

## Volunteer Opportunities: Clean and Feed

by Brenna Strickland

You may be wondering, with approximately 80 residents in the shelter on any given day, how is it possible to keep the shelter so clean, hospitable and ready for visitors? Well that's the job of the Clean and Feed Committee!

Twice a day, teams of volunteers work to ensure Good Mews is the best possible environment for our kitties. While stopping, of course, to engage in some pets and cuddles as the cats request them, these volunteers make sure our residents have all the essentials to be a happy cat – a clean, warm home and nutritious food.

The time working in the shelter flies by and keeps you active, so be aware that this committee does require some physical ability. Over the course of the shift, you may be bending over, lifting, vacuuming and mopping. Other duties include feeding cats, washing dishes, doing laundry and cleaning cages in intake and isolation for our recently acquired or recovering kitties.

The Clean and Feed teams get some of the most "hands-on" time with the cats – as each part of the shelter needs their attention. Whether you like working on a team or own your own, there is a part of Clean and Feed that is right for you!

Clean and Feed is open to volunteers ages eight and up, although minors under 18 must have a guardian on premises at all times. You must be willing and able to commit to a bi-weekly shift, either morning or evening. Our morning shifts generally begin between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., and evening shifts usually start between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. All shifts typically last about two and half to three hours.

Our Clean and Feed teams have a great time working together on behalf of the kitties, and we'd love for you to join us! If this sounds like a good fit to you, visit [www.goodmews.org](http://www.goodmews.org), and sign up for an upcoming volunteer orientation and express your interest in Clean and Feed. Hope to see you there!

For more information on volunteer committees, or to register for an upcoming volunteer orientation, visit [www.goodmews.com](http://www.goodmews.com).

## Alternative Donation Opportunities

by Ashe Johnson

We know the word "donate" doesn't tend to cause excitement in the same way that visiting with kittens or finally catching the red dot might. However, long gone are the days when donating was limited to simply writing a check or sending in kitty kibble. Today's donation options are a great way to help the shelter while simultaneously celebrating a loved one.

Some fun and unique ways to donate to Good Mews while also sharing the love with others include\*:

- New! Birthday E-cards: after you personalize one of four e-card designs, you will receive your card via email to be printed or sent via email to your honoree (\$20 minimum)

- Honor My Vet: your vet will receive a letter letting them know they have been honored by you and a decorative certificate suitable for framing (\$25 minimums)
- Memorials & Honorariums: along with an acknowledgement sent to both you and the recipient (if applicable), donations are listed in an upcoming edition of Purrs & Prattlings, a trimestral publication.
- Memorial Walkway Pavers: your 4"x8" paver includes three lines of customized text and will be displayed as part of our Memorial Walkway (\$100 flat fee)
- Holiday E-cards: yearly availability may vary, but typical holiday e-card offerings include Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and winter holidays (\$20 minimum; check out our social media pages and website for seasonal availability)

And if you prefer the good ol' fashioned tradition of monetary giving, we're incredibly grateful for those donations too! For more information on these donation options and more, head to [www.goodmews.org/give](http://www.goodmews.org/give).



## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Want to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Good Mews? The next scheduled orientations are:

Sept 11	Wednesday	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Oct 6	Sunday	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Nov 6	Wednesday	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Dec 1	Sunday	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

The meetings last about 90 minutes. To sign up, please call 770.499.2287 and press "4" to leave a message, or email at [volunteers@goodmews.org](mailto:volunteers@goodmews.org).

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- @goodmewscats
- facebook.com/GoodMewsAnimalFoundation
- @goodmews

## MISSION STATEMENT

Good Mews offers an alternative to traditional animal shelters in the metro Atlanta area by providing a no-kill, cage-free haven for homeless, abused or abandoned cats until placing them in permanent, loving homes. Good Mews promotes public awareness regarding the value of pets, animal welfare, pet overpopulation and quality human-animal companionship through education and outreach programs.

## SHELTER DIRECTIONS

Good Mews is located at 3805 Robinson Road in Marietta, one mile west of Johnson Ferry Road on Roswell Road (Highway 120) behind Rick's Farmers Market.

## ADOPTION HOURS

Shelter adoption hours are Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, except the first Sunday of the month.

For more information on adoptions, please call 770.499.2287 or email [adopt@goodmews.org](mailto:adopt@goodmews.org).

## RECENT ADOPTION TOTALS

February	23
March	58
April	46
May	32
June	44
July	44
2019 Total	251

## Volunteering: A Two-Way Street

by Sarah Poland

Volunteering isn't just about giving your time to a cause, it's also about what the cause can give back to you. What starts out as a simple day of service can turn into a special bonding experience for all involved...whether you have two legs or four!



The team from Voya Financial chose to volunteer with Good Mews for their annual day of service a few years ago, and they enjoyed it so much they keep coming back. Cindi Darden, a Voya employee, previously volunteered with Good Mews at our Sandtown location. She was excited to connect her company with our organization and also to connect team members with each other.

The Voya employees had a rewarding teambuilding experience – working together with people

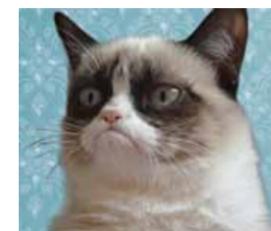
they otherwise might not have met – while completing valuable shelter projects like cleaning cat trees, unloading items for storage, working in the wildlife garden and assembling shelves for the surgical suite. During their most recent visit, the Voya team was

even lucky enough to meet our founder, Gloria Skeen Cornell, and learn how Good Mews came to be. Hanson Turner, a member of the Voya team, gets his "cat fix" at Good Mews. The most satisfying aspect of his volunteer experience is knowing the kitties have a clean environment as a result of his team's hard work.

Voya's service not only helps our shelter residents... it has even led to an adoption! One employee is now the proud parent of two kitten siblings who are happy and healthy in their forever home. Now that's what we call a win-win.

Thanks to Robbin Yeager for her service to Good Mews for the last 20 years. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

## RIP Grumpy Cat



Seven-year-old Tardar Sauce was better known to the world as Grumpy Cat.

You left us much too soon, Grumpy, and we will long remember you and the thousands of memes your fans—and your unforgettable face—generated.

NAME	LOCATION	PHONE
Dr. Lynn Bahr	---	---
Dr. Agda Barreirinhas	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Lindsay Boozer	Cobb Veterinary Internal Medicine	678.354.7126
Dr. Jennifer Covington	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. James Davis	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Jerry Diaz	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. David Filer	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Drs. Flower, Hill-Reilly, & Zelman	Shallowford Animal Hospital	770.926.0926
Dr. Michael Friedlander	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Christina Fugedy	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. Lori German	Pets Premier Mobile Veterinary Clinic	678.800.2260
Dr. Tyler Huhman	Tritt Animal Hospital	770.992.8787
Dr. Judy Johnson	---	---
Dr. Tracey King	Animal Eye Specialists	770.427.3199
Dr. Patricia Lane	---	---
Dr. John Lewis	Lewis Veterinary Services (mobile service)	770.366.3880
Dr. Jeffrey Little	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Mary Matthews	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Angela Mees	Atlanta Veterinary Dental Services	770.552.8777
Dr. Michelle Mills	Mills Animal Hospital	770.903.5995
Dr. Thomas Noone	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Jennifer Palmer	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Kelly Qualls	Cedarcrest Animal Hospital	770.544.0580
Dr. Michael S. Ray	The Cat Clinic of Roswell	770.552.7877
Dr. Marcus Smith	Chattahoochee Animal Clinic	770.993.6329
Dr. Kahrima Wagner	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Allison Wansky	Allatoona Animal Hospital	678.445.1111
Dr. Keri Webster	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Baily Cave Wood	Trickum Ridge Animal Hospital	770.516.1111

Good Mews benefits from Metro Atlanta veterinarians who graciously donate their time and services to provide quality medical care for our residents. We are always in need of additional vets and vet techs. Contact the Shelter Manager at 770-499-CATS if you can make a little time to help.

# calendar

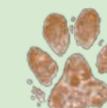
- California Pizza Kitchen Percentage Night**  
*Wednesday, September 18, CPK at Pine Straw, Marietta*
- Top Dog Festival**  
*Sunday, September 22, 1 pm-5 pm, Kennesaw*
- Woofstock**  
*Saturday, September 28-Sunday, September 29, Smyrna*
- Strut Your Mutt**  
*Saturday, October 5, 9 am-12 pm, Grant Park*
- Walk & Roll for Rescue**  
*Sunday, October 6, Roswell*
- Atlanta Pride Festival**  
*Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13, Piedmont Park*
- Fall Jonquil Festival**  
*Saturday & Sunday, October 26 & 27, Smyrna*
- Cotton States Cat Show**  
*Saturday & Sunday, November 2 & 3, Infinite Energy Center*
- VegFest**  
*Saturday, November 9, Infinite Energy Center at 10 am*
- Good Mews' Annual Gala & Auction: A Night in Purris**  
*Saturday, November 9, Olde Towne Athletic Club*
- Animal Emergency Sheltering Course**  
*Saturday, November 16, 8 am-6 pm, Mansour Conference Ctr.*

Purrs & Prattlings is published by Good Mews Animal Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, no-kill, cage-free shelter for cats.

## Future Events

### Additional Info Coming Soon

- Strut Your Mutt Car Wash
- Annual Holiday Market
- Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser
- Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping Fundraiser



Please check our website to confirm dates, times and location.

### Ongoing at Good Mews

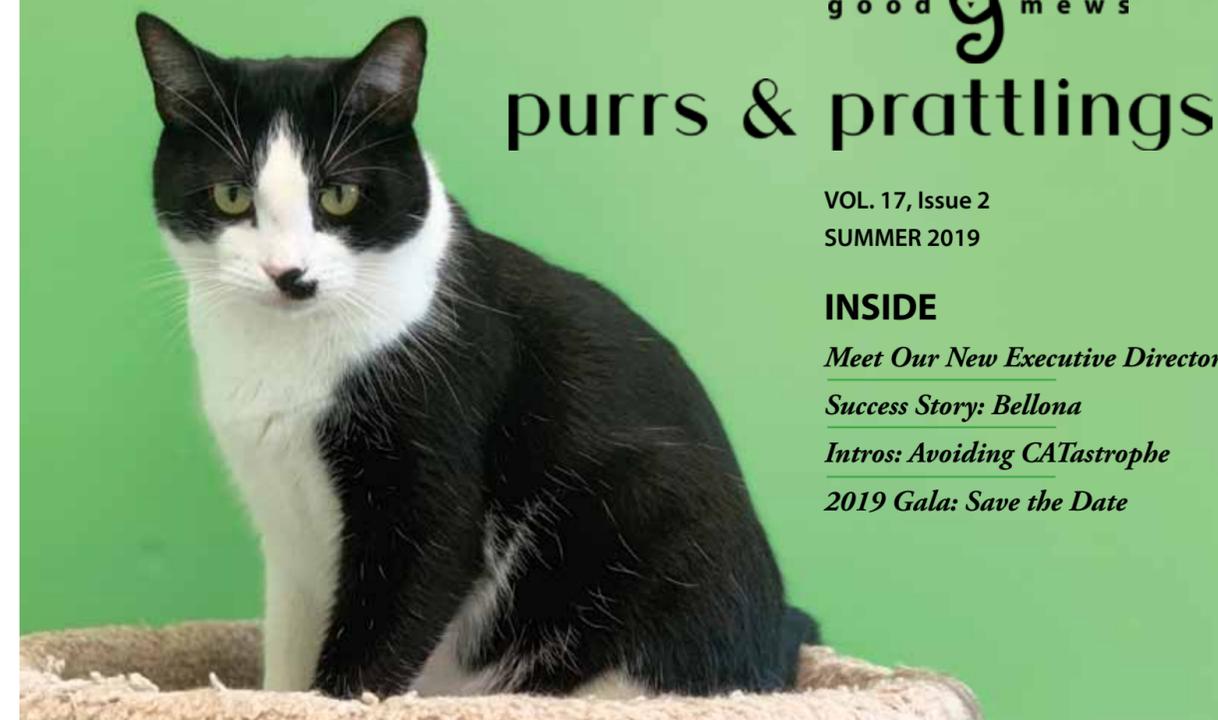
- Yoga with Cats
- Reading to Cats
- Sound Journey Classes
- Spay & Neuter Clinics

## Yoga with Cats

Yoga with Cats and Reading to Cats are scheduled several times a month. Advanced registration is necessary because attendance is limited. Please check the Good Mews website for exact dates and times.



## Reading to Cats



good mews

purrs & prattlings

VOL. 17, Issue 2  
SUMMER 2019

## INSIDE

*Meet Our New Executive Director*

*Success Story: Bellona*

*Intros: Avoiding CATastrophe*

*2019 Gala: Save the Date*



## From the Shelter Manager

Season Greetings to you and yours! You might be saying, "Kendra, it's not time for the holiday season yet!" That's where you are wrong. We are knee deep in the most wonderful time of the year: KITTEN SEASON! As much as you love coming to the

shelter and seeing all the adorable babies available for adoption, there are a lot of moving parts behind the scenes to get these sweet kittens ready for their forever homes!

The most important part of many of our kitten residents' journey is their time spent in a foster home. Young kittens, typically under eight weeks, go straight to foster care upon arrival. The main reason for this is they are extremely vulnerable at this age. Most kittens that come to Good Mews are pulled from area animal control facilities. With little to no immune system until a full course of vaccines, they are susceptible to disease and often fail to thrive in those environments despite the best intentions of the animal control staff. Commonly, kittens come to us emaciated with respiratory infections, intestinal parasites and/or severely infected eyes. What might be a minor issue for an adult cat, can quickly become a life or death issue as we help these babies overcome such hurdles. Our foster parents lend a hand by

it's still very important for their human caretaker to make sure babies are nursing and reaching appropriate milestones as they grow. Many pregnant and nursing moms are also experiencing their first time living inside while going through this experience. It's just as important to help the mom learn to trust humans and become properly socialized during this time.

Some newborns come to us without a mom but are still nursing. These little ones are the most critical, needing around-the-clock care, including bottle feeding, stimulating to go to the bathroom and monitoring weight gain. Due to the time commitment, it's harder to find volunteers willing and able to take on bottle babies. However, training for existing and future foster parents is in the works so that we can better provide for these fragile kittens.

Kittens aren't they only ones that need a foster home in lieu of residing at the shelter. We try to move acute or chronically ill cats to foster homes either for recovery, or in some cases, for hospice care. On occasion, we also move unsocialized cats to foster homes to

Casey, a senior Good Mews cat now living in a foster home for continuing dental care and thriving



Minah: a kitten found inside a car engine with eye issues and URI infection and after treatment



Axl: a kitten rescued from Animal Control with major eye issues and URI, before and after



providing delicious groceries, administering medications and shuttling back and forth from check-ups at the shelter!

Each year, we also have several pregnant moms that come to us on the verge of giving birth. These cats are usually not more than a year or two old themselves. Our foster homes give them a safe refuge to deliver, nurse and wean their kittens. Luckily, mama cats tend to do much of the work on their own, but



Clementine & her five babies: born in foster care and photographed as newborns and as healthy kittens

Thank you all for your support! "Merry Kitten Season to all and to all a good night!" Sincerely,

*Kendra Ledlow*

Kendra Ledlow  
Shelter Manager



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*Purrs & Prattlings* welcomes letters and pictures from readers. All letters and pictures become the property of *Purrs & Prattlings*.

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Feline Care Technicians - Heather Hart and Nikki Rizzi

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For more information about *Purrs & Prattlings*, our shelter, how to adopt, how to contribute, upcoming fundraisers, address changes or other corrections, please contact us via the following:

Good Mews Animal Foundation  
3805 Robinson Road  
Marietta, GA 30068

Phone: 770.499.CATS (2287)  
Web site: [www.goodmews.org](http://www.goodmews.org)  
Email: [info@goodmews.org](mailto:info@goodmews.org)

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## ON THE COVER Dasha



Looking for a handsome, laid-back cat who loves a good chin scratch? One-year-old Dasha may be your man! Having bonded in foster care, Dasha and his best bud Francis are part of our Buddy Program and must be adopted together.

by Sandra Song

Bellona's life has been graced with unexpected, serendipitous turns that transformed what could have been a tragic end into a truly happy ending.

The first of these took place when Good Mews learned of two newborn kittens found hidden in a Pike Nurseries truck. Good Mews volunteers rushed to rescue the kittens, as a severe summer storm was brewing. They found them and rescued them easily, but the mother cat, who had lived a feral life, was terribly frightened and not to be approached. They set up a trap and hoped for the best. The next day, they learned that the mother cat was safely in the trap and was reunited with her babies. They were placed in a foster home until the kittens were weaned and quickly adopted.

The mother cat was named Bellona by her Good Mews caregivers. Because she had lived a feral life, she was difficult to approach, much less touch; initially if approached, she would hiss and swat. Bellona clearly preferred the company of other cats and quickly bonded with a male cat named Bud. They were together everywhere, cuddling and grooming each other. The Good Mews team came to refer to Bud as her "boyfriend."

Over the eight years that Bellona spent as a resident of Good Mews, she spent almost all of her time at the side of her beloved Bud. But because the Good Mews team patiently worked with her to gain her trust, she also slowly came to cautiously accept her human friends. Never a lap cat, she eventually enjoyed being respectfully patted. Her life at Good Mews came to a happy equilibrium with Bud and her human caregivers.

Bud had many health issues and was never able to find a forever home. But as with all the feline residents of Good Mews, temporary or permanent, he was well loved and cared for by the staff and volunteers. Because Bellona was so bonded to Bud, she

## Success Story: Bellona



Top: Bellona enjoying the warmth of the fireplace  
Bottom: Bellona (right) with her new squeeze, Little Dude



was not shown to potential adopters either because Good Mews didn't have the heart to separate them.

Last year, Bud passed away, and Bellona was lost and heartbroken. The staff tried everything to let her know she was not alone but could never replace the spot Bud held in her heart. Because of her years of socialization, the Good Mews team decided it was time to try to find her a forever home.

She needed a family that could work patiently with her and her adaptation into another environment. The ultimate hope was that she could find another feline soulmate to fill the void that Bud left.

Serendipity struck for the second time in Bellona's life. She found her perfect forever home with Kathleen Mayfield this year. Kathleen had two cats for many years. This year her 17-year-old cat passed away, leaving her with a sad and lonely cat named Little Dude. Kathleen immediately arranged to buy a Siberian cat from a breeder to help fill the void. Subsequently, she heard Bellona's story and it tugged at her heart. She decided that "three's company" and adopted her.

Kathleen understood that the transition would be difficult for Bellona, so she gave her her own room with a litterbox and food. For the first two weeks, Bellona, now nicknamed "Miss B," pretty much stayed under the bed. Slowly, however, she ventured out and discovered Little Dude and Lynna, aka "Meat Ball." Both were respectful to Miss B and instinctively allowed her to approach them. By the end of the third week, Miss B was firmly bonded to Little Dude and has remained at his side ever since. Wherever he goes, she follows, and they groom each other as they relax, side by side. She has found her second love!

Miss B is still not a lap cat but is happy to sit beside Kathleen and allow her to pet her. Her favorite place – besides by Little Dude, of course – is in front of the fireplace where Kathleen comments "She looks so happy and regal, like the queen of the house. I guess at this point, that is indeed what she is!"

## Social-ize with Good Mews



We love seeing your photos on social! Want a chance to be featured in the next *Purrs & Prattlings*? Tag your photo on Instagram with #GoodMewsCats or share on our Facebook Page!



## Good Mews Welcomes New Executive Director

by Elizabeth Finch

We are pleased to announce that our thoughtful search for a talented professional to help lead Good Mews into our next stage of growth has culminated in the hiring of Elizabeth Berman. Liz comes to us with more than 20 years experience in marketing and development. Her most recent position was community development manager with a nonprofit in the educational field, but she has held previous positions in both the nonprofit and corporate sectors and brings with her a wealth of knowledge in marketing strategies, event planning, fundraising and relationship development.

The Good Mews Board of Directors is committed to continuing the upward growth of the organization. Identifying and bringing on a qualified professional



has been an important focus and is a crucial step in fulfilling this commitment. Liz understands what a unique and special place Good Mews is and recognizes that since 1988, we have been continually setting the example for others. She says, "I am looking forward to expanding the Good Mews name throughout the metro-Atlanta area and growing the mission that has been in place the past 30 years."

Liz's hobbies include outdoor activities, spending time with family and cuddling cats. She lives in Marietta with her native-Atlantan husband and their two beautiful daughters.

We look forward to working with Liz and the ideas and insights she will bring to Good Mews.

Announcing our 2019 Gala & Auction

# A Night in Purris

Saturday, November 9th at  
Olde Towne Athletic Club  
Marietta, GA

We are seeking donations for the live and silent auctions. We invite you (or your business) to support our worthy cause with an item or gift certificate for attendees to bid on. Event sponsorships are also available.

Please email [auction@goodmews.org](mailto:auction@goodmews.org) for more info about donation and sponsorship opportunities.

Tickets available at [goodmews.org](http://goodmews.org)

## When Fluffy Meets Fluffy

by Chelsie Butler

When my beloved cat started to age and develop various illnesses later on in his life, I didn't know if it would be a good idea to bring another pet into my household. I was worried the stress on him would be too much, and that was probably the best decision for that situation.

But there are other scenarios when it is okay to introduce a new cat to one who already lives with you. We all know there is no shortage of great kitties needing great homes, but there are some important things you need to consider for all pets.

We spoke with Ingrid Johnson, a certified cat behavior consultant with Atlanta-based Fundamentally Feline, to get a professional view into the topic.

"One of the single-most stressful things you can do to your cats is introduce new ones to the household," she explained. "On that note, it is absolutely imperative that humans make adoption choices that will correlate nicely with their existing cats."

A kitten may not be the best choice for a senior cat – their activity levels are radically different – but bringing in another cat who is similar in age would be a better choice. Johnson says this is the case if the senior cat already in your house has lived with previous cats.

"I encourage families to not make an impulse adoption decision and instead be sure to adopt cats that will have a greater likelihood of living in harmony together," she added. "This often means adopting in pairs, especially kittens."

There are also some things cat owners do not even think about when deciding whether or not to add to their cat stash. This includes wanting things to happen too fast and not going at the cats' pace.

"Humans tend to introduce cats too quickly and then try to backpedal and fix it, which is a lot more challenging than just doing it right the first time," said Johnson. "Once they have started to develop a negative association with one another and have

learned to fear each other, it makes the whole process much more difficult."

She also highly recommends having things like food and water bowls and litter boxes for each cat so they are not having to share. She suggests placing



those items in separate locations, as forcing them to line up next to other to eat can be very stressful.

"Spread things out!" says Johnson. "Successful avoidance equals peaceful coexistence."

As I have learned from several years of volunteering with adoptable cats, they can and do acclimate to one another – sometimes they even form close kitty bonds. It is important for us to keep their needs in mind at all times but especially when introducing a new cat to the household.

Want to learn more from Ingrid Johnson? Head to her website: [www.fundamentallyfeline.com](http://www.fundamentallyfeline.com).

