

## Santa Paws is Coming to Town! Pet photos to be snapped at shelter

It's that time again! Pet photos with Santa will be taken from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. the first three Saturdays in December at the Belleville Area Humane Society, located at 1301 South 11th Street in Belleville. Get your pet's photo taken alone or with other four-legged or two-legged family members. Photos cost \$10 and include a frame. All proceeds will benefit the animals at BAHS. Once again, the festive portraits will be shot by talented shelter volunteer Mike Bevington. See you there!



Return Service Requested

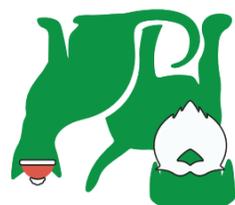
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BELLEVILLE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

**BAHS**



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Belleville, IL  
Permit No. 646



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Katie Kettler  
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Kurt Blaes  
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### **Dearest Friends of the Belleville Area Humane Society,**

What an exciting year 2016 has been! Happily busy is the phrase that comes to mind. Busy finding forever homes for hundreds of dogs and cats in our community. Busy caring for our four-legged wards and preparing them for success in their new homes. And busy welcoming new people on board to make it all happen! This year we welcomed Executive Director Katie Nelson to our staff. Guided by her expertise and intelligence, a new BAHS website has been created and we have successfully revamped our volunteer program.

Thanks to training offered through Nestle Purina, a new children's activities program has also been developed. In today's often violent world, compassion for animals is essential. One needs only watch grade-schoolers' faces light up as they read to shelter dogs to know we are making a difference!

The Belleville Area Humane Society has been serving our community for over 55 years. During that time, we have helped spay and neuter hundreds of dogs and cats to curb the animal overpopulation problem. And we have matched thousands of dogs and cats with the forever homes they so deserve.

A non-profit organization, we rely solely on the generosity of our community to keep our doors open.

#### **Some things to think about:**

- BAHS is 100% donor funded, we receive no tax dollars of any kind to help us operate.
- BAHS spends more than a half million dollars a year to keep our doors open and help our community animals. We rely solely on the generosity of our community for these funds.
- \$425 is the average amount it costs Belleville Area Humane Society to house, feed, medically treat and spay or neuter animals in our care until they find their forever loving homes.
- Consider volunteering at our facility. It is so much fun and so rewarding. Volunteers are key to socializing our animals.
- Join in on the fun by attending our events throughout the year!

Please consider BAHS when looking for a new pet. You wouldn't believe how many times we hear, "Our new pet is the smartest, most well-behaved, loving animal I've ever met! How could anyone give this animal up?" People's lives change because of jobs, health, marital status, financial situations, etc. We at BAHS cannot help that, but we can give these homeless animals safe, loving shelter until they find a home.

**Sincerely,**  
**Susan Skinner**  
**Belleville Area Humane Society Board President**

## Playful Prudence

# Special dog needs special someone



By Michelle Meehan Schrader



“Stand back!” warns BAHS adoption counselor Kurt Blaes as he ushers a muscular 58-pound, fawn pit bull mix into the room. “No one gets between Prudence and her squeak toys.”

As if on cue, Prudence bounds over to a nearby toy bin, noses it open and selects a squeaky, plastic fish.

“She’s addicted to toys,” Blaes explains as Prudence flips the fish in the air. “Any time she can, she’ll steal one to take on her walk.”

She’ll also steal a hug from Blaes, whom she has known since coming to the shelter almost a year ago.

“During that time, she was adopted and came back. The

people who returned her said she was too much for their small child. She’s a big girl and she gets excited. She just needs someone who can handle her. With the right person, she’ll do great.”

That person shouldn’t have other pets, since Prudence isn’t a big fan of other dogs or cats.

“But she’s awesome with people,” Blaes says, rubbing her head. “During volunteer orientation, I use her to demonstrate how to take a dog in and out of the kennel. I pick her up and put her in the ‘Pit Bull/Baby hold.’”

BAHS Director Katie Nelson recently took Prudence to the mall to have her photo taken with Santa.

“She did really well,” Nelson said. “Everyone commented how pretty she is.”

Selected from St. Clair Animal Control, 2-year-old Prudence did not come with a written history. Blaes suspects she may have been used for breeding. Now spayed, her breeding days are over.

“We’re going to be very careful who adopts her,” he said.

“She just needs someone special to give her a chance.”

**Editor’s Note:** Christmas came early for Prudence!

Just before press time, this special girl was adopted by Danny Mosley of O’Fallon. A pampered only dog, she continues to go through squeak toys like nobody’s business.

“She holds her toys down with her paws and pops the squeaker right out,” said Danny, who renamed the pit bull Cadence, Cady for short. “She sleeps in bed with me and we cuddle on the couch. I’m always reassuring her that everything is cool. I say, ‘Don’t worry. You’re not going anywhere.’”



**Danny Mosley & Prudence**

## Tinkerbelle to the rescue!

# Senior dog brings magic to owner’s life



By Michelle Meehan Schrader

BAHS volunteer Katie Faltus didn’t expect to fall in love. She just wanted quiet time to heal, to reflect on life, to walk a dog. But when an elderly, vision-impaired Chihuahua mix named Tinkerbelle showed up at a shelter adoption event? Well, her emotions spiraled out of control.

“I was instantly drawn to her,” remembered Katie, who recently relocated to Belleville from Los Angeles. “When it was time to go – to leave her – I got in my car and I just started crying.”

The previous months had been difficult for Katie after her mother, Shari, succumbed to cancer in July. An animal lover, she began volunteering at BAHS as a form of self-therapy. Then Tinkerbelle showed up and something magical happened.

“She is such a comfort to me,” said Katie, as the tiny, long-haired dog laid cozily in her lap. “The shelter named her Tinkerbelle. I took that as a sign. I love Disney. My mother and I both loved Peter Pan. It was like, ‘This is Tinkerbelle. She’s here to rescue you.’”

But first you must rescue her.

“I’m living at my father’s house right now,” Katie explained. “So I had to get my dad’s OK to adopt her. I said, ‘Dad, you have to meet this dog. She breathed life into me.’ He said, ‘Sleep on it a day or two and see if you feel the same way.’”

Two days later, with her father’s blessing, Katie returned to the shelter – only to find out someone else had applied to adopt Tinkerbelle.

“I was distraught when the shelter employees told me. When the people changed their minds, it was the best day ever.”

Blind in one eye due to a previous injury, little Tinkerbelle was selected from St. Clair Animal Control by BAHS. Estimated to be between 9 and 10 years old, she is a senior dog with an amazing life ahead of her.

“I never pictured myself with a senior dog,” Katie said. “But now I can’t picture my life without her. I know my mother would have loved her too. She loved all animals. She donated to animal shelters on a regular basis.”

Shari Faltus’s generosity continues to this day. At the family’s request, memorials to BAHS were made in her memory. The charitable donations - which totaled approximately \$2,000 - will be used to help renovate the shelter’s cat house. The Faltus family has pledged \$18,000 and the shelter is accepting donations to raise the remaining \$15,000 required to update the cat enclosures.

“My mom was a lifelong cat lover,” Katie said, noting her mother’s “babies” were rescued cats named Aiden and Joey. “The new cat house will give the shelter cats a little better quality of life till they find forever homes. I just know this would have made my mom happy.”



**Katie Faltus & Tinkerbelle**

## A way to give back

# BAHS welcomes first member to the fold



**Jeff Kopis, Lisa Anglin-Kopis and BAHS Alumna Izzy**

Jeff Kopis had no idea he was about to become part of BAHS history when he clicked on our website in October.

"I was looking to see if I could make a monthly donation," said the Belleville attorney, whose beloved dog, Izzy, and cats Simi and Bandit all came from our shelter. "I saw there was a way to become a member and I thought, 'That's a great idea.'"

So great, in fact, that Jeff signed up to become the first member of our new membership drive. His \$600 Labrador-level pledge will make a difference in the lives of our four-legged residents.

"Donating to the shelter is not something you think about all the time," said Jeff, whose wife, financial advisor Lisa Anglin-Kopis, is also an animal lover. "You might think, 'Oh, I'll do it.' But then you never get around to it. I like the idea of a membership. I want to get a notice the next year that my membership dues are coming up."

If you would like to make the difference in the life of a shelter animal, please follow in Jeff's footsteps and consider becoming a member to BAHS. Your impactful gift with aid with heartworm treatment, microchip identification, vaccination, spay/neuter and more.

For more information, please visit [bahspet.org](http://bahspet.org).

## Volunteer opportunities abound at BAHS

Looking for an extremely rewarding, educational and fun experience? You need look no further than BAHS. Every day, shelter volunteers are needed to walk dogs, socialize cats, bathe animals and give our four-legged wards the love and attention they deserve.

Not a hands-on animal person? Well, the shelter also needs help with cleaning and laundry, as well as site maintenance and yard work.

There is a front desk to be manned and lots of data to be entered. Not to mention our educational outreach programs and our fund-raising events which require planning and execution.

Are you an Eagle Scout looking for a service project? We will welcome you with open arms!

If you have a big heart and time to spare time, please consider becoming part of our BAHS Volunteer Family. Just visit [bahspets.org/volunteer](http://bahspets.org/volunteer) to find out more.



## Carol's Corner

Carol's Corner is named for former BAHS president Carol Lesko, who has devoted years to bettering the lives of animals. We honor people who really go the extra mile for our shelter in this column.

# Volunteer always puts best foot forward

**By Michelle Meehan Schrader**

On a crisp fall afternoon, BAHS volunteer Jean Streng shows up at the shelter to do what she does best: play with cats, walk dogs and make pleasant conversation with passersby. Never mind an ingrown toenail is throbbing on the end of her foot. The woman is a trooper and she is here to make things better.

"I love helping the animals," explained Jean, crinkling her expressive hazel eyes. "Oh, I always have favorites. But I love them all. When one leaves, I'm like, 'Oh, no! Venus is gone!' Then I stop and think, 'But she's going somewhere good. She got a good home.' You can't be sad about that."

For the past year, this delightful grandmother from Belleville has volunteered at BAHS on a weekly basis. Her routine is simple: Pet a cat. Walk a dog. Repeat the process as many times as you can. Today's sore toe may put a damper on the walking part. But the petting part? She's got that down.

"She's just a great volunteer," explained shelter employee Beverly Mikel. "She's so devoted. We really appreciate all she does."

And Jean appreciates the chance to make a difference.

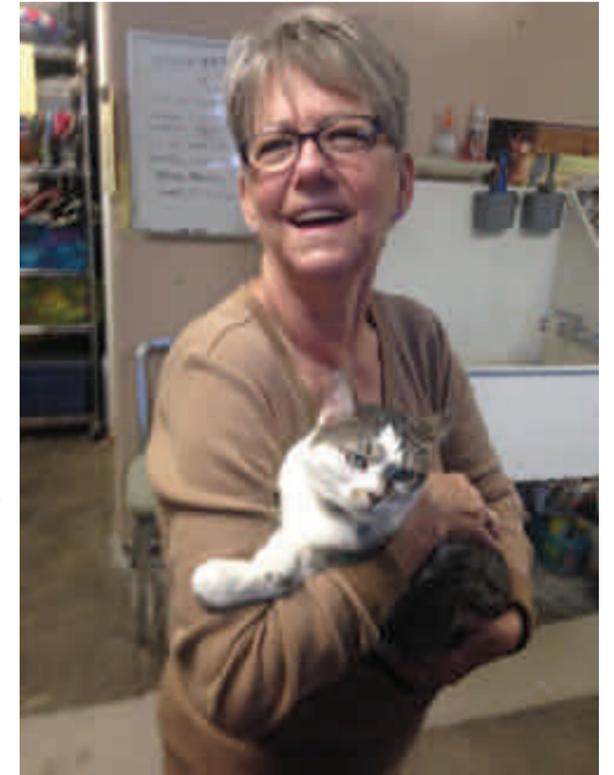
"You know, I didn't used to like cats," she admitted, snuggling a grey-and-white feline named Hootie. "When I was a girl, my aunt used to have a really mean one. But then we had mice, and my husband said, 'I think we need to get a cat.' We brought one home and I petted him until we got used to each other. That was the best cat ever."

And the first of many cats to come.

"My husband is an animal lover too," Jean said. "When you lose a pet, it's like losing a family member."

As part of the BAHS family, Jean encourages others to roll up their sleeves.

"One of the perks of volunteering is you can do it on your own schedule," she said, noting anyone with enthusiasm and extra time is welcome to help out. "I come when I can and I really enjoy the time I spend here. It gives me an opportunity to love on these animals. It's good for them and I know it's good for me."



**Jean Streng**

# BAHS 2016 Events Round-ups

## Glo Bingo

Held February 20 at Bel-Air Bowl in Belleville, our last Cosmic Bingo was a glow-in-the-dark success. More than 400 people attended this rollicking event, which was emceed by Captain Bingo and included music, crazy games and a basket raffle. If you are a fan of all things fluorescent, this is the fundraiser for you. Get out your glow-in-the-dark clothing and come ready to daub your bingo card with a fluorescent dauber we will provide. Our next Cosmic Bingo will be held February 4, 2017, at Bel-Air Bowl. You can make reservations online at bahspets.com/events.



## Race for Rescues



Race for Rescues hit the ground running with 309 runners and approximately 100 dogs participating in BAHS's 6th annual 5K run. The race, held April 17 at Belleville Township High School West, also featured a one-mile fun walk. The participants ranged from avid runners to a three-legged dog being pushed in a baby stroller. Overall race winner Andrew Rains and his dog Vixen won with a time of 17:24. Past winner Joe Byrn and his dog Dude achieved second place with a time of 19:15. Thank you to everyone who laced up his shoes and pounded his paws on the pavement to once again make this event a success!



## Bags for Wags

The ultimate girls' night out, Bags for Wags made its grand debut in March, much to the delight of BAHS's purse-and-pooch-loving supporters. About 200 women dropped by Far Oaks Clubhouse in Caseyville to bid on almost \$10,000 worth of designer handbags, created by the likes of Gucci, Prada, Spade, Tony Burch and Michael Kors. A catered meal, high-end raffle and the emcee talents of Y98 radio personality Courtney Landrum helped make the evening a huge success. What you say? Couldn't get a ticket to this sold-out event last spring? Not to worry. Another Bags for Wags is scheduled for May 1, 2017, at 1818 Chophouse in O'Fallon!



# BAHS 2017 Event Calendar

-  January 7th - New Year for the Strays Trivia Night - Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
-  February 4th - Glow Bingo - Bel-Air Bowl
-  March 11th - Trivia Night - Saint Augustine's Catholic School
-  April 23rd - Race for Rescues - Belleville Township High School West
-  September 7th - Wine for Whiskers - Weingarten
-  October 29th - Howl'oween Pet Parade - downtown Belleville
-  November 24th - Santa Claus Parade - downtown Belleville
-  December 2nd, 9th & 16th - Santa Claus photos - BAHS shelter



## 2016 ROUND-UP cont.

### Wine for Whiskers



Held on the lovely grounds of the Weingarten in Belleville, "Wine for Whiskers," didn't disappoint. More than 350 people attended this annual upscale event, which included a catered Italian meal by Tavern on Main, live music, a restaurant gift card raffle and a silent auction. Many thanks to our dinner sponsor, Shay Roofing, and all our other amazing sponsors and supporters who turned out to make the evening a success. Patrons are encouraged to get their tickets early for next year's "Wine for Whiskers," which is scheduled for Thursday September 7, 2017, at the Weingarten.



### Howl'oween Pet Parade

Our annual Howl'oween Pet Parade was a scary success with more than 170 costumed dogs and their humans making the eight-block march down West Main Street in Belleville to the delight of cheering crowds. Several pet owners donned costumes to complement their canine companions -- including overall-costume contest winner Mikey Velazquez of Belleville who wore hippie attire to walk beside Shiloh, a laid-back standard poodle with a peace sign shaved in his tie-dyed coat. Other parade participants included The Wolf Branch Grade School Band and the St. Teresa's Grade School Twirling Tigerettes and Cheerleaders. A bounce house, face painting and balloon artist added to the festivities. Trophies were awarded to best costumes in the funniest, cutest, scariest and best group categories. A big thanks to Dog Day Afternoon pet grooming in Belleville for sponsoring this Spooktacular event!



# BAHS 2016 Holiday Animals

Our four-legged residents recently donned holiday apparel for these festive photos. Many of the dogs and cats in these pictures are still looking for their forever homes. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas!

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Maya, 7  
 Lenny, 8 months  
 Buddy, 4  
 Jason, 7  
 Arlow, 2

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Socks, 1½  
 Fallon, 1½  
 Ginger, 10  
 Buddy Boy, 2  
 Mascleo, 2



# BAHS 2016 Year Book

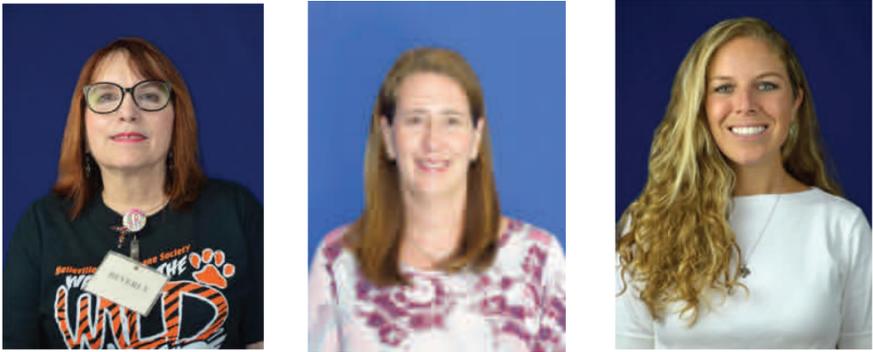
**Kurt Blaes**  
**Jo Ann Buettner**  
**Julie Grady**



**Melissa Janes**  
**Katie Kettler**  
**Jennifer Waeltz**



**Beverly Mikel**  
**Shoshana Mostoller**  
**Katie Nelson**



**Jason Parks**  
**Allison Sobczak**

