

A Truly Unique Animal Shelter®

# HELPING HANDS

A Publication of the Hillside Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Incorporated



Volume 20, Issue 3

Winter/Holiday 2006

## "Open House" Brings Happy Hearts



October 14 turned out to be one of the most lovely days this Autumn — in more ways than one.

With our tent set up, tables full of delicious food, hot apple cider, coffee and soft drinks, our special day began.

Safeway Markets' Animal Adoption program provided an especially attractive "Adopt-A-Pet-Today" banner and special gifts for pets and their people.

Parking proved to be a bit of a challenge early on as both sides of Hillside SPCA Road were lined from top to bottom. The parking lot was filled with friends from near and far...two AND four-legged!

The Very Reverend Michael Hutsko along with Golden Retriever

"Lager", his Hillside adoptee, gave the Blessing of the Animals to open the celebration at noon.

Hillside's Manager Barbara Umlauf unveiled the striking Toasty Paws Memorial after thanking everyone who made the campaign a great success.

Fun contests followed, with "Scooter" and his mom Cheryl from Minersville winning a first place ribbon for "My Pet Will Eat That!".

"Elmo" and his mom Tracey from Halifax took home a first place ribbon for "The Best Dressed Pet". Both handsome pooches are also Hillside alumni!

It was a genuine thrill to see so many pets who had spent time at Hillside now so very happy, letting

us know with wagging tails, that they've found their forever homes.

Having so many well-loved animals and their wonderful families sharing our day certainly makes us look forward to doing this again.

Special thanks to Father Michael, Lok-Weld, Safeway Markets, B & G Value Markets, DJ Bryan Stiver and everyone who donated food, beverages and prizes; you made our day exceptional.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebration. We can continue to save animals in need because of caring folks just like you.

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## Helping Hands

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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### Shelter Visitation and Adoption Hours

Dog Quarters  
MON-SAT: 11:30 am to 3:00 pm  
SUN: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Cat Quarters  
MON-SAT: Noon to 4:00 pm  
SUN: Noon to 3:00 pm

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**We're always open at  
www.hillsidespca.com**



**24 hours a day  
7 days a week**

Find the pet of your dreams!  
View dozens of pictures and  
profiles of adorable animals  
awaiting adoption. Find  
information about  
spaying/neutering, upcoming  
fundraising events, proper  
pet care, directions to the  
shelter and so much more!

## Thoughts From Ginger

**M**y name is  
Ginger  
and I  
really like it here  
at the Hillside  
SPCA. This is cer-  
tainly a fabulous  
place and there  
are so many of us  
with nowhere else  
to go. Why, what-  
ever would we do  
without a place  
like this?

You know, as  
much as the Hill-  
side is a nice  
place to be, I've  
been wondering for quite a while  
now, why isn't anyone picking me  
to adopt?

It isn't that I'm not happy to see  
my many feline friends get  
homes. I'm only one year old and  
quite cute, but I've been here for  
eight months! Why is it taking so  
long for someone to pick me?

Oh, I hope I don't get sick, then  
nobody will want me for sure, at  
least not until I come out of the  
sick room.

Ah, here comes a family with two  
nice children. Maybe they'll stop  
by my condo and want to look at  
me. Oops, no, they passed right  
by.

Now they're looking at Wynona.  
She's a real beauty, a black and  
white tuxedo cat. She's younger  
than I, but been here since birth.  
I hope they take her. She de-  
serves it. They are! Hooray for  
Wynona! Maybe the next person  
who comes in...

You know what I can't figure out?  
Why are there so many of us?  
Why do so many people bring all  
these cats and kittens here day  
after day, even on Christmas  
Eve?

Now mind you, these cat quarters  
are great, but we want real



homes with real families. Why,  
some of my friends have been here  
for over three years, like Blinky and  
Butchy, and nobody picked them  
yet. They are so sweet and loving,  
I just don't understand.

Uh-oh, here comes a kind looking  
man and lady, probably somebody's  
grandparents. They're browsing  
around. Stopping here? No, not yet.  
Wait, they're coming back towards  
my condo. Dare I hope? Oh,  
they're looking at me.

The woman is picking me up, hold-  
ing me, tickling my chin. I love it!  
Oh my gosh, she's carrying me out  
of the condo and now the man is  
holding me. It feels so-o good!

Yes, I'm being adopted! I could just  
cry with joy! Uh-oh, the folks here  
at Hillside have been so kind and  
caring. I'll miss them; I'll miss all  
my buddies. Maybe they should  
take Nick Nack, he's been here  
longer than I have. But no, they  
want me, me!

Goodbye all my friends, I wish you  
the best. Stay healthy and be pa-  
tient. Maybe someone will pick you  
soon and you'll be home for the  
holidays, too!

~ God Bless All of You, Ginger



# "Networking" Not Just for People Anymore

*"Net-work-ing (noun): 1). The linking of computers so users can exchange information or share access to a central store of information; 2) a gathering of acquaintances or contacts, especially with people whose friendship could bring advantages"...*

"Networking" is something widely used in the business world but it's becoming more and more effective and useful in the rescue and adoption of our canine friends.

This is the story of Bucky and Admiral and how "networking" took them to their forever home!!

German Shepherd Rescue of Southeastern PA, (GSR-SP) is a well-established German Shepherd rescue organization dedicated to the rescue and placement of the breed.

One day, two volunteers from GSR-SP unexpectedly walked into our lives at the Hillside SPCA.

Laurie and Tory, both volunteers with GSR-SP, contacted us and said they had heard about a mixed breed German Shepherd named Bucky that was in dire need of vet care and adoption.

Laurie had received a call from Molly, one of her German Shepherd rescue contacts who lives near Atlanta, Georgia saying that she had seen Bucky's picture on petfinder.com.

Since GSR-SP works primarily in the south and eastern PA area, Molly hoped it would be possible for them to offer some sort of help to poor Bucky, a ten-year-old male Shepherd/Akita mix residing at the Hillside.

Bucky had been turned in to the Hillside nearly a year earlier simply because he was getting up in years. He had an extremely difficult time adjusting to shelter life the first few months, but with some TLC and special "just for Buck" chicken dinners, he gained

some weight and his endearing, fun-loving personality began to emerge.

Unfortunately, continued attempts and efforts of the staff and volunteers of Hillside SPCA, especially Janine and Liz, proved almost futile in helping place this poor senior dog.



Molly in Georgia offered to be Bucky's "guardian angel" and was willing to pay his vet bills to help jump start Bucky on the road to recovery.

Keep in mind that Molly had never met Bucky, but she asked Laurie and Tory of GSR-SP to visit him, let her know his status, and see if anything could be done to help.

And help she did — Molly paid almost \$200 for Bucky's wellness exam, blood work, and medication for severe ear infections.

The day that Laurie and Tory came to visit Bucky, they also met "Admiral", a beautiful, senior, all white German Shepherd that was brought into Hillside as a stray. They fell in love with Admiral and agreed to try to help find him a home.

Both Bucky and Admiral were placed on the GSR-SP website. Buck's plight was followed on the internet with a newly formed "Bucky Fan Club" consisting of members from Wisconsin, Minne-

sota, Massachusetts, Virginia and all over, cheering on Bucky and lending support and hope for his future.

Buck's successful wellness checkup at Schuylkill Vet proved to be a turning point as Dr. Sara Thorton and entire staff wished Buck best wishes and luck in finding a happy, loving home.

Luck did follow him that evening. The very next day Sally and David Pawloski adopted Bucky. "His adorable picture on the internet was all it took. We're in love!", they said. Proving he felt the same way, Bucky promptly jumped into the driver's seat of David's car, as if so say, "Let's go. I'll drive 'cause I'm in a hurry to get home."

Sally and David are invaluable supporters of the Hillside SPCA. While volunteering at our October Open House, they spotted Admiral greeting the many visitors. Admiral's jovial personality touched their hearts. When we packed up our tables at the close of the day, Sally and David packed up Admiral and took him to his forever home.

We can only imagine what the conversation will be between Bucky and Admiral as they reminisce of their days at Hillside while they lie content and loved in their new soft, warm beds!

The combined efforts of Hillside SPCA, GSR-SP and a very loving family, Sally and David Pawloski, saved the lives of two wonderful dogs.

It takes time, effort and most of all a big heart to continue the fight to save our canine friends. Everyone's role in the rescue and adoption effort is vital to its success.

For more information on German Shepherd Rescue of Southeastern PA, visit [www.gsr-sp.com](http://www.gsr-sp.com).

Find out how you, too, can become a 'networker' and start saving lives!!

WARM and FUZZY feelings...  
guaranteed.



RICCI



CANDY



JACKIE



SASSAFRASS



JETTA



ANNIE &amp; AMBER

**ADOPT TODAY!**

## Thank You

On August 27, 2006 my beautiful and brilliant son, Joseph J. Parnell died. He was 33-years-old, and I will never be the same again.

It is so ironic that I've worked so hard to save lives, and I could not save my own child.

I wanted something good to come out of this horrific tragedy, so I started the *Joseph J. Parnell Memorial Spay and Neuter Fund*, which I listed in his obituary.

There are no words to tell you how overwhelmed I was by the tremendous response. It was the worst

time of my life, but the gifts in memory of my Joe made me realize that Joe can save so many lives.

Because I tend to be obsessive about something I love, I will work all my life to keep this fund going so that Joe's life will make a difference.

One of my most vivid memories of Joe was when he was 18-years-old. I went into his room to wake him, and found him sound asleep with a baby deer sleeping beside him. The deer had been injured and Joe found him on the side of the road. It was a beautiful mo-

ment. It never occurred to Joe that it was unusual to do this -- it's just the way he was.

Joe will always be alive in my heart and my family's, but you will keep him alive to end the tragedy of being unwanted and unloved because there are too many.

From all the animals he already saved because of your generosity, and all the animals his fund can change, I am grateful forever.

~ With great gratitude and love,  
Barbara A. Umlauf,  
Mother of Joseph J. Parnell

# I Am a Dog...



**Castro**

I am a dog. Some humans call me "unique," I guess that's a good thing, right? I have big ears that are good for listenin', short stubby legs, and a tail that never stops waggin'. I am a friendly mixed-breed.

**T.J.**



I am a dog. I was a Christmas present, but now I've grown and am going through my "puppy stage" as the humans call it. Now they don't want me anymore. I will be good, I promise.



**Rudy & Bixby**

I am a dog. I am big and furry and I sit and wait for you to adopt me and give me a new chance at life. I am a dog that gets walked every day, kissed, and petted, but I have no "real" home. I am a lonely dog here at the SPCA.



**Bojack**

**Mulligan & Friend**



I am a dog. I am not trash. I don't know why I was tied to the shelter's gate one rainy night. Maybe my owner forgot me and he'll be back... Probably not. I must have gotten "too big for the house", or maybe he's just "too busy."



**Annie**



**Buddy**



**Hewey**

I am an old puppy, not an old dog! I have lots of love to give, and I'm so patient. I'd love to be your new best friend. I am a dog that needs you. I can still keep up with those "young'ns"!

The stories, like the dogs at the Hillside, are many and varied. Puppy or "senior", large or small, abandoned, surrendered, or neglected, these precious animals wait for you to give them a new chance at life and for the chance to be more than just "a dog" — to be a cherished member of your family. Visit the Hillside SPCA and ADOPT a special friend today!

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

During the hectic holiday season, we know our wonderful supporters never forget the many cats and dogs at the Hillside SPCA.

We always get numerous calls at this time of year from people asking for suggestions on how they can bring a little more comfort into the lives of less fortunate animals.

Here are some great ways to help:

- Give our shelter residents a gift of love and time by volunteering during the busy holiday season.
- Buy a pet spay/neuter surgery for someone who has been putting it off because they can't afford it.
- Trap a neighborhood stray cat and have it altered to prevent unwanted litters of kittens in the spring.
- Discourage the buying of pets at pet stores and encourage family and friends to visit the shelter to adopt a pet after the hectic holidays.
- Get a gift certificate from us, which can be redeemed by the recipient for a cat or dog of his or her choice.
- Consider fostering a young, ill, or special needs cat or dog.
- Make a shelter donation in the name of a friend or relative.

For further information about any of these suggestions, call the shelter at (570) 622-7769. Happy holidays to you, your loved ones and your beloved pets!



# Our Santa, Barbara

This letter was written to honor a true friend—Barbara Umlauf.

Barbara is more than “just” the shelter manager. Day in and day out, Barbara selflessly gives all she can — not only to animals in need but to everyone she comes in contact with, including the staff and people that don’t have friends or family to call upon.

She truly has the patience of a saint even when dealing with people who are not very easy to deal with.

Giving people and animals the benefit of the doubt is something that you don’t often find, but Barb does it. It is a virtue we should all admire. She has taught us all to go on and work for the animals even when times are tough.

Barbara, like most of the staff at Hillside, had what we consider a “normal” life” before becoming involved over 20 years ago with the shelter. She was a teacher raising a family.

Called upon to help find homes for the animals at the shelter when it was in jeopardy of closing so long ago, she made the Hillside her second home. Barb worked years with no pay at all solely for the sake of helping homeless animals.

Little did she know back then how her life and the lives of the thousands of animals she touched would change forever.

Anyone who knows Barbara knows that she would bend over backwards to lend a helping hand, even if it was a hardship on her.

Something you may not know about Barb is that she will not leave the shelter any day until all her buddies have been walked up the mountain (no matter how deep the snow, or how hard the rain) and given their hot dogs and roast chicken suppers.

To someone who doesn’t know Barbara, this may seem strange — compulsive even — but it is her tireless devotion and her need to make the animals feel loved until they are lucky enough to be adopted into a “forever home” that drives her.

We sometimes tease her for her “compulsions”, but it’s all in fun, and we hope she knows it.

Certain dogs get two or three hot dogs each, some get six if they “looked sad” that day. She has it down to a science knowing just what each needs and how “Mom” can make it better.

Years ago when I first started at the Hillside, I heard a thunderous roar — barking, jumping, and howling — coming from the large dog yard. I said to a co-worker, “What are the dogs all barking at?!” She said, “It’s only Barbara — they just love her.”

At that moment, I realized that Barbara was their “pack leader,” — their very special “Mom” — and they were letting her know just how much she meant to them.

Barbara’s talents lend her to specializing in helping frightened dogs adjust to being at the shelter.

In a matter of days, she will have a dog, at her side and off-leash — a previously terrified dog who is no longer afraid and knows what it is to trust, often for the first time in its life. It is simply amazing.

Talking to dogs like they are people seems to be key in helping them overcome their fears. Take Shania, a dog that had virtually no socialization and lived her life chained to a dog-house.

Shania was left at the shelter one night. The next morning, Shania had vanished. Apparently she knew one thing — how to jump fences.

Gone for weeks, we finally received a call that Shania had been tapped by a car on the highway and was living in the woods nearby.

After setting a trap loaded with hot roasted chicken, Barbara managed to capture the frightened dog.

In the truck ride back to the shelter, Barbara talked to Shania about the dangers of running away. Since that day, she hasn’t left Barbara’s side for a second.

Though Shania can scale a six foot fence with ease, she doesn’t have any desire to leave her beloved “Mom”.

Shania is lucky this Christmas. She is now living at home with Barbara and her husband, Paul, (aka “Pop Dog”) and the rest of the many “special needs” dogs they share their home with.

Over the years Barbara has helped a countless number of animals in all kinds of situations. From crawling through sewer pipes, to stopping traffic on the highway, to “wrestling” difficult livestock, Barbara has done it all.

The next time you think of Santa bringing joy to so many, picture Barbara. For she is Santa to all the animals at Hillside.

Without her — and without you, our faithful and generous supporters, the Hillside SPCA would not be the great haven it is for animals today.

I salute you Barbara and thank you for everything.

~ Love,  
Your “Elf”, Tricia



## Memorial and Remembrance Gifts

**Sara Ebling** by Ginny & Lou Prather, Marie K. Kilmer, St. Paul's Players, St. Paul's Senior Choir, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Bohr

**Mr. & Mrs. William McCloy** by Kay McCloy

**Thomas Rile** by Christine Yagerhofer

**Ruth Shollenberger** by T.J. Morgan & Friends

**Maurice Minnich & Sandy** by Lois Minnich

**Richard Achenbach** by Linda & John Pritiskutch

**Francis A. Kalyan** by Rita Davis, Al & Mary Ellen Marazas, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Burns, Nancy & Norman Brennan, Joseph & Joann Holochick, Gloria & David Dutcavich

**Marie Smith** by Donna Mantz Tieman, Mr. & Mrs. George Schoener, Marie Fitzpatrick, Mae Potts, Michelle Lagaza, Mr. & Mrs. Brian McElvoy, William C. Hoy, Alison Duffey.

**Jean & William Rizzi** by Gloria Sabatini

**Ann Hoffman** by Mr. & Mrs. William Rowan

**Joseph "Skip" Horan** by Mr. & Mrs. William J. Rowan & Sons

**Ruth I. Betz** by Bob & Ruth Betz

**Jane Cope** by Debi Swantek

**June Unger** by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Confer

**William S. Heenan** by Jack & Susan Butler

**Carrie E. Hepler** by David H. Hepler

**Cathleen Krammes** by Susan Murphy

**Henry Sims** by Jane Hoffman, Fred & Linda Seiwel & Sons

**Darryl Linebar** by Ritamarie Reddington, Kimberly Shadle, Gloria Bercher, Vince & Karen Mistysyn, Paul & Barbara Meyer, Leroy & Elaine McClure, Mary & Glenn Youst

**Ruth Shollenberger** by Sandra Zayle, Mr. & Mrs. Ronad Minakowski

**Helen Swingle** by Trish Thornton, Kay McLaughlin

**William Garlow** by Jean & Barbara Gosselin

**Barbara Siarkievicz** by Rita Labutis, Janice Edmunds

**Eliza C. Thornburg** by Margaret T. Ulmer

**Bernard Lescavage** by Adrienne & Tisha Kulak

**Gerald J. Pelker, Sr.** by Barbara Pelker, Bea Yoder, Cindy Pelker

**Margaret Yezulinas** by Tecla & Ernest Garbarino, Gerald Schoenauer, Frank & Jane Tamulonis, James Wallibilich

**David J. Gegis** by Mary Gregis, Dwight Kulp, Kathy Weikel, Kevin Shilling, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Buchspis, Jr., Locustdale Volunteer Fire Co., Merck Danville

### **Birthday Honors**

**Mrs. Marjorie Gerber** by B.J. Howat & Family, Jim Howat, Jr., Ed Leuchtner

**Kathleen Reitmeyer** by Co-workers

**Iris McNoldy** by Fergus Hart

### **Special Pet Honors**

**The Little Dog from Allentown** by Steve Stetzler

**Ogden GSD** by Rich & Linda Mentzer

**Suz 2** by Anna Zerbe & Laurretta Pierce

**Homeless, Unwanted Cats and Dogs Everywhere** by Anonymous

### **Special Pet Memorials**

**Pepper & Frostie** by Anna Zerbe & Laurretta Pierce

**Snowflake** by Jo Walacavage

**Murphy** by Shirley Slifer

**Princess, Rex, Pumpkin & Mouse** by Dr. William B Shugars III

**Hazel Adams** by Aunt Margie Gerber

**Sadie** by Irv Ebling

**Tiffany** by Mr. & Mrs. John Brady

**Jeremy** we miss you every day.

**Hillside Residents No Longer With Us** by Hillside Management & Staff

"In Memory" and "In Honor" contributions should be sent to "Memorials/Honors"  
Hillside SPCA, PO Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901

## Special People, Special Pets

We send out a special "thank you" to Trudy and Ivan Hewitt of Selinsgrove who've just adopted their eighth Hillside pooch!

Over the past two years, with much credit to the internet, the pair has given eight very lucky doggies terrific new chances at life and new beginnings.

Anyone who adopts a pet is a

special person, but Trudy and Ivan have captured a distinctive place in our hearts because they fall for our "senior" and "special needs" dogs.

These animals are often passed over and viewed as un-adoptable by potential "parents", but Trudy and Ivan have had dogs that needed glaucoma surgeries, orthopedic surgeries, special procedures — you name it, they've

done it for them!

There is no limit to what they will do for their furry friends and for that we are forever grateful to these two very special people.

We send out a big "Welcome Home!" to their most recent fur-baby adoptee, Dutchess, now renamed Gracie. What a lucky group of pets to be living in the Hewitt household!!





P.O. Box 233  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
www.hillsidespca.com



Merry  
Christmas



'Tis the season to be jolly — not homeless.



Enclosed is my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Mail to: Hillside SPCA, Inc., PO Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901

Help us help them — until they all have a home.

Your gift provides nutritious food, quality veterinary care,  
safe shelter with a warm, soft bed — and *LOVE* — to the  
hundreds of animals awaiting adoption at the Hillside SPCA.

All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of the Hillside S.P.C.A., Inc.  
may be obtained by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.