



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WE ARE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE



<https://www.improveoneida.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OneidaCommunityCatsCommittee>

March 3rd, 2025

TO OUR COMMUNITY

Introduction

This report describes the activities of the Oneida Community Cats Committee for the calendar year 2024. The Oneida Community Cats Committee is a Trap Neuter Return program and operates as a subcommittee of the Oneida Improvement Committee (OIC).

The OIC was first incorporated in 1992 as a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt social welfare organization and was reorganized in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purpose of improving the lives of City of Oneida residents.

The Oneida Community Cats Committee is an all-volunteer group comprised of local community members who came together in 2021 because of their mutual interest in finding a way to address the community cat problem in the City of Oneida. Trap Neuter Return is the only scientifically proven, evidence-based, humane, and effective approach to community cat population control.

Thank you to our community and the ongoing support as none of this would be possible without your help.

Mission and Goals

Mission:

The mission of the Oneida Community Cats Committee is to work with compassionate individuals, local governments, veterinary professionals, community members and other volunteers to achieve population decline of the unaltered, free-roaming, feral, and/or abandoned domestic cats ("community cats") in our area through education and the use of a humane Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program.

Goals:

1. Assist in creating a long-term community commitment to, and achievement of, the reduction of the local free roaming "community cat" population.
2. Reduction of the occurrence of nuisance behaviors associated with mating, including spraying, yowling, and fighting so that people and cats can live in harmony.
3. Find ways to support a successful TNR Program by gaining financial support in the form of fundraisers, grants, and contribution/support from local governments.
4. Promote humane treatment, and community understanding that "community cats" are victims of circumstance, deserve care and kindness, and provide a valuable public service in rodent control.
5. Aide in the community education and definition of what a "community cat" is. "Community Cats" is a term used to describe outdoor, unowned, free-roaming cats. These cats can be friendly, feral, adults, kittens, healthy, sick, altered and/or unaltered.
6. Promote unity through education. Support and encourage participation from community members, other animal support groups, veterinarians, and local government so that there is a clear understanding of the success that can be achieved through the operation of a strong Trap/Neuter/Return program.
7. Assist in the improvement of quality of life for homeless cats and kittens by creating an identification system to rate whether kittens or altered cats can be adopted, and coordinate with local fostering and adoption programs to support adoption.
8. Work with local governments to provide education, research, and data to assist in the prevention of future generations of "community cats."

2024 Operations Summary

We had a remarkably productive year between not only our Trap Neuter Return trapping activities, but with fundraising, continuing community education and involvement processes, and various committee related functions. We continued to make significant strides in all areas.

We have a small core group of active members and impacted over 110 cats this year.

Highlights include:

- Our accomplishments would not be possible without the veterinary groups that we work with. We successfully expanded our veterinarian connections this year. We added Creekside Veterinary Clinic, Fayetteville Veterinary Clinic, and maintained a positive working relationship with Village Veterinary Hospital and Paris Hill Hospital. Some of our members have volunteered at the Spay Neuter clinics with CNY Snap in Cortland, working towards building another ally.
- Our TNR trapping dates continue to be dependent on vet appointment availability, volunteer availability for trapping/transport/fostering, and safe weather conditions.
- Special Thank you to Val and The Eclectic Chic for your unwavering support of our efforts from allowing us to run our fundraising booth, helping us with other fundraising projects, saving returnable bottles and booth donations, and generally looking out for us when we need it most.
- Sincere gratitude goes out to The Gorman Foundation for increasing their monetary donation to us this year, showing reinforced support of our mission.
- Genuine appreciation also to the organizers of Catstock for all that you do to support the cats in Oneida and surrounding communities, and for your generous donation to us from last year's event.
- Community involvement has soared this year and has resulted in an amazing show of unity. Several residents have taken an active role in the trapping process, as well as fostering cats, helping to find homes, and offering general support. This has allowed us to further strengthen our program. Residents from other communities continue to reach out to us for guidance.
- While we are not an adoption or fostering group, some members of this committee within their availability have fostered, cared for, socialized, and found homes for Oneida cats that are potentially adoptable.
- We have also successfully worked with other individuals and animal advocacy groups to foster and rehome several adoptable community kittens and cats. This has allowed us to expand our networking ability.
- Fundraising activities continued to expand this year as detailed in the financials.
- There have been several cat food donations this year that we have helped to distribute to those feeding the colonies.
- A tracking sheet of all known colony information continues to be maintained, and we utilize this to plan our trapping locations. Trapping is all coordinated with the homeowners and communicated with the neighbors.

- We keep an online shared album of all cats that go to the vet, labeled with the date, location, and vet. This helps us to track out efforts.
- All veterinary invoices, fundraising activities, and donations are tracked and retained by the committee. For veterinary expenses reimbursed by the City of Oneida, the invoice/receipt is submitted to the City of Oneida to obtain reimbursement. Bank finances are handled by the OIC.
- Monthly meetings occur and we keep an agenda and minutes of the meetings. Meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. They are typically on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6 PM at the Oneida Library. We maintain regular communication amongst the active group members regarding day-to-day operations and other pertinent committee topics.
- All “cat releases” are videotaped and we share the majority of those on our Facebook page.
- Committee members continued to spend their personal funds on supplies such as traps, trap covers, Microchip scanners, supplies to make shelters, and a shed that we built to securely store all trapping supplies. The committee is responsible for trap maintenance: repairs, cleaning, and safely storage.
- We have been contacted during unfortunate instances of lost pets in the area. We not only provide guidance but communicate with those in the area to help spread the word, and some trapping has been involved. While unfortunately not always successful, we have helped many cats come home.
- Our ongoing member recruitment efforts continue.

Join us -there is something for everyone!

Financial Summary

Carryover from 2023 \$3,485.05

Expenditures in 2024 -\$11,886.24

Funding added in 2024 \$17,901.04

Sources Include:

- City of Oneida budget - \$1,000
- Donations
 - Gorman Foundation - \$5,000.
 - Several personal and business donations from within the community, as well as some from out of state.
- Fundraising
 - Eclectic Chic Sales Booth -\$3071.98 - sales comprised of donations from the community.
 - Participation with the Cat Stock Fundraiser- \$3,250 check received. Also \$236 in merchandise sales from our table.
 - Oneida Fall Fest- Raffle and donations: \$131
 - Additional fundraisers that we organized include:
 - Utica Coffee \$331
 - Holland Bulbs- \$318.50
 - Paint and Sip with Paint with Kayt \$300
 - 2 organizations organized and ran a fundraiser for us.
 - The Periwinkle Pig ran a Paint Party \$200
 - Pampered Chef ran an online Party (added in 2025)
 - Dunk Tank Fundraiser, event offered by The Eclectic Chic and booth donated by a vendor, \$205.30
 - Cans for Cats program- \$493.25. Ongoing fundraiser. This program was significantly boosted in 2024 because the Eclectic Chic volunteered to be a drop-off site, and they donate all incoming bottles to us. Bottles and Cans can be returned to the Redemption Center in the Northside Plaza and they can be requested to be credited to our account.
 - Got Sneakers Fundraiser- this is an ongoing fundraiser. Donation bins are located at: The Gorman Center on the Northside, the Oneida Municipal Building, The YMCA, The Village Veterinary Clinic, the Presbyterian Church, and the Oneida High School.
 - Donation jars- this is an ongoing fundraiser. The jars are labeled and located at: The Eclectic Chic (2), Better Hearing, and Luso's Bakery at this time.

End of year balance \$9499.85

2025 to Date

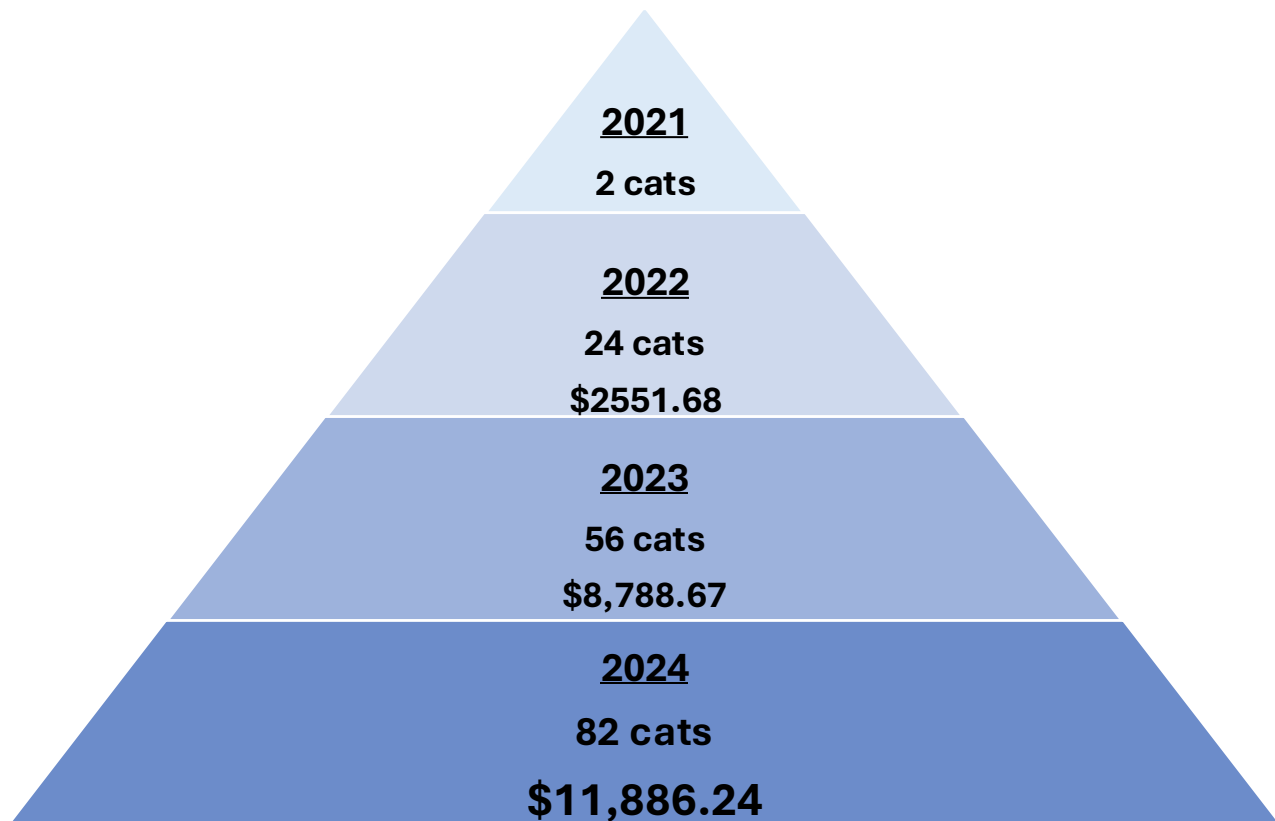
Expenditures in 2025 -3 cats, \$495

Donations and fundraising to date

\$520.97 (Eclectic Chic Booth Jan and Feb), Personal donations \$185.88, Can donations \$286.95, Pampered Chef proceeds from 2024- \$51.

Balance as of February 12th 2025 is \$10,049.

Year to Year # Cats and Cost Summary



We will continue our success in 2025

We plan to resume our current Trap Neuter Return processes in 2025 as weather permits. Areas of additional focus:

- We will continue to explore options with additional local veterinary groups.
- We will continue to expand our fundraising efforts.
- We still would like to work with the City to look deeper into possible regulations as they relate to responsible pet ownership.
- Long Term Goal- Bring a mobile clinic to the area for Neuter/ Spay on a larger scale.

Created by: Oneida Community Cats Committee

Date: March 3rd, 2025