



## MPA Awards 2022 Grants to Animal Welfare Organizations



Michigan Pet Alliance 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.

### 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.

## 2023 Michigan Pet Alliance One Voice Conference and Expo

Mark your calendar for the **2023 Michigan Pet Alliance One Voice Conference and Expo, September 20 – 22, 2023**, at the Sheraton Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Grand Rapids.

The Conference Planning Committee is interested in your input. Please take five minutes of your time, before Thursday, October 6, 2022, to fill out [this questionnaire](#) of potential topics and activities.

September							2023
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Capacity Crisis: Let's Talk About Solutions

[Register today](#) for our November webinar.

**What:** "Capacity Crisis: Let's Talk About Solutions"

**When:** November 14, 2022, noon to 1 p.m. Eastern

**Why:** Join MPA for a lunch-and-learn roundtable to discuss solutions to the "capacity crisis" being faced by animal shelters across the country. The panel will consist of industry experts sharing their strategic approach to managing this unprecedented challenge. Our experts will review current data to identify some of the causes of the crisis. Additionally, they will discuss tactics to successfully help animals find homes during the adoption slowdown and for keeping animal guests safe and happy for the extended stays many of them are experiencing in shelters. The panel will also answer live questions from the audience. All shelters are invited and encouraged to participate.

**Who:** Everyone is welcome. Admission is free.

**Where:** Live on Zoom. Can't attend? Register anyway and we will send you a link to the recording.

[Register](#)

**Panel:**

**Dr. Julie Levy**, Fran Marino Endowed Distinguished Professor of Shelter Medicine Education, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, University of Florida

Dr. Julie Levy is the Fran Marino Distinguished Professor of Shelter Education at the University of Florida, where she focuses on the health and welfare of animals in shelters, feline infectious diseases, and humane alternatives for cat population control. She founded

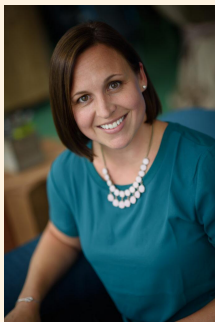


Operation Catnip, an nonprofit university-based community cat trap-neuter-return program that has spayed, neutered, and vaccinated more than 70,000 cats in Gainesville since 1998. In 2008, she joined Dr. Cynda Crawford to found Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, an educational and discovery initiative with a global impact on the care of homeless animals. In 2014, she joined Dr. Kate Hurley to launch the Million Cat Challenge, a shelter-based campaign that saved more than 3.5 million cats in shelters across North America. In 2022, she helped launch Maddie's Million pet Challenge to create transformative "communities in practice" that deliver access to care through humane, community-centric programming – inside and outside of the shelter – to achieve the right outcome for every pet.



**Tanya Hilgendorff**, President and CEO, Humane Society of Huron Valley and Vice-chair, Michigan Pet Alliance

Tanya Hilgendorff has been leading Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) for more than 10 years. With a Bachelor of Arts in political science from University of Michigan-Dearborn, a Master of Science in social work administration and public policy from Wayne State University and having served as executive director of Ozone House, Tanya's passion centers on protecting the vulnerable (human and non-human) and transformational leadership that helps failing nonprofit organizations achieve mission success. With an incredible team of staff, volunteers and supporters, HSHV has become a thriving, dynamic, multi-service, animal welfare organization with 100+ employees, 1,700+ volunteers and a 95% save rate, focused on rescuing, healing, saving and protecting. Tanya currently is the proud mom of several fabulous felines and a beautiful teenage human.



**Renee Wolfgramm**, Midwest Animal Welfare Director, 24Pet

Renee Wolfgramm is the Midwest Animal Welfare Director with 24Pet. After completing a degree in Zoology and working at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Renee shifted gears and started her career in the animal welfare industry at the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV), in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Renee held a variety of leadership positions at HSHV and later at Dane County Humane Society in Madison, Wisconsin. Renee now applies her customer service background and passion for data and technology to help shelters perform at peak efficiency, while positively impacting pets and pet parents.

**Moderator:**



**Gary Evans**, Clinic Director, Humane Society of Huron Valley

Gary Evans is an entrepreneurially-minded, operations-focused executive leader with a passion for creating teams and systems that make the world a better place. Having learned his trade in the thriving start-up tech environment in Ann Arbor, MI, he moved to the nonprofit world several years ago, and has dedicated his career to combining the efficiencies of modern business with the focus, passion and mission of nonprofits. He wakes up energized every day by the challenges and opportunities of helping both animals and people.

## **About Michigan Pet Alliance**

### **MPA Vision:**

To achieve the best quality of life for Michigan's companion animals.

**MPA Mission:**

To work in collaboration and 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:  
313-731-2244  
info@michiganpet.org  
michiganpet.org

Michigan Pet Alliance is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as defined by the IRS (EIN 20-0399162) and is a Guidestar Exchange Platinum Participant.



Contributions are tax deductible.



Connect with us

