Remi and Rocky double the love for a local family

“We were only planning to adopt Remi,” says James E., but they learned that Remi had a friend named Rocky, and “When we met him and saw how... joyful he was, we [adopted] him, too.”

Remi, a young pit bull mix, was relinquished to a shelter after having a litter of puppies. MCHS rescued her, got her spayed, so that she was ready for her new home.

Rocky first came to MCHS in a litter of abandoned puppies. Two years later, we learned that he had been relinquished to a nearby public shelter. Your financial support enables MCHS to make a lifetime commitment to every animal in our care, and we retrieved Rocky from that shelter to give him a new start. He had grown to be strong and was untrained, but we knew we could work with him to get him ready for adoption. Rocky and Remi’s friendship was cemented when they met at MCHS.

Remi and Rocky got lucky. They were adopted the day before MCHS closed due to Covid-19 – we were thrilled to see them go home together. “They fit perfectly in our household,” James says. “My son is eight and absolutely loves them, and my thirteen-year-old daughter is teaching them tricks.” Remi enjoys relaxing on the couch, while Rocky likes watching TV. His favorite is “Wheel of Fortune.”

MCHS provides pet food pantry for the community

The Montgomery County community has found itself in the middle of challenging times – fending off a pandemic and dealing with the wave of unemployment that followed. To help, MCHS reached out to its supporters in order to expand its pet food pantry inventory, and partnered with area businesses to begin distributing food at scheduled events throughout the community.

The first distribution event was held in June, and more are scheduled at various locations throughout Montgomery County this summer. Visit mchumane.org/events for a listing of upcoming events.
Dear friends,

The same work in a new world.

After months of waiting, planning, answering questions from the public when everything was shuttered, and providing pet food to those who had fallen on hard times, MCHS launched a limited re-opening on June 22. We were thrilled to see puppies Mya, Mia, Maximus and Maddox go home within two days, and more puppies and cats go home in the days that followed. We quickly welcomed more homeless animals the week we opened – it feels great to be functioning again, even if it’s on a different schedule, at a distance and behind masks.

Like everyone else, we at MCHS have learned a lot about embracing change, discovering new resilience and employing ingenuity. We better understand the deep resources we all have for doing good despite the odds, and how rewarding it is to carry out our charitable work amid trying circumstances and plenty of unknowns.

And we’ve come to a deeper appreciation for you, our supporters. Despite our closure, the gifts kept coming in, and that means we’re positioned to move forward, in whatever form that may take in the coming months. It also means that our spay/neuter clinic will re-open with more services, just at the time they are needed most.

It’s all about creating a more humane community – together. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

Out of Covid-19, plenty of generosity

In the middle of the Covid-19 shutdown, we got a fascinating email. A young, new Nashville star was offering MCHS a special opportunity.

Like many other artists and performers, Trey Taylor was stuck at home looking for ways to reach his audience. And as an animal lover, he was inspired to use his time and talent to give back. Taylor has connections in Montgomery County, and contacted MCHS with an idea – a virtual concert performance for a live-stream event that would raise funds for MCHS to rescue, care for and adopt out homeless cats and dogs, and to support our many other life-saving programs.

The concert – An Evening with Trey Taylor – is scheduled for Thurs., July 30 at 7:30 p.m. It will broadcast live from Cambria Hotel Rockville via Facebook Live, in a private group for ticketholders only. Virtual tickets are $20 and available on our website: mchumane.org/special-events/evening-with-trey-taylor/. It’s a unique chance for all MCHS supporters to join Trey in making a difference for animals in need.

We miss you, Lenny

The MCHS team mourns the loss of one of our original Humane Education Guinea pigs, Lenny, who passed away in May after a sudden illness. Lenny and his late brother, Squiggy, were rescued from a dumpster years ago, and became integral members of the MCHS team. They were the first pets some children had ever touched. Together, they taught kids the importance of kindness to animals.

“Lenny knew his job,” said Addie Soares, MCHS Humane Educator, who worked with him. “It was incredible to see the children’s faces when they touched him for the first time.”

Lenny is survived by his Guinea pig partners, Ben and Jerry, and the rest of his Humane Ed team.
**The king of his new castle**

King (his new name) was a three-month-old Pit-mix puppy when he was adopted from MCHS at the end of January. “My husband Eric and I got married in October, and we wanted to expand our new family,” says Ana G. “We love him very much.”

King now goes everywhere with his new family. “He’s been to the beach – he is great in the car, and we’ve taken him on a few road trips,” she says. “Now that we’re both working from home, he absolutely loves it. He’s been a great little companion for the pandemic. We run every day, and King has a huge backyard to play in, too.” He also enjoys splashing in his brand-new kiddie pool.

King is also growing up fast. When Ana and Eric took him to their veterinarian at the end of June, he weighed in at 53 pounds, and he’s still growing. “King has been a real blessing for our family, and we’re grateful for the work you do,” Ana says. King has a lot to be grateful for, too.

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**Pumpkin – co-worker and bird watcher**

“He’s a really affectionate boy...and he’s very vocal about what he wants!” adopter Jinlin F. says about Pumpkin, whom she adopted from MCHS last September. Jinlin grew up with a tortoise and a fish, and always wanted a cat. She visited rescues and adoption fairs for three years before finding Pumpkin on the MCHS website.

Pumpkin loves the fact that Jinlin has been working from home. “He jumps on the desk and plays with my fingers as I try to type. If I try to ignore him, he...puts his paw on the monitor and stares me down!” Pumpkin also is quite the pillow hog. “He jumps up on the bed for cheek scratches, and then [lies] down on the middle of the pillow. It doesn’t matter where my face is. I have to move my head.”

A fourth-floor view doesn’t keep Pumpkin from his favorite hobby: bird watching. Jinlin puts bird seed on her balcony, and Pumpkin watches from a playpen nearby. Pumpkin also loves to chase flies. “He’s fast as lightning!” Jinlin says.

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‘Virtual’ Paws in the Park is not just for dogs!

When Covid-19 came to town and shuttered events across the region, MCHS’s largest fundraiser, Paws in the Park, was no exception. We responded by taking some of the Paws in the Park contests online, with fun results.

“This was a great way to bring our community together during the shutdown. By going virtual, we could allow all pets – not just dogs – to enter the contests!” says MCHS President Cris Bombaugh. In fact, one of our contest winners was not a dog at all, but a Guinea pig!
A special girl seeks a special home

Are you a dog lover looking for a new family member? Are you willing to put in some work to help a special young lady find her perfect place in your home? If you answered yes to both, you may want to meet Cora, a three-year-old hound mix who has been with MCHS for nearly a year.

“Cora won’t fall in love with you right away,” says Brian Glover, Director of Operations and Outreach at MCHS. “You’ll need to court her over several visits. Once she learns that you’re safe and can be trusted, she’ll do well.” Brian says that it’s taken months of patience and hard work by the MCHS staff to get her ready for her new home, but her new family will need to be committed to continuing the work as well. Brian says he knows that work will pay off. “She really is a sweet dog.”

Cora will do best as an only dog in a home with no young children. Please visit www.mchumane.org to complete an online application.

Misty’s taken their hearts

“She sleeps a lot, she plays a lot, she likes being with us!” That’s how adopter Joanne B. first described Misty, the three-year-old she and her husband, Edward, adopted in February.

Joanne and Edward have had cats for most of their 53-year marriage. “I was happy to see how...good to the animals you are,” Joanne says. While she was here to meet Misty, she was impressed with the compassion our team showed to a man who wanted to re-home a senior cat, “Kane.” (Kane went to his new home in February – ed.).

“Misty, isn’t a lap cat, and she can be kind of squirmy when I try to hold her,” Joanne says, but Misty follows them everywhere. “She’ll sit next to us on the couch or on the arm of a chair we’re sitting in.” She sleeps with them, too. “It’s the cutest thing – she climbs up on the bed in the middle of the night, and lies between the pillows. When we wake up, Misty is just lying there, staring at us.”

Misty also enjoys playing with the toy mice she took home from MCHS.“She likes to play fetch with them...well...she chases them when we throw them, but she won’t actually bring them back. She expects us to fetch them,” Joanne says. “Misty is great – she’s taken our hearts.”

Extending their giving

Linda and Mike Marmer are lifelong animal lovers and long-time MCHS donors, who have also included MCHS in their estate plans. “We’ve always supported Montgomery County Humane Society,” says Mike, “and even though we no longer have cats (their last cat, Kitty, passed away in 2004), it was important that we continue to support the animals – even after we’re gone.”

Mike and Linda say they know they’re “just caretakers” of their “stuff,” which is why they believe it’s so important to give back to their community. They also stress the importance of creating a will. “It can be an emotional experience, especially when you’re contemplating cherished heirlooms, or your own death. But it’s something everyone should do,” Mike says.

If you’ve included MCHS in your estate plans, or would like to join Linda and Mike as members of the MCHS Legacy Society, please contact James Nolan, MCHS Director of Development at 240-616-1973 or JNolan@mchumane.org, and he’ll be happy to help.