

## *Greetings from Paradise!*

A *Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens, is one of the most popular of all holiday stories. We at Paradise invite you to take a journey with us, not unlike Ebenezer Scrooge's, as we reflect on our past, share our present, and reveal what we hope is yet to come. First, let us return to the years between 2007 and early 2016...

Close your eyes and picture a big blue building on Lapeer Road in Columbiaville with a sign out front missing some letters. "SCOOPA LE KIT Y LITT R NEEDED." That's it! The high ceilings and cement floor made cleaning a challenge, and when it rained, the dog room flooded. Volunteers confronted every challenge, doing what needed to be done for the animals of Paradise. No palm trees there, for sure, but much love! During those years, over 800 animals were rescued, cared for, and adopted. Whatever the hurdle, our volunteers and our supporters came through, but then a day came when we were told the building had been sold. We had to move. "Scroogeey," huh?

Bad things do, as most people know, often turn out to be good, and this, although scary and stressful for a while, was for the best. After finally locating a new site, raising funds to make building repairs and modifications, and meeting with state inspectors, in June of 2016, we moved 67 cats and dogs to our new home in Lapeer.

Fast forward to autumn 2017. As you step inside, you are in a neat, organized but busy office area. Just a couple steps up, you notice better flooring and lighting, painted walls, curtains, recently-installed doors, and lots of happy cats. Listen for the purrs. Go outside now to the barn in the back. Check out the new roof and then, inside—more space, larger kennels, supplies arranged on shelves, and no more flooding! Yes, it is noisy with 10 excited dogs vying for your attention, but WOW, it's a new day in Paradise!



So far this year, over 725 animals have been spayed or neutered at All About Animals, the low-cost program we promote and organize. In addition, more than 135 cats and 45 dogs have found forever homes, including Bryce, who was abandoned on the streets of Detroit and was heartworm positive but is now a healthy, beloved watchdog on a farm in northern Michigan. Several of our long-term residents also found homes this year. Lizzy and Lucy, two bonded cats with us since 2013, left the building in April with their forever family. Smiles,



tears, and happy dances at Paradise!

We are especially thankful to some special heroes this year: the Kramer family who made the purchase of our building possible, Kappen Tree Service for donating their time and expertise, and Emily, a student at Chatfield who took hand-crafted jars to school and collected \$831.41 for the rescue! The list goes on. Thank you to everyone who made 2017 one we will remember!

Yes, life is better for the Paradise family, but more challenges and dreams lie ahead. In addition to our costs for food, testing, medicine, vet bills, heartworm treatments, spays and neuters, and vaccinations, our parking lot must be paved, the main building needs a new roof, and our cat room still needs improvements. We dream of more exercise areas for our dogs, an outdoor cattery, and more volunteers! So, our story does not end here, and we ask for continued help from our supporters. Please mark your calendars for the next Cheeseburgers for Paradise on April 21 and Wine & Whiskers on August 4 of 2018. Adopt, foster, sponsor, volunteer, donate, share, and network. It all makes a difference!

Warm wishes for a happy holiday!

*Your friends at Paradise Animal Rescue*



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