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**Newsletter**

**Ronald Stottlemeyer**  
Articles

*“To err is human,  
to forgive, canine!”*

— Anonymous

**Our Mission**

Every once in a while it's good for a charitable foundation to define its mission both to inform the community it serves and to maintain the integrity of its own goals. Thus, we're sharing our reflections on what kind of work we do and what we are trying to achieve in the greater Helena community.

First, the Pad for Paws Foundation is a group of Helenans committed to enhancing the welfare of domestic animals in our community. Since the number of these animals is large and their needs for food, medical treatment, and adequate shelter frequently exceed the ability of their owners to provide for them, we have joined other Helenans and animal-welfare organizations to meet these animals' needs for decent lives.

As board members we donate our time and services freely to maximize the good each dollar contributed may have in these animals' lives. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization, we are supported entirely by private contributions and grants. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Over the years we have committed ourselves to providing a variety of much-needed services to our community's animals. Some of our ongoing and planned projects include the following:

- Paws Pantry, a food bank to provide healthy food to financially stressed owners
- Assistance to other animal-welfare groups, such as the Helena Area Friends of Pets, which organizes spay and neutering clinics,
- Coordination of charitable giving and educational outreach programs with Helena's Foundation for Animals,
- Support for elderly, low-income, and special needs people, and other pet owners who require assistance in meeting their pets' basic needs,
- Help in constructing Paws Park, a landscaped, communal dog park where owners may safely exercise their dogs and develop their pets' social skills, and
- Paws Pads, a program to provide kennels and dog houses to owners unable to afford outdoor shelter for their dogs.



*A "scooping party" to repackage pet food for delivery to needy dogs and cats*

**Paws Up for Mikaela Latka**

We want to salute Girl Scout Mikaela Latka for stepping up to help Helena's many needy dogs and cats. She sponsored the Powder Puff Derby held at the Rossiter Elementary School Gym on February 22 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. About 67 parents and friends came and participated in the evening's activities.

Mikaela's and her friends' hard work yielded over \$300 in donations, 100 lbs. of pet food, and dozens of treats and pet toys as well.

*Pad for Paws thanks everyone who attended the Derby and remembered these pets with their donations.*





## Wine Tasting at Island Liquors a Great Success!



*Pad for Paws President Garry Pistoria and Laura Fix, Owner of Island Liquors, on hand to greet guests*

On April 3rd, Pad for Paws teamed up with Laura Fix at Island Liquors once again to host a wine-tasting party that is well on the way to becoming a tradition in Helena each spring.

Guests tasted a dozen different red and white wines from around the world. At the same time, caterer Melissa O'Hare provided food that perfectly complemented the wine for the festive occasion. Guests were delighted to sample shrimp, cold cuts, a variety of foreign and domestic cheeses, French bread, and crackers. They topped off their sampling with delicious cup cakes, gourmet brownies, and such delicacies as mango and key lime fudge, generously donated by Donna Sirucek of Guilty Pleasures.

Midway through the event, a drawing was held for three prizes. The first prizewinner received a case of the wines featured during the evening. Second prize was a 3-liter Jeroboam bottle of Melville Chardonnay, and for third prize, the lucky guest was surprised with a wine basket with several wines, a wine-bottle holder, a corkscrew, and other wine accessories.

Ticket sales, raffle tickets, and generous donations generated enough funds to meet the needs of hungry dogs and cats around Helena for several months. We are very grateful to Laura Fix and her staff and all the pet lovers around Helena who turned out to support this worthy cause. Their caring inspires us in everything we do to enhance the lives of countless undernourished cats and dogs in our community.

## Pad for Paws Want Ad

**Seamstress Wanted.** If you can sew a straight line and add some Velcro, your talents are needed to sew dog bed for pooches who need a soft bed to lay their heads on. All materials are provided. Please call Pad for Paws at 442-7373 to volunteer.

## Memorial Donations

*Pad for Paws thanks the generous people who have kindly remembered beloved friends and pets with memorial donations.*

### Donors

Nancy Jardon  
Pam Fleisner  
William and Jan Brown  
Mike Blessinger  
Kathy Carriere  
Mark and Constance Lere  
Nancy Kraft  
Mike Blessinger  
Garry and Debbe Pistoria  
Geri Semmens  
Helen Rietz  
Helen Rietz  
Gary and Denise Smigaj  
Patricia Connor and Linn Johnson  
Esther Fuehrer  
Donald Jacques

Robert and Nancy Jardon  
Pam Fleisner  
Nancy Kraft  
Dick Morgan  
Bob and Cheryl Pesta  
Jennifer O'Loughlin  
Linda and Douglas Graham  
Wayne and Kathy Carriere  
Pam Tyree  
Dorsch Family  
Jean Semler  
Dick Morgan

### Memorials/Honorariums

Debbe Pistoria's beloved cat Scout  
My Mom Pat Jewell, a true animal lover  
Jim Hill  
My cat Tigger  
Debbe Pistoria's kitty Scout  
Nancy Kraft's great companion Fergus  
"Gracie" owned by Mike Blessinger  
My lovely dog Gracie  
Mike Blessinger's dog Gracie  
My brother's wonderful dog Maggie  
My good friend Carol Orsag Madigan, who had a passion for cats  
My beloved cat Seven  
Our dog Kadee  
Helen Rietz's cat Seven  
Jeanette Richard's dog Abby, and Billie Jean Hill's cat  
"Tommy" Stottlemeyer, who brought such joy to Ron and Joan  
and all who knew him  
"Tommy" Stottlemeyer, a cherished member of Ron and Joan's family  
Pat Jewell  
Nancy Oliveira's dog Divot  
Reece, beloved companion of Norma Tirrell and Gordon Bennett  
Our dog Teddy  
Kevin O'Loughlin  
Kay Morgan  
Kerry and Gail Brown's lab Sarah  
Janet and Hal Harper's dog Kiri and cat Kittiley  
Siyeh, beloved pet of Roger Semler and Eileen Gallagher  
Siyeh, beloved pet of Roger Semler and Eileen Gallagher  
"Bernie", beloved dog of the Melcher family





## Paws Pantry Update

We're happy to announce another milestone for Paws Pantry. As of May 31, 2013, we've collected 273,404 lbs. of dog and cat food. That's an increase of 73,404 lbs. in a little over a year (since April 2012)! Equally important, out of those 273,404 lbs., we have donated a total of 267,051 to hungry animals. We're happy about being able to donate much-needed food this efficiently.

A close look at the dog/cat food "in" versus the dog/cat food "out" numbers for May tells how closely we operate to get as much food to the animals as possible:

<u>Dog/Cat Food "In"</u>		<u>Dog/Cat Food "Out"</u>
Dog	2,454 lbs.	Dog 2,325 lbs.
Cat	1,990 lbs.	Cat 1,300 lbs.

These figures likewise suggest how much we rely on our supporters' help to get the food to the needy dogs and cats around Helena. Our



*A volunteer preparing crates of food for delivery.*

hats are off to thank Safeway, Murdochs, Albertsons and PETCO, who have made their stores available for our pet food drives. We also want to thank all of you who have made generous donations and our loyal volunteers who worked on food drives.

Also, in case you're wondering exactly where the food goes, here's a list of the various organizations and individuals who receive the pet food since we started the Paws Pantry program:

Helena Food Share — 118,799 lbs.  
Needy People — 148,252 lbs.  
Total — 267,051 lbs.

If you would like to help us meet the food needs of undernourished dogs and cats, please join local businesses and other Helenans in making a generous donation.

## Chloe's Story

Most families enjoy summer camping. The fishing, boating, and just spending time under the stars really brings a sense of togetherness. Tom and his family were enjoying one such weekend when he noticed a dog behind a large bush watching them intently. He offered the dog some food, but she came only close enough to grab the food and return to the bush. The family was shocked at how skinny and dirty the dog was. Worst of all, it appeared to have only three legs. Since they had just rescued their dog a year ago, they weren't ready to add a second canine member to the family.

The weekend went fast, and while they were packing up to go home, all of them were haunted by the thought of what would happen to this skinny little dog with three legs if they left her in that remote camping spot. So that night they put a leash around her neck and, to their relief, she trotted happily to the camper and spent the night with them. Once they got home, they kept her in a kennel, not knowing what her true temperament might be or if she had been given her rabies vaccination.

Tom knew a vet appointment needed to be their first stop, so he called Pad For Paws and explained the family's situation. Since he had just started his new job and the family was only now getting back on their feet, they could only keep the dog until a suitable home was found for her. He feared they could not afford all the vet bills this poor little dog would undoubtedly have. But Tom offered to partner with Pad For Paws and be a foster home for her until a permanent home could be found. The PFP volunteer could tell Tom and his family truly cared about this little dog and wanted a happy ending for her.

The next morning a volunteer from Pad For Paws met with Tom and "Chloe" at the vet. After a very thorough exam, de-worming, necessary shots and antibiotics, Chloe was given the OK to go home and get healthy. After several weeks of TLC from the children and a much-needed grooming, compliments of Pad For Paws, the little German Shepherd's fur became soft and shiny. She had a very sweet temperament and followed the youngest child everywhere, making a perfect playmate for her.

Fortunately for Chloe, when the time came to find her a home, the family decided that she had already found one! Chloe had found a home filled with love and tons of attention. She would never be alone and scared again. Pad For Paws continued to pay for follow-up vet care and Chloe's specialty food until the family got caught up on bills and were completely able to take care of both dogs. Chloe bonded so closely with the family that she even sleeps in the little girl's room, and the two have become inseparable.

It's wonderful endings like this that makes Pad for Paws' involvement with needy animals so fulfilling!

