

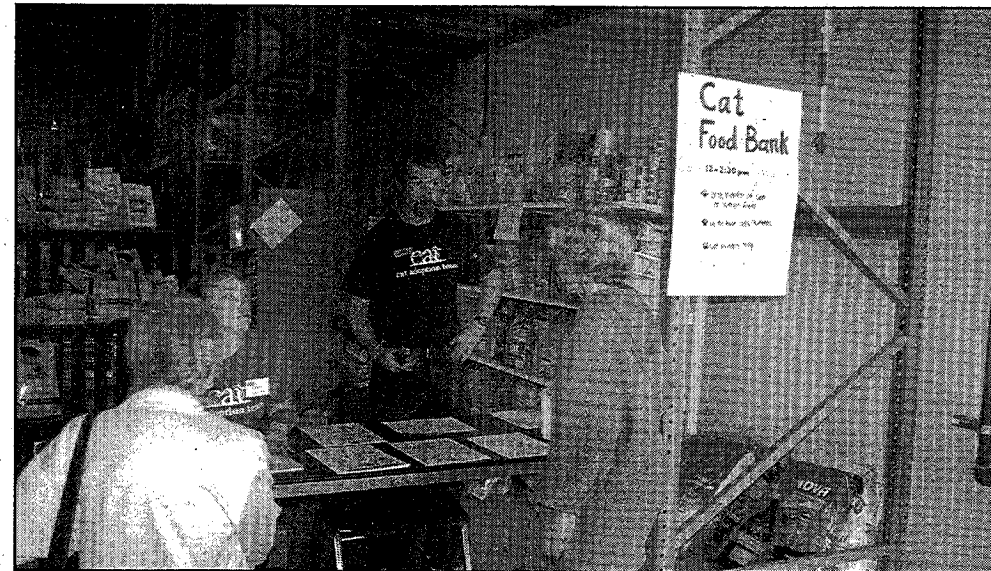
# CAT celebrates one year anniversary of feeding hungry cats

A year ago, the Cat Adoption Team, Sherwood's only animal shelter, opened the doors to its Cat Food Bank where cat owners coping with the bad economy could pick up food to feed their companion cat.

This first of its kind pet food bank is open the first Sunday of every month at CAT's Sherwood shelter and provides enough cat/kitten food to feed up to four owned cats for a month. They come from SE Portland, Wilsonville, Tualatin, and just around the corner in Sherwood.

And since then, the shelter has gone from distributing 375 pounds of food in its first month of operation to more than one-half ton each month.

"When we opened the doors the first time in June 2008, there was a line! This was the right thing for CAT to do," remarks Kathy Covey, CAT's PR Manager and the organizer of the Cat Food Bank. "CAT wanted to make sure that as budgets get tighter, cat owners don't have to choose between paying the electric bill or feed-



**CAT FOOD GALORE** — Volunteer Connie Snow, left at table, and CAT's Executive Director Aaron Asmus man the food bank, which in May distributed 1,574 pounds of food to needy residents.

ing their family pet."

Since then, the Cat Food Bank has given out a staggering 10,325 pounds of dry cat/kitten food and 2,127 cans of cat food to feed an average of 114 cats every month. In May 2009, 1,574 pounds was distributed.

Michelle of Wilsonville says of the food bank: "I very much appreciate the help that CAT gave me. I lost my job in December and was struggling to keep up with

my financial responsibilities. I have four cats who I love like they were my children and your gift of food and litter made it so my cats would not have to go without this month." Michelle used the food bank just one month and now has a new job.

Likewise, Tammy of Southwest Portland calls the food bank a "life saver."

"Thank you so much for all your continued help with caring for my cats," she told

staff members.

Tammy is disabled and receiving government assistance. She's been using the food bank for eight months to supplement her benefits.

As CAT distributes the food to cat owners, volunteers also provide information about other resources, including subsidized spay/neuter services and behavior tips.

Residents can support CAT's Cat Food Bank's one year anniversary with a donation of unopened, unexpired bags of dry cat/kitten food, scoopable litter, or cash donations.

Visit [catadoptionteam.org](http://catadoptionteam.org) for details. The shelter is located at 4175 SW Galbreath Dr. across from the DMV.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAT

**HELPING OUT** — Volunteer Kathy Rivinius carries food for a client at CAT's food bank.

## CAT receives \$25,000 grant

Sherwood's Cat Adoption Team recently received a \$25,000 grant to support its "Nine Lives" feline transfer program. This innovative program enables the Cat Adoption Team to receive cats or kittens from other animal shelters.

CAT takes in over 73 percent of its felines for adoption from animal control and other animal shelters.

The Karen M. Schroth Charitable Foundation for Animals awarded CAT the grant to specifically support a transfer program with the Willamette Humane Society in Salem, which recently reduced services and hours due to budget cuts.

The Cat Adoption Team will transfer 1,000 cats and kittens from the humane society this year, saving them from likely euthanasia and ensuring them a loving, lifelong home with an adoptive family.

In 2008, CAT transferred 1,060 cats and kittens from WHS. CAT found homes for 3,250 cats and kittens in 2008.

Schroth grant funds will cover CAT's expenses to test each cat for disease, spay/neuter, microchip, and provide additional medical care as necessary until these felines are adopted.

