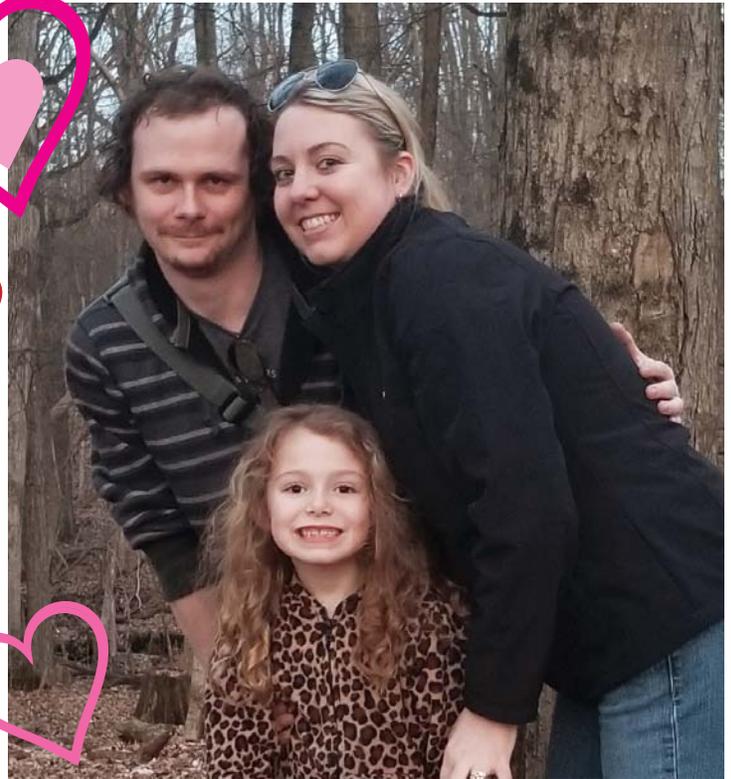


# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

# ALIDA, NATE & LILLIAN KEITH



### What we like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

We spend every Sunday morning cleaning the boutique cages and the FIV room. This is definitely our favorite part because we get to spend time with and get to know the cats. We also get to clean as a family, and that is something that is pretty special. We also foster kittens (and cats) and care for the off-site cats at one of the PetValu stores on a weekly basis.

### Our pets at home:

*Luna* is a grey Maine Coon that we brought home as a kitten when Nate and I first started dating. She is a total mama's girl. *Happy Face* (Happy for short) was a backyard stray who was only about 4 weeks old when friends of ours found him. (Lillian was 5 years old at the time so we let her pick out his name - she was wearing a smiley face sticker on her shirt that day). *Sunny* was the first adult cat we adopted. He was about 5 years old when I met him while volunteering at Colony Cats and he was the sweetest, most loving orange boy we've ever met. Sunny and Happy have developed a bromance that grows stronger every day.

### What we'd like you to know about us:

We're usually pretty introverted while we're at the shelter (well... not Lillian), but we really enjoy meeting new people and trying new things. We've been trying to build relationships with different groups of people since we've moved to Columbus and we've grown so close to a lot of the other volunteers that they now feel like family.

### Where can you find us when we're not volunteering at Colony Cats:

We spend a lot of time exploring parks around Columbus and Hocking Hills. We really like to hike and we always try to find new places. Our house also backs up to a metro park, so we spend a lot of time there. When we're not outside we're usually playing games or visiting friends and family in Dayton and Louisville.

### What's your advice to a new Colony Cats volunteer?

It's okay to ask for breaks or days off, especially if you're volunteering on a weekly basis or several days every week. Volunteering can become stressful and overwhelming at times, and it's normal to feel burned out. We have so many amazing and selfless volunteers and sometimes we spend so much time making sure the animals are taken care of that we forget to take care of ourselves.

### Dogs or Cats Rule?

We are definitely a cat family but of course we love dogs too :)

### Your unique Q&A, thoughts, or favorite saying:

#### Why does Lillian come with us?

We started volunteering in 2017, and it started getting difficult to find Sunday morning babysitters so we started bringing Lillian with us (she was 5 years old when we started). At first we would bring stuff for her to play with while we cleaned, or she would spend a lot of time playing in the kitten room. Now that she's a little bit older she's started helping us scoop litter boxes and clean cages. She really enjoys coming and this has very much become part of our family routine. We're trying to raise her to understand the importance of playing an active role in community service and we feel that this experience has encouraged her love of animals. We hope that she continues to make volunteering a part of her weekly routine through her adolescent (seriously...fingers crossed) and adult life. As for now, we are super proud of the person she is becoming.

