



Wowza! It Was Chocolate Heaven!

More than thirty delicious, decadent desserts – honest-to-goodness chocolate works of art – made the auction rounds in front of a sold out crowd March 28th at the annual HSPS Chocolate Auction. The change of venue to the Vista Clubhouse west of town was well received by auction attendees who showed their enthusiasm and support for the dogs and cats of the animal shelter by raising the most funds in recent Chocolate Auction memory. This year's auction featured some fun new twists and auction items including balloon pop prizes, a bicycle with a basket full of chocolate, and a wheelbarrow laden with decadent goodies. Awesome desserts brought out the oohs and ahhs and

good food and beverages brought the smiles, all for a great cause!

Our gratitude and thanks go out to all the donors, event sponsors and attendees for helping create a truly fun evening and making good things happen for the animals. Special thanks, too, to all the volunteers from the kitchen crew to the event workers, from set up to break down. It was a collaborative effort of the many, for which many thanks are due!



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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hsadmin@humanesociety.biz
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Animal Shelter

465 Cloman Blvd
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
(970) 731-4771
sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

Humane Society Thrift Store

269 Pagosa St
Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
(970) 264-6424
hsthiftstore@humanesociety.biz

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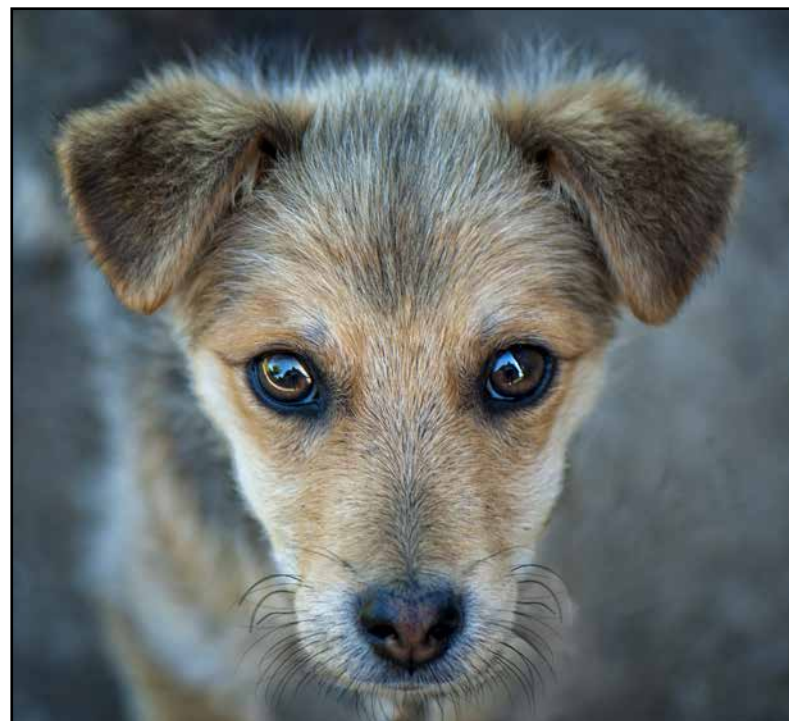
Rez Dogs Rescue

What do a doctor, a rescue worker, a truck driver, and a couple folks from the Midwest have in common? They're all part of a chain of volunteers who helped two stray dogs find a home almost two-thousand miles away.

Earlier this year an Ohio couple passing through the wide open country of northeast Arizona encountered two stray dogs that tugged at their heart strings. Even though it was impossible to take the dogs with them at the time, they vowed to provide them with a home if they could somehow be transported halfway across the country. Inquiries were started, people got involved, and eventually a local rescue volunteer teamed with a doctor to bring the dogs into the latter's home while travel arrangements were made. During their stay, the dogs were spayed, vaccinated and cared for while awaiting their journey.

When all the travel dots were being connected, the HSPS animal shelter was offered as the rendezvous hub. The doctor drove the dogs to Pagosa where they stayed in our shelter until the truck driver who had volunteered to transport them could arrive. The driver first took the dogs to his home outside of Denver for a few days until he was ready to depart across country and then he and the dogs headed east to Ohio. A recent email let everyone involved know that the dogs were adjusting well to life in their new home with their fellow rescued pets.

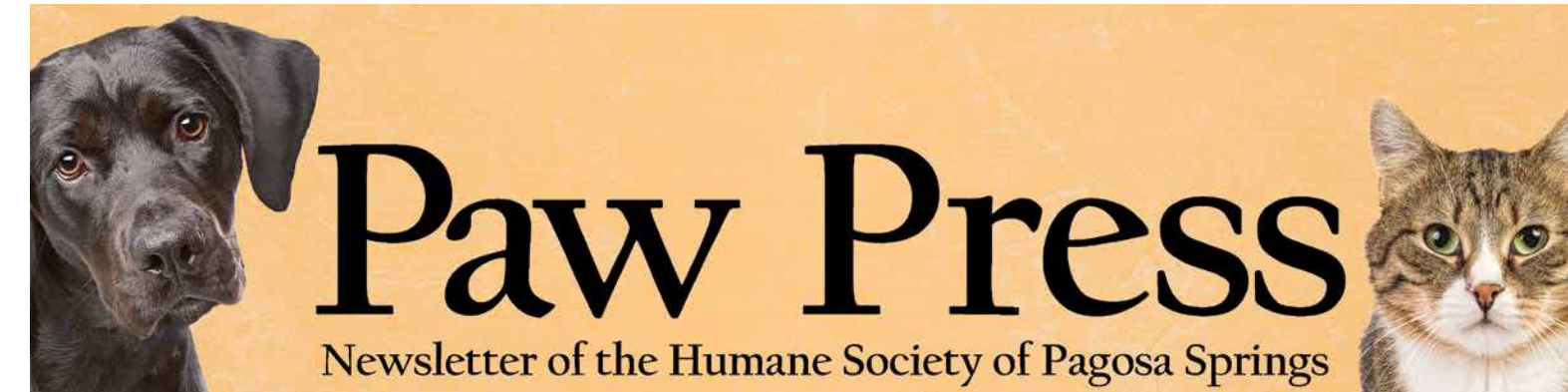
The many actions of volunteers, large and small, can add up to a significant difference in the lives of animals in need. Here's a



huge thank-you to everyone who volunteers their time and abilities to help our furry friends, with special thanks to the many truckers who volunteer to transport animals to a better life in new homes. Just imagine, maybe the next eighteen-wheeler you pass on the highway is really a rescue wagon in disguise!

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Spring/Summer 2015

Watson to the Rescue!

We often talk about rescuing animals in our care – helping them to a better place in life. But we need to remember that rescue work is not a one-way street. Maybe you've seen the paw-shaped bumper sticker that asks the poignant question, *Who rescued who?* This is the story of Watson, a lost dog that was rescued and is now working on returning the favor.

Watson is a smart fellow. He's already a bilingual listener (more on that later), but he's still not quite ready to talk. Consequently, Watson was never able to tell us anything about his pre-shelter life. What we do know is that he was found about a year ago, cowering and scared in a busy local parking lot. With no owner and concerns about his safety, a conscientious citizen brought Watson to the HSPS animal shelter.

Shelter staff determined Watson was about a year-old when he entered their care. He appeared very timid, scared and definitely unsure of life in the shelter. However, after a few days of regular meals, a dry bed, and some attentive care, Watson started to adjust to his new surroundings. He began to let his *inner dog* show. What became readily apparent was that Watson was actually an eager and energetic young fellow. He liked to jump and retrieve tennis balls. He seemed always in a hurry to get to wherever it was he thought he needed to go. His previous leash skills were nonexistent, so he proved to be a handful for whomever was on the other end of the leash. Mister energy, on the move!

Early in his stay, Watson entered our shelter enrichment program. Shelter enrichment is designed to stimulate the brains and bodies of the pets to help keep them mentally and physically healthy. To that end, our shelter dogs receive regular training in basic desired behaviors, primarily using the clicker method of positive reinforcement. Watson proved to be a whiz kid, quickly mastering the commands for sit, down, and wait.

Watson's first shot at adoption came about a month into his shelter stay and it looked like a beauty! A couple in Denver was looking for a personable therapy dog. With Watson's intelligence and desire to learn, he was the top candidate. Unfortunately, shortly after his adoption, some family members began to exhibit severe allergic reactions to his presence. Poor Watson had to pack up and head back to our shelter.



As Watson was returning to Pagosa, a gentleman in another part of Colorado was starting his search for a dog in need of love and a new home. Greg hoped to find a dog that would look similar to his beloved Shepherd-mix named Cody that had recently passed. An online search came across a photo of Watson and bingo! Greg and his friend Marilyn made a lengthy roundtrip to Pagosa to meet Watson. Greg quickly realized that Watson was super energetic and would need lots of training, but he also recognized he had just met one very sweet dog. The commitment was made.

Greg had recently retired from the corporate world. With the luxury of extra time, he dedicated much of it to nurturing, training, and bonding with Watson. Shortly after adopting Watson, Greg met a fellow who was involved in search and rescue. They talked about how smart Watson was and what a great *sniffer* he had. The fellow recommended that Greg and Watson consider search and rescue training. One of the initial steps was getting Watson's sense of smell tested. The test confirmed what Greg suspected: Watson is definitely a gifted sniffer!

Continued on next page...

The next few months Greg and Watson went everywhere together. They went hiking and running, played fetch and Frisbee in the park, went shopping whenever the need arose, and spent long periods of bonding and social and emotional adjusting. And they immersed themselves in service dog training. Most dogs take at least a year to qualify as a service dog. With Watson's intelligence and Greg's constant care and training, Watson earned his service dog vest in a record time of four-and-a-half months!

Watson is now in the next phase of his Colorado search and rescue training. With his super-sniffer he'll be using his nose to search for people lost in the backcountry or buried in an avalanche. The lost and scared dog that entered our animal shelter in need of rescue just a short time ago will soon be volunteering his special skills to

help humans who may also be lost, scared, and equally in need of rescue.

Oh, the bit about being a bilingual listener? Greg has taught Watson commands in German. The abundance of guttural sounds in the German language can help dogs learn words and commands more quickly. Plus, in a pressure situation the dog won't be confused by other people using commands in English. And after all, if you look at a photo of Watson there does appear to be a fair amount of German in that Shepherd!

When Greg came to the HSPS animal shelter to meet Watson he had no agenda other than to look for the right dog that needed love and a home. Who knew that just six months later he and Watson would be preparing to volunteer their new skills to help others? From rescued to rescuer. Well done, Watson and Greg!



Free Donations When You Shop City Market

The *City Market Community Rewards* program sends donation checks to HSPS several times a year. It's free money for HSPS and all you have to do is go online to citymarket.com and enroll your City Market value card in the program. It doesn't cost you anything when you shop and you don't lose any value card points. In 2014 we received over \$2,000 from Community Rewards. With your help we'll increase that amount this year.

To participate in *Community Rewards* all you need is a City Market value card and an online account at citymarket.com. Creating an account is quick and easy. Once you've selected HSPS and registered your value card, you'll be helping to generate a donation for the animal shelter every time you shop. Just follow the steps below. City Market periodically requires that you re-enroll in the *Community Rewards* program, so if you signed up previously, please check your account and make sure that HSPS is still the beneficiary of your value card shopping.

1. Go to citymarket.com, click on "Community," scroll down to "City Market Community Rewards" and click on "Enroll Now"
2. Sign in to your City Market online account or follow the prompts to create an account if you don't already have one.
3. Register your City Market value card (the number is on the back of the card next to the bar code).
4. Once you've registered your card you'll be asked to "Find your Organization." You can enter 10272 (that's the HSPS ID number) or enter "humane" and click "Search." Find and select Humane Society of Pagosa Springs by clicking the button next to our name and then click "Enroll."
5. You're done!

Thank you for taking the time to register HSPS with your City Market value card.



A Salute to Volunteers

During the course of any given year, volunteers are key to nearly every success HSPS can point to. We would be significantly hampered without them. While there are many thank-yous regularly expressed to individual volunteers, this is a good opportunity to express our thanks to a wider audience, and let all our readers know how much we appreciate our volunteers.

In one sense volunteers are not "priceless." Given the number of volunteer hours in a year it's relatively easy to calculate a potential payroll cost. In an average year, paying our volunteers for their time at a median shelter or thrift store wage would cost an additional \$80,000 or more (and that doesn't include the attendant payroll costs associated with wages). For a non-profit that's a huge amount of money and it is money that would be taken away from our programming if it couldn't be generated some other way.

Ultimately, measuring the value of volunteers in payroll dollars is too simplistic a metric because the benefit of their time and effort extends far beyond whatever task they're doing by helping us employ our staff more effectively. When volunteers assist in the animal shelter, thrift store, or office, they not only lend another needed hand but also free staff to engage in duties for which their special training and skills are needed. For example, shelter staff is able to spend more time using their specific skills to train dogs in our enrichment program or draw blood to test and vaccinate incoming animals because volunteers help with laundry, walk and exercise dogs, socialize and groom cats, help with transfer paperwork or whack weeds around the shelter. These are all jobs that *have* to be done but that don't always

require the same level of training or special skills as other shelter tasks.

Volunteers help us in every aspect of the organization, and they make a significant difference in a myriad of ways.

There are some HSPS programs, functions and activities that would be considerably less effective without the help of our volunteers. Here are just three examples from a long list.

Our annual fundraising events, such as the Auction for the Animals and the Chocolate Auction, could not attain the level of success they do without our many volunteers. Our staff would simply be incapable of managing all the pre-event organization and day-of tasks without considerable volunteer help.

Our transfer program, moving animals to and from our shelter to give them enhanced opportunities for adoption, is dependant upon our volunteer drivers who are willing to hit the road and save a life.

Lastly, our free-roaming cat trap-neuter-return (TNR) program relies heavily on volunteers to be fully effective because of all the necessary after-hours work dealing with animals that are more nocturnal than not.

Volunteering is certainly not unique to our community, but I believe we are blessed by our locale: retirees who choose Pagosa often bring unique skills and a lifetime of successful endeavor to volunteering. Many local people, both young and old, understand and value the difference that volunteering can make in a small town. Within the community, our volunteers often become as recognizable as our staff. You'll see them walking dogs, running a cash register and working special events. When they are no longer with us, their presence is definitely missed; "the team" can seem diminished by their absence. Whether it's at the animal shelter, thrift store, administration office or during

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."
-Tom Brokaw

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
-Sherry Anderson

"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."
-Unknown

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
-Winston Churchill

special events, the help that our volunteers provide allows us to do far more than we otherwise could. Ultimately that comes back as a significant benefit to the animals in our care. So, write it large: THANK-YOU VOLUNTEERS for all you do for HSPS, in whatever capacity. You truly do make a difference!



President's Corner

Dear Friends of HSPS,

I'm very excited to be the HSPS Board President for 2015. For those who don't know me, I am a registered nurse at the Pagosa Springs Medical Center. I have many animals of my own that I care for. Although I have a very busy schedule, I find my volunteer work with HSPS is extremely important to my health and attitude. I started volunteering when I was eight years old, going to nursing homes to sing, and I have continued volunteering throughout my life.

I urge you to volunteer somewhere in your community. Of course, if you live in Pagosa Springs I hope it will be at our animal shelter or thrift store. HSPS has numerous ways to volunteer your time, whether it's once a week or once a year. You can find the joy of helping others while meeting new friends!

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

Lauren Wolan-Zak

Auction for the Animals

Friday, August 21st

Ross Aragon Community Center

Dinner Catered by Alley House Grille!

Appetizers, Entrée & Dessert

Fine Beverages

Silent & Live Auctions

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the 21st annual Auction for the Animals on August 21st.

Donations are now being solicited for the auction, which is our most important fundraiser of the year. Please call our administration office at 970-264-5549 or email Sandy at hsadmin@humanesociety.biz to participate as a donor.

For more information on times and ticket prices, check our website at www.humanesociety.biz



IN HONOR OF...

Kristen and Tyler Albers from Thomas and Mary McConnell
Beau from Ted and Patsy Thurston
Brandy from Sally and Herbert Rode
The Farley Cats from Tierney McCaughrin
Rae Denman from Donna and Robert Frederick
Oliver and Olivia (adoption fees) from Helen McBreen
Allie, The Alligator Girl from Laura Colby
Donnie Gooch from Robin Gooch Shaughnessy and Dan Shaughnessy
Marge & Don Jones from Jeana Enrietta
all my kitties! from Brighid McCarthy
Jan Cunningham and Sean McAllister from Kathleen and Ronald Thomte
Jackie McGuire from Ronald and Judith Taufen
"Poppy" Milford from William and Cynthia Milford
Paula Jo Miller from Ann Jacobi
Monongahela from Monica and Aaron Wamsley
Onyx from Betty and Rod Snow
Carol Otis from Julie and Isabella Hinds
Pat White (Penguin Plunge) from Teresa Grella, Kimberly White, Helen White
Quigley from Teresa Marceau
Donald and Elaine Rickard from David and Carolyn Rickard
Lee & Laurie Riley from Michael Monahan
Carole Shewbridge from Tim Dippel
Shorty from David and Nadine Barber
Star from James Smith
Static from Thaddeus and Leona Jurkiewicz
Bella, Bonnie, Boomer, Miss Sunny from Barbara Moore
Maggie and Taz from Mike Stoll and Anne Lincoln

IN MEMORY OF...

Larkin and Bailey from Donald and Alice Stidham
Beardog, Porter and Bart from Barb McNichols Carter
Traveler, beloved pet of Susan Beard from Jeff and Nancy Grovhoug
Little Bit from Janet Spaulding
Mr. Boudreaux from Nicole DeMarco
Our Sweet Baby, Carlie Brown from Jennifer and Karina Brown
Cassie from William and Patricia Curtiss
Drew Charlton from Tom and Adrienne Charlton
Ruckus, Little Girl, Tyek, Newt, Broadway & from LuAnn Baker
Mrs. Chippy from Stephanie King and Chris Mills
Amy, beloved pet of Ron Christensen from Toby and Leah Tollefsen
Daisy from Sandra Butcher
Jack deLange from Special District Association of Colorado
Diesel from Thomas and Donna Pugh
Bob Crowe & Domino from Larry Crowe
Honey, Sundae & Duffy from Kenneth Rogers
Emily from Dalmatian Rescue of New Mexico
Cowboy, Michelle Visel's best friend from Barbara Sheriff
Foster Knoll, canine friend from Paul and Victoria Coleman
Mookie and Friez from Nancy and William Esterbrook
Mark H. Gibson from Mark and Elley Gibson
Norma Johnson & Phyllis Gibson from Eldon and Rosina Johnson
Gypsy from Marcia Jarvis and Ron Tinsley
Happy from Marilyn Falvey
Robert L. Hill from Rick and Karen Bartholomew
Jaspurr (Beloved Siamese of Lou & Steve Hudson) from Mary Lou Hudson
Jake from Teresa and John Huff

Job from Rebecca Thompson
Ed and Ginny Kaumeyer from Linda Kaumeyer & Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey
Jim Kelley from Laura and Ross Isaacson
Keno from High Altitude Services
Winston Keno from Shirley Keno
Jack and Bodie Lawrie from Linda and Duncan Lawrie
Lila from Susan K VanDenberg
Lulu from Robert and Betty Clouse
Jackie McGuire from Chuck McGuire
Misty from Craig and Eileen Anderson
Max-Beau Murphy Mozart from Mary Muller
Newt from Patrick and Janet Kindred
Niko from Brenda McCooey
Nikki & Pawdre from Phil and Pat Evans
Pearl from Rilla and Edward Fields
Ranger from Kent Davis
Ruby from Joseph and Deborah Hannigan
Margaret Rumpf from David and Lana Grey & Kay and Dale Harris
Sam from Anita Gardner
Mickey and Sissy from Fred and Mary Webb
Spot from William and Elaine Blaylock
Sugar from Steve Sutterfield
Abby and Toofer from Christine Benson
Brenda Tooker from Kenneth Tooker
Tory from Carla Evans and Monk Tarbell
Walker from Gary and Paula Liermann

HSPS MEMORIAL GARDEN

BRICKS

Dear Precious Tara, 12/10/83-1/12/02, Always in our Hearts
-Laura and Ross Isaacson
Dear Lovable Harvey, 5/10/86-11/01, Always in our Hearts
-Helena Gunther and Mike Rizzo
Rio, W & B Vorheis, 8/1/2014
-Helena Gunther and Mike Rizzo
Man's Best Friend Had No Truer Friend Than Jim Kelley
In Memory of Ed and Ginny Kaumeyer
-Linda Kaumeyer
In Memory of Our Sweet Baby, Carlie Brown
-Jennifer and Karina Brown
In Honor of Donald and Elaine Rickard
-David and Carolyn Rickard
In Loving Memory of Amy
-Toby and Leah Tollefsen



- New shelter van
- Bleach and other cleaning supplies,
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Wet cat and dog food
- Cat toys for play and socialization time in the cat room
- Sturdy dog toys
- Tasty dog treats for the shelter dog enrichment training program
- Drivers for dog transfers
- Foster homes

[Drop off items at Thrift Store or shelter or make a donation online by credit card at: humanesociety.biz/new_wishlistdon.htm]