

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter which opened its doors in the spring of 1996. If my memory serves me correctly the very first resident was a small orange kitten.

I found a newsletter that I must have written in 1992.

When NHS first began in 1989, we were doing everything out of our homes or animal related business and Stove Works. The Board members committed to raising the money for building the shelter so that we would open debt free. Lois Stevenson an ardent cat lover, left NHS \$85,000 in her will. We purchased our current land for \$35,000 (87 acres) and put \$50,000 aside so that when we opened we would have a cushion to start with. Cam Brua was on the land committee at that time she was 87 years old and she said ‘you have to purchase all 87 acres – you can’t make more land’.

Some of you will remember the following names and some you will not. Just know that these were caring people that were committed to seeing the Northwoods Humane Society become a much needed reality. “The architectural plans have been completed for our new shelter. Architect Gary MacKenzie of Hertel, Wisconsin (formerly of Minneapolis) has donated his time and skill to develop the design along with the building committee – Madonna Stedman, Joyce LaMure, Joyce Hockel and Wally McIntire. The design includes 16 dog runs and 24 cat facilities and caretaker quarter. It will be an all enclosed facility for security purposes. Electrician Jim Reed of Hayward and a member of Local 14 along with Barry Smith Business Manager of Lake Head Electric will donate the electrical materials. Bob Schroeder has offered to help with carpentry. Mike Persson has volunteered to serve as the general Contractor. Tom Genter and Bill Rady have offered to help with the masonry work. Roscoe Butterfield has agreed to help with the well. Mike Brandt Construction committed to building the shelter.”

As I mentioned, we were committed to opening the shelter debt free. Here was what was on the fundraising and event agenda: Tag Day, Walk for Pets, Mounted Treasure Hunt, and the NHS Cook Book. (Rhonda Rady typed all the recipes – I think I remember her saying ‘Never again!’)

NHS participated in their first Musky Fest parade. Marcia Smith coordinated the event and Wally and Ann McIntire got us our first official banner. We had opened our Thrift Shop in the Hayward Insurance building on Hwy 63. Volunteer coordinators are Berti Mackey, Dorothy Mercer, Kathy Patterman, Jean Sedgwick and Mary Tazelaar. Volunteers Grace Mikula, Ann McIntire, Pam Turner, Lola Hurley, Eleanor Connor, Pat Whaley, Janet Schmidt, Nancy Pollock manned the shop. The Thrift shop donated \$7,033 to the shelter fund in the first 8 ½ months of being open.”

The Rossio family and Mary Tazelaar opened up their barn to us so that large items that could not be handled at the thrift shop were sold from the barn on weekends.

We had our donation houses that were handled by Jack Eary. (We are still using the same houses that Shirley Eary painted.)

This past week we had to say goodbye to a long time volunteer and animal lover. Barbara Williamson was a 'super' volunteer and brought her good energy to events and to the shelter. She always saved the first Monday in February to help in the kitchen for Paws of Appreciation – I didn't have to ask – she just did it. Like many of those listed above – she will be so missed.

So, as NHS celebrates 25 years of growth we are also celebrating those who have made it happen over the years, we celebrate those that have passed away, moved away or with us today. Each donor, volunteer, and staff person has left their mark and should feel proud of the difference they have made.

Upcoming Dates

February 5 through February 19 – Love Four Paws dried and canned cat and dogs food drive.

Participating drop off and purchase participants: MarketPlace Foods, Armstrong Insurance Hayward Feed and Seed and the Northwoods Humane Society. Sponsored by Armstrong Insurance Agency and OCSA – Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness