

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



FEARLESS KITTY RESCUE

## About Us

Fearless Kitty Rescue was founded in 2012 on the belief that all cats and kittens deserve a chance to be *Fearless*. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit no-kill cat rescue in metropolitan Phoenix and the surrounding areas. We are dedicated to rescuing cats left homeless for whatever reason – cats in municipal shelters, where they are at high risk of euthanasia due to animal overpopulation, abandoned and homeless strays, cats surrendered by their owners because of difficult circumstances, and those in danger of abuse or neglect.

## Our Mission

Fearless Kitty Rescue is dedicated to providing a safe place for cats in need until they can be adopted into a loving home.

## Our Vision

A future when all cats live happy and healthy lives, free from loneliness, cruelty, and neglect.





# Message from Leadership

The beginning of 2021 greeted us with the temptation of a return to normal. We would truly be back to our work of saving cats, as we have since 2012. What we quickly learned was that the creative strategies we implemented during the pandemic, to keep Fearless Kitty Rescue operating, would also become our vision for the future. Steps were put into place to improve efficiency and engage our volunteers, and the public, on a wider level than ever before. As it turned out, this is what led us to rescue and adopt out a greater number of cats and kittens than any prior year. With a record intake number of 334, and never before achieved adoptions of 324 kitties, we were excited about the future. As 2021 came to an end, we knew that Fearless Kitty Rescue had evolved not just to exist, but to thrive.

During 2021 we strengthened our resolve to keep the doors open and to continue saving the lives of homeless cats and kittens. It was a year to reflect upon the uphill battles we had faced, and the challenges we overcame. It was a year confirming that Fearless Kitty Rescue is an organization that will not crumble in the face of adversity, but will instead be better and stronger in reaching our goals and succeeding in our mission.



We have emerged from a most challenging year standing on solid ground. On September 6, 2022 we will achieve a tremendous organizational milestone - rescuing and adopting cats for ten years! Reflecting back on how we started, with nothing other than the commitment and drive to save the lives of cats, we are so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this decade-long journey.

## **So where are we going from here?**

The answer to that question is *we are staying right where we are!* Located on the Avenue of the Fountains, the community's "Main Street," Fearless Kitty Rescue's location is key to its success. In 2017, we were lucky enough to have a donor purchase this building so we could move in and pay a substantially reduced rent. The goal was to save enough money for the rescue to be able to buy the building in five years. Due to the pandemic, that goal was pushed back until now. Within the next 12 months, our goal is to purchase the building that houses Fearless Kitty Rescue! It will take hard work, determination, and significant generosity from our donors and supporters. However, we are ready to take on a brand-new challenge: A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN! Please continue on this journey with us, as we further our mission to improve the lives of cats in our community.

*Christine Fixico-Silver, Executive Director*



# To the Rescue...

Everyone loves a morning walk in the fresh air, even in July when temperatures are heating up as early as 5AM. Especially Juliane.

Last summer, a dramatic rescue played out in front of Fearless Kitty Rescue. A woman was out with her dog Koda on their morning walk. As they passed by the rescue, Koda was drawn to a black plastic bag on the bench in front of the building. Koda barked and alerted his mom to the package so she opened the bag. Inside was a cooler that had been zipped closed. As she opened the cooler a cat poked its head



out, obviously terrified and overheated. This story could have easily been a tragic one had it not been for Koda's determination. This is a story with a very happy ending!

The wide-eyed soft black cat was taken in by Fearless Kitty Rescue. We named her Juliane, which is Danish for *fearless*. Though she was safe and sound with Fearless Kitty Rescue, we quickly realized she needed help. She was off to the vet for much needed medical care. After extensive medical attention, she went to stay with one of our wonderful foster families until she healed and was ready for adoption.

Juliane took advantage of her fresh start. Her foster mom noticed her gaining energy and becoming more outgoing and playful. Within a few weeks, it was clear Juliane was ready to find her forever home. She returned to a special room at our rescue that had been decorated with colorful flowers and encouraging messages of love from volunteers. It was truly a special homecoming. Meanwhile, a wonderful couple had been following Juliane's story. They had adopted other black kitties in the past and were especially drawn to them. It wasn't long after she was available that they decided she would be a perfect addition to their family. Success! Juliane went home.

We still don't know who dropped Juliane off or why. Without Koda the dog, and her owner, Juliane would not have found such a wonderful home. Juliane truly embodies the mission of Fearless Kitty Rescue!

And there is more good news. Koda and Juliane were honored for their determination and bravery by the Arizona Pet Project. They were awarded the 2022 Loyal Companion HERO award. We just love happily ever after!