

Garfield's Rescue Inc. urges folks to foster a feline friend

Benjamin Franklin stated, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) continues making progress. In 2021, GRI rescued and fostered 395 cats with 383 finding their new homes, reported president Ann Bedford. Since GRI's inception in the Spring of 2020, a total of 716 cats have been rescued, fostered and are no longer homeless.

Foster families are an integral part of GRI's life-saving program, said Bedford. A cat fostered in a loving and social environment with humans and other pets gains confidence through their intimate surroundings and is easier to adopt into a "pur'fect" home.

GRI is fortunate to have a couple of foster homes able to house large numbers of cats, but the challenge for these caregivers, is giving each cat enough individual attention, she said. If a shy cat is in an individual home, he/she receives more attention as well as the love and guidance necessary to build confidence.

Smokey (pictured) is one of many GRI's fosters. He is a beautiful, grey, long hair domestic cat that becomes quickly overwhelmed when there is a lot of commotion. Smokey could benefit from a single home foster situation, without other cats or small children, to help prepare him for adoption, said Bedford.

"Fostering is as simple as



Smokey

opening your home and heart," she said. "Fostering is fun and free. GRI provides the food, litter, beds, support and takes care of all medical costs. All you need to do is provide love and a lap!"

Foster families provide much needed socialization time for the cats and have more time to learn each individual animal's personality which helps GRI place them in the perfect forever home.

To learn more about volunteering or fostering, visit garfieldsrescue.org, or call 480-2066.

GRI's successes are the result of the community's support. Donations are always welcome. Send a check to Garfield's Rescue, Inc., PO Box 257, Kilmarnock, VA or donate via PayPal at garfieldsrescue@gmail.com.