



NEIGHBORHOOD CATS NETWORK, Inc.

Winter 2024

Welcome to Our Inaugural Newsletter: Our Mission and Vision

Neighborhood Cats Network, Inc, is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization passionately dedicated to transforming the lives of homeless community cats throughout Western NY, with a special focus on Monroe and Ontario Counties. Our mission goes beyond simply helping cats—we're revolutionizing community cat care through our groundbreaking TNVRM program: Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage. Not only do we humanely reduce the number of stray cats, but we also go the extra mile by managing colonies with compassion, ensuring they have winterized cat cabins, clean and safe feeding stations and, most importantly, daily nourishing meals.



These essentials, especially during the harsh winter months, are lifesaving, keeping every cat healthy, warm, and cared for. Over the past few years, we've built and donated over 120 cat cabins and feeding stations to other rescues and individuals who care for community cats on their property.

Our efforts don't stop there—we proudly collaborate with business owners to establish organized and aesthetically pleasing colonies on their properties. These partnerships not only provide cats a safe place to live but also enhance the look and feel of the properties, creating a peaceful coexistence between the community and its feline neighbors.



There are so many ways you can become part of our lifesaving mission! You can make an immediate impact by donating directly through our website, neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org or via our Chewy or Amazon Wish Lists. Your donations provide critical resources that give these cats a fighting chance. Want to get more hands-on? We always need dedicated volunteers to help with TNVRM, fostering, or outreach. And one of the easiest and most powerful ways to help is by spreading the word—follow us on Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram, and share our mission with your friends and family.

Visit us at neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org to learn more, stay updated on heartwarming success stories and videos, and discover new ways to get involved. Together, we can create lasting change for community cats and the neighborhoods they call home.

Thank you for supporting Neighborhood Cats Network—let's build a brighter future for every cat, together!

Neighborhood Cats Network

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Our mission is to compassionately improve the lives of community cats by providing them with nourishment, housing, TNVRM (manage) care, and a pathway to a better future.



A Success Story

One success story that highlights the impact of Neighborhood Cats Network involves a local business owner who had grown increasingly upset with the presence of a small cat colony on his property. For a year, he had watched four cats occupy the area and, frustrated by what he saw as clutter, contemplated asking his neighbor—who had been feeding the cats—to stop. The makeshift shelters and feeding station, shown in Figure 1, had become an eyesore in his eyes. He was close to taking drastic action that could have left the cats without food or shelter.



Figure 1. Makeshift shelters and feeding station at business.

Fearing for the cats' well-being, the neighbor reached out to the Neighborhood Cats Network for assistance. Our team immediately stepped in to mediate the situation. We explained the importance of providing a stable feeding area and safe, secure shelters to protect the colony's health and survival. Not only did we clean and reorganize the area, but we also implemented Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage (TNVRM) services and donated winterized cabins and a more permanent feeding station to enhance the appearance and functionality of the space (Fig. 2).

Impressed by the improvements and our dedication to the humane care of the cats, the business owner agreed to let the colony stay on his property. This partnership turned a potential crisis into a success, ensuring that the four cats could continue to live safely while receiving regular meals. What could



Figure 2. New cabins and feed station installed at business.

have been a devastating situation for these community cats became a powerful story of collaboration, education, and compassion.

Community Cat Myths

- **Myth: Community cats are wild animals.**

Reality: Community cats are domestic cats that have had little or no human contact. While they may be unsocialized, they are still part of the domestic cat species.

- **Myth: Community cats can't be spayed or neutered because they are too difficult to handle.**

Reality: With the right tools and experience, Community cats can be humanely trapped and safely spayed or neutered through Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage (TNVRM) programs.



- **Myth: Community cats live miserable, short lives.**

Reality: When provided with proper care, such as food, water, and shelter through colony management, community cats can live healthy, long lives. TNVRM helps ensure their well-being.

- **Myth: Removing community cats from an area is the best solution.**

Reality: Removing community cats often leads to the "vacuum effect," where new cats move into the area to fill the void. TNVRM programs are a more effective, humane solution for stabilizing the population.

- **Myth: Community cats spread disease to humans.**

Reality: Community cats pose minimal health risks to humans. TNVRM programs also include vaccinations that reduce disease transmission, such as rabies.

- **Myth: Community cats should be taken to shelters to be adopted.**



- **Reality:** Most community cats are not socialized enough to live indoors or be adoptable as pets. Their best option is often to remain in managed colonies outdoors through TNVRM.

- **Myth: Feeding community cats will cause more problems.**

Reality: Managed feeding can help stabilize colonies, prevent wandering, and improve the colony's health. TNVRM and proper colony management address the real issues.

- **Myth: Community cats are the primary threat to bird populations.**

Reality: While cats can impact local wildlife, the decline in bird populations is primarily due to habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. TNVRM programs help manage community cat colonies, reducing their roaming and impact on wildlife, while addressing the root issues through responsible colony management.

Colony Spotlight: Grace and the Cats of Meow Meadows

Seven years ago, Grace's existence was reduced to a cold, metal tube in a desolate, unforgiving landscape. Alongside her feral companions-- Riley, Bangkok, Benji, Pippi, Gertrude, and Jerry-- she fought tooth and claw for survival, each bitter night a struggle for warmth and food, never knowing if tomorrow would come.

Then in December, as temperatures plunged, the call for help went out to Neighborhood Cats Network. We couldn't stand idly by and watch these brave souls suffer any longer. With the support of a compassionate business owner and the unwavering dedication of our



passionate volunteers, we sprang into action. Despite the freezing conditions, we trapped, spayed, and vaccinated the entire colony, pouring every ounce of our energy into creating winterized cabins and feeding stations—shelters of warmth they had never known.

Today, Grace and her family thrive in the colony we lovingly call “Meow Meadows.” Each day brings nourishing meals, and at night, they curl up in cozy shelters, shielded from the brutal elements. Grace

is finally living the life she always deserved, her spirit free to flourish in a way she never imagined possible.

This transformation is nothing short of miraculous. It's a powerful testament to what happens when compassion meets action. Together, we can rewrite the stories of countless community cats just like Grace, turning despair into hope and survival into a vibrant life!



At Neighborhood Cats Network, our community cats wear their ear tips like badges of honor, and we're incredibly proud of them!

Each distinctive ear tip signifies a milestone in our mission to enhance the lives of these feline friends. It represents our commitment to responsible TNVRM (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage) practices that help manage and stabilize the community cat population in our neighborhoods.

These ear tips are a national symbol that indicates the cats have been neutered or spayed, vaccinated, and returned to their familiar surroundings.

When you spot a cat with an ear tip, you're witnessing a success story of community care and compassion. It's a reminder that small actions can lead to significant change and is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives our mission.

Join us in celebrating these resilient and resourceful felines! Every ear tip, like our girl Piper's, tells a story of hope, care, and a better tomorrow.



Volunteer Spotlight

We're thrilled to introduce Chris Sullivan, our master builder of cat cabins and feeding stations, pictured here with his Inspector of Quality Control,



Bramwell! Chris's craftsmanship and dedication have been pivotal to Neighborhood Cats Network's efforts to provide safe, warm, and weatherproof shelters for countless community cats. Over the past few years, Chris has personally built

and donated more than 120 cat cabins and feeding stations, ensuring that our colonies—and the colonies of other rescuers—have a reliable place to rest and receive meals year-round. His commitment to improving the lives of community cats is truly inspiring, and we're incredibly grateful to have him on our team!

From Streets to Safety: A New Home

Finally, a real home! After years of surviving on the streets, eight homeless cats received the warmth, security, and care they desperately needed. On the back of that truck, brimming with handcrafted cat cabins and a feeding station, was the promise of a brighter tomorrow. These



resilient cats now have a safe place to rest their heads and daily meals they always deserved—thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and supporters. This is what we live for at Neighborhood Cats Network! Every cabin, every meal, and every delivery are a labor of love, and a mission

fulfilled. This is who we are, and this is what we do—giving community cats a home, hope, and a second chance at life!

Thank You Bailey and Friends

We're beyond excited to announce that Neighborhood Cats Network has been awarded an incredible \$5,000 grant from Bailey and Friends! Thanks to their generosity, we'll be able to build 30 more winterized cat cabins and feeding stations, offering vital shelter and food to homeless community cats in our area.

"Bailey and Friends is thrilled to support the compassionate work of Neighborhood Cats Network. With this grant, your organization will provide crucial protection, shelter, and daily care for homeless community cats. You're truly making a positive difference in the lives of the animals and people you're serving," says Program Officer Kaitlin McNamara.

Bailey and Friends, a trust under the Golisano Foundation, is a true champion of animal welfare, improving the lives of cats and dogs in Western NY and Southwest Florida. We are deeply grateful for their support, faith in our mission, and shared dedication to this impactful work.

Connecting with the Community

We're excited to share some highlights from our recent community outreach activities! Our team had a fantastic time at Climb Aboard Victor Day, where we engaged with families and showcased our commitment to community cats. It was heartwarming to see how happy attendees were to learn about our efforts in this area.

Additionally, we were present at the Country Max in Farmington, where we enjoyed meeting many of you and discussing our mission. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations of both cat food and funds—your support makes a significant difference in our ability to help homeless community cats.

We look forward to participating in more events throughout 2025, so keep an eye out for us at your favorite local gatherings. Together, we can continue to positively impact the lives of homeless community cats!



Meet Marcal: The Dapper Tuxedo and “Mayor” of the Colony

Marcal is more than just a resident at one of our Neighborhood Cats Network colonies—he's the self-appointed mayor! With 14 colony mates to keep an eye on, Marcal takes his job seriously, watching over the others with a protective gaze and a calm presence. His leadership brings a sense of harmony to the colony, reminding us how special each of these community cats truly are!

Every day, Marcal reminds us of the beauty within these community cats. Each has a role; each brings something special to the group. Through his gentle authority and observant eyes, Marcal has become a true symbol of unity and safety for his friends, capturing the essence of what it means to belong to a colony.

Host a Neighborhood Cats Network Cat Food Drive This Holiday Season!

The holiday season is a time for giving, and what better way to give back than by helping homeless community cats? Hosting a Neighborhood Cats Network (NCN) cat food drive is a simple yet impactful way to make a difference in the lives of cats who rely on daily meals from compassionate volunteers.

By organizing a food drive, you'll be supporting NCN's efforts to feed countless community cats across Western NY, ensuring they have enough food to get through the harsh winter months. Your donations will provide much-needed nourishment and a sense of security for cats that would otherwise go hungry.

This is also a fantastic opportunity to get others involved! You can invite people from your personal or professional networks—family, friends, coworkers, or local businesses—to participate. Together, we can rally our communities to ensure no cat goes hungry this winter.

Email us at info@neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org or call us at (315) 584-1374 to learn how you can get involved and help us stock up on food for the months ahead. Let's make sure every community cat has a full belly and a brighter future this holiday season!



Building Hope: Progress Report on Our Cat Cabins and Feeding Stations

We are thrilled to share a remarkable milestone in our mission to provide safety and comfort for our community's most vulnerable cats. In just the last two months, thanks to your support and generosity, we have built 31 cat cabins and feeding stations, creating a haven for 68 previously homeless cats.

Every cat has a story, and every cabin stands as a testament to resilience and hope. Together, we are transforming lives. We are offering shelter, nourishment, and a second chance to those who have known hardship.

As winter approaches, the urgency of our mission intensifies. These cabins are a critical lifeline for our feline friends, and we must act swiftly to provide shelter before the cold sets in. We are dedicated to continuing this work, donating these structures and building more, but we need your help to do so.



For a donation of \$250, you can honor or remember a loved one—two-legged or four-legged—by naming a cabin or feeding station. We'll send you a photo of the nameplate on the cabin as a keepsake of your generous contribution.

Your involvement, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply sharing our story, makes a profound impact. Together, we can ensure that every cat finds not just a meal, but a place to call home before winter arrives. Thank you for being part of this important mission!

If you'd like to participate, please mail your check payable to Neighborhood Cats Network, P.O. Box 263, Mendon, NY 14506, including the name of your honoree, or visit our website at www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org to complete our Tribute Gift Form. Together, we can give these cats the warmth and protection they deserve!

NEIGHBORHOOD CATS NETWORK, INC
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My gift is in honor of / in memory of (circle one) _____

Please send notification of my gift to _____ at:

Please make your check payable to Neighborhood Cats Network and mail it to us at P.O. Box 263, Mendon, NY 14506 or donate online at www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org.

Neighborhood Cats Network, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our New York State Charities registration can be viewed at www.charitiesnys.com/RegistrySearch/search_charities.jsp.