

SUMMER 2021



CREATING BETTER TOMORROWS

Riley, fostered and adopted, 2021

Building Our Community, One Brick at a Time



Behind the scenes of precious kittens, cute dogs, and the happy stories of families being completed with new furry members, there are the hundreds of friends and community partners who have stepped up to support our work. Ranging from birthday fundraisers, elementary school supply drives, small business-led events, to corporate donations, our community has come together to help when we needed it most.

Mills River Girl Scout Troop 12937 decided to make an impact in their community by earning their Bronze Award working with Blue Ridge Humane Society. The girls learned about Blue Ridge Humane's needs during the pandemic from Megan Burnett, our Community Outreach Manager. After hearing that members of our community were in need of pet food and cat litter, they decided to host pet food drives at their

school and churches. The girls collected over 480 pounds of pet food, 150 pounds of cat litter, and made over 200 pet toys, beds, and pet information signs for the Adoption Center.

The 2020 Fourth Grade class from The Mountain Community School also got creative. Despite having their school year shaken up, the students still decided to fundraise all year, raising \$558 for Blue Ridge Humane through collecting change all year long. Talk about a lot of littles adding up!

Jessica Chipriano and her brother John Stefanik took a different approach to their grassroots fundraising. After creating a special "Stay Pawsitive" t-shirt, they took in direct-to-consumer orders that were printed in John's small screen printing and graphic design businesses. Two rounds of shirts later, over \$400 was raised for Blue Ridge Humane, along with countless smiles and reminders to "Stay Pawsitive" during a rough time.

These are just a few of the large and small ways that individuals and groups from across our community decided to make a difference. They've helped get us to where we are and continue to propel us onward, each adding a brick to the "wall of fame" we carry in our hearts. You, too, can be a part of strengthening and supporting our work with your own donation, fundraiser, or volunteer project. **Learn more at www.blueridgehumane.org/donate.**

Just a Few of Our Friends...

A Dog's Day Out

Alec Hall

Alice Grounsell

Alpha Fitness

Barkers Anonymous

Biggert's Hearing

Blue Ridge Community College

Cards for Hvl Causes

Christian Justus

Community Foundation of Henderson County

Derek Fox and Sally Johnson

Downtown Hendersonville

Dry Falls Brewing

Grove Manor Flooring

Hunter Subaru

Kerry Griffin

Larry and Lafawnduh

Marsha Hammel

Mills River Girl Scout Troop 12937

Mills River Presbyterian Church

Never Blue

PetCo

PetFinder

PetSmart

PetSource

Pig in a Basket

Raymond's Garden Center

Rhea Frederick

Saint Paul Vineyards/Ugly Pig BBQ

Saluda Outfitters

Shine

Sideways Farm & Brewery

Splurge

Stefanik Design

The Gallery at Flat Rock

The Mountain Community School

Tim Kurkyndall & Friends

Triskelion Brewing Company

Twisted Apple

United Community Bank

Wag! A Unique Pet Boutique

Wild Birds Unlimited

Wine Sage & Gourmet

WTZQ Radio



Botanical Bear was sponsored by Wag! A Unique Pet Boutique as part of the Historic Downtown Hendersonville Bearfootin' Art Walk. "Bo Bear" can be found through early October between 2nd and 3rd Avenues in Hendersonville, in front of Wag. She'll be auctioned off in October to raise funds for BRHS and the downtown program.

Meals on Wheels Pet Pals-You Can Bank on It

TD Bank has partnered with Blue Ridge Humane Society in support of the Meals on Wheels Pet Pals program. The program is more than just providing pet food for housebound clients of Meals on Wheels in Henderson County—it's making sure clients' pets, who are often their only companions, are healthy and fed. Pets like Chewy, who needs grooming and medicated baths due to his skin allergies. Or Mable who needed a little more activity than her owner could provide. Or all the pets in the program who have received flea and tick collars to ease their owners' minds and keep the pets comfortable.

"We're committed to driving change that will enrich the lives of those in the communities in which we live and work," said Charles Frederick, Regional Vice President for TD Bank. "Because of this, we are proud to support many worthwhile organizations in Western North Carolina like Blue Ridge Humane Society."

"At TD Bank, we are dog-friendly, and we love welcoming our customers and their four-legged friends into our Stores," said Bruce Benson, Retail Market Manager for TD Bank. "We are thrilled to sponsor the Pet Pals program and help keep pets in their loving homes."

TD Bank has a long-standing history of supporting its customers, colleagues and communities through events, programs, projects and activities that make a positive local impact. Blue Ridge Humane is grateful to TD Bank for their partnership in this invaluable program that helps keep pets healthy and in their owners' homes.



The Community Outreach van is more than just a means of transportation. It means access to pet care and socialization, food, medication, and an increased quality of life for Meals on Wheels clients and their pets.

We at Blue Ridge Humane Society envision a community that embraces the protection, compassionate care, and highest quality of life for its animals. We strive towards this vision every single day. Unfortunately, when you work in an animal shelter, it can feel as though that goal is far away. We often see the heartache, the neglect, the abandonment, and the abuse of animals' lives, lives which we hold so dear.

However, when I look at how our community has stepped up to be champions for animals, I feel an overwhelming sense of hope. From collecting pennies to large-scale events and everything in between, our community has shown us that they will do whatever they can to help the voiceless four-legged members of our community. This past year has made me feel as though our vision is closer now than ever before. Thank you for letting the animals of our community know that they matter. Thank you for being their voice.

-Angela Prodrick, Executive Director

Strut for a Purpose

They came to strut, scurry, run, and walk. They came with furry friends, human friends, and family members of all ages. Most importantly, they came out to help raise funds and support Blue Ridge Humane Society.

As we returned to in-person events, we were thrilled to have 120 participants in the 5k and 1 mile distances, just tipping us over to our highest participation for Strut Your Mutt so far!



Hunter Subaru hosted us the night before for the first Fido's Night Out featuring sno-cones from Pelican's SnoBalls as we held a pre-event packet pickup and handed out treats from Wag! A Unique Pet Boutique for all furry attendees.

The event netted over \$7,500 thanks to sponsors and race fees. We are already looking forward to next year and seeing even more of you join us as we strut and scurry for the animals. In addition to our amazing runners and walkers, we owe huge thanks to Hunter Subaru, Blue Ridge Orthodontics, Roost Home Management, The Hendersonville Community Co-op and iDaph Events for sponsoring and supporting Strut Your Mutt this year!

Seven Years Saving Lives

Seven years ago, Charleen Bertolini had no idea that signing up to foster a single dog would grow into a passion for helping the most vulnerable animals in shelters—neonatal kittens.

Her first foster was a Beagle named Sadie. Sadie's big brown eyes tugged at Charleen's heartstrings, as did Sadie's abused past. With lots of love and patience, Sadie blossomed and Charleen's first foster became their new family member. But that didn't close the door on future fostering.

Charleen continued to foster dogs but slowly shifted her focus to pregnant cat mamas and then to orphan kitten neonates, taking classes in providing the 24-hour care newborn kittens need.

She's been fostering neonates for the past four years with Blue Ridge Humane Society, and combined with other rescues, she has loved more than 200 babies. "The hardest part of fostering neonates is that sometimes they fail to thrive. My thought is I can't save them all, but I can love all that come to me. Sometimes that has to be enough. You have to open your heart to providing love and support no matter how long or short their lives are; with you they have a chance. That has been my hardest lesson in fostering," says Charleen.

Neonatal kittens are one of the most vulnerable animals to enter the shelter, as without their cat mom or a foster parent, they have little chance of survival. Shelters and rescues do not have the facilities or resources to provide the 24-hour care required—like monitoring body temperature, feeding, and stimulating the kittens to eliminate waste—all things mama cat does. Kittens are also too young for vaccines and are the most vulnerable to disease which is likely if a shelter has a lot of cats in their care. That's where dedicated fosters step in, providing round the clock lifesaving care as the tiny babies grow into self-sufficient kittens ready for vaccination and adoption into a home of their own.

Over the last three years, there has been an average of 340 kittens cared for by Blue Ridge Humane fosters, with 154 YTD in 2021 alone. Fosters like Charleen and the rest of Blue Ridge Humane community give each a chance at not only surviving but thriving, taking the zero percent survival rate if left on their own to almost a 100% guaranteed chance at growing up healthy and strong.



A litter of 9 day old kittens naps while in Charleen's care.



Smokey lets Charleen know he's ready to be fed.

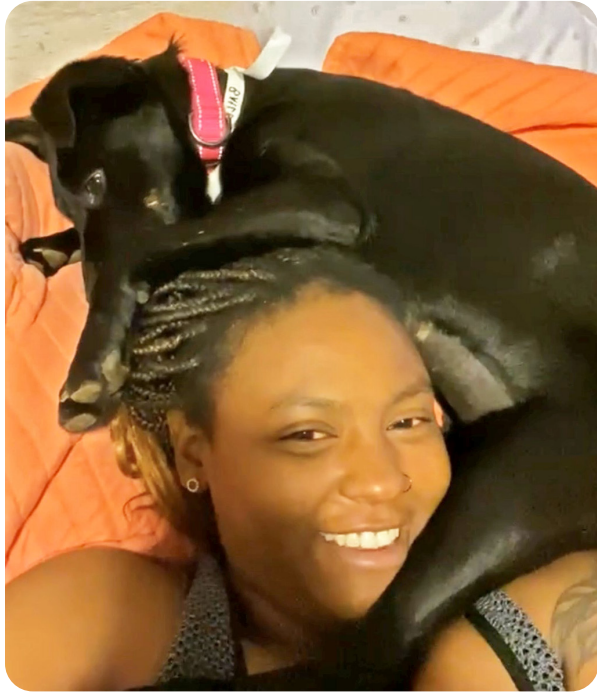
Charleen shares, "I'll admit there were tears when the first kittens I fostered left me. But, I quickly realized I was a step in their lives. I could socialize them, keep them warm, fed and loved, so they were ready for their new homes."

Charleen continues to foster, and has become a part of the Blue Ridge Humane Foster Mentor Program, supporting and helping teach new fosters. "You not only say I'm here if you need me, but also if foster program staff think a home visit is in order, we can give sub-cutaneous injections, nutritional supplements and diarrhea relief. I think of myself as a Linus blanket for new fosters."

Charleen passes on the following to anyone considering fostering: "I can say with hope and certainty that a new foster parent will be given bab(y)ies that are not so vulnerable, so that everyone can have an outstanding first experience. As with everything we do, it takes time and knowledge to help these fragile babies.

Fostering has so enriched my life. I have met so many people with the same goals and love of animals. Blue Ridge Humane has so much to offer and you know you're not alone! I highly recommend fostering to bring unconditional love into your life!"

Fostering Makes Childhood Dreams Come True



Dazian and Bailey share morning cuddles, a perk of fostering.

Dazian Smith fosters because it helped her fulfill a childhood dream. "I've always had an interest in animals and wanted to be a veterinarian as a child but quickly discovered I wanted to care for animals in a different way. Veterinarians are AMAZING and medical care is a HUGE necessity but so is love and I wanted to give my love."

Dazian started fostering in 2019 and gives dogs at Blue Ridge Humane a place to call home while in our care.

She adds: "The best thing about fostering (which is bittersweet) is seeing the animals meet their potential adopters and watching the connection between them, it's the best feeling! Fostering also gives purpose. I hate mornings but once I got a foster, I began to look forward to mornings and the cuddles are pretty nice, too!"

The hardest thing about fostering is saying 'see ya later' to the animals because we never ever say goodbye. Animal love is eternal!"

Her advice to anyone considering fostering? "Remember the initial goal (to get them into a loving home) while still living in the moment when you have a foster. And stinky treats are essential!"

Year to Date Foster Impact

❤️ **82 fosters**

🐾 **240 cats and dogs**
In foster homes

How to Foster

Foster opportunities at Blue Ridge Humane range from caring for neonatal kittens to adult cats, dogs of all ages and sizes, and can be in duration from weekend stays for animals already adopted, or slightly longer stays for cats and dogs while they look for their next family.

Blue Ridge Humane provides all supplies, training, and support from staff and foster mentors to ensure you are confident and supported as a foster with us.

To join us in saving lives as a foster, visit
www.blueridgehumane.org/foster
or contact our Foster Manager Morgan at foster@blueridgehumane.org.



Tommy
Adopted in April



Frangi
Adopted in May



Belle
Adopted in July



Barry
Adopted in June



1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792



Adoption Center
88 Centipede Lane
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Thrift Store
1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Administration
100-B Chadwick Square Court
Hendersonville, NC 28739

(828) 692-2639

www.blueridgehumane.org



JOIN US FOR THE

Barkyard Parties

BENEFITING
BLUE RIDGE HUMANE SOCIETY

September 17-19



Join us in celebrating animal rescue, a second chance, and saving lives!

You can be a part of this year's Barkyard Parties by hosting a private event with friends, attending a public gathering at one of our partner businesses, or donating in lieu of attending an event to help the animals we care for in so many ways at Blue Ridge Humane Society!

Learn how you can support our work and find an event to attend at

www.blueridgehumane.org
or by calling Laresa Griffin at
(828) 692-2639 ext 304.

Visit www.blueridgehumane.org for info, registration, and more calendar listings for all our events and activities!