

Lycoming Animal Protection Society, Inc.

195 Phillips Park Drive
South Williamsport, PA 17702

570-327-8707
www.lapsshelter.org
lapsshelter@alltel.net

LAPS Newsletter

Winter 2008

"One at a time, we will make a difference!"

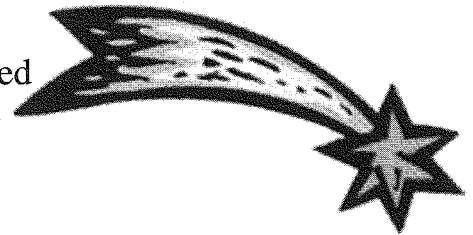
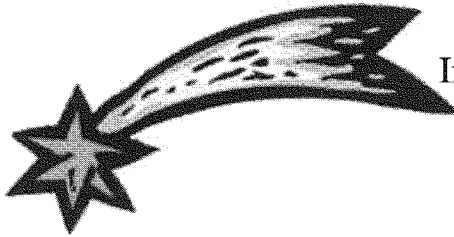
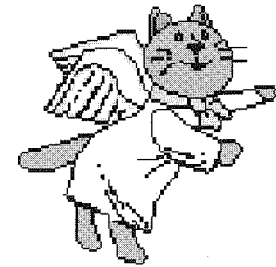
LAPS DEDICATES NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is dedicated to LAPS Volunteer and Supporter Ellen Weber. Who passed away on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at her home surrounded by her family. She was 82. Til we meet again, Ellen.

Her Journey's Just Begun



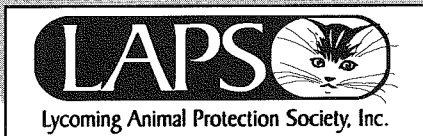
Don't think of her as gone away-
Her journey has just begun
Life holds many facets
The Earth is only one
Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
Think how she must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away
And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.



~ Ellen Brenneman

Do You **Love** CATS?

Want to make a difference?



Then VOLUNTEER!

Contact
Lycoming Animal
Protection Society

(570) 327-8707
lapsshelter.org

LAPS Board of Directors

President: James Cleland
Rec. Secretary: Charlotte Myers
Corr. Secretary: Gwen Uber
Treasurer: Cyndi Eck

Members: Nancy Cohick
Linda Williard
Patti Barclay
Tracy Haas
Holly Kline
Brandy Kift

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DONATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Street City State Zip Code

Annual membership is \$15 donation (\$10 for Senior members 55 years and over). All members receive the LAPS Newsletter, are entitled to vote in the Board of Director elections and be nominated to the Board of Directors.



All donations are greatly appreciated!

LAPS is a registered 501(c)3, non-profit, charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Is this: New Membership \$ _____
 Renewal of Membership \$ _____
 Donation \$ _____

_____ Email Address

TOTAL \$ _____

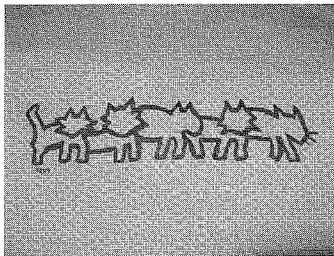
www.lapshelter.org

OPEN HOURS

Monday 9am - 12pm
Tuesday 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday 8am - 10am
Thursday Noon - 3pm
Friday Noon - 3pm 7pm - 9pm
Others by appointments

What your donation provides:

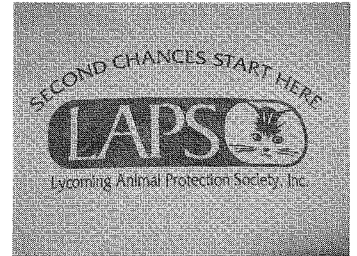
\$15 will neuter a LAPS cat
\$25 will spay a LAPS cat
\$50 will vaccinate against Rabies & Distemper plus test for FELV & FIV
\$5,000 will pay our veterinary bill



Front LAPS T-Shirt Back

Looking For The Perfect Christmas Gift?

LAPS has a great selection of short (\$10, \$20) and long sleeved adults t-shirts (\$13, \$17) sized S-XXL in a variety of colors, including California Blue, Lilac, Pink, Yellow, Sage Green, Grey and Beige. Youth sizes M and L (\$8) are also available in California Blue.



Events in the Works

Open House - Please excuse us, it has taken alot of time and energy to get the new Shelter ready to move into, not to mention the move itself! Please join us on Sunday, December 28, 2008 from 1pm -4pm for an informal open house. We are inviting everyone to stop by and see the progress we have made and to say hello to all the cats.

MEMORIAL GIFTS, HONORARIUMS & REMEMBRANCES

In Memory of Judy Boris
- Joyce Hudak

In Memory of Midnight
Bill + Linda Poulton

In Memory of Ellen Weber
- Jackie Carson

In Memory of Ramona Russell
- Jenny Maurer

In Memory of John Renk
- Jackie Carson



FAREWELL to some friends



Alex was a long-term resident and was often seen curled up with roommate Catrina. After being diagnosed with kidney failure, Alex was moved to foster care. Alex spent the last two days of his life laying in the grass, feeling the warmth of the sun and watching the birds and squirrels.

They Found A Home

In our Summer 2008 Newsletter you met Sabrina Louise and Katie Ann, Two Senior LAPS residents fortunate enough to have found their forever home, together! The volunteers love the letters they write to us and have asked them to become a regular contributor to our newsletter. We know you will enjoy their articles as much as we do!

Finding Love as Seniors

by Sabrina Louise and Katie Ann, former LAPS Residents

"Are you certifiably crazy or a saint?! Maybe there's not much difference between the two. I can understand how you would not want the cat to stay in the shelter at her age but I still think you may be crazy."

This is an actual quote from an email that some friends wrote to our humans upon learning about the adoption of Katie Ann (age 16) from LAPS a few months ago. She was selected to be a playmate for Sabrina Louise (age 11) who had been adopted from LAPS in 2006 when she was nearly 9 years old.

"You adopted another older cat? But didn't you lose one earlier this year? Why would you want to go through that all over again?" asked a relative who learned the news.

Why do people adopt senior cats? After all, we aren't cute like little kittens, and we're not rambunctious like adolescent cats. Maybe our senses aren't as sharp as they used to be, or we don't move as quickly as we once did. Our fur isn't as thick and glossy as it was when we were younger. But we're also not prejudiced. We know what love is, and we know that it can come in any size, shape, color ... or age.

To borrow a human expression, let's put the shoe on the other paw. Here's what NEVER went through either of our minds when we first met the humans that adopted us: *"Her hair is turning gray, and some of his has fallen out." "They have some wrinkles and they're each a little chubby around the middle." "Their vision must not be very good, because they both wear glasses." "I don't think that they have all of their teeth." "He seems to have some hearing loss." "She has arthritis in her fingers; I'll bet that she has trouble opening cat food cans." "They seem to move slower than some of the more youthful humans." "I think that they might even be retired."*

As cats, we didn't care about such superficial things. What was important to us was that these humans had successfully completed LAPS' adoption process, so we knew that they were longtime cat owners who had once had a three-legged calico that lived to the ripe old age of 19. We recognized that they had made a lifetime commitment to every kitty that they had ever adopted, and as seniors themselves, they thought that it just made sense at this point in their lives to take in older cats. We realized that they were specifically looking for mature cats and had even singled out LAPS - driving over 120 miles round trip for each adoption - because of this shelter's commitment to cats of all ages. We understood that they had used the same veterinarians for decades and that we would receive excellent preventive care. We were certain that they knew friends that would catsit for us when they traveled. We thought that at their ages, these humans would probably prefer quiet evenings to loud, raucous parties. We could tell that they would cherish us and that their laps were warm and their hands gentle. And so, when each of us was picked, we were absolutely thrilled.

We spend our days lounging on cat beds positioned near the sunny windowsills of our home. We enjoy sitting inside and watching the birds, squirrels, and especially the chipmunks as they gather their provisions for the winter. Even though we are senior cats, we are still playful and know how to have fun. In fact, we each have a special "meow" that we sing when we are carrying one of our catnip toys gently in our mouths. When LAPS provided our humans with our histories, they discovered that each of us had been at the shelter before and that our time there had overlapped for most of 1999. We get along with each other so well that our humans wonder if we might have played together in our younger days as LAPS residents.

The tone softened in the email from those friends. "Well, congratulations and good luck with the new addition to your family. Thank goodness for people like you in our world."

"They're lucky to have found you," said our veterinarians. We believe that the vets were talking about all of us, meaning that the humans were also fortunate - thanks to LAPS to have been able to welcome two calm, affectionate, and mature cats into their lives.

We have all found love as seniors.

Sabrina Louise and Katie Ann kept the first and middle names that they had as senior residents at LAPS. They live in State College and hope some day to meet the Penn State Nittany Lion.

ADOPTEE UPDATE

HEATHER

Hi,

I wanted to let you know that over 2 years ago, I adopted one of your cats-her name is Heather and she's a gray and white tortoise mix with a cute little pug nose. Heather used to hide from us all the time. We thought at first that she had found a way to get out of the house and made her way back to the shelter, because we went for days without seeing her. The only way we knew she was still around was because late at night she would cross paths with our big boy yellow tabby Snuggly- they would hiss at each other and then go on their merry way. We'd also catch her coming back from bathroom breaks and food breaks. This went on for several weeks, and we kept thinking she was never going to warm up to us, well lo and behold she finally warmed up to good old Snuggly, I knew she wouldn't be able to resist his charm very long, I can't say the same for us humans though, she resisted us for a couple more months. We thought to ourselves, hey! What gives, you made up with Snuggly and we're a lot more lovable then he is, so how about giving us a chance, instead of running and hiding from us. We thought, if she doesn't make up with us we'd just have to take her back to the shelter, (you can only take so much rejection) well, we finally had a breakthrough after months of patience (most of the time) and perseverance. We started by rattling a plastic container with kitty treats, so she would come out from hiding and get personally fed along with Snuggly. We would talk to her and coax her alot, she finally accepted us and now she's such an important member of the family. She loves coming and sitting near us and being petted. She really likes sleeping under my blankets, she'll crawl up the side of my bed under the covers, all you see is a lump under the cover. She's quite the little treasure that we found at your LAPS shelter. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for your loving care and hard work taking care of our feline friends, it takes special people to care so much. Thanks again, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't have Heather. Sincerely Thelma Weaver

Submitted by e-mail by Pat Shrey

Diablo

We adopted Diablo April 1, 2008 from laps. At first he would hide all the time and it took him a few months to come around, now he sleeps in the bed with my husband and I. Sometimes he is still a little skittish, but over all he is a precious gift. Submitted by email by Kimberly Conner



FOCUS ON FELINE BEHAVIORS

more about feline behaviors on pgs 12, 22, 46, 50, 52, 56, 64

Inappropriate elimination

WHY CATS DO IT AND HOW TO STOP IT

RACE FOSTER DVM

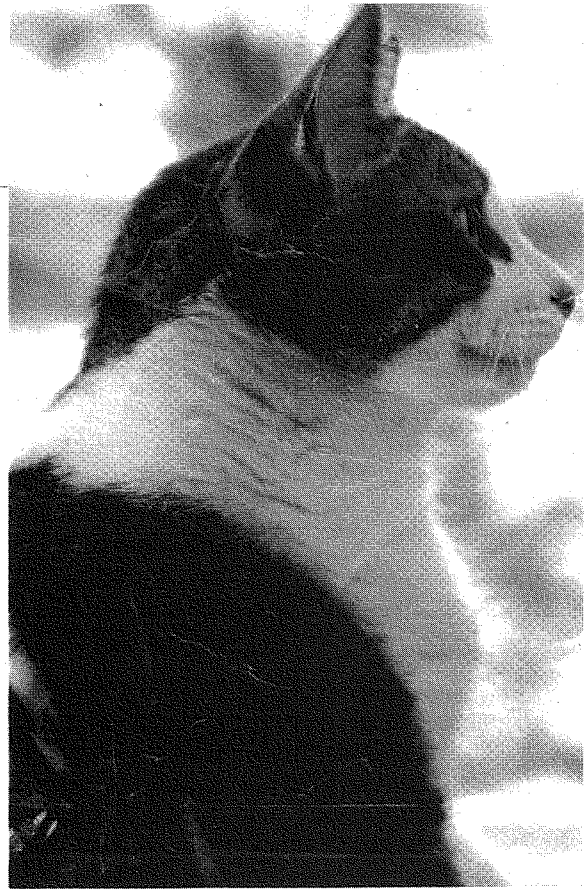
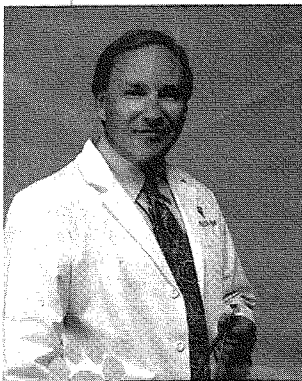
Inappropriate elimination seems to be in stark contrast to our perception of cats. Perhaps due to their reputation as being extremely fastidious animals, it is startling for cat owners to encounter evidence of inappropriate elimination. Learn what motivates this behavior and discover what you can do to curb this unwanted behavior.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION

Inappropriate elimination includes urinating or defecating outside the litter box as well as spraying. This behavior can be demonstrated by cats of any age and stems from a variety of causes. Other than territorial behavior (spraying), the three most common causes include: medical conditions, stress, and litter box issues.

• **MEDICAL CONDITIONS** – Several medical conditions cause an increased need to urinate or defecate. These conditions include colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, kidney or liver disease, and feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD). Combined with pain or difficulty urinating (or defecating), these medical conditions can promote inappropriate elimination. Have your cat examined by your veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment of such medical conditions.

• **STRESS** – Cats are extremely sensitive to stress. Events such as moving, changes in routine, or any stressor may cause inappropriate elimination. Reduce these and other stressors whenever possible, or decrease their impact. Help your cat through stressful changes by making sure your cat has a quiet, safe place to retreat, such as a cat tree, hideaway, or window perch. In addition, consider using Feliway Spray, or Comfort Zone Plug-in with Feliway. These products contain a



pheromone-like substance designed to help calm cats.

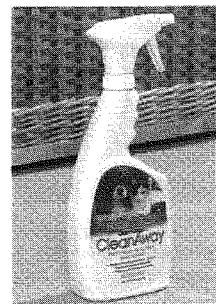
• **LITTER BOX ISSUES** – Your cat may have developed a litter (substrate) preference and may not like the feel or smell of the current cat litter. Try different types of litter, including clumping or non-scented litter, to help stop inappropriate elimination. Also, use litter boxes with lower sides for easy access, place the litter box in the area where the cat spends the most time, and increase the number of litter boxes. Most importantly, maintain a clean litter box. Remove waste from their litter boxes at least once daily, and wash the litter boxes weekly so your cat is not compelled to eliminate elsewhere in your home.

MORE ABOUT SPRAYING

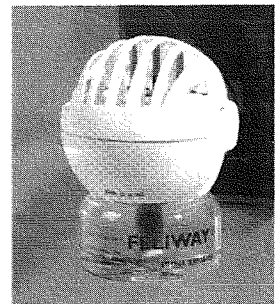


- Stop cat spraying 5 easy ways
- Litter box avoidance: Not always a behavior problem
- Cats and urinary problems

DrsFosterSmith.com



Our OdorLogic® CleanAway Pet Stain & Odor Remover, page 65



Feliway Comfort Zone Plug-In, page 41

FOCUS ON

...25 years serving you!



BEST CAT CARE tips

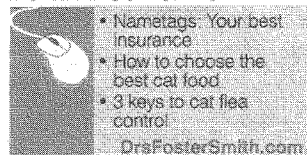
RACE FOSTER DVM

Over the years, you've asked for hundreds of cat care tips. Here's our top recommendations:

- 1. Neuter or spay your cat.** It helps control the pet population, dramatically improves behavior, and reduces life-threatening health problems.
- 2. Keep current on all vaccinations.** Many diseases that killed a large number of cats in the past are no longer a threat if you adhere to our recommended vaccination schedule.
- 3. Don't overfeed** or give too many treats. Particular in older cats, many life-ending health problems are caused by obesity.
- 4. Keep your cat physically fit** and mentally active with interactive toys.
- 5. Balance nutrition with supplements.** Vitamin and mineral supplements are simple to give and keep your cat healthy for years.
- 6. Use a clumping litter.** It allows complete removal of urine and feces to slow down bacterial growth, thereby reducing litter box odors.
- 7. Worried about fleas? Protect your cat with flea and tick preventives.** In the long run, they cost a lot less than having to deal with parasite infestation.
- 8. Stressed cat? Reduce the root causes of anxiety** with convenient calming aids.
- 9. Establish a grooming routine.** It keeps kitty looking beautiful and helps reduce hairballs.
- 10. Use a nametag.** Over and over again we hear from our customers that a nametag was the reason they were reunited with their lost or escaped cat.



MORE ABOUT CAT CARE



▲ Frontline Plus for Cats, popular flea & tick preventive, page 78.



Front row from left: **Amanda Herrick, Sarah Feaster, Kate Isennock**
Back row from left: **Shane Breen, Blair Develin, Nick Lucas**

Lycoming Students Organize "A Night For Paws"

This fall, LAPS participated in a program with students from **Dr. Neil Boyd's** Management and Organizational Behavior class at Lycoming College. Amanda Herrick, Sarah Feaster, Kate Isennock, Shane Breen, Blair Develin and Nick Lucas formed Constructive Consulting, a group dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of LAPS. As part of their work this semester, the group developed numerous marketing pieces for LAPS, including a new brochure, mission statement, logo and event informational tri-fold. In addition, they coordinated "A Night For Paws," a basket raffle with all proceeds benefiting the shelter. Thanks to the students' efforts, this event raised \$475 for LAPS!

Thanks to the following businesses and entertainers who supported "A Night For Paws:"

Animal Specialties, Army Recruitment Office
Christian Light Bookstore, Cinema Center Of Williamsport
Doc Mach and the Field Surgeons, Ed's Market
Gustonian Gifts, Horsepower Harley Davidson
Jeff Moore, Solo Performer, Kitchen Collection, Lycoming Mall
Mystic Garden Floral and Gift, Navy Recruitment Office
Perkins, Wegmans, Will Miss, Willard's Saddlery

Kate Isennock, a corporate communications major, feels that her experience working with LAPS has helped her gain more knowledge about potential career paths and the importance of giving back to the community you work in. According to **Tracy Haas**, LAPS board member and 2001 Lycoming alumna, the project is not only a program she'd like to continue to participate in and a huge contribution to her organization, it's also another reason to be proud of her alma mater. "My experience has been wonderful," Haas said. "The students are bright, eager and bring a fresh perspective to our organization. They are a very talented group and LAPS was incredibly lucky to be part of their experience.

LAPS IS HOLDING A SENIORS FOR SENIORS CAMPAIGN FOR DECEMBER

Meow Everyone,

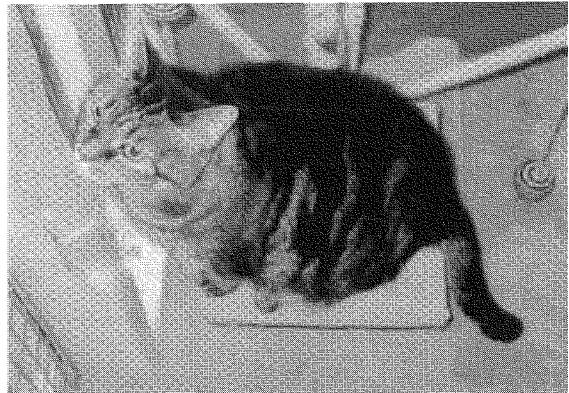
This past week was a sad one for me at LAPS. After work Monday, I made the trip to LAPS not to volunteer for my usual evening but to pick up Sparkles to make her last trip to the vet. Sparkles was a beautiful older tabby cat who has been in ill health for over a year. I was with Sparkles the day the vet checked her out a year ago and discovered she had pancreatic issues. She fought a long hard battle but with drugs she was doing okay until very recently. When I took her last year I made her a promise that when the time came I would help her cross the Rainbow Bridge. I will truly miss this dear cat.

Sadly this is true at our shelter and many shelters across the country. There are many loving older animals in shelters who would make wonderful pets and certainly enrich one's home, but tend to be overlooked for younger animals. Cats can live to 20+ years. Sparkles, I believe was 16 and only developed her health issues in the last year. Some local friends and I came up with the idea to run a Seniors for Seniors campaign for LAPS in December. We are reducing our normal adoption fee from \$50.00 to \$35.00 to anyone over 62 who is willing to open their homes and hearts to one of our wonderful senior kitties. We have many great senior kitties who would be furrever grateful to spend the last of their 9 lives with a loving pet parent in their own home. If you know of any senior citizens that may be looking for a four pawed companion, please ask them to come and check out our senior room at LAPS. Or have them call the shelter at 327-8707. They can also check out all our seniors on www.petfinder.com

Or perhaps you would be willing to take one of our seniors into your home and foster them to let them have a home to live out their lives. I know the senior room would be purry grateful for any efforts you are willing to make on their behalf.

I have included a picture of Sparkles as I feel this is my tribute to her.

PURRS & HEADBUTTS FROM THE LAPS CATS & a sad Linda



SENIORS FOR SENIORS KITTY BLINKEY

Meow Everyone!!! My name is Blinkey and I currently reside at LAPS in South Williamsport. Now don't get me wrong, I am well taken care of there, but I am getting along in years now and would really love to spend the remainder of my 9 Lives in a real home. As you can tell I am sort of a big guy. The marshmallow type that would just love to spend my time with you on the couch watching TV or settling in with a good book. None of that destructive curtain climbing or furniture hopping for me! I am strictly a feed me, love me type. If this fits your lifestyle, then I'm your guy. Did I happen to mention that I am a good looking guy also, Mr. Purr-sonality!!! If you think I am the guy to fit your needs, please call LAPS at 327-8707 for an appointment to meet me. I'll be waiting.

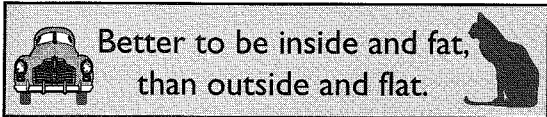
PLEASE ADOPT THIS SENIOR GAL!

Mature lady with dilute calico coloring looking for someone who will appreciate her beautiful looks and calico purrsonality. I have spent my years in a shelter setting and would like very much to live out my life in a nice quiet home with someone to share my attentions with. I am open to belly rubs after I get to know you well enough. I would be nice quiet companion who would not give you any trouble. I am open to sitting on the couch and watching TV and sharing long winter nights in the company of my new friend. If this fits your needs, please call LAPS and ask to meet me, Xena. I will be waiting for your call. I can be reached at 327-8707. If I don't answer, please leave a message for me and one of the staff will get back to you.



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Shelter Wish List

If you are able, please donate any of the following items used in the everyday care of the Shelter residents. All donations enable us to stretch our precious dollars much further than would otherwise be possible.

- Bleach (any brand)
- Paper towels
- Litter (Scoopable)
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Softener Sheets
- Antibacterial Dish Detergent
- Antibacterial Hand Soap
- Computer/Copier Paper
- Tall (kitchen) Garbage Bags
- First Class & Post Card Postage Stamps
- Cat Food – Dry & Canned
- Dried Catnip
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Giant, Tractor Supply)
- Fleece Fabric (to make cat beds)
- Phone Cards

PURRS & HEAD BONKS to:

Snyder's Country Pet Food and Pet Platoon for donating food.

Wain Schroeder for hosting and managing our new website.

Chuck Anderson Electric for cutting us a break.

Loyalsock Animal Hospital for their continuous care of the Shelter residents.

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, Lamar Advertising, Backyard Broadcasting and Clear Channel Radio

East Lycoming Shopper

Dan Scaife and Bill Crawley for producing our Newsletter.

Clinton Twp. Fire Hall and Tickled Pink for contributions with fundraising.

Dick Moon and Your Building Center, Muncy for all the help and patience.

C&C Tree Service and Dennis Chestnut for all your continuous service.

Best Builders of Muncy for donation of materials.

All of our generous supporters for all your continuous support through your donations of cash, manpower and supplies. You keep us going!