

The Cat House on the Kings

FELINE RESCUE

summer 2012 | quarterly newsletter | volume 3, issue 2



Cinco De Meow Spring Open House A Success

The Cat House on the Kings Cinco De Meow Spring Open House held on May 5th was a rip-roaring success! Mother Nature did her part by donating perfect weather for the event. The steady stream of visitors brought many donations of bleach, paper towels, food and other goodies. The silent auction tables had a brisk line of bidders right up until the very end. The silent auction and the raffles both did extremely well. This was made possible due to the generous donations of our cat-loving supporters. Sheri McGarva of British Columbia, Canada won the queen size, handmade quilt (valued at \$350) that was made and donated by Maxine Harris. Deborah Shields was the lucky winner of the amazing cat tree donated by Feline Fantasies. Deborah traveled with her family from the Sacramento area to attend the open house. Tom and Tina Ellis of Feline Fantasies are long-time supporters of The Cat House. They also donated 3 additional cat trees for the silent auction as well as five framed personal creations by Tom.

These events could not take place without volunteers. Tammy Barker spent five months preparing for this event,

essentially putting her life on hold to ensure that this event would be a success. Along with her committee of dedicated volunteers, Harvie Schreiber and Eileen Romero, Tammy worked tirelessly to make the open house come together. Terry Noell provided music for the event and Frank Stafford lent his talents as Master of Ceremonies. Amanda Barker and Lisa Boyajian provided tour guide services. Students from Fresno High School were also on hand to volunteer and were instrumental in running one of Tammy's highlight events of the day, the Poop Scoop Contest.

Tammy also convinced the inventor of the revolutionary new tool known as "The Litter Lifter", to travel all the way from Georgia to partner with The Cat House to showcase his product. He also brought 500 Litter Lifters to donate to Open House attendees. The Litter Lifter (www.litter-lifter.com) is invariably the best litter box scooper ever made. The tines are peaked as opposed to flat, allowing the litter to be scooped more efficiently and with virtually no dust. The Litter Lifters were an intrinsic feature of the Poop Scoop contest.

The Poop Scoop Contest consisted of a table set up with 10 litter boxes full of litter and a Litter Lifter in each one. The litter was part of a 2,000-pound donation shipment from a company called "World's Best Cat Litter". The litter boxes were filled with a mixture of items such as tootsie rolls, pennies, marbles and dry beans. The Fresno High students each stood behind one box to act as the "counters". Contestants had 10 seconds to scoop as much "poop" as possible into a brown lunch bag. The counters marked each bag with the contestants name and counted the number of items scooped. The top ten scoopers then competed in the semi-finals to determine the top two finalists. It came down to a face-off between a middle-aged mom with 7 cats and one of the teenage volunteers from Fresno High School. The winner was...drum roll please....Jackie Dale. After doing a little happy dance, Jackie walked away with a sweet Kindle Fire prize package (donated by Karen Rae) valued at \$300! (Keep an eye out for the video on YouTube!)

Talented folkloric dancers, Selma High

Continued on next page... →



**The Cat House
on the Kings**
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... continued from front page.

School students, provided excellent entertainment for the guests with their colorful costumes and outstanding dance performance. Under the direction of Vicki Filgas Trevino, the group known as Los Paisanos, was definitely a pleasure to watch. They really wowed the crowd with their fancy footwork!

Also from Selma High School were a group of art students who spent the day painting a mural, featuring cats, of course, on the wall of the

senior cat unit while other students were helping to sell hot dogs with volunteers, Mike and Francie Caraker.

The turnout for the Cinco De Meow Spring fundraiser was fantastic and fun was definitely had by all. We will look forward to seeing you all again at the always popular Halloween event which is tentatively scheduled for October 27th. ■

A CLOSE CALL FOR BABY KITTY – *The following letter is the perfect testimonial to what love, perseverance and education can do to save a family from having to surrender their beloved family kitty cat. Although it has jokingly been suggested that this cat was “scared” into submission by his near brush with surrender, we all know that Lynea has once again worked her magic.*

Dear Cat House on the Kings –

My wife Shirley and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for saving our kitty. We live in Los Angeles with a 30lb. cat that is 6 ½ years old. He’s a neutered, indoors-only cat and has lived with us since he was the size of a Twinkie. We called him “Baby Kitty” (BK). Since we never thought we’d be keeping him, we never gave him a more permanent name.

BK was a perfectly well adjusted kitty until our daughter temporarily moved back home with her 3 cats. After a couple months, she moved to her new place, taking only 2 of her 3 cats with her. Now BK finds he has a permanent roommate. This touches off his ‘urinating outside the box’ campaign and no matter what we did (including placing his roommate with a good friend who gave her a great home) our boy would not use his litter box with any regularity.

After two years of trying EVERYTHING, we finally decided we had to find him a new home. We contacted dozens of potential adoption centers. We finally decided The Cat House on the Kings in Parlier would be the best possible place for a cat to live if he was not going to live with us. Where else can a cat be free to do as he pleases, be well fed and well cared for in a safe environment?

We arrived at Cat House on the Kings last Sunday with BK to begin the surrendering procedure. Lynea happened by and says – “So why are you surrendering this kitty?” We relate our story and Lynea proceeds to cover a litany of food options and raw food diets from FELINESPRIDE (to reduce his weight), proper usage of “scat mats”, etc. It was like “Cat Information Heaven”. We left Cat House on the Kings loaded up with supplements, ‘scat mats on loan’, AND BK! Suffice to say, BK is back home and has not urinated outside his box even once. He seems to be adjusting well to his new diet.

We can’t begin to thank you for such a wealth of information and generosity with your supplies (which we will repay!) Also we want to thank you for the time that you took to educate us and give us a tour of your amazing facility! You are on our permanent list of places to which we will donate. We wish that NatGeo would do another “special” and/or dedicate a TV series to get the word out on your “herculean effort” to rescue and provide the ultimate sanctuary for cats.

*With gratitude,
Les and Shirley Chang*

Trip To The Cat House On the Kings Changes Family Forever

I wondered if I was crazy when I decided to drive my three kids from our home in the Bay Area to Cat House on the Kings for a day trip. I never imagined that 7 hours (round trip) in a car would result in the best day ever, a day that will live in the memories of my children forever.



Our family has spent the past 18 months fostering kittens for Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, an organization founded to care for cats and lead them to forever homes. The kids were curious to see where many of our four legged guests were coming from. So I loaded up son, Justin, 11, daughter, Jordan, 6, and Brandon, 8, who would be my biggest challenge as he has autism, a disorder making his reaction to new things always a mystery.

Karla Cortez gave us the grand tour of the grounds. We began our tour with the adoption center where we were to select kittens to bring back for adoption. We would foster these kittens for Safe Haven. We visited each building, meeting all the four-legged residents. Every time I looked, Brandon had the same cat in his arms. We spent the next hour walking around, taking in the environment, each of us wandering where the cats led us. Brandon sat in a corner snuggled up with the same cat and telling the other cats not to crowd “Lovey.” We were mesmerized at the sight.

Suddenly there was a ruckus, dogs barking and cats hissing. As I turned to see what was happening, a three-second animal spat became a life changing moment for my kids. Brandon was holding tightly to Lovey explaining that she almost got hurt. Gorilla tears streamed down his face. After calming Brandon, I turned to my other two children whose eyes were also pooled with tears. They explained that they had never seen Brandon show so much concern for a cat. That was it; their hearts had been touched. The Cat House made an emotional impression that would remain forever. This is a gift all parents want to give their children.

Brandon showed Lovey to the staff where they discovered she was in desperate need of some dental attention. They thanked him for bringing it to their attention and whisked Lovey off to the hospital. We loaded up the car with our treasures. Despite the fact that it was a long, dark ride in the pouring rain, there was no bickering and no video games. The kids smiled the whole way home, while strategically sticking their fingers in the cages and eagerly waiting for the moment we arrived home to let the kittens out. Dad was waiting for us when we arrived. Justin and Jordan stormed past him taking the cages to the back room to be opened. Brandon hung back and reported to Dad, “My cat is not here; she is in the hospital.”

One of the kittens, Villa, is now a member of our family. He is leaving his paw print on Justin’s heart, filling the void left when he lost his cat to FIP. Brandon is asking everyday if his cat is out of the hospital yet. It turns out that Lovey needed extensive dental work, including teeth removal. Three weeks later, the Cat House had arranged dental surgery through the Nine Lives Foundation and provided her transport to the Bay Area.

Finally, I walk into the house announcing that I had been out picking up a friend from the hospital. The rest is history. Brandon scooped her up, gave her a tour of the house and named her Samantha, after a classmate. He even gave her a birthday party – one where he baked the cake himself, sat the whole family down, and sang to her – being ever so careful not to get her too close to the candles (he explained that is was a fire danger). It is an incredible relationship to watch. I



am not sure exactly what it is, but either Samantha pulls Brandon out of the aloneness that is autism, or she is able to join him in his world. In either case, it is a relationship that is helping Brandon grow, a relationship made possible by The Cat House on the Kings.

So in the end, I was not at all crazy to bring three kids half way across the state to such an incredible place!

Barbara Beach

"WHO DOES YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE?"

At The Cat House on the Kings Cat Rescue and Sanctuary, founder Lynea Lattanzio gets asked this question fairly often ~ though many people erroneously think that Lynea herself writes this very active Facebook page. Nope, it's just me ... I'm an offsite volunteer who lives in Fresno with my wonderful dear husband, and a houseful of our own rescued kitty cats. Everyday I spend about 12-13 hours a day on Facebook, answering questions, posting pictures, reading posts, commenting, and generally doing what I can to encourage people to help support and donate money to The Cat House on the Kings. For privacy reasons, I prefer not to have my name known, but I thought that some of you might be interested in a little more about me.

Since 2005, I have been very involved in local animal rescue (primarily cats, but we've fostered 40 dogs too) in Central California. During this time, I've fostered more than 150 cats and kittens, done animal rescue transport for a variety of rescues, helped staff adoption events and volunteered hands-on at animal rescue facilities and shelters. In 2011, I fostered SEVEN litters of kittens for The Cat House on the Kings. It was great fun and very rewarding! I was asked in June to take over the administrative duties for the Cat House on the Kings Facebook page. At that time, the page had 2,000 Facebook fans. Since then, it's grown to more than 20,000! WOW! I've tried my darndest to keep this a positive and "happy page," focused on just The Cat House on the Kings (our rescue and fundraising efforts) as well as stories and photos of general cat interest. This does mean that, from time to time, I do remove posts that aren't about The Cat House on the Kings and which aren't positive and encouraging. My hope is that no one takes these actions personally, and that they respect what our goal is on this fun page!

ABOUT ME: Hmm, let's see. My wonderful DH

is active duty military (a pilot), so he tends to be gone a lot even when he is "home" (in the United States, that is), but he also deploys a great deal. After his 8th and final deployment to Iraq last fall, I thought he'd be home for a while. But he now has orders to deploy to Afghanistan later this year. When he's gone, all of the household responsibilities fall on me, and I have a bunch of sad kitties who wonder "Where did daddy go?" Such is the life of a military wife. (For those of you so inclined, prayers and good thoughts for his safety are always welcome and appreciated.) Though I now do volunteer animal rescue work full-time, I used to have a "real job." I was a trial attorney for more than a dozen years. My favorite colors are green and blues. I tend to wear brightly colored tennies ALL the time. I wore a watch, nylons and makeup for the last time in 2005 when I quit my job as an attorney (smile). My birthday is on St. Patrick's Day and I will be (gasp) 47 years old. I love sashimi, which makes me remarkably popular with my cats. I enjoy photography, animal rescue, and I'm a fan of cheesy-bad shark movies.

Oh, and I still haven't decided what I want to be when I grow up (smile)! In the meantime, I will just keep "playing" on Facebook and fostering kittens! =^..^=

Editors Note: This dedicated volunteer also continues to run successful fundraisers on Facebook such as Five-Dollar Fridays. After Lynea put out a request for 12 low-profile ceiling fans for the kitten house, our volunteer ran a Facebook "ceiling fan-a-thon" that netted not only the requested 12 ceiling fans but an additional 5 fans (with lights!) for use in other areas of the Cat House. Kudos and keep up the good work! ■

the dedication wall

The Dedication Wall helps raise much needed funds. You may make a donation for a plaque in memory of a lost loved one (In Memory of...), to honor someone (In Honor of...), or just to show your support of The Cat House (The Miller Family Supports...) The plaques are black metal with gold lettering and are hung in the entryway of The Cat House.

For more information or to place an order call:
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Icker Torres
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When Cats Fly! ...On Wings of Care

On March 22nd The Cat House on the Kings welcomed four new residents. Pilot Bonny Schumaker, founder and president of the nonprofit rescue foundation known as "On Wings of Care," flew four feral cats all the way from Arizona to the airport in Selma. For the past 16 years Bonny has made it her life's mission to transport animals to loving forever homes. Although she usually transports dogs and cats, Bonny has transported rabbits, goats and will pretty much fly any animal that can fit in her single engine plane.

Arizona resident Denise Cotes runs a feline rescue group called Cactus Cats Rescue. Denise captured these cats living in the desert, but they were feral and that usually means unadoptable. Denise searched the Internet and discovered The Cat House on the Kings. The Cat House agreed to

take the feral cats but the problem was how to get the cats from Arizona to California. A car trip would require a 24-hour drive. The Cat House suggested that they fly the cats here. Bonny Schumaker was contacted and she agreed to fly the cats. That 24-hour drive was now a five-hour flight and there was only a \$100 difference in the cost of the trip. The feral cats that once called the Arizona desert home are now firmly ensconced in their new forever home at The Cat House on the Kings.

Although the Arizona feral cats arrived along with a large donation to help defray their expenses, you can help out by sponsoring one of The Cat House's many other kitties. Go to our website at www.cathouseontheKings.com or visit us on Facebook. If you want more information on Bonny Schumaker and her worthy organization, check out the website at www.onwingsofcare.org. ■

Community Food Bank Donates Cat Food



Sabrina James of the Community Food Bank in Fresno recently contacted The Cat House on the Kings. It seems that the Target Distribution Center in Bakersfield had made a donation of cat food to the Fresno Food Bank. It was a very large donation, consisting of 22,630 pounds of assorted IAMS cat food. The high-quality cat food was delivered via a semi-truck and The Cat House decided to share their good fortune. With Cat House workers, Armando and Venessa, coordinating the deliveries, the cat food was shared with ten other rescue groups including Westside Rescue, Halo Café and Last Hope Cat Kingdom.

The Cat House on the Kings wishes to thank Sabrina and the Community Food Bank for their incredibly generous donation. ■

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or use PayPal at:
www.cathouseontheKings.com



One Ton of Litter

The Cat House on the Kings wishes to thank "World's Best Litter" for donating 2,000 pounds of their corn-based kitty litter. With 800+ cats you just can't have too much kitty litter!



Hefty Endowment Purchases Cargo Van For Cat House
In Memory of Doris Barker 1927-2011

The Cat House on the Kings recently had the extreme good fortune to be on the receiving end of an incredible endowment from a woman who loved all animals and felt Lynea was doing the work of angels.

Mesa, Arizona resident, Doris Barker, made this possible by leaving a donation to The Cat House on the Kings in the amount of \$18,000. This has enabled the Cat House to purchase a desperately needed cargo transport van. Before passing away due to Alzheimer's, Doris made it clear she was passionate about doing something to help

out The Cat House on the Kings.

Doris Barker's friend, Karen Holden, related via email; "Doris was an admirably compassionate woman who believed that all creatures, whether four legged or two, deserved to live their lives in a safe and loving environment." Karen also said that Doris held a Masters degree in Art and enjoyed the title of "artist extraordinaire." Doris was most proud of the grant she received to design and paint historical murals on public buildings in California's Gold Country.

As her health declined, Doris derived great joy from having her caregiver log onto the

Cat House on the Kings website so she could watch videos and see photos of all the well-cared for kitties. According to Karen, her caregiver could hear her whispering, "God bless that lady". Doris made it known to her caregiver that she wished to make a gift to further the efforts of the Cat House on the Kings. Her wishes were carried out and for that The Cat House thanks her from the bottom of our hearts.

In memory of Doris Barker and her incredible generosity, a plaque in her honor will be placed on the new unit addition for FIV positive cats. Everyday when we see that beautiful white van, we will think of you, Doris Barker, "angel extraordinaire." ■

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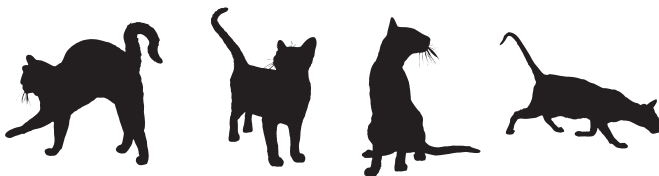
Email Tammy@cathouseontheKings.com for more information

The Cat House on the Kings is a private, non-profit, no cage, no-kill sanctuary, rescue and adoption center for cats run solely on donations and out-of-pocket funding by our founder, Lynea Lattanzio

The Cat House is open to visitors daily by appointment only (except major holidays)

Hours 8:00am – 11:00am;
1:00pm – 4:00pm

We are located near Reedley, CA
Southeast of Fresno, CA



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CONTACT

7120 S. Kings River Road
Parlier, CA 93648

Phone: (559) 638-8696

Email: info@cathouseontheKings.com

Dinuba High School FFA Members Donate



The Cat House on the Kings would like to thank the Dinuba High School Future Farmers of America for their recent donation. The FFA members held a pet food/supplies drive by placing boxes at the school and around the community, making flyers and sending emails. They collected and delivered a most generous donation that included wet and dry cat food, paper towels, bleach, toys and treats. This is the second year that the FFA has graced The Cat House with the bounty of their efforts. We very much appreciate all your hard work. We also appreciate that you care about helping out the kitties that call The Cat House home. Thank you! ■

PAWS FOR THE CAUSE

The Cat House on the Kings has once again been selected to benefit from the Food4Less fundraiser known as "Paws for the Cause." Food4Less is dedicated to raising awareness of the needs of animals in our valley communities. They have made a firm commitment to help support non-profit, no-kill animal shelters like The Cat House on the Kings.

Shoppers may elect to purchase a "paw" for either \$1.00 or \$5.00. Food4Less has stores located in Selma, Fresno, Porterville, Visalia, Madera and Merced. Show your support for a business that cares about animals and shop at Food4Less. Don't forget to purchase your paw! Not only will you be getting a good value for your grocery dollar, but you will also be helping to save the lives of innocent animals. Always remember to save your receipts because your donations are tax-deductible. ■



Relay For Life/Fresno Donates Cat Food



Relay for Life is a 24 hour-team based event that is held annually to raise money for The American

Cancer Society. Relay for Life/Fresno recognizes that animals get cancer too. The Cat House rescued a cat, Jasper, from CCSPCA with a cancerous leg tumor. NatGeoWild was there at the time filming "The Lady with 700 Cats" so the tumor removal was featured in the program. Unfortunately the tumor came back twice more so Jasper's leg had to be amputated. One woman who wishes to adopt Jasper made a significant donation to pay for his surgery.

At nightfall the Relay For Life teams gather on the dark track, lit only by luminaries, to take a silent lap in remembrance of loved ones lost to cancer. This year the luminary committee asked for donations of canned cat food to help weigh down the luminary bags. Relay For Life/Fresno decided to donate the cat food to The Cat House on the Kings. Team Captain Jenn Boyd sent us this statement; "We are honored to gift these cans of cat food to a great sanctuary like The Cat House on the Kings. The Cat House works hard to save the lives of Central Valley cats and they never give up on the felines with cancer. We are proud to be a part of the fight against cancer here in Fresno and hope to work with The Cat House on the Kings in the future." ■



Update on Rescued Tom

Rescued on February 1st from horrific conditions, King the tomcat continues to make an excellent recovery. Donations received, due to his story in our last newsletter, helped bring King from death's door to the now thriving cat pictured here. These two photos are a perfect example of what The Cat House on the Kings can accomplish with your donations. Our thanks to all who donated to help King. ■



Volunteer Clean-Up Day

On March 31st 80 volunteers from Sacramento to Los Angeles converged upon The Cat House on the Kings for a clean-up day. Tammy Barker worked her usual magic to organize and coordinate this Herculean task. She was hoping for at least 30 volunteers to sign up. What she got were 80 enthusiastic volunteers who made short work of an enormous job. What would have taken all day with only 30 volunteers was now accomplished by noon. Two of the outbuildings were emptied, cleaned and reorganized. There is now much needed storage room for equipment, supplies, auction donations, etc. The workers were provided with 16 pizzas donated by one of The Cat House's staunchest supporters, Karen Rae and Lin Faurie. The Cat House would like to offer a sincere, heartfelt 'Thank You!' to everyone who selflessly volunteered their time and talents. ■



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- Sam
from Janis Mullen
- Simba and Sparky
from Noura Gress
- Armand
from Mathew Armaral
- Kyle
from Ellen G Engleman
- Jack Cat
from Linda Switzer
- Bella Brains
from Stella Sarkis
- Sebastian
from Angela Vella Hazard
- Gucci and KayDee
from Sue Ann Sullivan
- Irma Sue Murphy-Hardy
from Patricia Murphy Hardy
- Freda Egge
from Charlie and Carla Garabedian
- Jingles
from Larry and Barbara Miller
- Anita
from Kris and Monica Bremenkamp
- Calvin Soukup
from Deborah and Steven Soukup
- Skunk
from Louise Varley
- Sassy
from Anonymous
- Bob Innes
from Pat & Ann Cole
- Ellie
from Alberta Steitz
- Sadie Malone
from Beverly David
- Calvin Soukup
from Deborah & Steven Soukup
- David McKinney
from Leslie & Mark Sorensen
- Dorothy Fake Buchmann
from Patricia and Joe Vived
- Helen Bowers
from Diana Gatti
- Buster, Indie & Reason
from Stephanie Smykal
- Junior (aka Jr Hippy Hop)
from Garry Plesha
- Sammy
from Kim Stevens
- Tijay
from Lisa Casteel
- Jim Garcia
from Amy Brown
- Marlin Rubin
from Sarah Rubin
- Maverick
from Kathy Tharp
- Daisy May
from Sarah Lane
- Cooter Blackwell
from Jennifer Heslin
- Mamacita Blackwell
from Jennifer Heslin
- Moglie
from Chanel Finzen
- Anna Peters
from Edward Peters

Introducing Our New Writer

Hi, my name is Jackie Dale and I am thrilled to announce that I will be taking over the writing of the newsletter for The Cat House on the Kings. Locally, some of you may know me from Traffic magazine. For those who do not, I have lived in the Reedley area for almost 25 years with my husband of 21 years, Frank, and our two children, Frankie and Dominique. We also have a menagerie of six dogs and seven cats, all rescued animals. A former ballet dancer, I teach yoga and group fitness classes privately and at local gyms.



Lynea and I met nearly 20 years ago and The Cat House immediately became one of my very favorite charities. Her dedication is limitless and for that she has my deepest admiration. I was flattered when I was asked to take on this position and I intend to do my very best for Lynea and the 800+ cats that reside here.

Send us your ideas, stories, photos and of course, donations! Remember, you don't have to have money to donate, your time is also an invaluable asset, so come on out and volunteer. We would love to see you!

This writer also has bragging rights as the #1 Scooper of Poop! Yes, you heard correctly. Using a state of the art litter box scooper, The Litter Lifter™ I scooped my way to fame at the recent Cinco De Meow Open House. I beat out a host of other people, including the final face-off with one of the teen-age volunteers from Fresno High, to claim the title of "Poop Scoop Queen." Poor guy never had a chance. As a mom with two kids, 4 jobs and 13 animals, I have to be quick on the draw. What did this dubious distinction earn me? A Kindle Fire prize package worth \$300!! Look for the contest video to be posted soon on YouTube, and you just might see me doing a little 'happy dance'. ■

WISH LIST

- Newspaper
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Pine Cleaner
- Recyclables

The above items can be dropped off at Petco on Blackstone near Ashlan in Fresno, or at the Cat House

AMAZON WISH LIST

<http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/2H9JU3LYHWISQ>

- Brooms-Commercial
- Mister Fans
- Auto Waterers
- Canned Kitten & Adult Cat Food

GIFT CARDS FROM:

- Amazon
- Home Depot
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- Smart & Final
- Costco
- Walmart

ALWAYS NEEDED:

- Volunteers
- Foster Homes



Help Cat House on the Kings every time you shop.

Shop at Save Mart Supermarket, Smart Foods, Food Maxx or Luckey Stores and proceeds are sent to the Cat House.

It is a great way to contribute without spending any extra money!

Send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we will send you your card.



- Rebecca Hall
from Joanne Shimoguchi
- Diane Flake
from Kim Peters
- JoAnn Raimono & David Minor's Wedding
from Sarah Shreeves
- Len Faurie's Birthday
from William Wilson
- Joanne Shimoguchi
from Rebecca Hall
- Gavin Diaz Cloyed
from Deborah Cloyed