

# Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204  
518.434.8128 | [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)



## Diesel Finds His Way

Like all puppies, Diesel was born with his eyes closed, unable to see. He would feel around for his mother, who would sustain him while he grew big enough to eat on his own and play with his littermates. But it turned out Diesel was different from the rest of his litter. While his eyes did open, they never developed properly and he would never be able to see.

Dogs can get around pretty well without vision; they are very scent-focused and can do incredible things with their noses. All of Diesel's other faculties were fully functional and a family took him home. Diesel was happy there but when he started getting bigger, they decided they didn't want a dog that bumped into things and occasionally knocked them over. So they surrendered him to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

Our staff knew Diesel couldn't see, but



more importantly, discovered that he is also a sweet, happy, loving cuddler. At the shelter, he loved everyone and his tail wagged wildly as soon as anyone started petting him. There was never any question we would be able to find this great dog a great home.

Social media was a big help as Diesel's story spread across the Internet, and a wonderful dog-loving family came to meet him. They had a dog already and Diesel was a perfect fit. He loved having a canine companion, and the family could see beyond Diesel's problem with his vision.

It's because of your steadfast support of the Society that we're able to find homes for animals who may have special needs. Thank you for helping Diesel find a wonderful new home.





3 Oakland Avenue  
Menands, NY 12204-2718

**Hours:**  
Monday – Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

[www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)

518.434.8128 (p)  
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# From the Director

Nobody's perfect, but everyone deserves a second chance. In this issue of Capital Pet you'll read about two animals, Diesel and Tallulah, who had obvious physical challenges and needed a little extra help. Most of the animals coming to the Humane Society are happy, healthy and homeless. Even if animals are healthy when they arrive, they will all still need preventative care like vaccines, dewormer and flea/tick treatment, in addition to being spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

There was a time not so long ago when animals like Diesel and Tallulah would not have had a chance to find a new home after coming into an animal shelter. Many shelter managers of old believed there were so many animals in need of homes, no one would choose one that was "less than perfect." Not so at today's Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. When Diesel, a six-month-old

**"But would someone adopt a one-eyed cat? No one had to ask that question because we all knew the answer: of course they would."**

pit bull who was blind from birth, came to the Society, not a single staff member or volunteer questioned our ability to find him a loving new home. Everyone saw what a sweet, happy dog Diesel was. The success of the Society's adoption program has created confidence among everyone here that we can stretch the limits of what we once thought was possible.

Similarly, when Tallulah the cat came in with a severely injured eye, our veterinary staff could see her beauty and the affectionate way she rubbed her head against their hands. Yes, a surgical procedure would take time and effort. Sure, she would need time to recover, and possibly a foster home. But would someone adopt a one-eyed cat? No one had to ask that question because we all knew the answer: of course they would.

At the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, our connection to and love for animals has nothing to do with how they look or how well they can see. It is the heart of an animal that inspires us. With the support of our community, we can continue providing loving care for animals like Diesel and Tallulah when they are in their time of greatest need and find them new homes when they're feeling up to it. We know we can, if we all work together.



Executive Director  
Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

# Annual Gala Keeps the World Turning for Homeless Animals at MHHS

Our seventh annual event shattered fundraising goals April 5 when animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn for the **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala.

Event Chair Paul Harding, emcee Steve Caporizzo and auctioneer Dr. Mark Fruiterman kept guests laughing, crying and bidding — all to help the animals! Grand Central Station had guests on the floor dancing the night away.

The annual Humane Heroes awards were presented:

- *Humane Leadership Award to Albany County District Attorney David Soares*
- *Humane Business Award to Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center*
- *Humane Hero Award to Miller Animal Hospital*
- *Humane Media Award to the Times Union*

Everyone had a fabulous time! We are grateful to all our attendees, Honorary Committee members, sponsors, auction donors and supporters. By the end of the evening, we raised over \$115,000 to help care for the Society's homeless and abused animals.



## Thank you to our generous sponsors:

BBL Family of Companies, Joseph Carr, Digital X-Press, East Greenbush Animal Hospital, Goldstein Auto Group, Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center, Martin Harding & Mazzotti, *Times Union*, Camelot Print & Copy Center, Coppola Design, First Investors, Fleurtacious Designs, LaFave Wein & Frament PLLC, Operation Snip, Norman & Micki Massry, Murray C. Massry & Mallory Baringer, Miller Animal Hospital, Pet Spas of America, Walter S. Borisenok Family Foundation, NEWS10 ABC, Capitaland Motors, Excelsior College, FirstLight Fiber, Just Cats Veterinary Clinic, KeyBank, McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, Metroland, Price Chopper, Rose & Kiernan and Upstate Veterinary Specialties.

**Special thanks** to Camelot Print & Copy Center, Lindsey Deon, David Glatz, all our volunteers, Hilton Garden Inn and JCB Specialties. An extra special "thank you" to Honorary Board Member Jeff Bulger for donating all the great wine, liquor and beer for the silent auction.

*Photos by Joe Schuyler & Paula Walker*



# Paws 'n Books

The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society initiated Paws 'n Books in March to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the National Education Association's award-winning Read Across America literacy program. Paws 'n Books was designed to bring students, parents, teachers and community members together to help homeless cats feel less stressed while at the shelter.

Students in grades 1-7 — accompanied by their parents, teachers or scout leaders — can read to homeless cats housed in the two community cat rooms at the Society's animal care facility in Menands. Children can also sign up to read to therapy dogs who will be with the Society's Save-a-Bull volunteers in the community meeting room. The reading time slots are 20 minutes in duration and students are asked to bring a familiar or favorite book. Readings are by appointment only.



**Paws  
IN THE  
Park**

SAVE  
THE DATE!

**SATURDAY  
June 21  
2014**  
SIENA COLLEGE

MOHAWK HUDSON  
**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**

Other shelters have implemented similar reading programs to help cats feel more relaxed in the shelter environment. The cats respond to the soothing and rhythmic vocal sounds. The readers also benefit because the animals don't care if they mess up or miss a word.

Dylan was the program's first reader. Midnight and Chino, two 3-year-old cats who were surrendered by their owner, were nervous and tended to cling to one another. Dylan's calm manner and voice soon had them sitting close and stretching out next to him.

For more information on Paws 'n Books, please call 518-434-8128 ext. 206.

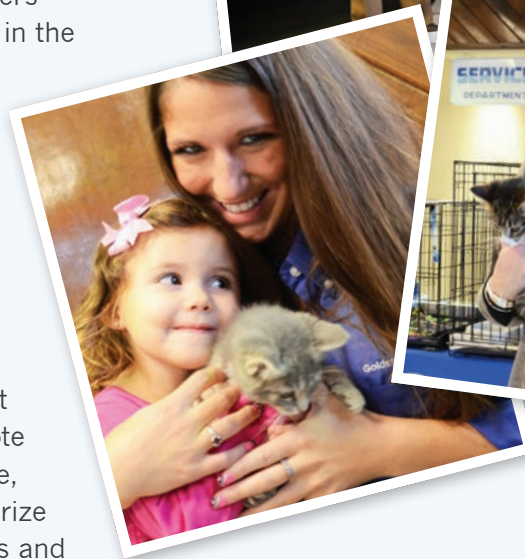
## Share the Love Generates New Homes and Over \$16,000

On Saturday, March 15 at an adoption event at Goldstein Subaru, General Manager Stefanie Goldstein and Subaru District Sales Manager Ann Robillard presented a check for over \$16,000 from Subaru of America to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

The check reflected the results of Subaru's 2013 Share the Love campaign. This was the first year local Subaru dealers were invited to nominate a local non-profit to participate in the campaign. We were honored to be nominated by Stefanie Goldstein and accepted by Subaru.

For every new Subaru purchased or leased from Goldstein Subaru from November 21, 2013, through January 2, 2014, Subaru of America donated \$250 to the car owner's choice of participating charities.

The campaign kicked off in November with a Share the Love pet adoption event. The ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) provided a grant to help promote the event, which included a WGNA remote with Richie Phillips, singer-songwriter Bridgette Guerrette, Jen the Balloon Gal creating special balloon animals, a prize wheel, dessert and hot chocolate bar and, of course, cats and dogs looking for new homes.



## Empties for Animals Sets New Record

Thanks to all the donors who dropped off their empty bottles and cans, our intrepid volunteers who sorted in all kinds of weather and the Goldstein Auto Group, Empties for Animals set a new record of over \$109,000 for 2013. At 8 cents per piece instead of the typical 5 cents, that's about 1,400,000 bottles and cans donated and sorted to help the animals.



In 2011 Goldstein Auto Group began its Empties for Animals partnership with MHHS and our total for the year was \$74,000. In 2012 it grew to over \$96,000.

Bottles and cans can be dropped off at the Society in Menands or at any Goldstein Auto Group location in Latham or on Central Avenue in Colonie. If you have too many to drop off, arrangements can be made with Goldstein to pick them up. Goldstein continues work with several businesses and organizations to make regular pickups of recyclable bottles and cans.

To mark the record-setting year, MHHS presented a special Empties for Animals award to each Goldstein Auto Group location.

# STAR Program Grows

The Steps to Adoption Readiness (STAR) Program began as an experiment with the Albany County Correctional Facility. Our first meetings involved discussions about everything from the safety of our volunteers to where dogs would relieve themselves. Two dogs went to the Correctional Facility for the first time on May 16, 2013, where they were greeted by several curious staff and four inmates who would share responsibility for their care and training.

Since then, 20 dogs have graduated and been adopted, and the program has expanded to include female inmates. With this expansion we are able to double the number of dogs in the program and provide an enriching activity for dogs and people. We continue to be very excited about the growth of the program.

The Society greatly appreciates Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center's ongoing sponsorship of STAR. It has generously provided training treats and supplies to support our work with the Corrections Department.



## Tallulah

Tallulah is a beautiful, loving tabby cat. She can't get enough rubbing on her head, and will roll over for some nice belly rubs as well. When Tallulah came to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society it was clear she was a lover, but something else was also clear: she had a severe injury to one of her eyes.

Tallulah was brought to our veterinarian, Dr. Schuster, and carefully examined. The cause of the injury could not be determined, but Tallulah couldn't see from her right eye, and the nature of the injury made infection or other complications likely. Dr. Schuster would have to remove the eye.

The procedure was performed the next day. As soon as she woke up, Tallulah was soliciting attention and rubbing her head against anyone who would reach out a hand. With the help of some cage rest and tender loving care, Tallulah was soon back on her feet and found a new home where she can be the center of attention.



# Tributes

## In Memory Of . . .

- Abbey Rose**  
Mary Kalica
- Abby**  
Steve Essig & Judi Shub  
Jane Grimes & Lou Carol  
Lecce
- Agnes & George**  
Maureen Smith
- Al & Henry**  
Louise & Gus Polli
- John, Margaret, Tim & Happy Albert and Piglet**  
Pam Holcomb
- Alex**  
Dino Cosso
- Alice**  
Patricia McSparron
- Alice**  
Linda Taylor & Bruce  
Raver
- All Good Dogs**  
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- Ken Allen**  
Karen Russo
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Mary Marocco  
Jack & Karen Ryan  
Debra Sommers  
Troy Amateur Radio  
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Gatewood & Robert Kerr
- BD**  
Jim Scaglione
- Baby**  
Thomas Roberts
- Edith Bacucci**  
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- Bailey & Oliver**  
Bonnie Neil & Rena  
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- Batman**  
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- Becky**  
Dorothy Szczerba
- Virginia Beeler**  
Patricia Beeler
- Bernie**  
Denise Sylvester
- Bert, Jada & Chip**  
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- Billy**  
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Kirkendall
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Leo & Kathy Bisceglia
- Barbara Blake**  
Karen & Chet Opalka
- Bonzy**  
G. Ronald & Sandra  
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Tom & Ellen Scott  
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- Lorraine Boyle**  
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MaryK Weeks
- Ernie**  
Abbe Hook
- Fiona**  
Nora Owens
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- Jack**  
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- Mark Jordan**  
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