

SOUTHERN KITTEN FUND IMPACT REPORT



Generously sponsored by a family committed to creating a meaningful impact for kittens in the South.

The mission of Orphan Kitten Club is to build innovative programs that save the lives of the tiniest felines.



A generous donation inspired Orphan Kitten Club's first geographically targeted grant cycle benefiting at-risk kittens in the Southern US.

Southern Kitten Fund Impact Overview

\$100,000 Donated

10 Animal Shelters & Rescue Orgs

6 Southern States



3394 Kittens Saved

THE STATE OF THE SOUTH



Neonatal kittens are among the most under-resourced and over-euthanized populations in the southern United States. Warmer weather not only prolongs kitten season, but also leads to higher birth rates due to more favorable breeding conditions for cats. Combined with fewer resources and support systems compared to other regions, this creates a critical situation for vulnerable kittens in need of care.

The South Central region accounts for both the largest intake and the largest share of animals killed (18.2% and 25.4%, respectively).

Four out of the top five states with the highest euthanasia rates are in the South. Texas, North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana.

Orphan Kitten Club is committed to partnering with diverse animal welfare organizations to improve equity and inclusion support for at-risk kittens throughout the United States.

Orphan Kitten Club introduced the Southern Kitten Fund in fall of 2023. This initiative granted support to ten partner organizations across six southern states, enhancing efforts to save the lives of young kittens.

Programs initiated by the recipients included:

- Providing essential spay/neuter and veterinary services for kittens
 - Implementing transport programs to relocate kittens to northern states
 - Assisting foster families with vital supply kits
 - Enhancing kitten nutrition with high-quality formula and wet food
 - Supplying specialized ringworm treatment kits for foster care
 - Establishing dedicated isolation areas in shelters for the most fragile kittens
 - Upgrading shelter facilities with new equipment such as sinks and examination tables
 - Providing incentives to staff caring for bottle-fed babies during overnight shifts
-

The Runaways Animal Rescue

Port Richey, Florida

Project: Kits, Snips & Tips

Goal: Grow Foster Program & Spay/Neuter

Impact: 181 kittens under 12 weeks of age

Funding was utilized to provide 15 reusable foster kits and support 84 spay/neuter surgeries, including vaccinations and microchips.

By acquiring foster kits, the organization was able to host a kitten shower and launch recruitment campaigns to attract new foster families. This led to an increase in their foster network from 27 to 52 committed fosters, with 37 specializing in caring for neonatal kittens. The foster kits played a crucial role in expanding the program and will continue to be utilized in the future.



Foster kits included: carrier, plastic tub, heat disc, scale, bottle blender, bottles, toys, miracle nipples, syringes a copy of Tiny But Mighty: Kitten Lady's Guide to Saving the Most Vulnerable Felines.

The Runaways Animal Rescue

Port Richey, Florida

Cool Fact: The Runaways kitten shower resulted in an immediate influx of new foster families, so much so that The Runaways were able to facilitate a large scale rescue transfer of 24 kittens from substandard conditions. Having the grant-funded foster kits on hand allowed kittens to be immediately placed in homes during this critical stage in their development.



Six Kittens Rescue

Bryan, Texas

Project: Isolate the Ickies! Disease Prevention Program

Goal: Increase lifesaving through infectious disease control

Impact: 165 kittens

Kittens are vulnerable to infectious disease due to their immature immune systems and living in densely populated shelter environments. In contaminated settings, diseases like Ringworm, Panleukopenia, and Upper Respiratory Disease can spread rapidly.

Funding was used to establish two separate isolation wards to prevent the transmission of pathogens between foster homes, with the ultimate goal of saving lives.

The wards were outfitted with PPE supplies for staff (gloves, booties, gowns, masks), commercial-grade disinfectant, acrylic pens and disposable litter boxes.

Soaking wet kittens were discovered during a storm; infested with fleas, parasites, and malnourished. They were immediately housed in the isolation ward and treated back to health. Sadly, one did not survive, but the remaining siblings were adopted and are thriving.



Six Kittens Rescue

Bryan, Texas



"We recently took in a group of kittens, known as our Barbie Party, who were dealing with coccidia when they arrived.

By using an acrylic playpen to separate them from difficult-to-clean spaces, we managed to limit the spread of this extremely contagious pathogen. All the kittens have been reserved for adoption and are doing well as they await their final vet check!"

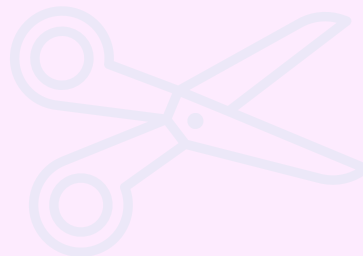
Feline Advocates of Leon County

Tallahassee, Florida

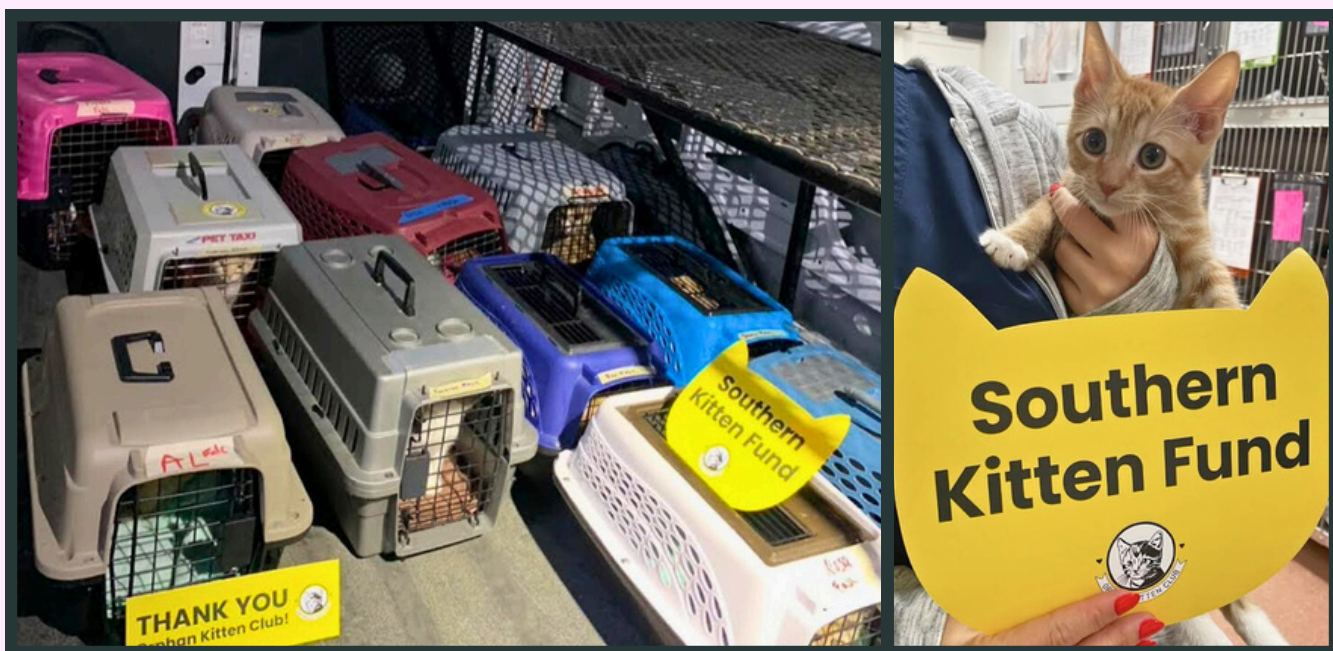
Project: Snip Snip Hooray!

Goal: Spay/neuter & vaccinate kittens

Impact: 125 kittens



Securing grant funding for spay/neuter surgery has become increasingly challenging for all animal welfare organizations in recent years. Yet, the ability to save kittens is often directly linked to the capacity for these surgeries. Feline Advocates of Leon County was delighted to receive such funding, as it enabled them to not only predict the number of kittens to rescue, but allowed for a greater portion of their medical budget to be allocated to sick kittens who might otherwise face euthanasia.



Feline Advocates of Leon County

Tallahassee, Florida



Moonpie's litter was brought to Feline Advocates at only 2 weeks old. Moonpie's tiny body was covered in fly larvae and fleas; she was anemic, underweight, and had an upper respiratory infection. Her condition was severe, and staff were uncertain about her survival. With tube feeding and ongoing treatment for her various health issues, she slowly regained her appetite and transitioned to bottle feeding. Moonpie and her two sisters, Roly Poly and Potato, were spayed and neutered before being made available for adoption. The availability of funds to treat a kitten in this condition was critical, so sweet Moonpie was doubly helped through this grant opportunity!

Cool Fact! Feline Advocates of Leon County collaborated with fellow Orphan Kitten Club partner, Valdosta Humane Society, to send 3 transfers of kittens to less-populated northern state rescue orgs!

Montgomery Humane Society

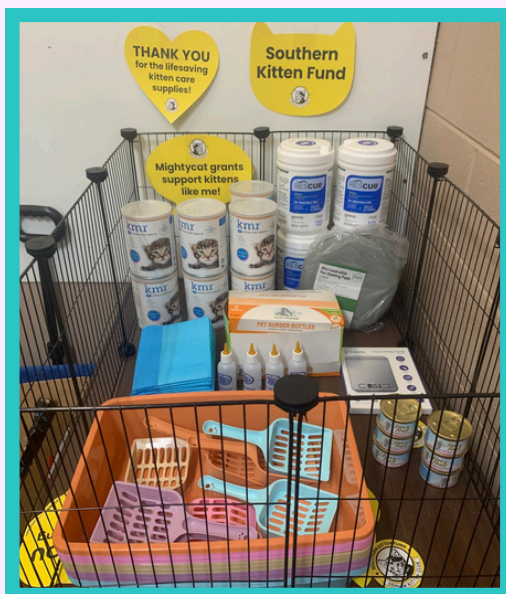
Montgomery, Alabama

Project: Neonatal Kitten Diversion

Goal: 50 foster kits

Impact: 174 kittens (and counting)

Montgomery Humane Society is committed to improving their lifesaving gap for neonatal kittens through the expansion of their foster program. The addition of 50 foster kits, intended to divert shelter admission, was made possible through grant funding. Kits were on hand for intake and foster staff to provide to finders and fosters, ensuring that a lack of supplies was never cause for euthanasia. Kits contained items such as playpens, scales, kitten formula, microwaveable discs, bottles, wipes, litter pans and scoops. These reusable kits are continuing to be utilized over and over, so the impact continues!



Montgomery Humane Society

Montgomery, Alabama

Talk about sending a message! Montgomery Humane Society put the call out for foster families by scoring a local news segment that highlighted their need and the availability of the new kits.



The organization took in 174 kittens during the first four months of kitten season, saving the lives of 33 more neonatals than the previous year. They continue to prioritize expanding their foster program, increase comprehensive medical kitten care, hosting adoption events and collaborating with other animal and community organizations.

Wolly Kitten Club

Houston, Texas

Project: Kitten Care Closet

Goal: Supplies for fosters caring for neonatal medical kittens

Impact: 393 kittens

Wolly Kitten Club is a foster-to-transport organization that focuses on rescuing kittens that are at high risk of being euthanized by open-admission shelters, often due to their age, medical condition, or lack of socialization.

The Kitten Care Closet provides foster families with all the supplies they need to care for neonatal kittens. The availability of supplies has enabled finders to become fosters with ease, and has made increasing the overall number of fosters families possible.

During Hurricane Beryl, the Closet was stocked with items to ensure that the increased displaced and abandoned kittens had provisions. Collapsible dog travel playpens served as quarantine areas while offering multiple litters to be fostered at one time.



Wolly Kitten Club

Houston, Texas



Neonatal kittens, like these two Wolly Kitten Club fosters, don't come with instructions!

Recently, a student was gifted a kitten at a gas station while on her way to school. Fortunately, a teacher noticed the student attempting to feed the neonatal kitten on her back, similar to a baby, which can pose a risk of aspiration. The teacher reached out to the Wolly Kitten Club for assistance. With a well-equipped foster supply closet, the kitten, now named Amelia Anne, was nurtured with bottle feeding for several weeks until she became healthy and robust. When Amelia was old enough, she was transported to Minnesota where she found her forever home!

Richmond SPCA

Richmond, Virginia

Project: Feeding the Feline Future

Goal: Kitten food and formula for all!

Impact: 500 (and counting)

Richmond SPCA, a pioneer in the southeast for embracing a no-kill policy, cared for nearly 1500 kittens under 12 weeks old last year. In anticipation of another busy kitten season, the SPCA opted to utilize grant money to cover the expenses of kitten formula and food. So far, the hungry kittens have devoured 2280 ounces of kitten formula and 4044 cans of wet kitten food!

Rocket was discovered in an open area, seemingly abandoned and on his own. The kind person who found Rocket acted responsibly by waiting for a suitable time to see if a mother cat would return. Unfortunately, she did not, and Rocket ended up in the care of Richmond SPCA. A staff member spent 5 weeks fostering Rocket, bottle feeding and eventually weaning him off formula with a transition to canned kitten food. Specialty food is essential for growing kittens, and when Rocket was old enough to be neutered and adopted, his foster mom decided that he was just too precious to let go!



Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

Asheville, North Carolina

Project: Medications Support for Foster Kittens

Goal: Ringworm treatment kits, eye medication, kitten food

Impact: 140 kittens

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue has a robust foster program, working primarily with municipal shelters in rural areas. Grant funding was allocated to three areas of need in support of the program.

1) Ringworm Treatment Kits

Foster families received instructions and all the tools necessary to treat ringworm positive kittens. Kits included spray bottles, sulfur lyme dip, kitten enclosures to ensure isolation, disposable gloves and commercial-grade disinfectant.

2) Eye Medication

Many kittens entering Brother Wolf's care have eye infections due to their fragile immune systems. Grant funding allowed the organization to accept kittens who were sick, providing them with treatment while in foster care.

3) Kitten Food

Brother Wolf was just finishing up their supply of kitten food from a previous Orphan Kitten Club grant, so the timing of the Southern Fund was perfect. High quality kitten food was provided to fosters and adopters.

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

Asheville, North Carolina



Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Project: Saving Lives - Four Paws at a Time

Goal: Foster kits that will help expand the foster program

Impact: 600 kittens

Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue is the sole rescue facility in Oklahoma offering 24/7 care for neonatal kittens. Grant funds were utilized to develop foster kits, enabling more neonatal kittens to be placed in homes with essential supplies. Beyond saving lives through fostering, Tiny Paws managed to care for a greater number of critically ill kittens at their facility and alleviate the burden on overcrowded shelters.



Kits included: scales, Wabbitats, blankets, heating pads, top-loading carriers, thermometers, baby wipes, miracle nipples, formula, syringes, and canned food for weaning.

Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue

Stillwater, Oklahoma



Marlee's eyes were so badly infected that they both needed to be removed. The blind kitten recovered from her double enucleation surgery, which was sponsored by Orphan Kitten Club, in a foster home. A neighbor was dazzled by Marlee's ability to navigate and adjust to being blind, so much so that she adopted the kitten!

Clara came to Tiny Paws with a crushed pelvis and a broken leg. The staff had two choices: either offer bed rest and pain relief or consider euthanasia for Clara. Fortunately, she was placed in a caring foster home that could dedicate the needed time to help her recover. The presence of a foster home played a crucial role in Clara's survival and eventual adoption!



Lynchburg Humane Society

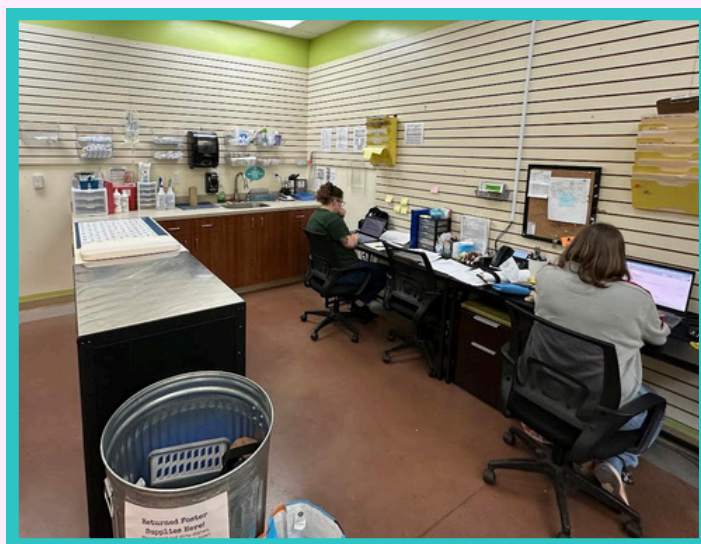
Lynchburg, Virginia

Project: Kitten Warriors Need Clean Water!

Goal: Add a sink, exam table & cabinets to the kitten nursery

Impact: 1200 kittens

Lynchburg Humane Society recently converted their retail area into a kitten nursery that can be viewed by the public. What a great idea! It features four incubators and all the daily hustle and bustle of staff and volunteers caring for them. The Southern grant provided much needed funding for the organization to complete the nursery by adding a sink, exam table and cabinetry. This allowed the nursery to transform into a medical space where exams and testing could all take place in this one area. Staff call it a “game changer” for neonatal kitten care!



Lynchburg Humane Society

Lynchburg, Virginia

“This upgrade couldn't have come at a better time, as Lynchburg Humane anticipates serving over 1,200 young kittens. The nursery is set to be a lifesaving resource, ensuring the health and well-being of many pre-adoption kittens.

Sometimes the most practical things, like a sink, can serve as a huge life-saving tool. Your generous support helps organizations across the country build safe and secure facilities that support kitten health. We thank you for all your continued support and cannot wait to see what else we can do for kittens!”



Humane Society of North Texas

Fort Worth, Texas

Project: Kitten Sitters Club

Goal: Staff incentive to provide overnight bottle baby care

Impact: 57 kittens

Humane Society of North Texas launched a staff training and incentive program called the Kitten Sitters Club, expanding their ability to provide lifesaving, overnight care for neonatal bottle baby kittens.

Prior to receiving the Southern grant, the organization had no provisions for taking in bottle babies after 3 pm. Finders were provided with necessary supplies to care for the kittens overnight and then return the following morning for intake. With the introduction of the Kitten Sitters Club, the Humane Society was able to extend intake hours into the afternoon and pair kittens with trained staff members.

Thanks to the efforts of Humane Society staff, a total of 57 kittens under 3 weeks old received 75 nights of care. Their commitment has revolutionized procedures, bolstering the organization's ability to deliver prompt care and ensure that these vulnerable kittens receive the attention they require during the critical initial intake phase.



Humane Society of North Texas

Fort Worth, Texas



KITTEN SITTERS CLUB



Orphan Kitten Club supports almost 100 partner shelters and rescues across the country. Our investment in lifesaving programs is only possible because of our dedicated and passionate supporters.

We are deeply appreciative of the family that encouraged us to focus our resources in the southern region, guiding us to reach more individuals in underserved areas. We are dedicated to identifying and impacting organizations who face challenges due to geography and socioeconomic disadvantages.

A huge congratulations to our partners for the remarkable achievement of impacting the lives of 3394 kittens through the launch of these innovative programs.



Interested in sponsoring an Innovation Grant?
Contact donate@orphankittenclub.org
