

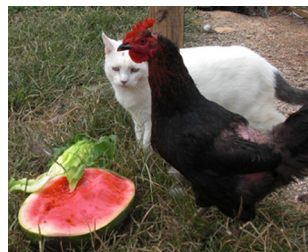
## Events -- Looking Ahead to 2011, and How You Can Help Make It Happen

--- Donna Edwards

The calendar may still say 2010, but at Rikki's Refuge we're already looking ahead to 2011 and **taking events to a whole new level**. These events have two specific goals in mind: 1) to increase awareness of Rikki's Refuge, its purpose and its mission; and 2) to raise funds necessary to continue this incredible work. And, of course, it's always a goal to have fun!

Plans are underway to bring you the first ever "Cruisin' for the Critters - A 60s Tribute Party", to be held on Friday, May 6, 2011, at Classic Car Center, 3591 Lee Hill Drive, Fredericksburg VA. Food, music, dancing, and raffles, set against a backdrop of classic automobiles ... all to benefit the animals of Rikki's Refuge. Save the date, and watch for details early next year.

But that's just the start! Wouldn't it be great to be able to ...  
attend a wine tasting; or  
hear experts speak about their work in animal rescue or therapy; or  
attend a workshop to learn a new skill; or  
shop till you drop; or  
meet someone famous; or  
???  
... and support Rikki's Refuge and its mission at the same time?



**Maybe you've attended other fairs or festivals and thought "Rikki's should be here"? Virginia State Fair, perhaps?**

These are just some of the many ideas that are waiting to be turned into actual events. We would be thrilled to be able to hold parties and galas, seminars and workshops, community yard sales, social gatherings and other special events at locations from Charlottesville to Fredericksburg, from Alexandria to Richmond, and everywhere in between. Imagine how many more people could learn about Rikki's Refuge by being able to attend an event in their area.

All of these ideas can be done ... but we can't do it without your help. To make these events happen, we need Event Volunteers and Event Sponsors.

**Event Volunteers** - Volunteers are essential to the success of any event. As these events are months in the making, it is important that our volunteers be able to dedicate the time to the event. It is also beneficial that our volunteers have experience or skills related to some aspect of running the event. Depending on the event, volunteers may be tasked with responsibilities such as ticket and sponsorship sales, registration, entertainment, food, decorations, or advertising.

If you are an event planner; professional organizer; someone with experience in sales, marketing, or public relations, we need you. If you have fundraising experience, we need you. Do you enjoy talking with people and work effectively on a team? We need you. Are you a leader in your community? We need you. We need folks to work on the planning committee for each event, and then carry those plans through to the successful achievement of the event's specific goals.

If you have always wanted to volunteer your time to Rikki's Refuge but working at the refuge isn't your thing, then volunteering to work on an event may provide you with the perfect opportunity to help. We will especially need folks in the Richmond, Charlottesville and Northern VA areas to work on planning events for those communities.

**Event Sponsors** - Every event has expenses. Not just the events hosted by Rikki's Refuge, but also the fairs and festivals where Rikki's Refuge has a presence. This is where sponsorship comes in. Rikki's Refuge relies on its wonderful sponsors to underwrite many of the expenses associated with a particular event. The most familiar form of sponsorship is a cash donation, where that donation may cover a specific expense of the event, or it may be used where it is most needed.

But sponsorship may also be in the form of the donated use of a venue, goods, or services. For example, a movie theater might donate use of an auditorium for a speaking engagement; or a video production company might donate their services to produce a public service video about Rikki's Refuge. An author might donate her time to speak and sign copies of her latest book. There are many ways you or your business can become a sponsor for an upcoming event.

If you or your business are approached by a Rikki's Refuge volunteer about being a sponsor for a particular event, please consider it an opportunity. An opportunity for you to show your support of Rikki's Refuge and the wonderful work being done not only for the animals, but for the community. Be a part of the event by becoming a sponsor. You'll be glad you did.

In fact, if you can contribute your valuable sponsorship to a Rikki's event, why wait to be approached? Talk to us now about how you can help, increase exposure for you or your business, and gain all-important karma points in the process.

**Ready to Help?** For more information regarding event sponsorship and event volunteer opportunities please contact Donna at [cairn993@comcast.net](mailto:cairn993@comcast.net)



Vincent likes it here

### Vincent's Vittles

Feeding 650+ cats every day is challenging, to say the very least. They consume 16-25 cases of canned and 85 pounds of dry cat food each and every day. At least in the winter. Summer consumption goes down a bit since the kitties need less fuel for fat and fur. Many kitties are elderly, have no teeth, and are picky eaters. They need tuna, baby food and special diets. Yes, Vincent, I'm counting your Fancy Feast!

The cats are jealous. Puppy Pals allows donors to commit to one day a month to feed the dogs. But who's feeding the cats?

The price to feed all the cats for a day is totally outrageous, so we're breaking it into manageable portions. Just like we broke the population of cats into manageable Cat Houses. Even I can't imagine 650 all in the same house!

Welcome to Vincent's Vittles, adopt one Cat House, one day a month during 2011 and provide their food. It's a very complicated mathematical equation, but here goes, a can of cat food, roughly 40 cents, times 2 cases per Cat House, \$19.20. Dry cat food is roughly 16 lb for \$10, but this will feed more than one Cat House, now it gets complicated, so divide by 3 and that's \$3.33 for dry. Now throw in a buck or two for tuna, baby food, a/d, Fancy Feast (see Vincent I remembered you), and other specialty items and you're close to \$25.

Now that's a manageable number, don't you think? A lot easier to think \$25 a day to feed a Cat House than \$300 a day to feed all the Cat Houses, the 9th Life Center, and the Hospital, isn't it? Or multiply by 365 days and Yikes! I need to find a sanctuary who can take some of these cats off my hands!

So what do you spend \$25 a month on? Couple of fast food lunches; several specialty coffees; a nice dinner? Would you give up just \$25 a month to sponsor Vincent's Vittles? Pick your day - pick your Cat House - make a commitment - watch the happy kitties eat.

A \$300 donation now covers "your" cats for 2011. Log on to our web page [www.RikkisRefuge.org](http://www.RikkisRefuge.org), click DONATE and sign up for \$25 monthly recurring donation for Vincent's Vittles. Or tell [Kerry@RikkisRefuge.org](mailto:Kerry@RikkisRefuge.org) your day, your Cat House and how you want to fund Vincent's Vittles (check, credit card).

Each month when your special Vincent's Vittles day rolls around, you will get a nice, warm feeling in your heart knowing that the cats at Rikki's are noshing on goodies that you provided. And just think of all the good karma that you'll be receiving.

Vincent, Hemi, Timothy, Taco, Baby Elliott and all the rest say thanks for thinking about them.  
----- Candy Erhard

Thank you Carol Phillips of Sunnyside for entertaining us with your Autoharp and beautiful voice at our events. You can listen to Carol on [www.youtube.com/user/rikkis-refuge](http://www.youtube.com/user/rikkis-refuge) More info [www.sunnysidemusic.webs.com](http://www.sunnysidemusic.webs.com)

Congratulations Autumn-Skye! We're all very proud of you for winning the Ms. East Coast USA title! We're very appreciative of all the work you do for Rikki's Refuge and the animals! You're a winner all the way around!

Thank you Greg Allen and Granville Braxton, Jr. for your lovely music at our events. You can listen to The Greg Allen Band on [www.youtube.com/user/rikkisrefuge](http://www.youtube.com/user/rikkisrefuge) More info [www.gregallenmusic.net](http://www.gregallenmusic.net) & [www.graspingatlaws.net](http://www.graspingatlaws.net)

20 year old Sam with glaucoma and incontinent Taco, enjoying life at Rikki's Refuge. Both from Winging Cat Rescue.

