

House with a Heart

2022 END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER



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Special Thanks to our Volunteers, Donors, and  **IRONMARK** for making this newsletter possible!

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Greetings from Sher

In a challenging world with so much sadness and strife... Here at House with a Heart (HWAH), we continue to cling to our mottos that Love Lives Here and Kindness Counts. We maintain our focus to create peace, contentment, happiness, goodwill, and caring for our sanctuary residents – and most of all, LOVE!

This year’s newsletter celebrates the good news that happens every day at HWAH. We’re sharing stories about:

-  Our incredible volunteers, whose hard work and dedication keep the sanctuary running inside and out.
-  Our **Piper’s Pals program**, where we foster dogs and cats and help them to have a better life while waiting for their very own loving family.
-  Our **K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Grant program** that helps to save at least 24 pets each year.
-  Our **Feed Fido and Fluffy** – HWAH Pet Pantry that helps needy senior citizens, families, rescues and others in our community feed pets. We continue to have a physical Pet Pantry where people drop off supplies at the sanctuary and this year, we also started delivering food via Amazon and Chewy.

And it goes without saying, all of these programs have been made possible by YOU, our generous and faithful supporters!

I hope with all my heart that you will enjoy reading about the good news and you will be inspired to create an atmosphere of LOVE LIVES HERE and KINDNESS COUNTS in your life as well. Living that purpose is always uplifting and worthwhile.

In 2023, we begin our 17th year of loving seriously senior and special needs dogs and cats. I look forward to another year of success stories for those without a voice of their own!

Hugs and HOPE – always.

Sher Polvinale





SkYE

K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles

Our K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles program provides medical grants to help other Rescues with medical care to make that dog or cat ready for their new forever home. These pets often need extensive medical care to prepare them for adoption or foster care. This program is so important to our mission to help save as many senior dogs and cats abandoned in shelters as we can.



20

Pets Saved from Jan-Oct 2022



23

Rescue Partners Across the U.S.



\$26,000

Amount Granted Jan-Oct 2022

Medical Miracles Success Story

SkYE the Scottie was cared for and loved for many years. Sadly, as her human grew older and ill, she was not able to provide the care SkYE needed. SkYE developed cancer in her lower jaw and was becoming very ill herself. When her "Mom" was moved to nursing home care, SkYE was accepted into MASTER Rescue. When the rescue needed a foster home for SkYE, we were happy to offer the loving care SkYE needed. Your donations to the K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Fund made a second chance possible for this adorable pup.

SkYE is now part of the HWAH – Piper's Pal pack, and we love her more each day! Please read about SkYE's journey as told by our Director Sher:



SkYE

SURGERY WENT GREAT.

SkYE will recover overnight in the ER. She had her lower jaw removed just past her canine teeth, and had all teeth removed because they were all rotten!



CRYING... When this little Scottie just arrived to HWAH, Emily rigged a wrap to help stop the bleeding from her lower jaw and keep it clean. This morning, it just burst open and was bleeding profusely. Therefore, we had an emergency visit with the vet. But until we can make an appointment with a dental surgeon, we have to figure out how to keep SkYE safe and well.



GOOD NEWS! SkYE finally got an appointment to have her cancerous tumor removed.



SKYE IS HOME. She is doing amazingly well! She doesn't need to be separated from the other pups and only needs an e-collar if she starts messing with her face. SkYE seems comfortable, and has become a velcro dog.

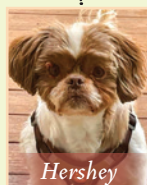


ONLY GOOD DAYS FROM NOW ON! SkYE is starting a vaccine therapy against a return of the cancer and is blossoming as she feels so much better. She has figured out how to get on the couch and loves to lounge like a diva.

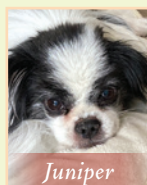


In addition to SkYE, we provided medical grants to help some wonderful pets from being left behind to being loved. Here are the lucky pets who received a second chance in 2022 because of our K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Fund.

Caring Heart Rescue



Hershey



Juniper

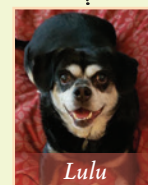


Mikey

Frederick Friends of Our County

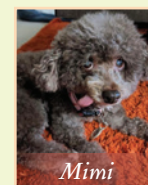


Sabrina



Lulu

Gray Face Acres



Mimi



Pepper

HWAH Pet Pantry Update

We established our Pet Pantry during the start of the pandemic in April of 2020 to help needy families feed their pets during a difficult time and beyond. And thanks to your generous donations, this program not only continues to thrive – it's growing!



Pat and Mark Freedman



Sara delivering pet food

This year we worked with Amazon and Chewy to send pet food directly to low-income seniors at Covenant Village in Maryland. Using Amazon and Chewy for delivery enables us distribute pet food more efficiently and quickly. We also customize orders to meet the specific needs of the pet in the home. We're also using this new delivery approach in our work with other non-profits (including Damascus Helps, Every Mind and Cornerstone Montgomery) that already have established food banks, and can now add a pet food option to needy families.

We're currently working with five LovePaws clients to supply pet food when a visit to their pet pantry is not possible. For example, we send cat food to a senior lady who's caring for ill family members out-of-state.

Thanks to YOU, we're helping those less fortunate keep their pets during these challenging economic times.

Meet Our Forever Foster



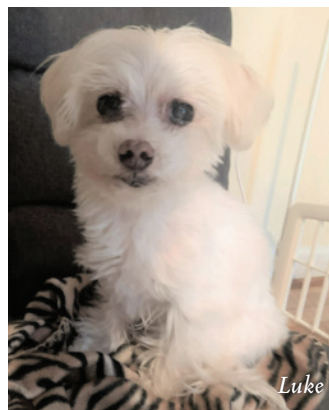
Luke, a senior 4 pound Maltese, was saved by Caring Hearts Rescue when his owner said he was "too much trouble" and not a "normal" dog. Luke's medical challenges included extensive dental disease,

an eye infection, and a behavior issue with eating. He eats one piece of kibble at a time and wants company while he eats.

This quirky, sweet pup received the medical care he needed and then it was time for a quiet, safe place to live out the rest of his life. Luke became a HWAH Forever Foster and now lives with our Assistant Director Lori, and her husband John.

He takes hours to eat with someone nearby, and then loves to cuddle with Lori and John in the evenings. No worries about not being a normal dog. Lori and John love Luke just the way he is!

You can see Luke on the cover of our House with a Heart Senior Pet Sanctuary 2023 Calendar.



Luke



Poppy and Luke

HWAH Recycles Donations to help other Rescue Groups



We are always grateful to our generous donors.

In addition to food donations from our Amazon and Chewy Wish Lists for our residents and for our Pet Pantry, we regularly receive donations of a wide variety of items that are dropped off or mailed to the sanctuary.

These items are donated because an owner's pet may not have liked the product, an incorrect delivery, or a beloved owner's pet passed away. In all cases, we are grateful these kind supporters think of HWAH when they don't want their pet's unused or lightly used items to go to waste!

If we can't use a donated item at our sanctuary, HWAH Pet Pantry volunteer Pat Freedman works with local rescue groups to determine who can best use the donation and coordinates the transfer to that group. LovePaws, Brew Beagles, and PetConnect are just a few of the rescues that share in our donations.

If you're a rescue group and would like to be added to our distribution list, or you have questions about what we're able to accept, please send a message via the Contact link on our website.

Memorable Events in 2022

Every story at the sanctuary is special and warms our hearts! Here are just a few highlights from another wonderful year of providing a "helping hand" for senior and special needs pets.



Charlotte

Charlotte stole our hearts the moment she arrived at HWAH! She spent the first 10 years of her life in Virginia Hunt clubs where she lived in an outdoor kennel year-round, and was used as a hunting dog. She was rescued by two kind women and brought to the sanctuary, where she was finally safe but suffering from cancer, unfortunately!

Charlotte was spayed too late in life, and developed mammary cancer that moved to her lungs. Despite her illness, she became a happy pup loving life in a home.

Charlotte was with us for two months before she crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We made sure every moment of her last days was filled with love, good food (including lots of treats!), snuggles, and stealing kisses whenever she could. We miss our special girl and are so honored to have had her the final months of her life.



Wednesday
• Zoey
• Zorra
• Zuko

KITTENS at HWAH? Oh yeah!!! A mother cat named Wednesday and her babies Zoey, Zorra, and Zuko were in danger; and HWAH opened the door for them. Since we never have young kittens at the sanctuary, we weren't prepared with supplies. Our wonderful volunteer Mark was kind enough to make a late-night trip to get us essential items such as kitten food.

These playful kittens were very social. They loved attention, enjoyed playing with their toys, and provided us with lots of joy!

As much as we enjoyed having them, we were so happy to see all four cats go to loving homes. Zuko was adopted by a veterinary tech at a local practice, and mama, Wednesday went to live with our own HWAH staff member Emily. Bonded pair Zoey and Zorra were adopted together, and are now bringing a new family tons of happiness.



Winslo

When Winslo was found on the streets and turned into the Baltimore Animal Care and Rescue Shelter, the 10-year-old pup had terribly infected eyes. This little guy was adopted and sent home with instructions to administer eye drops. Likely because his eyes were so painful, Winslo would not allow his family to put in his eye drops. Frustrated and sad, they returned him to the shelter.

It became apparent that Winslo would need both eyes removed in order to have a quality and pain-free life. When MASTER Rescue learned of Winslo and his need for 24/7 care, HWAH was eager to be the loving landing place for this sweet pup!

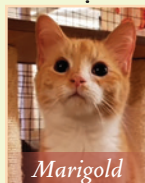
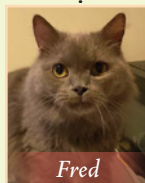
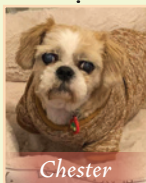
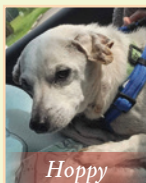
Winslo's blindness was causing him to constantly walk in circles. We make him a "treat trail" so that he walks forward to eat his treats, and then reaches his cozy bed and stuffed animal. We are loving Winslo just the way he is.

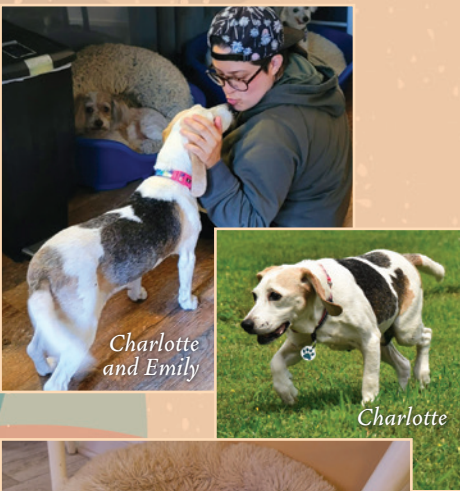
Leashes End

It Takes A Village Rescue

Miri's Haven Sr. Dog Rescue

Pets Bring Joy





Charlotte and Emily

Charlotte



Winslo



Winslo



Wednesday



Zorra



Zoey



Zuko

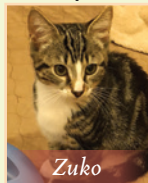
Pet Connect Rescue



Zoey



Zorra



Zuko

Meet Volunteer Laura Luke



Laura Luke

These days the big thing is to telecommute. Well, we are lucky at HWAH to have some volunteers who tele-volunteer. Laura Luke is one of those wonderful, wonderful folks. Here is her story:

"Caring for senior pups is my passion. My husband and I have adopted four senior pups of our own over the past 20 years, and I've always been in awe of the work Sher and the work the volunteer teams perform at HWAH.

When I moved from Virginia to New York in 2015, I worried that my long-time volunteer work with HWAH might come to an end. So when Sher asked if I would be willing to work remotely after my move, I jumped at the opportunity!

I now enjoy developing content for the HWAH Facebook page, posting Tweets for Twitter, and helping with the social media and fundraising campaigns. My thanks to Sher for always making me feel like part of the team even though I live a couple hundred miles away."

Meet Volunteer Karen C.



Karen C.

Karen started at HWAH as part of her in-service hours for graduation from high school. The pups were instantly in love with her, and when she completed her hours, she agreed to join the HWAH team.

There is no task that she won't do—from mopping floors to poop scooping, to cleaning runny eyes and noses. When her work is done, she loves to sit with the dogs and there are often at least three pups on her lap as soon as she sits down! Karen is a go-to person with her calming nature, and she has helped several of the seniors across the rainbow bridge by holding them until the end.

As our Director Sher says, "Besides doing an incredible job with the critters, Karen is a delight to have in the sanctuary, bringing some serious good energy with her!"

It's Here! The 2023 HWAH Calendar



Meet the residents of HWAH:

Full of pictures of our resident pups and kitties, with Forever Fosters, K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles, and our visiting "Best Friends Forever."

Get your copy today to support us!

<https://housewithaheart.com/shop-hwah/hwah-calendar/>

House with a Heart Pet Sanctuary

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Gaithersburg, MD 20882



Love them for their Lifetime!

www.housewithaheart.com

Email: housewithaheart@gmail.com

240.631.1743

CFC Donation Code 69166

The Many Ways to Help House With A Heart Senior Pet Sanctuary



While we were truly blessed this year, we need your continuous support to cover our costly veterinary expenses, purchase food and supplies, and make improvements that benefit our senior residents and forever fosters. You can contribute by:



- Making a one-time, occasional, or monthly donation.
- Choose HWAH (#69166) as a designated nonprofit in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area.
- HWAH is a 501c 3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible.
- Purchase items that appear on our Wish List in the "Shop HWAH" section on our website.
- Sponsor a HWAH pet of your choice.
- Donate to our "Feed Fido & Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry to help feed hungry dogs and cats. If you prefer, purchase pet food for needy pets on our Amazon Wish List.
- Shop at smile.amazon.com and select House With A Heart Pet Sanctuary as your charitable organization.
- Help us promote our mission! Purchase HWAH apparel from the "Shop HWAH" section on our website.

HWAH is a non-profit and volunteer supported organization. Situated in a house on two acres of property in Gaithersburg, HWAH fills a need for its dogs and cats by providing a sanctuary for them. These senior pets at HWAH are there as a result of becoming homeless or were in the process of losing their homes for a variety of reasons. Unlike most other rescues, HWAH does not seek adoption for its residents. Instead, HWAH provides a safe and loving place for its residents to live out their full lives so they will never lose their home again. HWAH relies solely on donations to cover its expenses. In addition, HWAH's volunteers are instrumental in daily operations and upkeep of the sanctuary.