

# Summer Newsletter

July/August 2020

Our first ever summer newsletter!

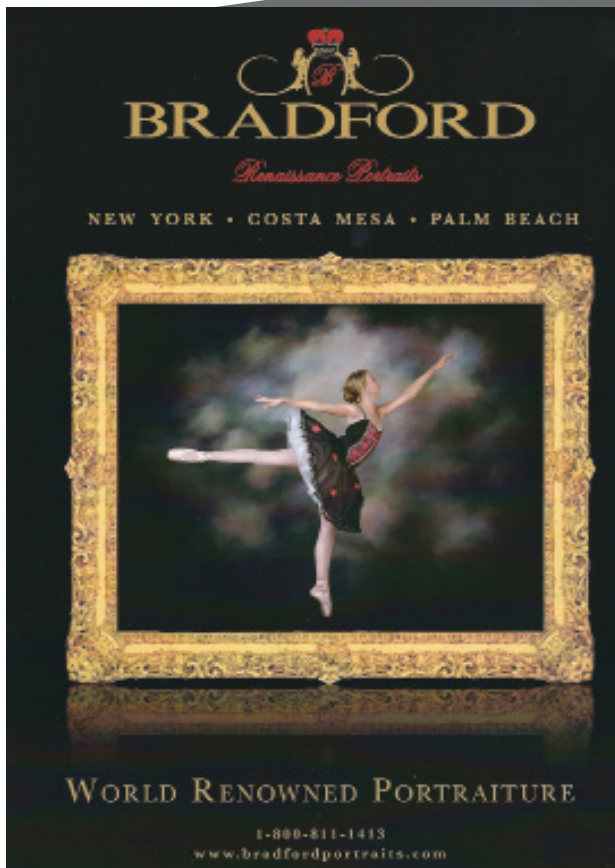
We're thrilled to have you reading this newsletter. With the unprecedented times we are living in, in-person events are not as prevalent as we've been used to. We have enjoyed connecting with you on social media and feel the love and support of you all. Our hope with this newsletter is to give you a brief update of what has happened this year and what we have planned for the next few months. While also recognizing that we are all trying to get used to this 'new normal' everyone is talking about.

## What's Inside:

- Gala turned auction
- Pride 2020
- Barkin at the Blue Barn
- You!
- Our Board

# ~~2020 Gala~~

## 2020 *Silent Auction*



Our annual gala usually happens in January, however in the planning for the 2020 gala, we decided to have it in April. This shift was made in hopes to capitalize on slightly warmer weather here in Rochester to match a more springtime theme for our 5th year celebration. As you know, COVID-19 has impacted the world and we now live in different times than we did even just a few months ago. We would have loved to have our annual gala but with the news coming out early March, we made the difficult decision to cancel this year's gala for the safety of our community.

Our annual gala is our largest annual fundraiser, bringing in almost 20% of our donations. With that large of an impact we didn't want to lose a chance to bring in more money for our dogs at the same time we wanted to keep the connections we had with our generous sponsors. We pivoted the gala into an online auction. We are grateful for all of our sponsors who wanted us to keep what they have given at that point in time and how each of them contributed to our online auction's success. We were able to raise over \$3,000 from this auction, while still only a portion of what we normally would raise from gala, these funds are essential to continuing our mission to help the dogs in our community.



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# 2020 *Silent Auction*



A special thank you to our  
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Embark  
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Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra  
S&S Limousine  
Cutco Knives  
Canal Ponds Liquor  
Stone Ridge Wine and Liquor  
Isabel Wylie

# Rochester Pride Parade



Annually, we look forward to marching with our volunteers in Rochester's Pride Parade. This year will be different due to COVID-19, as many parts of our lives currently are. While we cannot formally get together to march, we can and do show our support and pride on social media.

This year we set up a Bonfire campaign to showcase our pride inspired logo on a variety of shirts, tank tops, and sweatshirts. While planning, we needed to ensure this campaign has our LGBTIQ+ community in mind. We began looking at several options of organizations and in the end we chose to split our proceeds from this campaign with the MOCHA Center, a part of Trillium Health here in Rochester. They specialize in sexual health for LGBT People of Color, specifically youth. We are proud to have raised the money we have, and will be making a donation to their organization in the amount of \$615.00.



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# Barkin at the Blue Barn

Sadly, this is the second large-scale fundraising event we have had to cancel this year due to COVID-19. This was going to be our 2nd annual Barkin at the Blue Barn event scheduled for Sunday August 9th 2020. Even with our preparations following the guidelines from the CDC and New York State, the gathering numbers would have been over the maximums allowed at this time. While passing up another fundraiser was a difficult decision, the decision to cancel was made with the safety of our volunteers and attendees in mind.

We look forward to hosting this next year with our wonderful partners at the Blue Barn Cidery, who helped us have our first successful event with them in 2019, raising over \$3,500. The success of that event last year made it possible for us to support 7 dogs in October, our Harry Potter named group that needed help. Our supporters often do not know that each dog we take in as a rescue has \$500 earmarked for them before joining us. This is to ensure that we can provide them with microchipping, vaccinations, spay or neuters, and other routine veterinary care.

Keep your eyes peeled for our announcement next year of when we will enjoy the vendor booths, food truck, cider, raffles, dogs, and sunshine!

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# You!

We could go on and on about our dogs, our events, and our plans for the future. However, we would be remiss if we did not take a beat to acknowledge you. We can foster the dogs we take in and find them loving forever homes because of you. So, this section is about you, your actions, and how pivotal your role is to the success of our organization.



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*Your Home*

*Your Life*

*Your Time*

*Donate*













# Your Home

Unlike organizations with brick and mortar shelters, we are 100% foster based. Every dog that joins our

rescue immediately goes into a warm and loving home. Our fosters are critical to the success of our dogs and our organization. We always are looking for new foster homes, so please consider opening your home, arms, and hearts to helping a dog.

The foster experience is mutually beneficial; but that is an overly simplistic way to say that you'll gain from opening your home.

Here are just a few things you can look forward to if you become a foster for us:

-  Having a dog greet you when you are home from work
-  Cuddles on the couch
-  Selfies with the dog
-  Seeing the dog feel comfortable with you
-  Bringing the dog to training and seeing them learn
-  Watching the dog grow/mature with you
-  Learning about their play style and playing with them
-  Seeing them get adopted and loved in their forever home

# Your Life

Another way you can support us and our dogs is to open your hope and life to adopting a dog. While saving that dog's life is an obvious benefit, adoption does so much more than saving one life. When you adopt, you open up the spot in the foster home that was being enjoyed by your new dog. This means the organization can now support another homeless dog from our community, instantly saving two lives. When you adopt a rescue, specifically a rescue pit dog, you are also showing others that these lovable, loyal, and beautiful dogs are worth saving. This support goes a long way in the exposure, education, and acceptance of bully type dogs in our community and around the country. Possibly saving countless more lives with just one home becoming a forever home.

As with fostering, you and your family will see how wonderful it is to bring a dog into your life. If the fostering bit above did not get you wondering about beginning the process, I hope this one does. If you would like to adopt from us please go to our website, [rescuepit.org](http://rescuepit.org) and fill out an application to adopt.

- *After you submit your application, it will be sent onto our pets team who will review your application.*
- *After approval, someone from the team will reach out to you and ask about your availability for a home visit. Right now due to COVID-19, our home visits are happening on the video conferencing platform, Zoom. You'll receive information about connecting as this process progresses.*
- *A home visit report will be written up by the facilitators of the visit and the rest of the team and the board will review.*
- *When a consensus of approval is reached, you will be informed of your approval to adopt from us.*

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# Your Time

Opening your home is not the only way you can help out our organization and our dogs. We need volunteers! We know that people want to make a difference in their community and volunteering with us is one way of fulfilling that desire.

Here is a short and non-exhaustive list of the help you could provide by volunteering with us:

-  Babysitting dogs
-  Handling dogs at events
-  Manning our booths at events
-  Set up/tear down at events
-  Fundraising ideas
-  Grant writing
-  Taking a spot on our board
-  Becoming a coordinator for us
-  Promote force and fear free training of dogs
-  The list goes on...



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Please consider becoming a volunteer with us, start by filling out a volunteer application at our website, [rescuepit.org](https://rescuepit.org).

# Donate

The last way in which you can help is by donating. Now we could list all of the things you could donate to us, but we do not want to keep you all day. ***Just know that we are always looking for the donation of talents, time, and monetary support.***

Please contact us if you have in-kind donations at [monique@rescuepit.org](mailto:monique@rescuepit.org). If you are interested in donating money to us, you can do so processing fee-free on Facebook! Or head over to our website and hit the donate button. Lastly, you can send any amount to our address listed below.

***Rescue Pit  
PO BOX 10219  
Rochester, NY 14610***

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# Our Board

Our organization is a FULLY volunteer based one. We put our hearts and many, many hours into what we believe in - saving the lives of the homeless dogs in our community. As a non-profit organization, we help pit bulls live their best lives in safe, loving, forever homes. Through fostering and adoption services, ongoing owner support, and general education for the greater Rochester community, our team finds homes for dogs in need and provides pain- and fear-free services to keep others in their current homes.

## **Our board:**

President: John

VP, Animal Care: Kelly

VP, Communications: Sara

VP, Finance: Monique

Medical Director: Isabel

Director, Community Outreach: Abbey

Director, Foster Care: Alison

Director, Pet Adoptions: Stephanie

Director, Fundraising: Janine

Director, Volunteers: Sarah

**Our board is thankful for your time, your support, and your love for our dogs. We look forward to more events (when it is safe to do so), more interaction on social media, and more dogs finding forever homes.**

*We help pit bulls live their best lives in safe, loving, forever homes.*