



**CAT DEPOT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY THAYER IS INSPIRED—BY HER STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, THE PUBLIC AND MOST OF ALL BY HELPING KITTIES IN NEED.**

“Right now we have about 102 foster care families taking care of around 140 kittens—these people are so inspiring to me,” she says. “Especially the ones who are giving up a bedroom or bathroom to help a kitten and mother be safe. It’s uplifting.” Thayer and her team are on a mission to change the destiny of the over 30,000 homeless cats that live in Sarasota County. Through adoption opportunities, lifetime cat care, the affordable Rose Durham Clinic and resources for the public, Cat Depot brings the plight of Florida kittens to the forefront, keeping the public informed and aware. “I hear so many stories of good samaritans—people that can’t turn the other way and walk by,” says Thayer. “People are tuned-in; there is so much empathy, kindness and concern.” Cat Depot works in conjunction with other area rescue groups to help every cat in distress. Yet they go above and beyond by staying open seven days a week, even on Sundays and Mondays when no other organization throughout Sarasota and Manatee keeps doors open. “We stay open because we know that we are needed,” says Thayer. Cat Depot takes those rescued cats and opts out of the culture of euthanasia, even if there’s not enough space. “We made a pact four years ago—no kitten is euthanized in Sarasota for lack of space,” says Thayer. “We all work together. It takes dedication.”

Cat Depot’s mission is to save lives, find loving homes and provide the resources and education to improve the destiny of homeless cats. Cat Depot, a nonprofit, no-kill, free-roaming center, is recognized for its progressive design and commitment to helping homeless, abandoned and injured cats and kittens. In 2015, Cat Depot rescued 1,430 felines and assisted with local and national rescues, and dedicated efforts have resulted in increased adoption numbers every year for the last five years. The Community Cat Program was developed to educate the public about free-roaming cats, supply food for community cats and personal pets, offer resources for free and low-cost medical care, loan traps and offer transportation assistance, provide free and low cost spay/neuter surgeries and place adoptable cats and kittens into loving homes. In 2014, the Rose Durham Cat Care Clinic, a small yet highly functional discount clinic, opened in an effort to care for sick and injured cats and their distressed owners.