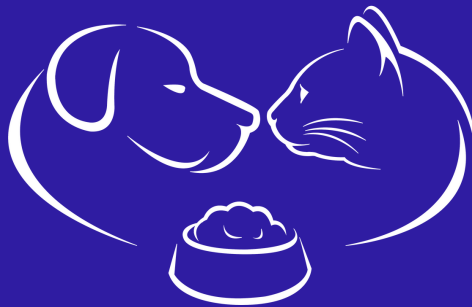


## **NEXT DISTRIBUTION:**

Saturday, October 24th, 8-10a  
at Willow Praise Church  
32905 Vine Street  
Willowick, 44095



## **WHO IS OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELVIRA BELLEGONI?**

Get to know Elvira, in her own words:

I came to my beautiful USA in the fall of 1969 from Italy. The following year I started college and after one year I transferred to Cleveland State University. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, passed the CPA exam, worked for a CPA firm for 2 years, back to school to get a Master's Degree in Finance. In the same year (1978) I started teaching at CSU in the Accounting Dept. and I also started my CPA practice. I taught at CSU and other educational institutions for over 20 years and also had my CPA practice at the same time (it seems I always had 2 jobs at the same time!) Near the end of the 1900s I terminated my CPA practice to become co-owner of an employment agency and also terminated my teaching career. In 2006 the employment agency was sold and I retired from the work force and began doing volunteer work full time.

Enter the "four footers"

I need to say that in my entire life I always had kitties (never had a dog but I always loved dogs too). I started volunteering for a local TNR group, I had a feeding route for a couple of years and then joined another TNR group. It was in this group that I was asked to start a pet food pantry. I agreed although I knew nothing about how to run a pet food pantry. I received help in finding pet food donors and a storage facility and even a fund raiser was given to benefit the pantry. (Cindy Valerio, founder of Community Cats Companions was instrumental in helping to get the pantry started.) In January 2016 the pantry started with 3 volunteers. We just learned what to do and how to do it as we went along.

Jumping to 2020...The pantry has grown so much: we have about 30 volunteers (because of Covid 19 only 15 to 20 volunteers are currently active), we have distributed over 100,000 pounds of pet food, and we have different programs to benefit pets as well as pet parents. A brand new program is the Educational Memorial Fund (to honor Dick Goddard), start date 9/1/2020, where the pantry will pay for educational courses for first time adopters and adopters of senior pets (dogs and cats.)

I love the pantry, I love to help pets, and I love to help people. This is what is ment for me, here is where I belong. I have never been this content, at peace, and my heart is full of gratitude for our volunteers and our supporters.

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: TAMMY STACHOWIAK**

I have been a volunteer with the Willowick Pet Food Pantry for over a year. I also volunteer at the Euclid Hunger Center and the Cleveland Food Bank, with Raven's Family visiting residents at nursing homes and for the last 11 years as a Guardian Ad Litem with Geauga county court.

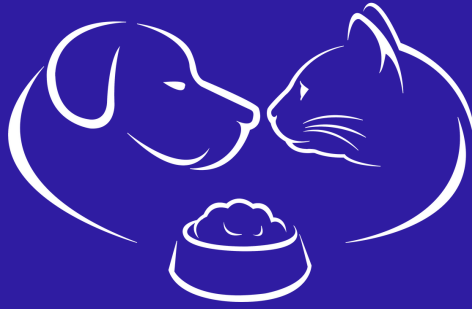
Volunteering is easy to do and does not take a lot of time. You can volunteer weekly, monthly or whenever it fits your schedule! You can find many opportunities to volunteer.

Here are a few examples of ways you can volunteer:

Visit nursing homes, deliver groceries to the elderly & disabled, coach a sports team, tutor, organize a community event, make and/or serve meals at a homeless center, serve on a community board, volunteer at a hospital or animal shelter or pet food pantry, have a canned food or pet food drive.

## NEXT DISTRIBUTION:

Saturday, September 26th, 8-10a  
at Willow Praise Church  
32905 Vine Street  
Willowick, 44095



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT, CONT'D:

There are also ways to volunteer from your home.

You can foster/adopt an animal, volunteer for a crisis text line/hotline, donate money to an organization/non-profit, tutor virtually or help non-profits with computer work and graphic design.

Volunteering is not only rewarding, but offers other benefits. It can help you advance in your job by teaching you new skills, connects you to other people, increases self confidence and can help reduce stress and anxiety. Another benefit and great way to spend time with your family is to volunteer together.

## GET YOUR WILLOWICK PET FOOD PANTRY CALENDARS!

We are proud to announce that we have calendars featuring many adorable cats for sale! This calendar is our biggest fundraiser of the year and will help us to fund the many programs we have to help pet parents care for their pets. Please purchase one (or two!) to help us keep pets well fed and healthy.

To Purchase: Calendars are \$15, plus \$3 shipping, unless you prefer to pick up your order. Please send payment through Paypal to willowickpetfoodpantry.org and include your address for shipping. If you prefer to pay by check, please send to: Willowick Pet Food Pantry 28605 Lakeshore Blvd Willowick Ohio 44095.

## DICK GODDARD EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND

### Goals:

To better educate the public on how to care for pets while at the same time reducing the population of potential pets residing in shelters. This gives them a better opportunity to live a happy, healthy life. Assist rescues with achieving a greater number of adoptions.

### Who Qualifies:

The program is open to all (only one individual per household) who is adopting dog(s) or cat(s) for the first time from a qualified shelter or rescue. The shelter or rescue must be a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. National/international shelters and/or rescues are excluded from participation in this program. Individuals who adopt senior dog(s) or cat(s) do NOT need to be first time adopters and will receive an additional incentive; a \$25 gift card to the pet store of their choice. Only one adoption per year qualifies for the Educational Memorial Fund. The Program will begin September 1, 2020. Those who adopted during the month of August 2020 qualify to participate in the program as well. A certificate of completion will be mailed to participants upon completion.

### Educational Material:

Bundle of digital pet care seminars offered by the Traveling Tech and Pet Consultant\*

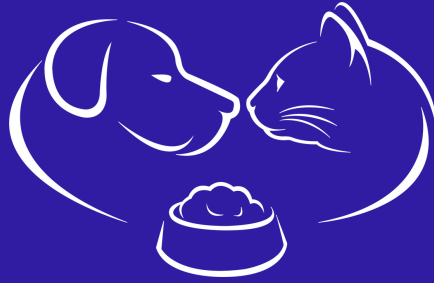
### Dick Goddard Educational Seminar Digital Pet Care Bundle

#### Dogs 101

- New Dog Checklist
- What to Expect at an Annual Exam
- Deep Cleaning for Pets
- New Dog Care 101
- A Guide to Parasites and Diseases
- The Importance of Routine Care
- Senior Pet Care

#### Cats 101

- New Cat Checklist
- What to Expect at an Annual Exam
- Deep Cleaning for Pets
- New Cat Care 101
- A Guide to Parasites and Diseases
- The Importance of Routine Care
- Senior Pet Care



## WILLOWICK PET FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Since September 2018, the Willowick Pet Food Pantry has issued 292 spay/neuter vouchers, representing 267 cats (of which, 36 were feral) & 101 dogs. Vouchers can cover multiple pets. The microchip program started in March 2020 & has issued 9 vouchers. The Pantry distributed 4,232 pounds of food in September 2020, for a total of 113,218 pounds since its inception in January of 2016! Since March 26, 2020, the Pantry's Medical Fund has paid \$1,800 for the care of 24 cats (one feral) & 6 dogs. The Pantry has provided financial assistance to 3 pet parents to help their pets cross the Rainbow Bridge.

### FURRY FAMILY MEDICAL FUND

The Furry Family Medical fund covers cats and dogs only. Your pet must be ill and need to be seen by a veterinarian. The Pantry will pay \$50 for the office visit. For pets who need surgery the pantry will pay \$100. The maximum paid for a pet will be \$100. (e.g. \$50 for the visit plus \$50 for surgery). Any costs incurred for a pet who is not sick will not be covered. Proof of income is not required, however, we hope that only those in need will apply. Please send an email to the Pantry to apply.

### FREE SPAY/NEUTER & MICROCHIPPING

Vouchers will be provided for FREE spay/neuter & microchipping at the pet food distribution. Maximum of 2 pets per household. Surgery will be performed at PetFix in Euclid. You must be receiving government assistance. Please bring your photo ID and proof of assistance.

### WISH LIST

Check the "Our Story" Section of our Facebook page to find our Amazon Wishlist. Order from the list and it will be shipped directly to the Pet Food Pantry!

### DID YOU KNOW?

We have a website! Do you want to learn more about the many services we offer? Are you curious about upcoming events? Interested in volunteering, making a monetary donation, or want to read our newsletters? Please visit [willowickpetfoodpantry.org](http://willowickpetfoodpantry.org) for all of this and more!

### FOREVER IN MY HEART

Forever In My Heart is a program that help pet parents cover the cost of their pet crossing the Rainbow Bridge. We will contact your veterinarian to verify that the pet is terminally ill and requires assistance crossing the bridge. Any other reason does not qualify. You must be receiving gov't assistance, or have significant financial difficulty to qualify. Please visit the Services section of our website to learn how to apply for this assistance.

### PRESCRIPTION FOOD

The Willowick Pet Food Pantry has prescription dog/cat food. Prescription food is free of charge, but a prescription from your vet is required. If you are in need of prescription food for your dog or cat, please, send an email to the Pantry.

### FUNNY BONE FEATURE

Q: How do two cats end a fight?  
A: They hiss and make up!

Q: Q: What's a cat's favorite magazine?  
A: Good Mousekeeping!

Q: What do cats say when they're confused?  
A: I'm purr-plexed!

### GET INVOLVED

Do you like working with your hands? Join us the 4th Friday of each month at Willow Praise Church at 3pm to help us re-bag dog and cat food and set up the room for the distribution on Saturday. Send us a message if you would like to volunteer!

### FUN FACT FEATURE WHY ARE DOG'S NOSES WET?

This amazing dog fact might answer a long-standing question that dog owners have. Why are dogs noses wet? Vetstreet says that the answer is that dog's noses are wet to help them absorb scent chemicals! Their nose secretes a special mucus that helps to absorb these chemicals, and then they lick their noses to sample them, helping them understand what the smell is.

-This fact courtesy of Purina.co.uk