



2023 NEWSLETTER

The year 2023 was yet another year in which Westie Rescue Michigan took in mostly senior dogs – with the exception of one young Westie in November. It was also a heartbreaking September because our founder, **Beth Widdows**, lost her fight against pancreatic cancer.

All but the youngest dog needed immediate medical attention; therefore, our expenses remained high. All the dogs had skin allergies or skin issues, all but the pup required dental cleanings, all but the youngest dog needed grooming; we had dogs with ear infections, bladder infections, high liver values, sores on their body, loss of fur, and behavioral issues. Add to that, all dogs but the youngest, needed complete blood panels, vaccinations, microchips, grooming, frequent trips to the vet for monitoring, and LOTS of love and diligent attention in their foster home. One foster dog required behavior modification, due to his lack of socialization, and the one-year-old boy just needed an active foster mom!

Our geriatric foster dogs required constant specialized care and monitoring by their diligent foster families. It should be worth noting that our foster families often put their own dogs at risk – when bringing home a sick foster dog. We want to thank our foster families publicly because behind every dog adopted from Westie Rescue Michigan is one compassionate, dedicated foster home! Fostering is truly saving a dog and a compassionate way of giving back in the world.

Finally, we are so very grateful to people who are willing to help us pay for the medical costs of those dogs we place in Westie Rescue Michigan foster care. Without your financial support, we would not have been able to provide the medical treatment for all the surrendered Westies that came to us this year! You will see those dogs in the following pages.

Thank you if you see the work we do as important, and then please help us by making a donation to Westie Rescue Michigan. We ALL can make a difference to help save a Westie in need. From all our foster dogs, foster families, and volunteers at **Westie Rescue Michigan**, we want to wish you **Happy Holidays and a heartfelt “Thank You”!**

To donate by

Check: Send to Westie Rescue Michigan, 12460 Pamela Court, Hartland, MI 48353

PayPal: Choose “Personal”; Email address: westieresecuemi@yahoo.com

(This is approved by PayPal)

IN MEMORY OF BETH WIDDOWS



Beth was the original founder of Westie Rescue Michigan, and she began this organization single-handedly in 1999- 2000. Westie Rescue Michigan was her vision, and she, more than anyone else, helped it become a strong and vital Rescue organization with a growing group of committed volunteers and adopters. Beth created, nurtured, supported, and saw to it that WRM held to high standards. This Rescue organization was her passion and she truly lived it. Without her, Westie Rescue Michigan would not exist.

Beth was a strong, indomitable woman until September 2023, when pancreatic cancer took her life. It is still unfathomable for many of us in WRM that she is gone, but her legacy in this organization shines on.

Beth was the ultimate champion for Westies, particularly rescued Westies; she was an advocate and protector, level headed, and fair. Beth was a mentor, activist, educator, and friend. Her many contributions in this organization benefited and glorified Westies in everything she did - because she gave 100% and succeeded at it masterfully.

Beth's many accomplishments included fostering, transporting, vetting, educating, and mentoring for two decades. She created the Foster Binder, wrote the Christmas Newsletters, created and maintained our website. She secured sponsors and donors, attended Club and Rescue meetings, hosted mailing parties, archived records, directed auctions, and personally achieved fame in excelling at a great number of dog sports, games, titles, and events. It took a dozen of us volunteers to fulfill all the jobs Beth did on her own for years!

No one will ever succeed in earning more titles for her dogs than Beth. She truly believed dogs should be more than a warm body sharing our home. Her dogs excelled in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Earth Dog, Nose Work, Fast Cat, and Lure Racing.

For all that, many of us long time volunteers are grateful to have known Beth and to have called her a friend; she has been a hero to many of us in Westie Rescue Michigan. Some of us may only do one great thing in life, but Beth did many great things. She was – to many of us in WRM – an unsung hero. Let us always remember Beth Widdows: say her name, and sing her praises, now and for as long as Westie Rescue Michigan thrives.

2022 FOSTER DOGS

(1/1 - 10/31/23)



OLLIE - AGE 6

Ollie, a 6 year old boy, came to Westie Rescue Michigan because he was not happy with the hub-bub teenagers can create and his owners were afraid he might nip someone. He is a healthy guy and behaved really well for his grooming appointment and at the vet. Ollie was part of our Foster to Adopt program. He was fostered as an only dog with a single Dad. He needed to learn it isn't necessary to protect his Dad and that people coming to visit were a good thing. He is a loving boy and his foster Dad decided Ollie was home and adopted him. Ollie is currently living the good life in Northern Michigan.



LILLY - AGE 13

Lilly came to us for foster in late February 2023 after her owner surrendered her for reasons of alleged aggression. I say alleged because we've never seen signs of any aggression and she has befriended several other dogs in the neighborhood. She was 12 at the time and settled in as a member of our household in record time, which led to us becoming foster fails, perhaps also in record time. Since she arrived, we've celebrated her 13th birthday (see pic of her in her birthday hat) and aside from chronic lip fold dermatitis, she is in good health and quite spry for her age. She LOVES long walks, going up to 2 miles with energy to spare. She quickly changed the household dynamic by setting us on a rigorous schedule of eat, walk, play, nap, repeat. Our only disagreements come when she decides the best place to dig her 'hole of the day' is in the flower bed or garden.

Lilly rarely barks but ALWAYS has a lot to say!! She grunts, mutters, sighs, aroos and even at times does a great cow's moo impersonation. These are great but nothing compared to her non-verbal cues – she is quite sassy and reminds us several times a day, this is her world, she just allows us to come along for the ride. Despite her Westie-tude, Lilly has been a God send. Shortly after she arrived, I lost my job and was extremely anxious and depressed. Lilly is not usually one for cuddles but when I was having a bad day, she sensed it and did all she could to comfort me. She made a rough time so much more bearable and we will forever be grateful to her and Westie Rescue!



LILLIE BELLE - AGE 5

Lillie Belle came to Westie Rescue Michigan in the spring of 2023. She was five years old, underweight at 14 pounds, matted, underfed, and suffering terribly from skin allergies. Her owners had given her to a friend from work when they became sick with COVID. The co-worker had not vetted Lillie Bell as promised and she had gone downhill since the owners had last seen her. Since Lillie Belle's mom had given her to the co-worker, both she and her husband had lost their jobs, home, and even their car. The owners had to move to another state to live with her parents who said "no dog." The owners were crying and panic stricken when they called Westie Rescue Michigan.

When we took possession of Lillie Belle, she had large skin sores, was missing a great deal of fur, and very thin. Despite her misery, she was the happiest of girls and sweet to her very core. She was a "talker" and loved making her every desire known to her foster mom. Her foster brother didn't know what to make of her long talks with his mom, and he listened intently with many head tilts. Lillie Bell came a long way in her physical healing, and finally found her forever home, now weighing a healthy 18 pounds. Lillie Belle now has a little Westie brother of her own. Just imagine the conversations they will have!



WILLOW - AGE 7 MONTHS

Willow a 7-month-old who is turning into a sweet and sassy little girl. She came to Westie Rescue Michigan with a liver shunt (essentially her liver wasn't connected to correctly process the toxins that livers are supposed to process). This is a birth defect that can be corrected surgically and that's how she ended up in our care. The originally scheduled surgery did not happen as she was too sick for the doctors to proceed. She had a few critical weeks in care, but was able to get strong enough to have surgery several weeks later. She is still under doctor's care, but is improving. She has found her voice and Westie spirit again. We are very encouraged by her progress and her prognosis is good, but will require monitoring and potentially a special diet.



YANCY - AGE 11



PIPER - AGE 10

Yancy and Piper came to us after their human mom passed away. They have been together their whole lives and we were looking for a home where they could stay together. They were fostered by an experienced foster home to have their medical completed and see if they were ready to go to a foster to adopt home. The foster to adopt family winter in Arizona and we wanted to make sure Yancy and Piper were ready for the trip. After only two weeks, it was determined they were ready. Their foster to adopt mom and dad drove them in a motor home across country to Arizona. They did great on the trip and are having a great time in Arizona. Their foster to adopt mom and dad are sure they want to officially adopt them. So Yancy and Piper will live in the winters where it is warm and in Michigan in the summertime.



FINNY - AGE 1

Finlay Elliott Duncan, whose nickname is Finny, was surrendered six days before his first birthday on 11-21-23. His mom had undergone two foot surgeries and was preparing for an upcoming third back surgery, and not able to care for Finny any longer. Even bending over was causing her excruciating pain, and she did the right thing by calling Westie Rescue Michigan. Finny was up to date on all his vaccinations, groomed, and well loved, but he did have itchy paws and needed some vet care after arriving to his foster home.

Finny got along beautifully with his foster sister, Mia, who just happened to be a Cairn terrier. Finny had no problems in deferring to his foster sister and fit into his foster home quite nicely. Finny was a typical pup: sweet, vocal, curious, energetic, playful, and a snuggler. The applications for Finny came pouring in and he was a popular guy on our Facebook page. He will likely be placed by mid December and by the time this Newsletter is published. Best of luck in your new forever home, Finny!

2023 FINANCIALS

INCOME NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – OCTOBER 31, 2023 = \$28, 418.00

INCOME INCLUDES:

DONATIONS: \$21,649.00

SALES: \$5,744

COMMISSIONS: \$1,025.00

Our sales income includes garden flags, collars and leashes, kilts, fleece coats and crate pads. Commissions come from Kroger and Amazon rewards programs.

EXPENSES NOVEMBER 1 2022 – OCTOBER 21, 2023 = \$20,386.00

EXPENSES INCLUDES:

ADMINISTRATION: \$8,286.00

VETERINARY: \$9,807.00

FOSTER HOME EXPENSES: \$690.00

SALES EXPENSES: \$1,603.00

Administration expenses include Professional fees, taxes, insurance, and website maintenance. We had a complete redo of our website this year. Veterinary expenses are all the medical costs for our foster dogs.

Foster home expenses are supplies for foster homes and dog grooming.

Sales expenses include the purchase of sale items, Ebay fees, Paypal fees and sales shipping.

***WE RELY ON DONATIONS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS TO
ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO HELP THE WESTIES!!!***

Please help us, help our Westies!

**MAIL RESCUE DONATIONS TO:
WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC
12460 Pamela Court
Hartland, MI 48353**

PayPal: Use westierescuemichigan@yahoo.com and choose the "Personal" option to avoid fees; this is approved by PayPal

Westie Rescue Michigan is a Federal 501c3 Organization

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

So MANY people and businesses have helped us throughout the year in so many ways. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thank the following:

VETS WHO HAVE CARED FOR OUR WESTIES:

Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-881-8061

Bay Shore Animal Clinic
Charlevoix, MI 49720
231-547-4999

Town and Country Hospital
Brighton, MI 48114
810-220-1079

MedVet
Commerce, MI 48390
248-960-7200

Euclid Veterinary Hospital
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 684-4700

GROOMERS WHO GAVE US DISCOUNTS OR DONATED GROOMING:

Klasy Klip (Lisa)
Waterford, MI 48329
248-673-5151

Animal Crackers
Hartland, MI 48353
810-632-3344

Melissa's Best In Show
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-922-2213

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- FOSTER HOMES and other VOLUNTEERS.
 - ALL DONORS.
 - Our behaviorist, Deb Duncan (<http://www.thedogspeaks.com>)
 - Animal Medical Center of Troy
 - The various vendors who give us a commission of sales.
 - So many others who help in many ways, some of whom wish to remain anonymous.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

WALK YOUR DOG - Earn funds for Westie Rescue just by walking your dog.

Get the smartphone app at <http://www.wooftrax.com>

Choose **WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN** as your shelter.

KROGER COMMUNITY PROGRAM - Earn funds for Westie Rescue by registering your Kroger Awards Card for the Community program. Sign up online by choosing Westie Rescue Michigan. (This must be renewed every year.) This does not impact your gas points.

FUNDRAISING:

Most of these items benefit Westie Rescue Michigan. Some benefit our local Westie Club (and will be noted as such) or Westie Education which is part of Westie Rescue. Most items can be found from this link: <http://westierescue-mi.com/fundraisers/>

CAFÉ PRESS STORE: Choose <http://www.cafepress.com/westierescue>

EBAY STORE: <http://stores.ebay.com/WESTIE-CLUB-MICHIGAN>

- Garden and House Flags
- Kilts
- Collars and Leashes
- Other misc. items as we find them

FACEBOOK RESCUE PAGE: Flash sales of misc. items. <https://www.facebook.com/WRMich/>

SHOP AND BENEFIT RESCUE:

ART (including Custom Paintings). These businesses donate a commission back to Westie Rescue. Mention us to the artist so they will know to send us a commission.

- Gina McCormick's Creations email: fivegina22@yahoo.com
- Denise Randall <http://www.gooddogjack.com>
- Mary Sparrow Smith <http://www.marysparrowsmith.net/>

BEHAVIORIST SERVICES:

Deb Duncan is the behaviorist who services our foster dogs. She also has an EBook which we highly recommend. Deb donates many, many hours of her time to help us help our foster dogs. <https://www.thedogspeaks.com>

BEQUESTS:

Occasionally someone asks us about setting up a bequest in their will. We have received a couple of these bequests and they really, really help. If you are interested, please look at our website: <http://westierescue-mi.com/donations/> for more information.

STILL WAITING FOR YOUR FOREVER PUP?

In the last few years we have had very few Westies coming into Westie Rescue Michigan, and when they do come, they tend to be older and have more medical needs. Fortunately, our waiting list includes many who are interested in adopting older Westies and willing to deal with medical issues. This says a lot of good things about our adopter base! It is a true “rescue” when the dog is truly in need.

For those who have waited so patiently, we want to suggest some alternatives to your search efforts.

- Watch online for Westies to rescue. One good source to watch is [Petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com).
- Go to www.westieclubamerica.com There you can find a list of breeders who are National Club Members and who have signed a Code of Ethics. Many times, breeders have older dogs who they no longer wish to use in their breeding programs. In this case they are likely to be willing to sell the dog for much less than a well-bred puppy would cost. They also stand behind their dogs and may have a Westie who has been returned for some reason. They will be looking to find a home for these dogs. Contact the breeders and if they don't have any themselves, they might be able to refer you to another breeder who has an available dog.
- Talk to folks at your vet's office and let them know you are looking. They might not have anything immediately but might remember you if another client with a Westie needs help to rehome their dog.
- Check your local shelters. Not all use Petfinder. You can Google Animal Shelters and Rescues in Michigan for a list of shelters.
- Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates!!

If you adopt a dog from elsewhere, please let us know so we can cancel your application.
We thank you for your patience and continued interest and support.



*From all of us at
Westie Rescue Michigan,
we wish you a very
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*