

Photo: The Bitty Kitty Brigade

2026

Shelter Grant Highlights



Photo: Southern Pines Animal Shelter

The Challenge

Kittens under the age of eight weeks old face the highest risk of dying in shelters. **In 2025, nearly half of all cat deaths in U.S. shelters were kittens under eight weeks old,** according to Shelter Animals Count data.

These tiny lives depend on round-the-clock care, specialized medical attention, and dedicated foster networks. Without focused resources, many never get the chance to grow up.

Orphan Kitten Club's Shelter Grant Program was created to change that by directing critical support where it's needed most.



Photo: The Bitty Kitty Brigade

We're changing the world for kittens.

With shelter grants and mentorship from Orphan Kitten Club, our partners are building stronger programs for kittens in their communities. Together, we're making kitten lifesaving the norm.

As part of our network of 150+ partner organizations across 45 states, the grantees from 2025 to 2026 join a movement that has helped more than 250,000 kittens. With the grant term now complete, we're grateful to share the impact you've made possible.

38
partner shelters and rescues across 24 states received grants

22,600+
vulnerable kittens received care

3,990+
foster families were trained and supported

500+
community cats sterilized, preventing hundreds of future litters

75,300+
kittens projected to be impacted over the next five years

Unassisted kitten deaths decreased by

38%


Photo: Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter



Kitten Nannies in Pennsylvania

ACCT Philly, Philadelphia's only open-intake shelter, used a $40,000 grant to hire seasonal Neonatal Nannies, caregivers whose only job is to care for the youngest kittens. Before, nursery care fell to the foster team, who were also handling placements, appointments, and daily operations. On days without a Nanny, feedings could slip and foster families waited up to an hour for appointments. The grant brought on three Nannies and trained 23 volunteers in nursery care and bottle feeding.

"On the days when a Kitten Nanny is present, the difference is significant. Having someone dedicated to the care of the neonates allows our team to breathe, knowing that these fragile kittens are receiving the consistent care they need."
Kelsey Strehlau, Foster Coordinator

Mightycat Grant Impact

- 4,022 kittens impacted
- 3 Neonatal Nannies hired and 23 volunteers trained in nursery care and bottle feeding
- 203 foster families supported
- 85.4% save rate maintained through a season of significantly higher kitten intake



Photo: Lynchburg Humane Society



Photo: Meow Parlour

Dedicated Kitten Staffing in Virginia and New York

Lynchburg Humane Society used a $40,000 grant to add a dedicated Foster Care Coordinator, along with foster starter kits, training, and data tools. The role covered recruiting, screening, and training, plus 24/7 support. **The immense payoff was a bigger, better-supported foster network.**

Similarly, **Meow Parlour in New York used a $21,216 grant to hire a team member dedicated to foster support and training.** With a more robust, supported foster network, they were able to take in far more kittens with higher needs.

Mightycat Grant Impact

In Virginia: 937 kittens impacted

- 24.6% more kittens cared for, with 51% more neonatal foster families
- Save rate for kittens improved to 91%, and euthanasia for illness decreased by 50% in kittens 4-8 weeks old

In New York: 263 kittens impacted

- 18 foster orientations held, with 165 people signed up
- Kittens grew to more than 30% of total intake
- 50% of kitten intakes were 0-4 weeks old, up from 35%



Photo: Pasadena Humane



Photo: The Runaways Animal Rescue

Kitten Spaces from Coast to Coast

Pasadena Humane in California used a $40,000 grant to renovate its foster office and build a dedicated Kitten Corner. Kittens now have their own quiet kennel space on site, away from the hustle and bustle of the shelter. The area doubles as a classroom for bottle-feeding demos and other trainings.

Across the country, **The Runaways Animal Rescue in Florida used a $25,000 grant to build the Quaran-teeny Kittens Suite, a dedicated biosecure room with new doors, sealed walls, stainless steel kennels, and a sink and tables.** Kittens can now be treated, stabilized, and housed safely until a foster is ready, without being exposed to the rest of the shelter.

Mightycat Grant Impact

California: 1,204 kittens impacted

- Kitten care capacity increaed by 17.2%, with the save rate rising to 87.1% from 86.8%
- 414 foster families supported, including 101 first-time kitten fosters

Florida: 230 kittens impacted

- 27 sick kittens treated safely in isolation
- 48 foster families supported


Photo: Cat Adoption Team


Photo: Humane Society of Hamilton County

Expanding Foster Supply Access in Oregon & Indiana

Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood, Oregon used a $6,000 grant to install three supply lockboxes across the Portland metro area and equip their on-site hospital with kitten incubators. The lockboxes addressed the reason fosters most often said no, and supplies are now available around the clock.

Similarly, the **Humane Society of Hamilton County in Fishers, Indiana created a self-serve "Kitten Shop" that allows foster caregivers to access necessary supplies without making an appointment.** By streamlining supply access, the shop freed up staff time to focus on recruiting, training, and supporting new fosters.

Mightycat Grant Impact

In Oregon: 779 kittens impacted

- 97 kittens aged 0 to 4 weeks taken in, up from 54 the previous year

In Indiana: 940 kittens impacted

- 320 foster families supported





Equipping Caregivers in Missouri

Full Circle MO Feral, an all-volunteer group in the St. Louis area, used a $7,500 grant to assemble eight new Tiny But Mighty Foster Kits and restock 38 already in the field. **The kits hold dens, crates, playpens, bedding, kitten food, and medical supplies, so a caring neighbor can step in to help kittens at no expense.**

When four two-week-old kittens and their mom were found in a yard just before a storm, their caregiver received a kit to immediately begin care. The kittens were soon connected with a rescue and their mom was spayed and returned to her colony.

"This grant is about so much more than supplies. It's about giving ordinary people the confidence and resources to make an extraordinary difference." - Jean Gardiner, Board Member and Community Relations Director

Mightycat Grant Impact

- 447 kittens impacted
- 46 foster kits distributed, 8 new and 38 restocked
- 1,200 cans of kitten food provided
- 441 kittens with live outcomes for a save rate of 98.7%





TNR for Kitten Prevention in Texas

Six Kittens Rescue in Bryan, TX used a $12,000 grant to turn a trapping effort into a kitten prevention program. Focusing on known panleukopenia hotspots, they sterilized 278 community cats across the Brazos Valley. Half of those cats were pregnant, in heat, or actively lactating, which means entire litters were prevented from being born outdoors into areas with high risk of deadly illness. Because volunteers were already in the field, **they located 32 neonatal kittens in managed colonies early.**

"This grant allowed us to shift from simply responding to kitten crises to preventing them. Every pregnant queen we were able to sterilize represents an entire litter spared from the hardships of outdoor survival." - Dr. Mallori Girard, Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer

Mightycat Grant Impact

- 244 kittens impacted
- 278 community cats sterilized, including 53 who were pregnant, in heat, or nursing
- 32 neonatal kittens rescued directly from managed colonies
- Panleukopenia tracking in partnership with the Texas A&M Gastrointestinal Laboratory and Aggieland Humane Society





Foster Revamp in Kentucky

Bowling Green Warren County Humane Society used a $23,455 grant to rebuild its foster program from all angles. **The grant funded kitten supply kits for new fosters, a stocked foster pantry of consumables, two staff positions focused on foster support and training, and three incubators.** The goal was to recruit 20 new foster homes, and the shelter added 48! By increasing the number of active foster families, the load was lightened on the shelter's "super fosters" who take in many kittens all year, helping to prevent burnout. Plus, the incubators ensured the most vulnerable kittens receive the care they need.

The data showed a clear shift. Foster capacity grew by a third, and euthanasia of neonatal kittens fell steeply.

Mightycat Grant Impact

- 1,123 kittens impacted
- Foster homes up 29%, from 82 to 106, with 48 new homes added against a goal of 20
- Euthanasia of neonatal kittens down 36%
- Save rate up to 83%, up from 77% in 2025



Photo: Cape Coral Animal Shelter and Veterinary Clinic

Innovative Lifesaving

Arkansas — Good Shepherd Humane Society

A $20,000 grant allowed Good Shepherd Humane Society to hire a regional Kitten Care Specialist to provide hands-on kitten care training to three small, rural neighboring shelters in Arkansas, from biosecurity to bottle feeding to giving fluids. So far, the program has impacted 504 kittens.

Florida — Cape Coral Animal Shelter & Veterinary Clinic

Cape Coral Animal Shelter used a $1,100 grant to stock ten ready-to-go neonatal kitten kits, so staff no longer scramble to pack reusable shopping bags with supplies every time a bottle baby comes in. Overall, a total of 223 kittens were impacted and 96% of kittens were saved.

Minnesota — The Bitty Kitty Brigade

A $9,000 grant covered kitten formula, the single most basic need in neonatal rescue. Between September and April, 585 kittens were fed and 164 foster families were supported, and with warmer weather arriving the organization expects roughly 400 more bottle babies to benefit from the same funding.

Oklahoma — Stephens County Humane Society

Stephens County Humane Society grew its bottle baby foster network from just 4 caregivers to 18 with a new training program, an incubator, and ready-to-go kitten kits. The grant impacted 269 kittens, and the shelter can now say yes to neonates it once had to turn away.



Photo: Kentucky Humane Society

Your Impact

- Newborn kittens were given a chance to live
- Fosters who once had to say no were equipped to say yes
- Communities gained the tools to prevent litters before they are born
- Shelters established sustainable, replicable programs
- Best practices spread across the animal welfare community

Each kitten saved represents not just a life preserved, but a foster family empowered, a community educated, and a future adoptive family forever changed.

From all of us at Orphan Kitten Club, and from the thousands of tiny kittens who now have their whole lives ahead of them, thank you.



Photo: Vanderburgh Humane Society