



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The New Normal: Michigan Pet Alliance Awards 2022 Grants to Animal Welfare Organizations**

**September 6, 2022, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan** – Michigan Pet Alliance (MPA) proudly announces the recipients of its 2022 awards and grants program for animal welfare advocates, shelters, rescues and nonprofit organizations in Michigan. This year’s theme was The New Normal, recognizing those who demonstrated creativity, innovation and passion to continue saving lives throughout the pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic forced our state’s animal shelters and rescues to reexamine how they operate,” said Joe Dobesh, MPA CEO. “For such a long time, animal welfare organizations have not had the time to pause and evaluate tasks and processes to decide if they could be done differently, better, more efficiently or, perhaps, not at all.

“The changes caused by the pandemic resulted in new perspectives that are leading the animal welfare industry closer to its ultimate mission of lifesaving. Sharing the results of our annual awards program can inspire others, spawn new ideas and further increase lifesaving across our state.”

This year’s award categories and recipients:

Community Outreach Program: \$3,000 grant

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance, Douglas, Michigan, is awarded a \$3,000 grant for its Let’s Fix It and pet housing programs for clients of domestic violence and homeless families.

Fundraising Program: \$2,000 grant

Paws for Life Rescue, Troy, Michigan, is awarded a \$2,000 grant for its Paws for Life Draws for Life fundraiser and donor thank you program.

On-Site Cat Training Grants: \$1,000 value to each

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society

Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter

Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year

Anne Grzywacz, Ph.D., CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, is awarded a \$100 gift card and the distinguished title of Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year for exemplifying every characteristic of the woman for whom the award is posthumously named.

Michigan Elected Official’s Friend of Homeless Animals Award

Representative Tommy Brann, Kent County, Michigan, is awarded the Homeless Animal Legislative Friend Award for introducing bills to protect the welfare of pets.

Best Friend to Dogs Award

Jennifer Clarkson, Bloomfield, Michigan, is awarded the Best Friend to Dogs Award. As the founder and executive director at Dog Aide Community Awareness, Clarkson has dedicated her adult life to improving the quality of care for dogs in need.

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**Best Friend to Cats Award**

Cheryl Phillips, Northville, Michigan, is awarded the Best Friend to Cats Award. As founder of Gigi's Foundation, Phillips has spent the last 10 years providing trap, neuter, vaccinate, return (TNVR) services to more than 1,150 cats in Michigan.

"Michigan Pet Alliance values the continuous efforts and hard work of our state's shelters and animal welfare advocates," said Deborah Schutt, MPA chairperson. "Education and advocacy are pillars of our mission to speak with one voice to improve lifesaving and standards of care for our state's pets. Through our annual awards program, we honor and reward those who adapted to change to save more lives."

Grant awards are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Humane Society of Macomb Foundation. Nominations and submissions are judged blindly by a committee of MPA members.

**Michigan Pet Alliance**

Michigan's only professional trade association of animal welfare organizations, the mission of Michigan Pet Alliance is to work in collaboration and to speak with a single voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education and advocacy. For more information, please visit [MichiganPet.org](http://MichiganPet.org) and follow @MichiganPetAlliance on Facebook.

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