

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The holiday spirit is alive and well throughout all parts of the Northwoods Humane Society.

On Saturday, NHS did my husband's, Mike, favorite fundraiser – a bake sale!! This sale was coordinated by NHS Board Member Susan Sams and held at Hayward High School's Holiday Bazaar. Susan, Linn Newton, Glenda Von Arb and Kim Kral worked doing the setup and sales all day. Our NHS baker's excelled in fabulous choices. Saturday, I did not have a fruit, vegetable or protein – my lunch consisted of pecan, bourbon chocolate bars, and almond bark. Last night we had carrot cake. This morning I had cinnamon rolls with sesame seeds. Sunday, for lunch it was a thumb print turtle cookie and soup. Before going to bed last night I had two Christmas Crunch treats.

We have cupcakes with decorative dog faces waiting for us, pecan pie, red velvet cookies, sugar cookies, pumpkin bars, Mexican wedding cakes and apple pie. Some will be in the freezer for a while. I think I will take the sugar cookies to Chicago, give them to my son and maybe he will think I did the baking. I am also saving and hiding gifts for our dogs, Eliza, Nancy Douglas' dog and my sister's dog, Gracie. These were made by Glenda Von Arb. She put together an ice cream-shaped package of dog treats with a squeaky ball on top. They are precious. I saw Chip immediately sniffing when I brought them into the kitchen. Really and truly our NHS bakers did a fabulous job – thank you so very, very much.

This past Friday night, our Art Beat group had a holiday celebration at White Stag. Amy Hanson, who is a watercolorist and has one of the artist studios and who also is a cat cleaner at the shelter, made lemon sugar cooks. She gave each of us a small box of these treasures. What added to the treasures was that she painted trees on each cookie. She mixed vodka and watercolor together which caused the images to solidify. Amy also made a bunch for the NHS Bake Sale. I do not know the name of all of the bakers, but if you baked and are reading this, please know how much your efforts are appreciated and that the sale was very, very successful.

Also on Saturday, NHS was part of the celebration at My Villa in Cable. The first Saturday of December is Christmas in Cable. My Villa invites NHS to host a table and in turn gives NHS a percentage of their sales for that day. This year our NHS volunteers were Georgia Frye, Steve and Karen Menke and Kathy Pederson. They took turns during the day greeting shoppers and answering questions about NHS. We thank those that made donations. My Villa is a beautiful shop and a great atmosphere to spend a day in.

Many of you may have received the Northwoods Humane Society Holiday Matching Gift mailing. Donors have put together a gift of \$25,000 which needs to be matched dollar for dollar by the end of December. Donations may be sent to NHS – P.O. Box 82, Hayward, WI 54843, dropped off at the NHS Shelter on Highway 77 and O'Brien Hill Road or at the NHS Thrift Shop on Third Street in Hayward. Donations may also be given on our website: www.northwoodshumanesociety.org. On the reverse side of our Holiday letter is the NHS calendar of events for 2023 and thank you's from the animals. Letters and forms are also available at these locations if you did not receive one in the mail. I would be happy to mail you one too – just call me at 715-634-4543.

Our thanks to Musky Run Resort for sponsoring adoption fees for some of the more mature cats waiting for homes at the shelter. The Hoeft family has also sponsored some cat adoption fees to help with finding good homes for those cats that have been waiting for their forever home.

The NHS Thrift Shop is brimming with Holiday Cheer. There are ornaments, stockings, tree lights, garland, gold and silver trees, green trees (those are at Art Beat – 5 and 6 ft), decorations, wreaths, ice cycle lights for the outside, holiday dishes and glasses – you name it the Thrift Shop has it and the prices are the best!!!! If you see one of our NHS volunteers blow them a kiss and thank them for all they do at the shop. This all-volunteer team of people keep the shop open and running six days a week in the winter. If you would like to be part of the team, just call 715-934-3121 and Paula Bilitz will give you a call.

Speaking of Paula Bilitz, she was one of the beautiful voices that performed the Christmas Cantata this past weekend. The cantata truly ushered in the Spirit of Christmas in the north woods.