
DESTINED FOR FIGHTING AND BREEDING.

On a Sunday morning last August, GBHS Animal Care and Control Officers were summoned by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to a horrific scene in Mulga, AL. Deputies investigating a complaint of noise had interrupted a major dog-fighting ring - the perpetrators (one of which was a 14-year-old child) were caught red-handed.

Of the animals taken into custody that day, one stood out among the rest - a terrified red and white female dog with a litter of puppies. She was trapped in a large wire crate, desperately trying to protect her puppies from the surrounding chaos. She had been used for breeding countless litters of puppies only to see them used as bait or sold off to other dog fighters. And, although nervous around other dogs, her ability to show love for those that rescued her that day caused everyone to immediately become smitten with the sweet, gentle soul who came to be known as "Mama".

Mama came to the GBHS Adoption Center where she was popular with both volunteers and staff. Most days, you would find a volunteer sitting with her in her lobby kennel, Mama's head resting contentedly in their lap. Other days, she would be taken for a trip to a local park in hopes of finding a new home. However, the trauma of her past caused Mama to be frightened of other dogs and finding an adoptive family with no other animals proved to be challenging. GBHS reached out to donors like you for help and all of us knew that eventually the right person would come along and give Mama the life she so richly deserved.

Fast forward to the Saturday before Christmas. Mama had been in our care for over three months and had still not found her forever home. We even changed her name to Snowflake in hopes that a seasonal name would attract the attention of someone. She was becoming more stressed with each passing day, and her quality of life was declining. None of our rescue partners would take her in because of her history, and our destination shelters couldn't take her because of her fear of other dogs.

Finally, a family arrived looking for a pet to take home for the holidays. A mother and her young children were immediately



A mother and her young children were immediately drawn to Mama! Upon learning of Mama's history, the woman did not recoil in fear or change her mind. Instead, her own maternal instinct helped her understand Mama's pain.

drawn to Mama. Upon learning of Mama's history, the woman did not recoil in fear or change her mind. Instead, her own maternal instinct helped her understand Mama's pain. "We don't need to see any other dogs", the family said. Mama was the perfect fit for them. There's no doubt Mama had a guardian angel watching over her that day, and this family's arrival was nothing short of a holiday miracle.

Tears of joy streamed down the faces of our volunteers and staff as Mama paraded through the shelter with her new family. As she left GBHS for the last time, we formed a grand procession. Everyone whose life she had touched had a chance to give her one last hug, kiss, or pat on the head. Someone said, watching her tail wag as she headed to the car with her new family, "Mama will finally get to see her children grow up."

GBHS could never have witnessed this miracle without the support of people like you, our generous donors and volunteers.

BECOME A CONSTANT COMPANION TODAY & SAVE LIVES ALL YEAR LONG!

Do you want to help animals year-round? As a Constant Companion monthly donor, you help us save lives every day! Becoming a monthly donor is quick and easy. You simply choose a monthly donation amount that will be processed automatically. It's a convenient way for you to give, and you will provide a steady stream of lifesaving funds to help animals all year long. Constant Companions allow us to spend less on overhead and more on lifesaving services for animals who desperately need help.

We applaud our current 108 monthly donors, who have been supporting the animals of GBHS for years. Together they have made a real difference in the lives of so many!

Please join us as a Constant Companion today!

TO BECOME A CONSTANT COMPANION VISIT GBHS.ORG

YES, SAVE!

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS LAUNCHED A HISTORIC PROGRAM THAT IS ALREADY SAVING THOUSANDS.

On June 23, 2014, GBHS took in 120 animals in just under seven hours - a number that broke every record in our books. "I knew when I came to GBHS in January of 2015 that our community could make dramatic changes in how we rescued and cared for animals, but we needed accurate data before we could proceed", said Allison Black Cornelius, CEO.

GBHS began talking to national NO-KILL advocates at Best Friends Animal Society, Target Zero, and Million Cat Challenge. "On June 1, 2015, we started a 3-year study on animal intake at GBHS. By May 30, 2018, we had 36 months of intake patterns: when animals came in, how many, why owners surrendered, and numbers of feral cats and dogs" said Cornelius. "We sent that information to our partner consultant Micheal Greenberg, DVM. He sent back a plan for how we could get to a 90% live release rate - in other words, GBHS could become a No-Kill shelter."

GBHS embarked on a two-pronged approach: a massive Trap Neuter Return/Return to Field effort for cats, and a major surrender prevention program that helps owners either keep their pets or responsibly rehome them.

But Cornelius and GBHS staff balked at the NO-Kill language. "Nobody at this shelter kills anything. Our staff, volunteers, and supporters dedicate their lives to saving animals, not harming them. I told Dr. Greenberg, we can do this, but we won't use that divisive language. We asked ourselves what was the opposite of No Kill? And YES, SAVE: A PET RESOURCE CENTER launched July 1, 2018."

Cornelius named Kasey Rawlings as the Program Director of Yes, Save and Olivia Swofford as the head of the TNR/RTF portion of the program. "We changed the way we operate our Intake Department. It was risky (staff feared people would dump animals

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT OF:

-  **\$10** provides a nutritious meal for three animals in our care
-  **\$25** supplies vaccinations and preventive medication for one pet
-  **\$50** provides spay or neuter surgery for one animal
-  **\$75** provides heartworm treatment for one dog
-  **\$100** helps cover the cost for emergency medical treatment to critically ill animals

or complain about cats), but we knew we had to start having critical and uncomfortable conversations with both owners who wanted to surrender their pets, and people who thought euthanizing feral cats would stop the growth of cat colonies," said Rawlings.

"Because of the generosity of our donors, we now offer resources and advice to owners, so that they can keep their pets. For some, it is our Pet Pantry program, free spay/neuter services, or free vaccinations, and for others it may be a crate or advice on a pet's behavior or even an idea that they hadn't thought of yet - like hiring a dog walker or providing information on responsibly rehoming their pet. Every owner has a different situation, but when all else fails, we can schedule the surrender of their pet. Those appointments help us manage our intake so we have space for all of the pets coming to us which prevents unnecessary euthanasia for space", added Rawlings.

With the help of volunteers and generous donors, Olivia Swofford has saved hundreds of cats since the TNR/RTF side of YES, SAVE started July 1, 2018. "We provide free spay/neuter for community and feral cats. We have had tremendous success. Cat colonies are not growing and cat behaviors that were a problem are slowly going away."

THE RISK IS PAYING OFF. BETWEEN THE START OF THE PROGRAM ON JULY 1, 2018 AND THE END OF FEBRUARY 2019, "YES, SAVE!" HAS DIVERTED ALMOST 1200 ANIMALS FROM BEING SURRENDERED BY THEIR OWNER. THIS PROGRAM'S IMPACT WAS REALIZED THIS PAST DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WHEN NO ANIMALS WERE EUTHANIZED FOR SPACE AT OUR SHELTER. A FIRST IN GBHS HISTORY. "YES, SAVE", LIKE ALL PROGRAMS OFFERED AT GBHS, WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU.

If you would like to help, you can donate online at www.gbhs.org or contact Kristie Nix Mooror at knix@gbhs.org or 205.397.8539

JAZZ CATS WHERE IT'S AT

THE COOL CATS OF THE GBHS AUXILIARY BOARD MADE JAZZ CAT BALL 2019 THE BEST EVER!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Auxiliary Board, JCB Number 8 was a rousing success. Led by Auxiliary President and JCB Chairwoman Susan Norman, and assisted by Chair Emeritus Missy Ellis, this year's Jazz Cat Ball was attended by close to 1,000 people who wined, dined, and bid the night away at one of the country's largest and best silent auctions, as well as an animated live auction by Granger Thagard Auctions. Patrons and friends of GBHS enjoyed Casino Games at this fabulous Mardi Gras Ball and danced to the music of the Downtown Band. Guests came out in force to celebrate honorary chair and board member Robin Savage of Robins & Morton.

Generous contributions by our sponsors and attendees will allow GBHS to continue serving more animals in 2019. Donors and friends of GBHS raised over \$100,000 in the Fund-A-Need portion of the auction, which will allow us to purchase a new mobile medical unit. Supported by our Board of Directors and Young Professionals Board, the Auxiliary is already hard at work planning Jazz Cat Ball 2020. Save the date for Jazz Cat Ball Number 9 on February 1, 2020, so you can be a Cool Cat, too!



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

\$103,500

RAISED IN FUND-A-NEED
TO PURCHASE A NEW
MOBILE MEDICAL VEHICLE



Amanda's Magic Touch

YOUR GIFTS ENSURE HEALING FOR A DOG WITH A HISTORY OF ABUSE.



"The first time I saw Cupcake, she was curled up and covering in a corner at our Animal Control Center," said Daniel Martin, GBHS Community Outreach Manager. "She refused to make eye contact, but I thought she was one of the prettiest dogs I'd ever seen. She refused food and was so scared and withdrawn that I knew she was not ready for the adoption floor."

But thanks to donors like you, dogs like Cupcake have a second chance.

Your generosity ensures all GBHS animals have access to a veterinary team 24/7. After an exam, GBHS' Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jerry Latham found why Cupcake would not eat -- she had no teeth! Her previous owner had removed her front teeth and filed down her incisors. Tragically, this is not the first time Dr. Latham had seen this kind of abuse, as it is often the sign of a dog being prepped for use as bait in a fighting ring. She was terrified of people, but it was clear that this dog was gentle and wanted to be loved. Cupcake needed an experienced and patient foster parent, and because of you, one was ready and able to help! Longtime GBHS Foster Mom Amanda Whisenhunt was the obvious choice. Amanda's ability to socialize scared and fragile animals is nothing short of magic. And, magic happened.

After only one month with the Whisenhunt Wiz, Cupcake learned how to live with other dogs and to trust people. She began snuggling with her foster family on the couch, in the recliner, and basically, anywhere she could find a way to get close to them. Martin smiles as he recalls Cupcake's transformation, "She came to the adoption floor almost one month to the day after I first saw her at Animal Control. She was a different dog, and because of her new personality and beauty she was adopted almost immediately."

Our foster volunteers are amazing, but they cannot do what they do without you. Your gifts pay for the specialty vet care, medicines, food, supplies, and therapeutic toys that our fosters rely on to "make their magic" with special needs animals. GBHS thanks you, our fosters thank you, and Cupcake (and her new family) thank you as well!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT, VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.GBHS.ORG OR EMAIL DANIEL MARTIN, GBHS' COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER, AT DMARTIN@GBHS.ORG.

"THE FIRST TIME I SAW CUPCAKE, SHE WAS CURLED UP IN A CORNER AT OUR ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER, NOT MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH ANYONE. BUT I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONE OF THE PRETTIEST DOGS I HAD EVER LAID EYES ON." -DANIEL MARTIN, COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY

What should you do if you suspect an animal is in trouble? The answer seems simple - - you would call for help. But jurisdictions can be confusing and who you call and the information and/or evidence you share can mean life or death for an animal in need. The worst response is to do nothing. You may be the only voice the animal has.



HOW TO RESPOND:

SNAP

Please don't trespass. Take a clear picture or video of what you see. If a pet is in a car, note the make, model, and license plate of the car. Use your cell phone flashlight to light the area if it is dark. Do not approach injured animals. Photos often help us get speedier response from law enforcement and they may be important evidence.

MAP

We need the exact address of the animal. This determines which jurisdiction will respond. If you are not sure note the names of the nearest crossroads. If the house has no number, get the nearest house number.

CALL

Contact GBHS Animal Care & Control at 205-591-6522. Our staff will walk you through the reporting process and make sure your complaint gets to the correct agency. Keep a record of who you speak to and at what agency. We will help advocate for the animal in every way we can.

PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO TO SOCIAL MEDIA. THIS CAN ACTUALLY HARM AN OFFICER'S ABILITY TO HELP AN ANIMAL AND HARM THE CASE.

COMMON SIGNS OF NEGLECT OR ABUSE

- The pet is kept outside with unsanitary food or water and/or inadequate shelter.
- The pet is tethered on a lead that is too short or too heavy or that prohibits the animal from being able to access shelter, water, and/or food.
- Loud and incessant barking or howling may mean a pet has been abandoned - - this usually occurs at an apartment or rental home.
- Animals housed in cages that are too small for them to turn around or move normally.
- Open or infected wounds, ongoing injuries, or illnesses that are not being treated.
- A collar that is so tight that it causes an open neck wound.
- Someone who appears to be hoarding animals (look for evidence that the person has more animals than they can care for).
- Extreme matting of fur and/or fur infested with fleas or ticks.

IF YOU WITNESS THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE CALL GBHS AT 205-591-6522 OR YOUR LOCAL POLICE IMMEDIATELY:

- Observing someone beating or causing violence to an animal.
- A pet left in a car (dogs have died in cars when the outside temperature was 72).
- Signs of severe emaciation (like bones being visible along the back or on the sides).
- Animal fighting.

BLIND LOVE

WHEN HURRICANE FLORENCE STRUCK THE CAROLINA SHORES, HUNDREDS WERE LEFT HOMELESS, HURTING, AND SEEKING RELIEF - AND YOU STEPPED IN TO HELP!

A few days after disaster struck, Carolina shelters along the coastline began to fill rapidly with animals found among the wreckage and debris. When one of our rescue partners reached out to GBHS with a plea for aid, volunteer teams quickly sprang into action and made the 10-hour drive to take supplies and transport as many animals as needed back to the safety of our shelter. You were beside them as they drove past flooded streets that only days ago were full of life and laughter. You were with them as they pulled into the FEMA aid station to drop off donated pet food and caught sight of the 27 cats that needed your help.

None of this would have been possible without donors and volunteers like you.

Sometimes magic can be found even in the darkest of storms. Because of you, this sightless kitty is flourishing in a home filled with light, love and compassion.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP MORE PETS LIKE RADAR FIND THEIR FOREVER HOMES, YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GBHS.ORG OR CONTACT KRISTIE NIX MOORER AT KNIX@GBHS.ORG OR 205.397.8539.



Among the 27 cats was one very special kitty named Radar. A little gray tabby, Radar is affectionate, loving, and calm, but what makes him unique is not his loving personality but rather what he is missing - Radar has no eyes. Radar's former life is a mystery, but your generosity gave him a chance at a spectacular future. Fast-forward a couple of months, and Radar is now living a life as wondrous as he is. He even has his own Instagram account @RadarTheCat! His new owner, Marcy Miller, says, "Although he may not be able to see it does not impair his ability to love."

2018 YOUR SUPPORT HAS AN IMPACT

9,981 STRAYS, LOST PETS, AND CRUELTY CASES
4,750 OWNER SURRENDERS

16,623 ABUSED AND NEGLECTED ANIMALS SERVED

SIX-THOUSAND SEVEN-HUNDRED A FOREVER HOME

1,346 SENIORS, VETERANS, & LOW INCOME FAMILIES ASSISTED

40+ SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES PERFORMED EVERY DAY

1,596 TRANSPORTS

GREATER BIRMINGHAM HUMANE SOCIETY

400+ MONTHLY ADOPTIONS

6,727 SURGERIES

121 VET STUDENTS TRAINED

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD TAKES GBHS BY STORM!

NEITHER RAIN, NOR SLEET, NOR TORNADO WARNINGS CAN KEEP THE YPS FROM PARTYING FOR THE SAKE OF THE ANIMALS

Our YPs love a good party—but a party to support our animals? Now that's something they can really sink their teeth into. On March 14th, under threat of tornadoes and thunderstorms, the Young Professionals Board threw their first party of 2019. Led by the anything-but-scary Sara Sciara, the YP Social Chair, the Greater Birmingham Humane Society YPs hosted "Pi Day Sips for Strays" at Cahaba Brewing Company. Patrons and friends of GBHS enjoyed slices of pie, compliments of Full Moon Bar B Que, and pizza slices by Slice as they grooved to the tunes of the band, Mother May I. The price for a slice was \$3.14 with proceeds benefitting the GBHS. Fetch - A Treat Truck For Dogs was on hand, offering tasty canine treats for sale. Undeterred by impending storms, YP Board members and members of the GBHS Board of Directors, along with their friends, raised over \$1,000 for the animals while having a great time!

In other YP news, Outreach Chair Wade Nichols recently became certified to drive T.A.R.A., GBHS' Transport, Adopt, Rescue, and Assist bus, so that he and other volunteers can take adoptable animals to events around town. Sometimes our partners request animals to attend their events, and we don't have enough staff to go—and our generous YP Board steps in to pick up the slack. Our YPs are always ready to step in wherever needed!

Under the leadership of YP Board Chair Clifton Nail and Vice Chair Katie Clifton, the YP Board is forging relationships with other non-profits in town and has many more activities scheduled for 2019. Our YPs are partnering with the A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club for a responsible pet ownership series and providing adoptable animals for Episcopal Place's Gumbo Gala and Community Grief Support's Mac + Cheese Festival. Another "Sips for Strays" is scheduled for April 11th at Freddy's Wine Bar, and Howls & Growls co-chairs Hayley Kuntmann and Meg Schneider are planning for a hair-raising good time on October 26th. You might be scared, but you won't be disappointed if you come out to Haven for Howls & Growls, 2019! Thank you, GBHS YP Board!



UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

APRIL

7TH

SHOWER FOR THE SHELTER 2P-4P

Puppies and kittens, oh my! Our foster program's busiest time of year is coming - help us shower all the foster babies we are expecting! On Sunday, April 7th, join us at the shelter from 2 to 4 p.m. to learn more about our foster program and meet our dedicated foster community. The foster program depends on donations to care for the animals in our care.

11TH - 5:30-8P

SIPS FOR STRAYS AT FREDDY'S WINE BAR

13TH

PETSMART MCCALLA

Adoption Event

27TH

MAGNOLIA FESTIVAL AT GARDENDALE CIVIC CENTER

Adoption Event

MAY

11TH

VETERINARY SPECIALISTS OF BIRMINGHAM OPEN HOUSE

Benefiting the Greater Birmingham Humane Society Pet Pantry Program

18TH

DO DAH DAY

Benefiting the Greater Birmingham Humane Society at Birmingham's Historic Highland Avenue Parks



GREATER BIRMINGHAM
HUMANE SOCIETY

JUNE

12TH - 530P-8P

SIPS FOR STRAYS AT MOE'S BBQ

JULY

13TH & 14TH

PETCO TRUSSVILLE

Adoption Event

AUGUST

7TH

NBC'S CLEAR THE SHELTER ADOPTION EVENT AT SNOW DRIVE

8TH - 530P-8P

SIPS FOR STRAYS AT BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT BREWING AT MOE'S BBQ IN LAKEVIEW

STAY IN THE SCOOP!



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gbhs.org