

Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands NY 12204 • (518) 434-8128

www.mohawkhumane.org
December 2016

From Shelter to Summits - Ariel's Adirondack 46er Journey

by Amber Pitcher

Amber Pitcher and her dog Ariel scaled the Adirondack's 46 High Peaks together, dedicating their finish hike as a fundraiser to the Humane Society. She then submitted her story to the Petco Foundation's Holiday Wishes campaign and won a \$10,000 grant for MHHS.

From the moment I saw her blue and brown eyes when I met her at the Humane Society, I knew Ariel had a sense of adventure in her. Together we discovered our love for the mountains, inspiring our dream of becoming Adirondack 46ers. Ariel was 8 years old when we climbed our first mountain and I didn't think it was possible for us to hike all 46 peaks, but we would enjoy some of them while we could.

Along our journey we summited all of the peaks required in two other mountain groups – the Catskill 3500ers and Saranac Lake 6ers. In our spare time Ariel had become a Canine Good Citizen and registered therapy dog.

When Ariel was 10 years old, we embarked on our most challenging hike, the Great Range Traverse, with ladders, cliffs, and over 24 miles of rough terrain. Ariel overcame these obstacles with ease. We raced the setting sun across the exposed summit of Mt. Haystack and I felt an overwhelming sense of freedom. We sat together taking in the magnificence of the Adirondacks and I thought to myself, "This is what it feels like to be fully alive."

Come Ariel's 11th birthday we were over halfway to our goal and she had given me every reason to believe in her and myself. On August 20, 2016, on the summit of Mt. Colden, we became Adirondack 46ers.



Amber Pitcher and Ariel, adopted from MHHS, climbed the Adirondacks' 46 High Peaks together.

Ariel changed my life and in her I have found my best friend and the courage to do something I never thought I could. Every face lick and tail wag came at the very instant I needed them most. She has brought adventure to my life, shown me how to find happiness in the simplest things, and inspires me to make the most out of the time given to us. The journey was our reward and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life.

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Upcoming Events...

MHHS Gala for Animals
April 22, 2017
Albany Marriott

Pet Food Pantry

Your donations of canned and dry cat and dog food keep our pet food pantry going. Thank you for your kindness! If you or someone you know is in need of help feeding a pet, food is available at our Menands and Saratoga locations.



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Hours:
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

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(518) 886-9645

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609 Troy-Schenectady Road
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PetSmart Glenmont
241 Route 9W

Petco Clifton Park
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From the President and CEO



MHHS President and CEO Brad Shear

The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society was founded in 1887 and one of our first board presidents was named Dr. William O. Stillman. He would become an internationally known icon for animal protection, leading the American Humane Association for over 20 years while continuing to serve as the president of our board. In 1904 Dr. Stillman wrote:

"The corporate history of this Society – from its small beginning up to its evolution into its present form – has been a record of strenuous effort, of triumph over local apathy, of victory over unusual opposition and obstacles, and of final gratifying success and the winning of public confidence. Every victory worth having has been the product of just such faith and struggle."

Dr. Stillman set a high standard for the Society and during his tenure he led the initiative to build the region's first animal shelter on our site in Menands. Over 100 years after the construction of that facility,

it is still standing and in use, but has far outlasted its useful life. For many years we have known the Society's facilities were aging, outdated and have not provided the comfort that homeless animals in our care deserve.

Unfortunately, toward the end of the 20th century the organization did not have the visionary leadership and resources that we had a century earlier, so we could not undertake the tremendous effort needed to replace the facility. Over the last 10 years we have concentrated on building a focused and effective team of board members, staff and volunteers who, with the support of community members, were able to build a solid foundation on which to embark upon the monumental task of funding and building a new Animal Care Center.

I am proud to note that our volunteers and staff have never viewed the inadequacies of our facility as a deterrent or excuse to shy away from providing a high standard of animal care and developing programs and services that were needed for the animals and the community. To make an understatement, they have learned to do more with less. I am excited about what we will accomplish when we do not have the limitations of a poor facility holding us back.

As Dr. Stillman said: *"The Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society ... from very humble beginnings has succeeded in accomplishing very wonderful results for the good of the helpless wards of society within its jurisdiction."*

Great things take time and the Society's time has come. I thank all who have placed their trust in us, persevered through the hard times, and believed in our vision. Great things are coming and we will continue to need the support of everyone who has helped us create a better life for animals.



Brad Shear



Get the latest MHHS news and updates and share your news, too! We're on Facebook and Twitter @mohawkhumane.

Hurricane Matthew Pets find Haven at MHHS

Anticipation and excitement were high on October 6 as we awaited the arrival of a transport carrying the precious cargo of 20 cats and nine dogs from South Carolina. Under an evacuation mandate, a shelter in Beaufort County reached out to us and, with the aid of the ASPCA's Nancy Silverman Rescue Ride Program, they all arrived safe, sound and ready for new homes.



MHHS volunteer Sally O'Leary and Medusa, one of 29 Hurricane Matthew evacuees.

"MHHS is part of a network that is called upon in times of crisis, such as natural disasters and large cruelty cases," said President and CEO Brad Shear. "It's important to help our fellow shelters, not only because we may one day need their help, but also because it's the right thing to do."

KC Campbell Named Volunteer Manager

It was a stray dog that brought KC Campbell to MHHS. The dog showed up in her yard and KC instantly felt responsible for her safety – so much so that after she brought her to the Society, she signed up to be a volunteer just to keep tabs on her. That dog, ironically named Casey, went on to be adopted and our KC loved volunteering so much that she eventually became a staff member. She was recently named Volunteer Manager and enjoys helping people help our animals every day.



Volunteer Manager KC Campbell with Ellen, who was displaced during Hurricane Matthew.



Tradition with a Twist

It was all the tradition of the Bavarian festival, but with a feline twist. More than 150 friends gathered to enjoy a fun night of great food, great beer and traditional live German music at Brown's Brewing Company's Revolution Hall in Troy and to support the Society.

The evening's highlight was a video, entitled "Meet the Fest Meister," produced by Time Warner Cable News Anchor and YouTuber Kate Welshofer. Her cat Brian Williams, a.k.a. the Anchorcat, graciously "presided" over the event, via video, that is. The quirky and adorable film recounted his days as a homeless cat on the streets and his rise to the prestigious role of Fest Meister.

Our heartfelt thanks to Kate and Brian, as well as all of our sponsors, donors and attendees, whose support netted \$15,000 for the animals.

Oktopurrfest Sponsors



It's our 10th Anniversary

Gala for Animals

Saturday, April 22
at the Albany Marriott

Join us with emcee Steve Caporizzo for a night of fine food and drink, silent and live auctions, and dancing with music by Grand Central Station. Call 434-8128 ext. 206 for details.



We're Building a Better Future



On September 20, MHHS leaders, staff, volunteers and supporters gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking to mark the start of construction of the new Animal Care Center.

WTEN Chief Meteorologist and Honorary Chair for the building campaign said, "Think about the hundreds of thousands of pets that have come through those doors over the years and have been given a second chance at life. And now it's going to be even better. This is going to be a place where we will want to visit, to spend time, to help and to make a difference. It's going to be absolutely unbelievable."

MHHS President & CEO Brad Shear noted, "When we look at our community and see how caring people are and how important animals are and we look at the facility we have, it's not an accurate reflection. Soon we will have a new place that is a true reflection of how caring our community really is."

A capital campaign for \$7.2M began over the summer and more than half of the needed funds have been raised. Society Board Chair Miguel Berger encouraged all members of our community to bring the project to fruition and support it with a financial gift. "Large or small, every gift brings us closer to a better community for the animals and those who love them," said Berger.

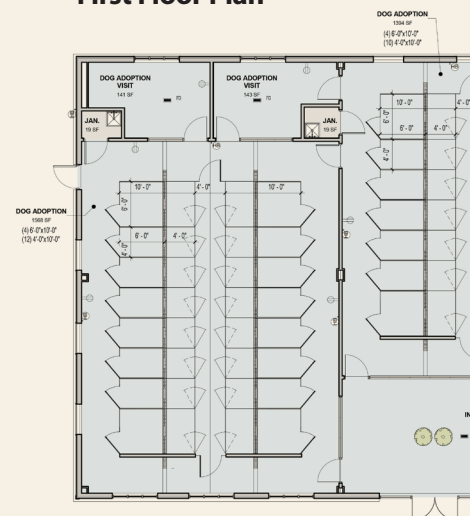
Our current facilities are continuing to operate while construction is underway. The projected completion is summer 2017.

We need your help to bring this project to completion. Gifts of all levels are appreciated and will receive the appropriate named recognition in our new building. For more information, please contact Michael Buckley at 518.434.8128, ext. 221 or mbuckley@mohawkhumane.org.



Key supporters of the new Animal Care Center at the Sept. 20 groundbreaking ceremony: Mark Egan, CEO, Capital Region Chamber; Assemblymember Patricia Fahy; Assemblymember John McDonald; MHHS President & CEO Brad Shear; MHHS Board Chair Miguel Berger; Alan Goldstein, President, Goldstein Auto Group; Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie Supervisor; Craig Apple, Albany County Sheriff; Jon DeForest, Principal & Executive Vice President, BBL; Steve Caporizzo, Honorary Campaign Chair; Christopher Kennedy, VP Commercial Loans, Capital Bank; Lynn Kopka, Troy City Council Member

First Floor Plan



Increased Comfort, Capacity & Community Engagement

- Housing for nearly 200 more pets.
- Larger kennels averaging 100 sq. ft. per dog and 11 sq. ft. per cat. This will reduce stress, increase comfort and keep pets healthier.
- Doubled surgical space will allow for 3,000 more surgical procedures per year.
- 2,500 more pets will be spayed or neutered annually for free or at a reduced cost for income-qualified pet owners.
- A larger, enhanced community room will allow for increased community engagement programs, including dog training, humane education and pet wellness clinics.



32,000 sq. ft. of Specialized Space

- Admitting
- Dog, Cat & Small Animal Housing
- Adoption & Visitation
- Treatment & Isolation
- Surgery & Recovery
- Kitten Nursery
- Grooming
- Food Preparation & Storage
- Dishwashing & Laundry
- Animal Control Entrance & Holding
- Training & Education
- Retail Store
- Volunteer & Staff Areas

Due to space constraints, only tribute gifts of \$25 or higher are included here. Tributes of all amounts are listed on our web site, mohawkhumane.org.

In Memory

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Maureen Gannon

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Kermit & Elvina MacMillen

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We are grateful for the support of all Tribute donors; however, it is no longer possible to include all of them in our printed newsletter. From this point forward, we will list them online. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Happy Tails



Louis

Louis is a great dog and he has assimilated into our pack seamlessly. Thank you for connecting me with him. Another great animal has a home because of your efforts! (Louis on left.)

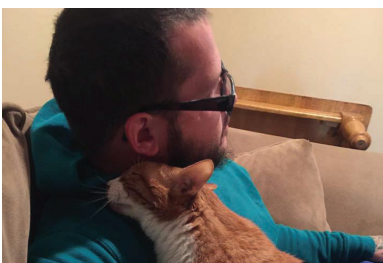
Michael Schrom



Leo

Here is Leo! He's 11 years old and loving his new home. Feels like he has always been with us.

Sarah Weber



Dave

This was "Flame." We renamed him Dave and he loves it here and we love him!

C.M. Archambeault



Piper

Piper is a happy, bouncy, light-hearted girl who gives me nothing but love and laughter. I feel so blessed. Thank you for all you do every day for all the animals.

Lyn Halpin

Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org.

Caring for Pets When You're No Longer There

Pets are part of our family. So what happens if they outlive us? According to Loudonville-based trust and estate attorney Stephen Buckley, "First, owners should figure out who will care for their pets after they have passed away. Equally important is to ensure the animals will continue to live a lifestyle to which they have become accustomed."

The easiest way is to bequeath pets to a specific person. It's very important to inform that person of your intentions in advance. Too often, pets end up in a shelter because these intentions were not adequately communicated. You may also want to consider leaving a fixed sum of money to cover essential needs, such as food, veterinary care and grooming.

Another option is to set up a trust specifically for the care of your pet. A trust defines a sum of money to be managed by a trustee for the benefit of the animal. This situation is perfect for those who do not have anyone to take on the care of their animals. The trustee would be responsible for finding a good home and ensuring they are receiving all they need for the remainder of their lives.

It is important to plan for your all of your loved ones – especially those who cannot care for themselves.

To learn more, contact us at giftplanning@mohawkhumane.org.

Resolve to Help in 2017

Last winter Tara Wallace took in a 4-month-old pup, Cletus, who was terrified of everything in his new environment. Fortunately, he was greatly comforted by the company of Tara's other dogs and learned to trust the people in his world as well. Now a year old and more confident – and yes, still with Tara – he's been making up for lost time, acting curious, silly and playful. "Of course you don't need to keep them," laughed Tara. "You definitely get attached, but it gets easier with time." She has also fostered more than 25 cats and kittens.

Whether it be a medical issue or fear, our foster families are instrumental in mending the physical and emotional wounds of these animals. We take great care in making the right matches for our foster parents and also provide training, supplies and ongoing support. Start off the New Year by doing something amazing! To learn more, please email us at fosters@mohawkhumane.org.



Foster parent Tara Wallace and Cletus.