



**Animal Friends**

FOUNDATION, INC.

"Furry Facts"

1370 S. Main Rd., No. 138  
Vineland, NJ 08360



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Grace Daniels  
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### A Special Thank You to:

- Gloucester County Craftsmen & Home Show
- Vineland Pizza Hut

Their help with events provided funds and food for the animals!



**Animal Friends**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

w. AnimalFriendsFoundation.com

856-503-5572

**Furry Facts**

Spring, 2015

## View from the third floor

By Ric Kuhns

For the first time in its 12-year existence, Animal Friends Foundation began a new year without the Vinci name attached to it.

That's right, Carolyn and Lew have decided to enter into a well-earned retirement, having nurtured this organization to where we are today. With a good mission statement and a solid membership base on which to rely, there's not room enough in the newsletter to list their accomplishments or the ways in which they enriched the lives of others and their pets. Close to 500 people took advantage of what I like to call a "parting gift" put in motion by Carolyn and Lew when from June through November of 2014, AFF subsidized the out of pocket cost of spaying or neutering to just \$25 for cats and an equal discount for dogs.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Lew for spending many hours in the office and on the phone providing me with the knowledge and guidance to keep the voucher program running smoothly once they retired. And Carolyn, better keep Lew busy or he's going to spend more time coupon hunting.

January 1, 2015 brought with it a brand new Board of Directors and the opportunity for AFF to expand in new directions with the experience, energy and dedication they bring with them. Please join me in welcoming Robert, Macleod and the rest of the Board as we move AFF into the future. See the related story on this page for more details.

I'm hoping the membership takes an interest in some of the programs and projects we have in mind and takes the opportunity to come out and be a part of it.

All in all, it appears that AFF will continue to thrive and area residents and their pets will continue to rely on us in keeping the cost of surgeries down, as well as providing the education and equipment needed in our

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## New Board of Directors Heads Animal Friends

Animal Friends Foundation started 2015 with a new leadership team at the helm, following the retirement of AFF founders Carolyn and Lew Vinci.

The Vincis are still in the area but plan to move permanently to Virginia after some personal matters are completed.

Meanwhile, the spay-neuter program that is the hallmark of AFF continues without interruption, thanks to the work of volunteer Ric Kuhns as operations manager (see Ric's article at left).

Here are brief profiles of the new Board of Directors:

**Macleod Carre**, President, is a licensed social worker affiliated with the Horizon Blue Cross Long Term Support and Services program. He has been an adjunct professor at Cumberland County College for the past nine years, teaching courses in the social sciences. He received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Ohio State University and an M.S. in social work from Columbia University.

A native of Wheeling, W. Va., he has been a Vineland resident for the past 14 years. His other volunteer activities include the boards of the Vineland Downtown Improvement District and Elwyn in Vineland.

**Michael D'Ippolito**, Vice President, is a senior computer technician at the South Jersey Hospital System based in Vineland, where he has worked since 1998. He is a graduate of Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) where he earned a B.S. in Business Management. He also holds an



*Macleod Carre,  
President*



*Robert Odorizzi,  
Treasurer*



*Rachele D'Ippolito,  
Secretary*



*Michael D'Ippolito,  
Vice President*

associate's degree from Cumberland County College and completed its A+ certification course in 2003.

**Robert Odorizzi**, Treasurer, is a Vineland native. He operates his own interior design firm, Intertex, Inc. He also is management director of North Cypress Rentals and owner of Lillian B Apparel in Vineland, specializing in clothing for the handicapped and disabled. From 2005 to 2011 he was treasurer for the City of Vineland. He attended Stockton College of New Jersey, majoring in Business Administration.

His volunteer activities include the Auxiliary of Bishop McCarthy Residence, of which he is president; the Sacred Heart Parish Council; the boards of the Sicilian-American Club of South Jersey and the Italian

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Number of spay/neuter procedures funded through AFF in 2014...886

## Message from founder Carolyn Vinci

*Dear Friends,*

This will be my final communication as President of the Animal Friends Foundation (AFF). As one of the founders of this organization 12 years ago, I am so very proud of what we have accomplished in helping animals and their caretakers. I'd like to thank fellow founders **Kelly Pladeck, Denise Jackson and Debbie Capo** for having the vision to address the need for low cost spay/neuter services in our community. With plans for retirement including eventual relocation out of state, a transition team with new leadership has been put in place to continue operations. Please read elsewhere in this newsletter about the very able new Board of Directors that is now in charge.

Our office will remain at the Wood Street address (hours by appointment) and our mailing address, website address and telephone number will be the same. Mr. **Ric Kuhns**, AFF Director of Operations, has been working alongside our Manager/Treasurer Lew for the past year to "learn the ropes" and is now the main contact through phone and email. AFF will continue its important Veterinary Partner Network which has been the cornerstone of our success in reducing the numbers of unwanted companion animals. We will also continue to promote and support Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) programs as the most humane and effective method of

reducing feral cat populations. A special salute goes to the City of Millville for their continued commitment in this area.

AFF could not have survived and indeed thrived without the support of each and every one of you. I would like to personally thank the volunteers, members, past and present board members, donors, municipal leaders, legislators, our partner non-profits, our partner veterinarians, area businesses, **Cumberland County College**, supporters who ran fundraisers and grantors including the **Cumberland County Improvement Authority, PetsMart Charities, Petco Foundation, Wal-Mart** and the **Build-A-Bear Foundation**. In addition, a very special thank you to our newsletter editor, **Carol Smith**, who has done a fantastic job of getting the word out about AFF for over 10 years. Her patience and commitment to presenting a first class newsletter has helped us tremendously.

All of you have contributed by at first helping us to become established and then to press on, sometimes in the face of huge odds, to really effect change by educating and supporting community members. My hope is that you will continue to lend your support to the new leaders of this organization.

With immense gratitude,

*Carolyn Vinci*

## New president explains mission

When Robert and I were presented with the opportunity to take over the mission of Animal Friends which had been nurtured by the Vincis and their numerous volunteers, particularly Ric, we knew that it was a big undertaking and would cause us to have to adjust our busy schedules to be able to do the same outstanding job that had been done in the past.

As some of you know, we were involved with the organization in the past and although we had not been as active recently, we remained devoted to the underlying values and the mission of the organization. On our own we had trapped and neutered many stray cats and had seen their offspring adopted to happy and receptive families. Robert in particular has been an untiring force in caring for "mommies" and their kittens, crawling under the house to make sure they were safe and well cared for. Happily we never lost a single kitten despite some really close calls.

Our current brood of five boys and two girls keeps us busy and gives us back more than we give to them in caring for them. We laugh at their antics and get upset when they sneeze, cough and throw up.

At the risk of waxing sentimental, we feel it is safe to say that animals are a joy for any human to have in their company and they share their love and devotion without asking for much. Well, sometimes they do ask for a lot, especially when they want to be fed in the morning and are relentless in poking you to wake up, or when they go after one another and run crazily around the house stirring up the rugs and knocking over everything in their way.

All of our cats were strays and we got them mostly as kittens, so they are truly attached to us. However, when we see hungry and neglected cats roaming around the neighborhood, we are more committed in trying to see them safe. We trap them and

## Welcome, New Members!

### Lifetime:

Rosalie & Richard Baker  
Robert Donato  
John Vinci

### Business:

Systems Electric, Cedarville

### Ambassador (2 year members):

Carol Bernhardt  
Diane Williams  
Jere Gibber  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Williams  
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Irene Ferguson  
Sharon Kewish

### Sponsorship:

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Rita Nicholas  
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Joyce Vanaman  
Patricia Reed  
Judith Louvis  
Bernadette Gabardi  
Joseph Burke's Charisma Salon  
Toni Haight  
Maria Hogan  
Anne Smith  
Pat Reed  
Joan Blew  
Sherry Johnson  
Cecil McPherson  
Diane Calabrese  
Lenora Kashner Wittje

neuter them and then feed them and send them on their way, knowing that now they will be safer. We know that all of you share our same sentiments and want to see all animals, not just cats, cared for and not neglected. As human beings we are entrusted as the caretakers for other animals and should always be their friends.

We look forward to working with all of you in the years to come and welcome your support and input into the organization we all share.

*MacLeod Carre*

*President of Animal Friends*

## Dr. Blumenthal: part time athlete, full time vet and AFF supporter

One of the first veterinarians to participate in AFF's low cost spay/neuter programs, Dr. Hal Blumenthal, owner of the Animal Hospital of Millville, might never have become an animal doctor had it not been for a youthful experience while working at a "dude" ranch in Pennsylvania.

"Working with horses at the ranch spurred my interest in animals," he recalled while examining a canine patient at his office on Sharp Street in Millville. After earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Long Island University in Brooklyn, his native city, he was working towards a master's degree in endocrinology, teaching science courses as part of an assistantship at the University. But that goal was not to be. He changed career paths and entered the University of Pennsylvania Veterinarian School, where he graduated in 1971.

Forty-four years later, he is still involved and enthusiastic about his chosen profession. "Every day is a new experience in veterinary medicine," he said, and added, "I enjoy what I do and have no plans for retiring."

Dr. Blumenthal's interest in partnering with AFF stemmed partially from his involvement with the New Jersey low-cost spay/neuter program, which has "limited funds," he said, and the realization that more needed to be done to alleviate the pet overpopulation problem.

Unneutered pets and the feral cat colonies that result are not the only problems he sees in Cumberland County. Many pet owners fail to get their pets vaccinated, he said, and his office sees many cases of parvo virus, the deadly disease that can afflict both dogs and cats.

However, there are some bright moments, such as when he can save an animal's life, which he says is the "most rewarding"



*Dr. Blumenthal tends to a client at The Animal Hospital of Millville, assisted by technician Rachel Rottkamp.*

part of the job. But he emphasized that the pet over-population problem is a major concern, and his support of programs such as AFF's low-cost spay/neuter arrangements is his way of giving back to the community.

A resident of Millville, Dr. Blumenthal's family consists of his wife Barbara; his son Adrian, a Colorado teacher; and his daughter Lindsay, who works in her dad's office as a receptionist.

He is an avid amateur athlete, biking at least five times a week, and his regimen includes running, winter skiing, basketball, and working out in the gym that's set up in the office basement.

"Some day I'd like to do an Olympic triathlon," he mused, referring to an event that combines running 6.2 miles, swimming close to a mile and biking 24.8 miles.

## New Board of Directors is announced

### (Continued from page 1)

Cultural Foundation of South Jersey; chairman of the South Jersey Healthcare Foundation/Inspira Health Network Auxiliary; and Board treasurer and Capital Campaign chairman of the Landis Theater Foundation.

**Rachele D'Ippolito** (Michael's wife), Secretary, is a teacher at Vineland High School and chairman of the Business and Technology Department. She has also taught at Cumberland County College, St. Joseph's High School in Hammonton and Holy Spirit High School in Absecon. Before she entered the teaching profession, she was a paralegal at law firms in Pleasantville and Atlantic City.

She is a graduate of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, where she earned a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in

International Studies. She also holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Wilmington.

She is a member of the American Teachers of French, the Landis Theater Gala Committee, and is a writer for the Italian Club newspaper.

## View from the third floor

### (Continued from page 1)

ongoing effort to lower the population of free roaming cats. Irresponsible pet ownership and bad control tactics have made this a community-wide problem that we need to fix.

At least, that's the view from the third floor.

**--Ric Kuhns**

**Director of Operations/TNVR Coordinator**