

Capital Pet

newsletter
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River
HUMANE SOCIETY



3 Oakland Avenue 🐾 Menands, NY 12204 🐾 www.mohawkhumane.org 🐾 (518) 434-8128

IT TAKES A CAPITAL REGION COMMUNITY



KeyBank President, Jeff Stone, and KeyBank Employees

The animals that are cared for by the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society are lucky they live in a community that supports their local animal center in so many different ways.

Volunteers give generously of their time to train dogs, clean kennels, care for cats, sort bottles, help with administrative efforts, serve on committees and our Board of Directors, provide dozens of foster homes each year, help manage our two satellite adoption centers, assist with events, and educate the community about the needs of animals.

Individual Donors give generously over the year – it may be a one-time gift, or several smaller gifts. Each and every donation received by the Society goes directly to help care for the thousands of pets that pass through our Animal Care Center in Menands each year.

Businesses do their part by sponsoring an event, or a specific effort within the center – such as “adopting” a dog kennel for a year or contributing to our Foster Care program. Local businesses are stressing community involvement more and more. Many corporate groups come to our facility all year long, like the Sabic Plastics employee group of 30-plus volunteers who painted the interior and exterior of the building, built resting shelves for the cats and upgraded our bottle sorting area. KeyBank’s new President, Jeff Stone, came to the Society with

a large group of Key employees for their Neighbors Make a Difference Day to help with the Society’s bottle sorting program.

Many companies make monetary contributions and sponsor events, which can go a long way towards the day-to-day care of the animals in our care, especially when we need over 500 pounds of cat litter a week!

Veterinarians and local vet hospitals do their part by performing services for us like x-rays and orthopedic procedures on injured animals, and dental cleanings and extractions for our furry friends who haven’t flossed very well.

And of course, **we give back to our community.** We guarantee that our pets will never add to the overpopulation problem by ensuring each pet is spayed or neutered *prior* to adoption. We add joy to families by *adopting* healthy pets, we conduct *education and outreach* to those in our community who need us most, and we perform *cruelty investigations* to free pets from abuse and neglect.

When the efforts of the Capital Region community come together, there’s no question about what we can do. The Society - partnering together with those in our very own neighborhoods - enables the Capital Region to be a wonderful place for pets and their humans.

We thank every volunteer, individual donor, corporate partner and local veterinarian who helps us be the leader of animal protection in the Capital Region. From all of us – both two- and four-legged – THANK YOU!



Sabic Plastics employees volunteer day

A COLLAR CITY RESCUE



Taffy – a beautiful, young white cat - was brought to the Society’s Animal Care Center with two kittens and a large wound all the way around her neck. Our medical team thought a string had been tied too tightly around her and had slowly embedded itself into her flesh. The hungry stray from the streets of Troy was overjoyed to finally be receiving human attention while being examined. She kept rolling onto her back and rubbing her face

against anyone giving her any affection. Our medical staff anesthetized her so that her wound could be examined, cleaned and treated. They soon found that someone had put a rubber band around her neck some time ago, and it was deeply embedded. About 60% of the circumference of the wound had healed and scarred over. That scarring was a process that took several weeks while Taffy quietly suffered and cared for her kittens.

The rubber band was two inches shorter than the circumference of Taffy’s neck and could not possibly stretch enough to avoid injury. The band may have been placed on her either as a young kitten and her neck grew around it or carelessly placed on her a few months ago and never removed. No one checked to see why she was irritated, in pain or why she had open sores. No one cared

enough to remove it, let alone have her seen by a veterinarian. She was just left to suffer with this painful and infected wound until she came to our Animal Care Center in Menands.

Fortunately, Taffy received the medical attention she needed and has made a full recovery. She may have a scar around her neck, but the injury that caused the pain will soon be a distant memory thanks to the excellent care she received. Taffy has recovered well under the watchful eyes of our animal care team while the Society’s investigators worked on her case. Investigators are still looking for anyone who may have information about this cat who was found on Second Avenue in Troy. Taffy and her kittens have been adopted by loving and caring families, safe from the careless people who allowed her to suffer.

SUCCESS STORY

Dear Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society,

We’re so thrilled Prince has joined our family! My daughter, Destiny, and I went to the shelter one day to browse. I knew she wanted an orange kitten for Christmas, but I didn’t think we would find what we were looking for. Well, just before we were about to leave, a woman brought in two carriers of cats and kittens she had been fostering. I heard my daughter say, “Mommy, look, an orange kitten! Can I see him?” We both fell in love with Prince at first sight.

I realized how much Destiny wanted Prince when she said, “Mommy, you can take back all the toys you got me for Christmas and get that kitten for me instead.” That touched my heart and I was determined to get him for her. The next day I left work on a break and went to the shelter to get her kitten. I hid him at my brother and his wife’s house for a week!

On Christmas morning, I can’t describe how happy Destiny was when she woke up! She loves Prince to death. We couldn’t be happier with our choice. When we adopted him, we were told he’d need some work to warm up because he had been abandoned. Well, it really didn’t take long at all. Prince is now extremely affectionate. He loves to sleep with us and even climbs up into my daughter’s bunk. He’s just the sweetest, happiest little kitten there is!



Destiny & Prince

We just wanted to let you know that Prince is part of a loving family, and we hope his sister Elizabeth and his mother also found a great home. I have included a picture of my daughter with Prince.

Thank you, Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society!
Priscilla, Destiny & Prince



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Richard Shelsky, MD, Vice President

Mary Anne Kowalski, Secretary

Kathlene Thiel, Treasurer

Jeffrey Bulger, Director at Large

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John Kenney

James Kopp

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Denise Ringer

Eveline Ward-Sells

Joyce Weiler

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Brad Shear, Executive Director

Tina S. Murray, Director of Operations

Roger Blankfein, DVM, Medical Director

Eryn Foster, Business Manager

Nancy Haynes, Animal Welfare Coordinator

Deidre Bruce, Volunteer Manager

LOCATION

3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204

HOURS

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1-4pm

WEB SITE

www.MohawkHumane.org

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Today, a four-month-old puppy was brought to the Society with a severely broken leg. He was brought to us by the police because the owner had thrown this defenseless creature across the room after the puppy urinated on the floor. Unfortunately, cases of violence against animals like this one are all too common, but this one was different. According to police, the man who brutally attacked this puppy had assaulted his wife a year before.

For over a decade, researchers have been documenting the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty. What they have discovered is as shocking as the experience of this puppy. This was by no means an isolated incident and

literally hundreds of similar situations happen every year around the country.

- Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their animals should they leave.
- 68% of battered women reported violence towards their animals. 87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women, and 75% in the presence of the children, to psychologically control and coerce them.
- 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.
- Abusers kill, harm, or threaten children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse.
- Disturbed children kill or harm animals to emulate their parents' conduct, to prevent the abuser from killing the pet, or to take out their aggressions on another victim.

In light of the overwhelming statistics showing that animals *and* families are at risk, and the suffering that people *and* animals have endured, we at the Humane Society decided to take action.

The Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society and Unity House have come together to create a new 'Safe Haven' in the Capital Region. When a woman enters Unity House's shelter, she can bring her pets with her and they will be housed at the Society's Animal Care Center or in one of our 80 foster homes. Once the animals are at the Society, we will provide any vaccinations or other medical care needed by the animals.

Now, children will no longer be exposed to abuse because there was nowhere for their pets to go. Women who have delayed leaving abusers because they were protecting their pets can now safely leave with their entire family – those with two legs and four.

There is no government funding for programs like this one. It is only because of the kindness and generosity of our donors that these animals are protected. Thank you to all of you who support the Society so we can provide these programs. Thanks to you, when a woman calls about an abuser threatening to harm her and her pets, now we can say "leave, and take them all with you."

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Society will be working with our partners to educate the community about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

- Join us on October 4th at Classy Lassie Fields in Wynantskill for Unity House's Domestic Violence Awareness Day.
- On October 7th we will be participating in a seminar Sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice Services at the Schenectady YWCA to educate professionals and the public about the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse.

Brad Shear

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 3/13/08 - 7/15/08. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

IN MEMORY OF...

Karen Alexander

AFLAC Business Process
Excellence Dept.
Tracey Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. John Esposito, Mr.
& Mrs. Robert Van Buskirk
and Michael Esposito
Gordon & Betty Fishlock
Anne Grobecker
Anne Marie Halpin
James Hayes
Debra Marchesini
Peg O'Connor
Paul Rinella
William Roe
Grant & Mary Lou Smith

Barbara Alteri

Carolyn & Thomas Baker
John Bartlett, Jr.
Joyce & Mark Becker
Helen & John Brennan
John Chiaramonte
Mary Ellen & William Clark
Henry & Carol Cohen and
Family
John Coons, Jack & Phyllis
Tutti, Valerie, JoAnn & Justin
Cousins Fish Market
Delaware Plaza Shopping
Center (Howard, Mac,
Debbie, Toni, Dan, Zak &
Vince)
Pat DeVito
James Feeney
Robert & Janet Frye
Jack & Peggy Fuller
Joan Gochee
Joan & Ted Grunwald
William Henderer
Mayor Gerald D. Jennings
Becky & Paul Kasselman
Joan Koechlin
Linda & Tony Libertucci
Joseph Montana
Morgan Linen Service
Lee & Bill Morin
Al & Jean Motta
Luke Mullen
Tom & Darla Neri
Bonita & Brian Noonan
Mary Picarazzi
Dan, Grace, Michelle, John &
Courtney Rappazzo
Patrick & Robin Reed
Tocci & Tocci
Edmund Walsh
Eva Warren

Angus & Ben

Deborah Clinton

Alta Mae Austin

Paula Fuda

Bailey

Patricia Smith

Tammy Baker

Freda Pratt

Henry Barton

Kathleen Betjemann

Kathleen Bashford

Kim Baker & Dorothy McGan
VA Hospital Friends

Bear

Anne Richmond

Biggie

Juliet Turner

Elizabeth Bond

RPI – Rensselaer Research
Libraries

Arthur Bouchard & his dog Brandy

Sylvia Kahn

Sharon Brower

Debra Bennett

Tucky Bryce

JoAnn Campbell

Bubba

Sheryl Seppa

Carol Bulman & Jean Mastrianni

Richard Rafferty

Marjorie Cadalso

NYS Conference of Local
Mental Hygiene Directors

Lia Catalano-Elk

Scott Babcock
Georgiana Bailey
Howard & Sandy Baker
Elizabeth Beck
Charles & Sharon Bonney
Teresa Carmack
Caroline & Tom Crawford
John Crawford
Louise & Robert Crawford
The Hon. Nicholas Criscione
Anne Dunn
Phyllis Dunn
Susan Ferrara
Gwen Fox
Friends of Michelle Catalano
GE Energy Contract Management
Lorna Gladstone
David Greenwood
Janice Kinzel
David & Frances Mason
Mary McCarthy
Lana & Leo Neveu
Linda Schroll
Herve & Lynne Verville
Diane Wechter
Patricia Wilcox

Champ, Storm & Dusty

Bert & Pat Smith

Jacob Chase

Marcia & David Agnew
NYS Treasury Coworkers

Gretta Christensen

Jerry & Elaine Pospisil

Cody

Susan Fisher

Betty Comtois

AnnMarie Carter
Laurie Carter
Robert & Anita Comtois
Karen Donlon
Bernice Dupuis
Rebecca Frament
Kathleen LeBeau
Michele Massiano
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Robert & Karen VanAlstine

Lorraine Cordi

Lynn Butler

Mary Couchman

Patricia Smith

Bernice Couture

Robert & Sheila McNally and
Family

Laurie Covert

Christine Nash
Maureen Taft

Dad

Suzanne Marion

Mitzie Diggins

Pat & Hank Ilnicki

Rosie Donnelly

Pat & Bill Powers

Duke

Mary Ann Rosenzweig

Bailey Ebersole

Debra Ebersole Kauffman

Tuffy Edwards

Devaprasad Family

Eight Belles

John Chidsey

Russell Ellers

Lance Ellers

Dr. Albert Ellman

Jill Beys
Dr. Lynda Hohmann
Saso's Japanese Noodle House
St. Peter's Hospital – Medical
Staff Accounting

Elнора Farmer

Bob Ehlinger

Russell Farnum

Lyle & Regina Boyce
Patricia Less
Marjorie Quinn
St. Peter's Hospital – Case
Management Dept.

Vinnie Ferratto

George & Julie Bradt
Brian & Susan Dinon
Richard & Donna Green
NYS Office of State Comptroller
– Coworkers of Nancy Ferratto
Lisa, Earle, Kyle, Sarah, Midnight,
Princess & Tiggy Weaver

Dan Fodor

Ramona's Cafe

Sally Foster

Susan Agan
Betty Blanchet
Suzanne Brownrigg
Annette Cherrier
Don & Beverly Cullett
Lois Fitzpatrick
HVCC Faculty Student
Association
HVCC Finance Office Staff
HVCC Non-Instructional
Employees Union
Rita Joyce
Penny Singley
Marie Toohey

Frisbee

Stephanie Mack

Marilyn Gilbertson

Colonie Village Senior Center
George Cooley
Anne Turner

Thomas Gilcoyne

Martha Leckonby

Frederick Glatz

Jill Frankoski
Nancy Hoffarth

John Nichols

Jeanette Green

Lenora Brown & Fran Hoffman
Ruth Carr and Debbie &

Deanna Agney

Shirley Dearstyne

Harold Green

Karen Green

Richard & Susan Green

Bonnie & Allen Hostetler

Chris Jacques

Richard Jenkins

Joan Keppler

Phyllis Marcotte

NY Power Authority Blenheim-

Gilboa Project

Cynthia Reinisch

Steve, Marylou & Bri Wahl

Trudie Waldenmaier

Dorothy Zdziebloski

Mary Hart

Fred & Jane Muhlfelder and
Lorie Kai

Robert Harwood

Anonymous
Ruth Brand
Cheryl Harwood
Robert & Rita Nolin

Lucy Heim

Shirley Bone

Ellen Hoffman

NYS Dept. of Taxation &
Finance – Coworkers of Mary
Ellen Hoffman

Ruthie Trapp Hoffman

Don & Linda Curtis

Paul Hollner

Mary Ellen Caruso
Cynthia Dwyer
Lauren Lohman
Robert & Sheila McNally and
Family
RCSTA Remembrance Committee
Doris Sikorak
Cliff & Maggie Thompson

Leah Honsinger

Patricia Statile

Rico Isachsen

Julie Maynes

Joey

Neil & Rosemary Brow

Jean Johnson

Philomena Reo

Janet Jones

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Janet & Eric Lynn
Marion Michaels
Jody Tabner Thayer
Kate Tabner
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Jordan

Donna Oertel

Maurice Kennah

George Brown
Capital Communications
Federal Credit Union
Mary Lou Doney

Lt. Col. Monte Kewley

Lucille Bertone

Harold Kinne

Coworkers of Lisa Kinne
Research Foundation of
SUNY – I.S. Dept.

Barry Rosenblatt, DMD

Lucy Kinnicutt

Bruce Nelson

Bob Lee

Mike & Lauren Plante

Lucas & Spencer Levin

Joan & Mark Virgil

Debra Liuzzi

Sally Cotugno

Barbara Mahar

Office Friends at Adirondack
Trailways

Gary & Regina Ahl

Bonnie Beach

Anne & Randolph Blanks

Connolly Family

Jay & Bhavna Hilligrass

Family of Mary DiLello

Carlstrom

Les & Pat Miller, Tommy &

Tony and Michael & Alison

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Miller, Mr. &

Mrs. James Miller and the

Kemp Family

TRE Office Staff

Alexander & Claire Yatsevitch

Petey Makarowsky

Paul & Monica Shelmandine

Stanley Mankowski

Gerald & Ellen Gray

Mary Ellen Joblon

John, Carol, Rachael, Mark &

Johnny Johnson

Jose Longoria

Margaret Messa

Patricia Parrotte & Joe Reich

Pepsi-Cola Public Affairs Dept.

Genevieve Reich

Theresa Marchese

Capital District Transit Authority

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Annette Cherrier

Paul Cherrier

Betty & Tony Farina

Richard & Lorraine Jacques

Tim, Karen & Caitlin Maloney

David Malsan

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Tina Van Epps & Family

Thomas Yaiser

Joseph Marino, Sr.

George & Rosemary Contompasis

Rosemarie McGinnis

Greer Miller

Anne & Craig Nasholds

Saratoga Springs City School

District – Family & Friends of

Noreen Walker

Lois & Stewart Wagner

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

Richard Zaccardo

Max

Beverly & Joe Olander

Max

Marcia Nagengast

George McMaster

Margot Scott

Rose Milot

Margaret Fiebke

Molly

Tim Kennelly & Harris Spylios

Monique Moquin

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 3/13/08 - 7/15/08. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

- Shelley Bryce
Barb Buscini
Carol Desrosiers
Angie Hogencamp
Cindy Huett
Charlotte Mingo
NYS DOH Sunshine Club & Coworkers
Jody Peart
Karen, John, Megan & Michael Plekan
Clarice & Kate Tarbay
Daniel Tietz
Judy Wark
- Philip Morgan**
Buckley Family, Lawrence Weekley & Chapman Stained Glass
Marilyn Christian
Walter Guenther
Andrea Harris
Gretchen LaFleur
Rita Brunelle, Alice Burke, Betsy Harte, Mary Wiley, Bette Lang, Betty Owens, Jean Willard & Margaret Jensen
Louise Lifford
Carol & Edwin McNall
Cleda Morgan
Donald & Jeanne Morgan
Gary & Gregory Morgan
Pat & Ed Newland
Glenn & Rene Papanian
Nancy Troue
Marvin Zepf
- Muffin**
Barry & Linda Romano
- Nap**
Jeannette Hall
- Laura Norton**
Joan Carroll
- Evelyn Nunamacher**
Research Foundation of SUNY - I.S. Dept.
- Marion O'Brien**
Bruce Boswell
Paul & Phyllis Cooney
Duane & Vincenzia Cunningham
Everett LaPlante Family (Yvonne, Betsy & Phyllis)
VFW Post 8692 Ladies Auxiliary
- Dottie O'Connell**
Iris Chevalier
- Oliver**
Marilyn Eberle
- Ollie**
Judy & Frank Lavardera
- Albert Pasinella**
Ray & Nancy Bell
Edward & Susan Cummings
Salvatore Mamone
Dorothy Mancusi & Angela Baris
Vivian & Carmen Patti
- Patches**
Rev. William Turnbull
- Morgan Pelcher**
Bradley Hutton
- Penny**
Karla & Richard Miller
- PK**
Patricia Cumiskey
- Daisy Place**
Loren Place
- Callie Pociluk**
Robert & Pamela Pociluk
- Princess Diana & Chocolate Chip**
Dianne Ammerman
- Augie & Raj Puppin**
Kilambi Janakidevi
- Purrcival**
Jerry & Elaine Pospisil
- Bernard Quigley**
Ellen Ahl
Marie D'Andrea
Pearl Carroll & Associates - Friends of Vincent D'Andrea
Pearl Carroll & Associates
- Ralph**
Shirley Beach
- Reese**
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- Connie Rogozinski**
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Heiser Family
- Lorraine Schrom**
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- David Sharpe**
Leslie Davey
- Sunshine Shattuck**
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- Peg Shepard**
Susan Schwartz
- Sasha Shyro**
Jeanne Powell
- Simba**
Kim Sigond
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Danielle & David Marks
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Agnes & Ken Borden
- Sidney Solomon**
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- Sega Stella**
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Peter Bakal
James & Mary Lauren Bigley
William Emerick
Sandra Nardoci
Geraldine Stella
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M. Lynne Connally
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Dominic & Janet Mantello
- Claudia Stott**
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Greg & Joanne Chase
Charles & Ada Court
Ann Dalton Greene
Dale & Laurie Hitchcock
Norma June
James & Linda Leonardo
Louise Mufale
Barb & Steve Ohm
Katy Pilatech Dimler, Johnna Morton & Kimberly Freer
RCS HS Forget-Me-Not Club
Ben & Helene Stachewicz
Mary Warren
- Marion Stowell**
Sally Statile
- Lola Swartz**
NYS DMV Driver Training Programs Bureau
- Herman "Sonny" Sweet**
Patricia Baltzel
Mary & Jack Sowder
Dick & Frieda Van Deusen
- Sylvester (and in honor of Dr. Kearney)**
Mary Prokop
- Raymond Tallman**
Jean & Thomas Dowling
Kathy & Bob Falzo
John Heid
Helen Kimmey
Carol & Keith Mastromarchi
- Elizabeth Tashjian**
Mary Jaffarian
- Taz**
Rachel Winters
- Michael Tricarico**
Christine Schreieck
- Richard Wm. Webb**
Nancy Webb
- William Weden**
Linda & Paul Galey
Ann Githler
Linda Houston
John Mayer
- Stella Williams & Queenie**
Elizabeth Bouchard
- Rose Zaccardo**
Richard Zaccardo
- Zachary**
Margaret Feeney
- Zelda**
Bob, Pat, Amy & Daniel Hunziker
- Zora**
Cynthia Walsh
- Reno Zorzi**
Friends of Rozlyn Zorzi
- IN HONOR OF...**
- Lori Allen**
Ronnie Green
- Around the World for 80 Strays Gala Volunteers**
Stephanie Mack
- Iris Bartowski**
Glenmont Elementary School
- Bo**
Horst & Lisa Hoefinger
- Cody**
Paul & Dawn Cooke
- Charlie**
Foreman Family
- John Ebersole**
Peter & Dee Boukouzis
Debra Ebersole Kauffman
- Tim Eidle**
NYSDEC Office of General Counsel
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Sandra & John Reiser
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- Laura's 51 Patches**
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- MHRHS Medical Staff & Animal Care Professionals**
Stephanie Mack
- Luke Michael**
Robert & Pamela Pociluk
- Oliver**
Kevin, Mike, Leslie & Susan
- Reed & Betty Parvis**
Jim & Susan Parvis and Family
- Virginia Powell**
Claire Filler
- Bill & Ruth Price**
Ed & Barbara Carey
Robert & Alice Dybas
Marilyn Graver
Carol & Paul Hacker
Chris Jacques
Barbara Meffert-Huth & Joseph Huth
Veronica Reichel
Anthony & Rosemary Underwood
- John Repsher & Orvis**
Jill Rifkin
- Nicholas Schell**
Dwight & Leslie Cheu
Samantha Gifford
Arlene Sue Halpert
K. C. Loscocco
Kelley & Paul Murray
David Wright
- Brad & Lessa Shear**
Garrett & Dawn Campanell
Tracey Collins, John Ebersole, Barbara Harms, Mary Anne Kowalski, Lisa Massoth, Denise Ringer, Kathy Thiel & Eveline Ward-Sells
Rise & Jean Costa
Leslie & Pete Parreco
- Dolly Lee Simmons**
John Artico
- Emily Stento**
Gabi Turi
- Cassy Stier**
Frederick Shellard
- Sophia Testo**
Suzanne Marion
- Braeden Van Epps**
Margaret O'Brien
- Robin Young**
Lisa Blake

SPECIAL VETERINARIANS IN OUR COMMUNITY

DR. JOSEPH GLENNON - VETERINARY SPECIALTIES REFERRAL CENTER

Provided an examination and xray consultation for a kitten.

DR. SUSAN SIKULE - JUST CATS

Provided an anesthetized oral examination and head xrays for a cat.

DR. TARA ESTRA - CANTERBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Provided chest xrays for two heartworm positive dogs.

DR. DAVID STONE - BLOOMINGROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Provided diagnostic services and dental care for shelter cats.

BETHLEHEM VETERINARY HOSPITAL AND DR. MICHAEL PARKER OF VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Provided an examination, neuter and echocardiogram for a cat.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Deidre Bruce, Volunteer Manager



Reed and Betty Parvis never expected their volunteer positions with Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society to become what they are today.

“We decided we were going to walk dogs,” explained Reed, a retired electrical engineer from Colonie. His wife Betty, an insurance professional, joined him in retirement in June 2006. They set out to volunteer with the dogs at the shelter in their spare time. They attended volunteer orientation, but dog-care training would not take place for several weeks. That’s when they received a call from the development office asking if they could help with filing.

Reed and Betty began coming to the shelter nearly every day to file and perform other clerical work. They organized and perfected a process for large mailing projects, started helping at the cat adoption center in PetSmart in North Greenbush, and had finally attended Introduction to Dog Care when someone suggested they should research the history of the organization.

“We found a deed (to the Society’s property in Menands) in the Albany County Hall of Records dated 1913,” Reed said. According to Reed and Betty, the deed appeared to indicate more prop-

erty owned by the Society than previously known. Excited by their findings, they were just getting started.

Reed and Betty attended a workshop on nonprofit law to learn more about searching for important historical documents on the Society. They were able to trace the history of the Society’s land to the will of William Patterson Van Rensselaer, which they located in New York Surrogate Court in New York City. Van Rensselaer bequeathed the land in Menands to the Society in 1913. “We still haven’t figured out the relationship between Van Rensselaer and Dr. William Stillman (one of the Society’s founders),” added Betty. Their search for information about the Society would lead them to libraries, dusty books in the hall of records, and introductions to town and village historians.

Reed and Betty’s research is far from complete but some of what they’ve learned has sparked another interest. “Trail clearing is something new for us,” laughed Reed when he described how he and Betty have begun bushwhacking the nature trail on the Society’s property where volunteers walk the dogs. They’re determined to clear the path to a piece of land that their research has put on the Humane Society’s map.

Reed and Betty have three grown children, five grandchildren, two dogs, and a cat. They vacation in a fully equipped mobile home, and always take their pets with them. They are frequently seen helping out in their various roles at the Humane Society. They make themselves available for last minute requests, like the time they drove a dog to a rescue group in New Hampshire.

Co-bulk mail agents, cohistorians, PetSmart adoption assistants, dog transporters...Reed and Betty are happy to help wherever they are needed. And we are thankful to have the Parvises as part of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society team.

Art Saves Animals

The 4th Annual Art Auction
to Benefit the
Mohawk & Hudson River
Humane Society



SATURDAY EVENING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2008
6:00 P.M.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERY
39 COLUMBIA STREET, ALBANY

For more information, please
visit our web site
www.mohawkhumane.org
or call (518) 434-8128 ext. 204.