

PAW PRINTS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF KANDIYOHI COUNTY

FALL 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 18

GARAGE SALE

Visit our web site for more details.

OCTOBER

Adopt-a-Dog Month

Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month

NOVEMBER

Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month

November 1-7

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

DECEMBER

Bake Sale
at Kandi Mall

Newsletter Committee

Vickie Cyr
Pam Melander
Gloria Melquist
Taya Mergott
Anne Polta

A Message from Our Presidents

It has been a busy summer - you may have seen us at our booth at the Kandiyohi County Fair, or perhaps you've met a few of our staff and animals at events such as National Night Out at Robbins Island. We enjoy meeting you and hearing the wonderful stories of the pets you've reunited with or adopted from the Shelter. We have heard very positive testimonies from local veterinarians as to the quality of care that they have seen in the animals that we have sheltered - our thanks to our staff for their diligence and dedication to this important mission of caring for the lost, abandoned and neglected animals in our community.



We are extremely excited to see the progress on our new, permanent facility that we are planning to move into later in October. Watch for a future Open House announcement for a public viewing of the new Shelter which is a 5,600 square-foot building sited on two acres in the Willmar Industrial Park at 250- 28th SW. This new building will allow for more folks to interact with the animals and provide even more volunteer opportunities. We will have a public room for meetings and events. Multiple rooms for the cats, kittens, dogs and puppies will provide a healthier and less stressful environment for the animals which we think will result in more adoptable animals.

This project is an innovative partnership and the culmination of years of discussions with the City and County. The County is contributing \$250,000 from reserve funds for this building, and the City of Willmar has donated the land, utility hook-ups and \$50,000 over five years to the Capital fund. Without the County Commissioners and Larry Kleindl, County Administrator, supporting our organization and this project, we wouldn't be at this historical milestone. We can't forget our Building Committee, all of whom spent countless hours in the planning and execution of this building; they are Becky Hompe, Dawn Olson, and Jon Melander (and spouses!).

Speaking of the Capital fund, our 'A Home at Last' campaign kicked off early this year. We are happy to report we have received \$100,000 but we need to raise at least that amount again before November in order to pay our share of the building cost as well as a host of other items. These include interior furnishings, industrial washer and dryers, and basic landscaping. We would also like to provide a cushion for the operation of this facility in the future, including utilities, insurance and maintenance.

We greatly appreciate the support of our local government, our community and you, our members. Together we can continue to provide a high quality service that is, and will continue to be, greatly needed in our community.

Linda Kacher and Rebecca Hompe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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TREASURER Dawn Olson

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Carol Nelson Steve Gardner
Glenda Anderson Commissioner Richard Larson

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Tari Evenson

KENNEL STAFF:

Ashley Wyffels Chloe Anderson
Olivia Charwood Roxanne Otterness
Sheryl Walters Casandra Robinson
Lucas Floren



Construction starts on long-awaited HSKC shelter

By Anne Polta

Yes, it finally happened.



Humane Society members, staff and supporters gathered on a rainy morning on June 8 for the official groundbreaking of the new shelter. It was a time for speeches and celebration by the 40 people - and six mostly well-behaved dogs - who attended. Several people brought their digital and video cameras to record the big event.

"This is a day that some of the folks here will tell you they thought they would never see," said Steve Gardner, of the

HSKC board of directors.

The fact that city and county officials and the HSKC were able to come together and figure out a way to build and finance the shelter speaks volumes about the Kandiyohi County community, Gardner said. "The way that we treat our animals says a lot about who we are."



Before the first shovelfuls of earth were turned, local officials from Willmar and from Kandiyohi and Meeker counties also had good words to say about the project.

"We look at this as an opportunity for the future," said Richard Larson of the Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners.

A few facts about the new shelter: It'll contain twice the floor space of the HSKC's existing shelter. Features such as block kennels for the dogs and transition space for the cats will help minimize stress and the risk of disease and increase the chances that each animal will be happily and healthily adopted into a new home.

The shelter is costing \$515,000 to build. The funds come from county reserve funds and an allocation from the city of Willmar. The city also donated the land, which consists of two acres on 28th Street Southwest, right off West Highway 12.

If you've driven by lately, you'll know that construction has been moving along rapidly.



The roof is on and the windows have been installed. Dawn Olson of the building committee said the project is on schedule, and moving day will take place some time in mid- to late October.

There's already a lot of eagerness to get into the building. An open house will probably be scheduled next spring, after the HSKC has had time to settle into its new forever home.

"I'm really looking forward to holding a grand opening and showing off the facility," Steve Gardner said.



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Thank you to everyone who was a part of the 6th Annual HSKC Golf Tournament at Eagle Creek; the sponsors, the golfers, the staff and the volunteers who made this happen. It was a small but enthusiastic crowd. Everyone had fun; the food and prizes were great; and the rain held off until everyone was off the course! Hope to see you on the golf course next year supporting this worthy cause.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Humane Society of Kandiyohi County believes there is a unique and reciprocal bond between humans and animals that can be a vital and positive influence in society. Because of this belief, we provide a safe and sheltering haven for lost and abandoned animals pending placement in a suitable permanent home. We also promote responsible care and training for household pets through education and public awareness.

Happy Tails

by Pam Melander

When people and animals meet, there is no shortage of wagging tails and happy endings. Here are a few of the animals that were adopted from the HSKC animal shelter and are now living the good life in their forever homes.

Remember Chewy? His story was in the last issue of "Paw Prints". He had come to the shelter in pitiful condition and had to have his leg amputated. He was adopted but returned because, even with only three legs, he was way too energetic!!! Well, Chewy was adopted by some people from sunny California who had him flown out west. His name is now Pumpkin and he is one pampered pooch. Doesn't he look happy on his comfy throne, surrounded by soft and fluffy pillows?



Brutus is a German Shepherd that was adopted from the shelter. He is very happy in his new home and has no shortage of fun things to do. His new family sent us pictures of Brutus doing some of his favorite things. He likes to play in the snow. He likes to climb into boxes. He even likes to sit up in the cab of the tractor. He seems to enjoy campfires, too, and at the end of the day he has a big soft round bed to curl up on. Brutus is glad there was an animal shelter for him to go to in his



time of need, but he sure likes his new digs a lot better!

Tweetums was one of the cats that spent some time at the Spring Show at the Willmar Civic Center this past April. Tweetums caught someone's eye and then captured their heart. Tweetums is now Willow and shares her life with another cat named Tabby that was also adopted from the animal shelter. These lucky cats get to go traveling in an RV and they each have their own stroller so they can get out and see the sights.



Unique is a cat so named because of his unique markings. Look closely at his picture and you will see he is a Bengal cat with an unusual pattern on his fur.



Unique was extremely shy when he was at the animal shelter but someone saw how much he wanted to be loved and brought him home. He has transformed into a friendly playful fellow that likes to rub up against people and dogs, no longer shy and afraid. Unique is like so many shelter animals; once they are in a stable home with love and attention, they blossom before your eyes.



Give Them a Round **o**

Those of us who work or volunteer at the animal shelter know that each and every animal that comes through the shelter receives top quality care, but it is nice to hear it from the professionals. Two recent adopters contacted the shelter after bringing their newly adopted pets to their veterinarians for wellness checkups. They wanted to share the positive feedback they had received. Both veterinarians commented on how healthy the animals were and how well they had been taken care of at the shelter. The veterinarians were also impressed with the thorough and organized paperwork that came with each animal.

All of the staff at the shelter does a remarkable job. They take animals that have been abandoned, neglected, abused or traumatized in some way. In addition to excellent health care, each animal receives a large dose of love and kindness. Time after time, shelter staff has worked miracles with frightened, hurting animals. With endless patience and gentle words, the staff have earned the trust of these animals and helped them find new homes and families. Thank you to all of the staff for your high standards, your hard work, and your commitment and dedication to doing the best you can for the animals. You make a difference in so many lives. **You are the best.**

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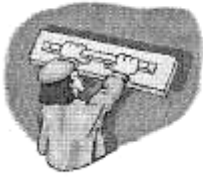
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People Do the Nicest Things!

By Pam Melander

It is heartwarming to know there are so many wonderful people who are willing to spend their time and energy making the world a better place for homeless animals. It is always my great pleasure to recognize some of the neat things people young and old do for the Humane Society.

Brownie Troop #3501, of the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines, sold Girl Scout cookies and donated 10% of the proceeds to the HSKC. These girls also made and decorated leashes and collars for the dogs. Brownie Girl Scout Troop #30578 out of Olivia donated soap and towels, collars and treats, to the shelter.



Girl Scout Troop #3509 of Willmar donated money to the animal shelter to help with the daily operations of the shelter. Both the KMS Girl Scout Troop and the Prinsburg GEMS made blankets for the animals.

As part of "Community Pride Day", the 7th grade class of New London Spicer offered their services to the animal shelter. They had the shelter clean, sparkling and organized by the time they were done. They also took the dogs out for walks, not just once but twice!

As a way of giving back to the community, forty eighth graders from New London Spicer planned and hosted a car wash, bake sales and a canned/boxed food drive for the community. They

chose the Humane Society as one of three organizations to benefit from their hard work. They asked that their donation be used for the medical fund.

Cody Sommerville was given \$10 by his church on his confirmation. He was told to go out and multiply the money and donate it to a non-profit group. Cody did just that. He sold and delivered pizzas and donated the money he made to the HSKC. Cody also volunteers at the shelter.

The vet tech students at Ridgewater College donated an otoscope/ophthalmoscope to the animal shelter. This instrument is used to look in to the eyes and ears of the animals when they are being examined. The students also donated a scale to weigh cats and kittens.

Sally Hammond, Lori Morton and Gladys Palm held a garage sale with the proceeds from the sale going to the animal shelter.

To each and every one of these people, I say thank you. You are helping to save lives and making a positive difference in the world. You help keep the animal shelter going. Thank you! Thank you! Meow! Ruff ruff! We couldn't do it without you!

MONEY FOR

- \$ MEDICAL FUND
- \$ SPAY/NEUTER FUND
- \$ NEW BUILDING FUND
- \$ GENERAL OPERATING FUND

VOLUNTEERS

- ♥ Transporting Animals to Other Shelters
- ♥ to wrap our business card around doggie bones and deliver them to area businesses with drive-up windows
- ♥ Sewers to put collars together (we have buckles and material)

- 🖨 INK CARTRIDGES FOR HP # 92 (black) and # 93 (color)
- 🖨 PAPER FOR THE COPY MACHINE
- 🖨 COLORED PAPER FOR COPYING
- 🖨 BINDER CLIPS (black, medium and large)

- ✓ 9 VOLT BATTERIES FOR THE MICROCHIP SCANNER
- ✓ AA BATTERIES FOR DIGITAL CAMERA

- DISH SOAP - DISHWASHER SOAP
- CHLOROX WIPES OR SIMILAR PRODUCT
- MOP HEADS (blue industrial type)
- LIQUID LAUNDRY SOAP - DRYER SHEETS
- GARBAGE BAGS (heavy duty, 33 G)
- BLEACH - SIMPLE GREEN
- NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT ADS

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New Shelter Construction Nearly Complete

By Pam Melander

When the last edition of Paw Prints went to press, the new animal shelter was still a one dimensional dream on a blueprint. Since that time, ground has been broken and construction has been proceeding at a steady pace. The projected date of completion is October 16. Once the building is complete, there will be the arduous task of moving kennels, furniture, supplies and animals from the old shelter to the new.



needed to pay for daily shelter operations. How much it will cost to operate the new shelter remains to be seen, but we cannot do it without your help.

Volunteers are going to play a huge role in the success of the new shelter. Many other shelters in the state have a large volunteer base, people who commit to a certain amount of time each week or commit to specific tasks or projects. If you are a retired person, someone who has lost their job or finds themselves working fewer hours, consider volunteering at the new shelter. You will find that the new shelter is a much more user friendly place with quiet work areas and a meeting room where people can sit together and talk. Animal and people areas are separate from each other, eliminating noise and confusion. The rewards are endless; wagging tails, purrs and bow wows, knowing you are helping to save lives.

It has been exciting to see the new building rising out of an empty field and taking shape over these past weeks and months. Walking through the building, you can see all of the rooms and all of the space. It is amazing. Imagine having a room just for storage! Imagine having a room for people to quietly get acquainted with an animal they are considering adopting. Imagine having separate rooms for all of the animals in different stages of readiness for adoption. To those of us who have operated out of a cramped shelter for so many years, it is like the Taj Mahal. It is a palace. It is a dream come true.

It is an ending and a new beginning. The job of operating a non-profit animal shelter is never easy and the staff and volunteers can never rest on their laurels. Keeping a shelter going requires a lot of time, energy and money. Please help the animal shelter to be a success by continuing your financial support. Money still needs to be raised to fulfill our capital campaign goal of \$500,000. Money will still be

So many of you have helped the animal shelter become a reality. Many people over the years have put in enormous amounts of time and energy to make this happen. Many people have supported the project with financial aid. You are all heroes. We look forward to the open house at the new shelter. Watch for the date. What a celebration it will be!



Community Outreach and Education



Spring and summer is always a busy time for the animal shelter and this season has been no exception. The months of April and May brought a flurry of activity, bringing the message of the HSKC out to the community.

The HSKC had a booth at the annual Spring Show at the Willmar Civic Center on April 25 and 26. There were cats and dogs available for adoption and for people to visit with. Many people stopped by to visit with the animals and the staff at the booth. People also got a chance to look at the blueprints for the new animal shelter and learn about the capital campaign to raise funds for the building.



On May 2 and 3, as part of "Be Kind to Animals Week", the HSKC held a pet Adoptathon at the Kandi Mall. It was a great opportunity for people to see some of the cats and dogs available for adoption and to learn about what the HSKC does for the community. Eleven animals were adopted over the weekend as a result of this event.

Two hundred kindergarten students at Kennedy Elementary School had the opportunity to learn about cats and dogs during "Kindergarten Days" on May 5. Bobbie Bauman, animal care director, and Tari Evenson, shelter manager, brought collies, Kip and Emma, and cats, Fluffy and Sleepy, to the school. Kids got to play with the animals and learn how important it is to be kind to animals.

A low cost vaccination clinic for dogs was held at Regency East and Regency West on May 6. Pet owners could bring their dogs to the outdoor clinic and have them vaccinated for rabies and Distemper/Parvo. Micro-chipping was also offered as well as free toe nail clipping. Twenty five dogs were vaccinated and many people were educated about how important vaccinations are to their dog's health and well being. The HSKC hopes to make this an annual event. Dr. Steve Rumsey and students from the vet tech program at Ridgewater College helped make this event possible through their participation.



It takes a lot of people and a lot of work to make these events happen. Shelter staff and volunteers put in many hours planning and coordinating all the details. This group of dedicated people helps raise awareness of the issue of homeless animals in our community and the importance of the animal shelter to all of us. When you see someone volunteering to make our community a better place for animals and people alike, make sure to let them know how much you appreciate them. Thank you, volunteers!!!!



We would like to thank the following people and businesses who have generously donated to the Humane Society of Kandiyohi County. Some donations have been made in memoriam of loved ones (*)

The Humane Society of Kandiyohi County does not receive any funding from the Humane Society of the United States

In Memoriam, Honor or Recognition

In honor of 2009 High School Graduates: from Swan & Barbara Johnson
 In honor of Charlie the dog: from Beverly & Vernon Goodmund
 In honor of Martha Asleben: from Patricia Botzek
 In honor of Myrtle Grace's birthday: from Yvonne Natvig
 In memory of Beavis: from Patti Wittman
 In memory of Belle: from Jerry & Gwendolyn Roeder
 In memory of Buster: from Noreen Erickson
 In memory of Carol Dero: from Walt & Raeanna Gislason
 In memory of Duke and Buck: from Susan & William Draheim, Sr.
 In memory of Evelyn Preslicka: from Edward Preslicka
 In memory of Evelyn Preslicka: from Evelyn Larson
 In memory of Gerrit Vandekieft: from Beverly & Vernon Goodmund
 In memory of Harry, beloved pet of the Meyerson family : from Barb & Bill Borth
 In memory of Hershey: from Jon & Pam Melander
 In memory of Jeanette Iverson: from Marion Foley & Family
 In memory of Joan's dad: from Suzanne Wagemaker
 In memory of Margaret & Howard Otto: from Beverly & Vernon Goodmund
 In memory of Michael Whiteis: from Stephanie Whiteis
 In memory of Mollybea Jo: from Vickie Tompt
 In memory of Monees : from Glenn Dietz
 In memory of Naomi Halvorson: from Kay McLane
 In memory of Pepper: from Carol & Robert Wegner
 In memory of Steve Welk, and mother of Michele Sletten: from Marilyn & Mark Bourne
 In memory of Todd Stedfeld: from Hans & Janet Dahl
 In recognition of Ozzie & Shelby: from Scott & Wendy Hoepner



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 Unitarian Universalist Church



* Names updated up to August 1st. Please, let us know of any names inadvertently omitted. They will appear in our next issue

A tisket! A tasket! Think about making or sponsoring a basket for the February "Save Our Tails" fundraiser! It is never too soon to start. Let your imagination run wild and have fun creating a basket to be auctioned off to raise money for the animal shelter. Together we can make a difference.



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