



GIFTS TO POUND BUDDIES' COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Donations given to Pound Buddies' sponsored programs and collaborations will be used to support staff time, transportation, educational materials, and other needs to ensure sustainability of the following community initiatives.

B.A.R.K.

B.A.R.K. (Be Aware, Respectful, Kind) is a program designed to help increase children's awareness of canine "signals" in order to better protect them from dog bites. B.A.R.K. trained Pound Buddies representatives make presentations to local area elementary schools, teaching children to recognize the difference between a safe and an unsafe encounter with a dog, as well as sensible rules to follow whenever interacting with a dog, regardless if it is the family pet...or a dog they are meeting for the first time.

Dogs Playing for Life®

The single most beneficial tool in determining the temperament of a dog is to observe their interaction with other dogs. Dogs Playing for Life® is a supervised program, conducted by trained Pound Buddies' handlers, giving them - and our shelter dogs - added opportunity for successful placement through adoption. In a specially designed enclosure, Pound Buddies' handlers track and document dogs' behavior when in a social "pack" setting, which is their most natural and instinctive environment. This nationally recognized program has a proven track record of saving more shelter dogs when the Dogs Playing for Life® criteria is followed.

Muskegon's Baker College Vet Tech Program Collaboration

In partnership with Pound Buddies and other area shelters, Baker College's Veterinary Technician program increases the opportunity for more shelter pets to receive primary vet care—at no cost to the shelters—including basic spay and neuter procedures. Under the supervision of licensed Baker College veterinary staff members, students observe minor surgeries and receive hands-on training in inoculations, bloodwork, micro-chipping and more, as part of their two-year education curriculum. Donations directed to this program will be used solely for additional Pound Buddies staff needs, equipment and fuel for the purpose of transporting shelter animals to and from the Baker College facility.

GoDog!

GoDog! pairs shelter dogs with individuals seeking a unique method of physical fitness, offering both people and shelter pets the opportunity to benefit from companion exercise regiments. Individuals team up with shelter dogs, to accomplish a variety of challenges helping them fulfil walking, running, and agility goals while assisting dogs maintain their physical and mental health during their residency in the shelter environment.

Tell a Tail Reading Program

This program is designed to enrich both the lives of children and shelter pets. Children ages 7 and older are invited to come to Pound Buddies and read to the dog and cat residents...while giving them meaningful reading practice. This type of interaction with the children lowers stress levels in the animals and helps them become more comfortable around people. The overall goal is to make a positive impact on the animals and hopefully help them into new homes. However, the children also benefit by gaining confidence in their ability to read aloud in a fun and safe environment and gives them a sense of accomplishment by spending time with a shelter pet in need.

www.poundbuddies.org • (231) 724-6500 • 1300 E. Keating, Muskegon 49442

Pound Buddies is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. We are registered with the state under Volunteers of Muskegon County Animal Control.