



Fall 2025 Edition

## Help Us Mend More Spirits

Every day, animals across Minnesota face fear, pain, and uncertainty — but because of people like you, they find safety, healing, and love.

Mending Spirits Animal Rescue (MSAR) is not a shelter. We are a **network of devoted foster families** — everyday people opening their homes and hearts to animals who need a second chance. From tiny kittens to senior dogs, rabbits, reptiles, birds, and even farm animals, each one receives love, medical care, and the promise of a forever home.

We are also **the largest all-volunteer, all-animal rescue in southern Minnesota** — meaning **every single dollar you give goes directly to the animals**.

This past year in 2024, we faced one of our hardest challenges yet: **over \$126,000 in veterinary bills**. In 2025, we have spent **\$98,809 on veterinary bills**.

Every dollar represented a life — a surgery that couldn't wait, a broken bone repaired, a vaccination that protected a tiny life from disease. Every healed paw and every beating heart is a reminder of what compassion can do.

Since 2013, our volunteers have rescued **over 5,000 animals** from high-kill shelters, cruelty and neglect cases, owner surrenders, and strays. But there are always more spirits waiting to be mended — and we can't do it without you.

**You can be the reason another animal gets a second chance.** Please **Donate** or **FOSTER** today and help us continue **mending spirits and saving lives** — across Minnesota and beyond.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your presence and partnership are essential.

*With Gratitude—*

*Kristy*



*Toasty*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DIY Cat Shelter .....	2
Rescue Stats .....	3
Wishlist .....	4
Give To The Max .....	4
Prom Recap .....	5
Call to Action .....	6
Giving For Good .....	6

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- All animals pictured in this newsletter are **available for adoption!**
- **Give To The Max:** Save the Date for our biggest fundraiser of the year!
- **Second Chance Prom Recap**



*Alvie*

# DIY WINTER CAT SHELTERS

## *Keeping Outdoor Cats Safe & Warm*

When the temperatures start to drop, life gets tough for outdoor and community cats. A simple, insulated shelter can make all the difference — helping them stay dry, warm, and protected all season long.

The best part? You can build one in an afternoon using items you might already have around the house!

### **Rubbermaid Bin Shelter:**

Use two plastic bins — one smaller than the other. Cut a 6-inch entrance hole a few inches from the bottom corner of each bin. Line the bottom of the larger bin with **straw** (not hay or blankets, which hold moisture), then place the smaller bin inside and pack straw around it for insulation. Snap the lids on, and you've got a cozy cat haven!

### **Cooler Shelter:**

Old **styrofoam or camping coolers** work great since they're already insulated. Cut an entrance hole, fill with straw, and seal the lid. Secure it against wind or elevate it off the ground to prevent freezing.

### **Helpful Tips**

- ◆ Use **straw only** — it stays dry and traps heat.
- ◆ Keep shelters **small** so cats can warm them with body heat.
- ◆ Face entrances **away from the wind**.
- ◆ Raise shelters off the ground using pallets, wood, or bricks.
- ◆ Place near a **food and water station**, ideally using heated bowls.

Mending Spirits Animal Rescue is committed to helping outdoor cats through rescue, TNR, and education. You can help by building a shelter or donating supplies to support our community cats.

Together, we can make this winter a little warmer — one shelter at a time.

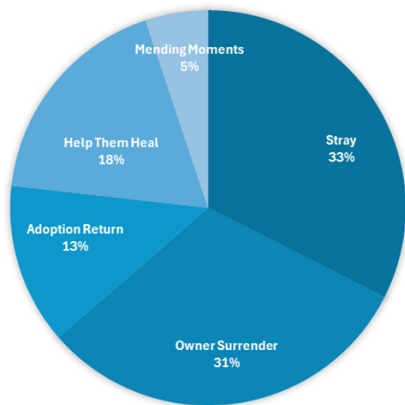


## MENDING SPIRITS IN ACTION

In the third quarter, Mending Spirits Animal Rescue welcomed 99 animals into care — a decrease from 116 in the second quarter, bringing our year-to-date total to 322 animals helped so far in 2025. While intakes slowed slightly, the needs of the animals we took in were more complex, leading to a rise in veterinary costs and specialized care.

Of the animals taken in:

### MSAR THIRD QUARTER INTAKES



(Graph showing the type of animal intake in the third quarter)



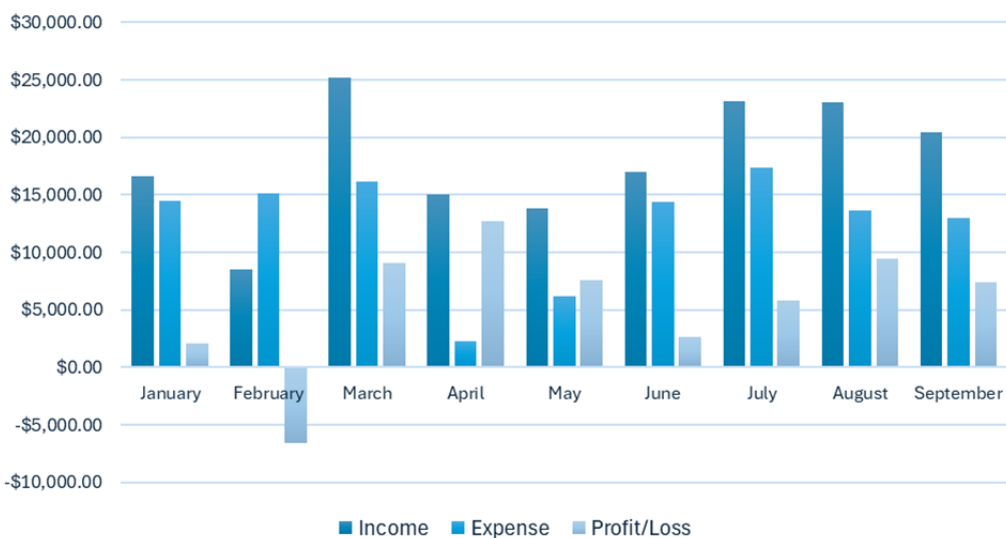
(Visual of the type of animal MSAR brought into care in the third quarter)

This quarter, your support helped Mending Spirits bring in **\$66,868** in income and cover **\$44,017** in expenses — leaving **\$22,615** to reinvest into upcoming rescue work.

Nearly **\$35,000** of our expenses went straight to **veterinary care**. That means your donations directly funded surgeries, treatments, and lifesaving interventions for the animals who need us most.

Want to make an even bigger impact? A gift today helps us stretch even farther into the holiday season.

### MSAR 2025 Mid-Year Financial Report



### MENDING SPIRITS RESOURCES

Click on any of the links below for more information.

- [Pet Behavior Library](#)
- [Vetting Programs](#)
- [Surrender Process & Form](#)
- [Reporting Lost, Found, or Abused Animals](#)
- [MSAR Adoption Process](#)
- [Apply to Adopt](#)

### MSAR PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry Program is here to help families keep their beloved pets fed during times of need. Whether you have hamsters, birds, cats, or dogs, we offer support to help meet your pets' dietary needs—because no one should have to choose between feeding their pet and feeding themselves.

Visit the [Pantry Program](#) to request assistance or make a donation.



Ferris

## HOLIDAY WISHES FOR OUR ANIMALS

### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

#### *With gratitude for our 3rd quarter donors:*

All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
Amanda Beavens  
Amanda Kuebler  
Amanda Reinarts  
Amanda Schindler  
Angie Kimes  
Anonymous  
Becca Peterson  
Benedict's Morning Heros  
Bonfire Sales  
Charles Thompson  
Crista Frederick  
Dairy Queen  
David Nichols  
Emily Molenaar  
Fleet Farm Fundraiser  
Frances Long  
Hailey Winch  
Hendley Exteriors, LLC  
Howard Rosten  
Hy-Vee  
Jason Grenz  
Jessica Wesselmann  
Karen Hansen, LLC  
Kari Suby  
Kathryn Meyer  
Kathy & Bernie Raidt Charity Fund  
Kenyon & Kay Thompson  
Kimberly Haas  
Lacina Siding & Windows  
Landas Landas  
Mankato Area Foundation  
Marcie Mullin  
Mecca Tattoo  
MightyCause Foundation  
Monarch Meadows  
Nicole O'Brien  
North Mankato Fun Days  
Patrick Touhey & Cathy Rieff  
PayPal Giving Fund

*Continued* →

Help make the season brighter for animals in our care! Our Mending Spirits Wishlist includes treats, litter, cozy comforts, and other essentials for pets spending the holidays in foster homes. Every donation helps us spread a little extra love and warmth this winter.

- Martingale collars (small & medium)
- Small cat carriers
- Cat litter
- Non-rawhide dog chews
- Puppy pads
- Treats for our adoptable pocket pets
- PetSmart & Pet Expo Gift Cards: This helps us purchase bugs for our adoptable reptiles.
- Aldi Gift Cards: This helps us purchase produce for our pocket pets.
- Enrichment toys for all species
- Paper Towels



## Give To The Max!

Give to the Max Day is Minnesota's largest day of giving — a statewide celebration of generosity that supports local nonprofits and schools.

This year, Mending Spirits Animal Rescue is aiming to raise **\$30,000** to continue providing medical care, supplies, outreach, and second chances to animals in need.

Early giving is already underway so you can make an impact anytime in November! Every donation — big or small — helps us reach our goal and ensures more tails wag, more whiskers twitch, and more lives are mended.

*Join us on GiveMN.org and be part of Minnesota's biggest day of giving!*



# Second Chance Prom Recap

Our 2025 Second Chance Prom was an unforgettable night of music, laughter, and generosity! With over 150 guests, 13 amazing volunteers, and five members of our Royal Court, together we raised more than \$17,000 in support of Mending Spirits Animal Rescue.

The evening was full of energy, kindness, and community spirit — all to give animals a second chance at life. We're deeply grateful to everyone who attended, donated, and volunteered, as well as to our incredible Diamond Sponsors — Lacina Siding & Windows and Monarch Healthcare Management — for their outstanding support. Their generosity helped make this event possible and ensured that every dollar raised could go directly toward veterinary care, supplies, and lifesaving programs.

Your compassion continues to make a lasting difference for animals across southern Minnesota. Thank you for being part of this special night and for helping us turn “It’s Raining Pets” into a celebration of hope, love, and second chances.

*Your second chance at prom gave them theirs.*



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

- Peter Garner
- Ron Bert
- Ronda Natysin
- Sarah McBride
- Sasha & PappaKorn Ortiz
- September Bake Sale
- Shawn Stollenwerk
- Sheree Palm
- Steve & Cynthia Massop
- Suzie Daley
- Teri Bauman
- Thomas & Rose Haegele
- Thrivent Grant
- Timothy & Karla Peterson
- United Prairie Bank
- Veronica Lundh
- Wingert Land Services

## IN HONOR & MEMORIAM

- Ben & Vicki Pieser—In Memory of Joyce Lopez



*Melo*



*Biscuit*

Top row: Prom Royalty 2025—Kelsey & Brock Allore; Diamond Sponsor Logos.  
Bottom Row: MSAR Board of Directors; MSAR Foster, Nicole, with Count the dog.

# FOSTER | ADOPT | VOLUNTEER | DONATE



**Mending Spirits Animal Rescue** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, 100% volunteer-run, foster-based rescue serving Mankato, MN, and surrounding areas. Founded in October 2013, we are Southern Minnesota's only foster based rescue, dedicated to providing second chances to animals in need.

With a network of compassionate foster homes, we serve not only local communities but also extend our reach across Minnesota and beyond to help animals facing urgent circumstances.

Our mission is to be **"the bridge between"** for animals in need—ensuring that no animal is ever alone and that every pet finds a forever home.

While we are incredibly grateful for our 290+ volunteers, the demand for foster homes, fundraising support, and behind-the-scenes assistance continues to grow. The truth is, we can only save as many animals as we have volunteers to support them.

Right now, we urgently need more foster homes to provide care for dogs, cats, rabbits, and small animals. We also need volunteers to help with fundraising, transport, adoption events, and more.

**Can you help?** Even a few hours a month can make a huge difference! Whether you open your home to a foster pet, help drive an animal to safety, or lend your skills to fundraising, you become part of something life-changing.

Get Involved Today! Visit [MendingSpirits.org](http://MendingSpirits.org) to learn more!

## GIVING FOR GOOD CATALOG

MANKATO AREA FOUNDATION

### Thank you, Giving for Good Supporters!

This summer, Mending Spirits Animal Rescue was proud to be featured in the Mankato Area Foundation's Giving for Good Catalog, which ran from July through August. The catalog highlights local nonprofits making a difference, and thanks to our incredible supporters, we raised \$2,100 for animals in need!

Every dollar from this campaign helps provide food, medical care, and safety for pets who have nowhere else to turn. We're so grateful to the Mankato Area Foundation for lifting up local causes — and to each of you who chose to give. Together, we're mending spirits and changing lives, one animal at a time.

Donate online by clicking or scanning your preferred method below! We also accept checks mailed to P.O. Box 475, Mankato, MN 56002.

*Every dollar brings us closer to giving each animal the love and care they deserve.*

Mending Spirits Animal Rescue  
P.O. Box 475  
Mankato, MN 56002

E-mail: [mendingspirits@gmail.com](mailto:mendingspirits@gmail.com)

