



## From pregnant & sick, to healthy and happy in a home

By Sue Verlaan, GHHS Volunteer



Happy faces from both Leon (left) and Stella .

When they first came to GHHS to look for a dog, Elliot McCoy and Emily Kinkle didn't have a particular breed in mind. What they wanted was the perfect dog, for them.

GHHS is known for its close attention and care to both the animals it shelters and the potential families those animals will soon live with. Elliot and Emily knew this, which is why they visited: "the Humane Society ... makes an effort to find the perfect home for every animal and the perfect animal for every family."

Stella was one of the smaller dogs Elliot and Emily met on their first visit. "She was definitely shy but very

sweet." It's hard to say what first captures a family's heart – maybe the curl or wag of a tail, an expression in the eyes, the little dance of excitement as the potential owners walk towards an animal's cage. Whatever it was about Stella, Elliot and Emily knew that night at home that they would go back to see her. "We saw Stella on our first visit for just a minute ... [but] after going home we had our hearts set on her."

When they returned the next day, they spent about an hour with Stella. GHHS staff and volunteers encourage potential owners to spend time with an animal at the shelter – though it's not the same as being at home, of course, spending time with an animal on site helps both the animal and its potential family get to know and feel comfortable with each other. While there, Elliot & Emily learned Stella's story.

Stella was rescued from Huntsville Animal Services with her brother, Leon. Stella tested positive for heartworms and was also pregnant with a litter, a potentially deadly combination. GHHS kept her healthy through her pregnancy (5 adorable puppies), then began heartworm treatment, which is expensive, risky, and time-consuming. Finally, after a year of treatment & waiting, Stella was available for adoption. Unfortunately, not many visitors are interested in older dogs, especially shy ones with a history of health issues. (con't on pg 3)

## 2016 Calendars are finally here!

We have 14 beautiful months featuring the top 85 winners of the Pet Photo Contest. These make great Christmas gifts for pet lovers. \$10 (includes tax), and all the proceeds go the animals at GHHS.

Calendars are available at the GHHS shelter and Thrift Store, as well as the following locations:

- Chase Animal Hospital
- Dr. Victoria Vest, DMD
- Goin' to the Dogs and Cats
- Interiors by Consign
- Island Dog Training
- Marie's Hallmark Shop
- Northway Animal Hospital
- Renfroe Animal Hospital
- Whitesburg Animal Hospital
- more locations at [ghhs.org/2016-calendars](http://ghhs.org/2016-calendars)



Miss Pearl, winner of the 2015 Pet Photo Contest.

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*Farewell to our Director of  
Operations, Warren Candler.*

## From the Desk of the C.E.O.

As I began to organize my thoughts for this welcome letter, I realized that you probably would like to know a little more about me.

I have a long work experience in the non-profit world: Panoply, The Land Trust of North Alabama and Trinity UMC. I wasn't job hunting when this job opportunity appeared, but after conversations with Karen Corp, GHHS Board Chair, I realized that I was excited by the idea of growing GHHS to the next level. The spark of challenge led me to this job, but my love of dogs inspired me to accept the job.

I have always had rescue dogs, with one exception. When I began this job I had one dog, Maggie Mae a golden retriever mix, and within one short month of working at GHHS, I adopted Truman, a chihuahua/fox terrier mix. I am happily a home of two dogs once again.

My experience with cats has increased with this job. I have a "grand-cat" that belongs to my son-in-law and I enjoy the cats at my sister's house. But my first day presented the challenge of four kittens and mother cat in my office for a few days until the kittens were old enough to move into the free-roaming cat room. I have other frequent residents in my office who purr and slide across the papers on my desk. So I have broadened my cat experience as well.

My vision for this organization is to raise it to the next level. We want to continue to be known for providing excellent care for the animals that come into our shelter. We want to increase the dog's adoptability with training of basic commands, so that they enter a home with manners. We will continue to provide pet food to low income families to support them to keep a family pet in times of financial difficulties.

In the future, along with the Board of Directors' vision, I want to see the completion of a new shelter. The new state-of-the-art building will provide more housing for animals along with space for training classes and community meetings. This building will enable us to provide shelter for more of the homeless pet population, and find forever homes for those animals.

Our best day is any day that one of our homeless animals goes into a new home with owners who will love and care for them. Companion animals add more love to a home. I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life.

I'd love to meet all of our contributors, please stop by and say hi if you are in the area.



*Jill A. Gardner*  
Executive Director

## Healthy & Happy in a Home

Stella remained nervous for much of her time at GHHS. Though generally friendly and willing to walk and play in the field, it was clear she was not quite fully Stella. Seeing through Stella's surface jitters, Elliot and Emily fell in love with the fluffy mane of fur that frames Stella's pretty face, the boundless energy of her short and sturdy legs, and the graceful and lively curve of her happy tail.

Adopting a dog or cat is a big decision. Thankfully, another option at GHHS is to foster. When a family decides to foster, it takes responsibility for the animal's daily feeding and comfort, but the ultimate responsibility for care remains with GHHS. Those who foster animals for GHHS are able to give potential pets important time for socialization in a home environment, establishing routines of play and feeding similar to what they will have in the homes they will ultimately go to.

After thinking about Stella and prospect of bringing her home, Elliot and Emily chose to foster Stella before adopting her. "Fostering Stella was a great decision because it made it much easier to make the decision to take her home knowing that we could spend more time with her and bond with her before making the final decision to adopt." It didn't take long, though, for them to know that Stella would make the perfect addition to their home. "The first time she curled up on the couch to watch TV with us, we knew we were attached."

After two weeks as foster parents, Elliot and Emily returned to GHHS to formally adopt Stella. She had already become a beloved addition to their family and quite a famous personality on their Facebook page. This once shy and nervous, lonely pup now starts and ends her day as an integral part of the family routine. "She gets so excited as soon as the alarm clock goes off and can't wait for someone to get up and give her some attention!" She helps them finish their days with bunches of love ("this is when she gives the most kisses"), she joins them on hikes when the weather is nice, and she makes quite a cuddly picture of fluff among the family room blankets and pillows.

Stella now has not just a home, but a family. Perfect.



## Ways to Donate

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile donates a portion of any sale back to your chosen charity. To use AmazonSmile, just go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and set us as your charity. That's it!

**amazon.com**  
wishlist

<http://amzn.com/w/2XQELJVDCJAB>

We also have an Amazon Wishlist, where you can log on and purchase supplies from the convenience of your own home. Check out our list today!

Here are some of the things we need:

- Dog & cat toys
- Premium Pellet cat litter
- Any brand pet food
- Cleaning supplies: dish & hand soap, laundry detergent, etc.
- Printer cartridges
- Hand sanitizer (large bottles)



Kroger Community Rewards donates a portion of every eligible purchase back to GHHS. Sign up at [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://krogercommunityrewards.com) Our charity number is **36399**.



## Long-Term Residents

These pets have been at GHHS for at least several months (if not years). Please consider giving them a second chance at a forever home.



### Bella (resident for 5 months)

Hello, I'm Bella. I can be a little shy, but I love to snuggle with people. I'm only 1 year old, so I'm still learning about the world. My fur is super soft and fluffy, and I really like to show off my big beautiful tail! Would you like to come meet me? I'll walk right up to you and ask to be pet, I promise!



### Jack Frost (resident for 1 year)

Hi! I'm Jack Frost, a 2-year-old Australian Shepherd mix. I love to play and go for long walks. I'm a big boy (over 60lbs!) but I'm really a giant baby. I do have a tendency to protect my food and toys, but we can work on that with a little training and understanding.

## 2016 Dog Ball "Puparazzi"



### Save the Date!

Friday, February 5, 2016

6 p.m. Von Braun Center

Join us for the Dog Ball!

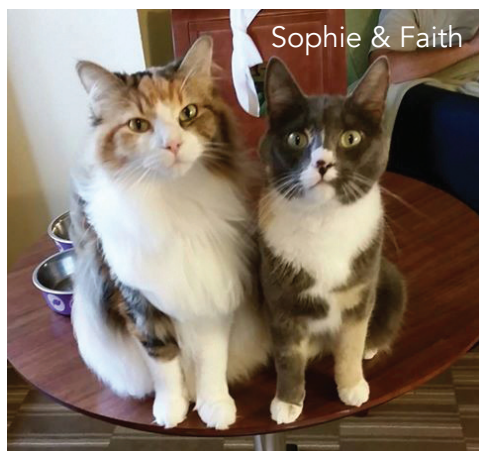
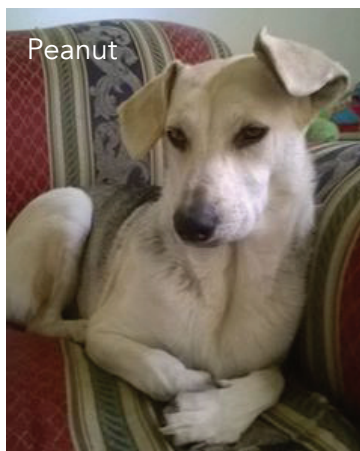
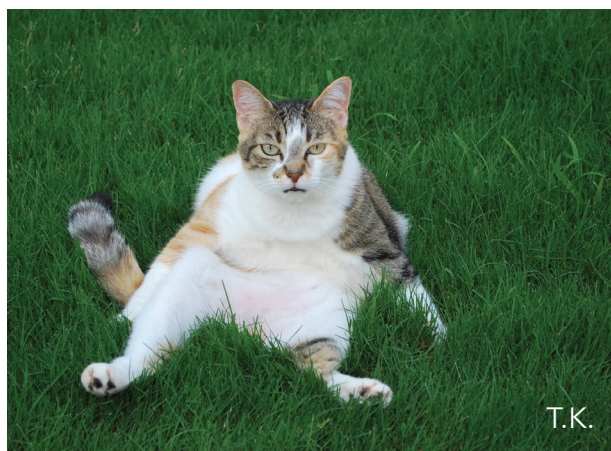
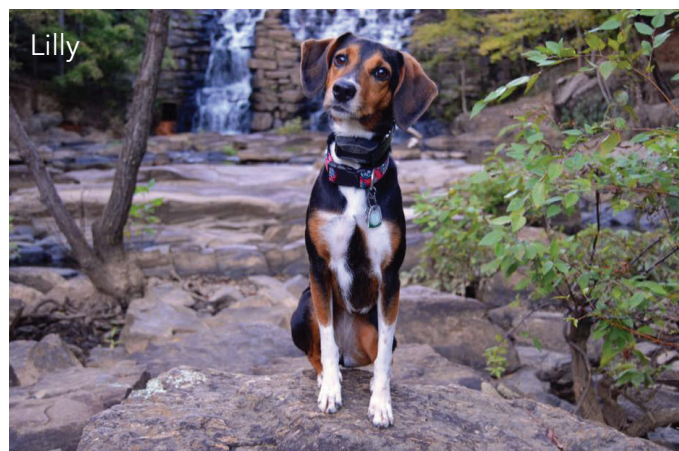
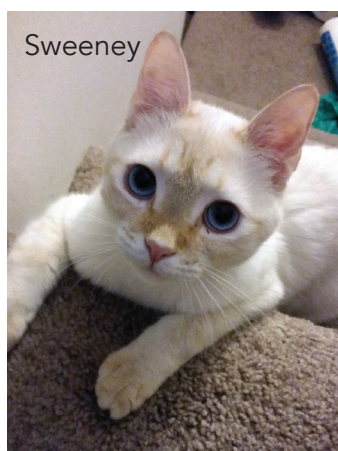
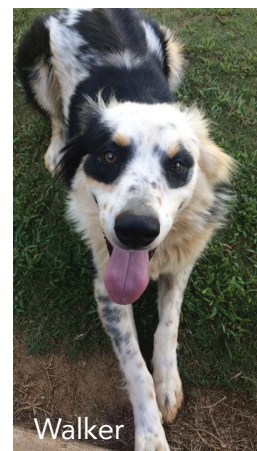
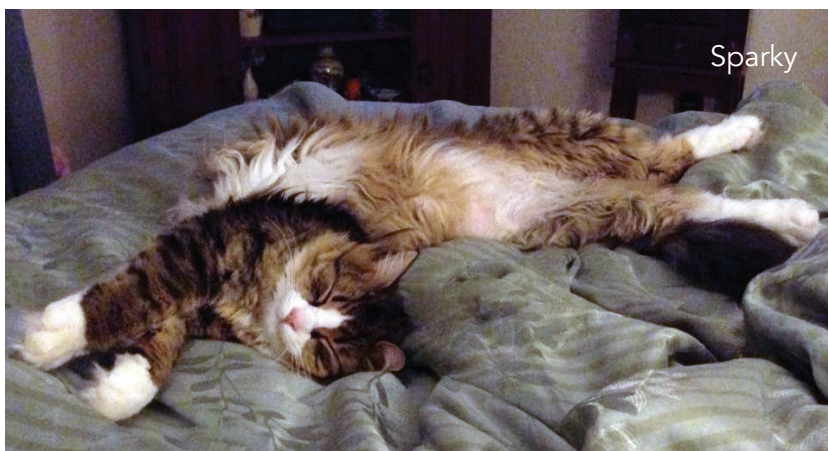
There will be "Very Important Dogs" (VIDs) strutting down the runway with their humans, as their stories are read to the audience. Several shelter dogs will also be in attendance looking for their forever homes. John Malone and Bonnie O'Brian from Lite 96.9 will lend their wonderful sense of humor to the evening as they serve as the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies.

There will be many silent auction items up for bid and a live auction that will feature fire hydrants generously donated by AMERICAN Flow Control and painted by local artists. The grand prize drawing is two tickets to the 2017 Westminster Dog Show and a \$2,000 VISA gift card.

Reservations will begin in mid-December, but in the meantime, check out our website at [thedogball.org](http://thedogball.org). Information and pictures will be posted as they become available. You can also view photos of past Dog Balls and our wonderful sponsors. We can't wait to see you there!



# Awesome GHHS Adoptions!





# Adoptoberfest: A Great Success!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our big fall adoption festival! We had THIRTEEN ADOPTIONS!! The Thrift Store sold almost all of their fall decor, and our hot dog & popcorn booth was a huge success!



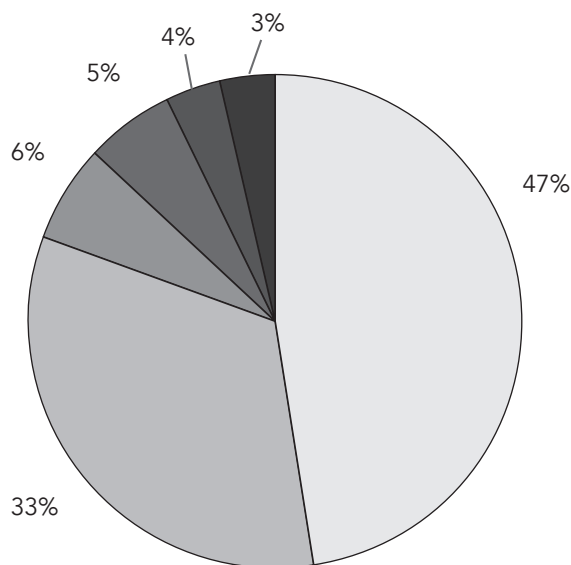
Margie Wiesman, professional dog trainer and GHHS Board member, works on sitting & manners with Hooser, a shelter dog.

Our empty kennels at the end of the day! This is one of our favorite sights. Thank you for adopting!



## Donation & Contribution Totals

Ever wonder where all our donations come from? Here's a pie chart of income and contributions made since the beginning of this year. We appreciate every dollar, and are so grateful for our supportive community.



- Thrift Store Sales
- Fundraising (inc. Dog Ball)
- General Donations
- Adoption Donations
- CFC Contributions
- Honor/Memorial Donations

Jan - Nov Donation Total:  
**\$450,768**

# Designated Donations

## Memorials & Honors

Many donors choose to give in honor of a recently deceased loved one, either person or companion animal. We greatly appreciate these sponsors and strive to honor them every day. Due to printing restrictions, we have only listed the names of the honored and memorialized. For a full list of donors, please go to [www.ghhs.org/donors](http://www.ghhs.org/donors). To request a printed copy, call 256-881-8081.

### Memorialized People

Becky Duncan  
Brian Teuscher  
Diane Sutton Davidson  
Don Simons  
Dr. Lewis Hall McCurdy  
Dr. Mac McCalister  
Ellis Buckelew  
Emily Beth Dickson  
Evelyn Kelly  
Gayle Lyemance  
Hannah Ree Martin  
Helga Collier  
Jack H. Furman  
James R. Fout  
Jan Bijvoet  
Joe Raby Franklin  
John McCaleb Fay  
June Smith  
Kane Schuerer  
Ken Britton  
Leonard Monk  
Lesley Arnold  
Louise Boder  
Lyla Marie Ledbetter  
Matthew Ragland  
Mildred Lilienkamp  
Molly Coates  
Otto Goetz  
Paul Woodfin  
Richard Dale McCann  
Ron Ford  
Sarah Pettitt  
Scott Henry  
Toni Piccinic

### Memorialized Pets

Angel, his beloved pet  
Beloved dog of Gail & Richard Cooper  
Billy's Grey dog  
Callie, beloved cat of Bill & Raye Sheets  
Casey, a beloved pet  
CC, beloved dog of Janene Chase  
Cleo, cherished companion of Nurse Melba  
Cosmo, beloved cat of Victoria McCoy  
Cricket, beloved dog of Deb Wilke  
Dickens, beloved dog of Catherine & Aljandro Toriello  
Dixie, beloved pet of April & Steve Denney  
Dooley, beloved cat of BeBe & J.B. Freeman  
Elvis, beloved dog of Shelly & Danny Harris  
Ginger & Missy, beloved pets  
Her cat  
Josh, beloved cat of Linda & Bob Fletcher  
Kayla  
Maggie, beloved pet of Mr. & Mrs. Brad Hall  
Mattie, beloved dog of Dorothy Bolton  
Missy, beloved dog of Carolyn & Thomas Stanley  
Oreo, her beloved cat  
Rambo  
Sadie Mitchell  
Scooby, beloved pet of Nora Whyte  
Smokey Joe, her beloved cat  
Stella, a beloved pet  
Stretch Buddy, her beloved cat  
Tuck, beloved dog of Warren & Dinelle Kurz

### Honorariums

Corby T. Stroud  
Cornelius Lee  
Dylan, a special pet  
Emeline & Danny McCoy on their birthdays  
Emma Waldron, on her birthday  
Judy Styles, on her birthday  
Julia Fowler, on her birthday  
Karen Corp & Lois Stratton  
Lucky Conrad, pet of Steve & Cindy Conrad  
Many pet friends  
Margaret Ann & Alan Bibb  
Pat Wildman  
Petie Ray Ludwig  
Randy Roper  
Whitmire cats

GHHS is a non-profit 501(c)3 no-kill organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Thanks to all of our generous donors and their memorialized honorees.



To donate, go to [www.ghhs.org/donate](http://www.ghhs.org/donate)

You can also mail a check to GHHS, 2812 Johnson Road SW, Huntsville AL 35805.

If you are donating in honor or memory of a person or pet, please include the name & address of the honoree. We can send either a mailed card or email notification to the honoree to inform them of your donation, if you wish.



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email [info@ghhs.org](mailto:info@ghhs.org) to change your info.

A portion of the printing for the Pet Gazette was donated by C&A Printing.

## Upcoming Events

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| November 27      | Black Friday @ GHHS<br>all day, 50% off thrift store & adoption fees  |
| November 30      | Mellow Mushroom Charity Day<br>all day, Mellow Mushroom is donating 10% of sales  |
| December 1       | #GivingTuesday<br>all day, online giving campaign<br>Donate at <a href="http://www.ghhs.org/donate">www.ghhs.org/donate</a> |
| December 25 & 31 | GHHS closed for the holidays  |
| February 5       | Dog Ball<br>6pm, VBC, tickets at <a href="http://thedogball.org">thedogball.org</a>   |

## Thrift Store Corner

Happy Holidays from the GHHS Thrift Store! It's once again time for our Christmas shop to open and our little elves are busy putting out new items daily. We have a lot of holiday decor, vintage items, trees and lights, so don't be late. You never know what treasure you might find here at the store. Check out our daily specials, something is always 50% off.

If you have any large items to be picked up, please call the store at (256) 881-3888. We accept donations Monday through Saturday, 10am-4pm. The end of the year is rapidly coming upon us, don't forget to donate your items for a tax receipt (we all need those!).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated, wonderful volunteers, customers and donors. Without you, the thrift store wouldn't be possible. GHHS would also like to thank the Thrift Store for a outstanding service and sales in 2015. The shelter and animals would not exist without their dedicated support, and the wonderful community that donates and buys. **Thank you for all your hard work, and thank you for shopping!** Have a safe a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

## #GivingTuesday- Dec 1



We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, community, company, or organization to come together to give something more. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity.

For more info, go to [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org) or donate to GHHS at [www.ghhs.org/donate](http://www.ghhs.org/donate)

Thank you, from our hearts to yours.