



PAW PRINT NEWS

Winter 2010

Making Music for the Animals

Cruces High School. John saw the SHAS flyer how \$50 a month would reduce animal euthanasia in Las Cruces and suggested donating money by playing violin at the Farmer's Market - he was eight-years-old. He made a little sign "All money goes to the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary" and stuck it in his violin case and made \$25. He usually plays about 45 minutes.

He has given about \$350 since September, 2010. John stated that "Since I don't have to pay for rent or food, I can give my money to Safe Haven." One slow day, he remarked that "maybe if I play more of the right notes, people will give more money." We at Safe Haven think John is playing all the right notes and that he is an inspiration to people of all ages to cultivate that giving spirit. Perhaps the biggest reward for John was the chance to take the dogs at the Sanctuary for a walk.

Great thanks to Jennifer Rogers and the kind Farmer's Market vendors who let John set up and play near their booths. John is the son of John Hanna and Lisa Juliano.

John also takes piano lessons from Shane Sommers and a bit of drums, guitar, and voice. John is a member of the Las Cruces Aquatic Team, has played chess since he was five and attends the US Chess Camp and enjoys the Camp Invention program sponsored by the Las Cruces Public School system.

John Owen Hanna, IV.
Nine years old
Attends Mesilla Elementary
John has played violin about
a year and a half and takes lessons from
Jennifer Rogers, orchestra director at Las



Volunteer of the Quarter

Marsha Franke

After retiring from thirty-five years in public education as a teacher and principal in Neshaminy School District, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, Marsha made the move to Las Cruces four years ago. She was attracted to this area by the mountain views, colorful sunsets and the warmer climate. Once settled, she started looking for volunteer opportunities in the area. She was drawn to Safe Haven, seeing the work there as a means of therapy for dealing with grief and loss in her life.

Marsha has been a regular volunteer at Safe Haven since April, 2010. As such she walks the dogs and gives them one-on-one attention. She has also stepped up and cleaned pens when needed and last summer, took up the role of dog feeder each Monday during the sanctuary manager's day off. Marsha also served on the sanctuary manager selection committee for Safe Haven.



When asked about the personal rewards of working with the dogs, Marsha states, "Because dogs live in the present, they help me to do the same. Despite the circumstances that brought them to the sanctuary, the dogs remain open to connecting with humans. I honestly enjoy sitting with each dog, speaking softly and petting them as we feel the sun's arms around us in large view of the Organ Mountains. What solace!" She adds, "The dogs bring humor to my life. They remind me of my former students – each one seeking the principal's attention; all with their individual personalities."

Marsha has a number of stories to share from her many hours spent with the dogs but one story that stands out is the one of Dusty, a big yellow Labrador retriever who craved attention and needed patience, love and strength from his handler. "I prayed for the proper placement for this dog, so how happy I was to meet Dusty's new family: mother, father and two, active, teenage sons. Finally, a match for the sweet dog's energy. Dusty walked away, head high, energy in check, ready to begin his new life. I kissed him goodbye one last time."

- Marsha Franke

The President's Corner

Last year was a great year for Safe Haven and our animals. I would like to take a moment to share with you highlights of 2010 and look ahead to 2011. First and foremost, we were able to place 50 cats and 86 dogs in forever homes last year. Jeff Barker joined us as the new Sanctuary Manager and is systematically working with the volunteers to help our current Sanctuary residents become more adoptable. Wendy Baldwin also joined us as the new Sanctuary Volunteer Coordinator. She's helped Safe Haven improve the volunteer coverage at the Sanctuary and at our off site events, while keeping us posted on recent adoptions and other important events. Our Thrift Store moved to a larger location at 840 El Paseo in November and earned over \$9000 more than we had budgeted for November and December!

There were new fundraising efforts in 2010 such as Walk your Hound, Cruisin' for Critters, selling Suds car wash tickets and holding Thrift Store shopping and quilt raffles. We gained a new corporate sponsor, Whataburger. Other significant income included a bequest of a house (which is currently on the market) and \$10,000 for a Sanctuary van.

SHAS joined the social networking scene by establishing a Facebook page to expand our opportunities for reaching our community. Our volunteers update this page and our website with information about our current adoptable pets as well as upcoming events.

We established a strategic plan for our organization and set our goals for the next five years. From that, we created a 2011 Business Plan, emphasizing increasing revenues, improving overall communication, increasing our volunteer base and improving our current facilities at the Sanctuary.

Three Directors were elected to the Board during our January 18th Annual Membership Meeting and our 2011 Budget was approved. I join the new Board of Directors in looking forward to making 2011 an even better year for Safe Haven.

-Carol Mellen

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
PetSmart, 2200 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces
Whataburger, Las Cruces locations
Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic, Meaquite, NM
Animal Hospital of Las Cruces, 3171 N. Main St., Las Cruces
Denise Cooper, CPA, 1155 Commerce Drive, Las Cruces
San Saba Pecans, W. Amador, Las Cruces

Central Bark Grooming service
Target, Las Cruces
Sam's Club, Las Cruces
PicQuik, Las Cruces

A Fostering Experience

My dog passed on after being with me for twelve years and left me devastated and with a deep sense of loss. I asked

myself, who is going to love me in such an unconditional way as my dog had. I felt so very much alone.

My friend and veterinarian, Dr. Carver, consoled me through my ordeal and mentioned two dogs that were living at Safe Haven. These older dogs, along with their sister, had come to Safe Haven after their owner passed away. They were not up for adoption, per the owner's last wishes, but could be fostered. I arranged to go out and meet Adam and Mahli, a male golden retriever and a female German shorthaired pointer. Senior in years, these two and I connected right away. The paperwork was completed and they were on their way to a new, loving

I can honestly say that the time we have spent together has been an amazing experience. I love older dogs for they don't tear up the place, appreciate a good home and are already house broken. For the dogs, their stress level is reduced by being in the comfort of a home and so is mine by being in their company. These two had come from a wonderful home and know how to appreciate their new home. Mahli now has some health issues and we deal with them one day at a time.

I can highly recommend the experience of fostering. You are giving a warm, loving home to animals that otherwise might be out in a cold kennel and by offering them a quality of life that they may not have known before. In return you get many hours of cuddling, playing and sloppy kisses. I am grateful to Safe Haven for allowing me to have this rewarding experience.

-Elizabeth Parker



PET MEMORIAL STONES AVAILABLE THROUGH SAFE HAVEN

A memorial stone for your pet or as a gift for a friend, can be ordered through the Safe Haven Thrift Store. Prices start at \$15.00 and proceeds benefit the sanctuary. Styles vary but are similar to the one seen here.



Call 541.4942 for more information

Pet Therapy in Action

With the help of some very dedicated volunteers, a few of the Safe

Gypsy, an older dog, and other dogs from the sanctuary, along with volunteers Ari Moguel, Ewa Shropshire, and Laura O Connor are helping to make a difference in the lives of these people.

Safe Haven dogs have had the opportunity to bring a ray of light into the lives of some of the residents at the Las

Cruces Nursing and Rehab Center. Studies have proven that pet assisted therapy has numerous health benefits such as mood elevation, lowering blood pressure and decreasing pain, just by being close to a pet.

Misty, the Activities Director at the nursing home, has reported some remarkable physical improvements of one of the residents, while one other approaches the front desk regularly, to ensure that "Gypsy" stops to see her. Not only do the residents benefit, but the staff gets their "furry fix", too.



Items We Need More Of

Galvanized metal buckets
ProForce disinfectant from Sam's Club
Pedialite – unflavored
Canned cat food
Dry cat food
Clumping kitty litter
Clorox wipes
Exceed dry dog food from Sam's Club
Sam's Club gift certificates

HP22 & HP27 Ink Cartridges
Plastic Coat hangers
Copy paper
Laundry detergent
Frontline Plus Flea and Tick products
Wire Dog Crates – Large
Landscaping services and plants
Paving stones
Chicken wire

From the Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the thrift store is doing very well at its new location on El Paseo. We are actively seeking large items for sale such as furniture,

working appliances, and other larger ticket items. Pick up can be arranged. So, while you are spring cleaning, please keep us in mind.

Safe Haven has purchased a new van for the sanctuary with funds that were donated to us in 2010 by the Dona Ana County Humane Society. This auto will be used primarily to transport animals to off-site adoption locations. It will not be used for running every day trips to town, we will use the Isuzu Rodeo that was kindly donated to us for that purpose. We are grateful to those who made this possible.

For the first time that I can recall, this year we have a solid Business Plan for Safe Haven. This plan will be used to guide us. It is backed up by plans and actions to make sure we meet our goals for the year. The plan will also be used when applying for grant monies as this is often part of the compliance requested.

Our operating budget for 2011 is \$250,000. We have a building committee in place that will be working with the board to figure out ways to expand capacity at the current location. This will be costly and much of the work will fall under capital improvements. One of our major goals is to have a higher turnover rate of pets, thereby getting more homeless pets into good and loving homes. I will be working closely with the sanctuary manager, Jeff Barker, to form strategies towards this end. We have been fortunate to have more volunteers supporting our efforts lately and we are very grateful to each of them for their contributions. Things just do not get done without a strong volunteer base. We are still seeking more people to foster animals on an interim basis. If you are interested, please do contact me.

We have a wonderful opportunity to make a big difference in the lives of animals in our community and I can assure you that the board, management and myself are committed to that end.

- Lorna Harris

Your Bequest to Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary - Safeguarding the Future of the Organization

By naming SHAS in your estate plans, the commitment you make today will have a powerful impact on the future of the welfare of the animals that come through our gates and to the expansion of our facilities and the continued programs that benefit our cats and dogs.

In making a bequest gift to SHAS, you join other dedicated supporters who have provided for the future of our work and mission.

We encourage you to consult with your attorney or financial advisor about including SHAS in your estate plans. Information for your attorney is available by contacting the Executive Director for the organization at 575.527.4544. Please do notify SHAS if you proceed to include the organization in your Will so that we can make note in our records.

Board of Directors

President:	Carol Mellen	Executive Director:	Lorna Harris
Vice President:	Lynn Ellins	Sanctuary Manager:	Jeff Barker
Secretary:	Eleanor Bencomo	Thrift Store Manager:	Ismael Lujan
Treasurer:	Sharon Hartford	Website Volunteer:	Dorian Rudin

Directors:
Robin Hutchins
Rita Popp
Jennifer Goude

Volunteer Coordinators:
Sanctuary: Wendy Baldwin
Thrift Store: MaryAnne Boone

Contact:
Wendy Baldwin: preciouspaws6@yahoo.com
MaryAnne Boone: 575.382.7316

Thrift Store Enjoys Increased Business at New Location

The move was complete November 1st when the Safe Haven Thrift Store opened its doors at the new location, 840 El Paseo Road, Suite D. Longer hours, higher traffic volume and a larger space, have contributed to a successful two months at the new location. A ribbon cutting celebration was held in conjunction with the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce on November 16th.



We schedule pick up of large items two days a week so call the store for details. It is revenue from these larger items that allows us to expand our operations and programs at the sanctuary. Please also remember us when recycling those aluminum cans. The store is now in a position to accept larger furniture and working appliance donations. Please keep us in mind when parting with such items and also let your friends know to donate that used couch or dresser to Safe Haven.

Safe Haven is seeking qualified board member candidates. If you, or someone you know, can dedicate a few hours each month to serving, please contact the Executive Director and we will follow up with you.

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

840 El Paseo Road, Suite D
Las Cruces, NM 88001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Las Cruces NM
Permit No. 2101

HOURS

Office:

Mon-Fri - 8 am - 1 pm

Thrift Shop:

Mon-Fri - 9 am - 5 pm

Sat - 9am - 3 pm

Sanctuary:

Tue-Sun 10 am- 5 pm and by appointment any other time

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

General Info 575-527-4544

Thrift Shop 575-541-4942

Sanctuary 575-805-5338

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-Mail: ShasPets@yahoo.com

Website: www.SafeHavenAnimalSanctuary.net

Sanctuary E-Mail: Shas.Pets@yahoo.com

Newsletter: themadxcow@gmail.com

I want to help care for animals at our beautiful "no kill" Safe Have Animal Sanctuary.

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your donations to SHAS are tax deductible. Please make your checks payable to: Safe Haven | 840 Wyatt Dr | Suite D | Las Cruces NM 88001, or visit the PayPal link on our website. **Thank You!**