

Northwoods Humane Society, Deanna Persson, President

The mission of the Northwoods is to help animals in need. Each animal has its individual challenges and the staff and volunteers work to make these animals ready for loving homes.

I had two encounters this week with two different women with a similar story. The first was with Becky. I had met Becky about 10 years ago. At first I didn't know why her face was familiar. She was dropping donations off at the NHS Thrift shop where I volunteer several days a week. After some conversation, she shared that she had adopted 'Stella'. Stella had come to us along with 5 other dogs from Korea. Stella and the others were being raised for meat. The Humane Society of The United States had organized a major rescue and a move to encourage South Korea from using dogs for meat.

Five of the dogs that we received were Great Danes and one was a shepherd mix – that was Stella. The dogs were all fearful but not aggressive. The staff set up a socialization schedule where volunteers would come and just sit with the dogs. Some read to them others talked. Little by little the dogs began to trust and learned to walk on a leash and eat out of the bowl. Some of the volunteers adopted the dog that they had worked with for the past months. Becky brought Stella into her home as a foster dog and continued to socialize her. You have probably guessed that she was what we fondly call a "foster failure". Becky showed me pictures of Stella lying on the bed and sleeping on the couch. Becky told me that it was the hardest thing she ever did and the best thing she ever did.

I saw my friend, Jane, during the Art Crawl this past weekend. Jane had adopted Camero. Camero came to the NHS shelter with a litter mate who we named Mustang. Both of these dogs were live trapped in the woods near Birchwood. They had been living a feral existence and had no socialization skills what so ever. I am guessing but I think they were about 1 ½ years old. Were they born in the wild? Did someone drop them off and run? We will never know their full story but we do know the happy ending.

Again, it was our fabulous volunteers – Glenda and Bob VonArb who committed to working with them daily. Everything was new to them. Glenda and Bob and the staff worked with them for several months. I remember a day when they were teach the dogs about riding in a car. Learning not to be fearful about getting in. The search began for that perfect home for these two. Jane embraced Camero. She had patience and love. She took her to training classes and again she was very patient. Jane showed me a beautiful picture of Camero – relaxed and happy – showing no signs of her previous life of fear and uncertainty. I understand that Mustang is also doing well.

Some of you may have seen the pink vests with the paw prints on the streets of Hayward on August 7. This army of volunteers were collecting donations for annual NHS Tag Day. The coordinators for Tag Day were David Nemecek and Rob Taite. They did a fabulous job and also gave our facebook followers the opportunity to donate. This year they brought in a record amount of close to \$7,000. Thank you to volunteers with the buckets: Kristi Adell, Patty Arnold, Signe Backus, Judy Berard, Jennifer Corlett, Nancy Douglas, Linda Graham, Kuchen Hale, Sue Hudson, Miah Janisch, Suasanne Kalla, Sue Killinger, Darlene Kirchoerfer, Kim Kral, Nancy McDowell, Pam Mikow, Chuck Mikow, Frank Nowak, Linda Nowak, Paul Mitchell, Kathy Pedersen, Deanna Persson, Donna Post, Beth Pricco, Shirley Redmond, Susan Sams, Grete Schuenzel, Kerry Schmitt, Paytin Schmitt, Vaughn Skille, Rachel Thompson, Gordy Tonn, Pat Tonn, Tammy Vergeront, Sharon Walp, Jerry Winters, Dennis Young and Cheryl Young. Thank you to Cherrie Arzola and Alecia Austin for their technical assistance.

A Big Thank also go to BJ and Rand Schwartzhoff who collect the monies donated from our coin houses which are in 21 businesses. In the area. They were pleased to let us know that this month was higher than last year.

WE REALLY NEED HELP! The Northwoods Humane Society Thrift Shop is in super need of a volunteer cashier person on Saturdays. The hours are 11 am to 4 p.m. Currently, we have two volunteers and it really takes three people – two to work as cashiers and one to receive donations and work on pricing. It may be that you cannot help every Saturday – but if you could help with some that would be great and maybe someone else could do the other Saturdays. The perk about Saturdays is that you get to work with Sue Hudson who is one of our super cashiers and all around wonderful person. If you can help and want to talk more about it please give me a call at home -715-634-4543 or stop in the shop a pick up a volunteer application – you can get it off our website too – northwoodshumanesociety.org. Paula Bilitz will contact you.

We are getting ready for our Big Fundraiser for the summer – “Bark and Roll” with the Cat’s Meow auction. This will take place at the Seeley Sawmill Saloon on Friday August 30th at 6:30 p.m. Bring a group of friends and family and enjoy rock and roll music and hotdogs off the grill.

Date to save: August 30 – Bark and Roll – 6:30 pm at the Seeley Sawmill Saloon