

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Hello 2023 and goodbye 2022! The following is a continuation of last week's article. It includes excerpts from my 2022 Winter NHS Board Report.

Like all years, 2022 was a very busy and intense year. It was a year full of hard work and a lot of caring. It was a year as all years are for NHS of caring for animals in need. That care comes in many forms and by many people. Again, as I said in last week's article, Thank You to those that helped us meet the Holiday Gift Challenge of \$25,000. We met the challenge and exceeded it.

Fundraising was limited this year due to the concern about Covid. Shirley Armstrong organized the Dining for Cats and Dogs at Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering. Donna Dreczko organized the Bingo games at Powel's on Round Lake and at The Red Schoolhouse Wines (rain was not our friend). Boulder Lodge again made NHS the recipient of their proceeds from the Card Board Boat races. My Villa in Cable, again honored NHS at their Christmas in Cable Day and Redbery Books in Cable did a fundraising day in October for NHS. Coburn's Marketplace had NHS month in September and continues to have a NHS food shelf. Lori Butala and Linda Graham coordinated a food drive in August with Coburns and Hayward Feed and Seed. In 2019, NHS established a designated Endowment account with Ameriprise. Steve Menke is the committee chair for this fund.

Ongoing fundraisers are the collection of our coin houses by Randy and BJ Schwartzhoff. Iras Humphries, Chuck Grey and Bill Bauer are doing a super job with the aluminum can collections – this is not an easy task. Thank you to Dave and Judy Berard for filling in. Alecia Austin again coordinated the Raffle Ticket Sales at the Musky Fest, Fall Fest and Cranberry Fest events. The prize this year was \$1,000 and the winner gave the money back to NHS.

The biggest fundraiser is our NHS Thrift Shop. This all volunteer run thrift shop is open 7 days a week during the summer and fall and 6 days a week in the winter. The hours in the summer were extended to 10 am to 4 pm from the winter hours of 11 am to 3 pm. The shop is a huge undertaking with about 40 volunteers making it happen. Last winter, Linda Graham was the coordinator and during the summer and fall Barbara Hoeft took the reins. Volunteers sort, clean, repair, price, display, cashier and anything else needed. Dick Langton continues to haul away cardboard to be recycled. Linda Graham has arranged for recycling metal related items with Da North, and recycles plastic bags and batteries. She is also a liaison with other social agencies. Our excess of clothing and some thrift is taken to St. Vincent's or Goodwill in Rice Lake. Most items are brought by the donors to NHS in some cases I coordinate pickup at individual homes. Donna Dreczko maintains the financial records.

NHS has been gifted with a pontoon and a runabout boat which have been sold. We are able to advertise via Facebook and through Hayward Buy and Sell. We use Hayward Buy and Sell for other items that need a broader exposure. It would be great if we could find a volunteer that would handle an e-bay account.

This past year has seen several building(s) improvements. The NHS Thrift Shop has three new HVAC systems installed by Rasmussens. Covers were built for the outdoor air conditioners and the roof was repaired by John Cain. Dead trees were taken down by the parking lot. Still to be done is parking lot area that is sinking. The fill-in is scheduled for this spring. Mike Persson has stepped in to coordinate the rebuilding of the Norvado alley door with Jeff Cain.

At the shelter, three exterior doors were installed with windows to facilitate traffic and communication. Bill Cochran has been called for lock issues. The fence around the two shelter dog play areas is deteriorating. A temporary solution was found. Alecia has successfully written a grant for new fencing that will be installed this

coming summer. Some kennel repair is also needed. The Training Center wiring for the well was chewed on by an outdoor critter. Dave Arnett did the repairs.

Our NHS staff is strong: Alecia Austin, Shelter Manager, Lisa Lew Assistant Shelter Manager, Mark Peterson Caine Coordinator, Angie Larson, Mark Anderson, Ann Schultz, Jamie Ruthfus. So important to the work at the shelter are the volunteers that handle the phones and reception desk, walk dogs, clean cat and dog kennels and socialize the cats, mow the lawns and help with physical needs. Gil and Marty Zych donated a commercial grade lawn mower that has reduced the time by hours.

2022 was a very busy year. Our historian, Sonja Hintler helps keep track of the NHS journey throughout the years. We are looking forward to another positive productive year in 2023. (This time without having to replace any furnaces!) Thank you to everyone that adopts, supports, and works for animals in need. You are appreciated and needed.