



# The Madonio Family Animal Welfare Trust

Spring-Summer 2018

## *DOG DAYS OF SUMMER 2017*

The morning of August 19, 2017 started with a huge thunderstorm and a heavy downpour that rolled in about 8:15. It looked like our summer festival was going to be a washout. But miraculously, the sun came out an hour later and by our 11:00 starting time, it was a beautiful sunny day.

A crowd estimated at 3,000 showed up along with hundreds of canines of every size, shape and color. Four great bands - FOG, the Dirty Shirleys, the Bluestones and Fallout - provided music for the crowd. The Top Dog contest this year was very spirited and raised a record \$8,900 with Duncan & Skye, the dogs of Robert and Sandra Reid and sponsored by Davey Tree, earning the title of Top Dog(s). Winners were also decided in the Dog-Owner Look-a-Like, Best Dressed Dog, Biggest Dog and Smallest Dog Contests. Check out all of the great event photos on our website - [madonio-animal-trust.org](http://madonio-animal-trust.org)!



A successful event like this would not be possible without the help of many tireless and dedicated volunteers throughout the day including Marilyn & Brian Sessions, Jeff Kurtz, Hartman Family, Salopek Family, Beth Stoneking, Amy Rose, Carley Kruse, Carla Weber, Kim Houser, Karen Esposito, Kent Jaycees, Hoban Knights football players, and the RHS Cheerleaders.

We want to thank our generous event sponsors: the Burbick Foundation, Eddy & Bill White, Brimfield Insurance Group, Allen Aircraft, Linda & Bruce Ferguson, Healing Strides Counseling, Hometown Bank, Memorial Animal Hospital, PARTA, Record Courier, Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital, Adam S Hamilton Foundation, Ametek, David & Janet Dix, Diamond Title, Hartman Family, Rockne's, Thirsty Dog Beer, Tree City Coffee, 202 Investment Group, Belli & Streit Orthodontics, Campus Wine Cellar, Evelyn Dickerson Hair Design, Mayor Jerry & Sue Fiala, Flynn's Tire, Hall-Green Insurance Agency, Kent Cheesemonger, McKay Bricker Framing, PC Surgeons, Rise & Shine Café, R.W. Martin & Sons, Art Armory, and Stonehill Farms.

We would also like to thank the following who sponsored a dog in the Top Dog contest: Ben & Candace Curtis, Davey Tree, Design Restoration, Evelyn Dickerson Hair Design, Memorial Animal Hospital, Herb Page & Paula Treckel, PARTA, Tavern at Twin Lakes, Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital, and the Zephyr Pub.

**Thanks to the support of all the donors, contributors and volunteers, Dog Days 2017 raised close to \$18,000!**

**Dog Days of Summer 2018 will be held on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 4:00.**

**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

## *Volunteer Spotlight - Jeff Kurtz*

Brimfield resident and life-long dog owner, Jeff Kurtz, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for our 2018 Dog Days of Summer event. The proud owner of Chloe, J.B. and 2016 Top Dog – Shiloh, he is perhaps best-known as “The Voice of The Golden Flashes” where his voice has been familiar to fans at Dix Stadium and the MAC Center for more than 35 years while serving as the public address announcer for Kent State’s football, men’s and women’s basketball, gymnastics and wrestling teams.

In addition to his work behind the microphone at Kent State he has also served as the public address announcer for numerous Mid-American Conference and NCAA Tournament events as well as the OHSAA Football Championships and, for the past 17 years as the Press Box Announcer for the Cleveland Browns. He has also served as the Master of Ceremonies for numerous Halls of Fame, awards and recognition programs and local fund raising events.

Jeff is proudly making his third appearance as our Dogs Days Emcee and is looking forward to welcoming all of the dog lovers and their canine friends to this year’s event.

## *Silent Fund Endowment*

We have endowed two local vets who have set up silent funds to help pay for animals in need of medical attention, but whose owners are unable to afford the treatment. These vets prefer to remain anonymous, and we have committed to helping them in their mission so these animals won’t have to go without treatment. To that end, we have donated \$3,000 to these silent funds. Here are two stories that were the impetus for creating this endowment:

**LEO** – Leo was a stray that was found by the roadside, apparently dumped by an owner who no longer wanted him. He was picked up by a family who already had a dog, with the idea of keeping the stray until someone claimed him. No one did. So they decided to keep him and named him Leo. When they took him to their vet to have him checked out, it was determined that he had a severe case of heartworm. The family had just spent a substantial amount of money on their own dog and could not afford the \$900+ heartworm treatment, without which Leo would die. We were contacted by the vet, and along with another individual, paid for his treatment. Leo recovered fully and is leading a very happy existence with his new family.

**SAYZAR** – Sayzar’s owner brought him to the vet after his ear was partially torn off by a neighbor’s dog. He needed immediate surgery to amputate what was left of the ear to prevent infection. His owner had been laid off and had no money for the surgery. I received a call from the vet on a Saturday morning, and after hearing the tragic tale, I assured the vet that the surgery would be paid for. Happily, Sayzar had the surgery and made a complete recovery.

## *SHOUT OUT: Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital*

Dr. Heather Wood and our friends at the Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital held a fundraiser in December to benefit our cause. For a \$10 donation, folks could get their pet’s picture taken with Santa Claus. All proceeds were donated to the Madonio Family Animal Welfare Trust. A big thank you to the Twin Lakes Vet!

## *Meet our Photographers*

Whenever you see pictures from our Dog Days event, they were taken by our two volunteer photographers, Nicole Cunningham and EmiLee Hartman. They are both busy all day during the festival, snapping pictures of the dogs and their owners. They donate their time and considerable talent to record all the action. Here’s your chance to get to know these two young ladies.

**Nicole Cunningham** – Nicole is a 2017 Kent State graduate with a degree in Visual Communication & Design and Marketing. She is employed as a graphic designer at Central Graphics in Cuyahoga Falls. She loves photography & dogs, and you can check out her work at [www.ncunnin7.wixsite.com/nicolecunningham](http://www.ncunnin7.wixsite.com/nicolecunningham).

**EmiLee Hartman** – EmiLee is a 2016 Kent Roosevelt graduate currently pursuing a degree in Photojournalism at KSU. She has her own business specializing in events and senior portraits. EmiLee and her rescued Belgian Malinois mix, Maggie, do everything together. Check her out on Facebook or Instagram @emileehartmanphotography.

## BOOKKEEPING: 2017 Grants

We are pleased to announce that our endowed fund has reached a milestone by surpassing the \$100,000 mark and that the income from it is being used to carry out our mission. We were able to award grants totaling \$10,000 to the following groups:

**Portage Animal Protective League** - \$1,500 (*for the community cat spay & neuter program*)

**Paws In Motion** - \$3,000 (*MFAWT provides 1,800 lbs of dry food and 1,500 cans per year to pets of folks who receive Meals in Motion thru Family & Community Services*)

**Rose's Rescue** - \$2,000

**Happy Trails Animal Sanctuary** - \$500

**Veterinary Silent Fund Endowment** - \$3,000

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Once again we are overwhelmed by the generosity of so many supporters, and we want to let everyone know!! Here is a list of those who have made donations since 2016:

### Up to \$99

Debbie & Romero Albarran-Sotelo  
John & Diane Chiarucci  
James Cotes  
Marylin Conti  
Mary Alice Cowan  
Carol Crimi  
Sue & Mike Denholm  
Bill Gentry  
Tim Gilliland  
John & Carolyn Gunyula  
Rick & Maureen Huscroft  
Josh's Buckeye Carpet Cleaning  
Ralph & Judy Kletzien  
Jeanne & Dick Kotis  
Barb Madonio  
Mike & Diana Madonio  
Elaine May  
Pennell Family  
William Reedy

Karen & Randy Ristow  
Dave & Joanne Roch  
Theresa Schoettler  
Phyllis Spangler  
Beth Stoneking  
Barbara Sullivan  
JR & Cindy Thompson  
Woody & Arlene Wagner  
Carla Weber

### \$100 – \$349

20<sup>th</sup> Century Tours  
Lissa & David Ajemian  
Dave Andress  
Reed & Karen Beck  
Ray Bertka  
Howard & Linda Boyle  
Sandy Caniglia  
Anne & Ken Coyne  
Mike & Brenda Decker  
George & Julie Dietz  
Len & Gloria Dostal

### Fallout (band)

Jerry & Sue Fiala  
F.O.G. (band)  
Jack & Ann Gargan  
Bruce Hill  
Mike & Jane Hornyak  
Frank & Janet Horvat  
Carlos Ledet & Marianne Martens  
Jacque & George Leschinsky  
Kellie May  
Dan & Joyce McCombs  
Matt & Jeannette Messino  
Bob & Judy Pavalko  
Pat Reynolds  
Brian & Marilyn Sessions  
Bernie & Donna Tunno  
Geary & Cindy Visca  
Jim & Susie Waugh  
John Uvena  
Lil Woolf

### \$350 - \$500

Betty & Keith Bowers  
David & Janet Dix  
Linda & Bruce Ferguson  
Darrin & Michelle Hartman  
Dave & Sherry Joy  
Theresa Trivelli

### \$1,000 – \$2,000

Loralee Allen & Jeff Kurtz  
Davey Tree  
Gary Harris  
Little City Grill  
Herb Page & Paula Treckel  
Tavern at Twin Lakes  
Bill & Eddy White

### Over \$10,000

Elsie Momchilov

## How Can You Help?

If you are interested in making a donation, either towards the general fund or to be dedicated to a particular project, checks can be made payable to the *Portage Foundation*, indicating *Madonio Family Fund* in the memo line, and sent to:

The Portage Foundation  
138 East Main St, Suite 201-C  
Kent, Ohio 44240

If you would like to volunteer at Dog Days of Summer 2018, contact us at 330-673-4919 or [madoniofamily@gmail.com](mailto:madoniofamily@gmail.com)  
Check us out on the web at [madonio-animal-trust.org](http://madonio-animal-trust.org) and on [facebook.com/madoniofamily](https://www.facebook.com/madoniofamily)

As always, all money donated goes into the trust or one of our charities.  
All expenses, like this newsletter, are covered by the Madonio family.

## REMEMBERING BUDDY

As many of you know, Buddy Sessions, the first Dog Days Top Dog Winner, passed away in 2017. He was an ambassador for animals in Kent, supported all local endeavors with his parents Marilyn & Brian, and his passing is truly a loss for the entire community. As a tribute to this amazing pup, we would like to announce that the contest has been renamed as the ***Buddy Sessions Top Dog Award.***

We invite local business and individuals to contact us about sponsoring a pooch in this year's contest. There is no cost to sponsor a dog, just a willingness to support a great cause, and to honor the legacy of a great dog.

