

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

What makes us smile? I am really trying to stay focused on positive moments, images and exchanges with friends and family. Like many of us, I watch the news. I feel my stomach knot up and my neck and shoulders tighten as I do. So I am going to share with you some positive moments that should make us all smile.

What really made me smile, were the pictures that cat kennel staff member, Angie Larsen posted on Facebook. She had special Halloween outfits for cats. Okay, the pictures made me smile but the chosen cats were not smiling.

Last week, Mrs. Metcalf, a third grade teacher at the Hayward Intermediate School invited me to the school to receive a gift for the animals. The gift was a \$507 check. This money was raised by the third grade students and a Lemonade War. The students had read the book, ‘The Lemonade War’ by Jacqueline Davis. The book was published by Scholastic and written for ages 8 to 11 year olds – or grades 3 to 5.

“The Lemonade War” is about a sibling rivalry gone sour which adds zest to this relatable and fast-paced story about a competition between lemonade stands—run by a people-smart brother and his numbers-smart sister. The students and staff at the Hayward Intermediate School had lemonade stands at lunch time on Fridays.

The check presentation was held in the school library and all of the third graders came together with their teachers. I think Mrs. Metcalf told me that there were 7 classrooms with about 17 students each. Thru raise of hands, all of the students liked animals, the majority had animals and some had adopted a pet from the Northwoods Humane Society. I shared with them about what the Northwoods Humane Society does, how their gift will help in the care of the animals and I took questions. The questions were a mixture of comments and questions. Mrs. Metcalf had to remind the group that they were just to ask questions. I had to chuckle, because I love to hear pet stories. Their questions were excellent and meaningful. The students were so well behaved, respectful of one another and their teachers. There was a feeling of kindness in the air.

I am a former Chicago Public School teacher, my son was a Hayward Community School District student – K thru High School. I was an active parent and spent a lot of time in one way or another in the schools. My visit to the Intermediate school was so positive – the halls were lined with unique and well-done artwork by students and beautiful murals done by former principal Jane Gillis, the library was bright and colorful with comfortable seating and stimulating book displays. I really did not want to leave – there was such a good feeling.

Time to get ready for winter. The shelter has the winterizing of cat and dog kennels to do each year. The cats had protective plastic put up around the catteries so that they will have more months of outdoor time. Our thanks to Allan Hoeft and the late Eric Dreczko. (Eric was a super cat fan.)

This past Friday a call was put out for help at the shelter. Mike and Amy Hanson responded to the call and along with staff members got the plastic up on the outside kennels. The underground PVC pipe for water to the small dog park was blown clear, replaced half of the panels in the outdoor kennels put plastic up for the outdoor isolation dog runs. On the negative side, someone stole the donation boxes for the two dog parks. On the positive side, cement and re-bar were installed on Friday and the new boxes will go up this week. Dug holes for signage at both dog parks, brought plants in for our tenants and worked some on their windows. Volunteer Summer Thorpe help with the projects, but she also did a lot of socializing of the 10 puppies waiting for homes.

Last Friday was a damp and cold day. Super volunteer Glenda Von Arb and Alecia provided a nice warm lunch for everyone.

Thanks you to those of you who have offered to volunteer cleaning cats – we still need 3 more people. The shelter still needs an office person on Saturdays. The NHS Thrift shop is still looking for a person or two to join the team for cleaning, pricing and putting out thrift items.

Are you a baker? Glenda Von Arb and Alecia Austin are again organizing another super holiday bake sale which will be held in the Hayward High School Commons area on December 2nd. If you would like to help out with this please give the shelter a call at 715-634-5394 or e-mail paws@northwoodshumanesociety.org.

News at the shelter? Each week the shelter staff meets. Volunteer Susan Sams shares the minutes with the Board of Directors. The last 'Census' report was Cats: in house – 77 In Foster – 10 on Waitlist – 24
Dogs: In House 33- In Foster – 10 Coming in – 6 from LCO Pound. The positive take from this is that the staff and volunteers are caring for the animals, the Thrift Shop volunteer efforts and donors generosity and fundraising efforts are making it all possible.