

**GBHS** 

MARCH 2018

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends of GBHS,

A bold vision has the power to catalyze. It motivates and inspires. It gives a sense of purpose. It drives the staff and donors of a nonprofit towards a common goal. So in the summer of 2014, the GBHS adopted a vision and something best-selling author Jim Collins calls a BHAG. A Big Hairy Audacious Goal:

**To help build a compassionate community where abuse, neglect, and abandonment of animals and people are nonexistent.**

That vision sparked you, the board, staff, YP board, and auxiliary to begin a journey to co-locate all of our buildings onto one site. We found a 27-acre parcel in Titusville and decided to build a campus of compassion there.

Over the past two years, we have spent time in that community, prayed there, planted gardens, gone door-to-door, attended meetings and made new friends. Some of our staff and board members live there. We learned about the leaders of Titusville and the importance of that community in our city's history books. We fought hard to get the property, and we fought hard to convince you and others to invest in the vision of that campus with us.

But March 4th we learned that the GBHS would not get the land gifted to us. And, believe it or not, while we are disappointed and sad, we celebrate. Because it is not about how hard we fought but what we are fighting for – abused, neglected, abandoned and forgotten animals. This journey brought us new donors and volunteers and increased the visibility of our community's homeless animals.

And our cause eclipses this temporary circumstance.

At GBHS we are a family. We know that if this door closed, then it means another one is about to open. And we have full faith that it will. Even as I write this message to you, our incredible supporters, we have already spoken to two donors that heard about our plight and invited us to look at some property. We are truly blessed every single day with people committed to helping our cause.

We may not have a site today but the vision is still the same, and our faith is even stronger. We know that everything is possible for those who believe. So stay tuned. We know we will have a new home soon and we can't wait to see what the future brings.

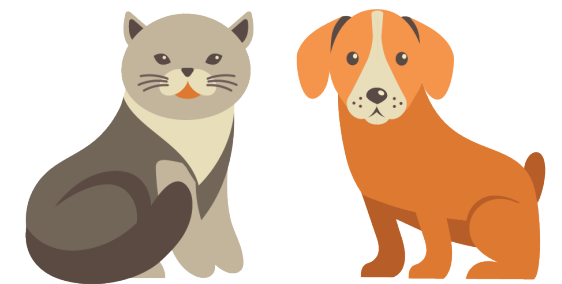
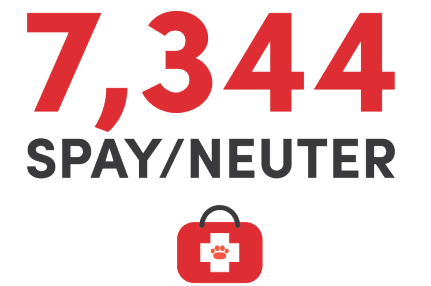
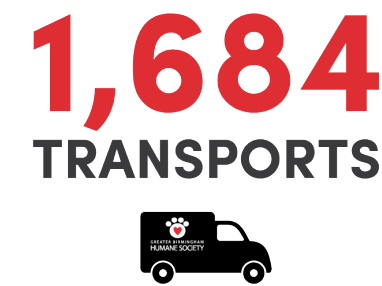
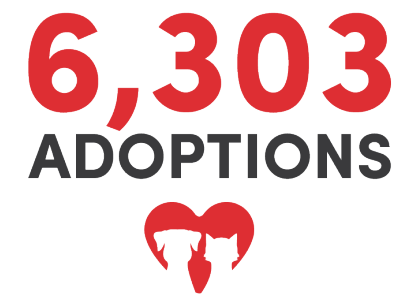
Allison

## HELP CHANGE LIVES:

Visit [gbhs.org](http://gbhs.org) to donate, or contact us about volunteering or adopting a pet to help restore life to abused & neglected animals.



# YOUR SUPPORT HAS IMPACT IN 2017:



# A Family for Fran

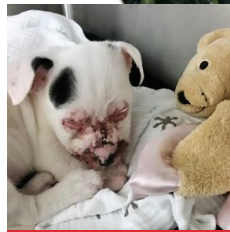
On a cold fall night, a puppy was found wandering the streets scared and suffering from a horrible skin infection. She had been discarded and forgotten. Luckily a Good Samaritan reported her to GBHS Animal Care & Control, and the puppy we named Francesca got a second chance at life. Your donations fund our Community Care program, which recruits and supports foster homes for very sick animals like Fran. Your gifts also provided the antibiotics and ointments needed to treat her acute infection. After six months in foster care, Fran was ready for a "forever" home. GBHS partnered with No Greater Love Rescue who found the perfect family in Vermont. Fran's transformation has been amazing to watch, and now she plays in the snow and snuggles with her family.

**In 2017 your donations helped Community Care Fosters care for 1,675 animals.**

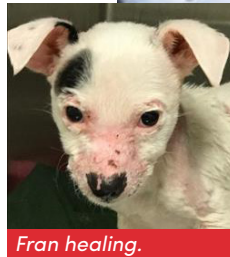
GBHS spends about \$200 on each animal while they are in foster homes. Thank you for your continued support of this life-saving program.



**Fran found her forever home.**



Fran at intake.



Fran healing.

## GBHS Welcomes Deputy Tim Sanford



Above: Officer Tim Sanford

Deputy Tim Sanford is the new Animal Cruelty Investigator for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Tim replaces Deputy Dwight Sloan who retired in February. Deputy Sanford has served 18 years with the sheriff's office starting in corrections and eventually moving to the patrol division before being assigned to the K9 unit. He has had patrol dogs that specialize in tracking, bomb, and narcotic detection. In addition to having the privilege of getting to work with dogs in his profession, he grew up surrounded by all sorts of animals in a small town in

Fayette County. Tim is excited about his new position: "I look forward to serving the public and letting my investigations and knowledge be the voice for the animals. One of my main goals is to raise community awareness of the importance of reporting animal cruelty. From reporting animals running at large to misdemeanor and felony cruelty to animals, we can all work together to make a difference and be the voice for animals." GBHS agrees and is happy to work alongside him!



***"We can't take them all home, so we decided to share the love we have in our hearts for animals by ensuring more pets get homes."***

-Emily Dyke, Marketing Specialist.

The GBHS is lucky to have hundreds of corporate partners that donate their time, talents and resources to us daily. Recently we partnered with CCR Architecture on a Pay It Forward for Valentine's Day project. CCR loves animals and lucky for us they love the GBHS too! This Valentine's instead of sharing the love with cards and flowers, employees of CCR decided to share some love by paying the adoption fees of adult cats and dogs. CCR came to the shelter, met all of the adoptable animals, individually paid

the adoption fees and then promoted the animals on the website to help get them adopted.

Animals are all part of the design at CCR. Pets are welcome at the company. CCR president Tammy Cohen lives on site, and her dogs are a regular feature around the office. Employee's dogs roam the courtyard on lunch breaks, and at last count,

***"We have more pets than we have employees and more pets than children..."***

-Emily Dyke, Marketing Specialist.

they have helped rescue 12 cats. CCR would take all of the GBHS animals if they could, but since they can't, the firm wanted to find a creative way to help promote shelter animals. "Many of us have reached our personal, al-

lowable pet limit, but we still want to find ways to help animals find homes," said Emily Dyke, Marketing Specialist.

The effort was a huge success. All eighteen of the Pay It Forward Animals sponsored by CCR Architecture are now in their Forever Homes!

**For more information on how you can become a Corporate Partner or help with opportunities to Pay It Forward, call Jennifer at (205) 397-8539 or visit the DONATE PAGE on our website to learn about other ways you can help!**



## Pilots N Paws

Sometimes it's not easy saying goodbye to the animals that we fall in love with at GBHS. Patricia came to us as a stray. The sweet English Bulldog was emaciated with horrible skin issues due to food allergies. But she quickly stole our hearts. Our team felt that she would have the best chance at rehabilitation with a breed specific rescue, so we partnered with Vermont English Bulldog Rescue and Pilots N Paws, a non-profit that matches animals in need with available pilots. Your support enabled GBHS Transport Volunteers to drive Patricia to Delaware where she met the volunteers of Pilots N Paws. She boarded and was soon heading to her new family in Vermont. Our rescue partners

step up to help us every time we **Your donations and a philanthropic pilot save Patricia. Patricia moves slow, but she had an extra happy beat in her step on the tarmac.**

ask. Your donations make it possible for GBHS to work with partners across the state and around the country to give every animal their best chance at survival.

-Tara Love, Transport Coordinator



## Bella Beats the Odds

**Your generosity ensures 24-hour emergency care**

Bella was rescued by an Animal Control Officer after being hit by a car. She was in good spirits but noticeably injured, so she was taken to the GBHS Spay/Neuter & Critical Care Clinic. Bella could not use her front leg. Thanks to you, our clinic has state-of-the-art medical equipment, which helped our veterinarians to diagnose her quickly. The radiographs showed an elbow luxation. After trying several non-surgical routes, Bella was still not responding to treatment. Dr. Latham decided amputation was the best way to go. Bella beat the odds and is now healing. She has adapted quickly to

life on three legs. Bella is smart and is a sweet girl. She is a little shy at first, but she has gone through a lot! She loves pets and belly rubs, but only after she's sniffed you thoroughly. Bella is currently up for adoption at the shelter.

**Want to Help our Animals at the Clinic?**

Last year over 7,440 life-saving surgeries were performed there! We like to keep it clean and can always use the following: rubbing alcohol 70%, unscented bleach, laundry detergent, copy paper, sharpies, scissors, duct

tape, pens, post-its, white-out and paper towels. Financial contributions can also be made to support Life-Saving Surgeries!



Above: Bella

## GBHS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"WE TRULY FEEL OUR WORK MATTERS"

Carl and Connie Fleck really do make the GBHS a better place - not only for the animals but for the staff and countless visitors who are touched by their generous spirit and unconditional love. If you visit the shelter on any weekend, prepare to be greeted by Carl's warm and friendly personality (usually with a dog by his side). You will then encounter the sweet-natured patience of his wife Connie while she goes over your adoption paperwork with you. Connie is also one of our lead Volunteers and handles most of the day-to-day communications with new canine volunteers looking to schedule a mentor shift or a Canine Caregiver class.

Carl and Connie are no stranger to animal rescue. Their work as advocates for shelter animals started over 40 years ago in Chicago. After losing their first dog, they decided a good way to help with the grieving process would be to start volunteering with local shelters and humane societies. After several moves (and involvement in several shelters), the Flecks decided it

was time to take their dedication to animal rescue a step further and started their own rescue organization in Michigan.

Canine Companions Rescue Center was founded in 2004. A primarily foster-based rescue, the Flecks estimate that they were able to adopt out over 8000 dogs during the twelve years they ran CCRC. Although the organization had an arsenal of dedicated volunteers, Carl and Connie did all of the day-to-day work for the first 10 years with no paid employees. (More info about their rescue at: [www.crc-dogs.com](http://www.crc-dogs.com))

Carl and Connie eventually moved to Birmingham. "It was imperative to us that we make a connection with a rescue or humane society, and we were just lucky enough to find GBHS. We love everything about GBHS," Connie says, "But one thing that stands out for both of us is how much we are appreciated for our work here. It's not why we come, but it is something we



have felt from the very beginning. We truly feel our work matters." Connie goes on to say that working with the staff and volunteer department of the GBHS "just increases our commitment to doing all we can to help."

Daniel Martin, Outreach Manager, notes that having stellar volunteers like Carl and Connie Fleck is imperative in our fight to save more animals. Last year alone, 719 volunteers donated more than 40,000 hours! That's more than 1 million dollars in volunteer time! GBHS cannot do what we do without the help of volunteers and supporters like you and the Flecks.

**Want to Volunteer? Contact us now to learn how you can help!**  
[www.gbhs.org/volunteer](http://www.gbhs.org/volunteer)  
(205)942-1211 x 241 or [volunteer@gbhs.org](mailto:volunteer@gbhs.org)

give love.  
join our team.  
[gbhs.org/volunteer](http://gbhs.org/volunteer)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH

**29** **Cause an Effect with Chipotle**  
10:45 am - 10:00 pm. 50% of Proceeds will be donated to the GBHS from all Birmingham Locations. Check our social media or your email for a copy of the flyer! Must present flyer, show on phone or tell the sales clerk before you order that you are there to support the GBHS.

## APRIL

**7** **3rd Annual Fido Fest at the Summit: Adoption Event**

**8** **Bark in the Park with UAB Baseball: Adoption Event**

**11** **Cocktails for Critters at Moe's Original Bar B Que Lakeview**

**13** **Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero** Movie Premiere. GBHS will receive 5% of net proceeds from opening day from all Alabama theaters.



**22** **Shower for the Shelter**  
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 22, 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.



## MAY

**1-10** **Mission Pawssible: Funds to the Rescue!**  
Online Auction. Benefiting the GBHS Community Care Foster Program.

**19** **Do Dah Day** - benefiting the GBHS

**21** **Gardendale Magnolia Festival: Adoption Event**

## JUNE

**13** **Wet Nose Wednesday** at the Birmingham Barons

**20** **Birmingham Cocktails for Critters** at Five Birmingham

## SHOWER FOR SHELTER APRIL 22



## NEEDS:

KITTEN MILK REPLACER

PUPPY MILK REPLACER

LITTER

HEATING PADS

SHOP OUR AMAZON  
WISHLIST AT

<http://a.co/iPW5ySR>

TO SEE MORE.

## FOLLOW US:



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