



# Missaukee

## HUMANE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2018

5310 W. Houghton Lake Road • Box D • Lake City, MI 49651 • (231) 839-3800  
info@mhs pets.org • www.mhs pets.org • A NO-KILL Shelter • Open 7 days a week



### Remembering Ernie LeDoux

Long-time MHS President and founder, Ernie LeDoux passed away. This news was shocking and very painful for many of us. This was a man who dedicated his life to saving animals. I remember the stories he told me of how, as young boy, he would bring home injured or homeless animals. He told me, many times, he lived for the animals.

I started volunteering at MHS in 2002, when I was 16 years old. I still remember meeting Ernie face to face for the first time. He and other board members were visiting the shelter before a meeting. He told me he heard good things about a young man, me.

I had a strong desire to work at the shelter. I was offered a job at MHS on February 4, 2004. At that time, they could only afford minimal hours a week, but that didn't matter to me. I loved working with animals.

Bad management plagued MHS for many years. In June 2006, Ernie called to offer me the position of shelter manager. At 20 years old and with only two years of working at the shelter, I was hesitant to accept the position. He said he believed in me and assured me that he and Betty would mentor me. I thanked him for the opportunity and accepted.

From then on, I would speak to Ernie and/or Betty almost every day. Not only did a business relationship start, but so did a close friendship.

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### Dear Friends of Animals,

Another year is coming to an end. What a great year we have had saving animals, thanks to you! All the animals that come to Missaukee Humane Society need help. Our job is to see that they get the medical and emotional care they need until we help them find their forever homes. Because of you, we can take care of them.



Someone brought in a very sick stray cat. She had a severe case of upper respiratory infection. Her eyes were closed from what we assumed was infection. After MHS vet staff examined and cleaned her,

we discovered she had no eyes. This condition is called microphthalmia. We were unsure how long she had been living on the streets.



She weighed only 6 pounds as an adult female cat. She amazed us with how quickly she was able to adjust to living at the shelter. She knew she was safe. Because she needed long-term care, she was placed in a foster home. There, she continued to amaze us and her loving foster family! She quickly became best pals with their Great Dane, "Sabian," and their young daughter.

With medication, love and care, she healed quickly and now weighs a healthy 11 pounds! Her foster family decided to adopt her!



Because of your help, she received the care she needed and a second chance at life!

So many animals at the Shelter need medical care that we realized it would be a good idea to hire a full-time licensed veterinary technician. She takes care of many of our routine vet needs. This saves us a great deal of money. A veterinarian comes to the

**Goodbye, Ernie**, *cont. from page 1*  
 Ernie and Betty shared a love for all animals that is rare today's world. We spoke many times about how he and others started MHS after learning of the horrible conditions at the Missaukee County dog pound. When you needed something to happen, all you needed to do was call Ernie. When it was evident that the MHS organization needed its own building, he enlisted the help of professional building, electrical, masonry, and plumbing contractors. Every single one of them volunteered their time and expertise. Ernie and all the volunteers worked into the night, side by side. Throughout his involvement with the shelter, some fought what he wanted done. His determination for the animals was unwavering, and in the end, he prevailed. MHS has helped thousands of animals because of this man.

He knew I had a vision for MHS. He encouraged me every step of the way. Did we agree on everything? Absolutely not! However, we discussed things and worked it out to make MHS an even better shelter.

Then, in August 2015, we lost Betty. This was a huge loss to the shelter and especially for her soul mate of 60 years.

The news of his passing was and still is a shock for all of us. Especially for me. It is so difficult to not think of Ernie each time my cell phone rings. This will take some time getting used to.

As I am sure Ernie would tell me. Don't worry about me kid. I am with Betty now, and there are many more animals to help. You and your team continue our great work.

Thank you for trusting me with MHS and the opportunity you gave me, Ernie.

I will miss you deeply, Sir.

Rest in Peace.

Kyle Musselman

Director

*Shelter director  
 and volunteer  
 Tracy Anderson*



Shelter weekly to treat our dogs and cats. We also use an off-site Veterinary clinic as needed. We are grateful for these wonderful veterinary services. No, they are not free! Veterinarians must charge us, though they are generous with their help. We need them to be there for us and they can't work for free any more than the rest of us can.

As animals are admitted they are assessed and treated for their conditions. As you can see, many are in rough shape. Thanks to your donations, volunteering, and fostering, they are able to receive the care they need. After they receive their medical care and are well enough, they are made available for adoption and final placement. You can view our happy tails and updates on our Facebook page! [Www.facebook.com/MHSPETS](http://Www.facebook.com/MHSPETS)



*One of the many orphan kittens MHS saves each year.*



*Severe "cauliflower" ear; due to repeated and untreated bacteria & yeast infections*



*Sores on the dog's paws.*



*Kitten with severe wound*



*Chico, a chihuahua with skin issues*

# MHS Kids' Club & Community Outreach:

## Outreach:

- In early 2018, we launched the MHS Kids' Club. While it is still a work in progress, we are talking to kids in schools and day-cares about animals and MHS.
- With the help of coordinator Wendy Prehn, we worked with Missaukee Ardis District Library with the Reading Buddies summer reading program. Children were encouraged to visit the shelter to read to the animals. It was a great success. The pets love the attention and it helps the kids with reading skills.
- Since its addition, the MHS surgical clinic has spayed or neutered over 1,800 community cats! We now are able to spay and neuter dogs. Check our website for all the services we offer and call to make an appointment. Missaukee County residency is not required.
- MHS Pet Food pantry available to those who have temporarily fallen on hard times. Thank you to the Missaukee County Council on Aging for spreading the news of this available help to local senior citizens.



## Ways to Help:

1. Sign up for recurring donations through PayPal! Easy way to help so many animals!
2. Volunteer at the shelter, at fundraisers, social events, kids' club, much more!
3. Become a foster home!
4. When shopping online, choose MHS as your dedicated charity!



# Shelter Updates & Plans:

Our shelter was built in the late 1980's. As with anything, maintenance and updates are needed on a regular basis in addition to our monthly utility expenses. We know it is cost effective to make sure all preventative maintenance is done to everything in and around the Shelter. Here is a list of recent projects we have either finished or that are works in progress.

- New water heater installed.
- Kennel furnaces repaired and updated.
- Dog kennels re-painted.
- Bathroom updated.
- Kitchenette refurbished.
- Designated grooming room and tub.
- Office equipment
- New Dental equipment.



## Empty The Shelter – BISSELL Pet Foundation

Every spring and fall for the past couple of years, BISSELL Pet Foundation has sponsored adoption fees for shelters pets in participating shelters. To date, our record of 42 adoptions in October 2016 has still yet to be matched or broken. October 2018's event, we adopted 41 pets!

Because of our great year around adoption rates, we have been able to help animals in other shelters!

Adoption procedures do not change for any reason. Applications are processed and veterinary references are checked. If renting, landlord's permission in writing is required.

**SPAGHETTI & NO BALLS  
DINNER & LIVE AUCTION**



**raised \$4,445.00 this year**  
**Many thanks to all our  
 volunteers and those who  
 attended.**

**Next year's event is  
 scheduled for October 26 at  
 the Barn Hall**

*A happy tale for these two kittens*



*Injured kitten in the arms of MHS staff.*



*Week old orphan kitten, hand raised by MHS staff & volunteers*

Huge congratulations  
to MHS staff member  
***Nellie Thompson***  
on her 5 years at MHS!  
(December 10, 2018)



*Front desk & adoption staff, Nellie & Jessie*



*Alex, Kennel Helper*



*MHS licensed veterinary technician Melodie and student apprentice, Marissa*