

# The Camper Colony

The Camper Colony started out with a phone call initiated by a bus driver in Rochester; spanned over six months of rescue and saved over 35 cat's lives. This bus driver called and said she had seen what she thought was a pregnant stray cat on her route. She reached out to many organizations but said no one had helped her. In came Standish Humane Society and their trapper team. What started out looking like we would assist one cat in need of our immediate help would lead to over 35 cats being rescued from one location. And the story begins with one of our volunteer trappers being willing to drive quite a distance and spend hours trying to trap cats and kittens once we found out about them.

Our trapper started to go back daily and go a bit further into the woods where that bus driver claimed to have seen that pregnant cat. It was slow at first, seeing one or two cats. But then we discovered a pile of cat food cans and knew someone was out there in the woods feeding these cats.

One day we were approached and told about a man in a camper in the woods who feeds them. We were led to the camper and it all made sense. Somebody was living in conditions no human or animal should have to, in an abandoned looking camper with a broken window that the cats could come and go from as they pleased. Our trapper removed three 4-week-old kittens, and a 5-day old kitten that was by itself behind a broken-down couch that very day. We saw many sick and suffering cats that could not be grabbed by hand. We're talking abscesses, wheezing, severe eye infections, upper respiratory infections, flea

dermatitis, malnutrition and more. It was a devastating scene. Not only was the scene heart breaking but multiple people were aware of the conditions that this person, and these cats, had been living in for years. So much suffering, so many lives lost, and a forgotten person who turned out to have a beautiful soul. This had been ignored for far too long, so when given this person's phone number we decided to reach out.

To our surprise this person, who we will now refer to as TD was happy to get the cats help, and willing to help us with the process of getting them all trapped and treated. TD told us that he knew he wasn't doing right by them, but that he just didn't know help was available. The Standish Team realized that we needed to also help this person after helping the dozens of young, sick, pregnant, and suffering cats. We saw how much he did genuinely care about them. He worked full time, and spent all his money feeding them despite his own living conditions in which he didn't even have basic amenities. He was just a lost person doing the best he could for those without a home, but because of the time and love he tried to give to them, all but a few were easily socialized and adopted out!

Over time our Standish Trapper and TD developed a trust, understanding and a very unique friendship. She knew he was a good person and began to bring her daughter to help trap at the site and even meet TD. Just three years old, her daughter met TD for the first time and asked him for a hug. He's been their friend ever since! It took six long months to capture all the cats in this colony, get them

Continued on page 2



**96 cents of every dollar at Standish goes directly to care for our kitties.**

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## Letter From The President

Thank you – the volunteers and donors – for entrusting me and my direction to lead this animal rescue group into the current and future state. As I enter my second year as President, I am grateful to the volunteers for such an amazing organization with a reputation for outstanding care of the cats and kittens under their wing. I am constantly in awe of the true dedication of all of our volunteers but I need to especially acknowledge the experience, endless driving, ping notifications, fostering, transporting and patience provided by our small group of trappers. We have achieved community recognition as a leading trapping organization all the way from Sagamore Beach to Dorchester. This behind-the-scenes work is vital to reduce the suffering and reproduction of stray and feral cats in our neighborhoods. And we answer the call when someone's indoor pet gets out and they need our assistance too. It's not glamorous and it's very often not even seen by anyone but the trapper but it is absolutely one of the most important things Standish does.

As I reflect on the past year and my goals set when I took over as President, I am pleased to see that we have added more foster homes; matched even more felines to their forever homes; partnered with more veterinarians to financially assist pet owners; taken on more special needs; spayed and neutered more cats; acquired more volunteers and increased their involvement; and grew our footprint in the community by both education and reputation.

Please know that I am grateful for your encouragement as I continue to try to be a good steward of your time and money, and together, we help the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely, Joyce Keyes

### Continued from Cover

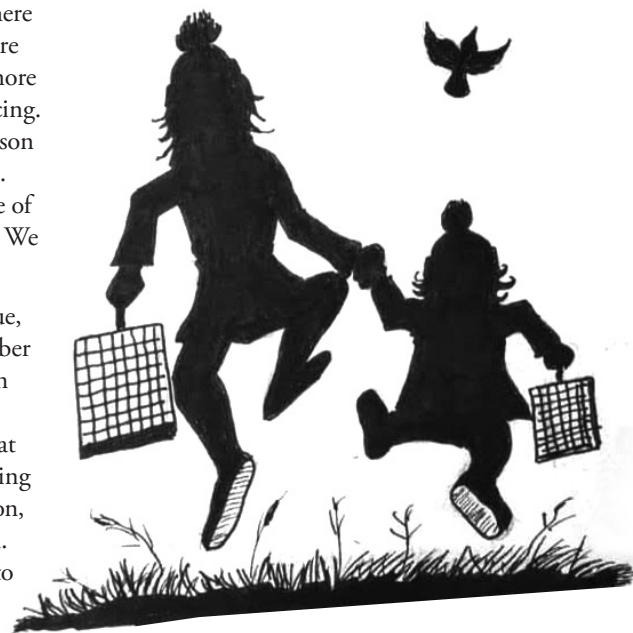
to veterinarians, assess their behaviors, and get them used to living inside. Now that the cats were finished, we had one last job to do. To help this man, who we now called a friend.

Our team really banded together to help TD. Volunteers at Standish were there along the entire wild ride to help take fosters when Standish's house was full and we urgently needed to get more cats or kittens out of that situation. Then we banded together to start to help TD. We made phone calls to seek assistance in his and surrounding towns. We helped him find income-based housing, donated housewares and furniture and even helped him move into his new space. We were told that TD had an amazing talent that he hadn't practiced in those past 8 years living alone in that camper. Our trapper ordered some supplies as a house warming gift, and other volunteers donated art supplies. Another trapper made him a photo collage of many of the memorable lives saved. It took some pushing from his little rescue friends, but

he began practicing his drawing again and before we knew it, we were getting amazing artwork sent to us nightly. He has maintained a very clean home, and decided not to get any pets. TD reconnected with his mother and began attending family functions and even got set up with health insurance. There is a human life saved here. There were multiple cats lives saved and many more stopped from suffering and reproducing. There is a family that now had their son back and TD had a new lease on life. Eventually TD drew the picture here of his trapper friend and her daughter. We all still get teary eyed looking at it!

When Standish is involved in a rescue, it can lead to an overwhelming number of animals needing medical attention and assessment and it almost always involves humans that need help. That help sometimes spans across everything from financial assistance, to education, resources and everything in between. We are a humane society dedicated to end the suffering for all animals

but we are also a human society in which we must very often seek to treat the humans involved in our rescue with dignity and understanding.





# “Devine AirTag Intervention”

In March of this year the team of volunteers at Standish received a call about a pregnant cat in Abington. We were successfully able to trap the mama cat, now named **Francesca**, and when we took her to the vet for a medical check it was discovered that she was no longer pregnant but was in fact nursing up to 3 kittens.

We needed to find those kittens ASAP because they were estimated to be only a couple of days old. We immediately ordered an AirTag and one of our experienced volunteers was able to put a collar on Francesca’s neck with the AirTag attached. We were able to track her to the location where she had very cleverly stashed her 3 kittens - inside a storage room, tucked warm and dry in the ceiling insulation. This was a very novel approach to find kittens and

saved us from having to release the unsprayed mother cat.

Francesca was trapped again and her kittens rescued. They were all nurtured in a foster home until they were ready to be spayed or neutered and receive vaccines. Francesca turned out to be a beautiful gentle friendly cat and was quickly adopted into a loving home after she was spayed. She was most likely a domesticated house cat that someone abandoned. Thanks to the conscientious homeowner who alerted Standish Humane about Francesca, we were able to stop the reproductive cycle for Francesca and her kittens.

Since our rescue of Francesca we have used the AirTag collars successfully on other cats. This technology is only afforded to us through our ability to have funding, to have volunteers to trap, foster homes open to taking kittens and veterinary care for all the cats and kittens taken in.

These types of phone calls occur daily at Standish. We need donations to assist us and volunteers to help. Please help us if you can. Francesca and her kittens thank you.



## Mr. McFurry

Once upon a time, in a bustling little town, there was a lonely cat named **McFurry**, who lived in a busy McDonald’s parking lot. His whiskers twitched with excitement as he pawed through the golden arches’ trash, searching for discarded French fries and fallen chicken nuggets. What he didn’t know was that, while he was rummaging through a Big Mac wrapper, a Good Samaritan was nearby and spotted him.

Touched by his thin silhouette and dedication to his fast-food escapade, she knew she had to intervene. She wasn’t sure what to do; it was late at night. She decided to share her cry for help on Facebook, because where else do you turn to for world-changing events like these? A volunteer from the Standish Humane Society happened to be scrolling through her feed at that very moment. Without hesitation, she leaped into her car and set off into the night, ready to come to rescue. In the meantime, the Good Samaritan dialed up the local animal control officer to report the situation.

When the volunteer arrived at McDonald’s, she couldn’t help but chuckle. There, in the drive-thru lane, stood McFurry, flanked by an animal control officer, the Good

Samaritan, and her friend. That night, McFurry knew that his fast-food frenzy lifestyle was ending. Without hesitation he walked right into the carrier, knowing that this was his golden ticket to a better life.



behind his ears and lost patches of fur. Yet, what he lacked in physical health, he more than made up for with his super-friendly personality. He adored being picked up, and his purrs could have rivaled a motorboat. How grateful was he!

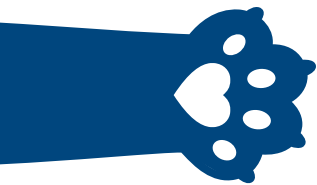
The volunteer provided him with a warm, loving foster home, and McFurry received the medical attention he so desperately needed. His once-ravaged body slowly

transformed into a picture of health. Soon after, he was ready to go to the shelter to find his forever home where he would be loved for the rest of his days.

So, as the Good Samaritan made that call and the Standish Humane Society volunteer swooped in with her rescue mission, they did more than just save a stray cat. They gave McFurry a second chance at life, full of love, care (and hopefully, a more balanced diet than he could ever wish for). McFurry’s tale reminds us that, when you see a pet in need, calling the animal control officer and asking for help from reputable rescuers can transform a life, one whisker at a time!







# Trapping Strays

**Trapping is a growing part of what we do here at Standish Humane Society.**

Calls come in regularly for help with cats. Sometimes, it's for a mom and her kittens, other times it can be for a 30+ cat colony and other times it is a call for one cat that escapes it's home. The panic from a home owner whose cat got out is like no other. No matter what the situation, our small but dedicated team of volunteer trappers are willing to help.

Prior to setting traps, a volunteer will assess the situation. A plan will be made on where the cats will be held once trapped. We cannot trap cats without a place to put them. After that is figured out, depending on trapper availability, trapping can begin. Trapping involves the use of a variety of humane traps, cameras, food and patience! Some sites are quick and easy, others take several visits. Larger colonies of cats can take several months!

Once trapped, all cats are assessed for adoption potential. Cats that are not adoptable are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned (TNVR) to the location they were trapped. Adoptable cats/kittens

are placed in available foster homes to get ready for adoption.

Very often we have more cats in need than we have space to hold them. Standish Humane Society is looking for short term fosters for the TNVR cats, long term fosters for medical holds or shy cats that need a little more help, and fosters for those kittens--so many kittens! We need fosters! If you are interested in learning how you can help, please check out our website or talk with one of our foster families to find out how rewarding fostering can be. All you need to foster is a spare room. Really ... just a spare room with a door.

Additionally, we are looking to add to our trapper team. If a hands on, out in the field, down and dirty cat rescue mission, sounds like a fun (?) night out to you please contact our President who will be more than happy to train you and invite you to a "night on the town."

**Lastly, any financial support is always appreciated. Check out our wish list to see how you can help, or make a direct donation at [standishhumane.org](http://standishhumane.org)**



**We wish to acknowledge and thank both Jennifer Inzana, owner of Feral Advocates & Cat Trappers, Inc. (FACT) and Veterinarian Deborah Brady for their tireless work to spay and neuter both shelter and community cats.**





# My name is Scottie.

I once had a home but my owners did not get me neutered so I tried to go out all the time. I wanted to meet the lady cats in the neighborhood. I also got into a lot of trouble and got into fights with other cats that were outside. My home didn't know that there were resources available to help them so they just let me run around outside. You can see how adorable I was when I was inside at my home. But that all changed when I became an adult and my humans did not keep me inside and did not get me neutered.

One day the Animal Control Officer in my town contacted a place called Standish Humane Society. The Animal Control Officer told on me and my friends. She asked Standish to come observe what was going on in the neighborhood because people were complaining about so many cats running around.

Standish showed up and they set up shop quickly. I watched them from a distance as they set up cameras and traps and gave us all food. Many of the neighbors fed me but they never got me to a veterinarian and never brought me inside. I had been living outside for over five years when Standish showed up. I do wish my original owners, or anyone in the neighborhood, had called for me to get some help sooner. I had been living in fear, I had to fight for my food and I had all sorts of injuries. Not to mention I had not been neutered so I could not control my hormonal drive to see the ladies ... it was a hard life out there. I had to stay out in the wind and the rain and the cold and the snow. It was awful. And now due to all the infections I had endured, I had permanently crinkled infected ears. They were very painful and I hoped for someone to rescue me, and then it happened. Standish Humane sent a trapper and she "caught me"! At first, I just hid inside my new crate because I was so nervous about what was going to happen, but then I got neutered and I started to instantly feel better. I had flea treatment, parasite treatment, a warm bed and food every single day. It was amazing.

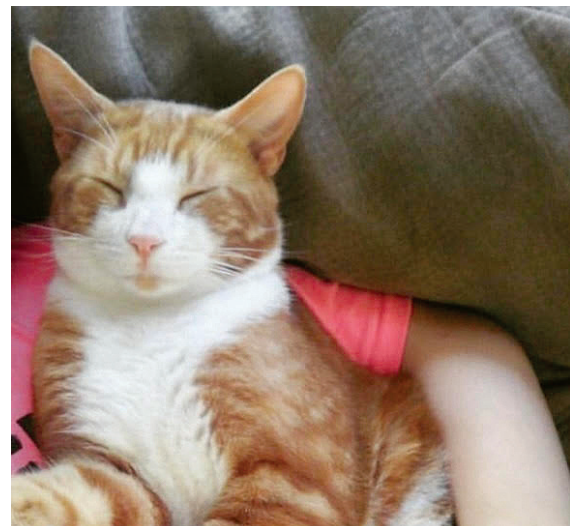
I got to stay in a Standish Foster Home where I got to know my trapper and her daughter. They were so kind to me and I learned to trust again. They described me as a gentle giant. Soon after, another family with children came to meet me and they decided to adopt me and take me home. I have never been more grateful for all the help I received to get me off the streets, get me neutered and get me into my forever home.

Please ... if you are feeding an outside cat ... please reach out for help. We are not o.k.

We need humans to do the right thing. Cats need humans to get us spayed or neutered. I spent years outside fending for myself but I would love to save other cats from the heartache and physical pain I endured.

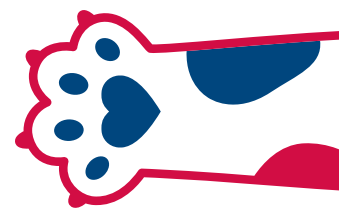
Did you know that neutering a male cat eliminates the risk of spraying and marking? Gives us less desire to roam and therefore we are less likely to be injured in fights or auto accidents. The risk of testicular cancer is eliminated, and decreases the incidence of prostate disease, improves our behavior around humans and other animals and reduces the number of unwanted cats/kittens.

If you are seeing or feeding a cat outside, please call an animal rescue group to investigate. They will find out if the cat is lost and the family is eagerly waiting to be reunited. They will sort through to see if the cat is abandoned and



needs a new home, or if the cat is feral and needs to be spayed or neutered. They can scan for a microchip; or post the cat and talk to neighbors to see if the cat is owned; They can assess if the cat is friendly or feral and they can stop us from reproducing.

**Please donate to Standish Humane Society so they can help other cats like me.**



**Donations may be mailed:**

**Standish Humane Society  
P.O. Box 634 Duxbury, MA  
02331**

**They may also be submitted online by using the "Donate" button on our website at [standishhumane.org](http://standishhumane.org).**





# The Special Needs



Vesemir and Gru



Jag



Randall



Private Ryan

Have you ever thought about rescuing, adopting or fostering a special needs cat? The cat with one eye, the cat with FIV, the one with a missing leg. The one on medication for thyroid or diabetes, or the one on a special diet? At Standish we don't shy away from these wonderful animals that just need a little bit extra. We are forever grateful to the homes that seek out or sometimes just simply fall in love with these very loveable cats. Some of these cats are adopted to very special homes and some of them with more serious illnesses are placed in a permanent foster home.

Often times it's a veterinarian who reaches out to us with requests to assist a cat in need. Sometimes it's just a monetary vet assist we try to help a client with, sometimes it's a very expensive surgery needed to save a cat's life and sometimes it's just a need to take the cat under our own wing to find it a new home where the cat will be cared for with its unique medical needs.

Vesemir is just one example of a cat with special needs that Standish took in and found the perfect home for. He was adopted into a home that Gru, pictured here, was also FIV+. This home wanted to rescue another cat and when they saw that Ves was waiting for a home they asked what we thought of them meeting. It's always nerve wracking to try to figure out if two cats that were not with each other

and have not met previously, will end up being friends or not but we gave it our best shot. Here the two boys are just a week post adoption. Thank you to this amazing home for continuing to see the benefits of a special needs cat.

Recently we were asked to take over the care for a cat that was brought into a local veterinarian office with a blockage. These blockages are expensive to resolve and in most cases require a human to offer prescription food post surgery. The cat was brought in to be euthanized but the vet called Standish and Standish stepped up to save this kitty. Jag is now healthy and doing just fine on his prescription wet food.

Another vet called us when a cat was presented for euthanasia with a broken leg. This little guy was just under a year old and they knew he would do just fine if they could find someone willing to pay for his surgery and take him home to recuperate. In comes Randall who had one hind leg amputated. He is now running up and down stairs and gaining muscle back so he can be the kitten he is meant to be.

Another veterinarian called us recently when an Animal Control Officer brought in a cat that had been hit by a car but no one came forward to claim him. It was discovered that this cat, now named Private Ryan, was blind and had some internal injuries from the car accident. We took over his care, placed him in a fabulous foster home to recuperate and then adopted him out to a home that is forever grateful for this wonderful lug of a



Ellie



Mya



# Cats

# Dogs DO Like Cats

gentleman. While vision impaired, he is welcoming and friendly and loves all his new found attention.

Miss **Ellie** was a cat who was placed in permanent foster until just recently when she passed. She was presented with FIV and a multitude of skin and health problems. Her foster Dad Doug said about her and his experience with fostering her “I loved Miss Ellie so much and it was easy to take care of her because she deserved it. She just didn’t deserve the illness she was dealt. Thank you Standish Humane Society for the opportunity to care and love her until her last breath.”

Sophia & Freya Gomes applied to specifically foster a hospice or special needs cat. An incredible partnership has ensued between all parties and we will be forever grateful to our hospice homes. About their experience with **Mya** who was diagnosed with both FIV and FeLV, they wrote:

“From the moment we saw Mya’s picture on the front page of Standish’s website we fell in love with her. Her beautiful little face captured our hearts and then her story broke them. We had never considered fostering a terminally ill cat before and it wasn’t a choice we took lightly. It has been one of the best decisions we have made together as a couple. Fostering Mya has been a wonderful experience; she is such a sweet and friendly cat. First moving in with us she hid and we spent the night coaxing her out, from there she has slowly become more and more comfortable with us, from starting to meow and chitter to starting to curl up on our laps. Even though she is a hospice foster she is just like any other cat, she’s unaware of her condition and it doesn’t inhibit her. She greets us with meows and weaves between our legs when we get home and she chases her favorite toy around the house when we play with her. But she’s also the sweetest and cutest cat we’ve ever met. If she wants attention she will either come over and meow at you or roll over and demand belly rubs. She’s also very well behaved, aside from stealing the occasional bite of tuna from a sandwich when our backs are turned.

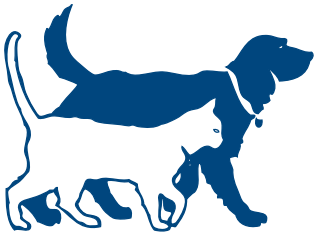
The majority of cats can happily coexist with a dog if they are given time to comfortably get to know each other. If a puppy and kitten are raised together, they generally will learn right away to tolerate each other, and some cats and dogs grow to be real friends, even playing and napping together. There are very deliberate means to introduce a cat to a dog and vice versa. Please enjoy some of our Standish cats with their resident dog friends and please invite all your dog owning friends to come adopt a cat to boss around their dog.



We made the decision to foster our sweet girl because we have a strong support system, we have each other, the availability to cater to her needs, and we heard the call. We know that our time is short with this little love but we have a good understanding of what our job is and know we will need to process our feelings when the time comes. Even though losing her will be devastating, it will only be so because we had the blessing of having her grace our life and fill each day with love and joy. We will forever cherish the time we have with her and we feel so grateful we are able to give her a loving home and a wonderful life right now. We would love to encourage others to foster a cat either with special needs or a terminal diagnosis. These cats need love and the rewards are great.”

Please consider sponsoring one of our very **SPECIAL** cats with a one time or an ongoing monthly donation.





# Standish

HUMANE SOCIETY

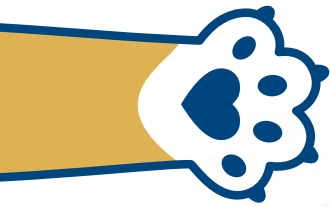
P.O. Box 634  
Duxbury, MA 02331



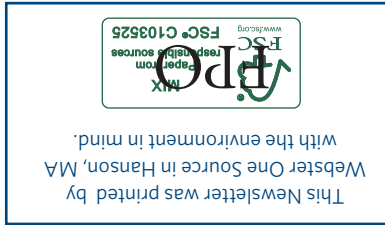
**Max, our last resident cat, passed away this year.**

He lived to be 18 years old and lived a pampered life at Standish Humane Society. **Max would like to let you know that we will be posting all the 2023 Memorials and Tributes on our website [standishhumane.org](http://standishhumane.org) at the end of the year and not in the Newsletter to help save money on printing costs.**

*Visit [standishhumane.org](http://standishhumane.org) to view pictures and videos of Standish's adoptable cats!*



**We want to thank Planet Subaru for all the love they have given us over the years. Please support this wonderful Standish donor when it is time to buy your new car.**



This Newsletter was printed by Webster One Source in Hanson, MA with the environment in mind.

Share the Love is a great time for our supporters to check out Planet Subaru. You might end up with a fantastic car and Standish will receive \$250 thanks to you. Besides their wonderful support of Standish, we also love Planet Subaru's commitment to animals. You can meet their sweet canine helpers in the showroom. They love the customers! Planet Subaru of Hanover will add an additional \$75 for every car sold during the promotion event to make the donation to Standish a total of \$325 per car.

**Planet Subaru has again chosen Standish as one of its local non-profit partners for their Share the Love campaign.** From November 16, 2023 through January 2, 2024, with every new Subaru purchased or leased at Planet Subaru in Hanover, \$250 will be donated to the customer's choice of charities, so we are delighted to be designated again as one of the charities. A number of Standish volunteers own one or more Subarus from Planet Subaru and go back for another when it is time for a new car. The Standish parking lot, with all its Subarus parked there, is a testament to the love Standish feels for Planet. In addition to the wonderful purchasing experience they have experienced at Planet Subaru, the volunteers are also thrilled with its service department.

**Planet Subaru Keeps Sharing the Love and Standish is Loving it!**



# STANDISH HUMANE SOCIETY ANNUAL BENEFIT DRAWING



Raffle Coupons are \$10 each or \$25 for 3 coupons (coupons are printed below). Please make checks payable to "Standish Humane Society" and return in the enclosed envelope by January 27, 2024. Or you can buy the coupons thru <https://go.rallyup.com/standish-calendar> or use the QR code.

## FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>This raffle calendar makes a great holiday gift! Your gift recipient would have a chance to win a great prize and also know that they are helping a wonderful charity.</i></p>				1 \$100 Dunkin Donut Gift Card	2 \$50 Townshend Restaurant	3 \$50 Target Gift Card
4 Plimoth Patuxet Museum Tickets	5 \$25 Sun Tavern Gift Card	6 \$50 Petco Gift Card	7 \$50 Amazon Gift Card	8 \$100 Visa Gift Card	9 \$50 Lowes Gift Card	10 \$50 Longhorn Restaurant Gift Card
11 \$100 Visa Gift Card	12 \$25 Amazon Gift Card	13 \$50 Visa Gift Card	14 Ferry Cruise for 2 Martha's Vineyard	15 \$100 Amazon Gift Card	16 \$50 Petco Gift Card	17 \$50 Panera Bread Gift Card
18 Norton Golf Club Gift Card	19 \$25 Sephora Gift Card	20 \$50 Lowes Gift Card	21 \$50 Longhorn Restaurant Gift Card	22 \$100 Lowes Gift Card	23 \$50 Amazon Gift Card	24 \$50 Home Depot Gift Card
25 \$100 Visa Gift Card	26 \$25 Amazon Gift Card	27 \$50 TJ Maxx Marshalls Gift Card	28 \$50 Panera Bread Gift Card	29 \$100 Amazon Gift Card	<p><i>Hy-Line Cruises donated the ferry trip to Martha's Vineyard and Plimoth Patuxet donated the museum passes. All the other prizes were donated by Standish Volunteers.</i></p>	

RAFFLE COUPON	RAFFLE COUPON	RAFFLE COUPON
Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____	Address: _____
Town: _____	Town: _____	Town: _____
Zip Code: _____	Zip Code: _____	Zip Code: _____
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Email: _____	Email: _____	Email: _____
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