

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The Northwoods Humane Society has again been blessed with the challenge of a matching of \$31,000. Our gift givers will match dollar for dollar during the month of December! Mailings have gone out to members and supporters this past week. This Matching Gift opportunity is an important part of our funds to help animals in need.

The Northwoods Humane Society (NHS) is 501c3 non-profit, 'no kill' shelter. NHS is funded through donations, memberships, adoption fees, fundraisers and our 'all volunteer' run Thrift Shop. We receive no monies from local, state or federal government funding.

In 2024 NHS served 663 dogs and cats. All animals are vet checked, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, fecal checked, heartworm tested, microchipped and socialized and prepared for a 'forever' home. NHS provides all medical needs for animals in our care. This may include an eye removal, amputation, treatment for mange, fleas or the removal of porcupine quills – the list is long. NHS has a strong community outreach program which includes spay and neutering of owned animals, help with medical expense and a food shelf plus housing needs for owned animals.

NHS is there for animals whose owners have passed away or no longer able to care for their pet. NHS has a feral cat TNR program. NHS has two dog parks – one for large dogs and one for small dogs – for the public to use. NHS receives dogs from the LCO Pound, Sawyer County Pound and surrenders. NHS is the provider of the only service for cats in Sawyer County. Cats come to us as strays, found and surrenders.

Your donations will be used to help the animals. That is what NHS is all about. If you did not receive a Matching Gift mailing and would like one, please call me at 715-634-4543 or you may pick one up at the NHS Thrift Shop on Third Avenue between 11 am and 3 p.m. or at the Shelter on HWY 77 East and O'Brien Hill Road. Information may also be found on our website www.northwoodshumanesociety.org.

One of our first Matching Gifts came from singer/songwriter Dave Neuswanger and Boulder Lodge owner/operator Jason and Kelsi Lohaus. A check for \$875 was given to NHS "in support of their compassionate care and wise placement of our furry friends". This donation is the sum of tips collected from appreciative Boulder Lodge music lovers on Saturday evenings throughout 2024. Neuswanger plays mostly 70s era folk-rock and folk-country covers in addition to a few of his own compositions. Lohaus encourages everyone to experience the history, rustic ambiance, and music-friendly atmosphere of Boulder Lodge in 2025, when the NHS fund-raising goal will be \$1,000. Music is paused for the Holiday season but will resume the first weekend in January. There is no cover charge, and all Saturday night music tips go to the NHS. Proceeds from Boulder Lodge's Annual Cardboard Boat Race also go to the Northwoods Humane Shelter. Join in the fun on Saturday, July 5 in 2025. Boulder Lodge is located on Ghost Lake about 20 minutes east of Hayward, just off Highway 77. For more information, visit the Boulder Lodge website at www.boldlodge.com.

I felt the HOLIDAY SPIRIT to the max on Saturday. Danielle and Kevin Harvey, owner of Revelle's Resort on Nelson Lake hosted their annual customer appreciation dinner which has also been a fundraiser for NHS for several years. Not only was the restaurant and bar decorated to the max (tinsel included) but so were all of the guests! Our friends Rick and Cheri Arzola invited us to join them (Cheri is on the NHS Board of Directors). I had on my black long sleeved t-shirt with a big white paw print – next year Mike

and I will be ready. The winner of the ugliest-shirt was Scott Vold! It ugly, funny and clever! I would guess that 95% of the many people there were in holiday wear and spirit! Danielle announced that they raised over \$3000 for NHS. So much fun! The Nelson Lake people shared a true sense of community and they know how to have fun!

NHS receives a lot of support from our community. A special thank you to the businesses that have NHS coin houses on their counter and to BJ and Randy Schwatzhoff for this attentiveness to collecting donations thru out the year. If you see a NHS house, thank the business. We appreciate the support. NHS coin houses may be found at ACE Hardware, Art Beat of Hayward, True Value Hardware, Hayward Family Restaurant, Hayward Feed and Seed, Hayward Mercantile, Hi Ho Silver, Lakewood Café, Leading Edge Vet, Lynn's Custom Meats, Marketplace, Moccasin Bar, NHS Shelter, Nordic Northwoods, River Street Restaurant, Sweet City, Trembley's, Hayward Vet Center and West's Dairy. A special shout out to Hi Ho Silver – when Julie does a small repair, instead of charging she suggests putting something in our coin house.

NHS is so grateful for the support of so many people and businesses – we have a fabulous community.

Special Note – Please give thought to being part of 'Out Pet Tales as a way to celebrate your pet. Write a short story (200 words or less) and send it plus a photo of your pet to NHS (application can be found on our website or at the NHS shelter or thrift shop). Twenty stories will be chosen for inclusion in a book along with a pencil portrait of your pet by Irene Farone along with greeting cards. Deadline for story and picture is December 29. See our website for details.

Dates to Save:

December 11 – NHS Volunteer and Staff Celebration – Mingle and Jingle at Out of the Woods Winery 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Thru December 17 – Trailways – Tips for the Animals

December 15 – NHS Super Bake Sale – Hayward High Canes Holiday Fair – 9 am to 3 pm

December 29 – Our Pet Tales – story and picture due