

Freckles' Friends Annual Report to the Community

2010 was a difficult year for all of us and non-profit organizations were no exception. Our goal for 2010 was to assist in neutering 500 pets. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach that goal due to lack of funding. Freckles' Friends received 2 grants of \$1,000 each. One was from the Community Foundation of Middle TN and that grant was for our Voucher Program. The other grant was from the State of TN Animal Friendly License Plate Fund and that \$1,000 went to the Spay Station Program. Through these 2 programs, Freckles' Friends assisted in neutering 347 pets in 2010 at a total cost of \$10,440. The difference was made up by donations from the public and fundraisers such as the DeKalb County Women's Show, eBay sales, yard sales and Freckles' Fall Fun Festival.

Freckles' Friends co-sponsored 9 spay station visits to our county in 2010. 228 pets were neutered by the spay station during those visits. Dr. Enga who performs the surgeries was badly bitten during one visit which had to be rescheduled. Another visit was rescheduled due to sickness. In October, the per visit cost to Freckles' Friends to co-sponsor the spay station increased from \$425 to \$550. Our cost for the year for the 9 visits was \$4,075. That does not include lunches which were provided by our volunteer, Mary Hays. She also took care of removing trash after the visit and ensuring the location was available. Thank you Mary! We would like to once again thank Mayor Ed Hale and the town of Liberty for providing an excellent location for the spay station to park. New Leash on Life of Lebanon who owns and operates the mobile spay station clinic, co-sponsors the visits with Freckles' Friends and pays the other half of the cost. We greatly appreciate the work they do and hope to continue our good relationship with that fine organization. The spay station serves only families who show proof of financial hardship by participation in a government low-income program such as Unemployment, Disability, Medicaid or Families First. As of January, 2011, clients of the spay station will also be asked to pay \$10 to New Leash on Life to help defray costs.

The Freckles' Friends Spay/Neuter Assistance Voucher Program helped to neuter 119 pets in 2010 at a cost of \$6,365. Many of these pets were rescued by kind citizens of our community after being abandoned. The voucher program is available to anyone who expresses need for financial assistance in neutering a pet. The cost of spaying or neutering a pet can be burdensome for anyone, especially when paying for vaccinations and other items needed for a new pet. We certainly want to help anyone who is willing to provide a home for a homeless or abandoned pet. Vouchers are good for \$50 for female dogs, \$40 for male dogs, \$35 for female cats and \$25 for male cats. That amount is billed to Freckles' Friends and the pet owner is responsible for any additional expense.

Freckles' Friends relies on donations from the public (you), the hard work of our terrific volunteers and your support of our fundraising efforts to be able to provide these much-needed services. On Saturday, March 5th, we will be hosting the 3rd Annual DeKalb County Women's Show at the 1st Baptist Church Life Enrichment Center in Smithville from 9am until 4pm. Booth spaces are still available for the show and silent auction items are being collected as well. 100% of the proceeds from booth fees, the silent auction and concessions profits as well as any donations taken at the door will be used to provide spay/neuter assistance to those in need. This will be a great show with lots of shopping, live music and information of interest to women. For example, Sheriff Patrick Ray will be holding a class on drug use in DeKalb County and how to keep your children drug-free. Please come out and show your support of the work that Freckles' Friends does for your community. More information can be found at www.frecklestn.org. Some silent auction items will be available for pre-show bidding on our web site as well. If you would like to donate a silent auction item or have interest in renting a booth space, please call 615-464-6104 or email kim@frecklestn.org.