



Spring/Summer 2023



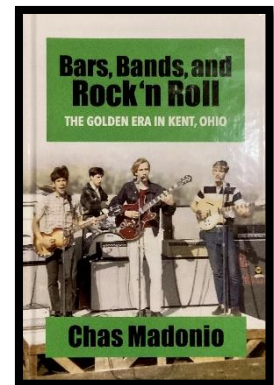
## DOGGIE BAGS NOW GOING FULL SPEED AHEAD

Thanks to the efforts of our friends from Family and Community Services, and in particular Heather Lalibert and Brian Higgins, the Doggie Bags program is off and running. We believe that everyone should have a fully belly – no matter how many legs they have! Doggie Bags provides pet food for owners who are already struggling with food insecurity. Portage County pet owners who receive meals from the Ravenna Center of Hope, Kent Social Services or Mobile Meals are eligible to receive free pet food from the Doggie bags program. “I am a homeless veteran and I live in my car and cannot go to the shelters

because they do not accept dogs. I have no income; I depend on the Center for my food. Now that I can get food for my dog, I do not have to give up my dog. I am hugely thankful” – Mark. Donations can be made directly to this program – either monetary or bags of pet food – to LaJoyce Harris directly through the Ravenna Center of Hope, to Marquis Seward at Kent Social Services, or at the Brimfield Insurance Agency. We don’t want any hungry pets in Portage County!

## NEW BOOK TO BENEFIT TRUST

In November, Chas published his first book, *Bars, Bands & Rock ‘n Roll*, through the Kent Historical Society. All proceeds are being split equally between the Kent Historical Society and the Madonio Animal Trust (MAT). To date, over 1,000 copies have been sold. The MAT will receive approximately \$7 for each book sold. Buy a copy and help two great causes! The book is available at Hometown Bank, Woodsy’s Music, McKay Bricker Framing or on line at the Historical Society ([kentohiohistory.org/shop](http://kentohiohistory.org/shop)).



## DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE FUND

Despite a brutal year on the market, we were nonetheless able to make a number of disbursements to some of our favorite animal causes. Top of the list this year was \$3,400 to Family & Community Services to restart the Doggie Bags program. Here are the other donation made: Portage County Animal Protective League \$2,000; Rose’s Rescue \$2,000; Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary \$1,500; Portage County Dog Warden \$1,000; Tree City Cats \$500; People Care Pet Pantry \$500.

# DOG DAYS OF SUMMER – The Buddy Sessions Top Dog Contest

We had a wonderful gathering of dogs and dog lovers for our 7<sup>th</sup> Dog Days of Summer. This event gets bigger and better each year! Although there are many fun activities during the day, one of our favorite events is the Buddy Sessions Top Dog Contest. The contest actually starts long before the festival, with voting continuing throughout the day until 3:00 when the votes are counted. Local business and individuals are encouraged to enter their pup in the contest, and votes are collected in the form of dollars. Cash donations are accepted at the sponsoring business, and now you can even “vote” on the website. By the end of the day, the dog who has raised the most money is crowned the Buddy Sessions Top Dog, earning a handsome trophy, bragging rights, and the chance to be the Grand Marshall for the next year’s parade. Back in 2015, Buddy Sessions was the first to earn this distinctive honor. Sadly, Buddy passed away in 2017, and we renamed the contest in his honor. Please reach out to us if you would like to have a “dog in the race” this year! There are lots of opportunities to promote your candidate and your business.



**2022 WINNER - COLE FROM MEMORIAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL**



**MARILYN & BUDDY SESSIONS**

## 2022 BUDDY SESSIONS TOP DOG CONTESTANTS



**2022 Sponsors** - Although we do have a group of loyal supporters who make donations on a regular basis, our major fundraiser each year is the Dog Days of Summer event in August. It definitely “takes a village” and despite our best intentions, we would not be able to host the event alone. We remain grateful for the continuing support we receive and encourage you to thank the following individuals and businesses throughout the year. Bill & Eddy White, Lexus of Akron/Canton, Brimfield Insurance Group, AMETEK, Jack & Claudia Amrhein, Davey Tree, Diamond Title, Family & Community Services, Flynn’s Tire, Bridget Gargan, Darrin, Michelle & Emilee Hartman, Hometown Bank, Memorial Animal Hospital, Over Easy at the Depot, Serra Auto Park, Tree City Coffee, Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital, Capelli – Theresa Trivelli, Goldthwaite Safran Group at Morgan Stanley, Adam S Hamilton Foundation, Rockne’s, Paula Treckel & Herb Page, Wayside Furniture, City of Kent Service Department, Evelyn Dickerson Hair Design, David & Janet Dix, Mayor Jerry & Sue Fiala, John Flynn – Attorney, Healing Strides Counseling, Sally Kandel Consulting, The Salopek Family, In Memory of Waldo Sober, and Wright Heating & Air Conditioning. And as always, thanks to Jeff Kurtz for keeping the party going by donating his excellent emcee talents each year.



## Volunteer Spotlight – Beth Stoneking

Dog Days of Summer would not be possible without our good friend, Beth Stoneking. Beth has been with us since day one, meeting at Little City Grill to plan and plot out how we could get this crazy idea for a downtown dog festival off the ground. She has been there for us through it all, and keeps coming back for more each year. Beth is responsible for the design and production of our collectable Dog Days t-shirt, and donates her time to do so. Beth is also the mastermind behind the dog parade each year, fine-tuning it into an opportunity for each dog-lover to showcase their beloved pet. AND she brings along her sisters, Amy Rose & Diane Ludick, to help each year. Beth, we can't thank you enough ☺



## 🐾 Thank You 2022-23 Donors! 🐾

Gary Harris • Betty Bowers • Dan & Joyce McCombs • Leslie Lucas • Roxanne Brown • Doug & Karen Fuller • Ralph & Judy Kletzien • Kay Davies • Rebecca Orin • Terry Ryan • Greg Wilson • Ann Gargan • Tom Yoder • Susan Waugh • Reed & Karen Beck • Sherry & Dave Joy • Marilyn Sessions • Lucy & Bruce Ribelin • Rick & Maureen Huscroft • Kenny & Anne Coyne • Carlos Ledet & Marianne Martens, Darcie & Eric Seachrist, Erin & Joe Latina, McMaster-Carr – All in memory of Lawrence “Larry” Adams • Phyllis Spangler – In Memory of Millie II • Don Chappellear – In Memory of Dick Haas • Erin & Joe Latina – In Memory of Lola Martens-Ledet

Once again this year, we'd like to give a special shout out to **Laurie Sober**, who, along with her friend **Jeff Martin**, creates and donates many of the gift baskets that we raffle off at Dog Days. Thank you Laurie!

## Bill White

We lost a good friend of animals and one of our original supporters in December when Bill White passed away at the age of 94. Bill and his wife Eddy have been major financial supporters of Dog Days since day one. He was well known in the area as a bowling proprietor and an avid sportsman. He and Eddy are the sponsors of the Eddy and Bill White Strut Your Mutt Parade at Dog Days. We will miss Bill, but the Strut Your Mutt Parade will help to carry on his legacy.



## 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 Animal Trust* in the memo line, and sent to:

The Madonio Animal Trust • 1204 Tallmadge Road • Kent, Ohio 44240

*All donations go into the trust or to one of our charities ~ All expenses, including this newsletter, are covered by the Madonio family.*

**If you would like to volunteer at the next Dog Days of Summer, 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://facebook.com/madoniofamily)**

## *Dog Days of Summer 2023*

Mark your calendars for Dog Days 2023 - Saturday August 19th in downtown Kent! We'll have various dog contests throughout the day, raffle baskets, the Eddy and Bill White Strut Your Mutt Parade, live music, pet product vendors, food trucks, and local craft beer served by your Kent Jaycees. And as always, we'll be crowning the Buddy Sessions Top Dog award winner for the year! Be sure to follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Madoniofamily> for more updates. See you in August!

